

# NEWSLETTER

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## DID YOU KNOW THAT:

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### Querini's journey: the English path

Pietro Querini on his return journey passed through England. He wrote "*Then, on the 13th of September, we departed for England, equipped with the necessary provisions. As it pleased God, in His mercy toward our frightened hearts, for eight days and nights we were favored with the most pleasant and favorable wind, allowing us to pass to England to the place of King's Lynn, which is at the far northern end of the island that place, we departed in a boat, traveling upstream, and arrived at Cambridge, a large land where there is a university with several faculties. On Sunday, we attended Mass at a notable monastery, and while we were listening to the Mass, a monk of that place from the order of Saint Benedict approached me, believing that I was superior to the others because my companions showed me some reverence. Departing from Cambridge, the following day we arrived in London, where a few hours before our arrival, my helmsman and two others had gone ahead. Having informed the merchants of our nation about my arrival, Ser Vetor Capelo and others came out to meet me some distance from London, waiting for me. When I reached them, the joy and relief were immense; any discerning person can well imagine the shared happiness.*"

Professor Steinar Aas visited sites in England linked to Pietro Querini's journey, including L'Isla—now known as King's Lynn. His visit highlights the strong historical ties between the Norfolk region, Scandinavia, and the Hanseatic League, which spanned the North Sea and the Baltic Sea.

Querini's account offers vivid insight into the importance of King's Lynn as a key trading hub, especially for merchants from the west coast of Sweden and the Götaland region. From the 12th century onwards, King's Lynn was renowned for its excellent harbor and its close connections with the Hanseatic network. Alongside London and Southampton, it stood out as one of England's most significant medieval ports.

Although little of that maritime prominence is visible today, the town still preserves traces of its past through landmarks such as the historic Hanse House. (<https://www.hansehouse.co.uk/>)

**Quotation: Alberto Quartapelle (2025) The shipwreck of the Venetian Pietro Querino at the Lofoten Islands (Norway) in 1432, *Terrae Incognitae*, 57:1, 5-59, DOI:10.1080/00822884.2024.2441544**



A monument to commemorate the stockfish trade with Lofoten and Bergen and the Hansa. Photo and description: Professor Steinar Aas



In the first photo Audley End House.\*\* Second photo by Professor Steinar Aas.

*\*\*At the time of Querini, the site was occupied by Walden Abbey, a Benedictine monastery located along the route from Cambridge to London. The abbey was dissolved by Henry VIII, and Audley End House was later built on its remains.*

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## WHAT HAPPENED IN THE MEANTIME

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### Presentation of the Maritime Way to Santiago in Querini Footsteps

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On 28 April, the **maritime route of the Via Querinissima in Galicia** was officially presented at Palazzo Ferro-Fini in Venice.

Representatives **Santiago Freire and Sebastián Valverde** from the *Asociación de Concellos do Camiño da Ría de Muros-Noia* illustrated the Spanish segment of the route. This path **begins in Muros, where Querini and his crew landed after their voyage, and continues to Santiago de Compostela, mirroring the pilgrimage they undertook centuries ago.**

The *Camino Marítimo de la Ría de Muros-Noia* is now integrated into the Via Querinissima. Recognized as part of the Jacobean routes since 2020, this maritime path offers pilgrims a unique experience, combining sea travel with the final 12 km on foot to Santiago.

Stay tuned: the next newsletter will be entirely dedicated to exploring the Galician leg of the Via Querinissima!



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**A different way to discover Venice with Top Venice**


We're truly happy to welcome **Top Venice** as a Friend of Via Querinissima.


Venice, a city visited by millions, is often experienced in a rush, reduced to postcards and clichés. Yet, its essence is far richer woven with stories of merchants, sailors, discoveries, flavors, and encounters. Top Venice was founded to unveil an authentic, curious, and deeply rooted side of the city, offering visitors a chance to truly connect with its heritage.


This commitment to cultural discovery has led Top Venice to collaborate with prestigious international routes recognized by the Council of Europe, such as Iter Vitis, Destination Napoleon, and now, Via Querinissima.

Together, we've curated itineraries that follow in the footsteps of Pietro Querini, inviting travelers to rediscover Venice's soul:

 **Pietro Querini in Venice: a Venetian Discovering the World.** A 3-hour tour through key sites such as Piazza San Marco, the Marciana Library with the legendary Fra Mauro Map, and the Rialto Bridge, where stockfish entered Venetian cuisine.

 **The Story of Malvasia in Venice:** a journey into wine, trade, and tradition.

 **The History of Baccalà:** from shipwreck to beloved recipe, discover how an accident shaped Venetian cuisine.

 **Pietro Querini for Kids:** a fascinating experience of mystery, sea monsters, and brave sailors, tailored for young explorers.

Through these tours, Top Venice brings the Via Querinissima to life, transforming history into experience and travel into discovery.

Curious about the itineraries? Contact Top Venice, click on the link below!

[More info](#)





*Rialto Fish Market*

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## On the notes of Querini

Two classes from the school **Zanella Institute in Sandrigo** (Italy) visited the **Austrian school Mittelschule Karl Schönherr in Axams** (Austria) and presented a **musical performance inspired by the journey of Pietro Querini**.

