

Danish writers and Italy - an early love affair

In preparation for the Danes' trip to Italy we decided to read some Danish writers who had visited and written about Italy - and especially Venice (and water), and we added a little bit from the Nobel Prize winner Brodsky's book "Watermark" - also about Venice.

Many Danish writers used to go on an educational tour around Europe which almost always included Italy - and often Venice. We discussed why this was so. We read from H.C. Andersen's *The Fairy Tale of My Life* (autobiography) the part about Italy and Venice. Andersen also made quite good sketches in his manuscript illustrating what he saw. And we included the two poets Holger Drachmann and Sophus Claussen who were both fascinated and both wrote a poem called Venice during our small Italian theme.