

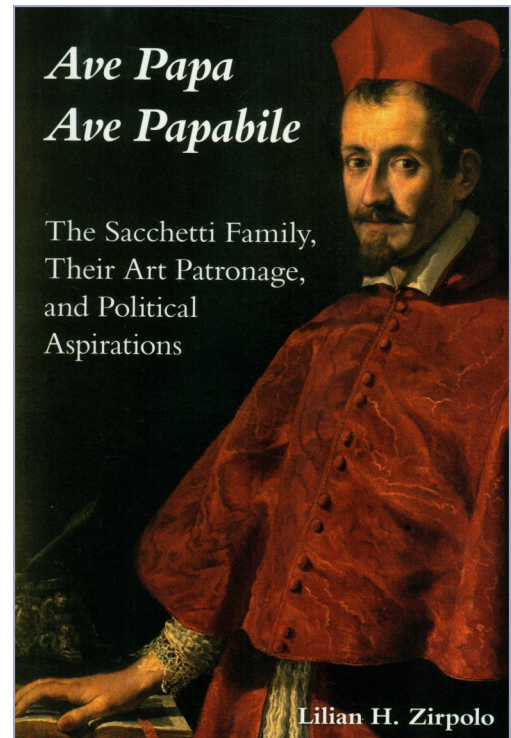
LILIAN H. ZIRPOLO

Ave Papa Ave Papabile

The Sacchetti Family, Their Art Patronage, and Political Aspirations

In 1624 Pope Urban VIII appointed Marcello Sacchetti as depositary general and secret treasurer of the Apostolic Chamber, and Marcello's brother, Giulio, bishop of Gravina. Urban later gave Marcello the lease on the alum mines of Tolfa and raised Giulio to the cardinalate. To assert their new power, the Sacchetti began commissioning works of art. Marcello discovered and promoted leading Baroque masters, such as Pietro da Cortona and Nicolas Poussin, while Giulio purchased works from previous generations. In the eighteenth century, Pope Benedict XIV bought the collection and housed it in Rome's Capitoline Museum, where it is now a substantial portion of the museum's collection.

By focusing on the relationship between the artists in service and the Sacchetti, this study expands our knowledge of the artists and the complexity of the processes of agency in the fulfillment of commissions. In so doing, it underlines how the Sacchetti used art to proclaim a certain public image and to announce Cardinal Giulio's candidacy to the papal throne.



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