

# Boccaccio Newsletter

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Fall 1997

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## **Modern Language Association Convention Toronto, Ontario, December 27-30, 1997**

### **Annual Meeting of the American Boccaccio Association**

Tuesday, December 30, 10:15-11:30 a.m., Elgin, Sheraton Centre

"Fiammetta versus Dioneo in *Decameron* 1, 4, and 5," Marilyn Migiel, Cornell Univ.

"Of Amazons and Painted Pictures: Redactors, Illustrators, and the Quattrocento Reception of Boccaccio's *Teseida*,"  
Suzanne C. Hagedorn, Coll. of William and Mary

"Boccaccio's Marginalia in the *Teseida*," Roberta Ricci, Johns Hopkins Univ.

### **Cash Bar Arranged by the American Boccaccio Association and the Dante Society of America**

Monday, December 29, 5:15-6:30 p.m., Conference Room C, Sheraton Centre

*MLA Convention sessions of further interest to Boccaccisti:*

### **Oral Tradition and Manuscript Authority in the Middle Ages**

Saturday, December 27, 9:00-10:15 p.m., Toronto, Royal York

### **Religion and Politics in Medieval Literature**

Sunday, December 28, 8:30-9:45 a.m., 203A, Toronto Convention Centre

**The Winter Meeting of the Dante Society**

Sunday, December 28, 12:00 noon-1:15 p.m., Conference Room B, Sheraton Centre

**Chaucer's Queer Nation**

Sunday, December 28, 7:15-8:30 p.m., Tudor 7, Royal York

**Christine de Pizan: An Open Session**

Monday, December 29, 8:30-9:45 a.m., Windsor, Sheraton Centre

**Transformations of the Novella**

Monday, December 29, 10:15-11:30 a.m., Conference Room G, Sheraton Centre

**Chaucer and Boccaccio: Beyond Sources and Influences**

Monday, December 29, 12:00 noon-1:15 p.m., Manitoba, Royal York

**Medieval Intertextualities**

Monday, December 29, 7:15-8:30 p.m., Confederation 3, Royal York

**From the President**

It is a tradition in the American Boccaccio Association for the new president to offer an overview of his or her plans for the organization in the coming years. As Newsletter editor I am far more used to typing other presidents' messages than composing my own, so this is a new and unusual task for me. My first words must be of thanks to our immediate past president, Christopher Kleinhenz, not only for his steady stewardship of the organization over the last four years but for his tireless devotion to the annual *American Boccaccio Bibliography*, the latest edition of which you will find here. Chris performs a crucial service to the Association; I suspect many of our members subscribe just to receive the *Bibliography* every year. I thank Steven Grossvogel, too, for his service as vice president over the past few years.

So, to the future. The shape of Boccaccio studies is changing; we must both monitor and support that change. In recent years we have undertaken to strengthen our contacts with European colleagues; while we are the American Boccaccio Association, we must not neglect the value that closer ties with Europe can offer us. European and American *Boccaccisti* have much to teach one another about their approaches to Boccaccio which, while often very different, are nonetheless valid and useful. We are also witnessing the development of an electronic Boccaccio, as texts appear in CD-ROM anthologies of Italian literature, websites spring to life, and the proliferation of e-mail access facilitates quicker communication with distant colleagues. We must ask ourselves what role, if any, we will play in promoting these new technologies.

We also have ongoing projects to monitor. The first *Lectura Boccaccii* volume is now under consideration at a new press. Possibilities for publication appear promising at this time, and we hope to have a happy announcement soon. We must get our public readings moving again, as they both raise our profile at conferences and make a significant contribution to Boccaccio studies in America.

Finally, as secretary of the Association for about 10 years, I have had the chance to track the waxing and waning of interest in Boccaccio, which I tended to measure by the number of paper proposals we received every year for our session at the MLA. A few years ago I began to despair that no one was very interested in Boccaccio anymore: another dead white male had faded into the background as scholars found more interesting and challenging topics elsewhere. Today I believe that there is still room for Boccaccio at the table, perhaps a Boccaccio who can be read from the point of view of gender, of alterity, of his influence on previously unheeded voices. The Association will continue to offer a venue to scholars who seek to take Boccaccio in new and exciting directions.

## Members Report Activities

**Eleanora Beck's** article, "Music in the Cornice of Boccaccio's *Decameron*," is forthcoming in *Medievalia et Humanistica*.

**Steven Grossvogel** has published "What do We Really Know of Se Ciappelletto?" in *Il Veltro* 40 (1996): 133-37.

**Robert Hollander** is working on a project entitled "Framers of the Frame: The Three Male *Brigatisti* in the *Decameron*." On September 13 of this year he was made an honorary citizen of Certaldo.

**Victoria Kirkham** reports that Einaudi will soon publish *Boccaccio visualizzato*, edited by **Vittore Branca**, a project that had been delayed for several years. Her contribution on portraits of Boccaccio, an essay with catalogue, will appear there: "L'immagine fisica del Boccaccio nella memoria rinascimentale."

**Marilyn Migiel** is working on a book manuscript, *A Rhetoric of the Decameron (and why women should read it)*.

### 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.

### American Boccaccio Association Membership Application/Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

Membership:	Regular	_____ \$5/1 year	_____ New
		_____ \$10/2 years	_____ Renewal
	Sustaining	_____ \$15/year	

Membership nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Send this form, along with your dues, to: Eugenio Giusti, Department of Italian, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.

### Contributions to the Newsletter

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Institution \_\_\_\_\_

1. Work in progress
2. Announcements
3. Boccaccio bibliography
4. Other

*Mail to:* Boccaccio Newsletter, c/o Michael Sherberg, Romance Languages and Literatures, Washington University Box 1077, One Brookings Drive, St. Louis, MO 63130-4899. *Nota bene:* Christopher Kleinhenz, editor of the Boccaccio Bibliography that appears annually in the Fall Boccaccio Newsletter, would appreciate any information you might have on publications that he could integrate with his own findings.

## AMERICAN BOCCACCIO BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR 1997

(through November, 1997)

compiled by Christopher Kleinhenz  
(University of Wisconsin-Madison)

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**Hollander, Robert.** *Boccaccio's Dante and the Shaping Force of Satire.* Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1997. 225 p.

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