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*The Teaching
of Gasparino Barzizza*

*With Special Reference to
his Place in Paduan Humanism*

R. G. G. MERCER

MODERN HUMANITIES RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

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LONDON
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TO CAROLINE

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PREFACE

Most of the literary sources for this work have not been used before by historians and thus it is not so much a re-interpretation of what is already known as an interpretation, for the first time, of fresh material. My major task has been to impose a pattern upon a large body of various documents which are scattered in numerous libraries. One or two of Barzizza's works have been published and even edited, but they have not been seen in relation to the rest of his teaching or to developments in the Italian schools. At the same time, I am obliged to acknowledge my enormous debt to Remigio Sabbadini, whose life-long researches into the textual discoveries of humanists are still, after two generations, a mine of information.

My attempt to assemble and make sense of the sources of Barzizza's teaching does bring with it three possible weaknesses. First, because I try to chart as much unknown territory as possible, extensive quotation from the sources has not been possible within the limits of the thesis, and, for the time being, I thought it better to interpret rather than edit some of the material, even though I often had access to numerous manuscript copies of a work. Secondly, the sources are mostly literary, which has meant that my investigations into university records in Padua and Pavia have been limited to published material, but, since this is fairly full for the period and since I am primarily concerned with Barzizza's teaching, I felt the limitation was justified. Thirdly, as this is largely an interpretation of what is new, it may have some of the weaknesses of the raw pioneer rather than the well established colonial.

Wherever possible, the names of persons have been rendered in Italian. Occasionally the obscurity of a name has dictated that it be left in the Latin form in which it is found. In reproducing selections from the sources no attempt has been made to change spelling, punctuation, or form, in the hope that ambiguity may be eliminated or, at least, left intact.

This work was presented in 1977 as a D.Phil. thesis to the Faculty of Modern History in the University of Oxford. In converting the thesis into a book only minor amendments, concerning form rather than substance, have been made.

I am especially grateful to Professor C. Grayson who has given me guidance and encouragement from the beginning of my research until the preparation of this book and who has been always unstintingly generous with his time and experience. I am indebted to Mr David Robey for his many helpful observations on Italian humanism. Dr George Holmes kindly gave me assistance in the early stages and I am fortunate to have had expert criticisms from Dr P. J. Jones and Dr J. K. Hyde. I wish to thank St John's College, Oxford, for their financial assistance and the many librarians in Italy for their kind co-operation and interest.

I owe a very great debt to my patient and understanding wife.

ABBREVIATIONS

- Acta graduum* *Acta graduum academicorum gymnasii Patavini ab anno MCCCCVI ad annum MCCCCL*, curantibus C. Zonta et I. Brotto (Padua, 1922).
- Bertalot L. Bertalot, 'Die älteste Briefsammlung des Gasparino Barzizza', *Beiträge zur Forschung*, n.s. II (1929), 39-84 (the text of fifty-five letters is given on pp. 57-82).
- Cod. dipl. Univ. Pavia* *Codice diplomatico dell' Università di Pavia*, ed. R. Maiocchi, 2 vols (Pavia, 1905-15).
- Colombo C. Colombo, 'Gasparino Barzizza a Padova: nuovi ragguagli da lettere inedite', *Quaderni per la storia dell' Università di Padova*, 2 (1969), 1-27 (the text of nine letters is given on pp. 17-27).
- DBI* *Dizionario Biografico degli Italiani* (Istituto della Enciclopedia Italiana fondata da Giovanni Treccani, Rome), Vol. I (1960) and following.
- Furietti *Gasparini Barzizii Bergomatis et Guiniforti Filii Opera*, ed. J. A. Furietti, 2 parts (Rome, 1723).
- Gloria I *Monumenti della Università di Padova (1222-1318)*, ed. A. Gloria (Venice, 1884).
- Gloria II, 1-2 *Monumenti della Università di Padova (1318-1405)*, ed. A. Gloria, 2 vols (Padua, 1888).
- Iannellius C. Iannellius, *Catalogus Bibliothecae Latinae veteris et classicae manuscriptae quae in Regio Neapolitano Museo Borbonico adservatur* (Naples, 1827).
- Malagola *Statuti delle Università e dei Collegi dello Studio Bolognese*, ed. C. Malagola (Bologna, 1888).