

### Petrarch's 'Fragmenta': The Narrative and Theological Unity of 'Rerum vulgarium fragmenta' (Toronto Italian Studies)

Thomas E Peterson



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Petrarch's *Rerum vulgarium fragmenta*, a collection of lyric poems on sacred and profane love and other subjects, has traditionally been viewed as reflecting the conflicted nature of its author. However, award winning author Thomas E. Peterson argues that Petrarch's *Fragmenta* is an ordered and coherent work unified by narrative and theological structures.

By concentrating on the poem's reliance on Christian tenets and distinguishing between author, narrator and character, Peterson exposes the underlying narrative and theological unity of the work. Building on recent Petrarch scholarship and broader studies of medieval poetics, poetic narrativity, and biblical intertextuality, Peterson conducts a rigorous examination of the *Fragmenta's* poetic language. This combination of stylistic and philological analysis recasts Petrarch's poetry in a new light revealing its radically innovative and liberating character.

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