

Isabella Andreini, *La Mirtilla*, a cura di Maria Luisa Doglio, Lucca: Maria Pacini Fazzi, 1995. Lire 14.000.

This first modern edition of Andreini's first literary experiment is based on the *editio princeps* of 1588. The pastoral, published when the actress, aged 28, was already famous as the *prima donna* of the Company of the *Gelosi*, marks in the history of the genre some notable developments, such as the admixture of the rustic element with the idyllic and the introduction of the comic figure of the prodigious eater, proper to the gastronomic epic and to popular literature. Unlike Tasso's *Aminta*, suffused with melancholy, Andreini's pastoral presents a less ambiguous view of love and a more positive view of life.

Doglio's succinct introduction to the play highlights its inner structure and traces Andreini's literary sources. Petrarch, Poliziano,

Tasso, are prevalent; to a lesser extent there are echoes of the rustic tradition and of didactic poetry interwoven with classical reminiscences. The notes which follow the text further illustrate these influences.

The editor has traced with scholarly scruple all the editions of the pastoral, thus furnishing proof of its popularity through time. Also reproduced are the variants which distinguish the Bergamo edition of 1594 from the *princeps*.

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