



newsletter  
**Boccaccio**

*"studium fuit alma poesis"*



Vol. 38, No. 1

American Boccaccio Association

Spring 2011

**Officers:**

Michael Papio, University of Massachusetts Amherst, President  
Simone Marchesi, Princeton University, Vice President  
Susanna Barsella, Fordham University, Treasurer  
Elsa Filosa, Vanderbilt University, Secretary-Newsletter Editor



**IN THIS NUMBER:**

ABA Elections

Message from the New President

Minutes from the Annual Meeting

Toward 2013 – Boccaccio's Centenary

United States: "Boccaccio: Philologist and Philosopher"

United States: "Boccaccio: a Critical Guide to the Complete Works"

United States: Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies & ABA

Italy: Ente Nazionale Giovanni Boccaccio

Britain:

Past Conferences

Upcoming Conferences

News from Our Members

Friendly Reminders





## ABA ELECTIONS

The 2011 election process began with the establishment of a nominating committee, whose task would be to determine which names would appear on the actual election ballot for ABA President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The members of the association proposed the following names as potential officers of the nominating committee: Beatrice Arduini, Francesco Ciabattoni, Martin Eisner, Tobias Foster Gittes, Kristen Grimes, Christopher Kleinhenz, Simone Marchesi, Kristina Olson, Michael Sherberg. The three candidates who received the most votes were: Christopher Kleinhenz, Kristina Olson and Simone Marchesi. In the interest of transparency, the results are published here below:

### Response Summary

Total Started Survey: 56  
Total Completed Survey: 56 (100%)

PAGE: 1

1. Please, VOTE FOR THREE (3) of the following members for the NOMINATING COMMITTEE. The Nominating Committee has the task to identify the ABA members who will be happy to appear on the the spring election e-ballot for the position of ABA President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. [Create Chart](#) [Download](#)

	Response Percent	Response Count
Beatrice Arduini, Visiting Assistant Professor at Tulane University	28.6%	16
Francesco Ciabattoni, Assistant Professor at Georgetown University	35.7%	20
Martin Eisner, Assistant Professor at Duke University	12.5%	7
Tobias Gittes, Associate Professor at Concordia University	23.2%	13
Kristen Grimes, Assistant Professor at Saint's Joseph University	8.9%	5
Christopher Kleinhenz, Professor Emeritus at the University of Wisconsin-Madison	57.1%	32
Simone Marchesi, Associate Professor at Princeton University	48.2%	27
Kristina Olson, Assistant Professor at George Mason University	42.9%	24
Michael Sherberg, Associate Professor at Washington University in Saint Louis	41.1%	23
Please, sign with your first and last name <a href="#">Show Responses</a>		48
answered question		56
skipped question		0

Once the Nominating Committee was established, its members sought out potential candidates from among the members of the Association in order to create a slate for the

positions of president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. The resulting ballot contained the names of:

Marilyn Migiel and Michael Papio for the position of president; Jason Houston and Simone Marchesi for the position of vice-president; Elsa Filosa and David Lummus for the position of secretary; Eugenio Giusto and Susanna Barsella for the position of treasurer.

The final tally shaped up as follows:

<b>1. Vote for ONE candidate for the office of PRESIDENT of the ABA:</b>		
	<a href="#">Create Chart</a>	<a href="#">Download</a>
	Response Percent	Response Count
Marilyn Migiel, Professor of Italian, Cornell University	42.4%	25
Michael Papio, Associate Professor of Italian, University of Massachusetts-Amherst	57.6%	34
	answered question	59
	skipped question	0
<b>2. Vote for ONE candidate for the office of VICE-PRESIDENT of the ABA:</b>		
	<a href="#">Create Chart</a>	<a href="#">Download</a>
	Response Percent	Response Count
Jason Houston, Associate Professor of Italian, University of Oklahoma	20.3%	12
Simone Marchesi, Associate Professor of Italian, Princeton University	79.7%	47
	answered question	59
	skipped question	0
<b>3. Vote for ONE candidate for the office of SECRETARY of the ABA:</b>		
	<a href="#">Create Chart</a>	<a href="#">Download</a>
	Response Percent	Response Count
Elsa Filosa, Senior Lecturer of Italian, Vanderbilt University	88.1%	52
David Lummus, Assistant Professor of Italian, Yale University	11.9%	7
	answered question	59
	skipped question	0

