

## **Famagusta: The two wooden models of the Maritime Museum in the Arsenal of Venice**

Gianni Perbellini

With regard to the fortification of Famagusta, Camille Enlart, George Hill, and George Jeffrey have all mentioned the presence of a model entitled 'The Fortress of Famagusta' and another one called 'Maina in Morea' (but representing Famagusta) in the Arsenal Museum of Venice. The original painted cartouche of the first model enriched by volutes, tritons, a compass, and the year (1571), contains writing in ink, and was restored in 1872. The cartouche of the second model is also enriched with tritons, the Lion of St. Mark (clearly added later) with a written caption in ink 'Maina in Morea' (1686), restored in 1872.

Curiously the 'Fortress of Famagusta' model appears to be derived from the view from the maintop of a vessel in the harbour rather than being a true representation of the fortress. Nevertheless it inspired Roman and Flemish engraved maps of the town for years to come. The real shape of the city and its fortifications are represented more accurately in the second model.

This presentation explores the comparison between the two models, the cadastral plan of last century, the A. Savorgnano report, and that of other Venetian experts of the 16<sup>th</sup> century and the documents of Genoese notaries. First-hand scholarly analysis of these sources offers some intriguing insights into the Genoese and Venetian evolution of the fortification of Famagusta.