HUMANISM AND THE RENAISSANCE

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1. General

This year has seen homage vols for two great Italianists: Studi Sapegno, ii, collects studies by V. Branca, 'Tre note polizianee'; R. Mercuri, 'Sprezzatura e affettazione nel Cortegiano'; G. Barberi Squarotti, 'Il Principe o il trionfo della letteratura'; A. Stäuble, 'Scenografia e architettura teatrale nel rinascimento'; G. Ferroni, 'Appunti sull'Asino di Machiavelli'; and D. Rastelli, 'Rettorica mistificatrice ed arte realista in due storici del rinascimento: Bruni e Machiavelli'; while in the Whitfield Vol. a predominance of Renaissance contributions (reflecting J.H.W.'s reputation in the field) number, inter alia, C. Grayson, 'Alberti as a writer'; J. R. Hale, 'To fortify or not to fortify? Machiavelli's contribution to a Renaissance controversy'; C. P. Brand, 'Ginevra and Ariodante: a deception motif from Ariosto to Shakespeare'; C. Roaf, 'A new Autograph of Sperone Speroni's Canace and its relationship to the textual tradition of the play'; P. M. Brown, 'Pier Vettori and Lionardo Salviati'; and U. Limentani, 'Quattro capitoli inediti di Michelangelo Buonarroti il Giovane'. André Rochon and his team in the Centre de recherche sur la Renaissance Italienne continue their investigation into the relationship between political power and influence and creative writing with Les Écrivains et le Pouvoir à l'époque de la Renaissance, 2, Paris, CRRI, 1974, 327 pp., incl. essays on Ariosto, Bibbiena, Machiavelli, Lasca and Cinthio. While the causal relationship is hard to swallow in some contributions, and they are, in general, linked only by some (questionable) methodology, the hist. microscope brings some gains as well as losses, and contributes to the debate about motivation. Similarly continued is the group's examination of Formes et significations de la 'Beffa' dans la littérature italienne de la Renaissance, 2, Paris, CRRI, with essays on Sacchetti, Masuccio Salernitano, Castiglione and the 'Grasso Legnaiuolo', which deserves more space than is here possible. While retaining the group's tendency to historical or sociological conclusion, the
vol. makes a valuable contribution in a relatively little studied field. *Les Fêtes de la Renaissance*, ed. J. Jacquot, Paris, CNRS, 661 pp., has now reached vol. 3, publishing the papers of the Tours Colloque (1972), and has sections on ‘La Cité et le Prince’, ‘Le Théâtre et la Fête’, ‘La Fête chevaleresque’, ‘La Fête religieuse’ and ‘La Fête joyeuse et satirique’, providing useful links between Renaissance celebrations of various kinds and the world of lit. production, particularly the theatre. Italian examples predominate in most sections.
