The dogaressas of Venice (the wives of the doges)

Edgcumbe Staley

MUNDO DE LIBROS

Vista previa gratuita · Mundo de Libros · tiendamundodelibros.com

The dogaressas of Venice (the wives of the doges)

Edgcumbe Staley

Edición digital de dominio público.
Texto original: Project Gutenberg.
Mundo de Libros

(as Cleopatra with Venetian Zilve).

PARIS BORDONE.]

THE DOGARESSAS OF VENICE

(_THE WIVES OF THE DOGES_)

BY EDGCUMBE STALEY AUTHOR OF "THE TRAGEDIES OF THE MEDICI" ETC.

ILLUSTRATED

NEW YORK CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS

TO THE MEMORY OF MY MOTHER

FINETTA STALEY

PREFACE

The Story of the Dogaressas of Venice,--the Wives of the Doges,--has not hitherto been told in English; but when my many appreciative readers have finished this volume, I am confident they will agree with

me that there is much that is very interesting and unique in my narrative.

The influence of good women upon the well-being of Society is undeniable: that eloquent French _mot_:--"_Cherchez la Femme_," has a subtle and impressive meaning. In the election of a Doge of the Most Serene Republic of Venice the personality of his spouse had often as not considerable weight in the decision of the Lords of the Council. My long list of the Ducal wearers of the lesser _Corno_ contains the name of not one who failed to play her magnificent _rôle_ with infinite credit to herself and with conspicuous benefit to the State.

In the compilation of my "_Libro d'Oro delle Dogaresse di Venezia_," I have found "_La Storia di Venezia_" and "_La Dogaressa di Venezia_,"--the remarkably able works of Signore Pompeo Giovanni Molmenti,--of the greatest service, and I now beg to offer that erudite writer, if he is still alive, my heartiest acknowledgments. Mr W. C. Hazlett's "Venetian Republic,"--out and away the best English history of Venice,--has been invaluable.

The "Roll" of the Most Serene Dogaressas is unique,--such a complete list has never been published,--it will therefore be exceedingly useful to students of history and lovers of romance.

With respect to illustrations it will be at once remarked how few portraits of Dogaressas I offer. The fact is that Venetian painters, great or small, painted fewer than a dozen of the noble First Ladies of Venice. This is perhaps what might have been expected. Venetian painters excelled all others in the delineation of youthful female beauty,--they were the first to paint "_Venus Calva_,"--but the

middle-aged and the aged did not appeal to them. No, the Dogaressas have nothing for which to thank painters, sculptors, or engravers: such artists were directly under the patronage of the Doges not of their Consorts.

Women of every age and clime care very little about the Fine Arts, so called, they are themselves the finest of the Fine Arts, and their sympathy goes out rather to the artistic Crafts, in search of objects to add, if may be, to their own charms and attractiveness. In Venice the "_Fragilie_," or Trade-Guilds, were directly under the patronage of the Dogaressas, and we shall find their personal attributes in the beautiful and fragile glass of Murano, and the delicate and chaste point-lace of Burano, in the lovely and costly ornaments of the goldsmiths, in the superb brocades of silk and velvet and the splendid tissues of gold and silver of the costumiers, and in the endless fascinating adjuncts of the toilet and the table.

Many of my illustrations are characteristic scenes of Venetian life and special features of Venetian fashion, and I think they prove the truth of what Mr G. Howell in his "Familiar Letters" says of Venice:--"A place where is nothing wanting that heart can wish."

EDGCUMBE STALEY.

CONTENTS

PAGE

PREFACE **v**

INTRODUCTION--

I. VENICE--“The City of Venus” **xiii**

II. VENICE--“The City of Saints” **xvi**

III. VENICE--“The City of ‘Fair’ Women” **xxiv**

CHAPTER I.

