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History Of The Florentine People, Volume 1: Books I-IV (The I Tatti Renaissance Library)



Synopsis

Leonardo Bruni (1370-1444), the leading civic humanist of the Italian Renaissance, served as apostolic secretary to four popes (1405-1414) and chancellor of Florence (1427-1444). He was famous in his day as a translator, orator, and historian, and was the best-selling author of the fifteenth century. Bruni's History of the Florentine People in twelve books is generally considered the first modern work of history, and was widely imitated by humanist historians for two centuries after its official publication by the Florentine Signoria in 1442. This edition makes it available for the first time in English translation.

Book Information

Series: The I Tatti Renaissance Library (Book 3)

Hardcover: 544 pages

Publisher: Harvard University Press (April 26, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0674005066

ISBN-13: 978-0674005068

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1.3 x 8.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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Customer Reviews

Bruni's History of the Florentine People is the first "civic humanist" history written in the renaissance, and it does not disappoint anyone interested in serious history. I initially bought the series (three volumes) in order to have a more precise understanding of the history of Dante's home town, but have been mightily impressed with the precision and enormous scope of this writer's work. The book features the original text with the English translation en face. The Harvard University Press should rightfully be proud of these books; they're fine library-quality hardcovers in the best mode of academic books. Finally, translator James Hankins should be congratulated for what must have been a lifetime's work.

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