

**EARLY ITALIAN
LITERATURE. VOL. 2**

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Early Italian literature. Vol. 2 by Ernesto Grillo

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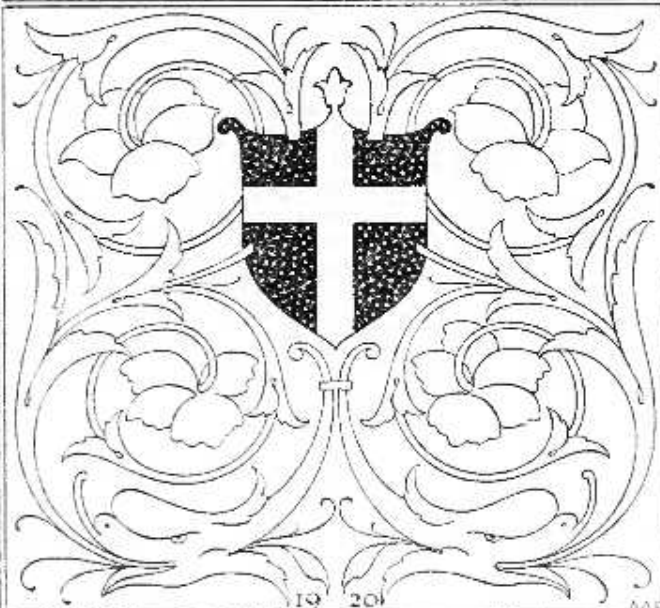
ERNESTO GRILLO

**EARLY ITALIAN
LITERATURE. VOL. 2**

EARLY · ITALIAN
LITERATURE

VOLUME · II · THE DAWN
· OF · ITALIAN · PROSE ·

With Critical Introductions by
ERNESTO · GRILLO · D.Litt.



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J. S. PHILLIMORE et W. M. DIXON

Glasgoviensis Athenarum

MAGISTRIS AMATISSIMIS

HOC QUAEVCUMQUE OPUS

DEDICO

PREFACE

This work has been prepared with the definite aim of unfolding the wealth and beauties of Pre-Dante Italian Literature to University Students and to the cultivated public of the British Isles. I believe that the need of such a book exists, for, since the publication of Rossetti's Extracts from the poets of Dante's circle, nobody in this country has attempted to illustrate the Pre-Dante Italian Literature.

In the first volume, entirely devoted to poetry, due attention has been paid to the origin of the Italian language and to the relations between the Provençal and Italian Literature.

The poetry has been classified into five great schools—Sicilian, Umbrian, Tuscan, Bolognese, Northern—and of the single poets I have endeavoured to give specimens from their works which are characteristic of their style and illustrative of their genius.

The present volume dealing with Prose contains two introductory essays, one on the Origin and Development of the Italian language, and the other on the Early Italian Prose with many illustrative passages from writers from the tenth to the end of the thirteenth century.

Some of the opinions expressed may cause surprise to the orthodox reader, or even meet with his disapproval,

but they are sincere, being the result of patient investigation and embodying the practical experience of nearly fourteen years' teaching of the subject.

In a work of this kind involving the records of so many facts, it is impossible to obtain at once perfect accuracy. I have, however, spared no reading or labour to make the book as accurate as possible, and if it succeeds, even in some small measure, to increase the lovers of Italy and of her literature, I shall be more than satisfied.

ERNESTO GRILLO.

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GLASGOW UNIVERSITY, 1920.

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