

American Dante Bibliography for 2003

Steven Botterill

This bibliography is intended to include all publications on Dante (books, articles, translations, reviews) appearing in North America in 2003, as well as reviews from foreign sources of books published in the United States and Canada.

Translations

Alighieri, Dante. *Purgatory*. Translated by **Anthony M. Esolen**. New York: The Modern Library, 2003. 544 p.

Alighieri, Dante. *Purgatorio*. Translated by **Jean Hollander** and **Robert Hollander**. New York: Doubleday, 2003. 768 p.

Alighieri, Dante. *The Divine Comedy: The Inferno, the Purgatorio, and the Paradiso*. Translated by **John Ciardi**. Reprinted edition. New York: The New American Library, 2003. xxv, 895 p.

Books

Brittan, Simon. *Poetry, Symbol, and Allegory*. Virginia: University of Virginia Press, 2003.

Discusses Dante's use of allegory and symbolism, making particular use of the *Convivio* and the *canzone* on the death of Beatrice, and explores how these techniques provide guidance for the reader seeking to understand his poetry. This dual allegorical and literal meaning was new to readers of poetry in Dante's time, but, despite many of the poems being deeply wrapped up in allegory, readers were and are still able to appreciate their lyricism.

Cestaro, Gary P. *Dante and the Grammar of the Nursing Body*. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 2003.

Cestaro "investigat[es] the function of the nursing body in Dante," drawing upon different forms of philosophical analysis, especially contemporary French, as well as psychoanalytical and feminist theory. Particular attention is paid to Julia Kristeva's theory of semiotics in the wake of Lacanian psychoanalysis. The author is especially interested in the consequences for the interpretation of the notion of dependence on the female in Dante's works, with its corollary that a male can never be considered such if he never loses his dependence to the female.

Dante Alighieri. Edited by **Harold Bloom**. Philadelphia: Chelsea House, 2003. 300 p. (Bloom's Modern Critical Views.)

In the introduction to this collection of critical articles, some new and some reprinted, Bloom describes Dante's standing in relation to other major poets. He also discusses how Dante's place in the literary canon is affirmed by other poets, and how he is regarded in modern times as *the* Christian poet.

Dante for the New Millennium. Edited by **Teodolinda Barolini** and **H. Wayne Storey**. New York: Fordham University Press, 2003. 498 p. (Fordham Series in Medieval Studies, 2)

Collects a group of articles from the Dante2000 Conference held at Columbia University on April 7-9, 2000. In their introductory discussion (ix-xxiii), Barolini and Storey stress the need to explore new avenues of interpretation in Dante studies.

David, Nicolette. *Love, Hate, and Literature: Kleinian Readings of Dante, Ponge, Rilke, and Sarraute*. New York: Peter Lang Publishing, 2003. 225 p. (Reshaping of Psychoanalysis.)

Employing Klein's insights into infantile fantasy, the author focuses on Dante and three modern writers who, she argues, exemplify a Kleinian transformation of fantasies into literary texts. Particularly pertinent for a study of Dante are remarks showing how Klein's model helps the reader interpret Dante's fantasies of gratification and frustration through an examination of patterns of imagery.

Mirsky, Mark Jay. *Dante, Eros, & Kabbalah*. New York: Syracuse University Press, 2003. 234 p.

Discusses connections with Jewish mysticism in Dante's work (especially with the *Zohar* of Moses de Leon, whose ideas may have had some influence on Dante), and considers the possibility that Dante's relationship with Beatrice was not simply erotic but sexual in nature.

Newman, Barbara. *God and the Goddesses: Vision, Poetry and Belief in the Middle Ages*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2003. xiii, 446 p.

Referring briefly to Dante's conception of Beatrice as an earthly goddess, the author claims that the poet embraces a mystical rather than courtly concept of love, arguing that in the *Vita Nuova* and in *Paradiso* Beatrice incarnates and unites Amor and Caritas through her death.

Pearl, Matthew. *The Dante Club: A Novel*. New York: Random House, 2003. 400 p.