4. Vote for ONE candidate for the office of TREASURER of the ABA:	<a href="#">Create Chart</a>	<a href="#">Download</a>
	Response Percent	Response Count
Susanna Barsella, Assistant Professor of Italian, Fordham University	54.2%	32
Eugenio Giusti, Associate Professor of Italian, Vassar College	45.8%	27
Please, sign with your first and last name <a href="#">Show Responses</a>		56
	answered question	59
	skipped question	0



### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

(Michael Papio, U of Massachusetts Amherst)

Dear fellow members of the American Boccaccio Association,

I am writing to tell you that I am sincerely honored and humbled by the results of the recent election. I very much look forward to working to build on the Association's past record of success, which owes so much to the hard work and dedication of two members in particular: Marilyn Migiel and Eugenio Giusti. Marilyn served six years (three as secretary and three as president) and Eugenio has been an invaluable constant since the fall of 1997. Having worked with them a great deal, I can say that the ABA would not be where it is today had they not sustained and nurtured it over the last several years. I know I am not alone in recognizing our shared debt of gratitude to them both.

Following Marilyn's successful model, I conceive of my new role chiefly as one of facilitator. In that spirit, I warmly invite you all to send suggestions for the ABA's future growth and to let us know how it may be helpful to you in your individual Boccaccio-related initiatives. I have great confidence in its officers and am certain that the Association will thrive in the next three years, especially with the 2013 anniversary year just over the horizon.

In closing, let me thank you all once again. I am fully aware of the responsibilities inherent in my new position and pledge to do my very best for you and the ABA.

MP



## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING, 2011

The annual meeting of the American Boccaccio Association was called to order at 5:30 pm on Friday May 13, 2011, in the LeFevre Lounge in Valley II of the Western Michigan University during the 46<sup>th</sup> *International Congress on Medieval Studies*, held in Kalamazoo, MI, with Secretary Elsa Filosa presiding.

After everyone had comfortably taken a seat on the couches in the lounge, the Secretary informed the members there in attendance about the result of the elections: Michael Papio, Associate Professor at UMass Amherst, was elected as the incoming president of the ABA; Simone Marchesi, Associate Professor at Princeton University, was elected as the new vice president; Elsa Filosa, Senior Lecturer at Vanderbilt University, was re-elected as secretary; and Susanna Barsella, Associate Professor at Fordham University, was elected as treasurer.

The Secretary also informed the audience that the new officers had had a first meeting on April 30<sup>th</sup>, in New York, where they began making plans to achieve certain concrete goals in the near future, in accordance with the suggestions made during the annual meeting in the spring of 2010 in Amherst. Chief among these goals are: the review and revision of the ABA bylaws; the legal establishment of the ABA as a non-profit organization in order to facilitate tax deductions and fundraising efforts for 2013; an increased presence of the Association and its members at major conferences (e.g., MLA, RSA, Kzoo); the continuation of support for the *Lecturae Boccaccii* series; and increasing the number of members.

The next order of business had to do with the seventh centenary of Boccaccio's birth in 2013. The Secretary reported on scheduled celebratory initiatives around the world—some described in the previous Newsletter (Fall 2010) and others detailed below. One of those most rapidly taking shape at the moment is the 2013 conference organized by Prof. Olivia Holmes and Prof. Dana Stewart, in conjunction with SUNY Binghamton's Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies. Association members will be updated as this project progresses. The Secretary, noting that the ABA will participate in the first centenary-related meeting of the Ente Nazionale Giovanni Boccaccio on June 23 at the Palazzo Strozzi in Florence, encouraged members to share with the ABA any information and ideas regarding centenary celebrations that they would like to have showcased on that occasion.

The meeting's order of the day passed on then to information regarding the Association's presence at future Kalamazoo conventions and possible sessions for next year.



