1. General

The 150th anniversary of the unification of Italy was the most notable event in the field of 19th-c. Italian studies in 2011. The anniversary triggered an unprecedented number of studies evaluating the fundamental role played by literature in the formation of an Italian national identity. *L'Italia verso l'unità: letterati, eroi, patrioti*, ed. Beatrice Alfonsetti, Rome, Edizioni di Storia e letteratura, xiv + 522 pp., assembles papers by historians, art historians, musicologists, and literary critics, with the aim of reconstructing the historical and cultural context of the years leading to the unification. Mariasilvia Tatti, *Il Risorgimento dei letterati*, Rome, Edizioni di storia e letteratura, vi + 214 pp., examines how literature became the aggregating factor, capable of inspiring a patriotic conscience, during the pre-unification period. Literature and civic engagement is also the topic of C. Riccardi, ‘Pensiero pratico, teorie letterarie e narrativa tra Risorgimento e Unità’, *StCrit*, 2:231–59; and M. Schettino, ‘Critica letteraria e impegno civile da Giuseppe Mazzini a Francesco De Sanctis’, *Italianistica*, 2:57–66. Amedeo Quondam, *Risorgimento a memoria: le poesie degli italiani*, Rome, Donzelli, xxiv + 335 pp., focuses on the contribution made by poets, from the most famous (Monti, Foscolo, Leopardi and Manzoni), to the lesser-known today, but influential in their time (Niccolini, Berchet, Poerio and Mameli). Lorenzo Braccesi, *Archeologia e poesia: 1861–1911: Carducci, Pascoli, d’Annunzio*, Rome, L’Erma di Bretschneider, 275 pp., considers the propagandistic use of archaeological monuments in post-unification poetry, in particular by Carducci, Pascoli and D’Annunzio; the importance of the theme of antiquity in the civil poetry of Carducci and Pascoli is considered by L. Fournier-Finocchiaro, *’Antiquité et poésie civile chez Carducci et Pascoli’*, *RELI*, 37:97–111. The revolutionary role of the intellectual is highlighted by Alfredo Cottignoli, *Fratelli d’Italia: tra le fonti letterarie del canone risorgimentale*, Milan, Angeli, 110 pp., who reconstructs the complex story of the Italian national anthem by the poet and patriot Goffredo Mameli. Francesco Sberlati, *Filologia e identità nazionale: una tradizione per l’Italia unita (1840–1940)*, Palermo, Sellerio, 359 pp., retraces the efforts of the 19th-c. philologists and linguists in selecting and creating a corpus of canonical literary texts that could be shared by the unified country. A. Di Benedetto, ‘Libri che hanno fatto (e disfatto) gli italiani’, *ModLett*, 4:26–40, explores the concepts of homeland, nation and language from the Middle Ages to the present. Michele Colombo, *Il romanzo dell’Ottocento*, Bologna, Il mulino, 256 pp., analyses the importance of the Italian novel in the achievement of linguistic unification and provides an anthology of passages from authors including Foscolo, Manzoni, Grossi, Tommaseo, Serao and Dossi. The ‘questione della lingua’ is also the focus of Paola Gambarota, *Irresistible Signs: The Genius of Language and Italian National Identity*, Toronto U.P., viii + 349 pp., which investigates the connection between Italian language and national identity over 400 years, from late Renaissance linguistic theories to 19th-c. nationalist myths. A. Balduino, ‘Cultura, lingua e identità nazionale’, *LItal*, 3:378–402, and F. Bruni, ‘“Fatta l’Italia bisogna fare gli Italiani”. Il ruolo della lingua e un luogo comune da riesaminare’, *ModLett*, 4:11–23. Agostino Bistarelli, *Gli esuli del Risorgimento*, Bologna, Il mulino, 370 pp., is an historian’s view of the protagonists of the Risorgimento who were forced into exile, with particular emphasis on the theme of exile in literary production prior to