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0521401925 - Humanism and Education in Medieval and Renaissance Italy: Tradition and Innovation in Latin Schools from the Twelfth to the Fifteenth Century - Robert Black

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HUMANISM AND EDUCATION IN MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE ITALY

This is the first comprehensive study of the school curriculum in medieval and Renaissance Italy. Robert Black's analysis finds that the real innovators in the history of Latin education in Italy were the thirteenth-century schoolmasters who introduced a new method of teaching grammar based on logic, and their early fourteenth-century successors, who first began to rely on the vernacular as a tool to teach Latin grammar. Thereafter, in the later fourteenth and for most of the fifteenth century, conservatism, not innovation, characterized the earlier stages of education. The study of classical texts in medieval Italian schools reached a highpoint in the twelfth century but then collapsed as universities rose in importance during the thirteenth century, a sharp decline only gradually reversed in the two centuries that followed. Robert Black demonstrates that the famous humanist educators did not introduce the revolution in the classroom that is usually assumed, and that humanism did not make a significant impact on school teaching until the later fifteenth century.

Humanism and Education is a major contribution to Renaissance studies, to Italian history and to the history of European education, the fruit of sustained manuscript research over many years.

ROBERT BLACK'S publications include *Benedetto Accolti and the Florentine Renaissance* (1985), *Romance and Aretine Humanism in Sieneese Comedy* (with Louise George Clubb, 1993), *Studio e Scuola in Arezzo durante il medioevo e Rinascimento* (1996) and *Boethius's Consolation of Philosophy in Italian Medieval and Renaissance Education* (with Gabriella Pomaro, 2000).

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A woodcut from Nicolò Perotti's *Rudimenta grammatices*, published by Christophorus Pesis at Venice in 1495. Copyright: The British Library. The woodcut illustrates the full grammar curriculum of an Italian Renaissance school. Elementary education is represented by the child on the right holding an alphabet table / psalter (reproduced here with a typical handle). On the left is a slightly more advanced pupil who has moved beyond the psalter to the parts of speech (Donatus); his own psalter is shown cast aside on the floor. Beyond him is a disciplinary whip. The pupils on the right appear younger than those facing them; the former seem to represent the level of secondary Latin grammar while the latter are possibly beginning the study of rhetoric and letter writing. It is significant that the pupils in the school have their own textbooks, illustrating pupil ownership of schoolbooks in Italian education, a practice documented as far back as the thirteenth century. This illustration may constitute an advertisement for Perotti's own textbook, published here, which covered the whole range of Latin grammatical education, from the alphabet and parts of speech, through secondary grammar (syntax), up to elementary rhetoric and letter writing.

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HUMANISM AND
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AND RENAISSANCE ITALY

*Tradition and Innovation in Latin Schools from the
Twelfth to the Fifteenth Century*

ROBERT BLACK



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

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0521401925 - Humanism and Education in Medieval and Renaissance Italy: Tradition and Innovation in Latin Schools from the Twelfth to the Fifteenth Century - Robert Black
Frontmatter[More information](#)PUBLISHED BY THE PRESS SYNDICATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge, United KingdomCAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK
40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211, USA
10 Stamford Road, Oakleigh, VIC 3166, Australia
Ruiz de Alarcón 13, 28014 Madrid, Spain
Dock House, The Waterfront, Cape Town 8001, South Africa<http://www.cambridge.org>

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First published 2001

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

Typeface 12.5pt Baskerville No. 2 *System* QuarkXPress™ [SE]*A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library**Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data*

Black, Robert, Ph.D.

Humanism and education in medieval and Renaissance Italy : tradition and innovation in Latin schools from the twelfth to the fifteenth century / Robert Black.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0 521 40192 5 (HB)

1. Latin language – Study and teaching – Italy – History – To 1500.
2. Latin language, Medieval and modern – Study and teaching – Italy.
3. Latin philology – Study and teaching – Italy – History – To 1500.
4. Educational innovations – Italy – History – To 1500.
5. Education, Humanistic – Italy – History – To 1500.
6. Humanism – Italy – History – To 1500.
7. Education, Medieval – Italy.
8. Humanists – Italy. I. Title.