In September, it will be the Austrian students' turn to travel to Sandrigo, during the renowned *Festa del Baccalà alla Vicentina*, where they will present their own performance dedicated to Querini. This is the first step in the international project "*On the Notes of Querini*", developed by the Zanella Institute with the support of the Municipality of Sandrigo, the Sandrigo Pro Loco Association, and our own International Via Querinissima Association.

**In the coming years, the exchange will involve other schools in various countries along Pietro Querini's historic route, each year, a different country.**

This beautiful multi-year international project along the Via Querinissima uses music to **connect young people across borders**, celebrating the values of encounter and hospitality embodied in the remarkable journey of Pietro Querini.

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## ***ReCult***

Via Querinissima, Asociación de Concellos do Camiño da Ría de Muros-Noia, and St. Olaf Ways have jointly submitted a proposal to the EU Programme (Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values). The project, titled ***ReCult***, focuses on enhancing and preserving Europe's medieval cultural heritage, especially at the intersection of pilgrimage routes. Its main goal is to foster long-term awareness of historic routes as essential components of Europe's shared identity. The initiative aims to strengthen collaboration among public institutions, civil society, and local communities while encouraging civic participation. Rooted in the medieval period, when trade and pilgrimages fostered cultural exchange, the project highlights how local histories are part of a wider European story. Emerging from an existing partnership among three cultural routes, *ReCult* emphasizes common values like solidarity, hospitality, and the protection of cultural and natural heritage. Submitted in April 2025, the project is currently under evaluation, with results expected in the autumn.

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## EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES



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### **London - What strange people – "Querini, 'otherness' and libretto translation as a narrative tool"**

 **May 15-16**

We are pleased to announce that Mie Othelie Berg will be participating in ***"Music to my Ears: Creative Practices in Music and Translation"***, taking place in London from May 15 to 16.

Her paper explores the project of bringing an opera to Venice, focusing on the translation work she carried out in adapting the role of the Cormorant from Norwegian into English. The result was a trilingual opera performed in Norwegian dialect, Italian, and English. The presentation delves into the motivations for translating the libretto, the process of translating the Cormorant's part, and the artistic implications of these choices, particularly how translation influenced the opera's narrative and highlighted themes of "otherness" between characters.

It also reflects on the audience's experience: to what extent the translation conveyed the original work to a broader public, and to what extent it became a new artistic creation in its own right.

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## **Presentation of the book "Networks in the Early History of Capitalism: Merchant Practices in Renaissance Venice"**


 **May 19**

The VQ Scientific committee is pleased to invite you to join the presentation of the book of Professor Stefania Montemezzo "Networks in the Early History of Capitalism: Merchant Practices in Renaissance Venice" that will be held online May 19th at 5pm.


Using mostly unpublished sources – account books, commercial letters and notarial deeds – the author reconstructs the reality of small and medium-sized Venetian businesses in the second half of the 15th century, highlighting how merchants found themselves facing constant challenges: wars with the Ottomans and the Italian states, trade blockades, mistakes made by overseas agents, financial crises, shipwrecks and the recovery of goods and men. In a profoundly unstable economy, success depended on the ability to create links, gather information and redistribute one's resources according to the changing market conditions.

Here is the link to join the event: <https://unipd.zoom.us/j/89400148864?pwd=qRyFGXaQXBk90TmVT0gfValvB9ubyb.1>

[More info](#)



**Book launch**  
*Networks in the Early History of Capitalism*  
STEFANIA MONTEMEZZO  
(Routledge, 2024)  
19 May 2025  
TIME  
17.30 - 18.30  
LOCATION  
Online - Zoom  
An event chaired by Marzia Liuzza  
Discussion with Stefania Gialdroni  
and Franz-Julius Morche  
ZOOM LINK:  
[HTTPS://UNIPD.ZOOM.US/J/89400148864?](https://unipd.zoom.us/j/89400148864?pwd=QRYFGXAQXBK90TMVTOGFVALVB9UBYB.1)  
[PWD=QRYFGXAQXBK90TMVTOGFVALVB9UBYB.1](https://unipd.zoom.us/j/89400148864?pwd=QRYFGXAQXBK90TMVTOGFVALVB9UBYB.1)  
QR CODE TO CONNECT TO THE EVENT



## Norway - Welcome you all to Stamsund Theatre Festival 2025

 May 27-31

A fishing village in Nordland, Røst welcomed Querini and introduced him to stockfish. Another fishing village in Nordland, not far from Røst, tells a beautiful story of fishing, theatre, and culture. Stamsund is one of the largest fishing villages in the Lofoten Islands, home to 1,100 inhabitants.

From the very beginning, Stamsund has revolved around fishing. However, since the late 1980s, a professional performing arts community has taken root here. The expertise and creativity of this community—together with musicians, visual artists, and other cultural contributors—have made it possible to host an international theatre festival.

[More info](#)

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#InternationalCulturalAssociation

#PietroQuerini

#CulturalRoute

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