

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-66622-0 - The Cambridge History of Italian Literature, Revised Edition

Edited by Peter Brand and Lino Pertile

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Italy possesses one of the richest and most influential literatures of Europe, stretching back to the thirteenth century. This first substantial history of Italian literature to appear in the English language for forty years provides a comprehensive survey of Italian writing from its earliest origins up to the present day. Leading scholars describe and assess the work of writers who have contributed to the Italian literary tradition, including Dante, Petrarch and Boccaccio, the Renaissance humanists, Machiavelli, Ariosto and Tasso, pioneers and practitioners of opera and drama from *commedia dell'arte* to Pirandello and Dario Fo, the nineteenth- and twentieth-century poets from Leopardi to Montale, and the novelists from Manzoni to Calvino and Eco. *The Cambridge History of Italian Literature* is accessible to the general reader as well as to students and scholars: translations are provided, along with a map, chronological charts, and up-to-date and substantial bibliographies.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-66622-0 - The Cambridge History of Italian Literature, Revised Edition

Edited by Peter Brand and Lino Pertile

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

The Cambridge History of Italian Literature

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-66622-0 - The Cambridge History of Italian Literature, Revised Edition

Edited by Peter Brand and Lino Pertile

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

*The Cambridge History of
Italian Literature*

Edited by

PETER BRAND

University of Edinburgh

and

LINO PERTILE

Harvard University

Revised Edition



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-66622-0 - The Cambridge History of Italian Literature, Revised Edition

Edited by Peter Brand and Lino Pertile

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo

Cambridge University Press

The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521434928

© Cambridge University Press 1996

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 1996

First paperback edition (revised) 1999

Reprinted 2001, 2003, 2004

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-0-521-43492-8 hardback

ISBN 978-0-521-66622-0 paperback

Transferred to digital printing 2007

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-66622-0 - The Cambridge History of Italian Literature, Revised Edition

Edited by Peter Brand and Lino Pertile

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Contents

List of contributors xvii

Preface xix

Acknowledgements xxi

Map xxii

Chronology xxiii

Origins and Duecento

JONATHAN USHER

| | | |
|---|--|----|
| 1 | The earliest evidence | 3 |
| 2 | Poetry | 5 |
| | Francis of Assisi | 5 |
| | Popular and didactic poetry | 6 |
| | Provençal influence | 8 |
| | Sicilian school | 9 |
| | Tuscan imitators | 14 |
| | Guittone d'Arezzo | 15 |
| | Bonagiunta da Lucca | 17 |
| | Guido Guinizelli | 19 |
| | Guido Cavalcanti | 22 |
| | Cavalcantian circle | 25 |
| | Cino da Pistoia | 25 |
| | <i>Stilnovo</i> | 26 |
| 3 | Prose | 28 |
| | Non-fictional works | 28 |
| | Vernacular translations | 31 |
| | From <i>exemplum</i> to <i>novella</i> | 33 |
| | The <i>Novellino</i> | 34 |

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-66622-0 - The Cambridge History of Italian Literature, Revised Edition

Edited by Peter Brand and Lino Pertile

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

viii

Contents

The Trecento

| | | |
|---|---|----|
| 4 | Dante | 39 |
| | LINO PERTILE | |
| | Early life | 40 |
| | <i>Vita Nuova</i> | 41 |
| | <i>Rime</i> | 44 |
| | Florentine politics | 46 |
| | <i>Convivio</i> and <i>De vulgari eloquentia</i> | 46 |
| | The last <i>Rime</i> | 50 |
| | <i>Monarchia</i> | 50 |
| | The political letters | 51 |
| | The amnesty | 54 |
| | The <i>Commedia</i> | 54 |
| | Birth of a ‘comedy’ | 55 |
| | Composition and early diffusion | 57 |
| | Formal organisation and language | 58 |
| | Allegory and realism | 59 |
| | Dante’s journey | 60 |
| | Myth and history | 62 |
| | The <i>contrapasso</i> | 63 |
| | Dante-the-character among the dead | 64 |
| | Politics and society | 66 |
| | The last years | 68 |
| | Dante today | 68 |
| 5 | Boccaccio | 70 |
| | PAMELA D. STEWART | |
| | Early years | 70 |
| | <i>Caccia di Diana</i> and <i>Rime</i> | 72 |
| | <i>Filocolo</i> | 73 |
| | <i>Filostrato</i> , <i>Teseida</i> and other works of the 1340s | 74 |
| | The <i>Decameron</i> | 76 |
| | Setting and structure | 76 |
| | Thematic patterns | 78 |
| | The storytellers | 80 |
| | The ‘author’ | 82 |
| | Later life and works | 85 |
| 6 | Petrarch | 89 |
| | JOHN TOOK | |
| | Life | 89 |
| | Cultural and moral context | 91 |

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-66622-0 - The Cambridge History of Italian Literature, Revised Edition

Edited by Peter Brand and Lino Pertile

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Contents*

ix

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| The <i>Canzoniere</i> | 92 |
| Petrarch's originality | 92 |
| Composition and structure | 94 |
| First part | 97 |
| Second part | 99 |
| Technical virtuosity | 101 |
| The <i>Trionfi</i> | 104 |
| Latin works | 106 |
| 7 Minor writers | 108 |
| STEVEN BOTTERILL | |
| The literary culture of the Trecento | 108 |
| Verse | 114 |
| <i>Poesia aulica</i> | 114 |
| <i>Poesia giocosa</i> | 115 |
| The <i>perugini</i> | 116 |
| Political poetry | 117 |
| Devotional poetry | 118 |
| Narrative poetry | 119 |
| Poetry as entertainment | 119 |
| Prose | 120 |
| Vernacular translations | 120 |
| Historical writing | 121 |
| The <i>novelle</i> | 123 |
| Devotional prose | 123 |
| Commentaries on Dante | 125 |

The Quattrocento

LETIZIA PANIZZA

| | |
|---|------------|
| 8 Humanism | 131 |
| Petrarch's legacy | 132 |
| Education, libraries and translations from Greek | 135 |
| Humanist profiles | 137 |
| Leonardo Bruni and civic humanism | 137 |
| L. B. Alberti: polyglot and polymath | 138 |
| Lorenzo Valla: language in the service of ethics | 140 |
| Women humanists | 142 |
| 9 Power, patronage and literary associations | 144 |
| Florence | 144 |
| Rome | 145 |
| Venice | 147 |
| Naples | 149 |
| Ferrara | 150 |

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-66622-0 - The Cambridge History of Italian Literature, Revised Edition

Edited by Peter Brand and Lino Pertile

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

x

Contents

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| 10 Literature in the vernacular | 152 |
| Latin and the vernacular | 152 |
| Prose | 154 |
| The <i>novella</i> | 154 |
| Novels and other prose writings | 158 |
| <i>Arcadia</i> | 159 |
| Poetry | 161 |
| The forms of poetry | 161 |
| Lorenzo and Poliziano | 164 |
| Narrative poetry | 167 |
| PETER MARINELLI | |
| Pulci and the narrative tradition | 167 |
| Boiardo | 172 |
| Theatre | 175 |

