OTTOCENTO
Lucy Hosker, University of Cambridge, and
Stefano Evangelista, University of Durham

1. General


The role of southern Italy in the process of national unification is explored in L’Italia è: Mezzogiorno, Risorgimento e post-Risorgimento, ed. Maria Marcella Rizzo, Rome, Viella, 365 pp. Meanwhile, Francesco Barbagallo, Questione italiana: il Nord e il Sud dal 1860 a oggi, Rome, Laterza, 244 pp., surveys the contributions of both northern and southern regions to the task of creating a united Italy, and Anna Di Veroli, L’unità d’Italia negli scrittori siciliani dall’Ottocento ad oggi: interpretazioni e narrazioni, Rome, Aracne, 208 pp., focuses on Sicilian disillusionment in the aftermath of national unification.

The contribution of Judaism and minority cultures to the Risorgimento is discussed in Ebrei, minoranze, Risorgimento: storia, cultura, letteratura, ed. Marina Beer and Anna Foa, Rome, Viella, 216 pp. (a collection of conference proceedings from 2011); similar themes are treated in Fabrizio Franceschini, Giovanni Guarducci, il bagitto e il Risorgimento: testi giudeo-livornesi 1842–1863 e glossario, Livorno, Belforte, 558 pp., which also offers a detailed account of Guarducci’s works and his life as an exile. Nicoletta Pireddu, Foreignizing the Imagi-nation: Giovanni Ruffini’s Contrapuntal Risorgimento, QI, 34.1:93–114, presents the figure of Ruffini as an exiled Risorgimento patriot who reclaimed Italy’s freedom. Women’s role in fostering the creation of the Italian state is thematized in Luca Bani, “Oh dolce patria!... Oh mio perenne amore”. La poesia


On the Italian language: Luca Serianni, Storia dell’italiano nell’Ottocento, Bologna, Il mulino, 296 pp.; and Letteratura italiana e Unità nazionale: atti del convegno internazionale di studi, Firenze, 27–29 ottobre 2011, ed. Riccardo Bruscagli, Anna Nozzoli and Gino Tellini, Florence, Società Editrice Fiorentina, 472 pp., which examines the scope for national cohesion offered by Italian language and literature. Salvatore Claudio Sgroi, Scrivere per gli italiani nell’Italia post-unitaria, Florence, Cesati, 472 pp., presents a linguistic analysis of texts written in regional varieties of Italian, including (from the Ottocento) Luigi Capuana’s Scurpiddu (pp. 21–85) and Pirandello’s L’amica delle mogli (pp. 123–75). Also noteworthy is Lingu e letteratura del Sud nell’Italia del Novecento: atti del convegno internazionale, Università di Göteborg, 13–14–15 settembre 2011, ed. Ulla Åkerström, Rome, Aracne, which looks at depictions of southern Italy (mainly Salento and Sicily) in works from the Ottocento and Novecento; particularly relevant is the chapter by Ulla Åkerström, ‘Matilde Serao e la virtù delle donne’ (97–103), which describes the presence of Naples in Serao’s work.

On women’s writing, 2013 saw the reprint of Antonia Arslan, Dame, galline e regine: la scrittura