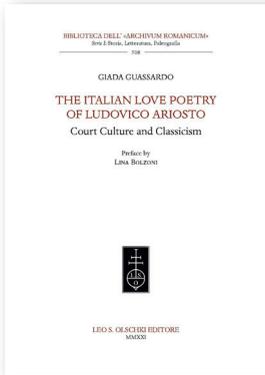


GIADA GUASSARDO

THE ITALIAN LOVE POETRY
OF LUDOVICO ARIOSTO: COURT CULTURE
AND CLASSICISM

PREFACE BY LINA BOLZONI

Throughout his life and in parallel with his better-known works, Ludovico Ariosto composed a number of love poems in Italian. These, however, he never authorised to be printed; instead, he jealously kept them private, and tried, but eventually failed, to organise them into a lyric collection. This multifaceted and diversified production bespeaks both Ariosto's engagement with the more contemporary strands of lyric poetry and his effort, prompted by the debates of court Humanism, to revivify the classics. This book offers the first updated com-



prehensive reading of Ariosto's lyric poetry, touching on matters of self-fashioning, on his ideology and ethics of love, and on his verse portrayals of women. By adopting a predominantly intertextual perspective and availing itself of the most recent philological breakthroughs in the field, it aims to contextualise this output against its historical and intellectual background, while at the same time exploring its links with Ariosto's other works, in order to understand the role played by the lyric genre in the system of his *oeuvre*.

Il libro costituisce il primo studio monografico sulla lirica amorosa in volgare di Ariosto, da lui coltivata in parallelo alle opere maggiori. L'indagine porta alla luce l'intenso dialogo stilistico che Ariosto intrattiene con le correnti poetiche coeve e con i classici; al tempo stesso si interroga sul ruolo giocato dalla poesia lirica nel sistema complessivo dell'opera ariostesca. I temi affrontati includono il self-fashioning della voce lirica, l'etica amorosa e il ritratto in versi delle figure femminili.

GIADA GUASSARDO (1992) studied at the Scuola Normale Superiore of Pisa and the University of Pisa. She later obtained her PhD in Medieval and Modern Languages at the University of Oxford (Balliol College); she has also been a scholarship holder at the Fondation Barbier-Mueller of Geneva. She is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the Istituto Nazionale di Studi sul Rinascimento (Florence). Her main research interest is the poetry of the Italian Renaissance: she has published contributions on Benvenuto Cellini, Agnolo Firenzuola, Ercole Strozzi, and Torquato Tasso. She serves as editor for the journals *Italianistica* and *The Year's Work in Modern Language Studies*.

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