

ABSTRACT

Alessandro Palazzo, *The Estimaverunt Indi and the Condemnation of 1277*

The paper aims at explaining why the *Estimaverunt Indi* is among the texts condemned by bishop Étienne Tempier in 1277. It is argued that driven by a pastoral concern Tempier assembled a doctrinal corpus of theses and texts ranging from magic to the invocations of demons, from astral fatalism to divination. Within this body of knowledge, geomancy was assigned a peculiar status due to its dangerous doctrinal implications and because of its wide diffusion. The *Estimaverunt Indi* was singled out by Tempier as representative of the geomantic literature. We know that one manuscript of the treatise was present in Paris around the time of the condemnation, even though the one used by the bishop has gone lost. The treatise may have been chosen also on the ground of its prominent Islamic character, which made it be perceived as the result of the Koranic revelation and, accordingly, as the most authentic and authoritative example of the geomantic wisdom. The ideological and religious hostility to Islam made bitterer by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Council of Lyon in 1274 provided the ideal context for the condemnation of the *Estimaverunt Indi*, a text very proud of its Islamic roots.

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