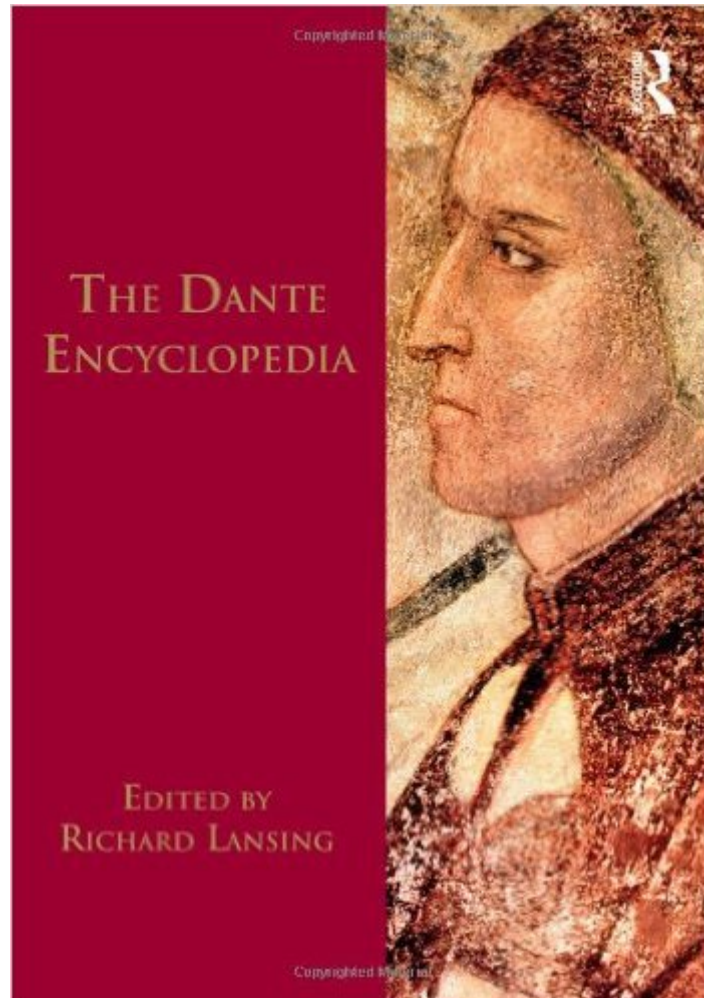


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# Dante Encyclopedia



## Synopsis

The Dante Encyclopedia is a comprehensive resource that presents a systematic introduction to Dante's life and works and the cultural context in which his moral and intellectual imagination took shape.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Prof. Richard Lansing's Dante Encyclopedia is a reference work of deep interest, wide scope, and unimpeachable authority. General readers, students, and scholars--especially those who are English-based--are bound to make this volume their Dante reference of choice. Hundreds of clear, intelligent, and up-to-date entries from today's best-respected Dante scholars discuss every person and place mentioned in Dante's works as well as a vast number of biographical, historical, and cultural topics. The encyclopedia will appeal to anyone who is looking for a better appreciation of the poet's background, achievement, and critical legacy. The maps and schematic drawings at the beginning of the encyclopedia are the best of their kind. The text is interspersed with an abundance of fine photographs and illustrations. Appended to the work are a detailed and reliable chronology of the poet's life, useful lists of the popes and emperors, a chronology of musical settings of Dante's Comedy, a list of available recordings of these settings, a list of reference works (including electronic resources), a complete pronouncing index, with textual citations, of the Italian and Latin proper names used by Dante, and an exhaustive index of subjects and illustrations. So big, so accurate and comprehensive, the Dante Encyclopedia completely supersedes its predecessors and

promises to remain authoritative for many years. No college or university, no lover of poetry and world literature will want to be without it.

A fantastic accomplishment! As a longtime Dante enthusiast, I have been waiting for something in English (my Italian not being up to snuff yet) that combines breadth with depth. As my own metric, I like to pick a topic that is not altogether esoteric and that is the subject of at least several competing theories. In studying Dante, that topic for me is numerology. I was especially pleased to read the article on numerology because the Dante Encyclopedia fairly explained the competing theories on the use of numerology by Dante. Never have I seen one source that provides the in-depth overview that this book does. For the serious student of the classics, this is a must-have! Gracie! And bravo!

Many poets I revere revere Dante, including Mandelstam, Akhmatova, Shelley, Eliot, Pound, and too many others to list. I only read the "Divine Comedy" once when I was 18 and it was more a chore than a pleasure. I have always wanted to go back to it with a new attitude and fresh perception. So I ordered Mark Musa's translation from and started reading with an entirely different mindset. I ordered this DANTE ENCYCLOPEDIA impulsively, having never browsed thru it. What a commanding, fascinating, exhilarating volume! This is the kind of companion a modern Dante reader needs, just as Dante had Vergil to guide him thru startling new realms. I begin each reading day by browsing thru the pages, culling whatever catches my interest. Today it was a brief but enlightening article on "Courtly Love." Yesterday I learned the sad fate of Dante's friend, the great poet, Cavalcanti. This is scholarship that like Dante's poetry is filled with LIGHT! After my morning browse, I'm ready to read the next three cantos, with the ENCYCLOPEDIA in front of me, ready to answer my questions and expand my appreciation. This has become one of the richest reading experiences in my life, and I owe it all to the scholarship and sheer excitement provided by this ENCYCLOPEDIA! Bravo! to Richard Lansing, the senior editor, and his community of scholars/poetry lovers.

At the risk of sounding like an advertisement or a parrot of the other reviewers, I just wish to add my praise to that already expressed. This is one amazing piece of scholarship. The editor clearly thought very deeply about the organization of this work. It is comprehensive, even exhaustive, well written, and well organized. The bibliographical apparatus included at the end of the major entries will be of great benefit to anyone who wishes to pursue a topic in more depth. For lovers of Dante, this is a work of first-rate scholarship. Can't recommend it highly enough.

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