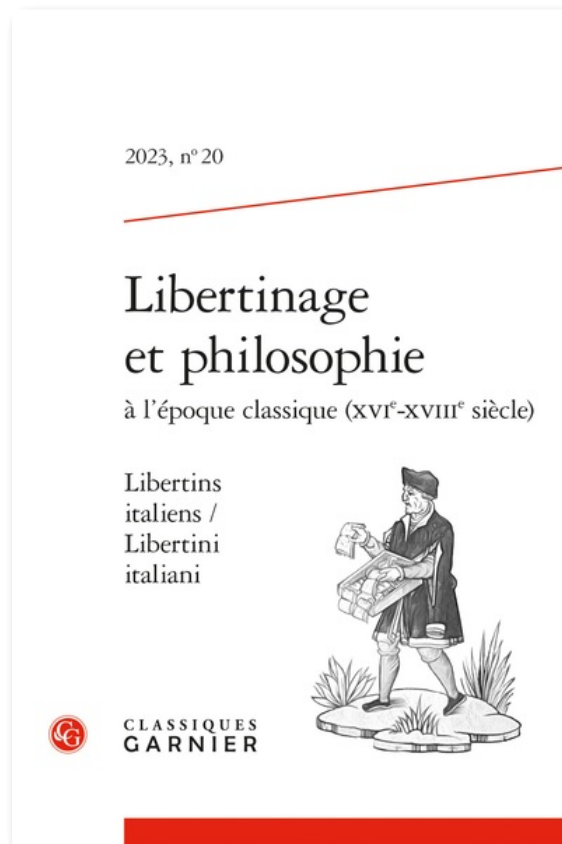




Italy and libertinism

From “proto-libertinism” to “radical libertinism”

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Author: Paganini (Gianenrico)

Abstract: This article compares the freethinking of the early sixteenth-century Italy to that of the seventeenth century. The case of Pomponazzi is exemplary: his texts can be read as proto-libertine. A century later, the *Theophrastus redivivus* will go so far as to defend thesis of a "destruction of all laws" at the beginning of a new cycle of the universe and civilizations. We therefore need two new historiographical categories: that of *proto-libertinism*, the other of *radical libertinism*.

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