## TOWARD 2013 – BOCCACCIO’S CENTENARY

Initiatives for the Boccaccio’s Centenary in 2013 are underway in the US and abroad.

### In the **United States**:

- The recent conference entitled “Boccaccio: Philosopher and Philologist,” organized by Teodolinda Barolini and Wayne Storey, was held at the Italian Academy of Columbia University on April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The essays presented will be collected and published by 2013. The program can be found below.
- Victoria Kirkham, Michael Sherberg, and Janet Smarr are editing a volume entitled *Boccaccio: A Critical Guide to the Complete Works* that will be published by the University of Chicago Press. Like the beautifully produced Petrarch book, this Boccaccio volume will contain an essay on each of our author’s works, giving a basic account of what kind of thing each work is (“Quid est?”) and highlighting Boccaccio’s innovations in the reworking of established models or genres.
- The Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies (CEMERS) at SUNY Binghamton, with help from the American Boccaccio Association, is currently organizing the 2013 CEMERS conference on Boccaccio. The conference, entitled “Boccaccio at 700: Medieval Contexts and Global Intertexts,” will be held on April 26-27, 2013 at the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Binghamton University. We will keep you updated with more details in upcoming numbers of the Newsletter. In the meantime, for more information, you can contact Professors Olivia Holmes and Dana Stewart at the following email addresses: [oholmes@binghamton.edu](mailto:oholmes@binghamton.edu), [stewart@binghamton.edu](mailto:stewart@binghamton.edu)

### In **Italy**:

- The Ente Nazionale Giovanni Boccaccio will meet on June 23<sup>rd</sup> of this year at Palazzo Strozzi in Florence in order to discuss and plan worldwide initiatives for 2013. ABA Vice President Simone Marchesi and Treasurer Susanna Barsella will be representing the American Boccaccio Association and its members, and will report on the ongoing centenary activities here in the US. We urge every member to inform Simone Marchesi at [simonem@princeton.edu](mailto:simonem@princeton.edu) about any initiative you or your university may be planning for the centenary so that he can bring it to the attention of those in attendance in Florence.

### In the **UK**:

- Dr. Guyda Armstrong, Dr. Rhiannon Daniels and Prof. Stephen Milner have organized a centenary celebration at the University of Manchester, entitled “Locating Boccaccio in 2013.” The launch event is scheduled for the evening of July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013, and the conference itself will take place on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of July. They

have also curated a major 6-month exhibition at the University of Manchester Special Collections library and planned a number of other events. Additional information, including contacts, the event's flyer and more are available at: <http://locatingboccaccio.wordpress.com>.



### PAST CONFERENCES

The **Modern Languages Association** Convention took place January 6-9, 2011, in Los Angeles. The ABA sponsored an open session and the *Lectura Boccaccii*. The open session, chaired by former ABA vice president Michael Papio (University of Massachusetts), was held on Thursday, 6 January from 1:45 to 3:00 pm in room 402B of the LA Convention Center. The papers delivered were the following:

1. Olivia Holmes (Binghamton University), "Boccaccio and (the End of) Exemplarity"
2. Susan Noakes and Rachel Gibson (University of Minnesota) "The Historicity of the *Decameron*? Trade Routes."
3. Kyle David Anderson (Centre College), "Boccaccio's Chinese Afterlives."

The *Lectura Boccaccii*, chaired by Michael Papio, took place on January 7, from 5:15 to 6:30 pm in room 306B of the LA Convention Center. Martin Eisner (Duke University) spoke on *Decameron* III.8.

David Lummus (Yale University) delivered a paper entitled "Boccaccio's Three Venuses" for the session *Transgressive Love in Medieval and Renaissance Italian Literature* organized by the Division on Medieval and Renaissance Italian Literature. The session was chaired by Maria Galli Stampino (Univ. of Miami) and was held on Sunday, January 9, from 8:30 to 9:45 am in room 402B of the LA Convention Center.