The Cinquecento

| | |
|--|-----|
| 11 Prose | 181 |
| BRIAN RICHARDSON | |
| The forms of literary prose | 181 |
| The expansion of the vernacular | 181 |
| Rhetoric and form | 185 |
| Publishing and censorship | 187 |
| Statecraft and history | 188 |
| Politics and historiography in Florence | 188 |
| Machiavelli | 188 |
| Guicciardini | 193 |
| Other Florentine writers on history and politics | 196 |
| Politics and historiography in other states | 200 |
| Ideal states | 202 |
| The individual and society | 203 |
| Court life and advice on behaviour: Castiglione | 203 |
| Other writers on court life and behaviour | 208 |
| Society and morality | 212 |
| Women in society; love and marriage | 214 |
| Literature and art | 220 |
| Narrative fiction | 223 |
| The <i>novella</i> | 223 |
| The <i>romanzo</i> | 231 |
| 12 Narrative poetry | 233 |
| PETER MARINELLI | |
| From Boiardo to Ariosto | 233 |
| Ariosto | 234 |

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-66622-0 - The Cambridge History of Italian Literature, Revised Edition

Edited by Peter Brand and Lino Pertile

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Contents*

xi

| | |
|--|------------|
| From Ariosto to Tasso | 240 |
| Tasso | 243 |
| 13 Lyric poetry | 251 |
| ANTHONY OLD CORN | |
| ‘Classicism’ and ‘anti-classicism’ | 251 |
| Bembo and the classicist tradition | 252 |
| The inheritance of Sannazaro | 255 |
| The classicising Petrarchism of Bernardo Tasso | 256 |
| The georgic and didactic poem | 257 |
| Ariosto’s realistic non-alignment | 258 |
| Michelangelo | 260 |
| Della Casa and Magno | 262 |
| Women poets | 264 |
| Torquato Tasso | 266 |
| The anti-classicist tradition: parody, satire, burlesque | 268 |
| Ariosto and other satirists | 268 |
| Berni and the <i>Berneschi</i> | 270 |
| Aretino | 271 |
| Macaronic and Fidentian verse | 273 |
| 14 Theatre | 277 |
| RICHARD ANDREWS | |
| Scripted comedy to 1550 | 278 |
| <i>Commedia dell’arte</i> | 284 |
| Scripted comedy after 1550 | 286 |
| Classical tragedy and tragi-comedy | 288 |
| Pastoral drama | 292 |
| <i>The Seicento</i> | |
| Poetry, Philosophy and Science | |
| PAOLO CHERCHI | |
| 15 The Baroque | 301 |
| 16 Lyric poetry | 303 |
| Chiabrera and the melic trend | 303 |
| The Baroque vanguard | 304 |
| Marino and his followers | 305 |
| Classicists | 308 |
| 17 Mock-epic poetry and satire | 310 |
| Heroi-comic poems | 310 |
| Satiric poetry | 311 |

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-66622-0 - The Cambridge History of Italian Literature, Revised Edition

Edited by Peter Brand and Lino Pertile

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xii

Contents

| | | |
|----|---|-----|
| 18 | Treatises | 312 |
| | Treatises on aesthetics | 312 |
| | Writers on politics, history and morals | 313 |
| | Science writers | 316 |

Narrative prose and theatre

ALBERT N. MANCINI

| | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|-----|
| 19 | Narrative prose | 318 |
| | The novel | 318 |
| | The <i>novella</i> | 322 |
| | Travel literature and autobiography | 324 |
| 20 | Theatre | 326 |
| | <i>Commedia dell'arte</i> | 327 |
| | Regular comedy | 329 |
| | Tragedy | 331 |
| | Pastoral plays | 334 |
| 21 | Opera | 336 |
| | DAVID KIMBELL | |
| | The beginnings of opera | 336 |
| | Opera for the public theatre | 338 |

The Settecento

FRANCO FIDO

| | | |
|----|---|-----|
| 22 | The first half of the Settecento | 343 |
| | Muratori and historiography | 344 |
| | Venice: polygraphs, journalists and dramatists | 345 |
| | Intellectual life in Naples: Giannone, Vico, Genovesi | 347 |
| | Arcadia | 350 |
| 23 | The theatre from Metastasio to Goldoni | 353 |
| | Metastasio and melodrama | 353 |
| | Goldoni and comedy | 355 |
| | Gozzi and the <i>Fiabe</i> | 361 |
| 24 | Opera | 363 |
| | DAVID KIMBELL | |
| | <i>Dramma per musica</i> and <i>opera buffa</i> | 363 |
| | After Metastasio | 367 |

Contents

xiii

| | | |
|---|--|-----|
| 25 | The Enlightenment and Parini | 371 |
| | The Enlightenment in Naples | 371 |
| | The Enlightenment in the north | 373 |
| | The dissident Baretti | 376 |
| | Milan: <i>Il Caffè</i> , the Verri brothers, Beccaria | 378 |
| | Parini: from Sensism to neo-classicism | 380 |
| 26 | Alfieri and pre-Romanticism | 387 |
| | Alfieri | 387 |
| | Between neo-classicism and pre-Romanticism | 393 |
| | The late Settecento autobiographies | 395 |
| <i>The Age of Romanticism (1800–1870)</i> GIOVANNI CARSANIGA | | |
| 27 | The Romantic controversy | 399 |
| | Writers and cultural policy | 399 |
| | The controversy over translations | 401 |
| | Did Italian Romanticism exist? | 402 |
| | Women writers and the literary canon | 403 |
| 28 | Monti | 406 |
| | Changing sides: the Bassville affair | 406 |
| | The language of classicism | 408 |
| | The uses of mythology | 409 |
| 29 | Foscolo | 412 |
| | Love and politics: <i>Ultime lettere di Jacopo Ortis</i> | 412 |
| | A new mythology: <i>Le Grazie</i> | 413 |
| | <i>Dei sepolcri</i> : a ‘smoky enigma’ | 415 |
| | Exile | 416 |
| 30 | Leopardi | 418 |
| | ‘Mad and desperate study’ | 418 |
| | Science and the idea of Nature: the evolution of the <i>Canti</i> | 421 |
| | Nature and society | 423 |
| | Leopardi and his readers | 425 |
| 31 | Manzoni and the novel | 427 |
| | Early life and works | 427 |
| | The novel | 431 |
| | The ideological programme | 432 |
| | From <i>Fermo e Lucia</i> to <i>I promessi sposi</i> | 434 |

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-66622-0 - The Cambridge History of Italian Literature, Revised Edition

Edited by Peter Brand and Lino Pertile

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xiv

Contents

| | | |
|---|---|-----|
| | <i>The questione della lingua</i> | 435 |
| | Room to dissent | 437 |
| 32 | Other novelists and poets of the Risorgimento | 440 |
| | Novelists | 440 |
| | Nievo | 441 |
| | Political literature and literary criticism | 444 |
| | 'Popular' poetry | 445 |
| | Tommaseo | 447 |
| 33 | Opera since 1800 | 450 |
| | DAVID KIMBELL | |
| | Romantic opera | 450 |
| | Opera since unification | 453 |
| <i>The Literature of United Italy (1870–1910)</i> | | |
| 34 | Writer and society in the new Italy | 459 |
| | ROBERT DOMBROSKI | |
| | Carducci and classicism | 461 |
| | Naturalism and <i>verismo</i> | 463 |
| | Capuana | 463 |
| | Verga | 464 |
| | De Roberto and other <i>veristi</i> | 469 |
| | The borders of naturalism | 470 |
| | <i>Cuore</i> and <i>Pinocchio</i> | 471 |
| | Fogazzaro and Deledda | 471 |
| | D'Annunzio | 473 |
| | Pascoli | 476 |
| | Popular fiction | 479 |
| 35 | Pirandello | 480 |
| | FELICITY FIRTH | |
| | Early essays and novels | 481 |
| | Short stories | 483 |
| | Theatre | 484 |
| <i>The Rise and Fall of Fascism (1910–45)</i> | | |
| | ROBERT DOMBROSKI | |
| 36 | Poetry and the avant-garde | 493 |
| | Futurism | 495 |
| | Poetry | 497 |
| | The <i>crepuscolari</i> | 497 |
| | Campana | 498 |

