

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

Renaissance Society of America (Chicago, March 21-23, 2024)

Organizers: Maria Sole Costanzo (Boston College)

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Chair: Matteo Soranzo (McGill University)

Deadline for proposals: August 1st, 2023

Although Benedetto Croce famously described the Quattrocento as “secolo senza poesia” (a century devoid of poetry), numerous studies in the past four decades demonstrated that, on the contrary, poetry flourished in various forms in the Italian peninsula. The 15th-century experimentation with both traditional and



new poetic forms and rhythms was crucial in laying the foundations for the production of the following centuries. This panel seeks contributions which investigate the forms, styles, and circulation of poetry in the Italian Quattrocento.

Example 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 Stilnovi, Dante, and Petrarch in 15th-century poetry

Please send a proposal to Maria Sole Costanzo (costanmh@bc.edu) and Luca Zipoli (lzipoli@brynmawr.edu) by **August 1st, 2023** 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)