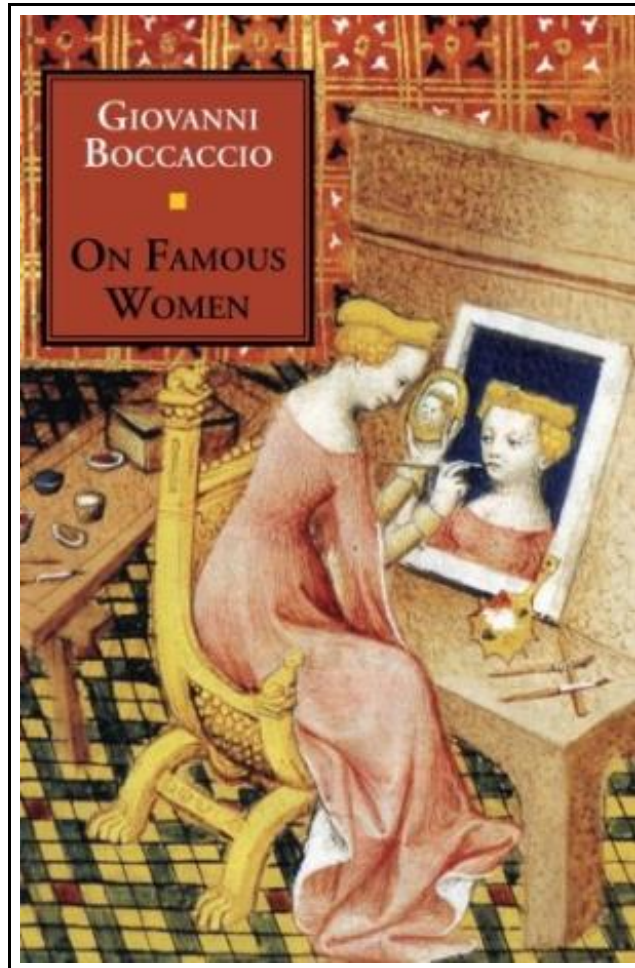


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Reviews

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ON FAMOUS WOMEN (PAPERBACK)



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Italice Press, United States, 2011. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 2nd. 216 x 138 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Boccaccio s On Famous Women (De claris mulieribus) is a remarkable work that contains the lives of one hundred and six women in myth and history, ranging from Eve to Boccaccio s contemporary, Queen Giovanna I of Naples. It is the first collection of women s biographies ever written. Boccaccio composed it at Certaldo in 1361/62 and revised it in various stages to the end of his life in 1375. He dedicated it to Andrea Acciaiuoli, countess of Altavilla in the kingdom of Naples and sister of Niccolo Acciaiuoli, the grand seneschal of Queen Giovanna I. In his preface the author states that the biographies of illustrious men had been written often by a number of excellent writers, and he cited his hero Petrarch s Lives of Famous Men (De viris illustribus) as an example. No one, however, had ever done the same for women. Boccaccio therefore presents a wide variety of women from antiquity to his own time, offering their lives as both moral exempla and entertaining reading. Boccaccio is best known as the author of the Decameron in which he portrayed women among the lieta brigata of pleasure-seeking young aristocrats and among the various characters of their tales. But in these biographies we find more serious themes that became standards of the Renaissance: secular and religious life; politics and private life; fame, fortune and earthly power; advantage and adversity; women s character, virtues and vices; their social roles, individual talents and achievements. On Famous Women is the earliest source of women s biography in the West and has had a long and distinguished publication career and literary influence. Its impact...



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