



newsletter
Boccaccio

"studium fuit alma poesis"



Vol. 43, No. 2 **American Boccaccio Association** Spring/Summer 2016

Officers:

Timothy Kircher, Guilford College, President
Susanna Barsella, Fordham University, Vice President
Kristina Olson, George Mason University, Treasurer
Jason Houston, Gonzaga University, Secretary



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Message from the President

Dear fellow *boccaccisti*,

We are very pleased with the recent Triennial Meeting, held 30 September to 2 October at Duke University. People from various quarters – visitors, our keynote speakers, and students – told us how much they admired not only the serious scholarship, but also the collegial conversations throughout the three days. There were nearly three-dozen papers presented on topics ranging from politics to medicine to literature, and our keynote speakers – David Wallace, Corrado Bologna, and Janet Smarr – delighted us with discussions of Boccaccio's relation to Chaucer, the Italian literary tradition, and to later dramatic and prose works featuring the heroine Griselda. We recognized our congenial host, Martin Eisner, with the ABA's Distinguished Service Award, and Janet Smarr with the Association's Achievement Award for her influential contributions to Boccaccio studies over her career.

You will receive soon a referendum on requesting dues from international members of the Association. We mentioned this referendum in the annual meeting at Duke. If the referendum passes, members residing outside of North America will be able to contribute to the Association's activities with their dues.

In addition, we will be sending out requests for names of colleagues to serve on the Nominating Committee, tasked with creating a slate of candidates for the next Executive Committee, whose term begins next summer (2017). Please think about colleagues you consider well-suited for the Nominating Committee.

Finally, in this time of thanksgiving, I would like to express my gratitude to my fellow officers and all of you who have made this such a successful forty-second year in the Association's history.

With best regards,

Tim



Proposed Amendments to the ABA Constitution

Proposed Revisions to the Constitution and Bylaws of the ABA

1.

Article III currently reads:

MEMBERSHIP. Any person may become a member of the Association by payment of the dues determined by the Executive Committee. Charter members are those who joined the Association within the first year since its inception, that is, before April 10, 1975. Honorary members may be elected from among non-resident foreign scholars

and benefactors of the Association by the Executive Committee. In accordance with the result of the Association's 2008 referendum on foreign scholars' dues, members who reside outside of the United States are not required to pay dues.

The Executive Committee proposes the following revision:

MEMBERSHIP. Any person may become a member of the Association by payment of the dues determined by the Executive Committee. Charter members are those who joined the Association within the first year since its inception, that is, before April 10, 1975. Honorary members may be elected from among non-resident foreign scholars and benefactors of the Association by the Executive Committee. ~~In accordance with the result of the Association's 2008 referendum on foreign scholars' dues, members who reside outside of the United States are not required to pay dues.~~

Therefore, the new Article III would read:

"MEMBERSHIP. Any person may become a member of the Association by payment of the dues determined by the Executive Committee. Charter members are those who joined the Association within the first year since its inception, that is, before April 10, 1975. Honorary members may be elected from among non-resident foreign scholars and benefactors of the Association by the Executive Committee."

2.

Article VIII Currently reads:

MEETINGS. The Association's annual meeting will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the International Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. An organizational meeting of the Executive Committee shall be held at least one month prior, whether in person or by conference call.

The Executive Committee proposes the following revision:

MEETINGS. The Association's annual meeting will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the ~~International Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo~~ **Renaissance Society of America**. An organizational meeting of the Executive Committee shall be held at least one month prior, whether in person or by conference call.

Therefore, the new Article VIII would read:

MEETINGS. The Association's annual meeting will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of Renaissance Society of America. An

organizational meeting of the Executive Committee shall be held at least one-month prior, whether in person or by conference call.

According to the ABA Constitution, since this is a proposal to revise the Constitution it must receive 2/3 majority of membership. Voting to take place via Survey Monkey and concluded at RSA Annual Meeting.



**The Giuseppe Velli Prize
for the Best Graduate Student Essay on Boccaccio
THE AMERICAN BOCCACCIO ASSOCIATION
ANNOUNCES:**

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

Thanks to the support of an anonymous donors, 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 two hundred and fifty 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*. There were no submissions in 2016.

All submissions must be made by email attachment in Word and sent to the secretary of the American Boccaccio Association (jason.houston@ou.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 1 July.

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 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 essay, since the essays are submitted anonymously to the readers. 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.



Report from the ABA Treasurer

Our Triennial Conference was heavily subsidized by many generous departments at Duke University, which contributed approximately \$6,800 to the event. The ABA itself contributed approximately \$4,600 towards the conference, still leaving a good portion of our funds intact. About one-quarter of the Association's conference-related expenditures went to graduate students in the form of individual travel grants (6 x \$250 each). The remaining expenses were largely related to conference supplies and keynote speaker expenses. The remaining funds in our Association (approximately \$7,200) will be used to offset the subvention costs of forthcoming *Lectura boccaccii* volumes, as well as to the future 2019 Triennial Conference.

If you wish to renew your regular, student, or sustaining membership, please visit <http://abaonline.us/membership.html> to submit your 2017 dues, as well as to make a donation to the *Lectura boccaccii* series, via PayPal. You may also send dues and contributions by mail using the printable form available on the website. Please note that all membership renewals received after November 15, 2016, will be recorded as dues paid for the 2017 calendar year.

