



Giambattista Bodoni: His Life and His World

By Valerie Lester

Download now

Read Online 

Giambattista Bodoni: His Life and His World By Valerie Lester

A lively, lavishly illustrated biography of the great printer Bodoni, vividly describing his work, life, and times while justifying his reputation as the "prince of typographers."

This is the first English-language biography of the relentlessly ambitious and incomparably talented printer Giambattista Bodoni (1740-1813). Born to a printing family in the small foothill town of Saluzzo, he left his comfortable life to travel to Rome in 1758 where he served as an apprentice of Cardinal Spinelli at the Propaganda Fide press. There, under the sponsorship of Ruggieri, his close friend, mentor, and protector, he learned all aspects of the printing craft. Even then, his real talent, indeed his genius, lay in type design and punchcutting, especially of the exotic foreign alphabets needed by the papal office to spread the faith.

His life changed when in 1768 at age 28 he was invited by the young Duke of Parma to abandon Rome for that very French city to establish and direct the ducal press. He remained in Parma, overseeing a vast variety of printing, some of it pedestrian, but much of it glorious. And all of it making use of the typefaces he personally designed and engraved.

This fine book goes beyond Bodoni's capacity as a printer; it examines the life and times in which he lived, the turbulent and always fragile political climate, the fascinating cast of characters that enlivened the ducal court, the impressive list of visitors making the pilgrim-age to Parma, and the unique position Parma occupied, politically Italian but very much French in terms of taste and culture. Even the food gets its due (and in savory detail). The illustrations-of the city, of the press, of the types and matrices-are compelling enough, but most striking are the pages from the books he designed. And especially, pages from his typographic masterpiece, the *Manuale Tipografico*, painstakingly prepared by his wife Ghitta, posthumously published in two volumes, and displaying the myriad typefaces in multiple sizes that Bodoni had designed and engraved over a long and prolific career.

Intriguing, scholarly, visually arresting, and designed and printed to Bodoni's standards, this title belongs on the shelf of any self-respecting bibliophile. It not only makes for compelling reading, it will be considered the biography of record

of a great printer for years to come.

 [Download Giambattista Bodoni: His Life and His World ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Giambattista Bodoni: His Life and His World ...pdf](#)

Giambattista Bodoni: His Life and His World

By Valerie Lester

Giambattista Bodoni: His Life and His World By Valerie Lester

A lively, lavishly illustrated biography of the great printer Bodoni, vividly describing his work, life, and times while justifying his reputation as the "prince of typographers."

This is the first English-language biography of the relentlessly ambitious and incomparably talented printer Giambattista Bodoni (1740-1813). Born to a printing family in the small foothill town of Saluzzo, he left his comfortable life to travel to Rome in 1758 where he served as an apprentice of Cardinal Spinelli at the Propaganda Fide press. There, under the sponsorship of Ruggieri, his close friend, mentor, and protector, he learned all aspects of the printing craft. Even then, his real talent, indeed his genius, lay in type design and punchcutting, especially of the exotic foreign alphabets needed by the papal office to spread the faith.

His life changed when in 1768 at age 28 he was invited by the young Duke of Parma to abandon Rome for that very French city to establish and direct the ducal press. He remained in Parma, overseeing a vast variety of printing, some of it pedestrian, but much of it glorious. And all of it making use of the typefaces he personally designed and engraved.

This fine book goes beyond Bodoni's capacity as a printer; it examines the life and times in which he lived, the turbulent and always fragile political climate, the fascinating cast of characters that enlivened the ducal court, the impressive list of visitors making the pilgrim-age to Parma, and the unique position Parma occupied, politically Italian but very much French in terms of taste and culture. Even the food gets its due (and in savory detail). The illustrations-of the city, of the press, of the types and matrices-are compelling enough, but most striking are the pages from the books he designed. And especially, pages from his typographic masterpiece, the *Manuale Tipografico*, painstakingly prepared by his wife Ghitta, posthumously published in two volumes, and displaying the myriad typefaces in multiple sizes that Bodoni had designed and engraved over a long and prolific career.

Intriguing, scholarly, visually arresting, and designed and printed to Bodoni's standards, this title belongs on the shelf of any self-respecting bibliophile. It not only makes for compelling reading, it will be considered the biography of record of a great printer for years to come.

