

Cambridge University Press

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

Edited by Peter Brand and Lino Pertile

Table of Contents

[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

Table of Contents

[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

Table of Contents

[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

Table of Contents

[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

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

<i>Contents</i>		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	
<p><i>The Seicento</i> Poetry, Philosophy and Science PAOLO CHERCHI</p>		
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

Table of Contents

[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

Cambridge University Press

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

Edited by Peter Brand and Lino Pertile

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

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

Table of Contents

[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

Table of Contents

[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

Table of Contents

[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