

Sicily: The Arabs' Paradise

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Chair: Grace Mannino

This lecture will explore the Arabs' invasion of Sicily in 827 AD which eventually gave them control of the entire island. It will discuss what they did on the island, how they made the island a kind of paradise by introducing new crops, a new system of irrigation, a new system of government and how they influenced the art, literature, architecture, language and behavior of the Sicilian people. It will also attempt to dispel some notions about the Saracens that are patently false.

Dr. Gaetano Cipolla, retired professor of Italian at St. John's University in NY, is a well-known authority on Sicily. He is President and Editor of *Arba Sicula*, an international organization that promotes the language and culture of Sicily. He is an editor, publisher and translator of Sicilian poetic and dramatic texts.

Tiburon Golf Club

Price: \$39

Doors open at 11:00 a.m.

Lecture at 11:30 followed by lunch