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The presence of one cohesive “national” myth or legend in Italy is difficult to discover due to the nature of the Italian commune. The idea of “Rome” and the ideology of the Church are often imprinted on medieval Italian history, but this is a misrepresentation of the rich cultural heritage of the local, individual heritage of the history that formed the Italian communes. The Renaissance, flowering out of Italy, is ample evidence of this legacy. Italian history is a history of regions, and the struggles for control and dominance played an important role in the formation of each of these regions which included the Church as a major player in local events. In the Middle Ages into the present day, the shaping of cultural identity, then, has been part of the struggles for power and control. Because of the nature of this process, to discover the history of Italy, it is necessary to travel to each commune and search through the relevant archival materials for an understanding of the people and events. As medieval merchants, minstrels, and missionaries traveled the Italian roads between the communes, the history of Italy unfolded, and cultural identities were established. Property records, literature and music or accounts of the minstrels and troubadours, and the financial accounts located in the meticulously preserved notarial records of the communes provide interesting records. Interestingly, there is no comprehensive history in existence for Italy. Each commune kept its own records, and each saw itself as separate and unique. Very few individual communal histories have been written and published. To understand the part and/or the whole then requires the same process. Researching a key aspect of Italy’s history at a pivotal moment in Church history through the lens of one region via Assisi, Italy, will reveal a great deal about the country, the time period, and the individual commune and communal enterprise.