

“Italiens de langue française”. Franco-Italian literature across the centuries

Special issue of the journal “Costellazioni” (n° 26) edited by Martina Bolici, Filippo Fonio and Chiara Zambelli (Université Grenoble Alpes-France)

Francophilia has accompanied the history of Italian literature from the Middle Ages to the present day. It appeared as an essential cultural matrix, especially at times of transition for Italian culture, such as the Middle Ages, the eighteenth century, the end of the nineteenth century or the contemporary context, and also gave birth to a rich allophone literature, which has been too often ignored especially because it was considered as heterodox, unclassifiable, non-canonical. Brunetto Latini, Marco Polo, Giovanni Paolo Marana, Giacomo Casanova, Luigi Gualdo, Filippo Tommaso Marinetti, Gabriele D'Annunzio, Simonetta Greggio, Giulio Minghini, and Gilda Piersanti are among the many authors who used French as a language of writing. Moreover, this phenomenon is not limited to France, but it has taken on a global dimension, through the production of allophone writings by Italians in other Francophone areas such as Belgium, the French-speaking parts of Switzerland, Africa and the Americas (for instance the works of Bianca Zagolin, Antonio D'Alfonso, Fulvio Caccia, Pierre Lepori, Daniel Maggetti, Girolamo Santocono, Gerardo Lambertoni, Mario Scalesi).

Besides the cultural and literary prestige of Italy's “Latin sister”, which is constantly present in the Italian imagery as a source of inspiration and as a model, different individual paths contributed to such exchanges which resulted in a thriving Francophone literary production. From the Italian exiles who lived abroad during the Middle Ages, the Renaissance or the Risorgimento, to the contemporary dynamics of economical, political and intellectual migration, from cosmopolitanism, multicultural identity or hybridity to privileged editorial networks, there have been many reasons which gave birth to a mosaic of individual paths resulting in the choice or the necessity of writing in French.

The papers we aim to collect are intended to account for these complex transcultural and translingual dynamics, to define more clearly its morphology, as well as to reflect on a necessary critical and epistemological categorization.

The topics we intend to cover are the following:

- Franco-Italian literature: authors, movements, influence, works;
- The position of Franco-Italian writers within European and global Francophonia;
- Translation and self-translation practices between the two languages;
- Cultural ambassadors and the dynamics of reception;
- Franco-Italian journals.

Interested scholars are invited to submit papers between 25000 and 40000 characters, including spaces, footnotes and bibliography. Papers will be evaluated through a double-blind peer-review process.

The issue will be published, in print and on online version, on February 1st 2025.

Abstracts should be sent to the following addresses:

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Publication schedule:

15 May 2023: deadline for abstracts of approximately 500 words, in Italian, French or English, with the addition of a short bio-bibliographical notice.

15 June 2023: notification of acceptance, invitation to write full-length papers.

15 September 2023: deadline for full-length papers.