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-66622-0 - The Cambridge History of Italian Literature, Revised Edition

Edited by Peter Brand and Lino Pertile

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Contents*

xv

| | |
|---|------------|
| Saba | 499 |
| Ungaretti | 502 |
| Quasimodo | 504 |
| Montale | 505 |
| 37 Philosophy and literature from Croce to Gramsci | 509 |
| Croce | 510 |
| Gentile | 511 |
| Gramsci | 513 |
| Fascism and culture | 514 |
| 38 The novel | 515 |
| Svevo | 515 |
| Borgese | 519 |
| Tozzi | 520 |
| Bontempelli and Alvaro | 521 |
| Savinio and Buzzati | 523 |
| <i>Solaria</i> | 524 |
| Bilenchi | 525 |
| Vittorini | 526 |
| Gadda | 527 |

The Aftermath of the Second World War (1945–56)

JOHN GATT-RUTTER

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| 39 After the Liberation | 533 |
| 40 Neo-realism | 535 |
| Peasant novels | 537 |
| Pavese | 539 |
| Vittorini | 543 |
| Naples and the urban south | 545 |
| The death camps | 546 |
| The female subject | 547 |
| Beyond the fringe of neorealism | 549 |
| 41 History and the poets | 553 |
| Pasolini | 556 |

Contemporary Italy (since 1956)

MICHAEL CAESAR

| | |
|--|------------|
| 42 The late 1950s and the 1960s | 561 |
| The older poets | 561 |

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-66622-0 - The Cambridge History of Italian Literature, Revised Edition

Edited by Peter Brand and Lino Pertile

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xvi

Contents

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Novels of memory | 563 |
| Reviews | 564 |
| 'Industrial' novels | 568 |
| Poets of the neo-avant-garde | 570 |
| Experimental novels | 575 |
| 43 The 1970s | 581 |
| Poetry | 581 |
| Feminism and poetry | 583 |
| Problems of the self and language | 584 |
| Theatre | 587 |
| Fiction | 588 |
| Morante and other women writers | 588 |
| Primo Levi | 590 |
| Sciascia and other Sicilian writers | 590 |
| Other 'regional' writers | 593 |
| Calvino | 594 |
| Morselli, Volponi and others | 595 |
| Celati and Vassalli | 596 |
| Eco | 598 |
| 44 The 1980s | 599 |
| Women writers | 600 |
| Tabucchi | 602 |
| A new generation of writers | 603 |

Bibliography 607

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| General | 607 |
| Origins and Duecento | 609 |
| Trecento | 612 |
| Quattrocento | 622 |
| Cinquecento | 627 |
| Seicento | 641 |
| Settecento | 646 |
| The Age of Romanticism (1800–1870) | 652 |
| Opera | 657 |
| Literature of United Italy | 659 |
| Novecento (since 1910) | 663 |

Index 674

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-66622-0 - The Cambridge History of Italian Literature, Revised Edition

Edited by Peter Brand and Lino Pertile

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Contributors

RICHARD ANDREWS, University of Leeds
STEVEN BOTTERILL, University of California, Berkeley
MICHAEL CAESAR, University of Birmingham
GIOVANNI CARSANIGA, University of Sydney
PAOLO CHERCHI, University of Chicago
ROBERT DOMBROSKI, City University of New York
FRANCO FIDO, Harvard University
FELICITY FIRTH, University of Bristol
JOHN GATT RUTTER, La Trobe University
DAVID KIMBELL, University of Edinburgh
ALBERT N. MANCINI, Ohio State University
† PETER MARINELLI, University of Toronto
ANTHONY OLDCORN, Brown University
LETIZIA PANIZZA, Royal Holloway University of London
LINO PERTILE, Harvard University
BRIAN RICHARDSON, University of Leeds
PAMELA STEWART, McGill University
JOHN TOOK, University College, London
JONATHAN USHER, University of Edinburgh

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-66622-0 - The Cambridge History of Italian Literature, Revised Edition

Edited by Peter Brand and Lino Pertile

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Preface

The *Cambridge History of Italian Literature* is intended to provide a comprehensive survey of Italian literature from its origins to the present day within the scope of a single volume. This obviously presents significant problems of selection and compression given the magnitude of the subject – a literary tradition of more than 700 years – and the considerable expansion of scholarly and critical studies in recent years. We believe however that this concentration helps to bring into focus features and issues which may be obscured by a more diffuse treatment. The volume also represents an act of faith in literary history as such and a belief that tradition, perhaps more in Italy than in some other cultures, is an important determining factor in literary creativity.

Italian literature is here taken generally to mean literature in the Italian vernacular: it has been possible, in a volume of this size, to mention only briefly a considerable output of dialect works which, however vibrant and illustrative of Italian genius, are nevertheless accessible to only a limited section of the Italian people. Similarly, works in Latin by Italian writers have received only brief mention, except in the case of the humanists of the fifteenth century when Latin came to dominate the vernacular as the principal vehicle for all serious writing.

Because of the size and complexity of the undertaking a multi-author approach seemed desirable and the responsibility for writing this volume has been shared among nineteen scholars, each of whom is a specialist in the appropriate field and able to give an authoritative assessment of the current state of research and criticism in that area. The editors have reduced as far as possible discrepancies and overlaps, but they have not sought to impose uniformity of approach or style on the different contributors – in the belief that variations between the sections of this volume are themselves reflective of a healthy diversity of research in the discipline as a whole.

The volume is aimed at the general reader rather than at specialists in the subject, and while it is assumed that most readers will have some knowledge of the Italian language an attempt has been made to cater for those who do not by providing translations of the longer passages of Italian and clarifying shorter passages (including titles) which might prove obscure. The translations are normally those cited in the bibliographies; where no published translations exist the author has provided one. Quotations of verse are given in both English and Italian, quotations of prose normally in English only. English

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-66622-0 - The Cambridge History of Italian Literature, Revised Edition

Edited by Peter Brand and Lino Pertile

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xx

Preface

versions of titles are provided in parenthesis after the Italian (in italics to indicate known published translations, in Roman where they have been supplied by the author), followed by the date of the first Italian edition.

The structure is broadly traditional in acknowledging *centuries* as convenient landmarks while recognising the significant overlaps in all periods; and within the period-divisions *genre* distinctions are generally paramount. For authors mentioned in more than one section of the volume the reader is referred to the cross-references in the text and to the Index, which provides a guide to all the significant mentions of writers and major subjects. Special features of this volume are the inclusion of sections on Italian opera, believed to be important for Italian literary history at various stages, and the attempt to bring the history as close as possible up to the present day.

