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Nota di contenuto	Preliminary Material -- Introduction: Dancing Around the Well -- 1 In the Beginning there was Chaos -- 2 A Gem in its Setting -- 3 Words Frozen and Thawed -- 4 Rhapsody in Prose -- 5 The Mosaic of Speech -- 6 The Universal Library -- 7 In a Roman Mirror -- Conclusion: Emptying the Well -- Bibliography -- Index locorum communium -- Index rerum perutilium -- Index nominum illustrium -- Index Erasmius.
Sommario/riassunto	This study examines the transmission and transformation of commonplace wisdom in Renaissance humanism by tracing a series of filiations between classical sayings, anecdotes, and examples and Renaissance poems, essays, and fictions. The circulation of commonplaces can be understood either as a process of reanimation and revitalization, where frozen sayings thaw out and come to life, or conversely as a process of immobilization and incrustation that petrifies tradition. The paradigmatic figure for this process is the proverbial dance around the well, which expresses both the danger and

the compulsion of borrowed speech.
