**Agnese Fontana**

## Abstract

**What if king David had fought at Troy?**

***The Trojan narrative in Byzantine world chronicles (VI-XII century): religious, historical and political issues.***

The paper deals with a peculiar Troy-related episode, found in some trojan narratives embedded within Greek Christian chronicles. The extra-Homeric episode which sees the Amazons and the Ethiopians rushing to Priam’s aid after Hector’s death appears in two fragments attributed to John of Antioch (VII c.) and in Constantine Manasses’ chronicle (XII c.), reworked and enriched with the following: among the kings from whom Priam would have sought help, there would have been also the Hebrew king David (who would have refused his help). The passages (i.e. Io. Ant. F42 Roberto and Const. Man. 1353-1372) are examined addressing the following issues: first, it is proposed that involving David fulfils the needs of the chronographic genre, which aims to intertwin the single histories of all peoples of the earth, thus harmonizing them within a unitary and providential design. Then, the possible political implications emerging from the choice of David are highlighted. This question is addressed against the backdrop of the notorious link between the Trojan matter and the origins of (the new) Rome. Finally, the (only seemingly) religious implication of David’s denial is investigated, together with the hypothetical consequences of David’s possible fighting at Troy.