

THE RENAISSANCE

by *Robert Ergang*

This text presents a lucid, interpretive survey of Renaissance manifestations not only in Italy but also in the Netherlands, Germany, France, England, and Spain. The author's approach to the Renaissance is fresh and his style is lively. Included are the political, economic, and social as well as the cultural and intellectual phases of the Renaissance.

The author's *leitmotiv* is the growing secularization of life, thought, and culture which he pinpoints in various phases of civilization. The resulting picture shows the student how our modern secular civilization emerged from medieval civilization which had the next life as its central idea.

Revealing vignettes of many of the great figures of the period have been skillfully combined with the varied aspects of Renaissance history. Dante, Petrarch, Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Cellini, Erasmus, Shakespeare, Rabelais, Cervantes, Galileo, and Gutenberg are among those whose accomplishments enriched the civilization of that period and of subsequent centuries.

The Renaissance may be used as a primary or supplementary text. It is ideally suited for Renaissance and Renaissance-Reformation courses, for supplementary reading in general courses, and for preferred reading in honors' courses.

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