



Lodovico Dolce, 'Dialogo della institution delle donne, secondo li tre stati che cadono nella vita umana'

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The first modern edition of Lodovico Dolce's *Dialogo della institution delle donne*, originally published in Venice in 1545 with the printing presses of Gabriele Giolito. A vernacular translation and adaptation (or plagiarism, according to some) of the 1538 edition of the *De institutione foeminae Christianae* by the Spanish humanist Juan Luis Vives, the *Dialogo* was one of the most successful works on female conduct written in sixteenth-century Italy. Dolce transformed Vives's didactic treatise into a dialogue, in which Flaminio teaches the widow Dorotea rules of conduct for the three stages of lay women's lives, that is, as unmarried girls, married women, and widows. Whilst indebted to its Latin source in terms of the ideas and precepts presented, and the many exempla used to substantiate them, Dolce's *Dialogo* is nevertheless also new and original. In the lively publishing market of the time, the fruitful collaboration between Dolce and Giolito targeted new circles of readers, including women, who were not necessarily familiar with Latin, and who welcomed translations and adaptations into the vernacular such as this. Contents include: a historical introduction to the author, his time, and his work; the Italian text with notes; a bibliography; an index of names. Helena Sanson is Reader in Italian Language, Literature, and Culture at the University of Cambridge (Department of Italian) and Fellow of Clare College.

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