Pearl crafts a fictional murder mystery involving a group of Harvard professors in Cambridge circa 1865 several of whom would later become founding members of the Dante Society of America. As Henry Wadsworth Longfellow works on his translation of the *Divine Comedy* for an American readership, the group is beset by a series of murders that appear to re-enact scenes from *Inferno*. Highly readable simply as a mystery, the book reveals a detailed and accurate understanding of Dante's work, his cultural presence in nineteenth-century Boston society, and the origins of the Dante Society.

Articles

Addison, Catherine. "Little Boxes: The Effects of the Stanza on Poetic Narrative." *Style* 37:2 (2003), 124-143, 251.

Discusses the use and effects of the stanza in the discourse of narrative poetry, referring to Dante's text only for specific examples of the use of *terza rima*. Addison claims that the stanza creates a tension when used in epic works such as Dante's, which provides for the possibility of "forward extension," and argues that the specific effect of the use of Dante's stanza is equivalent to that of Milton's blank verse in *Paradise Lost*.

Ahern, John. "What did the First Copies of the "Comedy" Look Like?" In *Dante for the New Millennium* (q.v.), 1-15.

Considers how Dante originally promoted and circulated his works, while examining the physical attributes of the early manuscripts and how they were received at the time of their copying.

Baranski, Zygmunt G. "Scatology and Obscenity in Dante." In *Dante for the New Millennium* (q.v.), 259-73.

Undertakes to recontextualize a sometimes misunderstood aspect of Dante's work., specifically calling into question established readings of *Inferno* 18, arguing that Dante is much more willing to employ scatological references than sexual ones, an attitude based on the apparently greater tolerance for scatology than sexual reference in the text of the Bible.

Barolini, Teodolinda. "Beyond (Courtly) Dualism: Thinking about Gender in Dante's Lyrics." In *Dante for the New Millennium* (q.v.), 65-89.

Traces the changes of Dante's *persona* from courtly to public poet through an examination of his treatment of women. Progresses far beyond the presentation of women in traditional courtly poetry as inactive individuals, Dante develops an image of woman who is more integrated with the world and its culture.

Bartoli, Lorenzo. "Bruni e Boccaccio biografi di Dante: appunti filologici." *Electronic Bulletin of the Dante Society of America*: posted November 14, 2003, at <http://www.princeton.edu/~dante/ebdsa>.

Beaudin, Elizabeth A.S. "Dante: Imagining Salvation." In *Dante Alighieri*, ed. Bloom (q.v.), 49-72.

Argues that a considerable tension between realism and allegory is present in the *Commedia*, a phenomenon that further contributes to the work's power to draw the reader eye's "upward."

Boitani, Piero. "Moby-Dante?" In *Dante for the New Millennium* (q.v.), 435-50.

Outlines a relationship, in point of a shared concept of heroism, between Ahab, in Melville's *Moby-Dick*, and Dante's Ulysses.

Borges, Jorge Luis. "Nine Dantesque Essays 1945-1951." In *Dante Alighieri*, ed. Bloom (q.v.), 81-116.

Reprinted from *Selected Non-Fictions by Jorge Luis Borges*, edited by Eliot Weinberger (New York: Penguin Putnam, 1999).

Botterill, Steven. "Mysticism and Meaning in Dante's *Paradiso*." In *Dante for the New Millennium (q.v.)*, 143-51.

Examines Dante's frequent exclusion from the traditional canon of mystical authors. The enduring meaning of *Paradiso*, if not its every word, should be considered mystical in nature.

Carugati, Giuliana. "*Quando amor fa sentir de la sua pace*." In *Dante for the New Millennium (q.v.)*, 211-27.

Contends that Dante uses erotic and romantic language in Neoplatonic ways in order to present ideas that have long since been forgotten by the Church, concluding that when Dante thinks of God, he thinks of a woman.

Cestaro, Gary P. "Queering Nature, Queering Gender: Dante and Sodomy." In *Dante for the New Millennium (q.v.)*, 90-103.

