

## Caterina De Medici

Il carteggio tra Cristina e sua figlia Caterina rappresenta un caso unico nel panorama epistolare conservato in casa Medici, per l'ampiezza, per la varietà dei temi trattati, per il tono intimo e confidenziale che traspare dalle lettere. Nei dieci anni trascorsi a Mantova da Caterina le due donne si scambiarono consigli, raccomandazioni e timori che ci permettono di seguire e delineare lo scenario più ampio in cui si muovevano entrambe. Con questa edizione abbiamo ricreato l'unità di un fitto scambio epistolare, costituitosi come unicum nella volontà della scrivente, ma separato poi in due nuclei distinti nelle vicende della sua trasmissione. Sono qui pubblicate le lettere inviate dalla granduchessa Cristina di Lorena alla figlia Caterina de' Medici Gonzaga presenti nella filza 6110 del fondo Mediceo del Principato conservato nell'Archivio di Stato di Firenze e nelle buste 1095, 1096 e 1097 dell'Archivio Gonzaga presso l'Archivio di Stato di Mantova.

Leaving her native Florence to marry Henry II of France, Catherine de Medici embarks on an unanticipated destiny of religious warfare, thwarted leadership and psychologically charged royal machinations. By the author of *The Last Queen*. An innovative analysis of the representational strategies that constructed Catherine de' Medici and sought to explain her behaviour and motivations.

A quattordici anni, Caterina, l'ultima legittima discendente dei Medici, viene promessa in sposa al figlio di Francesco I di Francia, Enrico. Allontanata da Firenze, umiliata in Francia dove il marito le preferirà l'amante Diana di Poitiers e dove per la corte rimase sempre e comunque «la straniera», Caterina seppe emergere dall'oscurità della storia e diventare una delle figure significative del sedicesimo secolo. Mecenate di Nostradamus e lei stessa veggente, accusata di stregoneria e di omicidio dai suoi nemici, Caterina in realtà combatté per salvare la Francia e i suoi figli dalla feroce guerra di religione che imperversava in Europa, inconsapevole del destino che l'attendeva. Ma nessuno lo riconobbe. Dallo splendore dei palazzi sulla Loira ai campi di battaglia insanguinati, ai meandri oscuri del palazzo del Louvre, questa è la storia di Caterina, raccontata dalla viva voce della regina. Né vittima né eroina, Caterina è la perfetta incarnazione dello spirito dei suoi tempi: una donna ambiziosa, che ha vissuto uno dei periodi più difficili della storia barcamenandosi tra opposte fazioni, combattendo per i suoi sogni e affrontando i pericoli e le manovre del potere con coraggio e tenacia. La sua vita è un avvincente romanzo d'avventura, scandita da lotte, tradimenti, intrighi e passioni.

Lucrezia Tornabuoni de' Medici and the Medici Family in the Fifteenth Century is a fresh, new biography of a Renaissance woman who lived during the heyday of Medici power. A remarkable person in her own right, the author of religious poems and sacred narratives, as well as an accomplished businesswoman, Lucrezia was the mother of Lorenzo the Magnificent, the grandmother of

two popes, and the great-great grandmother of Catherine de' Medici, Queen of France. This glimpse of her life and times is a window onto the political intrigues and intellectual achievements of Medici Florence.

Viewed traditionally, the history of sixteenth-century Mantuan music is almost a catalogue of some of the most distinguished composers of the age, from Tromboncino and Cara, via Jacquet of Mantua, to Wert, Palestrina, Marenzio, Pallavicino, Gastoldi, Rossi and Monteverdi. The remarkable achievements of composers under Gonzaga patronage, practically synonymous with Mantuan patronage during this period, are treated here in their social context. The arguments proceed not just from the music itself, but from detailed examination of archival sources, from which Dr Fenlon reconstructs employment patterns and describes the social structure and institutional life of the city. The aim of the book is to show how the patterns of patronage, and music and musicians, reflect and illuminate the temperaments and prime preoccupations of successive rulers. The book contains a substantial appendix of unpublished archival documents, a small proportion only of the scholarly and comparative sources on which the study is based.

Scandal and Reputation at the Court of Catherine de Medici explores Catherine de Medici's 'flying squadron', the legendary ladies-in-waiting of the sixteenth-century French queen mother who were alleged to have been ordered to seduce politically influential men for their mistress's own Machiavellian purposes. Branded a 'cabal of cuckoldry' by a contemporary critic, these women were involved in scandals that have encouraged a perception, which continues in much academic literature, of the late Valois court as debauched and corrupt. Rather than trying to establish the guilt or innocence of the accused, Una McIlvenna here focuses on representations of the scandals in popular culture and print, and on the collective portrayal of the women in the libelous and often pornographic literature that circulated information about the court. She traces the origins of this material to the all-male intellectual elite of the parlementaires: lawyers and magistrates who expressed their disapproval of Catherine's political and religious decisions through misogynist pamphlets and verse that targeted the women of her entourage. Scandal and Reputation at the Court of Catherine de Medici reveals accusations of poisoning and incest to be literary tropes within a tradition of female defamation dating to classical times that encouraged a collective and universalizing notion of women as sexually voracious, duplicitous and, ultimately, dangerous. In its focus on manuscript and early print culture, and on the transition from a world of orality to one dominated by literacy and textuality, this study has relevance for scholars of literary history, particularly those interested in pamphlet and libel culture.