For reasons of space footnotes have been reduced to a minimum, and bibliographies are very selective. For the reader's convenience they are structured to match as closely as possible the format of the relevant chapters, even though this causes some variations in layout.

While there has not been room to provide detailed contextual information on political, social or broadly cultural matters attention is drawn to the charts setting the main literary figures and works in a framework of contemporary political and artistic events.

Finally the editors would like to record their sorrow at the death of one of the contributors, Peter Marinelli, only days after completing his account of Renaissance epic, and their appreciation of his scholarly contribution to his subject.

P.B., L.P.

Preface to the paperback edition

The present paperback edition of the *Cambridge History of Italian Literature* is a revised version of the hardback published in 1996. Authors and editors were much encouraged by the response of reviewers and other readers and have tried in the new edition to take account of the comments and suggestions for improvement that have been made. Misprints and various other errors have been corrected and a number of omissions rectified; the index has been substantially recast and revised.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-66622-0 - The Cambridge History of Italian Literature, Revised Edition

Edited by Peter Brand and Lino Pertile

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Acknowledgements

The following material has been reproduced from existing publications: passages from Dante, *Dantis Alagherii Epistolae*, *The Letters of Dante*, ed. and trans. Paget Toynbee, 2nd edn (1966), and *Dante's Lyric Poetry*, trans. K. Foster and P. Boyde (1967), by permission of Oxford University Press; passages from *Il Filocolo*, trans. David Cheaney and Thomas G. Bergin (1985), by permission of Garland Publishing Inc.; passages from Petrarch by permission of the publisher, from *Petrarch's Lyric Poems*, trans. and ed. R. M. Durling, Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, copyright © 1976 by Robert M. Durling; passages from Dante, *Vita Nuova*, trans. Barbara Reynolds (1969), by permission of Penguin Books Ltd and David Higham Associates; passages from Boccaccio, *Decameron*, trans. G. H. McWilliam (1995), by permission of Penguin Books Ltd. The editors would like to thank the publishers concerned for allowing the material to be reproduced.

They would also like to record their thanks to numerous colleagues for their assistance on various occasions: to Zygmunt Barański, Patrick Boyde, Michael Bury, Martin Clark, Richard Mackenny, Brian Moloney, Onofrio Speciale, Roger Tarr, and to members of the Italian Department of Edinburgh University which has housed and supported the project, notably to Carmine Mezzacappa, Federica Pedriali, Perry Wilson, and particularly to Jonathan Usher for his valuable editorial assistance and advice, and to Marie Dalgety, Secretary of the Department, who has cheerfully endured long hours at the keyboard.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-66622-0 - The Cambridge History of Italian Literature, Revised Edition

Edited by Peter Brand and Lino Pertile

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xxii

MODERN ITALY



Chronology

Origins and Trecento

| | Literature | Other arts |
|--|---|--|
| Political events 1209 Franciscan Order founded 1215 Dominican Order founded 1250 Death of Emperor Frederick II 1260 Ghibelline triumph at battle of Montaperti 1266 Gueifs victorious at battle of Benevento 1267 Gueifs rule in Florence 1300 First Jubilee 1303 Boniface VIII prisoner at Anagni Death of Boniface VIII 1305 Clement V detained in Avignon 1309 Holy See transferred to Avignon 1310 Emperor Henry VII in Italy 1311 Matteo Visconti becomes lord of Milan 1312 Siege of Florence by Henry VII 1313 Henry VII dies near Siena 1313–1318 Castruccio Castracani takes over Lucca, Pisa and Pisa (–1328) | c. 1225 St Francis, <i>Cantico di Frate Sole</i> 1230– Sicilian School of Poetry (–1250) 1260– Guittone, 'Or è la stagion ...' Brunetto Latini, <i>Treſor and Tesoretto</i> (–1266) Guido Guinizelli, 'Al cor gentil renpaira sempre Amore' Anon, <i>Il Novellino</i> Dante, <i>Vita Nuova</i> (–1295) c. 1298 Marco Polo, <i>Milione</i> c. 1300 Guido Cavalcanti, 'Perché non spero ...' Dante, <i>De vulgari eloquentia</i> and <i>Convivio</i> (–c. 1307) c. 1307 Dante, <i>Commedia</i> (–1321) 1310 Dante, <i>Letter to Lords and Peoples of Italy</i> c. 1310 Dino Compagni, <i>Cronica</i> 1316? Dante, <i>Monarchia</i> c. 1320 Giovanni Villani, <i>Cronica</i> 1322 Iacopo Alighieri, <i>Chiose all'Inferno di Dante</i> | Other arts c. 1050 New musical notation by Guido d'Arezzo 1050– St Mark's, Venice (–1071) 1063– Cathedral, Pisa (–1118) 1088 University of Bologna founded 1222 University of Padua founded 1228– Church of St Francis, Assisi –1260 Nicola Pisano, Baptistry pulpit, Pisa 1259– Aquinas, <i>Summa theologiae</i> 1279– Santa Maria Novella, Florence, rebuilt 1293 Arnolfo di Cambio, <i>Ciborium</i> 1295– Santa Croce, Florence, refounded c. 1295 Cimabue, St Francis frescoes, Assisi 1296– Santa Maria del Fiore, Florence 1299– Palazzo Vecchio, Florence 1302 Giovanni Pisano, pulpit, Pisa 1304– Giotto, Scrovegni chapel frescoes, Padua (–1308) 1308 Duccio, <i>Maestà</i> 1309– Palace of the Doges, Venice 1330– Andrea Pisano, Baptistry south door, Florence (–1336) |

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-66622-0 - The Cambridge History of Italian Literature, Revised Edition

Edited by Peter Brand and Lino Pertile

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

| Political events | Literature | Other arts |
|--|---|--|
| 1337 Start of Hundred Years' War | 1335– Petrarch, <i>Canzoniere</i> (–1374) | 1333 Simone Martini, <i>Annunciation</i> |
| 1343 Death of Robert and end of Anjou dynasty in Naples | 1336– Boccaccio, <i>Filocolo</i> , <i>Filostrato</i> , etc. (–1338) | 1334– Giotto, Campanile, Florence |
| 1347–8 Cola di Rienzo leaves Rome | 1338– Petrarch, <i>Africa</i> (–1342) | 1337– Lorenzetti, <i>Allegories of Good and Bad Government</i> , Siena (–1339) |
| 1355 Charles IV crowned Emperor | 1348– Boccaccio, <i>Decameron</i> (–1353) | c. 1340 Italian <i>Ars nova</i> |
| 1355– Expansion of territory of Savoy | 1350– Petrarch, <i>Triorifi</i> (–1374) | |
| 1358 Peace of Milan (between Venice and the Visconti) | c. 1354 Jacopo Passavanti, <i>Specchio di vera penitenzia</i> | 1357 Orcagna, <i>Christ in Majesty</i> |
| 1375 Tuscany, Milan and Naples allies against papal expansionism | 1362– Sacchetti, <i>Rime</i> | |
| 1377 Holy See returns to Rome | 1373 Boccaccio, <i>Esposizioni sopra la Comedia di Dante</i> | |
| 1378– The Great Schism in Papacy (–1420) | | |
| 1378– Florence: the Ciompi riots | c. 1378 Giovanni Fiorentino, <i>Pecorone</i> | |
| Gian Galeazzo Visconti occupies Verona, Pavia, Pisa, Siena (–1399) | Catherine of Siena, <i>Dialogo della divina provvidenza</i> | 1379 F. Landino, Organist of SS. Annunziata, Florence |
| | c. 1385 Benvenuto da Imola, Commentary on Dante | 1385 Schifanoia Palace, Ferrara |
| | c. 1392– Sacchetti, <i>Trecentonovelle</i> (–c. 1397) | 1386 Cathedral, Milan |
| | | 1390 Church of S. Petronio, Bologna |
| | | 1396 Certosa, Pavia |
| 1400–1600 | | |
| Political events | Literature | Other arts |
| 1412– Filippo Maria Visconti Duke of Milan (–1447) | 1429 Matteo Palmieri, <i>Della vita civile</i> | c. 1415 Donatello, <i>St. George</i> (–1417) |
| 1420 End of Great Schism in Papacy | | 1427/8 Masaccio, <i>Trinity</i> (S. Maria Novella) |

