
Concerning Italian influence on other languages let us quote first the outstanding research by H. and R. Kahane, together with A. Tietze, on Italian and Greek influence on Turkish nautical vocabulary (The Lingua Franca in the Levant: Turkish Nautical Terms of Italian and Greek Origin, Urbana, Illinois U.P.). G. Meo Zilio (LN, xix, 58–64) shows how -elli has expanded from Italian family names, becoming a personifying morpheme in the popular Spanish of Río de la Plata.

DUECENTO AND TRECENTO

By K. Foster, Lecturer in Italian in the University of Cambridge

1. DANTE

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND GENERAL CRITICISM

That diligent reporter on current Dante studies, F. Schneider, continues, in DDF, xxxvi–xxxvii, his usual survey of recent lit. on the poet. But this year he adds a valuable chap., ‘Neue Deutungen und Datierungen’, 158–219, in 6 sections, the 1st and 2nd of which outline and discuss (for the most part without dissent) the views of Bruno Nardi, first on the general development of Dante’s art and thought (as set out in BHR, 1952; cf. YWML, xiv, 178) and then on the interrelations of the Convivio, the De vulgari eloquentia and the Monarchia. Schneider then turns to the last work of Michele Barbi, that indispensable Problemi fondamentali per un nuovo commento della Divina Commedia, Florence, Sansoni, 1956. A stress on Barbi’s difference from Nardi with regard both to the general tenor and the date of the Monarchia leads to Schneider’s 4th section, which is chiefly concerned with objections against Nardi’s early dating of this treatise brought by M. Maccarone (cf. YWML, xix, 244) and P. G. Ricci (see StD, xxxi, xxxii, xxxiv). A very useful mise au point. The last two sections of Schneider’s
survey touch less controversial matters, discussing the historian of
Florence, R. Davidsohn (apropos of the Italian version of his
Geschichte von Florenz, which is in course of publ. by Sansoni,
Florence, cf. YWML, xix, 237) and the work on the economic
history of the city by A. Sapori (YWML, xix, 237–8). The same
vol. of DDJ has an article, ‘D. und die Frauen’, also by F. Schneider.

L. Russo, after many monographs and short studies of particular
authors, is now devoting his powerful talent to a complete Storia
della letteratura italiana, Florence, Sansoni. Vol. i, covering
the Middle Ages and the Quattrocento, came out in 1957 but was not
noticed in this section of YWML, xix (but see ib., 253); rev. in
LaR, lxii, ser. 7. A. Viscardi’s Le Origini, Milan, Vallardi, the first
vol. of the standard Storia letteraria d’Italia (not to be confused
with the anthology of the same title, noted in YWML, xviii, 227
and xix, 239) has now a 3rd, revised ed., 1957; rev. Con, xxvi. The
reprint of various studies in early Italian by that fine scholar and
humanist, E. G. Parodi, Lingua e letteratura: studi di teoria lin-
guistica e di storia dell’italiano antico (cf. YWML, xix, 238) is rev.
in GSLI, cxxxv and in LItal, x. U. Leo’s Sehen und Wirklichkeit
bei Dante (YWML, xix, 238) is rev. in StD, xxxiv and BHR, xx.

In LItal, x, E. Travi considers ‘biblical language’ in authors of
the late Duecento, with special ref. to Dante and to the Novellino.
M. Puppo’s Manuale bibliografico-critico per lo studio della letteratura
italiana has a 2nd ed., revd. and enlarged, Turin, S.E.I.

Valuable for the social background of Florentine writers of our
period is ‘Fioritura e decadenza dell’economia fiorentina’, by E.
Fiumi, ASI, cxvi; and, on a much larger scale, the work of G. De
Vergottini, Il diritto pubblico italiano nei secoli XII–XV, 2nd ed.,

PARTICULAR WORKS

‘Divina Commedia’

(a) In General

The critical ed., already envisaged by Barbi in 1921, in his preface
to the Società Dantesca ed. of the Opere, is being prepared by
G. Petrocchi, who gives, in StD, xxiv (1957), a classification of the
basic MSS., with some criticism of their usual division into
two families. In StD, xxxv, 5–27, he examines the ‘corrections’