

**HEATH'S MODERN
LANGUAGE SERIES.
ITALIAN SHORT STORIES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649616992

Heath's Modern Language Series. Italian Short Stories by Ernest H. Wilkins & Rudolph Altrocchi

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

ERNEST H. WILKINS & RUDOLPH ALTROCCHI

**HEATH'S MODERN
LANGUAGE SERIES.
ITALIAN SHORT STORIES**

Heath's Modern Language Series

ITALIAN SHORT STORIES

SELECTED AND EDITED

BY

ERNEST H. WILKINS, PH. D.

PRESIDENT OF OBERLIN COLLEGE

AND

RUDOLPH ALTROCCHI, PH. D.

PROFESSOR OF ITALIAN, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

D. C. HEATH & CO., PUBLISHERS
BOSTON NEW YORK CHICAGO

ms law
11/6/54
W

**COPYRIGHT, 1912,
BY D. C. HEATH & CO.**

379

Printed in U. S. A.

PREFACE

The six stories here printed have been chosen as excellent in themselves, as representative of the leading modern Italian short story writers, and as affording varied pictures of life in different parts of Italy. The order in which they are arranged serves in general to indicate their relative difficulty, — besides giving *place aux dames*. The first two stories are simple in wording and in construction, and in order to make them available for effective use at the beginning of a course they have been given very full grammatical notes, and the irregular verb forms which occur in them (except the forms of *avere* and *essere*) have been separately entered in the vocabulary. The texts have been taken from current Italian editions, and no changes have been made in them except for the correction of obvious errors. The introductions dealing with Serao, Deledda, Fucini, and d'Annunzio are by Mr. Altrochi. The other two introductions and the notes are by Mr. Wilkins.

The introductions for Fogazzaro and Fucini mention all of their collected works. The other writers have produced so much that complete enumeration seemed inadvisable, and only their more important books are mentioned. Continuous and detailed bibliographies of their writings and of critical studies dealing with them appear in the several volumes of *La Critica*, a review founded in 1903 and directed by Benedetto Croce. A series of critical studies by

Croce first published in *La Critica* and reprinted in 1914-15 as *La letteratura della nuova Italia* constitutes the best general account of recent Italian literature. Other books containing good essays on some or all of the several authors are Laura Gropallo's *Autori italiani d'oggi*, 1903, Dino Mantovani's *Letteratura contemporanea*, 1906, Maurice Muret's *la Littérature italienne d'aujourd'hui*, 1906, Jean Dornis's *le Roman Italien Contemporain*, 1907, and Karl Vossler's *Italienische Literatur der Gegenwart*, 1914.

During the preparation of this little book we have had the pleasure of conversation or correspondence with each of the authors represented, except d'Annunzio, and we are glad to express our gratitude for the interest and the courtesy which they accorded us.

E. H. W.

R. A.

CONTENTS

	PAGE
MATILDE SERAO	1
IDILIO DI PULCINELLA	4
GRAZIA DELEDDA	25
L'ASSASSINO DEGLI ALBERI	27
ANTONIO FOGAZZARO	37
EDEN ANTO	41
QUIETE MERIDIANA NELL' ALPE	59
RENATO FUCINI	60
LA VISITA DEL PREFETTO	62
IL DRAMMA DI IERSERA	85
GIOVANNI VERGA	86
CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA	89
GABRIELE D'ANNUNZIO	97
GLI IDOLATRI	102
I SEMINATORI	116
NOTES	119
VOCABULARY	149

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

ITALIAN SHORT STORIES

MATILDE SERAO

Born in 1856 at Patras, Greece, where her father had fled as a political exile, Matilde Serao came to Naples in her very early childhood. She attended the ordinary schools and then prepared to be a telegraph operator. It was in the spare time left her by this employment that she wrote her first sketches, which were published with the pseudonym *Tuffolina* in a Neapolitan newspaper. These sketches were so much liked that she was invited to contribute regularly to *Il Piccolo*, a prominent Neapolitan daily. She accepted this offer, while also helping her father, who was editor of another paper, and thus found herself launched into journalism, which has been her profession ever since.

A few of her sketches were republished in a pamphlet, *Opale*, in 1878; and her first volume, *Dal vero*, a collection of sketches and short stories, appeared in the following year. They are pictures taken directly from life, and particularly from the lower *bourgeois* life of Naples.

In the early eighties, finding Naples somewhat too provincial, Serao decided to make her home in Rome. Here she immediately joined that now famous little group of young writers who gathered round the literary journal *Il Capitan Fracassa*. Among these were d'Annunzio and his friend Eduardo Scarfoglio, who married Serao in 1885. With him she founded *Il Corriere di Roma*. This paper, unsuccessful in Rome, was taken to Naples, where it became *Il Corriere di Napoli*, but there also it failed. In 1892 Serao and her husband founded *Il Mattino*, which they still own and direct, and which is generally regarded as the best daily in southern Italy.

In 1881 Serao published her first novel, *Cuore infermo*. This