- 1434– Cosimo de' Medici dominant in Florence (–1464)
- 1442– Alfonso of Aragon King of Naples (–1458)
- 1447– Nicholas V Pope (–1455)
- 1450– Ambrosian republic (Milan)
- 1450– Francesco Sforza Duke of Milan (–1466)
- 1453 Turks capture Constantinople
- 1454 Peace of Lodi – Italian states ally against Turks
- 1469– Lorenzo de' Medici dominant in Florence (–1492)
- 1479– Ludovico Sforza (il Moro) Duke of Milan (–1500)
- 1492– Alexander VI Pope (–1503)
- 1494 Invasion of Italy by Charles VIII of France
- 1494– Medici exiled from Florence
- 1499 Invasion by Louis XII of France
- 1500 Treaty of Granada – France and Spain partition Kingdom of Naples
- 1503– Julius II Pope (–1513)
- 1508 League of Cambrai (Emperor, France, Spain) against Venice
- 1511 Holy League (Pope, Spain, Venice) against France
- 1512 Battle of Ravenna, French withdrawal
Medici restored to Florence
- c. 1432– Ghiberti, *Porta del Paradiso*, Florence (–1452)
- 1433– Brunelleschi, Pazzi Chapel, Florence
- 1436 Alberti, *Della pittura*
- 1438– Fra Angelico, *Annunciation* (–1445)
- 1450 Alberti, Malatesta Temple, Rimini
- 1454– Piero della Francesca, Arezzo frescoes (–1458)
- 1459– Josquin des Prés settles in Milan (–1479)
- c. 1465– Mantegna, *L. Gonzaga and family* (–1474)
- c. 1476 Bellini, *S. Giobbe Altarpiece*, Venice
- c. 1482 Botticelli, *Primavera*
- 1485– Giuliano da Sangallo, *Villa Poggio a Caiano*
- c. 1495– Leonardo, *Last Supper* (–1498)
- 1501 Michelangelo, *David* (–1504)
- c. 1502– Bramante, Tempietto, Rome (–1503)
- 1503 Josquin des Prés moves to Ferrara
- 1508 Raphael, *Stanza*, Vatican (–1509)
- 1508– Michelangelo, Sistine ceiling (–1512)
- 1437– Alberti, *Della famiglia* (–1441)
- 1441 'Certame coronario' organised by Alberti
- 1475– Poliziano, *Le stanze* (–1478)
- 1476 Masuccio Salernitano, *Novellino*
- 1477 *Raccolta aragonese* compiled by Poliziano
- 1480 Poliziano, *Orfeo*
- 1483 Luigi Pulci, *Morgante*
- 1486– Sannazaro, *Arcadia* (–1504)
- 1492 Lorenzo de' Medici, *Comento de' miei sonetti*
- 1494 Boiardo, *Orlando Innamorato*
- 1508 Ariosto, *La cassaria*

| | Political events | Literature | Other arts |
|-------|--|---|--|
| 1513– | Leo X Pope (–1521) | c. 1513– | 1516– |
| 1515 | Invasion of Italy by Francis I of France | Machiavelli, <i>Principe, Discorsi</i> (–c. 1517) | Titian, <i>Assumption of the Virgin</i> (–1518) |
| 1523– | Clement VII Pope (–1534) | 1516 | 1519– |
| 1525 | French defeated by Charles V at Pavia | Ariosto, <i>Orlando Furioso</i> 1st edn | Michelangelo, Medici Chapel, Florence (–1534) |
| 1526 | League of Cognac (Pope, France, Florence, Venice, Milan) against Charles V | c. 1518 | 1526– |
| 1527 | Sack of Rome by Imperial troops | Machiavelli, <i>Mandragola</i> | Giulio Romano, Palazzo del Te, Mantua (–1534) |
| 1529 | Treaty of Barcelona – Charles V dominant in Italy | Bembo, <i>Prose della volgar lingua</i> Castiglione, <i>Cortegiano</i> | 1527– |
| 1542 | Inquisition revived | 1530 | Adrian Willaert settles in Venice |
| 1545– | Council of Trent – Counter- Reformation reinforced | 1532 | c. 1531 |
| 1559 | Treaty of Cateau-Cambrésis – Spanish hegemony in Italy | Bembo, <i>Rime</i> Ariosto, <i>Orlando Furioso</i> , 3rd edn Anon. <i>Gli ingannati</i> | Correggio, <i>Danae</i> |
| 1571 | Naval battle of Lepanto – Holy League defeats Turks | 1535– | 1544– |
| 1598 | Ferrara annexed to Papacy | 1537– | Orlandus Lassus settles in Italy (–1555) |
| | | 1538 | 1546 |
| | | Colonna, <i>Rime</i> | Titian, <i>Pope Paul III</i> Michelangelo, St Peter's (–1564) |
| | | 1554 | 1546– |
| | | Bandello, <i>Novelle</i> | Palladio, Villa Rotonda |
| | | 1558– | 1554 |
| | | 1558 | 1559 |
| | | Della Casa, <i>Rime e prose</i> (inc. <i>Il Galateo</i>) | Willaert, <i>Musica nova</i> |
| | | 1564 | 1565 |
| | | Index of Proscribed Books published by Council of Trent | Tintoretto, <i>Crucifixion</i> |
| | | 1573 | 1573 |
| | | 1581 | Palestrina, <i>Missa Papae Marcelli</i> Veronese, <i>Feast in House of Levi</i> |
| | | 1590 | 1585 |
| | | Tasso, <i>Aminta</i> | A. Gabrieli, <i>Editto tiranno</i> , Vicenza |
| | | Guarini, <i>Il pastor fido</i> | 1598 |
| | | | G. Gabrieli, <i>Symphoniae sacrae I</i> |

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-66622-0 - The Cambridge History of Italian Literature, Revised Edition