“To the Lagunes!”--The dreaded Huns--Aquileia la Bella--Adriana the Heroine--La Maga Irene--Degna D’Aquileia--Viragoes--Hawsers of Women’s Hair--_Venezia Seconda_--Longobards--Altino and the Storks--The first Doge of Eraclea--Early Dress and Manners--Charlemagne--The first Dogaressa--Rivo-Alto Parent of Venice--Agnello and Elena Badoero--First Makers of Venice--Houses--Customs--Love of Flowers--First Ducal Palace--Translation of St Mark’s Body--Basilica of San Marco Built--Doges and Dogaresses enter Religion--Position of Women--Lovers--The _Pegne_--Marriage Ceremonies--_Arcelle_--Legend of “La Boccola”--Festa delle Marie--A Slave Dogaressa--The Rape of the Brides--A low-born Mistress--Proud Valdrada da Toscana--A Rich

Dowry--Slaves--Athletic Sports--Fire at the Palace--Assassination of Doge Pietro Candiano IV.--Valdrada's Vengeance--The Love-story of Gerardo Guoro and Elena Candiano
1–41

CHAPTER II.

Legends--St Pietro Orseolo--The Pala D'Oro--A Hard Biscuit--"Good" Dogaressa Felicia--Dress of the Nobles--Light Blue--_Ninzioletti_--"A Stupid Man"--Seven Sisters--An Amorous Gondolier--A Diplomatic Marriage--The Princess Maria--The Flag of Venice--A Laurel-crowned Dogaressa--"Venice wants for Nothing!"--Dogaressa Teodora--A Splendid Court--Greek Menus--An Exquisite Toilet--The Crusades--The Last of the Giustiniani--A Nun's Devotion--"A Miracle of Probity!"--Relics of the Saints--The "Bigots"--Tragic death of Doge Vitale Michielo--The Pope and the Emperor in Venice--The "_Bucintoro_"--"The Marriage of the Sea"--Sports Clubs--The Dogal Regalia--Prices current--"The Grand Old Man of Venice"--The Oriflamme of San Marco--Many Widows in Venice--"_Venus Calva_" 42–83

CHAPTER III.

The Legend of the Coral Net--Origin of Venetian Point-Lace--The _Fragilie_ or Guilds--Dogaressa Maria Baseggio's son torn to pieces--A terrible Earthquake--A Year of Jubilee--The _Marca Amorosa_--War of the Gallants--Marriage--The Pledge of Peace--Dogal Prerogatives curtailed--Vision of Rose-trees and Doves--The "Flagellants"--Marriage Customs--Madonna Catarussa

and the Seller of Brooms--Picnics--A Table of Etiquette--_La Donna della Misericordia_--The Dogaressas-Patroness of the Crafts--A Sumptuous Coronation--The _Ca' Di Dio_--Prosperous Times--The Dogaressa's Wardrobe--An Autocratic Doge--State Robes--The Bridge of Fisticuffs--The Castellani and Nicolotti--The Gaiety of Life--The Sweet Legend of "La Beata"--Strange Devotions--Revolutionary Movements and Conspiracies--Giustina Rossi and her stone pan of Carnations
84–125

CHAPTER IV.

"A Galley full of Demons!"--The Legend of "The Fisherman and the Ring"--Doge Zorzi Il Santo--Dogaressa Franchesina "Queen of Venice"--The pathetic Story of Soranza Soranzo-Querino--A _Corno_ for the Dogaressa--The Solemn Entry of Dogaressa Elisabetta--Brides of Stuff and Wood--Sumptuary Laws and Bridal Trousseaux--The _Calar Stola_--The Genesis of Venetian Painters--A learned Doge--Infatuation for Isabella de' Fieschi--The Black Death--Francesco Petrarch--Marino Faliero--Michele Steno's Insult--The Conspiracy--"The Doge never lies!"--Broken-hearted Dogaressa Aloycia--Frate Paolino on "Woman's Influence"--Platonic Ideas--Courtesans--The Story of Veneranda Porta--The _Bravi_--A Dowdy Dogaressa--"Slippers, Cabbages and Night-caps!"--Alvise Venier's Escapade--A Venetian "Brutus"--A Poetic Prophecy
126–166

CHAPTER V.

