

Abstract

The bachelor thesis deals with the interpretation of the coat of arms of Levinio Serafini, which is part of a memoria dedicated to Agostino Pettorali in the inner court of the Archiginnasio in Bologna, as an emblem combining the symbol of a snake biting its own tail (ouroboros) with the inscription “Prior”, of which Serafini's coat of arms is composed. The interpretation is constructed in connection with then contemporary emblematics, whose origins can be traced back to the 16th century Bologna, and thus a direct link to Serafini's coat of arms can be traced. This point of view is supported both by archival research and by an iconographical interpretation of the ouroboros symbol in the context of its use in the 16th century. In that, the ouroboros symbol represented time, eternity, and the concept of the world. One of the earliest depictions of the ouroboros in the *Chrysopeia* Cleopatra is accompanied by the originally Greek inscription 'all is one', which may be within the 16th century emblematics associated with Levinio Serafini's inscription “Prior”.