

THE HOSPITAL OF INCURABLE MADNESS

This translation of Tomaso Garzoni's Renaissance "best-seller" provides a rich and revealing window on 16th-century views of madness and foolishness, and social deviance. Garzoni's encyclopedic work is perhaps the most important contribution of the last half of the century to the "fools" genre to which Erasmus' *Praise of Folly* and Sebastian Brant's *Ship of Fools* also belong. Garzoni provides a spoof of academic writing on madness, with extensive "reviews of the medical literature" on certain types of madness. A final, intriguing section on the varieties of madness to be found in Garzoni's female "patients" reveals much about late-Renaissance attitudes towards women.

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JOHN W. CRAYTON is a research psychiatrist whose major research activities have been the exploration of the nature of severe mental illnesses such as schizophrenia and depression. For the past ten years he has been exploring the history of psychiatric nosology and the expression of madness across cultures and societies. He is currently working on a study of the 16th-century Italian composer and reputed madman, Carlo Gesualdo.

MONICA CALABRITTO teaches Italian and Comparative Literature at Hunter College of the City University of New York. Her research focuses on the notion of 16th-century madness in Italy as perceived and represented by members of the medical and the legal tradition, and by city chroniclers. She has written articles for *Forum Italicum*, *Emblematica* and *Medicina e Storia*.



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GARZONI

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L'HOSPEDALE DE' PAZZI INCURABILI (1586)

BY TOMASO GARZONI



Introduction by

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Daniela Pastina and John W. Crayton

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