Departing from a consideration of the scholarly treatment of sodomy in *Inferno* 15-16, Cestaro argues for a more theoretically-informed understanding of the subject within the modern context.

Cornish, Alison. "Vulgarizing Science: Vernacular Translation of Natural Philosophy." In *Dante for the New Millennium (q.v.)*, 169-82.

Analyzes Dante's attempt to make the practice of natural science more readily accessible to the public by employing the vernacular to convey meteorological descriptions.

Cuzzilla, Tony. "Par. 32.139: 'Ma perché 'l tempo fugge che t'assonna.'" *Electronic Bulletin of the Dante Society of America*: posted March 15, 2003, at <http://www.princeton.edu/~dante/ebdsa>.

Durling, Robert M. "The Body and the Flesh in the *Purgatorio*." In *Dante for the New Millennium (q.v.)*, 183-91.

Discusses the importance of the distinction between body and flesh with respect to Dante's poetics in the *Purgatorio*, focusing primarily on the terrace of pride. The distinction is vital to an understanding of the representation of souls in *Purgatorio* as "virtual" bodies.

Fosca, Nicola. "*Inferno* XIII.99: ". . . come gran di spelta." *Electronic Bulletin of the Dante Society of America*: posted September 27, 2003, at www.dantesociety.org > Publications > Electronic Journal (EBDSA).

Adverting to previous studies by Hollander and Cassell that link Pier della Vigna to the figure of Judas, the author argues that the image of the "gran di spelta" expresses figurally the degeneration of the Eucharistic "pane," just as the suicide represents "esattamente l'opposto del sacrificio di Cristo."

Gorni, Guglielmo. "Material Philology, Conjectural Philology, Philology without Adjectives." In **Bloom**, *Dante for the New Millennium (q.v.)*, 44-55.

Argues that philology constitutes an important science that should not be entrusted to "technicians," but rather to those with an open mind unconstrained by any single critical approach.

Gragnolati, Manuele. “From Plurality to (Near) Unicity of Forms: Embryology in *Purgatorio* 25.” In *Dante for the New Millennium* (q.v.), 192-210.

Reassessing the longstanding question about the nature of the human soul after the death of the body, Gragnolati argues that Dante’s conception is not sufficiently resolved to admit of a definitive answer because he drew on multiple sources, including those of Aquinas and Bonaventure.

Hawkins, Peter S., and Rachel Jacoff. “Still Here: Dante after Modernism.” In *Dante for the New Millennium* (q.v.), 451-64.

The authors trace the influence of Dante on twentieth-century poets, focusing on the remarks of T.S. Eliot, Derek Walcott, Seamus Heaney, Charles Wright, and Gjertrud Schnackenberg, among others.

Herzman, Ronald. “From Francis to Solomon: Eschatology in the Sun.” In *Dante for the New Millennium* (q.v.), 320-33.

Argues that Dante depicts Francis of Assisi’s life in the *Commedia* because the saint served as a model for Dante’s himself, as an example of humility. In this light he conducts a reading of the saint’s pseudo-presence in the Heaven of the Sun (*Par.* 10) together with that of Solomon’s real presence.

Hipolito, T.A. “The Ancient and the Modern in Dante’s *Vita Nuova*.” *Renascence*, 55:2 (2003), 111-32.

Although as a “quintessentially medieval work” the *Vita Nuova* can appear somewhat unsettling to a modern temperament for its comparison of Beatrice with Christ, Dante’s concept of love nevertheless reflects the general elevation of religious love over secular love in the Middle Ages. At the same time, however, the author claims that Dante’s work is intensely modern in the way in which Dante represents self-consciousness and expounds a theory of literature.

Hollander, Robert and Heather Russo. “*Purgatorio* 33.43: Dante’s 515 and Virgil’s 333.” *Electronic Bulletin of the Dante Society of America*: posted March 27, 2003, at <http://www.princeton.edu/~dante/ebdsa>.

Holmes, Olivia. “Dante’s Choice and Romance Narratives of Two Beloveds.” *Dante Studies*, 121 (2003): 109-47.

