CINQUECENTO (1500–1599)
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This survey covers the years 2012–2013

1. General

Connors Vol. is an expansive collection of 177 concise essays that cover art history (vol. 1) along with history, literature and music (vol. 2), all of which were written by scholars appointed to Villa I Tatti from 2002 to 2010. Several essays discuss Machiavelli, such as John Najemy, ‘Machiavelli’s Florentine Tribunes’ (II, 65–72); and Jérémie Barthas, ‘Un lapsus machiavélien: Tenuto/temuto dans le chapitre XVI du Prince’ (II, 83–90). Ariosto is featured in several others, such as: Ippolita Di Majo, ‘Fantastie ariostesche sulla rocca dei d’Avalos a Ischia’ (I, 421–29), Daniel Javitch, ‘Another Look at Ariosto’s Adaptation of Ovid’s Metamorphoses in Orlando Furioso’ (II, 525–30); Eleonora Stoppino ‘Il cronotopo-amazzzone nell’epica italiana. Alcune osservazioni’ (II, 531–38) and Stefano Jossa, ‘The Lies of Poets: Literature as Fiction in the Italian Renaissance’ (II, 565–74). One contribution focuses on Castiglione, Carlo Taviani, ‘Due personaggi del Cortegiano tra Urbino e Roma. Ottaviano e Federico Fregoso’ (II, 469–74). Several others focus on manuscript and print culture, such as Marc Schachter, ‘Some Notes on the Print History of Illustrated Italian Editions of Apuleius’ Golden Ass (II, 463–68); and Abigail Brundin, ‘Composition a due: Lyric Poets and Scribal Practice in Sixteenth-Century Italy’ (II, 496–504).

ITS, 16.1–2, includes four valuable and succinct contributions that summarize the state of various fields of research on Italian Renaissance culture: Edward Muir, ‘Italy in the No Longer Forgotten Centuries’ (5–11), Diana Robin ‘Women on the Move: Trends in Anglophone Studies of Women in the Italian Renaissance’ (13–25), Marzia Pieri, ‘Il made in Italy sul teatro rinascimentale: Una nuova frontiera culturale’ (27–36) and Michael Cole, ‘Toward an Art History of Spanish Italy’ (37–46). Muir’s essay outlines the impact of a seminal 1973 study that was fittingly reprinted in the year under review: Eric Cochrane’s, Florence in the Forgotten Centuries 1527–1800, Chicago U.P., 593 pp. New editions of three important works by the historian Carlo Ginzburg, The Cheese and the Worms: The Cosmos of a Sixteenth-Century Miller; Clues, Myths and the Historical Method; The Night Battles, Witchcraft and Agrarian Cults in the Sixteenth and Early Seventeenth Century were also issued by Johns Hopkins U.P. in the original translations by John and Anne C. Tedeschi, (186 pp., 214 pp., 210 pp., respectively). Each of the three works includes a new preface by the author that reflects on the reception of the study and significant directions the field has taken since its publication.

Pina Palma, Savoring Power, Consuming the Times, Notre Dame U.P., 428 pp., examines the metaphors of food in Boccaccio, Pulci, Boiardo, Ariosto and Aretino. The author convincingly argues for the status of food as a language that ‘encodes sociocultural phenomena’ and chronicles historical change.

Chivalric Epic. Irmgard Scharold, *Vom Wunderbaren zum Phantas(mat)ischen. Zur Archäologie vormoderner Phantastik-Konzeptionen bei Ariost und Tasso, Munich, Fink, 2012, 497 pp., is a wide-ranging study on the concept of fantasy in Ariosto’s Orlando Furioso and Cinque Canti, along with Tasso’s Gerusalemme Liberata, locating the modern conception of the fantastic in the paradigms of the monstrous and the miraculous from this period, and

**Cities.** Nicholas Scott Baker, *The Fruit of Liberty: Political Culture in the Florentine Renaissance*, Cambridge, MA, Harvard U.P., 370 pp., considers the images and concepts used by Florentine political culture during the transition from democratic republic to authoritarian principality, expanding the traditional focus on the ‘Atlantic republican’ tradition to include its antithesis: the progression from renaissance republicanism to an authoritarian, monarchical state. *A Companion to Early Modern Naples*, ed. Tommaso Astarita, Leiden, Brill, 584 pp., provides an overview of the city in the early modern period, examining the urban structure, the city’s economy and politics, the role of religion and the city’s intellectual life. Relevant contributions include John A. Marino, ‘Constructing the Past of Early Modern Naples: Sources and Historiography’ (11–34), Elisa Novi Chavarria, ‘The Space of Women’ (177–98), Nancy L. Canepa ‘Literary culture in Naples, 1500–1800’ (427–52).

Michael Mallett and Christine Shaw, *The Italian Wars 1494–1559*, Harlow, Pearson, 2012, 370 pp., is one of the first book-length studies to provide a thorough yet clear overview of the complex political situation on the Italian peninsula in the early Cinquecento. Maurizio Viroli, *As if God Existed: Religion and Liberty in the History of Italy*, Princeton U.P., 2012, 354 pp., examines the relationship between religion and politics during the early modern period, the Risorgimento and the Resistenza. The author convincingly suggests that Renaissance Italian political thought draws far more on biblical sources than has previously been believed and emphasizes a correlation between civic religion and political emancipation.

**Classical Reception.** *The Reception of Classical Literature*, New Pauly Supplements, vol. 5, ed. Christine Wade, Leiden, Brill, 598 pp., is a crucial reference work that focuses specifically on the legacy of antiquity, offering 64 articles that meticulously detail the reception history of Greco-Roman literary works from the ancient to the modern world. Each article includes exhaustive references. Less specialized, but more wide-ranging is *The Classical Tradition*, ed. Anthony Grafton et al., Cambridge, MA, Harvard U.P., 1068 pp., which was reissued in paperback, making this useful volume more accessible. The work contains over 500 articles on all aspects of classical culture and its reception, with a particular sensitivity to the Italian Renaissance. Of particular note is the bibliography in this volume, as all articles include select references to relevant contemporary scholarship. Also of note is *Homer in Print: A Catalogue of the Bibliotheca Homerica Langiana*, ed. Glenn W. Most and Alice Schreyer, Chicago U.P., 342 pp., which includes a detailed and useful catalogue of printed Homeric texts, translations and commentaries donated by M. C. Lang to the University of Chicago library in 2006, along with several essays that discuss Homeric reception. Of particular relevance are the entries on early modern translations of Homer into Italian (241–247).