Contents

| List of figures | xi |
|---|------|
| Acknowledgements | xiii |
| Introduction: Giovanni Bianchi, John Cleland and the <i>Breve storia</i> : an overview of Italian and English eighteenth-century sexualities | I |
| Gender in translation | 3 |
| Synopsis of Giovanni Bianchi's Breve storia | 5 |
| Synopsis of John Cleland's translation of the Breve storia: [An] His[toric]al and phy[s]ic[al] dissertation on the case of Catherine Vizzani (1751) / The True history and adventures of Catharine Vizzani (1755) | 8 |
| Female masculinity | 10 |
| Genesis of the project | 12 |
| Anatomical study in Italy and Holland | 17 |
| Reading and writing Vizzani: Cleland's translation | 18 |
| A preliminary note on translation | 21 |
| Place, space and agency | 23 |
| The cicisbeo | 25 |
| Gender studies, queer studies and the Italian peninsula | 27 |
| Geographies of sexualities: mapping sexuality in Bianchi's life and the <i>Breve storia</i> | 29 |

| Chapter 1: Situating Giovanni Bianchi: the biography of an anatomist man of letters | 41 |
|---|-----|
| The geopolitical landscape of Italian science: academies, universities and intellectual life in Rimini and Siena | 49 |
| A contested reputation in Siena: Bianchi's university career | 52 |
| Chapter 2: An apology for same-sex love: Bianchi's discourse to the Academy of the Defective | 59 |
| Chapter 3: The literature of science and sexuality in eighteenth-century Italy and its fourteenth- to seventeenth-century European precedents | 81 |
| Dutch and Italian precursors in the discourse of generation and the practice of autopsy | 81 |
| Religious autopsies, domestic autopsies and science: Bianchi's parody | 94 |
| A 'chaste' performance of militant gender-crossing in seventeenth-century Rome: Spanish warrior Catalina de Erauso, the <i>monja alférez</i> | 103 |
| The evidence: the materiality of Vizzani's guilt and exoneration | 107 |
| Chapter 4: Technologies of gender identity in eighteenth- century Italy and England: the story of Catterina | |
| Vizzani's autopsy | 111 |
| The structure of the <i>Breve storia</i> | 120 |
| Medicine and autopsy in the Breve storia | 127 |
| Taking 'a freak of this kind into her head': Cleland on dissection, cause and blame | 146 |
| Chapter 5: Novelistic prose in eighteenth-century Italy: Cleland in Italy, Bianchi in England and the cultivation of Boccaccio among men of science and letters | 151 |
| Gozzi's 1764 <i>La Meretrice</i> , the 1810 <i>La Meretrice inglese</i> and the debate over the novel and morality | 155 |
| The novel in eighteenth-century Italy | 164 |
| Narrating anatomy: anatomists and Boccaccio | 167 |
| Bianchi and Boccaccio | 177 |

| Chapter 6: The transgendered familial and working spaces of Catterina Vizzani/Giovanni Bordoni and their narrators | 179 |
|---|-----|
| Cleland's reimagined spaces of English domestic transgression | 202 |
| Chapter 7: Translating transgender: Giovanni Bianchi and John Cleland writing queer desire in the eighteenth century | 207 |
| Eighteenth-century gender trouble and its textual resonance | 211 |
| Queering eighteenth-century prose | 212 |
| Narrating Catterina/Giovanni's life | 217 |
| Translation samples comparing Giovanni Bianchi's text in my translation with John Cleland's translation | 221 |
| Chapter 8: Cleland's motivation: Catterina Vizzani as Lady Mary Wortley Montagu | 235 |
| Chapter 9: The entangled lives and writings of John Cleland and Giovanni Bianchi: biographical synergies and a shared sexual vision | 255 |
| Giovanni Bianchi's doing and undoing | 263 |
| In Lode dell'arte comica (1752) | 265 |
| Appendix: the texts | 273 |
| A note to the three Vizzani texts: John Cleland's translation, my translation and Giovanni Bianchi's original | 273 |
| John Cleland's translation: [An] His[toric]al and phy[s]ic[al] dissertation on the case of Catherine Vizzani, containing the adventures of a young woman, born at Rome, who for eight years passed in the habit of a man, was killed for an amour with a young lady; and being found on dissection, a true virgin, narrowly escaped being treated as a saint by the populace. With some curious and anatomical remarks on the nature and existence of the hymen. By Giovanni Bianchi, Professor of Anatomy at Sienna, the surgeon who dissected her. To which are added certain needful remarks by the English editor | 275 |
| Clorinda Donato's translation: Brief history of the life of Catterina Vizzani, Roman woman, who for eight years wore a male servant's clothing, who after various vicissitudes was in the end killed | |
| and found to be a virgin during the autopsy of her cadaver | 296 |

| Giovanni Bianchi, Breve storia della vita di Catterina Vizzani Romana che per ott'anni vestì abito da uomo in qualità di Servidore la quale dopo vari Casi essendo in fine stata uccisa fu trovata Pulcella | |
|---|-----|
| nella sezzione del suo Cadavero | 308 |
| Bibliography | 319 |
| Index | 339 |

List of figures

| Figure 1: Giovanni Bianchi, An Historical and physical dissertation on the case of Catherine Vizzani, translated by John Cleland, 1st edn (London, printed for W. Meyer, in May's-Buildings, near St. Martin's Lane, 1751), title page. By permission of the William Andrews Clark Memorial Library. | 276 |
|---|-----|
| Figure 2: Giovanni Bianchi, <i>The True history and adventures of Catharine Vizzani</i> , translated by John Cleland, 2nd edn (London, printed for W. Reeve, [] and C. Sympson, [], 1755), frontispiece and title page. Credit: Cengage, sourced from the British Library. | 278 |
| Figure 3: Giovanni Bianchi, Breve storia della vita di Catterina Vizzani, Romana, che per ott'anni vestì abito da uomo in qualità di Servidore la quale dopo varj Casi essendo in fine stata uccisa fu trovata Pulcella nella sezzione del suo Cadavero (Venice, Simone Occhi, 1744), title page. Reproduced with the permission of the Harvard Medicine, Cambridge, MA | 200 |
| of Medicine, Cambridge, MA. | 309 |