PA2065.17 B58 2001

488'.0071'245 – dc21 00–050236

ISBN 0 521 40192 5 hardback

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Acknowledgements

I have accrued numerous debts of gratitude over the many years of working on this book, and it is a great pleasure to acknowledge the liberal support and help which I have been fortunate enough to enjoy. I have received generous financial assistance from the British Academy, the Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies (Villa I Tatti), the Leverhulme Trust, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the University of Leeds. I should also like to thank the staff of the Biblioteche Medicea Laurenziana, Nazionale Centrale and Riccardiana for their patience and indulgence in putting up with the excessive requests for manuscripts which my collaborators and I have had to make in the many years of preparation involved in this study; I am also particularly grateful to the directors of the Laurenziana and Riccardiana for repeatedly allowing us to see original manuscripts, rather than microfilm copies, from their reserve and excluded collections, as well as for the facility of inspecting manuscripts with ultraviolet light when necessary. I am also extremely grateful for assistance from Gian Carlo Alessio, Rino Avesani, James Banker, Alison Brown, Virginia Brown, Alan Bullock, Geoffrey Bursill-Hall, Angela Bussi Dillon, Francis Cairns, Maurizio Camaiti, Teresa D'Alessandro, Jonathan Davies, Albinia de la Mare, Teresa De Robertis, Claudio de' Stefani, Consuelo Dutschke, Vincenzo Fera, Arthur Field, Carla Frova, Luciano Gargan, Paul Gehl, Sebastiano Gentile, James Ginther, Peter Godman, Richard Goldthwaite, Paul Grendler, Jacqueline Hamesse, James Hankins, John Henderson, George Holmes, Kristian Jensen, Gavin Kelly, F. W. Kent, Christiane Klapisch, Jill Krays, Vivien Law, Claudio Leonardi, David Lines, Alastair Minnis, Reinhold Müller, Birger Munk Olsen, Anna Maria Nada Patrone, Lodi Nauta, W. Keith Percival, the late Alessandro Perosa, Olaf Plauta, Malcolm Polfreman, Michael Reeve, Brian Richardson, Richard Rouse, Nicolai Rubinstein, David Rutherford, Federico Sanguineti, Franco-Lucio Schiavetto, Vito Sivo, Quentin

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Skinner, Claudia Villa, Ronald Witt, Marjorie Curry Woods and Jan Ziolkowski. I also wish to pay tribute to the example, and express my gratitude for the enthusiastic encouragement, of the late Paul Oskar Kristeller. I owe a special debt to my wife Jane, not only for her moral support and editorial assistance, but also for her work as my research assistant during the academic year 1992–3. I am extremely grateful to Silvia Rizzo for reading the entire typescript and for pointing out a number of significant errors, especially in Latin. But my greatest academic and scholarly debt is to the palaeographer, Gabriella Pomaro, without whom, it is no exaggeration to say, this book could not have been written. Finally, I should like to express my deep gratitude to Cambridge University Press for their indulgence over repeated delays in the delivery of this book, and I am especially grateful in this regard to my editor, Richard Fisher. I should also like to thank my copy-editor, Jean Field, for her meticulous reading of the text.

This book is dedicated to my wife, Jane, and my two daughters, Emily and Alison.

*School of History
University of Leeds
31 January 2000*

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| | |
|-----------|--|
| Aesop | <i>Fabulae</i> , tr. Walter the Englishman |
| Ambros. | Milan Biblioteca Ambrosiana |
| ASA | Arezzo Archivio di Stato |
| | Prov. Deliberazioni del Consiglio Generale |
| ASF | Florence Archivio di Stato |
| | CStrozz. Carte Stroziane |
| | MAP Mediceo avanti il Principato |
| ASI | <i>Archivio storico italiano</i> |
| ASPCD | Prato Archivio di Stato Comune Diurni |
| ASPistoia | Pistoia Archivio di Stato |
| | Prov. Consigli Provvisori |
| ASSColle | Siena Archivio di Stato Comune di Colle Valdelsa |
| ASSG | San Gimignano Archivio storico comunale |
| | NN Serie NN |
| ASU | Udine Archivio di Stato |
| Avianus | <i>Fabulae</i> |
| BAV | Vatican City Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana |
| | Arch. S. Pietro Archivio San Pietro |
| | Barb. Lat. Barberiniano Latino |
| | Ott. Lat. Ottoboniano Latino |
| | Pal. Lat. Palatino Latino |
| | Urb. Lat. Urbinato Latino |
| | Reg. Lat. Reginense Latino |
| | Vat. Lat. Vaticano Latino |
| BL | London British Library |
| | Add. Additional manuscripts |
| | Royal Royal manuscripts |
| BML | Florence Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana |
| | AD Acquisti e doni |
| | Ashb. Ashburnham |
| | Ashb. Append. Ashburnham Appendice |
| | CS Conventi Soppressi |
| | dxt. destro |