The **Renaissance Society of America** Conference was held in Montreal, Quebec Canada on 24-26 March, 2011. Three sessions were of interests of Boccaccio's friends. The first was "Boccaccio's Three Rings and Hermeneutic Circles: Theoretical and Practical Approaches to *Decameron* I.3," scheduled for Friday, March 25, from 8:45 to 10:15 am, organized by Marilyn Migiel (Cornell University) and chaired by Tobias Foster Gittes (Concordia University). The papers delivered were:

1. Marilyn Migiel (Cornell University), "Running Rings around the Reader"
2. Hannah Wojciehowski (Univ. of Texas, Austin), "Three Little Hermeneutic Circles and How They Grew: Reading Boccaccio's Parable of the Rings through the Religions of the Book"

Another session was *The New Prometheus: Boccaccio's Mythopoeitic Humanism* scheduled for Friday, March 25, from 10:30am to 12:00pm, organized by Susanna Barsella (Fordham University) and Angela Capodivacca (Yale University) and chaired

by Giuseppe Mazzotta (Yale University). The papers delivered were:

1. Elsa Filosa (Vanderbilt University), "From Classical to Pre-Humanistic Myth: Goddesses and Women in Boccaccio's *De mulieribus Claris*"
2. Tobias Foster Gittes (Concordia University), "'Go down Moses' (and Joseph too): Boccaccio's Revision of Hebrew Myth"
3. Jason Houston (University of Oklahoma), "Boccaccio's Maecenas: Poetics, Politics, and Patronage in the Italian Trecento"
4. Aileen Feng (University of Arizona), "Exemplarity and Mythology in Quattrocento Female Epistolary"

Another very interesting session on Boccaccio's iconography was *Per le nozze fiorentine: Cassoni, Paintings, and Precious Objects to Celebrate Marriage in 14th- to 16th-Century Florence* scheduled on Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm, organized by Nicoletta Baldini (The Medici Archive Project) and Patricia Lurati (Dipartimento Educazione e Cultura, Switzerland), and chaired by Elena Brizio (The Medici Archive Project). The papers delivered were:

1. Nicoletta Baldini (Medici Archive Project), "Records of Artistic Objects in Florentine Dowry Contracts from the Fourteenth to the Sixteenth Century"
2. Patricia Lurati (Dipartimento Educazione e Cultura, Switzerland), "The Story of the Queen of Sheba: A Visual Reminder of Florentine Eastern Trade"
3. Roberta Bartoli (Kunsthistorisches Institut, Florence), "Between Florence and Urbino: A New Cassone Painting"

The **American Association for Italian Studies** Conference was held at the University of Pittsburgh on April 7-9, 2011. On this occasion, two *Lecturae Boccaccii* were been delivered:

1. Kristina Olson (George Mason University), "*Decameron* IV.5: Dangerous caputalism: Honor and the Merchant Class in the Tale of Lisabetta and the Pot of Basil (*Decameron* IV.5)."
2. Fabian Alfie (University of Arizona), "Happy Endings: *Decameron* IV.10."

Another panel of interest, organized by Professor Dino Cervigni, was entitled: "Boccaccio's *Decameron* and the Practice of Parody." The papers delivered:

1. Steven Grossvogel (University of Georgia-Athens), "Parodic Elements in Boccaccio's Venetian Novella: *Decameron* IV,2"
2. Brandon Essary (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), "Bride Trafficking, Conjugal Debt, and the Economics of Parody in Boccaccio's *Decameron*."
3. Dino Cervigni (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), "Boccaccio the Parodist: God's Six Days of Creation vs. Boccaccio's Ten Days."

In "Placing Italian Culture II" panel, organized by Lina Insana, Theodore Cachey (Notre Dame University) presented "Between Text and Territory: Boccaccio's *De Montibus*."

The **International Congress on Medieval Studies at Kalamazoo** took place on May 12-15, 2011. The ABA is sponsoring an open session (date and time TBA). The



papers delivered will be the follow:

1. Jon Solomon (University of Illinois at Urbana - Champaign), "Agamemnon, Phystenes, Harpagiges, and the Theodontian Tradition in Boccaccio's *Genealogia deorum gentilium*."
2. Meredith Ringel (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), "'Tutto Enfiato': Pushing the Boundaries of Tragedy in the *Decameron*'s Day Four, Story Seven."
3. Caitlin Watt (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), "Sex, Love, and Pirates: The Debate about Marriage in *Decameron* 2.10."

