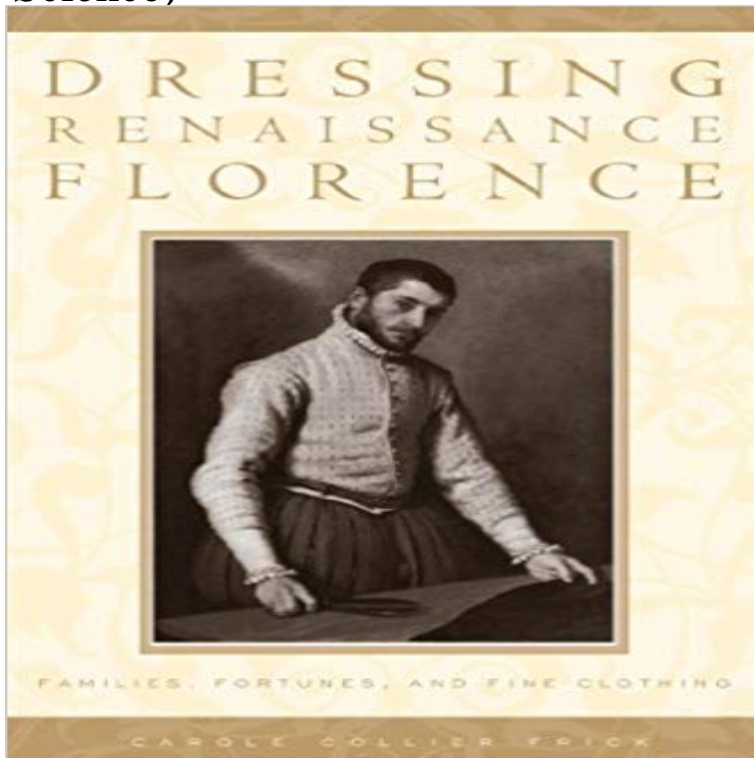


# Dressing Renaissance Florence: Families, Fortunes, and Fine Clothing (The Johns Hopkins University Studies in Historical and Political Science)



As portraits, private diaries, and estate inventories make clear, elite families of the Italian Renaissance were obsessed with fashion, investing as much as forty percent of their fortunes on clothing. In fact, the most elaborate outfits of the period could cost more than a good-sized farm out in the Mugello. Yet despite its prominence in both daily life and the economy, clothing has been largely overlooked in the rich historiography of Renaissance Italy. In *Dressing Renaissance Florence*, however, Carole Collier Frick provides the first in-depth study of the Renaissance fashion industry, focusing on Florence, a city founded on cloth, a city of wool manufacturers, finishers, and merchants, of silk dyers, brocade weavers, pearl dealers, and goldsmiths. From the artisans who designed and assembled the outfits to the families who amassed fabulous wardrobes, Frick's wide-ranging and innovative interdisciplinary history explores the social and political implications of clothing in Renaissance Italy's most style-conscious city. Frick begins with a detailed account of the industry itself -- its organization within the guild structure of the city, the specialized work done by male and female workers of differing social status, the materials used and their sources, and the garments and accessories produced. She then shows how the driving force behind the growth of the industry was the elite families of Florence, who, in order to maintain their social standing and family honor, made continuous purchases of clothing -- whether for everyday use or special occasions -- for their families and households. And she concludes with an analysis of the clothes themselves: what pieces made up an outfit; how outfits differed for men, women, and children; and what colors, fabrics, and design elements were popular. Further, and perhaps more basically, she asks how we know what we know about Renaissance fashion and looks

to both Florences sumptuary laws, which defined what could be worn on the streets, and the depiction of contemporary clothing in Florentine art for the answer. For Florences elite, appearance and display were intimately bound up with self-identity. Dressing Renaissance Florence enables us to better understand the social and cultural milieu of Renaissance Italy.

Abravanel's World of Torah, upon completion, will comprise a multi-volume set of Don Yitzchak Abravanel's commentary to the Five Books of Moses. This series is not a linear translation but rather a methodical, structured interpretation of Abravanel's commentary. It is designed to be read and studied independently or can be used as an excellent guide and helpful companion to the Hebrew original.

Abravanel's World of Torah: Bereshit was originally published by Torah Renaissance Press in 2012. This was followed by a Second Printing (2nd Ed.) in 2013 and a Third Printing in 2014.

Abravanel's World of Torah: Shemot Volume I covers the first six parshiyot in Sefer Shemot. This volume features a systematic translation of Abravanel's classic commentary beginning with Parashat Shemot until the end of Parashat Mishpatim, plus much more.

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