Edited by Peter Brand and Lino Pertile

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

1600–1800

| | Political events | Literature | Other arts |
|-------|--|---|--|
| 1601 | Savoy (C. Emmanuel I) regains Saluzzo | | 1600 Peri, <i>Euridice</i> , Florence |
| 1606 | Venice (P. Sarpi) defies papal interdict | 1605 Chiabrera, <i>Vendemmie del Parmaso</i> | c. 1600 Caravaggio, <i>Conversion of St Paul</i> |
| 1618– | Thirty Years' War (–1648) | 1612 Boccalmi, <i>Ragguagli di Parmaso</i> | 1602 Caccini, <i>Nuove musiche</i> |
| 1628 | | 1619 Sarpi, <i>Istoria del Concilio Tridentino</i> | c. 1604 A. Caracci, <i>Flight into Egypt</i> |
| 1631 | Mantua sacked by Imperial troops | 1622 Tassoni, <i>Secchia rapita</i> | 1607 Monteverdi, <i>Orfeo</i> , Mantua |
| 1634– | Urbino devolved to Papacy | 1623 Marino, <i>Adone</i> | 1613–1614 Reni, <i>Aurora</i> (–1614) |
| 1638– | Charles Emmanuel II, King of Savoy (–1675) | Campanella, <i>Città del sole</i> | Domenichino, <i>St Jerome</i> |
| 1643 | Masaniello rising in Naples | Galileo, <i>Il Saggiatore</i> | Bernini, <i>Apollo e Dafne</i> (–1623) |
| 1647– | Anti-Spanish revolts in Sicily and Naples (–1648) | Della Valle, <i>Judith, Esther</i> (–1628) | Longhena, Church of S. Maria della Salute, Venice |
| 1669 | Venice loses Crete to Turks | Galileo, <i>Dialogo sopra i due sistemi Basile, Cunto de li cunti</i> (–1636) | First public opera house, Venice |
| 1675– | V. Amedeus King of Savoy (–1730) | | Borromini, Church of S. Carlo alle 4 Fontane, Rome (–1641) |
| 1683 | Venice joins Holy League against Turks | | Monteverdi, <i>Incoronazione di Poppea</i> |
| 1700– | War of Spanish Succession (–1713) | | Cavalli, <i>Giasone</i> |
| 1713 | Peace of Utrecht (Milan, Mantua, Naples to Austria; Sicily to Savoy) | 1687–1690 Frugoni, <i>Cane di Diogene</i> (–1689) | Rosa, <i>Finding of Moses</i> |
| 1720 | Treaty of The Hague (Sicily to Austria, Sardinia to Savoy – V. Amedeus II) | 1694 Arcadian Academy founded | Bernini, Colonnade of St Peter's (–1665) |
| | | 1713 Maffei, <i>Merope</i> | Corelli, <i>Trio Sonatas I</i> |
| | | | Handel in Italy (–1710) |
| | | | Scarlatti, <i>Mitridate Eupatore</i> , Venice |
| | | | Vivaldi, <i>Estro armonico</i> concertos |
| | | | Juvara, Basilica of Superga, Turin (–1731) |

| Political events | Literature | Other arts |
|--|---|--|
| 1733– 1738 | 1723 1724 1725 1733– | 1723– 1732– 1733 1737– |
| War of Polish Succession (–1738) | Giannone, <i>Istoria civile di Napoli</i> | De Sanctis and Specchi, <i>Spanish Steps</i> , Rome (–1726) |
| Treaty of Vienna (Naples, Sicily to Spain, Tuscany to Francis of Lorraine) | Metastasio, <i>Didone abbandonata</i> | Salvi, <i>Trevi Fountain</i> , Rome (–1762) |
| War of Austrian Succession (–1748) | Vico, <i>Principi di una scienza nuova</i> | Pergolesi, <i>La serva padrona</i> |
| Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle (Kingdom of Sardinia enlarged) | Muratari, <i>Rerum italicarum scriptores</i> (–1731) | Tiepolo, ceiling of Gesuati Church, Venice (–1739) |
| | Metastasio, <i>L'Olimpiade</i> | |
| 1740– 1748 | 1745 | 1749 |
| Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle (Kingdom of Sardinia enlarged) | Goldoni, <i>Il servitore di due padroni</i> (scenatio) | Galuppi and Goldoni, <i>L'Arcadia in Brenta</i> |
| | 1753 1763 1763– 1764 1764– | 1752– 1760 c. 1760 |
| France purchases Corsica from Genoa | Goldoni, <i>La Locandiera</i> | Vanvitelli, Royal Palace, Caserta |
| V. Amedeus III King of Sardinia (–1796) | Parini, <i>Il mattino</i> (1765 <i>Giorno</i>) | Piccinni, <i>La buona figliuola</i> , Rome |
| Pope dissolves Order of Jesus (Jesuits) | Baretti, <i>Frusta letteraria</i> (–1765) | Canaletto, <i>Piazza S. Marco</i> |
| | Cesarotti, <i>Ossian</i> (–1772) | |
| | Beccaria, <i>Dei delitti e delle pene</i> | |
| | P. Verri, <i>Il Caffè</i> (–1766) | |
| 1768 1773– | 1782 | 1782 |
| France purchases Corsica from Genoa | Alfieri, <i>Saul</i> | Paisiello, <i>Barbiere di Siviglia</i> , St Petersburg |
| V. Amedeus III King of Sardinia (–1796) | | |
| Pope dissolves Order of Jesus (Jesuits) | 1786 | 1786 |
| | Alfieri, <i>Del principe e delle lettere</i> | Mozart and Da Ponte, <i>Nozze di Figaro</i> , Vienna |
| | | Canova, <i>Cupid and Psyche</i> (–1793) |
| 1796– | | 1787– |
| Napoleonic campaigns in Italy (–1797) | | 1790 |
| Treaty of Campoformio (Venice to Austria) | | 1792 |
| 1798– 1799 | | |
| Republic in Naples (–1799) | | |
| French defeats; collapse of Naples republic | | |
| 1800 | | |
| New Napoleonic invasion of Italy | | |

