

fall 1981

Boccaccio

Newsletter

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The regional co-ordinators are responsible for organizing meetings in their respective areas and also for gathering and forwarding material for the ABA Newsletter to the editors.

Letter from the Editors

In keeping with our recently established practice, this issue the Newsletter includes a number of items of current Boccaccio bibliography contributed by ABA members. A section of the bibliography is devoted to the Boccaccio MSS and rare books in the University of Chicago Regenstein Library. Last year's bibliography included notice of a Boccaccio MS in the Olin Library of Cornell University submitted by Dennis Dutschke. We hope to solicit similar contributions for future issues of the Newsletter leading perhaps to the publication of a bibliography of Boccaccio MSS and rare books in North American libraries.

Paolo Giordano
 Elissa Weaver
 Co-Editors

FALL MEETINGS

The Midwest Modern Language Association (MMLA) Annual Meeting, November 5-7, 1981, Oconomowac, WI: Boccaccio Seminar, Ronald Martinez, University of Minnesota, Chairman. Program:

Janet Smarr, University of Illinois, Urbana; "The Figure of Wisdom in Boccaccio's Amorosa visione"

Victoria Kirkham, University of Pennsylvania; "Amorosa visione: A Reconsideration"

Alan F. Nagel, University of Iowa; "Lovers and Fathers: Boccaccio, Alberti, and the Renaissance Challenge to Hierarchy"

Philological Association of the Pacific Coast (PAPC) Annual Meeting, November 6-8, 1981, Stanford University: Boccaccio and the Novella, John Ahern, Stanford University, Chairman. Program:

Dennis Dutschke, University of California, Davis; "A 15th Century Adaptation of the Griselda Story"

Stelio Cro, McMaster University; "Boccaccio's Novella and the Human Comedy"

The American Association of University Professors of Italian (AAUPI) Conference, November 20-22, 1981, University of California, Los Angeles: Boccaccio Session to be held Saturday, Nov. 21st, 3-4:30 p.m.. For program contact the conference director, Marga Cottino-Jones, UCLA.

The Annual Meeting of the American Boccaccio Association, at the Modern Language Association Annual Meeting, December 29, 1981, Province, Sheraton. There will be three successive sessions with the ABA officers presiding:

I. 12 noon - 1:15 p.m.

Eugenio Frongia, University of Utah; "The Progression of Intelligence: The Challenge/Response Structure in Boccaccio's Decameron"

Ronald Martínez, University of Minnesota: "Eros and Violence in the Novella of Giacomino da Pavia (Dec V, 5)"

Angela Iovino, Holy Names College: "Boccaccio's Alleged 'crisi spirituale': A Biographical Note"

Madison U. Sowell, Brigham Young University: "Dante in Boccaccio's Decameron"

II. 1:45 - 3 p.m.

Clayton Koelb, University of Chicago: "The Disbelieving Reader in Boccaccio's Theory of Poetry"

Linda Carroll, Tulane University: "Boccaccio and Ruzante"

Mauda Bregoli-Russo, Northwestern University: "Was Boiardo a Reader of Boccaccio?"

Miscellaneous:

Franca Schettino will give a special course on Boccaccio as part of a Medieval Semester Program at the University of Southern California, fall 1982.

BIBLIOGRAPHY II

Regenstein Library of the University of Chicago has four Boccaccio MSS and many rare early printed editions. The following descriptions, compiled by Elissa Weaver, are taken from catalogues and other materials at the Regenstein Library.

MS 100 Genealogia deorum gentilium (parchment; in folio) is well-known and studied. It is one of the earliest extant MSS of the Genealogia and was written for and originally owned by Coluccio Salutati. The MS represents Boccaccio's final version of the work for which there are also extant copies dated 1383, 1387, and one of 1398 or earlier. All other known MSS are later. The Salutati MS was written between 1377 and 1395 (Wilkins) and probably dates to the period 1385-87 (Ullman). In addition to the Genealogia, the MS contains a table of rubrics compiled by Boccaccio and, at the end of the codex, the Versus (a poetic description of the contents of the Genealogia) by Domenico Silvestri of Florence (fl. 1364-1407) and the alphabetical index (one of the earliest of its kind) by Domenico Bandini of Arezzo (ca. 1335-1418), both men friends of Salutati. The MS is in clear and easily legible Gothic script, the work of a single scribe in all but the headings for the Versus and for the alphabetical index which are by a different hand (both hands have been studied by Ullman). The MS is illuminated throughout; it has Florentine initials and each of the 13 books of genealogies is prefaced with leafy genealogical trees which were probably done by don Simone of Siena and are essentially true to those drawn by Boccaccio himself. The initial S on the first page of text (p. 11r, lapis) contains a portrait of Boccaccio dressed as a monk and composing at his desk. It is one of the earliest known portraits of Boccaccio, but the figure is traditional and the face is without individualization. There are few notes by later hands other than those of Salutati himself and a few textual corrections. The index has been enlarged by marginal insertions. The last four books of the codex were once the home of a considerate mouse who liked clean parchment and left the text for the readers' consumption.

