

Review of: "Ungaretti: the Soldier and the Poet"

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I read "Ungaretti: The Soldier and Poet" with interest. The article deals with two main topics: Ungaretti's attitude towards the war, and the location and birth of his war poems. They are both interesting topics. The author's strong curiosity is directed to understanding the poet's patriotism and interventionism, his stubborn patriotism, and justifying his unwavering defense of the war. The article uses other sources to understand the psychology of the soldier who needs to believe what he is doing is right. However, the article does not try to understand why at the end of his life Ungaretti rejected this view and declared that his poems were directed to all soldiers and people, not only to Italians. The author does not seem to want to believe it and while she mentions this passage in Ungaretti's later writings - "*There is no trace of hatred for the enemy in my poems, nor for anyone else; rather, it is the awareness of the human condition, brotherhood among people who suffer, their mortality (Ungaretti, 1970: 521)*" - she leaves it at that, declaring Ungaretti was insincere when he wrote those lines: "Based on this, what the poet wrote about the poem at the end of his life is not true." A problematization and an equal interest in this part of Ungaretti's thought would balance the article.

I very much appreciated the detailed approach to the poet's life during the war, the places, the events, the observations he made thanks to an effective intertwining of different sources from war chronicles to geographical data. The article helps a close reading of those "crazy" days (that in fact turned him to neurasthenia) while keeping on wondering how he could still defend the carnage he saw in front of his eyes.

The article could benefit from a stronger editing. There are typos ("Battaglia," "Fond's conclusions," "The paranoid though") and repetitions ("as a need to identify with a role with which an individual is identified"). It would be easier to read if poems' titles were italicized or between quotation marks.

One point needs more information: what are the sources Fabi is using? When the author quotes "In contrast, no diary author from among the analysed documents," one remains wondering what diaries and what documents exactly.