

EDIZIONI MUSEI VATICANI  
Scheda editoriale

«*Dilectissimo fratri Caesario Symmachus*»

***Tra Arles e Roma: le reliquie di san Cesario, tesoro della Gallia paleocristiana***

Edited by Claude Sintès, Umberto Utro, Alessandro Vella

AA.VV.

Institutional greetings from Cardinal Giuseppe Bertello, Christophe Dufour, Philippe Zeller, Martine Vassal; presentation by Barbara Jatta

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*«Sin dall'inizio del IV secolo, Arles ha un posto decisivo nella geopolitica dell'impero [...] ma la supremazia della chiesa arlesiana sarà riconosciuta solo quando il vescovo Cesario riceve, dalle mani di Papa Simmaco, il pallio simbolico e il titolo di vicario pontificio: questo è il tema della nostra mostra».*

Claude Sintès, Umberto Utro

Volume available in Italian and French, published in conjunction with the exhibition of the same name, curated by the Vatican Museums in collaboration with the departmental Museum of Arles antique and with the patronage of the French Embassy to the Holy See.

It focuses on the figure of St. Cesario, bishop of Arles, the "beloved brother" upon whom Pope Symmachus imposed the episcopal pallium, reflecting the strong spiritual relationship between the

Provençal town and the Roman Church. This ancient bond is celebrated here, in parallel with the aims of the exhibition, mainly through the history of the cult of the saint, but also retracing the historical events regarding the Christianisation of Gaul in the early Christian period, analysing the practice of the veneration of relics and proposing several comparisons between findings. The catalogue of works from the Vatican's Pio-Christian Museum and the Museum of Arles is richly illustrated with photographs. It offers iconographic and stylistic descriptions, information regarding constitutive materials, dimensions, dates, collocation and catalogue numbers, as well as technical notes on the restoration of the works on display: the recently restored textile relics of St. Cesario – the tunic, the ivory belt buckle, the leather shoes and two wool pallia – scrolls, oil lamps, the statuette of the *Good Shepherd* and fragments of sarcophagi and reliquaries.

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Book Cover Image: *Collectio Canonum Conciliorum Gallie*, c. 800, detail of the letter from Pope Symmachus to St. Cesario. Vatican City, Vatican Apostolic Library, Pal. lat. 574, f. 16r

Back Cover Image: Pallium with monogram, detail of the *chrismon*. Arles, Musée départemental Arles antique

Exhibition info: «*Dilectissimo fratri Caesario Symmachus*». *Tra Arles e Roma: le reliquie di san Cesario, tesoro della Gallia paleocristiana*, Vatican Museums, Vatican City, 24 March – 25 June 2017.