

## ITALIAN LITERATURE IN XVII-XVIII

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Italian literature in the 17th and 18th centuries witnessed significant developments and produced several renowned writers and works. This period, known as the Baroque and Enlightenment era, marked a transition from the Renaissance and brought about new literary trends and styles. Here are some notable authors and works from Italian literature during the 17th and 18th centuries:

1. Torquato Tasso (1544-1595): Although Tasso is primarily associated with the late 16th century, his work had a lasting influence on 17th-century Italian literature. His epic poem "Gerusalemme Liberata" (Jerusalem Delivered) is a masterpiece of Italian Renaissance literature.

2. Alessandro Manzoni (1785-1873): Although Manzoni is primarily known for his 19th-century work, "I Promessi Sposi" (The Betrothed), his writing style and themes were influenced by the Enlightenment and the literary trends of the 18th century.

3. Giambattista Marino (1569-1625): Marino was one of the most prominent poets of the Baroque period. His work was characterized by extravagant language, intricate metaphors, and a focus on sensual and emotional themes. His best-known work is "L'Adone" (Adonis).

4. Carlo Goldoni (1707-1793): Goldoni is considered one of the most important playwrights of the 18th century. He revolutionized Italian theater by introducing a more realistic and comedic style, departing from the traditional Commedia dell'arte. Some of his notable works include "Il servitore di due padroni" (The Servant of Two Masters) and "La locandiera" (The Innkeeper).

5. Pietro Metastasio (1698-1782): Metastasio was a renowned poet and librettist who wrote numerous librettos for opera. His works were characterized by their emotional depth, elegance, and lyrical qualities. He collaborated with composers such as Johann Adolf Hasse and Christoph Willibald Gluck.

6. Vittorio Alfieri (1749-1803): Alfieri was a key figure in Italian neoclassical literature. He wrote tragedies that were inspired by classical Greek and Roman drama, focusing on themes of liberty, heroism, and political struggle. Some of his notable works include "Saul" and "Oreste."

7. Ludovico Ariosto (1474-1533): Although Ariosto predates the 17th century, his epic poem "Orlando Furioso" had a significant impact on Italian literature during this period. It continued to be studied and admired by writers and intellectuals.

These are just a few examples of the rich literary heritage of Italian literature in the 17th and 18th centuries. The works and authors mentioned here represent different literary movements and styles that emerged during the period, ranging from the Baroque to the Enlightenment.

Certainly! The Baroque and Enlightenment era in Italian literature witnessed the emergence of distinct literary trends and styles. Here are more details about these movements:

1. Baroque Literature: The Baroque period in Italian literature, which roughly spanned the 17th century, was characterized by elaborate and ornate language, complex metaphors, and a focus on emotional and sensual themes. Baroque writers aimed to evoke strong emotions in their readers and often employed extravagant and exaggerated expressions. Giambattista Marino was one of the key figures of the Baroque movement, and his works exemplify its style.

2. Enlightenment Literature: The Enlightenment, which gained prominence in the 18th century, marked a shift towards reason, science, and intellectual inquiry. Italian Enlightenment writers sought to challenge established beliefs and promote rational thought. They emphasized the power of human reason and advocated for social, political, and intellectual reforms. This period saw a rise in philosophical essays, historical works, and satirical literature.

3. Neoclassicism: Neoclassicism, which had a significant influence on Italian literature during the 18th century, was a literary movement that sought to revive the principles and aesthetics of ancient Greek and Roman literature. Neoclassical writers aimed for clarity, simplicity, and order in their works, drawing inspiration from classical models. They often focused on moral themes and sought to educate and edify their readers. Playwright Vittorio Alfieri was a prominent figure associated with the neoclassical movement.

4. Enlightenment Novels: The 18th century saw the rise of the novel as a popular literary form. Italian novelists began to explore social and psychological themes, depicting realistic characters and everyday life. Works like "I Promessi Sposi" by Alessandro Manzoni and "Il filosofo di campagna" by Carlo Goldoni exemplify the themes and style of the Enlightenment novel in Italy.

5. Enlightenment Satire: Satirical literature also gained prominence during the Enlightenment era. Satirists used humor and wit to criticize social, political, and religious institutions. They sought to expose hypocrisy, corruption, and irrationality through their works. Notable Italian satirists of the time include Cesare Beccaria, who

wrote "Dei delitti e delle pene" (On Crimes and Punishments), and Giuseppe Parini, known for his satirical poem "Il Giorno" (The Day).

These literary trends and styles during the Baroque and Enlightenment era reflected the intellectual and cultural shifts of the time. While the Baroque literature emphasized emotion and extravagance, the Enlightenment literature embraced reason, social critique, and a more realistic portrayal of society. The neoclassical movement, on the other hand, aimed to revive the principles of classical literature and promote moral education.

Ancient Italian literature encompasses a rich and diverse body of literary works that were produced in the Italian peninsula from antiquity to the Middle Ages. Here are some key periods and notable works in the history of ancient Italian literature:

1. Roman Literature: Italy was the birthplace of the Roman Empire, and its literature had a significant impact on subsequent Italian literary traditions. Prominent Roman authors, such as Cicero, Virgil, Horace, and Ovid, wrote works in Latin that explored various genres, including poetry, drama, and philosophy.

2. Early Christian Literature: With the advent of Christianity in the Roman Empire, a new form of literature emerged. Early Christian writers, such as St. Augustine and St. Jerome, composed theological and philosophical works that profoundly influenced Western thought.

3. Medieval Literature: The Middle Ages in Italy witnessed the flourishing of various literary traditions, often written in the vernacular languages rather than Latin. The following are some notable works and authors:

- "The Divine Comedy" (1308-1320) by Dante Alighieri: This epic poem, written in Italian (specifically, the Tuscan dialect), is considered one of the greatest literary works of all time. It describes Dante's journey through Hell, Purgatory, and Heaven, offering a profound exploration of theology, philosophy, and human nature.

- "The Decameron" (1349-1353) by Giovanni Boccaccio: This collection of 100 stories, written in Italian, presents a diverse range of tales told by ten young people who sought refuge from the Black Death. It is a masterpiece of narrative storytelling and offers insights into medieval Italian society.

- "Canzoniere" (Songbook) (14th century) by Petrarch: Petrarch's collection of sonnets and other poems is renowned for its exploration of love, beauty, and the human condition. He is often credited with shaping the development of Italian poetry.

- "The Prince" (1532) by Niccolò Machiavelli: This political treatise, written in Italian, examines the acquisition and exercise of political power. It remains influential in the field of political science.

These are just a few examples of ancient Italian literature. The works of these authors and others have had a lasting impact on Italian and world literature, shaping literary traditions for centuries to come.

#### **REFERENCES:**

Here are some reference books that you can consult for a comprehensive overview of Italian literature:

1. "A History of Italian Literature" by Peter Brand and Lino Pertile: This book provides a comprehensive survey of Italian literature
  2. "The Cambridge Companion to Modern Italian Culture" edited by Zygmunt G. Barański and Rebecca J. West.
  3. "The Oxford Handbook of Italian Literature and Culture" edited by Paolo Bartoloni and Donatella Bartolomei.
  4. "Italian Literature: A Very Short Introduction" by Peter Hainsworth.
  5. "A Companion to Italian Literature: From the Origins to the Present" edited by Peter Hainsworth and David Robey.
3. <https://smarthistory.org/romanticism-in-france/>
  4. <https://smarthistory.org/delacroix-liberty-leading-the-people/>