Brunetto Latini Encyclopedia Article

Brunetto Latini

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Brunetto Latini

1230-1294

Italian encyclopedist who in his *Tesoro* (1260) made an early mention of the compass's use at sea, as well as superstitions surrounding the compass's seemingly magical powers. A prominent Florentine, Latini greatly influenced Italian poet Dante Alighieri. Though in the *Inferno* section of Dante's major work, *The Divine Comedy,* Latini is shown suffering, condemned because of his homosexuality, Dante's persona in the work addresses Latini with obvious respect.