MS 541 Teseida and commentary (paper; in folio) is a beautiful, elaborately ornamented MS including attractive colored drawings of animals, birds, and fish. It is Pietro Andrea de' Bassi's Commento of Boccaccio's poem together with the text of the entire poem, which was written at the request of the Marquis Niccolò d'Este of Ferrara and presented to him about the year 1430. The poem is in humanistic minuscules (with a few cursive features) and the commentary is set off in a different script, humanistic cursive.

MS 540 Fiammetta (paper; in folio) is an early 15th c. Italian MS, written in an interesting humanistic hand, with running titles in red, initial letters in red and blue and minor decorations.

III. 3:30 - 4:45 p.m.

Karl-Ludwig Selig, Columbia University: "Boccaccio's Decameron and the Subversion of Literary Reality"

Giuseppe Mazzotta, Cornell University: "The Heart of Love (Dec IV, 1)"

Franco Fido, Brown University: "Parole, silenzi e cavalli nell'eros del Decameron: La novella dello Zima e altre storie"

Peter Bondanella, Indiana University, Bloomington and Mark Musa, Indiana University, Bloomington: "On Translating the Decameron"

CASH BAR WILL FOLLOW the third ABA Boccaccio session, 5:15 - 7 p.m., Province, Sheraton

BIBLIOGRAPHY I

Victoria Kirkham. "Numerology and Allegory in Boccaccio's Caccia di Diana." Traditio, 34 (1978), pp. 303-329.

_____. "Love's Labors Rewarded and Paradise Lost (Dec III, 10)."
Romanic Review (forthcoming).

Paul F. Watson. "The Spanish Chapel: Portraits of Poets or a Portrait of Christian Order?" Memorie Domenicane, n.s. 11 (1980), pp. 471-487. Article deals with a presumed portrait of G. B. in the chapter house of S. Maria Novella.

_____. "Swashbuckling for Love." Lecture at Allentown Art Museum, Oct. 14, 1980 on two panels as scenes from the Teseida and Dec IV, 1.

_____. "The Ill-matched Couple by Jacopo de' Barbari." Lecture at the Philadelphia Museum, Feb. 11, 1981, identifying a picture of 1503 as based on Comedia delle ninfe fiorentine, XXIII.

In Progress:

Robert Hollander. Il Virgilio di Dante: Tragedia nella Commedia. Firenze: Olschki, 1982 (?).

Victoria Kirkham. A book on Boccaccio's numerology and an article on the "vanti del pavone" in the Filocolo.

Giuseppe Mazzotta. Boccaccio, Ludi Magister. A study of the Decameron.

Franca Schettino. A study on Boccaccio and literary story-telling in Europe in the Middle Ages.

Charles Singleton. His revision of the Payne translation of the Decameron is completed. The University of California Press will publish it in 2 vols. together with a 3rd volume of commentary, still in progress.

MS 57 Il Filocolo (paper; in folio) is dated on the colophon Gualdo, Italy, 18 April 1456. The copyist, Angelo Blasi, is known from information given in a Latin terminal note. Blasi was a native of Gualdo, now Gualdo Tadino (formerly Gualdo de Nocera), a small town in Umbria near Fabriano. The hand is an Italic minuscule with Gothic features. There is no decoration, though spaces were left for the insertion of decorated initials.

Regenstein Library also has four Boccaccio incunables, noteworthy is the Venice Wendelin of Speyer (Vindelinus de Spira) editio princeps of the Genealogia, 1472, and a large number of 16th c. editions, including, for example, the editio princeps of the Amorosa visione, edited by G. Claricio and published in Milan by Andrea Calvo in 1521.

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CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER

1. Works in Progress:

2. Announcements:

3. Boccaccio Bibliography:

4. Other:

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