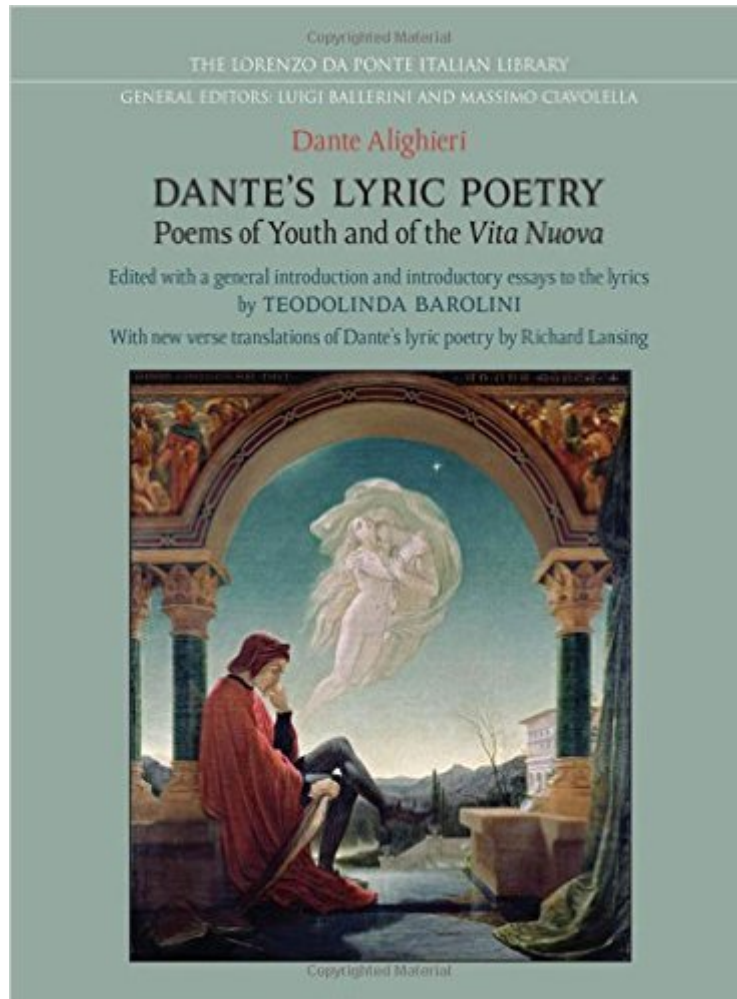


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# Dante's Lyric Poetry: Poems Of Youth And Of The 'Vita Nuova'



## Synopsis

The first comprehensive English translation and commentary on Dante's early verse to be published in almost fifty years, *Dante's Lyric Poetry* includes all the poems written by the young Dante Alighieri between c. 1283 and c. 1292. Essays by Teodolinda Barolini guide the reader through the new verse translations by Richard Lansing, illuminating Dante's transformation from a young courtly poet into the writer of the vast and visionary *Commedia*. Barolini's commentary exposes Dante's lyric poems as early articulations of many of the ideas in the *Commedia*, including the philosophy and psychology of desire and its role as motor of all human activity, the quest for vision and transcendence, the frustrating search for justice on earth, and the transgression of boundaries in society and poetry. A wide-ranging and intelligent examination of one of the most important poets in the Western tradition, this book will be of interest to scholars and poetry-lovers alike.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In *Dante's Lyric Poetry*, Teodolinda Barolini provides introductory essays to Richard Lansing's translations of Dante's "early poetry", from his most youthful efforts through *La Vita Nuova*. The essays function to present each poem in an appropriate literary, cultural and historical framework while following Dante's progress from a youthful courtly poet to the creator of the majestic *Commedia*. In style, the essays are like carefully structured classroom lectures designed to educate the uninitiated as distinct from essays intended for academic insiders. In

essence, Dr. Barolini assumes little on the reader's part but instead educates the reader in the material necessary to grasp the poem's role in Dante's literary and philosophic evolution. Throughout her commentary, Dr. Barolini presents translations (also by Dr. Lansing) from Dante's predecessors and contemporaries providing concrete bases for the comparisons and contrasts that she will employ to place Dante's poetry in historical and biographical perspectives. To appreciate Dr. Lansing's translations simply compare the translation of these lines from *Morte villana*, as found in the Penguin Classic, *La Vita Nuova*: The world thou (death) hast despoiled of courtesy And, of women's virtue that men praise. Of her gay, youthful days. The loveliness thou hast slain wantonly. with the readable, modern, unadorned translation that Dr. Lansing provides: You (death) have deprived this world of courtesy And what in women is revered as worth: In cheerful youthfulness You have destroyed the grace that love creates. More importantly, the rendering of the word *leggiardria* as loveliness in the Penguin text is inconsistent with Dr.

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