CESARE MARIA MOSCHETTI

Precedenti storici dell’ordine di consegna nella prassi mercantile di Gallipoli alla fine del Seicento

_Historical Precedents of the Delivery Order in the Gallipoli Trading Practices at the End of the 17th Century_

A study was made of the notarial deeds drafted in the main maritime cities of the Apulia Region in Italy throughout the 17th Century. Some of these documents, reflecting the olive oil trade, monopolized at that time by the Town of Gallipoli, showed some interesting legal aspects of such trading practice.

The documents reviewed contain actual “delivery orders” given by the seller to the depositary of the goods so that the latter could arrange for their actual delivery to the beneficiary of the order, who, in turn and through an endorsement, could allow a third party to collect the goods.

These documents are of great historical importance. They are exactly alike the first applications of the delivery order made at the beginning of the 19th century, according to maritime scholars. At that time the delivery order was used by English tradesmen in their land trade in its «unorthodox» form. These documents allow us to backdate the first applications of the delivery order to the end of the 17th Century.