THE MAJESTY OF CONSULS

The Chapel of the Palazzo dei Consoli hosts this masterpiece (a fresco 247 for 159,5 cm), also known as "Majesty of Consuls". It dates back to the 14th century and has been attributed to Mello da Gubbio, Martino's father, and Ottaviano Nelli's grandfather. The Lorenzetti style, typical of Mello, can be admired in the robust shapes of the bodies, in the chromatism and also in the details: one for all, the large "high chair with back" of which Cavalcaselle speaks and that we can also see in the "Majesty of Cortona" painted by Pietro Lorenzetti. The kneeling figure, with an olive-green cloak and red shoes, is, almost certainly, Giovanni di Cantuccio Gabrielli, who commissioned the work. He conquered the power (keeping it for a short time) in the summer of 1350, breaking for a while the order of the free Municipality in a City marked by a strong economic and social crisis, as we can also reed in the "Chronicle" of Sir Guerriero from Gubbio. If the identification of the commissioner is correct, we can identify the portrayed Saints in Donato, Ciriaco, Largo, and Smaragdo, whose celebration took place in the days of the seizure of power by Giovanni di Cantuccio Gabrielli. Some have thought to recognize in the portrayed Saints the eponymous Saints of the four districts of Gubbio: Pietro, Martino, Andrea e Giuliano. In two of them, some authors have seen St. Ubaldo, the Patron of Gubbio, and St. Andrea, identified in the Saint with the long beard, putting his hand to his own chest. The psychological and civic value of the masterpiece is evident: the observer can understand the basic importance of the sacred dimension in the protection of the City, protection requested, primarily, by the commissioner of the work.