

---

# Contents

Acknowledgments	ix
Introduction	1
<i>Maria Ornella Marotti</i>	

## PART I. CANON FORMATION/CANON REVISION

1 Women Writers and the Canon in Contemporary Italy	13
<i>JoAnn Cannon</i>	
2 From One Closet to Another? Feminism, Literary Archaeology, and the Canon	25
<i>Beverly Allen</i>	
3 Italian "Difference Theory": A New Canon?	37
<i>Renate Holub</i>	

## PART II. RENAISSANCE WOMEN: RETHINKING THE CANON

4 Renaissance Women Defending Women: Arguments Against Patriarchy	55
<i>Constance Jordan</i>	
5 Selling the Self; or, The Epistolary Production of Renaissance Courtesans	69
<i>Fiora A. Bassanese</i>	

PART III. AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY: WOMEN WRITERS AT  
THE MARGINS OF THE CANON

- |   |   |     |
|---|---|-----|
| 6 | Double Marginality: Matilde Serao and the Politics of Ambiguity<br><i>Nancy Harrowitz</i>                                       | 85  |
| 7 | The Diaries of Sibilla Aleramo: Constructing Female Subjectivity<br><i>Bernadette Luciano</i>                                   | 95  |
| 8 | Narrative Voice and the Regional Experience: Redefining Female<br>Images in the Works of Maria Messina<br><i>Elise Magistro</i> | 111 |

PART IV. CONTEMPORARY WOMEN WRITERS: TOWARD A NEW  
CANON

- |    |   |     |
|----|---|-----|
| 9  | Brushing Benjamin Against the Grain: Elsa Morante and the<br><i>Jetztzeit</i> of Marginal History<br><i>Maurizia Boscagli</i>             | 131 |
| 10 | From Genealogy to Gynealogy and Beyond: Fausta Cialente's <i>Le<br/>Quattro Ragazze</i><br><i>Wieselberger</i><br><i>Graziella Parati</i> | 145 |
| 11 | Ethnic Matriarchy: Fabrizia Ramondino's Neapolitan World<br><i>Maria Ornella Marotti</i>  | 173 |
| 12 | Mythic Revisionism: Women Poets and Philosophers in Italy<br>Today<br><i>Lucia Re</i>   | 187 |

PART V. WOMEN AS FILMMAKERS: IMAGES OF WOMEN/IMAGES  
BY WOMEN/IMAGES FOR WOMEN

- |    |   |     |
|----|---|-----|
| 13 | Monica Vitti: The Image and the Word<br><i>Marga Cottino-Jones</i>                              | 237 |
| 14 | Signifying the Holocaust: Liliana Cavani's <i>Portiere di Notte</i><br><i>Marguerite Waller</i> | 259 |

- |                       |     |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Notes on Contributors | 273 |
| Index                 | 275 |