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LE MONETE NEL *LIBER ABACI* DI FIBONACCI

Abstract

In this contribution are analysed the registrations of coins and currencies in the mathematical treatise by Fibonacci, with the aim to explore their reliability for the knowledge of the monetary development in Italy at the beginning of the 13th century. This analysis led the author to the conclusion that the exempla chosen by Fibonacci to illustrate the rules of the calculation with the Hindu numbers were taken by the real life and therefore they give a reliable picture of the monetary uses of the period. However some peculiar aspects, as the distinction between certain coins simply sold as goods (the Sicilian uncia of tari, or the Spanish massamutini), and other coins exchanged among them as currencies, or the stability of the exchange rates, suggest that the calculations illustrated in the Liber Abaci involved more the currencies officially used by the merchants and moneychangers of a certain market as unit of account in their contracts, than the actual coins.