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| | | |
|----------|--|--------------------------|
| | Edili | Edili |
| | Med. Fies. | Mediceo Fiesolano |
| | Med. Pal. | Mediceo Palatino |
| | Pl. | Plutei |
| | sup. | superiore |
| | sin. | sinistro |
| BNCF | Florence Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale | |
| | CS | Fondo Conventi Soppressi |
| | Landau Fin. | Fondo Landau Finaly |
| | Magl. | Fondo Magliabechiano |
| | Magl. Append. | Magliabechiano Appendice |
| | NA | Nuove accessioni |
| | Pal. | Fondo Palatino |
| | Panciat. | Fondo Panciatichiano |
| BNP | Paris Bibliothèque Nationale | |
| | N. Acq. | Nouvelles Acquisitions |
| | Sorb. | Sorbonne |
| Bodley | Oxford Bodleian Library | |
| | Can. lat. | Canonici classici latini |
| | Can. misc. | Canonici miscellanei |
| | Lat. class. | Latini classici |
| | Lat. misc. | Latin miscellaneous |
| | Laud Lat. | Laudenses latini |
| | Rawl. | Rawlinson manuscripts |
| Boethius | <i>Consolatio philosophiae</i> | |
| Bonvesin | Bonvesin da la Riva <i>Vita scolastica</i> | |
| BRF | Florence Biblioteca Riccardiana | |
| Cato | pseudo-Cato <i>Disticha</i> | |
| Cicero | <i>O = De officiis, A = De amicitia, S = De senectute, SS = Somnium Scipionis, P = Paradoxa stoicorum, DT = Disputationes tusculanae</i> | |
| Claudian | <i>De raptu Proserpinae</i> | |
| DBI | <i>Dizionario biografico degli italiani</i> , Rome 1960– | |
| Geoffrey | Geoffrey of Vinsauf <i>Poetria nova</i> | |
| GSLI | <i>Giornale storico della letteratura italiana</i> | |
| GW | <i>Gesamtkatalog der Wiegendrucke</i> , Leipzig 1925– | |
| Hain | Ludwig Hain, <i>Repertorium bibliographicum</i> , Stuttgart 1826–36 | |
| Henry | Henry of Settimello <i>Elegia</i> | |
| Horace | <i>AP = Ars poetica, S = Sermones, E = Epistolae, CS = Carmen saeculare, Epo. = Epodes, O = Carmina</i> | |
| IGI | <i>Indice generale degli incunaboli delle biblioteche d'Italia</i> , ed. T. M. Guarnaschelli and D. Valenziani, Rome 1943–81 | |

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List of abbreviations

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| <i>IMU</i> | <i>Italia medievale e umanistica</i> |
| <i>JHI</i> | <i>Journal of the History of Ideas</i> |
| John the Abbot | John the Abbot <i>De septem vicüs et septem virtutibus</i> |
| <i>JWCI</i> | <i>Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes</i> |
| <i>MSV</i> | <i>Miscellanea storica della Valdelsa</i> |
| n.n. | not numbered |
| Ovid | <i>Met.</i> = <i>Metamorphoses</i> , <i>Her.</i> = <i>Heroides</i> , <i>AA</i> = <i>Ars amatoria</i> , <i>RA</i> = <i>Remedia amoris</i> |
| <i>PL</i> | <i>Patrologia latina</i> ed. J. Migne, Paris, 1844–64 |
| Plimpton | New York Columbia University Plimpton manuscripts |
| Prosper | <i>Epigrammata</i> (ed. <i>PL</i> , 51.499–532) and <i>Poema coniugis ad uxorem</i> (ed. <i>PL</i> , 51.611–16); these texts are normally presented as one work without a break (see below, 480 n. 90) |
| Prudentius | <i>D</i> = Prudentius <i>Dittochaëon</i> , <i>P</i> = <i>Psychomachia</i> |
| Pseudo-Boethius | <i>De disciplina scoliarum</i> |
| <i>RPL</i> | <i>Res publica litterarum</i> |
| Sallust | <i>BC</i> = <i>Bellum Catilinae</i> , <i>BJ</i> = <i>Bellum Iugurthinum</i> |
| Seneca | <i>Tragoediae</i> |
| Silk | Edmund T. Silk, ed., <i>Nicholas Trevet on Boethius. Expositio Fratris Nicolai Trevethi Anglici Ordinis Predicatorum super Boecio De Consolacione</i> , unpublished typescript in New Haven Yale University Library |
| <i>SM</i> | <i>Studi medievali</i> |
| <i>sn.</i> | <i>signum</i> |
| Statius | <i>A</i> = <i>Achilleis</i> , <i>T</i> = <i>Thebias</i> |
| <i>STC</i> | <i>Short-Title Catalogue of Books Printed in Italy and of Italian Books Printed in Other Countries from 1465 to 1600 now in the British Museum</i> , London 1958 |
| Val. Max. | Valerius Maximus <i>Facta et dicta</i> |
| Vergil | <i>A</i> = <i>Aeneid</i> , <i>E</i> = <i>Eclogues</i> , <i>G</i> = <i>Georgics</i> |
| WOM | Word-order marks |

