



**THE AMERICAN BOCCACCIO ASSOCIATION
ANNOUNCES:**

**THE GIUSEPPE VELLI PRIZE
FOR THE BEST GRADUATE STUDENT ESSAY ON BOCCACCIO**

AND

**A NEW UNDERGRADUATE PRIZE FOR BEST ESSAY, CREATIVE WORK, OR
PERFORMANCE ON BOCCACCIO**

Thanks to the support of an anonymous donor, this year (2017) the American Boccaccio Association can continue the annual prize competition for the best graduate student essay on a subject related to the life or works of Giovanni Boccaccio. The Giuseppe Velli Prize of three hundred dollars will be awarded to the best essay submitted by a graduate student in any American or Canadian University or by anyone not currently enrolled as a graduate student, provided that he or she has received the degree of M.A. or Ph.D. within one year of submission. The winning essay will also be automatically considered for publication in *Heliotropia*.

All submissions must be made by email attachment in PDF and sent to the Secretary of the American Boccaccio Association (vcappozz@olemiss.edu). No hardcopy submissions will be accepted. The essays should be no longer than 7500 words, including bibliography and other related material. The deadline for submission is Friday December 29, 2017.

Thanks to the support of another anonymous donor, this year (2017) the American Boccaccio Association is happy to add a second category to the Velli Prize. The Giuseppe Velli Undergraduate Prize of two hundred dollars will be awarded to the best essay, creative project, or performance submitted by an undergraduate student in any American or Canadian University, or by anyone not currently enrolled as an undergraduate student, provided that the work was completed as an undergraduate and that he or she has received an undergraduate degree within one year of submission. Essays should be submitted in PDF format. Creative projects or performances can be submitted as digital recording or another media file.”

For both prizes, the author should provide a cover page (as the first page of the file) containing the author's name, email, mailing and email addresses, the title of the essay/project/performance and institutional affiliation. The author's name should not appear on the essay title page (to follow the cover page) or on any other page of the submission. Quotations from Boccaccio's works should be cited in the original language, and the format of the essay should conform to MLA Style Sheet guidelines.

Submissions will be judged by a committee appointed by the President of the ABA. The committee will consist of a Chair, one member of the ABA executive, and one other member of the ABA. The results will be announced in early autumn and published in the fall issue of the ABA Newsletter. While the essays remain the intellectual property of their authors, the submitted texts will not be returned to them.

The American Boccaccio Association established this annual award in commemoration of the scholarship of Giuseppe Velli. Professor Velli (1928-2013), was a remarkable Boccaccio scholar whose work remains fundamental in Italy and North America to this day. As a young man, he studied at the Scuola Normale di Pisa and elsewhere with the likes of Giorgio Pasquali, Luigi Russo, Alessandro Perosa, Paul Oskar Kristeller, Augusto Campana and Reto Bezzola. Upon the completion of his studies, he spent several years teaching abroad, first holding appointments in Paris and New York before taking an assistant professorship at the University of California Los Angeles and later a post as full professor at Smith College. Afterwards, he returned to Italy where he taught *Letteratura umanistica* at the Università di Macerata, *Letteratura italiana e filologia dantesca* at the Università di Venezia and lastly as professor of Italian literature at the Università degli Studi di Milano. Beginning in the 1980s, he maintained an important presence in the United States as a visiting scholar at UCLA, Johns Hopkins University, the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and Indiana University. Professor Velli's studies ranged widely, but the ABA is particularly appreciative of his work on Boccaccio. His work, including the edition of the *Carmina* for Mondadori's "Tutte le opere" series and his famous volume entitled *Petrarca e Boccaccio. Tradizione · memoria · scrittura* (1995), helped enhance our understanding: the patterns of intertextuality between Boccaccio's works and classical literature; the relationship between Boccaccio and Petrarch; and the *modus operandi* of Boccaccio at his *scriptorium*. Essays on these topics are particularly welcome.

The ABA officers:

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