Membership in the American Boccaccio Association costs \$25 per year (\$15 for students). Sustaining memberships of \$40 provide additional resources for the association's activities. Scholars who reside most of the year outside the United States are currently exempt from association dues. Your membership dues enable the

Association to support initiatives based upon the ABA's core mission to promote the work of *il nostro* and more generally Trecento studies. To this end, the ABA is a society of collaborative international scholarship through its web presence, scholarly journal, bibliographic efforts, conference panels, and not least its own triennial conference, which will take place again in 2016. These funds enable the Association to maintain and enhance these activities, and contribute to future endeavors to support research and outreach in Boccaccio studies. Please contact Kristina Olson (kolson4@gmu.edu) with any questions about your membership or to suggest potential members of ABA.



ABA Website Update

The ABA website continues to undergo updates and changes to make it a more useful resource for the membership and others interested in Boccaccio. The website will now be hosted by *ITER*, a not-for-profit partnership dedicated to the advancement of learning in the study and teaching of the Middle Ages and Renaissance (400-1700) through the development and distribution of online resources. You will still access our website though the current web address, but the website will now benefit from membership in a shared community of resources for scholars of the Middle Ages and Renaissance. We are grateful to the scholars and staff and *ITER* who have offered us this opportunity.

The newest feature is an entirely online membership form process. Now ABA members can not only pay their annual dues and donate to the *Lectura boccaccii* series through the Paypal button, but they can also submit a new or renewal membership form online. This saves processing time for ABA members.

Please know that you can always opt to pay your dues and renew your membership through the mail. The online methods are only for convenience and need not be utilized. Your comments and suggestions are always welcome to ABA Secretary Jason Houston (jason.houston@ou.edu).



Sessions Sponsored by the American Boccaccio Association

Annual Conference of the Renaissance Society of America, Boston, MA

Panel Title: *Lectura Boccaccii*
Organizer, Jason Houston, University of Oklahoma
Chair, Kristina Olson, George Mason University

1. Pina Palma, Southern Connecticut State University
The Journey toward Modernity: *Decameron* 5,1

2. Stefano Selenu, Syracuse University

Mediterranean Counterpoints between East and West: Love, Language, and (mis)Adventures in *Decameron* 5.2 and 2.7

3. Kenneth Clarke, University of York

Making It Go Further: Money, Sex and Love in *Dec* 8.1

Panel Title: Boccaccio and the Ethics of Literature

Organizer: Gur Zak, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Chair: Timothy Kircher, Guilford College

James Kriesel, Villanova University

Boccaccio's *Corbaccio* and the Ethics of Reading

Gur Zak, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Boccaccio and the Consolation of Tragedy

David Lummus, Stanford University

Boccaccio, Petrarch, and the Ethics of Engagement

Panel Title: The *Decameron* and the *Genealogie deorum gentilium*

Organizers: C. Sebastiana Nobili, Università degli Studi di Bologna & K P Clarke
University of York

Chair: K P Clarke, University of York

Tobias Foster Gittes, Concordia University

'Abling Cain: Boccaccio's Redemption of the Social Outcast in the *Decameron* and the *Genealogie*'

Luigi Canetti, Università degli Studi di Bologna

'Boccaccio fra teologia poetica e storia delle religioni'

Martin G. Eisner, Duke University

'Boccaccio's Defense of Poetry and the Plea for Diversity in the *Decameron* and *Genealogie*'.

Panel Title: Boccaccio and Questions of Gender

Organizer: Kristina Olson, George Mason University

Chair: Kristina Olson, George Mason University

Kristen R. Swann, Columbia University

"Donne che non generano": Motherhood, Renaissance Natalism, and the Material Culture of Reproduction in the *Decameron*

Sara Elena Diaz, Fairfield University

Sodomy and Misogamy in Boccaccio's *Esposizioni*

Grace Delmolino, Columbia University

Love and Laws of Obligation in Boccaccio's *Fiammetta* and *Corbaccio*: Or, How to Contract Lovesickness

Sarah Luehrman Axelrod, Harvard University

"Nobili donne," "vaghe donne": Giovanni Boccaccio's Guide to Critical Reading for Women

Panel Title: Approaches to the Architecture of the Decameron: Function and Meaning of the cornici

Organizer: Susanna Barsella, Fordham University

Chair: Timothy Kircher, Guilford College

Susana Barsella, Fordham University

Excessus Amoris: Passion, Compassion, and Boccaccio's Philosophy of Love in the Proemium of the *Decameron*

Simone Marchesi, Princeton University

If One Could Make Paradise on Earth: The Garden Frame of *Decameron* Days 3–6

Marco Veglia, Università degli Studi di Bologna

Vita e morte della cornice del *Decameron*

American Association of Italian Studies, Baton Rouge, LA

Panel Title: Space in the *Decameron*

Organizer: David P. Bénéteau

Chair: Jason Houston, University of Oklahoma

David P. Bénéteau, Seton Hall University

Spazi e forme aperti e chiusi nel *Decameron*

Thomas Mussio, Iona College

The Abandoned Grotto of *Decameron* IV, 1

Angela Fabris, Universität Klagenfurt (Austria)

Intorno alla rappresentazione dello spazio urbano nel *Decameron*



Reminders and Announcements



Christopher Kleinhenz and Elsa Filosa would similarly appreciate your assistance in their yearly compilation of the **North American Boccaccio Bibliography**. Please send them Boccaccio-related citations so that he may integrate them with his own findings. Email: ckleinhe@wisc.edu; elsa.filosa@vanderbilt.edu.



Reminders and Announcements for the Fall/Winter 2016-17 newsletter are welcome at any time through April of 2017. Besides publication announcements and conference announcements, we welcome news on fellowships one, innovative teaching initiatives, and successful examples of public outreach related to Boccaccio. Additionally, we will happily consider for publication in the newsletter proposals for short articles on anything related to Boccaccio. Please send all items or proposals for the newsletter to ABA Secretary Jason Houston (houston@gonzaga.edu).
