

Poems (The I Tatti Renaissance Library)

Cristoforo Landino



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Cristoforo Landino (1424–1498), one of the great scholar-poets of the Renaissance, is best known today for his Platonizing commentaries on Dante and Vergil. His most substantial work of poetry was his *Three Books on Xandra*, written while still a young man. They consist primarily of love poetry in Latin directed to his lady-love Alessandra, but they also chronicle his life, friendships, literary studies, and the patronage of his work by Piero de' Medici. Inspired equally by the ancient Roman love-elegy and by Petrarch's *Canzoniere*, the poems illustrate the mingling of classical and vernacular traditions characteristic of the age of Lorenzo de' Medici. Also included in this volume is the *Carmina Varia*, a collection whose centerpiece is a group of elegies directed to the Venetian humanist Bernardo Bembo. These bring to life the Platonic passion Bembo conceived for Ginevra de'Benci, later the subject of a famous painting by Leonardo da Vinci. This edition contains the first translation of both works into English.

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