

PREFACE

The aim of the essays collected in this volume is neither to give a comprehensive overview of the issues raised within Boccaccio's works, nor to present a complete review of his influence on the literature and culture in later centuries. To accomplish even one alone of these activities would require a collection of at least ten volumes.

The aim was to select a few issues regarding both the writer and his *Nachleben*. Four essays are devoted to Boccaccio himself: Warren Ginsberg deals with the *Filostrato* and the *Teseida*, the romance and the epic that had a strong influence on European literature; Emilia Di Rocco focuses on Boccaccio as reader of the classics; Martin Eisner examines Boccaccio's contribution to the Renaissance; and Kenneth Clarke centres his contribution on the relationship between Boccaccio and Petrarch in the matter of Griselda. After Piero Boitani's general overview, the other essays address Boccaccio's influence on European literature: Spain (María Hernández Esteban and Mita Valvassori), France (Francesco de Cristofaro), and Poland (Piotr Salwa). England occupies pride of place, given the importance of Geoffrey Chaucer, the father of English literature and Boccaccio's first reader. Two essays, Richard North's and Chiara Lombardi's, deal with the relationship between Chaucer and Boccaccio, focusing on *Troilus and Cryseide*, and *The Decameron* and *The Canterbury Tales* respectively. Finally, the essays by Alessandra Petrina and Donatella Montini look at Boccaccio's *Nachleben* in England: the first examines John Lydgate, the second John Florio.

This volume gives an *idea* of the kind of research that is necessary to carry out in the fields of Italian Studies and Comparative Literature.

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