

Contents

1	An Extraordinary Event in 1732	1
	Laura Bassi's Growing Fame as a Prodigy	4
	Factors that Led to the Extraordinary Event of 1732	4
	References	7
2	'Querelle des femmes' and Debates on the 'Woman Question'	9
	Italian Humanism and the Emergence of the 'Exceptional Woman'	11
	The Earlier Debate: Passi and Responses by Marinelli and Fonte	17
	The Famous 1723 Debate at the Accademia dei Ricovrati in Padua	19
	References	22
3	Women in Science and Medicine in Europe Prior to the Eighteenth Century	25
	Women's Contributions in European Science in the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Centuries	29
	Women in Science in the Italian Peninsula	31
	The Eighteenth Century Brings Change	34
	References	37
4	Laura Bassi: Her Education and Her Marriage	39
	Marriage to Giuseppe Veratti (Also Spelled Verati)	42
	References	46
5	The Slow Start of Laura's Scientific Career and the Bolognese Community's Response to her Work	47
	A Commissioned Author (1732–1738)	48
	Laura Bassi, a Teacher of Science and Mathematics	49
	The Laboratory at the Bassi-Veratti Home	52
	More Teaching by Laura Bassi	54
	The Bolognese Community's Response to Laura Bassi's Work in Science	54

	Men Who Supported Laura and Her Scientific Work	56
	Laura and the Academy of Sciences of Bologna	58
	References	59
6	A Transition from the ‘Old’ to the ‘New’ Science	61
	The Accademia Degli Inquieti (1690–1714)	63
	Laura Bassi’s Transition from the Old to the New Science	64
	A Turning Point for Laura Bassi	64
	Laura Bassi’s Presentations at the Academy	66
	References	68
7	Scientific Works by Laura Bassi and Giuseppe Veratti	71
	Early Work on Electricity by the Bassi-Veratti Couple	73
	Important Scientific Debates on Electricity	75
	On Physiological Explanations of Electrical Phenomena in Animals	81
	Electricity Became a Priority Subject at the Institute	82
	An Academic Promotion for Laura Bassi	82
	References	83
8	Laura Bassi and her Networks (1732–1745)	85
	Letters from Literati (Writers and Poets)	86
	Summaries of Correspondence (1732–1745)	91
	Letters from Flaminio Scarselli (from Cenerelli 1885, 104–125)	104
	Letters from Famous Men in Science and Medicine in this Early Period (1732–1745)	108
	References	117
9	Correspondence with Men in Science and Medicine (1746–1778)	119
	References	135
10	Famous Women in Science in Laura Bassi’s Epoch	137
	References	161
11	After Laura Bassi: Women in Science and Health Careers in Nineteenth Century Italy	163
	References	171

Contents	xv
Epilogue	173
Appendix A: List of Academies in Which Laura Bassi was a Member	181
Appendix B: The List of Laura Bassi's Presentations at the Academy	183
Appendix C: The List of Giovanni Giuseppe Verati Presentations at the Academy	185
Appendix D: Other Correspondence to Laura Bassi from Flaminio Scarselli	187
Index	191



<http://www.springer.com/978-3-642-38684-8>

Laura Bassi and Science in 18th Century Europe
The Extraordinary Life and Role of Italy's Pioneering
Female Professor

Frize, M.

2013, XIX, 196 p. 17 illus., 7 illus. in color., Softcover

ISBN: 978-3-642-38684-8