



CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF
MEDICINE AND THE BODY
IN THE RENAISSANCE

INSTITUTIO SANTORIANA
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UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PARMA



STUDIO FIRMANO
PER LA STORIA DELL'ARTE MEDICA E DELLA SCIENZA

CSMBR
ONLINE
EVENTS

CARDANO'S LATE WRITINGS

20
FEBRUARY
2024
5.00 pm CET

THE ROMAN YEARS (1571-6) IN THE CONTEXT OF RENAISSANCE PHILOSOPHY

IAN MACLEAN • University of Oxford

The polymath Girolamo Cardano (1501-76) rose to prominence not only as a medical practitioner and writer but also for his publications in mathematics (arithmetic, algebra and geometry), and natural philosophy (notably the *De subtilitate*, 1550, and the *De rerum varietate*, 1557). He was also widely known for his astrology and his moral philosophy. He was a professor of medicine in Pavia and Bologna, where in 1570-1 he was imprisoned by the Inquisi-

tion for his views on fate and astrology, and made to recant. He then moved to Rome, and worked on a number of new ventures which brought together the full range of his previous endeavours in a series of shorter works (some of which incorporate revisions of earlier writings). As well as the reworking of the *Proxenetica*, these include *De optimo vitae genere*, *Mnemosynon*, *Manuaris*, *De vita nostra*, *De tuenda sanitate*, *Norma vitae consarcinata*,

sacra vocata, *De inventione*, and *De prudentia eximia*. Apart from a few, these compositions have been very little studied, and the texts themselves are not clearly structured, highly eccentric, even at times incoherent. They address problems of logic and method as well as medical issues, and strategies for predicting the future. I shall attempt in this paper to give a sympathetic account of Cardano's late philosophy that emerges from these and other late texts, relate it to his earlier writings, and assess its place in the history of Renaissance thought.

The event is free to attend but registration is required. Info at csnbr.fondazionecomel.org