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978-0-521-66172-0 - Church, Censorship and Culture in Early Modern Italy

Edited by Gigliola Fragnito

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The recent opening of the archive of the former Congregation of the Holy Office of Rome (the office of the 'Inquisition') has yielded an extraordinary wealth of documentation which is already altering dramatically many long-standing views on the repressive activity of the Church of Rome during the Counter-Reformation.

Drawing extensively upon this archival source, the book highlights the wide gap between the Church's aim to exert control over all knowledge and actual implementation. The plurality of the central offices, their contradictory decisions, and the inadequacy of the peripheral offices combined to hamper truly effective censorship. But despite their shortcomings, these operations had a disastrous effect upon Italian culture. The pointless destruction caused by the Church's waverings, and the failure of expurgatory policy, for centuries deprived Italians of their most cherished books. By concentrating on areas hitherto little explored, this book shows that prohibition did not affect only the scholarly community. Broader social groups, from jurists to scientists, from Jews to 'common' readers uneducated in Latin, all experienced the rigours of ecclesiastical censorship.

GIGLIOLA FRAGNITO is Professor of Early Modern History, Università degli Studi, Parma. Previous publications include: *La Bibbia al rogo. La censura ecclesiastica e i volgarizzamenti della Scrittura (1471–1605)*, Bologna, 1997.

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Frontmatter

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**CHURCH, CENSORSHIP
AND CULTURE IN
EARLY MODERN ITALY**

EDITED BY
GIGLIOLA FRAGNITO

TRANSLATED BY
ADRIAN BELTON



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CONTENTS

<i>List of illustrations</i>	<i>page</i> vi
<i>List of contributors</i>	vii
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	x
1 Introduction I	
GIGLIOLA FRAGNITO	
2 The central and peripheral organization of censorship 13	
GIGLIOLA FRAGNITO	
3 How to doctor a bibliography: Antonio Possevino's practice 50	
LUIGI BALSAMO	
4 The Roman Inquisition's condemnation of astrology: antecedents, reasons and consequences 79	
UGO BALDINI	
5 Tradition and change in the spiritual literature of the cinquecento III	
EDOARDO BARBIERI	
6 A project of 'expurgation' by the Congregation of the Index: treatises on duelling 134	
CLAUDIO DONATI	
7 The index, the Holy Office, the condemnation of the Talmud and publication of Clement VIII's index 163	
FAUSTO PARENTE	
8 Italian literature on the index 194	
UGO ROZZO	
9 The censoring of law books 223	
RODOLFO SAVELLI	
<i>Index of names</i>	254

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Edited by Gigliola Fragnito

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

ILLUSTRATIONS

- | | | |
|---|---|---------|
| 1 | Title-page of C. Gesner, <i>Bibliotheca instituta et collecta</i> . . . ,
Tiguri, Christophorus Froschoverus, 1583 (Bologna,
Biblioteca Comunale dell'Archiginnasio, 15.E.I.9). | page 57 |
| 2 | C. Gesner, <i>Bibliotheca instituta et collecta</i> . . . , p. 445,
Tiguri, Christophorus Froschoverus, 1583 (Bologna,
Biblioteca Comunale dell'Archiginnasio, 15.E.I.9). | 59 |
| 3 | C. Gesner, <i>Bibliotheca instituta et collecta</i> . . . , p. 450,
Tiguri, Christophorus Froschoverus, 1583 (Bologna,
Biblioteca Comunale dell'Archiginnasio, 15.E.I.9). | 60 |
| 4 | C. Gesner, <i>Bibliotheca instituta et collecta</i> . . . , p. 463,
Tiguri, Christophorus Froschoverus, 1583 (Bologna,
Biblioteca Comunale dell'Archiginnasio, 15.E.I.9). | 62 |

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-66172-0 - Church, Censorship and Culture in Early Modern Italy

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTRIBUTORS

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978-0-521-66172-0 - Church, Censorship and Culture in Early Modern Italy

Edited by Gigliola Fragnito

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

viii

CONTRIBUTORS

relations between ecclesiastical institutions, political powers, social structures and cultural trends in early modern Italy and on the evolution of nobiliar ideology in Italy and Europe between the late medieval and early modern age. Among his publications are *Ecclesiastici e laici nel Trentino del Settecento*, Rome, 1975; 'La Chiesa di Roma tra antico regime e riforme settecentesche', in *Annali della Storia d'Italia*, vol. IX, Turin, Einaudi, 1986; *L'idea di nobiltà in Italia, secoli XIV-XVIII*, Rome-Bari, 1988, 2nd edn, 1995; 'Vescovi e diocesi d'Italia dall'età post-tridentina alla caduta dell'antico regime', in M. Rosa (ed.), *Clero e società nell'Italia moderna*, Rome-Bari, 1992; 'The Italian Nobilities in the 17th and 18th centuries', in *The European Nobilities in the 17th and 18th centuries*, London-New York 1995. He is the editor of *Eserciti e carriere militari nell'Italia moderna*, Milan, 1998.

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Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-66172-0 - Church, Censorship and Culture in Early Modern Italy

Edited by Gigliola Fragnito

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTRIBUTORS

ix

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ABBREVIATIONS

PUBLICATIONS

- ILI* *Index des livres interdits*, ed. J. M. De Bujanda, Sherbrooke–Geneva, 10 vols., 1984–1996.
DBI *Dizionario biografico degli Italiani*, Rome, 1960 ff.
EDIT16 *Le edizioni italiane del XVI secolo. Censimento nazionale*, Rome, ICCU, 1985 ff.

MANUSCRIPT SOURCES IN LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES

- ACAF Archivio Curia Arcivescovile, Florence
 ACDF Archivio della Congregazione per la Dottrina della Fede
 AGOP Archivum Generale Ordinis Praedicatorum, Rome
 ARSI Archivum Romanum Societatis Iesu
 ASV Archivio Segreto Vaticano, Rome
 ASV, SS Archivio Segreto Vaticano, Segreteria di Stato
 ASVe, SU Archivio di Stato, Venice, Sant’Uffizio
 BAB Biblioteca Comunale dell’Archiginnasio, Bologna
 BAM Biblioteca Ambrosiana, Milan
 BAV Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana, Rome
 BCR Biblioteca Casanatense, Rome
 BEM Biblioteca Estense, Modena
Index Archivio della Congregazione dell’Indice*
 SO Archivio della Congregazione del Sant’Ufficio
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* In the pressmarks of the documents, the Roman numerals indicate the series, the Arab numerals the volume.