

**THE SIXTINE
CHAPEL:
CRITIC AND ART**

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The Sixtine Chapel: Critic and Art by Tombolini Luigi

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TOMBOLINI LUIGI

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THE
SIXTINE CHAPEL

CRITIC AND ART

BY

TOMBOLINI LUIGI

—
Ist. EDITION

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ROMA

COOPERATIVA TIPOGRAFICA MANUZIO

via di Porta Salaria, 23-A

1908

DEDICATED
TO H. E. THE BARON
ALFONSO DE MOREIRA

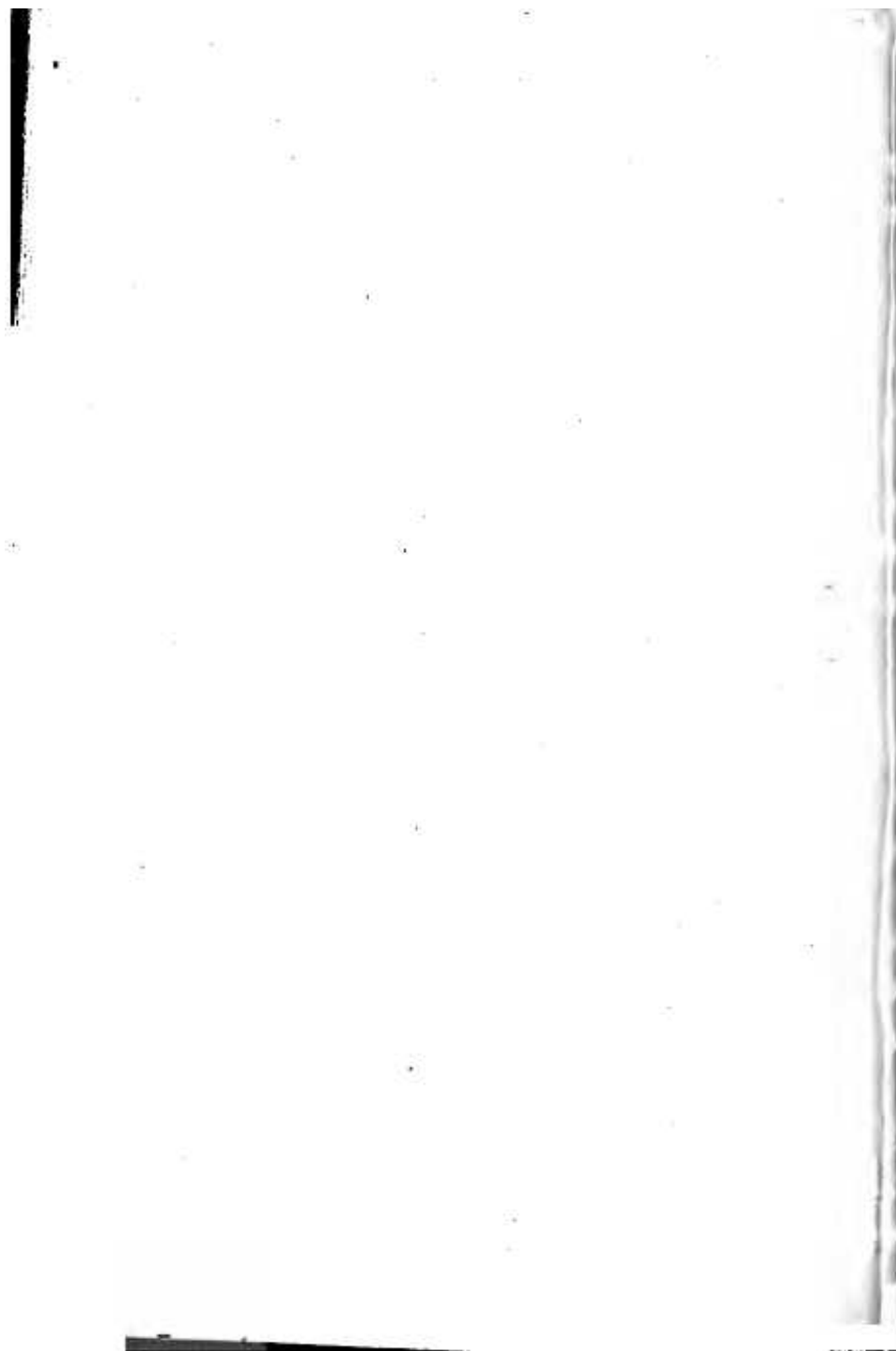
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The author of this book **Mr Tombolini Luigi** having pursued a long course of study in **Archaeology and Art** would feel a pleasure in being able to render assistance to tourists during their visit to **Rome** as well as throughout **Italy**.

