Minutes of the 1980 Meeting of the American Boccaccio Association

The American Boccaccio Association held its annual meeting on Sunday, December 28th, at the MLA Convention in Houston.

At the general meeting in the afternoon the following three papers were read:

Marga Cottino-Jones, UCLA, "Sex and the Law in the Decameron"
Susan Moran, Loyola, New Orleans, "Boccaccio's Ninfale fiesolano: The Diana-Venus Conflict as a mirror of Trecento Society"
Giovanni Sinicropi, U. of Connecticut, Storrs, "La Novella di Nastagio degli Onesti, Decameron V, 8".

In the evening there was a closed business meeting presided over by the acting president Aldo Scaglione (U. of NC, Chapel Hill).

Professor Scaglione was elected president for one year to complete the term to which he was appointed by the officers when Professor Fredi Chiappelli was obliged to decline the office.
Elissa Weaver (U. of Chicago) was elected vice-president for a regular 2-year term, and Paolo Giordano (Rosary College) was elected secretary-treasurer for a term of three years. A nominating committee was elected to provide nominations for the election of a new president at the New York meeting in December 1981, when the term of Professor Scaglione expires. The three members elected were: Carlo Chiarenza (U. of BC), Victoria Kirkham (Penn) and Antonio Mazzocco (Mount Holyoke). Prof. Mazzocco was not present and must be asked if he is willing and available to serve. Janet Smarr (U. of Illinois, Urbana) was chosen as alternate; she too was absent and must be consulted.

It was generally agreed that members of the ABA should plan Boccaccio seminars for the meetings of the regional divisions of the MLA, if there seems to be sufficient interest, and certainly for the program of the 1981 meeting of the AAUP.

The new secretary-treasurer was directed to publish a call for papers for the 1981 meeting of the ABA in the next MLA newsletter. Abstracts are to be sent to any of the officers by March 1st. The MLA deadline for the tentative program (names and titles) is April 1st.

This year, as last, the secretary-treasurer will compile and circulate two newsletters; members are requested to contribute to them. The first newsletter of the year will include a copy of the proposed By-Laws of the ABA and members will be asked to vote on them. To be eligible to vote members must have paid their 1981 dues. Those who have not yet done so are urged to do so as soon as possible.

The secretary-treasurer was directed to deposit the organization's funds in a suitable and convenient bank account, and to request the records of the ABA from Professor Aldo Bernardo who once kept them at Verazzano College.

Respectfully submitted,

Elissa Weaver
Secretary-treasurer of the ABA
I. The name of this Association shall be: THE AMERICAN BOCCACCIO ASSOCIATION.

II. Purpose. The purposes of the Association shall be: the encouragement of Boccaccio studies among American scholars, regardless of their particular disciplines; the establishment of a permanent Boccaccio Studies Center; the hosting of an annual Boccaccio Studies Forum; the publication of a newsletter as a clearing-house of information and communication for Boccaccisti; the sponsoring of a Journal of Boccaccio scholarship, consisting of studies, abstracts, and reviews.

III. 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.

IV. Organization. Under the Provisional Constitution of the Association, the governing body shall be the Executive Committee, consisting of a President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer.

V. Officers: Election, Term of Office, Duties.

1. The President of the Association shall be elected by the general membership from a slate of candidates prepared by a Nominating Committee of three members, for a term of office of two years. The President will preside at all meetings of the Executive Committee and of the General Membership.

2. The Vice President shall be elected in the same manner as the President and will also serve for two years. In the absence of the President the Vice-President will assume the Presidents' duties. The Vice President shall be co-editor of the Association newsletter.

3. The Secretary-Treasurer is elected for a term of not less than two years and for as long a period thereafter as the Executive Committee shall determine. The Secretary-Treasurer shall act as secretary of the Executive Committee and of the General Membership meetings and shall be co-editor of the Association newsletter. Under the supervision of the Executive Committee the Secretary-Treasurer will handle all business arrangements, collect dues, bill the membership, and budget Association expenses.

4. Editorial and clerical assistance shall be provided to the secretary-treasurer at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

5. The two-year terms of the officers will be staggered to insure the continuity of the Association.

6. When an elected official leaves office before the expiration
the term of office, the Executive Committee shall provide a replacement for the duration of the term.

7. Nomination to honorary positions is made at the discretion of the Executive Committee and should be submitted to the general membership for approval. Such nomination should be made rarely and only of scholars of outstanding achievement.

VI. Committees. A nominating Committee of three members shall be elected from the general membership at the annual meeting. The Nominating Committee shall elect their own chairman and determine their own organization.

VII. Dues. The payment of dues entitles members to all of the rights and privileges of membership and includes subscription to the newsletter. Members in good standing may vote, serve on committees, contribute to the newsletter and other publications and participate in the formation of policy.

VIII. Meetings. Under the Provisional Constitutions and Bylaws the annual meeting will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Modern Language Association at a time and place to be determined by the Program Committee. This meeting will be preceded by a meeting of the Executive Committee, with time and place to be determined by mutual agreement.

IX. Ratification of the Provisional Constitutions shall be by two-thirds majority of the general membership. Amendments to the Provisional Constitutions, once ratified, shall be submitted to the Executive Committee.

BYLAWS

1. Membership Lists. Copies of the membership lists, updated after the general membership meeting each year, will be given to the members of the Executive Committee. No one may use the membership lists, except for the normal uses of the Association, without express permission from a majority of the Executive Committee.

2. Filing of Records and Documents. Originals of Association documents and records are to be kept by the Secretary-Treasurer. The Secretary-Treasurer is responsible for all financial records and pertinent documents.

3. Mailing and Communication. The mailing address through which members may communicate with the Association will be that of the Secretary-Treasurer.

BALLOT

I accept [ ] / do not accept [ ] the Constitution and Bylaws of the American Boccaccio Association as amended at the 1980 annual meeting.

mail to: Paolo Giordano
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NAME

ADDRESS

Membership: Regular: $5.00  Sustaining: $15.00  New  Renewal

Send this form with dues to:  Paolo Giordano
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CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER

1. Works in Progress:

2. Announcements:

3. Boccaccio Bibliography:

4. Other:

Name

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