

Abstract

This thesis discusses Lorenzo de' Medici's era and literary work. In the first part, Lorenzo's personage is introduced and put into historical and cultural context. Given its importance for social changes, a separate chapter is dedicated to humanism and its eminent personalities. Neoplatonism and Lorenzo's patronage and cultural activities are also mentioned. The second part of the thesis is dedicated to Lorenzo de' Medici's own literary work, paying particular attention to his comical poems inspired by rustic life, especially some of his carnival chants (*canti carnascialeschi*) and the poem *Nencia da Barberino*, which are then analyzed. In the conclusion, this study briefly deals with the controversy caused by the connection between Lorenzo's poetry and his government.

Keywords: Lorenzo de' Medici, humanism, Neoplatonism, *volgare*, patronage, comical and realistic poetry, carnival chants.