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History of CALIFORNIA

History of the Sixtine Chapel.

Pope Nicolas III in the year 1278 consecrated the Vatican Palace which assumed an importance when Gregory XI returned from Avignon to Rome and it was then that in the Papal Palace the Pontifical Chapel was erected.

In the tumultuous Conclave during the year 1378 the Roman population tired of the long duration of the Conclave threw stones on to the roof of the Chapel partially ruining it. In 1391 Boniface IX restored it and consecrated Saint Brigida there and the Chapel assumed the name of *Magna Cappella Sacrii Palatii* and was used on ceremonial occasions up to 1473, an epoch in which the last mass was celebrated after Fred-eric d'Urbino's visit to the Pope.

Pope Sixtus IV although he put the State in a critical position after 1474 as the people were always at war and there was great dearth (1), also made the arts to flourish again with the aid of his nephews who admired art and science i. e. Cardinals Bessarione, Forti-

(1) Records of Paul di Mastro: In the year 1484 died at 5 o'clock in the night Pope Sixtus IV who was a bad pope and made us live in war and famine and never administered justice.

guerra, Orsini, Ammanati, Roverella, Capranica, Erolì and Venereo.

It was at that epoch that the Greek and Latin Library was formed at the Vatican, the librarian of which was the celebrated historian Platina, who afterwards wrote: « The life of the Popes ».

After the victory at Campomorto against the Neapolitans and the peace of the Church with the Venetians, Pope Sixtus IV wanted to enlarge the *Cappella Magna* for he noticed that that Sanctuary was not worthy of that importance which the Sacri Palazzi had and ordered John De Dolci who was Prefect and Architect of the Vatican from the time of Paul II to make a design for the new Chapel at present called the Sixtine.

It seems that Baccio Pintelli took part in the direction of the works with this artist and many would attribute the construction of the Chapel to this latter unmindful of De Dolci who also was of so much importance at the renaissance era.

The building of the Chapel was carried out with such speed, for the Pope desired to hold there the grand ceremonies on the anniversary of his coronation which took place on the 24th August, and for the purpose of holding a celebration on that occasion His Holiness promised 50 ducats to every artist so that from the 29th of October 1481 the whole building might be finished by the 13th March 1482.

It is to be noticed consequently that even though carried out with such speed nothing was neglected to render the construction grand and complete since we must bear in mind that the Chapel was built to serve two proposes, i. e. for a Sanctuary within and a fortress without, for in those ages and especially that

of the XIV century there was danger from a foreign invasion and of attacks from the Romans themselves especially after the Conclaves, when according to their ways the people might appropriate to themselves all that which belonged to the Cardinal elected, so the Pope imposed upon all the Patrician families and also upon himself, i. e. the fortification of their edifices.

The Sistine Chapel consequently was fortified on the outside with walls of such solid construction as to make it appear a complete fortification as it had on the sides huge walls whilst on the ground floor were windows and doors fortified by strong bars of iron, on the floor above there was and at present exists the passage to the Chapel and above it a fortress of battlements which may now still be seen from the stanza of the Immacolata.

Some time later the battlements which were wider and wider extended into the interior the soldiers could fix up their war implements when danger menaced them and these were covered with a roofing that the soldiers on sentinel guard might have sufficient space for action.

Pope Alexander VI set apart these rooms as prisons and it is thought that as prisoners were imprisoned Cardinals Orsini and Colonna who suffered from the summer heat.

The interior of the Chapel.

The Sistine Chapel which is 200 metres long and 13.60 broad is divided into three compartments viz: The Hall, the Choir School, and the Presbytery.