

*Studies in Italian History in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, Volume 3: Humanists, Machiavelli, Guicciardini.* Nicolai Rubinstein.

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This is the third and last volume of the series of Nicolai Rubinstein's collected studies, started in 2004. The three volumes contain a total of sixty-one essays: here are printed twenty-seven (eight in Italian, four in German, the others in English), organized in four sections without any specific title for each part. The editor, Giovanni Ciappelli, tries to explain the joining elements of the various articles collected in each section in his brief introductory note; but the choice of the essays, the volume setting, its organization, and also its partial title had been decided entirely by Rubinstein. It is meritorious to respect

this decision, but maybe an expert guide through the author's production would be useful for readers to gain a more precise knowledge of Rubinstein's thought.

It is quite easy to understand the organization of parts 2 and 3. The second part is dedicated to Machiavelli, and gathers seven studies: "The Beginnings of Niccolò Machiavelli's Career in the Florentine Chancery" (1956); "Machiavelli e le origini di Firenze" (1967); "Machiavelli and the World of Florentine Politics" (1972); "Machiavelli Storico" (1987); "Machiavelli and Florentine Republican Experience" (1990); "Machiavelli and the Mural Decoration of the Hall of the Great Council of Florence" (1991); and "An Unknown Version of Machiavelli's 'Ritratto delle cose della Magna'" (1998). Similarly, the third part is dedicated to Francesco Guicciardini, and collects four studies: "The 'Storie fiorentine' and the 'Memorie di famiglia' by Francesco Guicciardini" (1953); "Francesco Guicciardini and his 'Ricordi'" (1965); "Guicciardini Politico" (1984); and "Francesco Guicciardini" (1989).

More difficult to grasp is the organization of sections 1 and 4: perhaps we can suppose that the first section is dedicated to some important humanists of Florence and to their historiographer; and the other section is dedicated to remaining topics, such as Italian politics, symbolic architecture, and art. The first part collects seven essays: "Il Poliziano e la questione delle origini di Firenze" (1957); "An Unknown Letter by Jacopo di Poggio Bracciolini on Discoveries of Classical Texts" (1958); "Bartolomeo Scala's 'Historia Florentinorum'" (1964); "Poggio Bracciolini Cancelliere e Storico di Firenze" (1964); "Die vermögenslage florentiner Humanisten im 15. Jahrhundert" (1983); "A Grammar Teacher's Autobiography: Giovanni Conversini's 'Rationarium Vite'" (1988); and "Il Bruni a Firenze: Retorica e Politica" (1990). The fourth part collects nine studies: "Il Medio evo nella Storiografia Italiana del Rinascimento (Firenze — Milano — Venezia)" (1973); "Michelozzo and Niccolò Michelozzi in Chios 1466–67" (1976); "Reprisals and Citizenship in Law Suit at Lucca after the Death of Castruccio Castracani" (1980); "Palazzi Pubblici e Palazzi Privati al Tempo di Brunelleschi (Problemi di Storia Politica e Sociale)" (1980); "Das Politische System Italiens in der zweiten Hälfte des 15. Jahrhunderts" (1988); "'Reformation' und Ordensreform in Italienischen Stadtrepubliken und Signorien" (1989); "Lay Patronage and Observant Reform in Fifteenth-Century Florence" (1990); "Fortified Enclosures in Italian Cities under Signori" (1993); and "Youth and Spring in Botticelli's 'Primavera'" (1997).

This book, published ten years after the death of the author, will surely contribute to stimulating further reflections on his intellectual activity: as Giovanni Ciappelli informs us, already in 2011 a conference at the Villa I Tatti in Florence compared Rubinstein to Philip Jones regarding their interpretation of the Medici, and a biographical research by Kate Lowe has investigated the intellectual and cultural formation of Rubinstein, a refugee scholar from Germany to Italy and Britain. The most important and innovative elements in Rubinstein's methodological approach reside in his research on the legitimating power of republican thought and its tradition, studied both in its original character and in its transformations. In this comprehensive framework, the recurring element of this volume is the story of the historiography of humanism and the

Renaissance, with Machiavelli and Guicciardini seen as historians and politicians above all; especially useful is the study of Machiavelli's early political career in the Florentine chancery, and a detailed analysis of the relationship between the private memories of Guicciardini and his historiographical activity.

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