

A Lecture as part of Humanities Week:

When Dante's *Comedy* Became "Divine"



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Library Special Collections, C205
Friday April 10 2009
3:00-4:30pm

This talk treats the transformation of Dante's poem into a literary classic. When Dante composed his poem (ca. 1308-1320), he entitled his poem the *Comedy*; the adjective "divine" came centuries later in 1555. The addition of the epithet "divine" implied that in the intervening years the poem had attained an exalted status in the culture. In this talk, I will talk about that transformation, as well as point out the importance of the 16th-century editions held by the library's "Special Collections."