This second edition of *The Cambridge Companion to Dante* is designed to provide an accessible introduction to Dante for students, teachers, and general readers. The volume has been fully revised to take account of the most up-to-date scholarship and includes three new essays. The suggestions for further reading now include the most recent secondary works and translations as well as online resources. The essays cover Dante’s early works and their relation to the *Commedia*, his literary antecedents, both vernacular and classical, biblical and theological influences, the historical and political dimensions of Dante’s works, and their reception. In addition there are introductory essays to each of the three canticles of the *Commedia* that analyze their themes and style. This new edition will ensure that the *Companion* continues to be the most useful single volume for new generations of students of Dante.

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CONTENTS

Notes on contributors    page vii
Preface                xi
Note on translations   xii
Chronology            xiii

1 Life of Dante          1
GIUSEPPE MAZZOTA

2 Dante and the lyric past  14
TEODOLINDA BAROLINI

3 Approaching the Vita nuova  35
ROBERT POGUE HARRISON

4 From auctor to author: Dante before the Commedia  46
ALBERT RUSSELL ASCOLI

5 Introduction to Inferno  67
LINO PERTILE

6 Introduction to Purgatorio  91
JEFFREY T. SCHNAPP

7 Introduction to Paradiso  107
RACHEL JACOFF

8 Dante and the Bible  125
PETER S. HAWKINS

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## CONTENTS

9 Dante and the classical poets
   KEVIN BROWNLEE
   141

10 Allegory and autobiography
    JOHN FRECCERO
    161

11 A poetics of chaos and harmony
    JOAN FERRANTE
    181

12 The theology of the *Comedy*
    A. N. WILLIAMS
    201

13 The poetry and poetics of the creation
    PIERO BOITANI
    218

14 Dante and Florence
    JOHN M. NAJEMY
    236

15 Dante and the empire
    CHARLES TILL DAVIS
    257

16 Dante and his commentators
    ROBERT HOLLANDER
    270

17 Dante in English
    DAVID WALLACE
    281

*Further reading*
*Index*

305
308
NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS


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NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

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This second edition of *The Cambridge Companion to Dante*, like the first one, is designed to be an accessible and challenging introduction to Dante for students, teachers, and general readers. Seventeen essays by distinguished scholars provide contemporary perspectives on Dante's life and work, offering readings of his major texts and of various aspects of his cultural context. Contributors to the first edition were asked to update their essays and bibliographies, and there are three new essays as well. The essays concentrate on five general areas: Dante's early works and their relation to the *Comedy*; the literary antecedents, both vernacular and classical, of Dante's poetry; biblical and theological influences and their poetic implications; the historical and political dimensions of Dante's work; and selected reception history (the commentary tradition and Dante's presence in English-language literature). In addition, there are introductory essays to each of the three canticles of the *Comedy* that analyze their particular themes and strategies. The book aims to provide both insightful readings of specific textual practices and useful background material.

Because Dante's work is so capacious and multi-faceted, it is impossible to address all of the issues it raises and all of the areas of classical and medieval culture with which it intersects. Many of the essays conclude with suggestions for further reading, and there is a section at the end of the book that provides information about translations, web sites, critical works, and other aids to further study. The selective list of critical works includes many books that have appeared in the years since the first edition was published. Indeed, there seems to be no end in sight of work on Dante or of Dante's presence in works by other writers, artists, musicians, and in popular culture.
NOTE ON TRANSLATIONS

CHRONOLOGY

1265 Dante born under the sign of Gemini
1283 Dante’s father dies and Dante comes of age. He is married shortly thereafter to Gemma Donati with whom he has four children (Jacopo, Pietro, Giovanni, and Antonia)
1289 Dante takes part in the battle of Campaldino against Arezzo
1290 June 8, death of Beatrice
1293–94 Vita nuova written
1294 Dante meets Charles Martel, king of Hungary, and heir to the Kingdom of Naples and the country of Provence, in Florence
1295 Dante enters political life
1300 Boniface VIII proclaims Jubilee Year. June 15, Dante becomes one of the six priors of Florence for a term of two months. Easter 1300 is the fictional date of the journey of the Divina Commedia
1301 As Charles of Valois approaches Florence, Dante is sent on an embassy to Pope Boniface VIII
1302 January 27, the first sentence of exile against Dante reaches him in Siena. On March 10, Dante is permanently banished from Florence
1303–05 De vulgari eloquentia and Convivio, both unfinished, written
1303 Guest of Bartolomeo della Scala in Verona
1304 Birth of Francesco Petrarch
1309 Papacy moves from Rome to Avignon
1310 Henry VII of Luxemburg descends into Italy. Dante writes Epistle to him. Possible date of Monarchia (others think it may have been written as late as 1317)
1312–18 Guest of Cangrande della Scala in Verona
1313 Death of Henry VII. Birth of Giovanni Boccaccio
1314 Inferno published. Epistle to the Italian cardinals
chronology

1315  Florence proposes to repeal Dante’s exile on the condition that he acknowledges his guilt. Dante refuses. *Purgatorio* published
1319  Dante in Ravenna as guest of Guido Novello da Polenta. Latin correspondence with the humanist Giovanni del Virgilio
1320  Dante lectures on the *Quaestio de aqua et terra*
1321  Completion of *Paradiso*. September 13 or 14, Dante dies in Ravenna