

Boccaccio Newsletter

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Minutes of the Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the American Boccaccio Association was called to order at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, December 27, 1994 at the Hyatt Regency San Diego, President Christopher Kleinhenz presiding.

Prof. Kleinhenz opened the meeting by encouraging members of the audience who were not presently enrolled in the Association to become members. He further announced that a cash bar would be held on Wednesday, December 28 at 5:15 pm in conjunction with the Dante Society of America. He reminded members of upcoming Boccaccio sessions sponsored by the Association: at the AAIS conference in Tempe (April 1995), at the Kalamazoo conference (May 1995), and at the 1995 MLA, to be held in Chicago. He reported that work is proceeding apace with the Univ. of Pennsylvania Press toward publication of the first two days of the *Lecturae Boccaccii*, while the third day readings are in progress. He reported that the MLA has commissioned the volume *Approaches to Teaching Boccaccio's Decameron*, to be edited by James McGregor, and encouraged interested parties to contact Prof. McGregor directly. He also reminded the audience of an international seminar on Boccaccio, organized by Profs. Claude Cazalé Bérard (Univ. Charles De Gaulle) and Michelangelo Picone (Univ. Zürich), "Gli Zibaldoni di Boccaccio: Memoria, scrittura, riscrittura," which will take place in Florence from April 26-28, 1996 [see the Fall 1994 Newsletter for more information]. The seminar will hopefully lead to the creation of an international Boccaccio association [see article below] and the development of a Boccaccio database, already in progress.

Following the announcements, Prof. Kleinhenz introduced three papers: "Boccaccio's Manto: Pagan Vision and Poetic Revisions," by Suzanne Hagedorn, Cornell Univ.; "From the *Zibaldone Magliabechiano* to *Decameron* 3, 10," by Steven Grossvogel, Univ. of Georgia; "*Prince Galeotto*: The *Decameron* as Pander to Female Readers," by Kay Stanton, California State Univ., Fullerton. Following questions, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Upcoming Conferences

The South-Central Renaissance Conference will meet concurrently with the Regional Central Renaissance Conference, March 21-23, 1996, in St. Louis. Papers are invited on any aspect of Renaissance studies and on the following special topics: Music and Ceremony; Patterns of Patronage in Renaissance Europe: Art-Historical Perspectives; Emblems in Art, Literature, and Music; Visual Literacy: The Learned and the Unlearned in Reading Renaissance Art and Literature; Humanism and the Papacy; From the "Indias" to Islam: Cross-Cultural Interactions among Christians and Non-Christians, Europeans and Non-Europeans; Rewriting the Renaissance: Contemporary Theories and Changing Pedagogies. Send inquires to the program chair, James Baumlin, Dept. of English, Southwest Missouri State Univ., Springfield, MO 65804; 417/831-6585; e-mail mfb137f@vma.smsu.edu. The deadline for submissions is December 31, 1995.

The American Boccaccio Association will sponsor sessions at both the 1996 conference of the American Association for Italian Studies (St. Louis, April 11-14), and at the 1996 Kalamazoo conference (May 8-11, 1996). If you would like to participate, please address Prof. Christopher Kleinhenz, Dept. of French and Italian, Univ. of Wisconsin, 1220 Linden Dr., Madison, WI 53706; 608/262-3941; fax 608-257-6731. The AAIS deadline is December 1, 1995; for Kalamazoo, September 1, 1995.

Members of the Association who would like to *organize sessions* at the 1996 AAIS conference should address the AAIS 1996 Organizing Committee, Romance Languages and Literatures, Washington University Box 1077, One Brookings Dr., St. Louis, MO 63130-4899; 314/935-5175; fax 314/726-3494; e-mail sherberg@artsci.wustl.edu. Please include the title of your session, the organizer's name, academic address, phone and fax numbers, and e-mail address (where available). The deadline for proposals is September 27, 1995.

Proposal for an International Association

At the XV annual conference of the AAIS, held in Tempe, Arizona April 20-23, 1995, Prof. Claude CazaléBérard reported on Boccaccio developments in Europe: the previously announced International Seminar, "Gli Zibaldoni di Boccaccio: Memoria, scrittura, riscrittura," which she is organizing with Michelangelo Picone and which will take place in Florence, April 26-28, 1996; the development of a database of Boccaccio autographs; and finally, the proposal to create an international association of Boccaccio studies. With regard to this latter idea, Prof. Cazalé Bérard explained:

"I contatti presi in vista di organizzare il Seminario invitano persuasivamente a continuare e anzi a sviluppare su più ampia scala la collaborazione avviata. "Se in un primo tempo si era pensato, soprattutto, alla creazione di una Associazione Europea di Studi su Boccaccio, la presenza di studiosi in altre parti del mondo (Australia, Giappone), suggerisce di non limitare la partecipazione ai confini della Comunità, anche allargata: una Associazione Internazionale promossa sia dalla American Boccaccio Association, che dall'Ente Nazionale potrebbe non soltanto rendere più stretti i legami di cooperazione tra le due sponde dell'Atlantico ma anche offrire la duplice garanzia di una continuità storica e di una apertura pluriculturale e multilinguistica. "Proponiamo quindi di studiare--entro l'aprile del '96 in modo da potere approfittare del Seminario per ricevere le prime adesioni--l'opportunità, le possibilità concrete di realizzazione, le condizioni finanziarie e logistiche di un simile progetto, magari nominando un comitato *ad hoc*.

"E qui chiederei ai colleghi americani di farci approfittare della loro esperienza per quanto riguarda l'organizzazione dell'associazione e la pubblicazione del bollettino."

The Association will pursue with Prof. Cazalé Bérard the possibility of international affiliation and report on developments in future issues of this Newsletter. In the meantime, members who wish to communicate with her directly may address her at Université Charles de Gaulle, Lille III, UFR des Langues Romanes, Slaves et Orientales, B.P. 149, F-59653 Villeneuve d'Ascq Cedex, France; e-mail: cazale@univ-lille3.fr.

Newberry Notices

The Newberry Library Center for Renaissance Studies has announced three seminars that may be of interest to *Boccaccisti*.

"Sanctity and Society in the Medieval West" will run on Thursday afternoons from October 5 to December 14, 1995. The course will serve as an introduction to medieval hagiography, exploring various facets of the cult of saints in medieval society and recent scholarly work in a variety of disciplines. The seminar will be taught by Thomas Head, assistant prof. of history at Washington Univ.

"From 'Auctor' to 'Author': Dante and the Invention of Vernacular Authorship," will meet Friday afternoons from October 6 to December 8, 1995, and will be taught by Albert Ascoli, associate prof. of Italian and comparative literature at Northwestern Univ. The course will trace Dante's early efforts to appropriate Latin *auctoritas* for the modern writer, examine the mature accomplishment of *auctoritas* transmuted into vernacular authorship in the *Comedy*, and probe the historical aftermath of Dante's innovations in the later fourteenth century.

"Latin Paleography from the Age of Charlemagne to the Age of Humanism" will meet Friday afternoons from February 2 to April 5, 1996, under the instruction of Timothy Graham, visiting international scholar at Western Michigan Univ. The course will survey the evolution of Western script and manuscript production from ca. 800 to the Renaissance and requires a basic reading knowledge of Latin.

Funds are available to subsidize travel expenses for members of the Newberry's Center for Renaissance Studies consortium. For more information, contact the Newberry Library Center for Renaissance Studies, 60

West Walton St., Chicago, IL 60610-3380, or phone 312/255-3514.

Folger Features

A spring 1996 Folger Institute seminar may be of interest to *Boccaccisti*. "Controversial Fictions: The Early Modern Novella," will meet Friday afternoons from January 26 to April 12 (excluding February 23 and March 22). Directed by Marina S. Brownlee, Class of 1963 College of Women Professor of Romance Languages at the Univ. of Pennsylvania, the course will explore whether the claim to historicity made by such female novella writers as Marguerite de Navarre, Maria de Zayas, and others, was somehow linked to gender, to a suspicion of the novella form, or to society's thirst for sensationalist prose marketed as legitimate writing. Boccaccio and Bandello will be represented as well.

The deadline for consortium grants and early admission for this seminar is September 1; final admissions deadline in January 5, 1996. For more information, address the Folger Institute at 201 East Capitol St., S.E., Washington, DC 20003-1094, or call 202/544-4600.

Bookends

Greenwood Publishing Group has announced the publication of *Boccaccio in English: A Bibliography of Editions, Adaptations, and Criticism*, by F.S. Stych, formerly senior lecturer in the Department of Information Studies at Sheffield Univ. in England. The volume, 280 pages long, costs \$79.50. For more information, write Greenwood Publishing Group, 88 Post Road West, P.O. Box 5007, Westport, CT 06881-5007, or call 203/226-3571.

Dues Reminder

If you have not yet paid your annual dues (\$5 regular member/\$15 sustaining member), please send your check or money order (Canadian members: US funds, please), together with your name and mailing address, to the Editor. We've provided our convenient form, which enables you to pay for one year (\$5) or two (\$10).

Also, please remember to check your address label: you'll see a date in the upper right-hand corner. That's the expiration date of your Boccaccio Association membership. We hope this feature will help you keep track of when your dues are due.

