

Haas, Louis. 1998. *The Renaissance Man and His Children: Childbirth and Early Childhood in Florence 1300-1600*. New York: St. Martin's Press

Due to the abundant books on how Renaissance mothers view children, Louis Haas decided to look at elite Florentine Renaissance male views and behaviors on childhood. He looked at account books, letters, and literature from 1300 to 1600. Unlike the popular thought, which was based on 20th century historian Philippe Aries, in which Europeans saw children as miniature adults and had no emotional attachment, he saw the opposite. This was due to a letter during this period from the writer Boccaccio to a friend. Boccaccio wrote about being happy to meet his friend's five-year-old daughter and expressed his pain over losing his own daughter. Haas thought Boccaccio had the same grief a father would have today. From his research he concluded that the fathers wanted children and did not see them as miniature adults. They provided for their children emotionally.