



Vides d'escriptors a l'Edat Moderna: retòrica, història i poètica

II. USOS RETÒRICS I FUNCIONS LITERÀRIES

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Bembo, Aretino e Tasso. Three exemplary case studies of lives of poets

This paper aims to analyse three exemplary case studies of lives of Renaissance Italian writers (Bembo, Aretino and Tasso). The following in particular will be investigated: a) the osmosis relationship between the authors' instances of self-representation in their literary works - so marked for the three authors examined - and forms of biographical narrative; b) the study of literary biography as a tool strategically designed to include (Bembo and Tasso) or exclude (Aretino) individual authors from the literary canon, i.e. biography as a prodrome to national literary history. The selected cases will allow a closer investigation of the rhetorical forms of biography, the style used, as well as the relationship between the biographical dimension and the literary work. For Bembo, the biographical writings of Giovanni Della Casa, Francesco Sansovino and Benedetto Varchi will be investigated in particular, all aimed at a full celebration of the Venetian man of letters. For Aretino,

the polemical biographical medallions of Giovan Alberto Albicante and Anton Francesco Doni will be the subject of investigation, a true counter-eulogy. For Tasso the writings scattered in the paratexts of the 16th-century editions, up to the life of Manso, will be examined to observe the making of the 'myth' of the mad poet, destined to a centuries-long fortune.