

and fifteenth centuries, in Latin, Catalan, French, Italian, and English; and materials on the transformation of the site in the fifteenth and seventeenth centuries into a penitential destination. Vernacular adaptations and translations of the *Tractatus*, such as that by Marie de France, are not included, as they are usually well represented in other forms. In several instances, the editions are reproduced from editions already published by Maggioni. The rest are printed from other existing editions. The *Tractatus* itself, which does not exist yet in a critical edition based on the entire manuscript tradition, is reprinted from the 1991 edition by Robert Easting. Each text has a thorough introduction by Maggioni, and, in the case of the closure and transformation of the site, by Paolo Taviani. All the sources are provided with Italian translations prepared by Maggioni and Roberto Tinti, except, again, for the section on the closure, which was done by Taviani, who also provided an epilogue.

Given the importance of the site and how well known it was at the time, the present collection of texts will be useful for scholars interested in the cultural history of purgatory, pilgrimage, and the pilgrimage to the Purgatory of Saint Patrick. Perhaps the most valuable are the pilgrimage accounts of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, since several are extended accounts, and they appear in a range of original languages, accompanied in the volume by useful Italian translations. Although specialists already have access to the editions, given that most are reprints, the introductory section by Maggioni on the *Tractatus* and pilgrimage, and the section by Taviani on the closure of the site are stand-alone studies, significant additions to the literature. The other use to which such collections often lend themselves—namely, for teaching and for introductory research for those who do not read Latin or medieval vernaculars—is limited in this case to those who read Italian. There are also limits for more advanced research, as is often the case with collections of excerpts, because of the difficulty in placing each excerpt within the context of its original source. The introductions help greatly in this regard, but the part that the excerpt plays within a work is secondary to the collection of excerpts, and the collection may not reflect how an individual author knew a topic or understood its tradition.

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doi:10.1017/rqx.2019.421

Du champ de bataille à la bibliothèque: Le dialogue militaire italien au XVI^e siècle.
Michel Pretalli.

Bibliothèque de la Renaissance 18. Paris: Classiques Garnier, 2017. 456 pp. €48.

In the second half of the sixteenth century and in the first decades of the seventeenth century, the art of war became in Italy the object of a massive and multifarious number of publications. While Europe was set aflame by conflicts, treatises on the perfect captain, on military engineering, and on artillery made the technicalities of warfare largely

accessible to the reading public. The authors of these works were often men of arms themselves, who shared the experience accrued on the battlefield with prospective soldiers and curious readers alike. Regrettably, much of this production is nowadays forgotten: not only are modern editions lacking, but scholarship on the topic is scant and not systematic.

Pretalli's book is thus a welcome and timely addition to scholarly literature on the subject. The author has selected a corpus of sixteen dialogues, which he has explored in full detail through a stylistic and rhetorical analysis. Pretalli highlights how the writers of military dialogues exploited the possibilities offered by the genre of didactic dialogue to expound the art of war. Pretalli shows that their authors sought, to different degrees, a balance between the "hard" technical matter and a certain *piacevolezza* (pleasantry). This balance was obtained using stylistic and rhetorical tools, as well as through structural interventions, such as inserting narrative digressions to keep the reader's attention, varying the rhythm of the dialogue, adding speeches in praise of a person or of a nation, and recounting stratagems and inventions. It is true that, as Pretalli suggests, there were differences between works penned by professional soldiers and those authored by writers with humanistic backgrounds. In the first type, for example, one finds a general contempt of excessive rhetorical ornamentation, on the assumption that *res* are more important than *verba*. Yet it is indisputable that all of these works show a certain degree of literary character: in this, they partake in a larger attempt to promote technical literature to the loftier level of courtly culture and the liberal arts. These texts, however, often retained many of their ties with didactic literature, an issue the author details in an interesting section of the book that explores the influence of abacus books on military treatises. Both of these kinds of texts posed practical problems that needed to be addressed empirically, thus moving away from the attempt to establish universal principles.

While military dialogues share many of the rhetorical features of Renaissance dialogue, they also have their own peculiarities, such as the need for appropriate technical language. This requires a creative effort on the part of the authors, who are often missing the apt words to describe the recent developments in warfare. The didactic purposes of the dialogue benefit also from the use of images, which entertain complex relations with the written text: this is the subject of one of the most interesting chapters, enriched by numerous illustrations. From Pretalli's book, writers *de re militari* emerge as talented intellectuals, able to match their first-hand experience on the battlefield with erudition and rhetorical skills. In some cases, such display of humanistic culture may permeate the main body of the text, while in others it may be confined to the paratextual sections. As Pretalli remarks, writing such refined works was often a means for authors to promote their own social advancement and to obtain benefices.

While one may argue that not all the rhetorical and argumentative strategies discussed in this book are particular to military dialogues (as the author himself notes), for each of them readers will find rich and accurately translated examples. Readers,

moreover, may feel the need for a more systematic social and historical contextualization, addressing, for example, the extent to which the military profession was connected to social mobility, or how the development of professional figures affected the idea of nobility. To be fair, these questions lie beyond and outside the scope of this book (although readers may find hints of them in more than one place). This volume successfully engages with and illuminates an understudied set of works and makes a valuable contribution to the reassessment of literature in the second half of the sixteenth century, when new works and new genres successfully rejuvenated Italian culture.

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doi:10.1017/rqx.2019.422

Violence and Justice in Bologna 1250–1700. Sarah Rubin Blanshei, ed.
Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2018. xxxvi + 264 pp. \$110.

The city of Bologna played an important role in the political, military, and economic history of the Italian Peninsula—first as a republican commune turned Signoria under the rule of the Bentivoglio, and later as the Papal States' second city. No less significant was Bologna's prominence in shaping intellectual, cultural, and religious trends from the thirteenth to the seventeenth century. Home to Europe's oldest university and an early stronghold of the Dominican Order and its inquisitors, Bologna's impact on the development of legal thought and judicial practice was particularly marked. Nonetheless, until the second half of the twentieth century its strategic importance remained largely overlooked. The essays in *Violence and Justice in Bologna* attest to the growing attention devoted to Bologna by Italian and international scholars of judicial history in the last few decades. They also reflect the potential of the city's uniquely rich holdings of statutes and legislation, as well as criminal court records, for a *longue durée* exploration of attitudes toward violent conflicts and their resolution.

The book provides a useful overview of how the conceptualization of specific typologies of crime, and attitudes toward their prosecution, developed in tandem with Bologna's convoluted political history. A punctiliously edited volume, it contains ten tightly focused essays, written by both emerging and established scholars. *Violence and Justice in Bologna* is geared primarily toward a specialist audience, with background knowledge of the medieval Italian communes and of the political tumults of Renaissance Bologna.

The volume is divided into two sections. The first examines judicial procedures and practices from the perspective of institutional history, with essays by Gregory Roberts, Massimo Vallerani, Sarah Rubin Blanshei, Trevor Dean, and Colin Rose. The second section deals with perceptions of specific typologies of violence, and includes