Simon Gilson explores Dante’s reception in his native Florence between 1350 and 1481. He traces the development of Florentine civic culture and the interconnections between Dante’s principal ‘Florentine’ readers, from Giovanni Boccaccio to Cristoforo Landino, and explains how and why both supporters and opponents of Dante exploited his legacy for a variety of ideological, linguistic, cultural, and political purposes. The book focuses on a variety of texts, both Latin and vernacular, in which reference was made to Dante, from commentaries to poetry, from literary lives to letters, from histories to dialogues. Gilson pays particular attention to Dante’s influence on major authors such as Boccaccio and Petrarch, on Italian humanism, and on civic identity and popular culture in Florence. Ranging across literature, philosophy, and art, across languages and across social groups, this study fully illuminates for the first time Dante’s central place in Italian Renaissance culture and thought.

Simon Gilson is Senior Lecturer in Italian at the University of Warwick. He is the author of *Medieval Optics and Theories of Light in the Works of Dante* (2000) and the co-editor of *Science and Literature in Italian Culture: From Dante to Calvino* (2004). He has published journal articles on topics related to Dante’s scientific interests, the Dante commentary tradition, and his reception in the Italian Renaissance.
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DANTE AND RENAISSANCE
FLORENCE

SIMON A. GILSON
University of Warwick
For my parents, Alan and Joan Gilson
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I am grateful to a number of friends who were kind enough to read earlier drafts of this book and to make valuable suggestions for improvement, especially Zyg Barański, Steven Botterill, Pat Boyde, Catherine Keen, and Brian Richardson. I also wish to thank one anonymous reviewer for helpful comments. It goes without saying that any errors of fact or judgement and infelicities of style remain entirely my own. I would like to thank Jenny Burns, Ann Caesar, Loredana Polezzi, Sergio Sokota, and Josie Williams, my colleagues in Italian at Warwick, for their friendship and support during the years in which this book assumed its present form. My appreciation is also due to other friends and colleagues, both at Warwick and elsewhere, for their encouragement and comments on earlier papers and articles, especially Judith Bryce, Rhiannon Daniels, Jonathan Davies, Claire Honess, Prue James, Peter Mack, Martin McLaughlin, Steve Milner, Christian Moevs, and Linda Paterson. Chapter 6 of this book incorporates some material from two earlier articles, first published in *Italian Studies* 58 (2003), 48–74 and *The Italianist* 23 (2003, i), 5–53, and I am grateful to Judith Bryce and Zyg Barański, the respective Senior Editors of these journals, for permission to re-use relevant sections. I am grateful to my own university for a period of study leave that allowed the book to gain early momentum, and to Linda Bree for her enthusiastic response to the project at all stages. I would also like to record my debt to the late Peter Armour for encouraging me to explore Landino’s *Comento*, and to thank Dick Andrews whose teaching first stimulated my interest in the Italian Renaissance. I owe most of all to my wife, Julie, for her love and patience during the writing of this book.
Abbreviations

Dante’s Latin works are quoted from the second volume of *Opere minori* (Milan–Naples: Ricciardi, 1979). Dante’s vernacular works are quoted from the editions by: Giorgio Petrocchi for the *Comedy*; Domenico De Robertis for the *Vita nuova*; Gianfranco Contini for the *Rime*; and Cesare Vasoli for the *Convivio*. Unless otherwise stated, all translations from Latin and Italian are mine.

Short titles are used in referencing in the notes; the reader is referred to the bibliography for full publication details. The following abbreviations are used in the notes and bibliography:

**Works by Dante**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Work</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Con.</td>
<td><em>Convivio</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dve</td>
<td><em>De vulgari eloquentia</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eg.</td>
<td><em>Eloghe</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ep.</td>
<td><em>Epistole</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Inf.</td>
<td><em>Inferno</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon.</td>
<td><em>Monarchia</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Par.</td>
<td><em>Paradiso</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Purg.</td>
<td><em>Purgatorio</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>VN</td>
<td><em>Vita nuova</em></td>
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</table>

**Works by Dante commentators**

(see bibliography for editions used)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Work</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benvenuto</td>
<td>Benvenuto da Imola, <em>Comentum super Dantii Aldigherij Comoediam</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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List of abbreviations

**Buti** Francesco da Buti, *Commento di Francesco da Buti sopra la 'Divina Comedia' di Dante Allighieri*

**Comento** Cristoforo Landino, *Comento sopra la 'Comedia'*

**Pietro** Pietro Alighieri, *Comentum supra poema Comedie Dantis*

Journals, serials and encyclopaedias

ASI Archivio storico italiano
CCSL Corpus Christianorum Series Latina
DBI Dizionario biografico degli italiani
DS Dante Studies
ED Enciclopedia Dantesca
GSLI Giornale storico della letteratura italiana
IMU Italia medioevale e umanistica
JHI Journal of the History of Ideas
JWCI Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes
LI Lettere italiane
RELI Rassegna europea della letteratura italiana
RQ Renaissance Quarterly
SBoc Studi sul Boccaccio
SD Studi danteschi
SFI Studi di filologia italiana
SP Studi petrarcheschi

Other abbreviations

DC Cristoforo Landino, *Disputationes Camaldulenses*, ed. Peter Lohe (Florence: Olschki, 1980)
PLQ Proiatori latini del Quattrocento (Milan–Naples: Ricciardi, 1952)