



Istituto Veneto  
di Scienze Lettere  
ed Arti

## **VENEZIA E IL SENSO DEL MARE. PERCEZIONI E RAPPRESENTAZIONI**

**28 -29 novembre**

**Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti  
Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana**

**Renard Gluzman, University of Haifa**

***The nobility's withdrawal from ship-owning during the 16th century***

### **Abstract**

The revival in Venice's shipping sector in the mid-sixteenth century was largely the result of new funds siphoned in by entrepreneurs from social groups previously excluded from the business. This welcome influx meant that by 1550 the city's fleet boasted more round ships either owned or co-owned by non-noblemen than ever before in Venetian history. For the first time, the commoners were in the forefront of commercial shipping's most lucrative sector. This new spirit of enterprise driving Venetian trade and shipping activity was largely responsible for the commercial heyday that preceded the Battle of Lepanto. Statistics on the gradual withdrawal of noblemen from this sector and their replacement by other social groups are discussed on the backdrop of the decline in Venice's position as a leading emporium in the Mediterranean.