Iannucci, Amilcare A. “Already and Not Yet: Dante’s Existential Eschatology.” In *Dante for the New Millennium* (q.v.), 334-48.

Contends that the magnitude of the calamities atop the mountain of Purgatory serialized in *Purgatorio* 28-33 suggests Dante must have believed that the end of time was near.

Kay, Richard. “Unwintering January (Dante, *Paradiso* 27.142-143).” *MLN*, 118 (2003), 237-44.

Undertakes to debunk the commonly held interpretation of the “unwintering” of January mentioned in *Paradiso* by arguing that the apparently obscure aspect of the prophecy in fact relates to particular aspects of the Julian calendar and other astrological and astronomical signs.

According to Kay's hypothesis, Dante understands that January would be a spring month based on the precession of the equinoxes, not on the tropical and solar year as described in the Julian calendar.

Kay, Richard. "Dante's Empyrean and the Eye of God." *Speculum*, 78 (2003), 37-65.

Contends that the Empyrean is in fact an image of God's Eye. To establish this comparison Dante needed to subscribe to and make use of the extramission theory of vision that bases sight on rays coming out of rather than into the eye, because God's Eye was not otherwise available to him as an iconic image.

Kleinhenz, Christopher. "On Dante and the Visual Arts." In *Dante for the New Millennium* (q.v.), 274-92.

Relates Dante's desire for narrative to be understood both horizontally and vertically to his study of visual representations, specifically those of mosaics of the Florentine Baptistery.

Levenstein, Jessica. "The Re-Formation of Marsyas in *Paradiso* 1." In *Dante for the New Millennium* (q.v.), 408-21.

Concentrates on a celebrated aspect of Ovid's influence on Dante's work, the episode of Marsyas in the sixth book of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, finding that Dante presents a re-imagining of Ovid's scene in the first canto of *Paradiso*.

Luzzi, Joseph. "Literary Lion: Alfieri's Prince, Dante, and the Romantic Self." *Italica*, 80, No. 2 (Summer, 2003): 175-94.

Martinez, Ronald L. "Dante's Jeremiads: The Fall of Jerusalem and the Burden of the New Pharisees, the Capetians, and Florence." In *Dante for the New Millennium* (q.v.), 301-19.

Compares Florence with Jerusalem as cities destined for a kind of divine destruction, providing an analysis of a number of cantos that reinforce this idea, in particular *Inferno* 19 and 23, and *Purgatorio* 20 and 23.

Mazzotta, Giuseppe. "The Heaven of the Sun: Dante between Aquinas and Bonaventure." In *Dante for the New Millennium* (q.v.), 152-68.

Addresses Dante's focus on doctrinal controversies in the Sphere of the Sun, tracing Dante's treatment of philosophical and theological concepts in this area to Saints Bonaventure and Aquinas, the two figures to whom he most substantially owes his understanding of Christian spirituality and doctrine.

Merrill, James. "Divine Poem." In *Dante Alighieri*, ed. Bloom (q.v.), 73-80.

Reprinted from *The Poets' Dante*, edited by Peter S. Hawkins and Rachel Jacoff (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2001).

Noakes, Susan. "Virility, Nobility, and Banking: The Crossing of Discourses in the *Tenzone* with Forese." In *Dante for the New Millennium* (q.v.), 241-58.

Assesses the newly discovered information regarding the social and biographical background to Dante's exchange of sonnets with his friend Forese Donati, arguing that the sonnets need to be re-contextualized.

Nohrnberg, James. "The Autobiographical Imperative and the Necessity of 'Dante': *Purgatorio* 30.55." *Modern Philology*, 101, No. 1 (August 2003): 1-47.

Pappot, Gemma. "L'*Inferno* de Proust à la lumière de Dante." *Marcel Proust Aujourd'hui* 1 (2003): 91-118.

Pertile, Lino. "Does the *Stilnovo* Go to Heaven?" In *Dante for the New Millennium (q.v.)*, 104-14.

Answering his own question, the author argues that what is punished in Hell and purged in Purgatory bears no resemblance to the love experienced in Heaven, which extends beyond time and space.

