

with an exchange of pungent sonnets that also saw the involvement of Aretino and Bernardo Tasso, is also considered in detail: Caterino situates its possible origins in different views on rhetoric and the treatment of classical and vernacular models.

Giordano Bruno

Hilary Gatti, 'From Shadows towards Light: Transformations of Allegorical Journeys in Dialogue II of Giordano Bruno's *Cena de le ceneri*', *McLaughlin Vol.*, 136–149, looks at the second part of Bruno's *Cena de le ceneri*, usually regarded as a 'digression' from the proper philosophical content of the work. Gatti's reading proves its manifold literary influences and explains the value of the London journey described there, also important in clarifying Bruno's position within the Elizabethan political scene.

Lucia Pietrafesa, *Giordano Bruno a Londra. Analisi letteraria e filosofica delle opere londinesi*, Rome, Aracne, 128 pp., is a literary and philosophical evaluation of Bruno's works written in London, each of which is treated in a separate chapter. P. emphasizes the novelty of Bruno's almost Baroque language, thus promoting the knowledge of Bruno as a fully-rounded intellectual figure.

Baldassarre Castiglione

Raffaele Ruggiero, *Baldassarre Castiglione diplomatico. La missione del cortegiano*, Florence, Olschki, 151 pp., is an incomparable guide to understanding the *Cortegiano* in the light of Castiglione's lifelong career as a diplomat. The first part provides a dense reconstruction of Castiglione's lifelong diplomatic activity, in an everchanging political context progressively opening up from the 'small' environment of the courts to new and wider dynamics. The second part asks some crucial questions about the *Cortegiano*, highlighting its intrinsically problematic nature. Composed over a period of almost 20 years, it portrays a type of court that was already outdated by the time of its

first printing (after Elisabetta Gonzaga's death, which marked the end of the Urbino court). However, R. writes, more recent events also contribute to its final shape; a correct reading of the book must, then, take into account these two layers of time. By challenging the traditional view on the *Cortegiano* as a work displaying purely nostalgic ideals, the author argues for Castiglione's 'active' intention to form a rhetoric suitable to the modern diplomatic world.

Giovan Battista Della Porta

Donato Verardi, *Logica e magia. Giovan Battista Della Porta e i segreti della natura*, Lugano, Agorà & Co., 139 pp., reappraises Della Porta's Aristotelian philosophical position in the subjects of logic and astrology, situating it in the Neapolitan context of the late 16th century.

Anton Francesco Doni

Simonetta Adorni Braccesi, 'Fra eresia e libertinismo. Anton Francesco Doni e il linguaggio segreto delle dediche nel XVI secolo', *BrC*, 23.1:61–72, examines the letter in which Doni dedicates Giulio Landi's work *La vita di Cleopatra reina d'Egitto* to Count Ludovico Rangoni in the light of Paoli's study, to shed light on the relationship between the three figures involved.

Anton Francesco Doni, *I marmi*, ed. Carlo Alberto Girotto and Giovanna Rizzarelli, Florence, Olschki, 2 vols, 942 pp., is the first modern critical edition of Doni's best-known work, which until now had proved a challenge to scholars because of its hybrid, multifocal structure and the variety of its sources. It includes a critical apparatus and full commentary highlighting the various layers of rewriting behind the text, and the interaction between the text and the paratextual woodcuts. This new scholarly edition marks the culmination of a century of research on Doni.