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*Editorial note regarding citations from manuscripts
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- 1 Vernacular glosses are indicated in italics.
- 2 [] means that letters or words enclosed appear in the manuscript but are thought to be erroneous; they are also used to enclose editorial comments such as [*sic*] [MS:] [space].
- 3 < > means that letters or words have been added for the sake of coherence; their omission may have been due to scribal error, or they may no longer be legible.
- 4 Letters or words enclosed in round brackets () indicate an uncertain expansion of an abbreviation.
- 5 Question marks immediately following letters or words indicate an uncertain reading.
- 6 Italicized words indicate a lemma.
- 7 = is used to indicate an interlinear gloss. What appears on the left of the sign is the word or phrase being glossed; on the right, the gloss itself.
- 8 { } occasionally enclose an interlinear gloss which is supplying an understood word: e.g. {ego} inquam.
- 9 In the case of Boethius's *Consolation of Philosophy*, (I, p. 1, 1) or (I, m. 1, 1) and so on refer to the relevant prose passage or metre line of the Bieler 1984 edition.
- 10 The orthography and latinity of the manuscripts have been retained, although the punctuation and capitalization have been modernized. *Sic* has been indicated where there is a notable or gross divergence from correct grammatical or classical usage.
- 11 Folios will normally be indicated without the abbreviations fol., fo., f., or ff.
- 12 Normally manuscripts from the Plutei series in the Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana will be cited without Pl. Thus Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana Pluteo 36.28 will be cited as BML 36.28. When a number of manuscripts from the Plutei are listed in

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sequence (for example in ch. 4 or in Appendices iv and vi), the manuscripts will be listed in numerical order, not in the order they appear in Bandini's catalogues and in the card indices of the library (where manuscripts from Santa Croce with Plutei numbers including sin. or dxt. follow higher numbers from the principal collection, e.g. 24 sin. 5 after 76.23 and so on).

13 / = new verse or new line.

// = new folio.

14 Unless otherwise indicated, all dates have been modernized.

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[More information](#)*A note on chronological terminology*

I have used a number of chronological terms in a conventionalized manner; no interpretation or greater significance is meant to be implied thereby.

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| later antiquity | 300–600 AD |
| early middle ages | 600–1000 |
| Dark Ages | 600–900 |
| high middle ages | 1000–1200 |
| later middle ages | 1200–1400 |
| middle ages/medieval | 600–1400 |
| Renaissance | 1400–1600 |
| pre-humanist | 1250–1400 |
| humanist | 1400–1600 |
| Duecento | thirteenth century |
| Trecento | fourteenth century |
| Quattrocento | fifteenth century |
| Cinquecento | sixteenth century |

In discussing manuscript glosses, the term ‘contemporaneous’ is used to describe a writer working at about the same time as the copyist.

Dates according to centuries are indicated by Roman numerals (XVc.). XV¹: first half of the fifteenth century; XV^{1/4}: first quarter of the fifteenth century; XVmid: mid fifteenth century; XIV/XVc: turn of the fifteenth century; XVex.: 1490–1500; XVin.: 1400–10; and so on.