Picone, Michelangelo. "Ovid and the *Exul Inmeritus*." In *Dante for the New Millennium (q.v.)*, 389-407.

Traces the influence of Ovid on Dante's texts, focusing in particular on the topic of exile in the later works of Ovid.

Psaki, F. Regina. "Love for Beatrice: Transcending Contradiction in the *Paradiso*." In *Dante for the New Millennium (q.v.)*, 115-30.

Describes Dante's "reconciliation of human sexual love and divine love" as a program organizing yet other kinds of reconciliations that take place in *Paradiso*, and then assesses the tendency shared by both medieval and modern cultures to "stage important debates in imagistic rather than analytical language."

Sanna, Ellyn. "Biography of Dante Alighieri." In *Dante Alighieri*, ed. **Bloom** (q.v.), 13-48.

Provides a biographical description of Dante's life and times.

Scott, John A. "*Paradiso* 22.151: 'L' aiuola che ci fa tanto feroci': Philology and Hermeneutics." *Electronic Bulletin of the Dante Society of America*: posted April 29, 2003, at <http://www.princeton.edu/~dante/ebdsa>.

Signorelli-Pappas, Rita. "Imagining the Author's Gaze: Ancient and Modern Exile Literature in Translation." *Literary Review: An International Journal of Contemporary Writing*, 46: 4 (2003), 753.

Provides an appraisal of Jean and Robert Hollander's recent translation of the *Purgatorio*.

Stark, John. "The Old Man of Crete." *Forum Italicum*, 37 (2003), 5-20.

Critiques the established readings of the Old Man of Crete (*Inferno* 14) for excessive reliance on sources external to Dante's own work, arguing in particular the importance the four rivers of Hell play in coordinating its meaning.

Storey, H. Wayne. "Early Editorial Forms of Dante's Lyrics." In *Dante for the New Millennium (q.v.)*, 16-43.

Examines how the work of professional scribes and manuscript copyists resulted in modifications of the original text for an number of different reasons, including the need to

accommodate the desires or needs of a commissioning patron, a specific readership audience, or even the copyist himself.

Thompson, Andrew. "George Eliot's Borrowings from Dante: A List of Sources." *George Eliot - George Henry Lewes Studies*, No. 44/45 (September 2003): 26-74.

Vettori, Alessandro. "Veronica: Dante's Pilgrimage from Image to Vision." *Dante Studies*, No. 121 (2003): 43-65.

Wallace, David. "Dante in England." In *Dante for the New Millennium (q.v.)*, 422-34.
Describes the positive reception that Dante's work has received in England, stemming in part from perceptions of his religious affiliation during the Reformation.

Webb, Heather. "Dante's Stone Cold Rhymes." *Dante Studies*, 121 (2003): 149-68.

Wei, Yeo Wei. "Embodiment in the *Commedia*: Dante's Exilic and Poetic Self-Consciousness." *Dante Studies*, 121 (2003): 67-93.

Reviews

Alighieri, Dante. *Inferno*. Translated by **Jean Hollander** and **Robert Hollander**. New York: Doubleday, 2000. Reviewed by:
Theodore J. Cachey Jr., *Speculum*, 78 (2003), 155-58.

Barański, Zygmunt G. *Dante e i segni: Saggi per una storia intellettuale di Dante Alighieri; "Chiosar con altro testo": Leggere Dante nel Trecento*. Reviewed by:
Albert Russell Ascoli, *Speculum* 78, No. 4 (2003): 1241-44.

Boldrini, Lucia. *Joyce, Dante, and the Poetics of Literary Relations: Language and Meaning in "Finnegans Wake."* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001. Reviewed by:
Katherine Mullin, *The Review of English Studies*, New Series, 54, No. 213 (2003): 146-47.
Stephen Sicari, *James Joyce Quarterly* 40, No. 4 (Summer, 2003): 849-51.