The Zenith of the Dogaressa--A grand religious Function--The Ritual--Dogaressa Marina Galina-Steno's "_Gran Mercè_"--Venice the Conqueror--_Compagnia della Calza_--_Cacci del Toro_--Sumptuous Dresses--Wooden Pattens--_Zelve_--Pageants--_Uno Balordo_--A Doge with an Iron Will--A Disputed Election--A Brave Dogaressa--The Tragedy of Giacomo Foscari--The longest _Dogado_--Quaint Wedding-customs--A Leg of Mutton--A Magnificent Trousseau--Torture and Exile--A Bitter Enemy--"He has Paid the Debt!"--An injured Dogaressa--Dogaressa Giovanna Dandolo-Malipiero, Patroness of Printing and Lace-making--The First Published Book--_Buranelle_--Patriarchal Doges and Dogaressas--Cheapness--Young Cavaliers' Long Hair--Good Dogaressa Cristina Sanudo-Moro--An Opulent Doge--Dogaressa Dea--"The Venus of the Century!"--Who was Donna Laura Nogarola? 167–209

CHAPTER VI.

The Gardens of Venice--Murano Palace-Villas--Symposia--Pietro Bembo and the _Litterati_--Ariosto and Aretino--"Venus the Fruitful"--Venetian Dialect--Cristina Pisano and Cassandra Fedele--Two Dogaressas--Gold Regalia--Dresses worth £2000 apiece!--A Connoisseur Doge--Dowries with Conditions--Venice Disgraced--Costly Gifts--Wild Beasts--A Disastrous Fire--A Plague-stricken Dogaressa--A Splendid Funeral--A Terrible Pestilence--Dogal-Fraternal Disputes--Beauteous Slaves--Their Prices and Uses--Discovery and Decline--Duchess Beatrice D'Este--"Great

Dolls!”--Nepotism--The Man of the Hour--A Widower Doge--The League of Cambrai--Cream-coloured horses for Henry VIII.--Disasters--No “Marriage of the Sea”--_La Pace delle Donne_--Spectacular Plays--Gorgeous Madonna Giovanna Emo--The Grimani Breviary--Wild-fowl--The “_Osella_”--The Dogaressa’s Coronation banned--Doge Andrea Gritti’s pompous Progress--Fat Pork and Onions!--Old Marta--Peep at the Dogaressa in Bed!--Frate Pietro Casola’s Account of Venetian Fashions--“What sort of a wife has he got?” 210–251

CHAPTER VII.

A Doge and Dogaressa of the Fisher-Folk--Dogaressa Zilia Dandolo-Priuli’s Coronation--“I am delighted with everything!”--Gorgeous Obsequies--The Republic at Peace--Talented Dogaressa Loredana Marcello-Mocenigo--Visit of Henry III. of France--Extravagant dissipation--Bold Courtesans--Veronica Franco--A Venetian Sappho--Battle of Lepanto--A Hero Doge--“The Golden Rose”--An Amiable Dogaressa--Bianca Cappello--“Daughters of Venice”--Caterina Cornaro--Dogaressa Morosina Morosini-Grimani--Lavish Largesse--Laudatory Orations--Stamped gilded Leather--A Magnificent State Robe--A Water-Pageant--Two hundred thousand visitors--A Grand Naval Review--International Sports--Dogaressa’s love of lace
252–291

CHAPTER VIII.

The Sun of Venice set!--Many short-lived Doges and

Hasta aqui llega la vista previa gratuita.

Sigue leyendo este libro completo en tu biblioteca:

compralo por $20 MXN o leelo con la Membresia ($149 / 30 dias).

tiendamundodelibros.com