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**NICCOLÒ PEROTTI:**  
**the Languages of Humanism**  
**and Politics**

ed. Marianne Pade & Camilla Plesner Horster

## Preface

The present volume contains the proceedings of the conference “Un umanista romano del secondo Quattrocento. Niccolò Perotti” held at the Istituto Storico Italiano per il Medio Evo and the Danish Academy in Rome 4–5 June 2009. The title of the conference was meant to stress the fact that although Niccolò Perotti (1430-1480) was born in Sassoferrato, educated in Mantova and probably Ferrara and known as ‘il Sipontino’ after the city where he was archbishop, his scholarly work and his professional career must be studied in the context of Roman humanism and curial politics. In addition to the contributions published here, the programme of the conference also contained a paper by Concetta Bianca on ‘La biblioteca del Perotti’.

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The articles in this volume reflect Perotti’s position among the Roman humanists of the second half of the fifteenth century and as a papal governor. However, the editors have chosen to change the title of the volume to “Niccolò Perotti: the Languages of Humanism and Politics” to emphasise the focus of the contributions on the linguistic, literary and stylistic aspects of Perotti’s work:

Alessandro PONTECORVI offers a thorough reading and a reinterpretation of the documentary and literary sources pertaining to Perotti’s time as rector of the *Patrimonio di S. Pietro in Tuscia* (1464-1469).

Three articles discuss various aspects of Perotti’s treatises on metrics. Karsten FRIIS-JENSEN gives a survey of recent research done on Perotti’s *De generibus metrorum* and *De metris Horatii et Boethii*; Paolo D’ALESSANDRO explores the circumstances under which these two treatises and other minor writings, such as *Iusiurandum Hippocratis* were composed; and Marianne PADE discusses Perotti’s use of intertextuality in his letters of dedication, using as example the letter of dedication to *De metris*.

Two articles examine Perotti’s language. Camilla Plesner HORSTER analyses Perotti’s use of the subjunctive, comparing it to that of one of his professed models, Cicero. She suggests that Perotti’s use of the subjunctive serves linguistic variation and expression rather than obeying grammatical, obligatory rules. Johann RAMMINGER traces the chronological strata within the lemmata of the *Cornu copiae*. While Perotti’s selection favours the lexis of classical Latin, the lemmata are also responsive to areas of contemporary Latin (Church, humanism) and the *volgare*.

Two articles show Perotti in the function of intermediary between Greek and Latin humanist language and culture. John MONFASANI provides new insights into Perotti's role regarding the Latin of the 1469 version of Bessarion's *In Calumniatorem Platonis*. Fabio STOK and Giancarlo ABBAMONTE discuss the chronology of Perotti's early translations of *De invidia et odio*, *De Alexandri Magni fortuna aut virtute* and *De fortuna Romanorum* and the relationship between Perotti's translations of the two latter treatises and the preceding ones by Iacopo Angeli da Scarperia.

Finally the introductory article to the volume deserves a special mention. The annotated bibliography compiled by Jean-Louis CHARLET offers a comprehensive account of studies of Perotti's life and works published from the nineteenth century to 2010. It is the intention of the author and the editors of this journal to publish regular updates to the bibliography in *Renæssanceforum*, to assure that it will remain an indispensable and easily accessible tool for students of Perotti.

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Marianne Pade & Camilla Plesner Horster, editors of *Renæssanceforum* 7

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