A History of Women’s Writing in Italy

A History of Women’s Writing in Italy offers a comprehensive historical account of writing by women in Italy. Covering writing from the Middle Ages to the present day, it moves away from narrow definitions of literature, and brings to the reader’s attention other forms of expression such as letter writing, religious and devotional writing, scholarly and philosophical essays, travel writing and journalism. Contributors point to the considerable practical, social and ideological difficulties faced by women in writing and presenting their work to a wider reading public, but also highlight the resourcefulness and determination of women through the centuries in making their voices heard. Extensive guides to further reading and a detailed guide to more than two hundred writers form an integral part of the volume. The international team of contributors have produced a striking work of new scholarship and research, which will be invaluable for students and scholars alike.

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A History of Women’s Writing in Italy

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into the larger framework of the complete volume, they will be as pleased
and impressed as we are by the final result.

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Letizia Panizza
Abbreviations


DBI Dizionario biografico degli italiani. Rome, 1960–


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<th>Author</th>
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<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<td>Petrignani S.</td>
<td>Una donna, un secolo</td>
<td>Rome</td>
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<td>Rasy E.</td>
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<td>Le stanze ritrovate</td>
<td>Mirano–Venice</td>
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<td>Testaferri A.</td>
<td>Donna</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
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<tr>
<td>GSLI</td>
<td>Giornale storico della letteratura italiana</td>
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<td>IT</td>
<td>Italian Studies</td>
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<td>MLN</td>
<td>Modern Language Notes</td>
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<td>RBLI</td>
<td>Rassegna bibliografica della letteratura italiana</td>
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<td>RCLI</td>
<td>Rassegna critica della letteratura italiana</td>
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Note on the text

This book is meant for the interested general reader, as well as for the university student coming to the subject for the first time, and the more advanced student and researcher, able to read texts and studies in Italian. It also presupposes a minimal acquaintance with Italian culture, although it does not take for granted any knowledge of the Italian language.

Prose quotations are rendered in English, while poetry quotations are given in the original Italian followed by a prose English translation. The titles of books and poems referred to within the body of the chapters have also been translated. If there is a published translation, the title is given in italics within parentheses: *Il merito delle donne* (*The Worth of Women*); if there is not, a translation of the title within single quotation marks is provided: *I misteri di Napoli* (*The mysteries of Naples*).

The bibliographical guide to women writers and their work is a special feature of this book, and writers in the guide are indicated in the chapters by an asterisk (*) before a name. The guide contains basic biographical facts, a list of the author’s main works (with dates of first editions, and translations into English), some major studies, and a list of (a) reference works with entries about the author in question and (b) anthologies. Do not, therefore, expect to find a ‘life and works’ for an asterisked author in the body of the chapter itself or in the notes.

The bibliographical guide has allowed us to keep notes in chapters to a minimum. Where sufficient, shortened titles will be found in the notes. Complete bibliographical entries for all studies mentioned, and main works of authors discussed in chapters, but not asterisked and therefore not found in the bio-bibliographies, will be found in the general bibliography, comprising reference works, primary texts and studies.
If you wish to know more about Italian literature, we recommend *The Cambridge History of Italian Literature*, edited by Peter Brand and Lino Pertile (Cambridge University Press, 1996, revised and in paperback, 1999). If you would like to pursue historical and cultural contexts, we recommend the various paperback volumes of the Longman History of Italy, General Editor, Denys Hay.