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Antonio Pucci, *Gismirante – Madonna Leonessa*

edited by Maria Bendinelli Predelli

English translations by Joyce Myerson, Amanda Glover and Andrea Saunderson

Edinburgh 2013

ISBN 978 0 9519791 6 7

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**Designed for undergraduate and taught postgraduate students of medieval literature and of comparative literature, it contains an introduction, the texts and translations into modern English, and explanatory notes.**

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*Gismirante* and *Madonna Leonessa*, two of the *cantari* of the versatile Florentine poet and story-teller Antonio Pucci, are some of the earliest and most successful examples of these brief romances of chivalry in the *ottava rima* metre. They were instrumental in establishing the popularity of the genre which culminated in the great works of Boiardo, Ariosto and Tasso. *Gismirante* is one of the first examples of Arthurian narrative in Italian, while *Madonna Leonessa* reflects a world similar to that of Boccaccio’s *Decameron* with its wry humour, irony and role reversals. Pucci’s narratives weave together old stories and motifs from medieval romance, tales of love, valour and adventure, with the realities of fourteenth-century Florentine culture and society.

This edition of the two *cantari* is the first to offer the reader the original text with a completely new translation into English and an extensive introduction to Pucci, his works and their place in the literary traditions of medieval Italy. It is designed for students of medieval Italian and European literature approaching the *cantari* for the first time, as well as those seeking to explore further the development of the genre.

