

REBUILDING
POST-REVOLUTIONARY ITALY
LEOPARDI AND VICO'S 'NEW SCIENCE'

MARTINA PIPERNO

VOLTAIRE FOUNDATION
OXFORD

www.voltaire.ox.ac.uk

Table of contents

Acknowledgements	xi
Note on conventions	xiii
Introduction	1
i. Vico's legacy, Vico's 'heir'	1
ii. Diffraction	15
iii. The structure of this work	22
1. Forms of Italian modernity	27
i. The power of the origins	27
ii. Belief	36
2. Principium	47
i. The pride, the origins and the destiny of the nation	50
ii. Epics, poetry, creation and nation-building	57
3. Fictio	69
i. Redefining fiction	70
ii. Translating and mediating the ancient world	74
iii. Was Vico Classicist or Romantic?	78
iv. Fiction and/as belief	89
4. Mythos	99
i. Mytho-logein: Vico and Leopardi as mythologists	99
ii. Towards 'Alla Primavera': Leopardi's itineraries in myth (1815-1818)	110
iii. 'Alla Primavera': about (un)poetic logic	128

5. Philology and epos	143
i. Florence 1827-1828: refoundation, recovery reconstruction	147
ii. <i>Zibaldone</i> 4311-4417: Leopardi inside Homer's system	170
6. Recourse	183
i. Rereading Vico in post-Revolutionary Naples: history, progress, perfectibility	184
ii. 'Cantare la religione civile': Vico's ideas in poetry	201
iii. Regress, disbelief and fable in Leopardi's last works	207
Conclusion	221
Bibliography	237
Index	261

