

# Fifteenth-Century Italian Poetry: Features, Style, and Forms of the “Secolo senza poesia”

Renaissance Society of America (Boston, March 20–22, 2025)

Organizers: Maria Sole Costanzo (Boston College)

Luca Zipoli (Bryn Mawr College)

Chair: Matteo Soranzo (McGill University)

Sponsored by [Centro di studi medioevali e rinascimentali “E.A. Cicogna”](#),  
Venice, Italy

**Deadline for proposals: July 20, 2024**

This panel seeks contributions which investigate the forms and styles of poetry in the Italian Quattrocento, and is co-sponsored by the [Centro di studi medioevali e rinascimentali “E.A. Cicogna”](#) in Venice.

The enthusiastic participation of a diverse range of scholars to a similar panel at RSA 2024 proved that the era that Benedetto Croce famously



described as the “secolo senza poesia” (a century devoid of poetry) on the contrary did enjoy the flourishing of various poetic forms. In recent years, these poetic expressions have been rightfully brought back to the fore of Italian studies. In continuation with the previous panel, for this session we welcome papers examining 15th-century experimentations with

both traditional and new poetic forms, which innovated previous poetic models and laid the foundations for the production of the following centuries.

Examples of possible topics include but are not limited to:

- Use and reuse of traditional poetic forms: sonnets, canzoni, ballate...
- Invention of new poetic forms: vernacular eclogues and elegies...
- Interaction of Latin and vernacular poetry
- Translation of poetry from and into Latin, and from and into Romance languages
- Code-switching and other phenomena of language contact in poetry
- Poetry and humanism
- Pedantic, macaronic and other comic poetry
- Poetic production as exilic production: geographically or morally displaced poets
- Poetry and visual arts: ekphrasis, inscriptions, and other manifestations of intermediality
- *Prosimetra* and other instances of interaction and juxtaposition of poetry and prose
- Oral and written transmission of poetry
- Poetry and political power: relationships with the signorie, comuni, corti...
- Poetry and rhetoric
- Poetry and philosophy
- Religious poetry: confraternities, sacred dramas...
- Women writers of the Quattrocento
- Issues of attribution
- Influence of Stilnovo, Dante, and Petrarch in 15th-century poetry

Please send a proposal to Maria Sole Costanzo ([costanmh@bc.edu](mailto:costanmh@bc.edu)) and Luca Zipoli ([lzipoli@brynmawr.edu](mailto:lzipoli@brynmawr.edu)) by **July 20, 2024** including:

- full name, current affiliation, and email address
- paper title (15-word maximum)
- paper abstract (200-word maximum)
- resume (.pdf or .doc)
- PhD or other terminal degree completion year (past or expected)