Poisoner, despot, necromancer -- the dark legend of Catherine de Medici is centuries old. In this critically hailed biography, Leonie Frieda reclaims the story of this unjustly maligned queen to reveal a skilled ruler battling extraordinary political and personal odds -- from a troubled childhood in Florence to her marriage to Henry, son of King Francis I of France; from her transformation of French culture to her fight to protect her throne and her sons' birthright. Based on thousands of private letters, it is a remarkable account of one of the most influential women ever to wear a crown.

In Jesuit Foundations and Medici Power, 1532-1621 Kathleen M. Comerford traces the rise of the Medici Grand Dukes and three

Jesuit colleges in Tuscany. The book focuses on church/state cooperation in an age in which both institutions underwent significant changes.

Catherine de' Medici (1519-89) was the wife of one king of France and the mother of three more - the last, sorry representatives of the Valois, who had ruled France since 1328. She herself is of preeminent importance to French history, and one of the most controversial of all historical figures. Despised until she was powerful enough to be hated, she was, in her own lifetime and since, the subject of a "Black Legend" that has made her a favourite subject of historical novelists (most notably Alexandre Dumas, whose Reine Margot has recently had new currency on film). Yet there is no recent biography of her in English. This new study, by a leading scholar of Renaissance France, is a major event. Catherine, a neglected and insignificant member of the Florentine Medici, entered French history in 1533 when she married the son of Francis I for short-lived political reasons: her uncle was pope Clement VII, who died the following year. Now of no diplomatic value, Catherine was treated with contempt at the French court even after her husband's accession as Henry II in 1547. Even so, she gave him ten children before he was killed in a tournament in 1559. She was left with three young boys, who succeeded to the throne as Francis II (1559-60), Charles IX (1560-74) and Henry III (1574-89). As regent and queen-mother, a woman and with no natural power-base of her own, she faced impossible odds. France was accelerating into chaos, with political faction at court and religious conflict throughout the land. As the country disintegrated, Catherine's overriding concern was for the interests of her children. She was tireless in her efforts to protect her sons' inheritance, and to settle her daughters in advantageous marriages. But France needed more. Catherine herself was both peace-loving and, in an age of frenzied religious hatred, unbigoted. She tried to use the Huguenots to counterbalance the growing power of the ultra-Catholic Guises but extremism on all sides frustrated her. She was drawn into the violence. Her name is ineradicably associated with its culmination, the Massacre of St Bartholomew (24 August 1572), when thousands of Huguenots were slaughtered in Paris and elsewhere. To this day no-one knows for certain whether Catherine instigated the massacre or not, but here Robert Knecht explores the probabilities in a notably level-headed fashion. His book is a gripping narrative in its own right. It offers both a lucid exposition of immensely complex events (with their profound impact on the future of France), and also a convincing portrait of its enigmatic central character. In going behind the familiar Black Legend, Professor Knecht does not make the mistake of whitewashing Catherine; but he shows how intractable was her world, and how shifty or intransigent the people with whom she had to deal. For all her flaws, she emerges as a more sympathetic - and, in her pragmatism, more modern - figure than most of her leading contemporaries.

An illuminating account of how history shapes our diets—now in a new revised and updated Third Edition Why did the ancient Romans believe cinnamon grew in swamps guarded by giant killer bats? How did African cultures imported by slavery influence cooking in the American South? What does the 700-seat McDonald's in Beijing serve in the age of globalization? With the answers to these and many more such questions, *Cuisine and Culture, Third Edition* presents an engaging, entertaining, and informative exploration of the interactions among history, culture, and food. From prehistory and the earliest societies in the Fertile Crescent to





of the Medici women within a critical framework of gender analysis, rather than biography. Using the relationship between gender and power as a vantage point, she analyzes the Medici women's uses of power and influence over time. She also analyzes the varied contemporary reactions to and representation of that power, and the manner in which the women's actions in the political sphere changed over the course of the century between republican and ducal rule (1434-1537). The narrative focuses especially on how women were able to exercise power, the constraints placed upon them, and how their gender intersected with the exercise of power and influence. Keeping the historiography to a minimum and explaining all unfamiliar Italian terms, Tomas makes her narrative clear and accessible to non-specialists; thus *The Medici Women* appeals to scholars of women's studies across disciplines and geographical boundaries.

Provides alphabetically arranged entries on the people, issues, and events of the European Renaissance and Reformation, as well as individual entries on each country.

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