

TRANSIT AND TRANSLATION IN EARLY MODERN EUROPE:

Textual circulation in Italy, England and Northern Europe

(Sapienza University of Rome, 29 February, 2016)

As set out in its Call for Papers, the conference aimed to examine the presence and circulation of some of the most significant texts or text types of the Pre-Renaissance and Renaissance period in Northern Europe. Since the conference represented the culmination of an interdepartmental research project at Sapienza involving Nordic languages and literature, Dutch language and literature, and English language — respectively coordinated by Anna Maria Segala, Francesca Terrenato, and Donatella Montini and Iolanda Plescia — much of the focus of the conference was on the role of translation in the circulation of texts (including those of Italian origin) in Scandinavian countries, the Low Countries and the British Isles.

The conference — which was held at Villa Mirafiori, a striking nineteenth-century villa with very attractive gardens — began with welcome addresses by Prof. Francesca Bernardini, Director of the Dipartimento di Studi Europei, Americani e Interculturali and Prof. Giovanni Solimine, Director of the Dipartimento di Scienze Documentarie, Linguistico-filologiche e Geografiche. Both Directors referred to the wide-ranging disciplines covered by their departments, which reflected the interdisciplinary research focus that the conference organisers aimed to harness in the day's proceedings.

The conference was structured around three broad thematic components: Italian Connections in Northern Europe, Transit and Translation in England the Low Countries, and Anglo-Italian Transits and Translations. The first two sessions were in the morning while the third took place after a late lunch.

The first session, Italian Connections in Northern Europe, was chaired by Guyda Armstrong (Manchester) and included the papers of the plenary Anders Toftgaard (Copenhagen, "Italianism at the Court of Christian IV of Denmark"), Paolo Marelli (Genoa, "The Translation of Machiavelli's *Prince* in Eighteenth-century Sweden") and Anna Maria Segala and Francesca Terrenato (Sapienza Rome, "Tales about Women and the Devil: the First Translation of Machiavelli's *Belfagor* into Danish and Dutch").

In the second session, Anders Toftgaard chaired and the plenary was given by Theo Hermans (University College London, "The Culture of Translation in the early Modern Low Countries"). The session was completed by Nicholas Brownlees (Florence, "The Role and Translation of Dutch News in Early Modern England") and Marco Prandoni (Bologna, "Masaniello in the Dutch Republic: from the Chronicle to the Stage").

The third session was chaired by Theo Hermans and included the plenary by Guyda Armstrong ("Ways and Means: Boccaccio as Global Case-study for Early Modern Textual Transits") followed by the papers of Donatella Montini (Sapienza Rome, "Power in Translation: John Florio and the *Basilikon Doron*") and Iolanda Plescia (Sapienza Rome, "Translating Science: Galileo in England").

The conference concluded with Theo Hermans's round-up of some of the most significant points and themes covered during the papers and follow-up discussions. As Hermans said, the conference had revealed areas of research which given their innovative nature provide interesting insights into the role of translation and the circulation of texts in pre-Renaissance and Renaissance Europe. It is to be hoped that this research will soon form the mainstay of a volume.

Thanks go to the Conference's Scientific Committee (Donatella Montini, Iolanda Plescia, Anna Maria Segala and Francesca Terrenato) and Conference Secretary (Emiliana Russo) for organizing such a successful event.

Nicholas Brownlees