

Contents

Acknowledgments vii

Note on Editions and Translations ix

Introduction. “Fateci dipignere la Cortesia”: Historicizing *cortesia* 3

1 Boccaccio’s History of *cortesia*: The Incivility and Greed of the Elite 29

Cortesia and the Florentine Elite from the Early Commune to the Age of Dante 30

 The Dantean *cornice* of *Inferno* 16 and *cortesia* Lost: *Decameron* 1.8, 6.9, and *Esposizioni* 16 34

 The Greed of the Genoese (Not Florentine) Elite: *Decameron* 1.8, Guiglielmo Borsiere, and Ermino Grimaldi 40

 The Incivility of *cortesia*: *Decameron* 6.9, Bettino Brunelleschi, and Guido Cavalcanti 44

 Conclusion 53

2 Boccaccio’s Politics of *cortesia*: Narrating the Elite and the *gente nuova* 56

 Florentine Politics and Economics from Dante to Boccaccio:

 The Older Elite Families and the *gente nuova* 59

 From Dantean Prophecy to Boccaccian Enactment:

 Florence from 1300 to 1302 65

 Figuring Florentine Conflict: Corso Donati (*cortesia*) versus Vieri de’ Cerchi (*avarizia*) 71

 The Elite and the *popolo*: The Case of Cisti and Geri Spini 86

 The Arno Runs Red: Narrating Florentine Violence 94

 Conclusion 97

- 3 The Ethical (and Dantean) Framework of the *Decameron*:
The Avarice of Clerics and Merchants 99
 Cangrande della Scala: Dante's Generous Host Experiences
 an Unusual, and Momentary, Affliction of Avarice 101
 Pope Boniface VIII: Figuring Avarice at the Beginning
 and End of the *Decameron* 110
 A Tempered "epopea dei mercatanti": Musciatto Franzesi
 and the Avarice of the Merchant Class 120
 The Dantean *cornice* of Avarice: *Esposizioni* 1 and
 Decameron 10.3 127
 From Finance to Fowling: The Case of the Gianfigliazzi
 Family 134
 Conclusion 137
- 4 Constructing a Future for *cortesia* in the Past: Virility, Nobility,
and the History of the Guelphs and the Ghibellines 139
 The Familial Court of *cortesia*: The Civil Acts of the
 Malaspina Family 143
 Cortesia Was Chaste: The Virility of the Guelphs and the
 Ghibellines 157
 Virility as Nobility: *Cortesia* in Romagna 168
 Nobility's Inheritance: The Case of Federigo degli
 Alberighi 176
 Conclusion 182
- Notes* 185
- Bibliography* 221
- Index* 237