Since 1800

| Political events | Literature | Other arts (P = periodical, C = cinema) |
|---|--|--|
| 1800 Napoleon defeats Austrians at Marengo | | |
| 1802 Proclamation of the Italian Republic | 1802 Foscolo, <i>Ultime lettere di Jacopo Ortis</i> (2nd edn) | |
| 1805 Proclamation of Kingdom of Italy under Napoleon | 1806 Manzoni, <i>In morte di Carlo Imbonati</i> | |
| 1806 French occupy Naples | 1807 Foscolo, <i>Dei sepolcri</i> | |
| 1808 French occupy Rome | 1810 Monti, <i>L'Illiade</i> (trans.) Cesari, <i>Sullo stato presente della lingua italiana</i> | 1808 Canova, <i>Faustine Borghese as Venus Victrix</i> 'Conservatorio di Musica', Milan, founded |
| | 1812– Foscolo, <i>Le Grazie</i> | |
| 1814 Austria regains Lombardy and Veneto | 1812– Manzoni, <i>Inni sacri</i> | |
| 1815 Congress of Vienna. Restoration of pre-Napoleonic Italy | 1816 Mme de Staël, <i>Sulla maniera e l'utilità delle traduzioni</i> Berchet, <i>Lettera semiseria di Grisostomo</i> | 1816 Rossini, <i>Barbiere di Siviglia</i> (Rome) |
| | 1819– Leopardi, 'Primi idilli' and 'Canzoni' | 1817 Jappelli, Caffè Pedrocchi, Padua |
| 1820 'Carbonari' conspirators arrested in Milan | 1820– Manzoni, <i>Comte di Carmagnola</i> , <i>Marzo 1821</i> , 5 maggio, <i>Adelchi</i> (–1822) | 1818–19 (P) <i>Il Conciliatore</i> |
| 1820–1 Insurrections in Naples and Turin | | |
| | 1821 Porta, <i>Poesie in dialetto milanese</i> | |
| | 1821– Manzoni, <i>Fermo e Lucia</i> (–1823) | |
| | 1822 Pindemonte, <i>L'Odissea</i> (trans.) | |
| | 1827 Leopardi, <i>Operette morali</i> Manzoni, <i>I Promessi sposi</i> (1st edn) | |
| | 1828– Leopardi, 'Grandi idilli' | 1829 Rossini, <i>Guglielmo Tell</i> (Paris) |
| | 1830– Belli, 2000 Roman Sonnets (–1836) | |
| 1831– Carlo Alberto King of Savoy (–1849) | 1831 Leopardi, <i>Caniti</i> (1st edn) | 1831 Bellini, <i>Sommambula</i> and <i>Norma</i> (Milan) |
| 1831–4 Insurrections in Modena, Parma, Papal States, Piedmont, Genoa | 1832 Pellico, <i>Le mie prigioni</i> | 1835 Donizetti, <i>Lucia di Lammermoor</i> (Naples) |
| | 1833 D'Azeglio, <i>Ettore Fieramosca</i> | |
| | 1834 Grossi, <i>Marco Visconti</i> | 1836 Mazzini, <i>Filosofia della musica</i> |
| | 1835 Leopardi, <i>Caniti</i> (2nd edn) | |
| 1839 First Italian railway opened (Naples–Portici) | 1840 Manzoni, <i>Promessi sposi</i> (2nd edn) | 1842 Verdi, <i>Nabucco</i> (Milan) |
| 1844 Insurrection in Calabria | | |

| Political events | Literature | Other arts (P = perodical, C = cinema) |
|--|--|---|
| 1846 Pius IX elected Pope | 1847 Mameli, <i>Fratelli d'Italia</i> | 1846 Hayez, <i>Sicilian Vespers</i> |
| 1848–9 Insurrections and first War of Independence. Roman Republic established. Austrian intervention and repression | 1850– Carducci, <i>Juvenilia</i> (–1860) | c. 1850– D'Ancona, Signorini, Banti, 'Macchiaioli' paintings (–c. 1870) |
| 1855 Piedmont joins France in Crimean War | 1852 Mastriani, <i>La cieca di Sorrento</i> | 1851 Verdi, <i>Rigoletto</i> (Venice) |
| 1857 Pisacane's insurrectionary landing near Salerno fails | 1853 Guerrazzi, <i>Beatrice Cenci</i> | 1853 Verdi, <i>Traviata</i> (Venice) |
| 1859 Second War of Independence | Ruffini, <i>Lorenzo Benoni</i> and <i>Il dottor Antonio</i> (–1855) | Hayez, <i>Il bacio</i> |
| 1860 Garibaldi's Expedition to Sicily ('the Thousand') | Rovani, <i>Cento anni</i> (–1858) | 1863 Antonelli, 'Mole antonelliana', Turin |
| 1861– Vittorio Emanuele II King of united Italy (–1878) | Carducci, <i>Levia gravia</i> (–1871) | 1868 Boito, <i>Mefistofele</i> (Milan) |
| 1866 Third War of Independence: the Veneto joined to Italian Kingdom | 1862 Arrighi, <i>La scapigliatura</i> | 1871 Verdi, <i>Aida</i> (Cairo) |
| 1870 Italian troops enter Rome | 1864 Alcardi, <i>Canti</i> | 1876 Ponchielli, <i>La Gioconda</i> (Milan) |
| 1871 Rome proclaimed capital of Italy | 1866 Verga, <i>Una peccatrice</i> | Mengoni, 'Galleria Vitrortio Emanuele', Milan |
| 1874 Pius IX's denunciation of Italian state | 1867 Nievo, <i>Confessioni di un italiano</i> | 1887 Verdi, <i>Otello</i> (Milan) |
| 1882 The Triple Alliance (Italy, Germany, Austria) | 1870–1 De Sanctis, <i>Storia della letteratura italiana</i> | 1890 Mascagni, <i>Cavalleria rusticana</i> (Rome) |
| 1885 Italian troops occupy Massawa (Eritrea) | Carducci, <i>Odi barbare</i> (–1879) | 1892 Leoncavallo, <i>Pagliacci</i> (Milan) |
| 1890 Eritrea becomes Italian colony | 1877– Collodi, <i>Pinochio</i> (–1883) | 1893 Puccini, <i>Manon Lescaut</i> (Turin) |
| 1892 Italian Workers Party founded (banned 1894) | Verga, <i>I Malavoglia</i> | Verdi, <i>Falstaff</i> (Milan) |
| 1895 Workers Party named Socialist Party (PSI) | De Amicis, <i>Cuore</i> | Giordano, <i>Andrea Chénier</i> (Milan) |
| 1899 FIAT founded | D'Annunzio, <i>Il piacere</i> | Puccini, <i>Bohème</i> (Turin) |
| | Verga, <i>Mastro don Gesualdo</i> | Puccini, <i>Tosca</i> (Rome) |
| | Pascoli, <i>Myricae</i> | |
| | Svevo, <i>Una vita</i> | |
| | De Roberto, <i>I viceré</i> | |
| | Fogazzaro, <i>Piccolo mondo antico</i> | |
| | Svevo, <i>Senilità</i> | |
| | D'Annunzio, <i>Il fuoco, Laudi, La figlia di Iorio, Fedra</i> , etc. (–1910) | |

| | | | |
|--------|--|---------|--|
| 1901 | Capuana, <i>Il marchese di Roccaverdina</i> | 1908 | (P) <i>La Voce</i> |
| 1903 | Pascoli, <i>Canti di Castelvecchio</i> | 1909 | Marinetti, Futurist Manifesto published, Paris |
| 1904 | Pirandello, <i>Il fu Mattia Pascal</i> | 1910–12 | Pratella, Three Manifestos of Futurist music |
| 1906 | Aleramo, <i>Una donna</i> | 1913 | Balla, <i>Abstract Speed</i> |
| 1909 | Marinetti, <i>Manifesto del futurismo</i> | | Boccioni, <i>Unique Forms of Continuity in Space</i> |
| 1911 | Gozzano, <i>I colloqui</i> | 1914 | De Chirico, <i>The Enigma of a Day</i> |
| 1914 | Campana, <i>Canti orfici</i> | 1915 | Modigliani, <i>Portrait of Juan Gris</i> |
| | | | |
| 1917 | Deledda, <i>Canne al vento</i> | | |
| | | | |
| 1919 | Ungaretti, <i>Allegria di naufragi</i> | 1918 | Morandi, <i>Flowers</i> |
| | | 1919 | (P) <i>La Ronda</i> (–1923) |
| | | | |
| | | 1920 | Malipiero, <i>Sette canzoni</i> , Paris |
| | | | |
| 1921 | Borgese, <i>Rubè</i> | | |
| 1921–2 | Pirandello, <i>Sei personaggi, Enrico IV</i> | | |
| | | | |
| 1923 | Croce, <i>Poesia e non poesia</i> | 1924– | (P) <i>Il selvaggio</i> |
| | Svevo, <i>La coscienza di Zeno</i> | | |
| | | | |
| 1925 | Montale, <i>Ossi di seppia</i> | 1926 | Puccini, <i>Turandot</i> (Milan) |
| | | | (P) <i>Solaria</i> |
| | | | |
| 1929 | Moravia, <i>Gli indifferenti</i> | 1929 | Sironi, <i>Urban Landscape</i> |
| 1930 | Silone, <i>Fontamara</i> | 1932 | (C) First cinema festival, Venice |