The **Italian Academy for Advanced Studies at Columbia University** hosted a conference entitled "Boccaccio: Philologist and Philosopher" on Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. Organized by Prof. Teodolinda Barolini (Columbia University) and Wayne Storey (Indiana University), the conference's line-up unfolded as follows:

1. Teodolinda Barolini: Welcome Address
2. Simone Marchesi (Princeton University), "Dante's *canzoni distese*: Boccaccio's Toledano and Chigiano between Philology and Literary History"
3. Beatrice Arduini (Tulane University), "Boccaccio: Copyist and Editor of Dante"
4. Martin Eisner (Duke University), "The 'Careless' Scribe: Boccaccio's Chigi Codex and the Invention of Italian Literature"
5. Marco Veglia (Università di Bologna), "An Idea of Dante's Philology: From Boccaccio's Laur. XXIX.8 to Boccaccio's Epistle to Iacopo Pizzinga"
6. Teodolinda Barolini (Columbia University), "The *canzoni distese*, Boccaccio's Genial Contaminations, and the Metacritical Constant"
7. Kristina M. Olson (George Mason University), "A Beginning and an End to Philology: Boccaccio's *Esposizioni sopra la Comedia* and the Philosophy of the Tartars"
8. Tobias Foster Gittes (Concordia University), "'*Natura generata*': Boccaccio's Philosophy of Heredity"
9. Christopher S. Celenza (American Academy in Rome and Johns Hopkins University), "Boccaccio and the Philosophical Life"
10. Michelangelo Zaccarello (Università di Verona), "Sociolinguistic Factors and Literary Boundaries: Brief Notes on Boccaccio's Autograph Usage(s)"
11. Jelena Todorović (University of Wisconsin-Madison), "How To 'Satisfy the Desire of the Author': The Case of Giovanni Boccaccio"
12. H. Wayne Storey (Indiana University), "Boccaccio's Philosophy of Philology"





### NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

**Michaela Paasche Grudin**, Professor Emerita in the English Department at Lewis & Clark College, and **Robert Grudin** are publishing “Boccaccio’s *Decameron* and the Ciceronian Renaissance” with Palgrave-Macmillan publishing house. The forthcoming book presents Boccaccio’s masterpiece, including its mysterious *canzoni*, as expressing a coherent and innovative vision of human nature based primarily on the moral and political thought of Cicero, but adapted by the author to meet the challenges of his own times.

**Jon Solomon**, Robert D. Novak Professor of Western Civilization and Culture and Professor of the Classics and Cinema Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, published the first volume of his English translation of the *Genealogy of the Pagan Gods* for the I Tatti Renaissance Library. This first volume of three collects Books I-V of the *Genealogie deorum gentilium*.

Congratulations to **Susanna Barsella**, who became Associate Professor at Fordham University!

**James Kriesel** is currently working on a monograph on Boccaccio’s poetics in several of his works (*Genealogy, Ameto, Amorosa Visione, Decameron, Corbaccio*), which is tentatively entitled *Boccaccio’s Allegory of Literature*, based on his Ph.D. dissertation obtained at Notre Dame University in 2008.

A long article by **Robert Hollander**, entitled “The Struggle for Control among the *novellatori* of the *Decameron* and the Motivation for the Return to Florence” is forthcoming in *Studi sul Boccaccio* in 2012.

**Michael Sherberg’s** latest volume, *The Governance of Friendship: Law and Gender in the Decameron*, has just been published by Ohio State University Press earlier this year.