Boyde, Patrick. *Human Vices and Human Worth in Dante's "Comedy."* Cambridge, Eng.: Cambridge University Press, 2000. Reviewed by:
Steven Botterill, *Speculum*, 78 (2003), 147-49.

Bruni, Francesco. *La città divisa. Le parti e il bene comune da Dante a Guicciardini*. Bologna: Il Mulino, 2003. Reviewed by:
Dino S. Cervigni, *Annali d'Italianistica*, 21 (2003): 517-20.

The Dante Encyclopedia. Edited by **Lansing, Richard**. New York and London: Garland, 2000. Reviewed by:
Dennis Looney, *Speculum* 78, no. 3 (Jul., 2003): 934-36.

Fraser, Jennifer Margaret. *Rite of Passage in the Narratives of Dante and Joyce.* Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2002. Reviewed by:

Gian Balsamo, *James Joyce Quarterly* 41, No. 1/2 (Fall, 2003-Winter, 2004): 304-07 .

Norma Bouchard, *Annali d'Italianistica* 21 (2003): 534-36.

Gorni, Guglielmo. *Dante prima della "Commedia."* Fiesole: Cadmo, 2001. Reviewed by:

Fabian Alfie, *Speculum*, 78 (2003), 177-79.

Hawkins, Peter S. *Dante's Testaments: Essays in Scriptural Imagination.* Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1999. Reviewed by:

Francesca Parmeggiani, *Italica*, 80, No. 2 (Summer, 2003): 243-45.

Hollander, Robert. *Dante: A Life in Works.* Yale University Press, 2001. Reviewed by:

John Ahern, *Speculum*, 78, No. 3 (Jul., 2003): 894-96.

Christopher Kleinhenz, *The Sixteenth Century Journal*, Vol. 34, No. 2 (2003): 616-18.

Hollander, Robert, and Jean Hollander. *Inferno.* New York: Doubleday, 2000. Reviewed by:

Theodore J. Cachey Jr., *Speculum* 78, No. 1 (Jan., 2003): 155-58;

Charles Klopp, *Italica* 80 (2003): 578-80.

Hollander, Robert, and Jean Hollander. *Purgatorio.* New York: Doubleday, 2003. Reviewed by:

Charles Klopp, *Italica*, 80 (2003): 578-80.

Howard, Lloyd. *Formulas of Repetition in Dante's "Commedia": Signposted Journeys across Textual Space.* Montreal and Kingston, Ontario, Canada: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2001. Reviewed by:

John Kerr, *Speculum*, 78 (2003), 523-25.

Ledda, Giuseppe. *La guerra della lingua. Ineffabilità e narrativa nella "Commedia" di Dante.* Ravenna: Longo Editore, 2002. Reviewed by:

Diego Fasolini, *Annali d'Italianistica*, 21 (2003): 529-30.

Raffa, Guy P. *Divine Dialectic: Dante's Incarnational Poetry.* Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2001. Reviewed by:

Giuseppe Di Scipio, *Renaissance Quarterly* 56.2 (2003): 459-60.

Corrada Biazzo Curry, *South Central Review*, 20, No. 2/4 (2003): 168-72.

Reading Medieval Studies 27 (2001). Special Issue. *Dante. Current Trend in Dante Studies.* Edited by **Claire E. Honess.** Reviewed by:

Julio Picasso Muñoz, *Annali d'Italianistica*, 21 (2003): 532-34.

Sparks and Seeds: Medieval Literature and Its Afterlife: Essays in Honor of John Freccero. Edited by **Alison Cornish** and **Dana E. Stewart.** Reviewed by:

Giuseppe C. Di Scipio, *Renaissance Quarterly*, 56, no. 3 (2003): 758-60.

Scorrano, Luigi. *Il Dante 'fascista.'* Saggi, letture, note dantesche. Ravenna: Longo Editore, 2001. Reviewed by:

Fabian Alfie, *Italica*, 80, No. 1 (2003): 89-91.

Smith, Graham. *The Stone of Dante and Later Florentine Celebrations of the Poet.* Reviewed by:

Aida Audeh, *Annali d'Italianistica*, 21 (2003): 526-28.