| Political events | Literature | Other arts (P = periodical, C = cinema) 'Maggio musicale' established, Florence |
|---|--|---|
| 1935–6 Invasion of Ethiopia. Empire proclaimed. Rome–Berlin Axis | 1934 Palazzeschi, <i>Sorelle Materassi</i> | 1933 |
| 1937 Anti-Fascist Rosselli brothers assassinated in France | 1936 Pavese, <i>Lavorare stanca</i> | 1937 (P) <i>Letteratura</i> |
| 1938 Racial Laws promulgated | 1938– Vittorini, <i>Conversazione in Sicilia</i> | 1938 (P) <i>Campo di Marte</i> |
| 1939 Italy occupies Albania. Pact of Steel with Germany | 1939 Gadda, <i>La cognizione del dolore</i> | |
| 1940 Italy enters Second World War | 1940 Montale, <i>Le occasioni</i> | |
| 1943 25 July: Mussolini removed from power | 1941 Quasimodo, <i>Lirici greci</i> (trans.) | 1941 Guttuso, <i>Crocifissione</i> |
| 8 Sept.: Armistice declared. | 1941 Pavese, <i>Paesi tuoi</i> | 1942 (C) Visconti, <i>Osessione</i> |
| Committees of National Liberation (CLN) formed | | |
| 11–23 Sept.: Mussolini, freed by Germans, creates the Italian Social Republic | | |
| 1944 4 June: Allied forces enter Rome | | |
| 1945 28 April: Mussolini executed by partisans | 1945 Levi, Carlo, <i>Cristo si è fermato a Eboli</i> | 1945 (C) Rossellini, <i>Rome, Open City</i> |
| 20 June: Parri government with Committee of National Liberation | Saba, <i>Il canzoniere (1900–1945)</i> | |
| 10 Dec.: First De Gasperi Christian Democrat (DC) government | | |
| 1945 Women's suffrage granted | 1947 Pratolini, <i>Cronache di poveri amanti</i> | 1946 (C) Rossellini, <i>Paisà</i> |
| 1946 2 June: Referendum. Italy becomes a republic | Ungaretti, <i>Il dolore</i> | |
| 1947 De Gasperi evicts PCI and PSI from government | Sereni, <i>Diario d'Algeria</i> | |
| 1948 Constitution of Italian Republic comes into effect | Levi, Primo, <i>Se questo è un uomo</i> | |
| Attempted assassination of Togliatti, leader of PCI | Morante, <i>Menzogna e sortilegio</i> | 1948 (C) De Sica, <i>Bicycle Thieves</i> |
| 1949 Italy enters NATO. Church excommunicates Communists | Pavese, <i>Prima che il gallo canti</i> | 1948–9 Nervi, Exhibition Hall, Turin |
| | | 1949 Dallapiccola, <i>Il prigioniero</i> |

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-66622-0 - The Cambridge History of Italian Literature, Revised Edition

Edited by Peter Brand and Lino Pertile

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

| | | | | | |
|------|--|------|---|--------|--|
| 1950 | <i>Cassa per il Mezzogiorno</i> (Development Fund for the South) created | 1950 | Pavese, <i>La luna e i falò</i> | 1950– | Capogrossi, Art exhibition, Rome |
| 1951 | Fiscal reform | | | 1950– | Burri, <i>First Sacco</i> , Rome |
| 1953 | Electoral reform ('legge truffa') approved | | | 1951 | Studio BBPR (Ludovico Barbiano etc.), Torre velasca, Milan |
| 1955 | Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi (ENI) founded | 1954 | Fenoglio, <i>La malora</i> | 1954 | Fontana, <i>Manifesto spazialismo</i> , Milan |
| | Italy enters UNO | 1955 | Moravia, <i>Racconti romani</i> | 1954–5 | (C) Fellini, <i>La strada</i> |
| | | 1956 | Pasolini, <i>Ragazzi di vita</i> | 1955 | Colla, First metal sculptures, Rome |
| | | 1956 | Pratolini, <i>Metello</i> | | Berio and Maderna, 'Studio di fonologia' established, Milan |
| | | 1957 | Caproni, <i>Il passaggio di Enea</i> | 1956 | Scarpa, 'Museo di Castelvecchio', Verona |
| | | 1958 | Montale, <i>La bufera e altro</i> | | |
| | | 1959 | Pasolini, <i>Le ceneri di Gramsci</i> | 1958– | Manzù, Doors of St Peter's (–1964) |
| | | 1961 | Calvino, <i>Il barone rampante</i> | 1960 | (C) Fellini, <i>La dolce vita</i> |
| | | 1962 | Tomasi di Lampedusa, <i>Il gattopardo</i> | | (C) Visconti, <i>Rocco e i suoi fratelli</i> |
| | | | Pasolini, <i>Una vita violenta</i> | 1961 | (C) Antonioni, <i>Avventura</i> |
| | | | Cassola, <i>La ragazza di Bube</i> | | (C) Pasolini, <i>Accattone</i> |
| | | | Sciascia, <i>Il giorno della civetta</i> | | Nono, <i>Intolleranza</i> (Venice) |
| | | | Bassani, <i>Il giardino dei Finzi-Contini</i> | | Manzoni, <i>Socle du monde. Omaggio a Galileo</i> |
| 1963 | Moro heads centre–left government | 1963 | Ginzburg, <i>Lessico famigliare</i> | 1963 | (C) Fellini, <i>8 1/2</i> |
| | Compulsory schooling extended to 14-year-olds | | Levi, Primo, <i>La tregua</i> | | |
| | | | Meneghello, <i>Libera nos a malo</i> | 1967 | Boetti and others, 'Arte povera' exhibition, Genoa |
| | | 1965 | Luzzi, <i>Nel magma</i> | 1968 | (C) Leone, <i>C'era una volta il West</i> |
| | | | Calvino, <i>Cosmicomiche</i> | 1969 | Fo, <i>Mistero buffo</i> |
| 1968 | Students' occupation of universities | 1968 | Sereni, <i>Strumenti umani</i> | 1970 | (C) De Sica, <i>Il giardino dei Finzi Contini</i> |
| 1969 | Terrorist attack in Piazza Fontana, Milan | | Fenoglio, <i>Il partigiano Johnny</i> | | |
| 1974 | Terrorist attacks in Brescia and on 'Italicus' train. Referendum confirms divorce law of 1970 | 1971 | Montale, <i>Satura</i> | 1970 | Fo, <i>Morte accidentale di un anarchico</i> |
| | | 1974 | Morante, <i>La storia</i> | 1973 | (C) Fellini, <i>Amarcord</i> |
| | | 1975 | D'Arrigo, <i>Horcynus Orca</i> | 1975– | Piano, 'Centre Georges Pompidou', Paris |