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VOLUME I



COLUM HOURIHANE, EDITOR IN CHIEF

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*The Grove Encyclopedia of*  
**Medieval Art and**  
**Architecture**

*Editor in Chief*  
Colum P. Hourihane

Volume 1

AACHEN to CECCO DI PIETRO

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**Alunno, I'** See NICCOLÒ DA FOLIGNO.

**Alvaro di Pietro** See PIREZ, ALVARO.

## Amalfi

Italian city in the province of Salerno, Campania. One of the principal mercantile cities of the medieval period, it was ruled by an oligarchy of merchants who were active throughout the entire Mediterranean. The city, which was founded in late antiquity, still has traces of its Roman past. Documentary sources record that the city was founded by Roman patricians after a shipwreck (*Chronicon Salernitanum*, 10th century). Amalfi has been documented as a bishopric since 596, and it was elevated to an archbishopric in 978. The oligarchy that controlled the city first rose to power in the 9th century and was in control until the arrival of the Normans, when Amalfi was sacked twice by the Pisans (1135 and 1137). In 1208 Amalfi received the body of the apostle St Andrew, which was brought from Constantinople due to the efforts of the papal nuncio there, Cardinal Pietro Capuano.

Amalfi with its defensive structures was built along the banks of the River Canneto (previously called Chiarito). The cathedral complex of S Andrea (11th century) stands at the centre of the city: the church (rebuilt in the 18th century) has a façade with a Gothic Revival portico (19th century) and a solid square bell-tower (12th–13th centuries). The medieval bronze doors, cast in Constantinople in 1057 by

Simeone, were a gift of the merchant and politician Pantaleone de Maurone Comite. There are remains in the interior of the presbytery furnishings dating to the 13th century and funerary monuments from the 14th century.

To the left of the cathedral, the church of SS Cosma e Damiano (also known as the Basilica del Crocefisso; 13th century) is indicated by a double line of columns with antique capitals separating it from the cathedral. It has frescoed chapels (14th century) and is home to the Museo Diocesano. The museum has relics of St Andrew and also provides access to the Chiostrò del Paradiso ('Cloister of Paradise'). This was built between 1266 and 1268 and has the funerary monuments of some of Amalfi's merchants. The cloister has double columns of white marble arranged around a garden.

The nearby church of S Maria Maggiore has sculpted shelves dating to the 10th century. Fragments of the cloister of the convent of the Capuchins (1212), originally a Cistercian monastery and now a

hotel, also survive. The Franciscan convent of S Antonio (also now a hotel) has a cloister (13th century) as well as remains of funerary monuments (14th century). Parts of the arsenal with vaults dating from the 13th century are to be found along with the Porta della Marina (12th century).

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## Ambo

A raised platform for reading and preaching. The term first appears in the Canons of Laodicea (late 4th century AD), Canon 15 of which forbids the laity to ascend the ambo unless they serve as cantor or in the clerical rank of lector. This suggests that an ambo was an elevated platform, accessible by steps, from which scriptural texts were proclaimed and the responsorial psalm between the Epistle and Gospel was sung; the psalm response became known as the *Psalmus gradualis* or gradual, probably derived from the step (Lat. *gradus*) of the ambo. Although the term 'ambo' does not appear before the 4th century AD, there are earlier references to an elevated place, which may also have included a reading stand, reserved for proclaiming scripture. This may have been a simple platform, similar to that described in the account of Ezra the Scribe standing on a wooden platform to proclaim



**Ambo.** Platform decorated with marble inlay and mosaics depicting *Jonah and the Whale*, Ravello Cathedral, Italy, 1130. Photo credit: Scala/Art Resource, NY