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Le terze rime di Dante: lo'nferno e'l purgatorio e'l paradiso di Dante Alaghieri. With an introduction by Edoardo Barbieri. Florence: Olschki. 2021. xxxii + [488] pp. €50. ISBN 978 88 222 6783 2.

The volume of Dante published by Aldus in August 1502 continued the revolution of the octavo format and the italic type initiated by the Virgil in April 1501; as with Petrarch's Cose volgari in July 1501, the editor, Paduan aristocrat Pietro Bembo, dispensed with the traditional title of Divina commedia (the adjective had been added by Boccaccio) in favour of a statement about the rhyme scheme, while the spelling 'Alaghieri' appears on the verso of the titlepage. The edition was the first of the italic series to include the mark of a dolphin twined around an anchor, albeit not in all the copies, suggesting that sheets were passed through the press a second time; in his 1834 Annales Renouard claimed that this was the first Aldine in absolute to include the symbol, but this has long been disproved (see Gutenberg Jahrbuch, 2020, for a full account). The introduction by Edoardo Barbieri, which accompanies this beautifully produced reprint of the copy at the Biblioteca Classense in Ravenna, issued for the sexcentenary of Dante's death, usefully sets the edition in its original context and provides appropriate bibliographical information. All libraries with an Aldine collection will want this volume, even if they have a copy of the original.

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