Giambattista Bodoni: His Life and His World By Valerie Lester Bibliography

- Rank: #948914 in Books
- Published on: 2015-08-11
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 10.20" h x 1.20" w x 7.30" l, .92 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 288 pages

 [Download Giambattista Bodoni: His Life and His World ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Giambattista Bodoni: His Life and His World ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Giambattista Bodoni: His Life and His World By Valerie Lester

Editorial Review

Review

Valerie Lester has produced a first-rate, lushly illustrated biography of the creative genius who came up with the [Bodoni] font.--Jan Gardener, *The Boston Globe*

There has been no extended biography of Bodoni in English until now. Lester comes at it with freshness and enthusiasm....she has provided much about Bodoni's circles not previously available in English. --*TLS*

Complete with numerous color plates of the personalities, type specimens, and related illustrations, the book satisfies the cravings of the biography lover while serving as eye candy for the typophile, bibliophile, and Italophile. No less would be expected from Boston-based publisher David R. Godine, the independent press with a reputation for fine design and vision of books as works of art. With Lester's refreshingly disarming tone distinguishing the book from many dull biographies or condescending art history tomes, this is the perfect marriage of project and publisher. --Sheri Caplan, *Bookslut*

A lively and well-informed study... this is a book that should interest many in the fields of print history and eighteenth-century Italian culture. --Bob Patten, *Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing*

Speaking of beautifully produced books, here is yet another from that nonpareil publisher, David R. Godine. Any student of colophons or of those pull-down menus listing digital typefaces will recognize the name Bodoni, the 18th-century printer and immensely influential type designer. If there's a serious bibliophile on your gift list, you need look no further for the right present. --Michael Dirda, *Washington Post*

It would find a good place on the bookshelf of anybody interested in the art of typography, the history of Europe during the French revolution, the past and present of Italy and anybody with an appreciation for an interesting and beautiful book. --*TUG Journal*

Written with verve and elegance, profusely illustrated with relevant portraits and city views as well as examples of Bodoni's art, and itself beautifully produced, Lester's biography is a bibliophile's ultimate delight. --Ray Olson, *Booklist*

About the Author

Valerie Browne Lester is an independent scholar, writer, and translator living in Boston. She is the author of *Phiz: The Man Who Drew Dickens* (2004), a biography of Hablot Knight Browne, Dickens's principal illustrator who was also her great-great-grandfather. She translated Alain-Fournier's *Le Grand Meaulnes* (The Magnificent Meaulnes, 2009), and has written poetry, plays, & articles.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Scottie Kelly:

The e-book untitled Giambattista Bodoni: His Life and His World is the e-book that recommended to you to

read. You can see the quality of the publication content that will be shown to an individual. The language that author use to explained their way of doing something is easily to understand. The article writer was did a lot of analysis when write the book, so the information that they share for your requirements is absolutely accurate. You also can get the e-book of Giambattista Bodoni: His Life and His World from the publisher to make you considerably more enjoy free time.

Anita Winn:

A lot of people always spent all their free time to vacation as well as go to the outside with them household or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spent that they free time just watching TV, or maybe playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity this is look different you can read some sort of book. It is really fun to suit your needs. If you enjoy the book that you simply read you can spent the entire day to reading a e-book. The book Giambattista Bodoni: His Life and His World it is extremely good to read. There are a lot of those who recommended this book. These folks were enjoying reading this book. In the event you did not have enough space to create this book you can buy the e-book. You can m0ore easily to read this book through your smart phone. The price is not very costly but this book features high quality.

Scot Vines:

Reading a book to get new life style in this year; every people loves to study a book. When you study a book you can get a great deal of benefit. When you read publications, you can improve your knowledge, since book has a lot of information into it. The information that you will get depend on what types of book that you have read. If you want to get information about your study, you can read education books, but if you act like you want to entertain yourself read a fiction books, such us novel, comics, as well as soon. The Giambattista Bodoni: His Life and His World will give you a new experience in examining a book.

April Hannah:

A lot of book has printed but it differs from the others. You can get it by web on social media. You can choose the very best book for you, science, comedy, novel, or whatever simply by searching from it. It is called of book Giambattista Bodoni: His Life and His World. You can include your knowledge by it. Without making the printed book, it might add your knowledge and make a person happier to read. It is most important that, you must aware about guide. It can bring you from one place to other place.

Download and Read Online Giambattista Bodoni: His Life and His World By Valerie Lester #IPJW3DVXA85

Read Giambattista Bodoni: His Life and His World By Valerie Lester for online ebook

Giambattista Bodoni: His Life and His World By Valerie Lester Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Giambattista Bodoni: His Life and His World By Valerie Lester books to read online.

Online Giambattista Bodoni: His Life and His World By Valerie Lester ebook PDF download

Giambattista Bodoni: His Life and His World By Valerie Lester Doc

Giambattista Bodoni: His Life and His World By Valerie Lester Mobipocket

Giambattista Bodoni: His Life and His World By Valerie Lester EPub

IPJW3DVXA85: Giambattista Bodoni: His Life and His World By Valerie Lester