## UPCOMING CONFERENCES

The **Modern Languages Association** Convention in Seattle (January 5-8, 2012) will feature two sessions on Boccaccio, one organized by the American Boccaccio Association and the other by the Comparative Studies in Renaissance and Baroque Literature organization. The first is the ABA's open session entitled *Giovanni Boccaccio*, which will be composed as follows:

1. Valerio Ferme (University of Colorado), "Queen for One Day: Pampinea's Unreliable Leadership in Boccaccio's *Decameron*"
2. Thomas Klinkert (University of Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany), "The problematic relationship between narrative fiction and knowledge in Boccaccio's *Decameron*"
3. David Lummus (Yale University), "Boccaccio vs. Petrarca: Friendship, Greed, and the Civic Responsibility of Poetry"

The second session is entitled *New approaches to Boccaccio's many legacies to early modern literature, narratological or otherwise*. For more information about this session, please contact: Ignacio Navarrete ([ignacio@berkeley.edu](mailto:ignacio@berkeley.edu)) and Leonard Barkan ([lbarkan@princeton.edu](mailto:lbarkan@princeton.edu)).



## FRIENDLY REMINDERS

The **ABA newsletter** is an invaluable tool for disseminating important information among our members. Please consider sending items of significance, such as notes on work in progress, announcements of general interest and other similar tidbits to Elsa Filosa at [elsa.filosa@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:elsa.filosa@vanderbilt.edu).



Christopher Kleinhenz would similarly appreciate your assistance in his yearly compilation of the **North American Boccaccio Bibliography**. Please send him Boccaccio-related citations so that he may integrate them with his own findings. Email: [ckleinhe@wisc.edu](mailto:ckleinhe@wisc.edu).



**Dues News!!!** If you have not yet paid your annual dues (\$15 regular member / and possibly an eventual donation for the *Lecturae Boccaccii*), please send your check payable to the American Boccaccio Association to:

Prof. Susanna Barsella  
 Dept. of Modern Languages & Literatures  
 Fordham University, Faber Hall 562  
 441 East Fordham Road  
 Bronx, NY 10458-9993

For your convenience, the form is also available in PDF format on the ABA website: <http://www.abaonline.us>. If you are unsure about your current status, please do not hesitate to contact the treasurer ([barsella@fordham.edu](mailto:barsella@fordham.edu)).



**Heliotropia** (<http://www.heliotropia.org>) is now accepting submissions for its 2012 issue. The journal is also seeking reviewers for the following books. Please contact Michael Papio ([papio@hfa.umass.edu](mailto:papio@hfa.umass.edu)) if you are interested in one of the following titles.

- Allegri, Francesca. *Medioevo e Francigena nel Decameron di Giovanni Boccaccio: aneddoti, ricette e curiosità*. Firenze: Federighi, 2008.
- AA.VV. *Ut philosophia poesis: Questions philosophiques dans l'œuvre de Dante, Pétrarque et Boccace*. Joël Biard et Fosca Mariani Zini, eds. Paris: Vrin, 2008.
- Boccaccio, Giovanni. *Boccaccio's Expositions on Dante's Comedy*. Michael Papio, tr. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2009.
- Boccaccio, Giovanni. *The Latin Eclogues*. David R. Slavitt, tr. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2010.
- Boccaccio, Giovanni. *En liten skrift till Dantes lov*. Paul Enoksson, tr. Stockholm: Atlantis, 2009.
- Boccaccio, Giovanni. *Männer und Frauen: Geschichten aus dem Decameron*. Kurt Flasch, tr. München: Fischer, 2005.
- Cerocchi, Marco. *Funzioni semantiche e metatestuali della musica in Dante, Petrarca e Boccaccio*. Firenze: Olschki, 2010.
- Falvo Heffernan, Carol. *Comedy in Chaucer and Boccaccio*. Cambridge; Rochester, NY: D.S. Brewer, 2009.
- Gambin, Enrica. *Trivia nelle tre corone: i volti di Diana nelle opere di Dante, Petrarca, Boccaccio*. Padova: Il Poligrafo, 2009.
- Kocher, Ursula. *Boccaccio und die deutsche Novellistik: Formen der Transposition italienischer ,nouvelle' im 15. und 16. Jahrhundert*. Amsterdam/New York: Rodopi, 2005.
- Mouchet, Valeria. *Il "bestiario" di un autore trecentesco: repertorio ipertestuale delle occorrenze zoonime nelle opere volgari di Giovanni Boccaccio*. Fregene (Roma): Spolia, 2005.
- Söffner, Jan. *Das Decameron und seine Rahmen des Unlesbaren*. Heidelberg: Winter, 2006.