

spring 1983

# ABA Boccaccio newsletter

Elissa Weaver, U. of Chicago, president  
Angelo Mazzocco, Mt. Holyoke C., acting vice-president  
Paolo Giordano, Rosary College, secretary-treasurer  
Paolo Giordano and Elissa Weaver, Newsletter editors

## Regional representatives:

### United States

Marga Cottino-Jones, UCLA  
Millicent Marcus, U. of Texas, Austin  
Susan Noakes, U. of Kansas  
Angelo Mazzocco, Mt. Holyoke C.

### Canada

Antonio Franceschetti, U. of Toronto  
Pamela Stewart, McGill U.

The regional representatives are appointed by the president. They are responsible for organizing meetings in their respective areas and also for gathering and forwarding material for the ABA Newsletter to the editors.

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The turn-out for the annual meeting of the ABA at the MLA convention in Los Angeles this year was disappointingly small—a little better, instead, at the annual reception. We were honored at both the meeting and party by the presence of Vittore Branca. Professor Branca expressed an interest in the ABA and reported on our activities in the recent AISLI Newsletter.

Plans are underway for new ABA activities, and John Ahern's proposal for a Lectura Boccacci is included in this issue of the Newsletter. There will be two meetings of the planning committee in Italy this summer, the first on Sunday, June 26th at 11:30 a.m. at Via Vecchia Fiesolana, 48, S. Domenico di Fiesole (for information call Elissa Weaver in Florence at 055 59-132 after June 15) and the second will be at the Casa di Boccaccio in Certaldo in the Sala della Biblioteca on Saturday, July 30th at 11 a.m. (for further information call Michelangelo Picone in Certaldo at 0571 66-58-27 after July 20th).

The fall Newsletter will publish a review of Joy Potter's recent study of the Decameron, Five Frames for the Decameron, Princeton University Press, 1982. It has been suggested repeatedly that the Newsletter would be a convenient vehicle for an annual Boccaccio bibliography; members interested in compiling such a bibliography or in collaborating in a group effort to do so, please contact the ABA secretary-treasurer Paolo Giordano.

We are holding an election for vice-president of the ABA; the ballot is included in this Newsletter (last page). Please vote and send the ballot to Paolo Giordano, Rosary C. before June 10. Elissa Weaver will be in Italy from June 4 until the ABA's annual meeting in December; please address all ABA correspondence during that period to Paolo Giordano.

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#### LECTURA BOCCACCII: A PROPOSAL

Compared to scholarship on Dante's Comedy, scholarship on the Decameron is in its infancy. A glance at Esposito's and Kleinhenz's bibliography for 1939-1979 shows that many novelle have not recently received serious critical attention in Italian or any other language. Two decades ago this situation began to improve. The founding of Studi sul Boccaccio by Vittore Branca in 1963 marks a new era. In the sixth issue of SsB Anna Laura Lepschy's Bibliography of Anglo-American scholarship from 1945-1969 presented a negative picture in striking contrast to what would soon occur. In the past twenty years Boccaccio scholarship on the North American continent has blossomed. The founding of this Association is testimony of this. Readers of this newsletter are well aware of the outpouring of ground-breaking books, articles and translations which are transforming our understanding of the Decameron.

To help direct some of this energy I propose that the ABA organize a series of public readings of all 100 novelle as well as the cornice, to be published later in 10 consecutive volumes. There would be three readings a year at the annual meetings of the MLA, the AAUPI, and the International Congress of Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo. The speaker would be charged to present in the span of an hour a lively, original and detailed reading of part of the Decameron to a broad academic audience. The published form of these readings would be longer, fuller and amply documented. The uniqueness and completeness of this enterprise would guarantee it a wide following among intelligent readers of Boccaccio, academic or not, undergraduates, graduate students, medievalists, Italianists and Boccaccio specialists. These volumes would soon become indispensable and would be certain of steady sales to college and university libraries, as well as public libraries here and in Italy.

I suggest the following time-table. This year at the annual meeting during the MLA convention in New York there would be open discussion of the project. At that time I will present a resolution that the President name two others to a Lectura Boccaccii Committee on which she will serve along with the Vice President and Secretary. By March 1, 1984 this Committee will submit to the members for voting a formal proposal that the ABA sponsor such a series. (To facilitate the work of this Committee, interested members could begin sending the President their ideas about this project now.) Assuming that this proposal would be accepted, the Committee would appoint the editor of the first volume, who in consultation with it would establish length and format and choose contributors from both established and junior scholars. Work published elsewhere would be avoided. The editor's task would be to stimulate new and original work, of the highest possible quality and employing a variety of critical methods. The first lectura could be scheduled for the 1985 meeting of the MLA.

## (LECTURA BOCCACCII: A PROPOSAL)

Assuming three lecturae annually, and eleven lecturae in each volume, the First Day would be completed by spring 1988, and could appear in print sometime in 1989. The series would probably continue into the third decade of the next century. In this way it will stimulate scholarship on the entire Decameron for the next thirty or forty years. To increase the number of annual readings, or to make this solely a publishing venture without public readings might, I think, blunt the effectiveness of this enterprise.

The financing of these lecturae should be worked out volume by volume. When the first volume is well underway, we will have the information necessary to take the proposal to the foundations. The support of the ABA and the promise of solid library sales should make obtaining grants and finding a publisher not insurmountable tasks.

John Ahern  
Vassar College

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## ANNUAL MEETING - DECEMBER 1982 LOS ANGELES

## MINUTES

The meeting was opened by Professor Elissa Weaver at 3 p.m.

## 1. Acceptance of Minutes

The minutes of the 1981 business meeting were accepted as written.

## 2. Treasurer's Report

As of November 30, 1982 the Association has a balance of \$385.62 in its checking account with the University National Bank of Hyde Park, Illinois.

## 3. Professor Weaver made the following announcements:

- a) The Newberry Library Center for Renaissance Studies is pleased to announce its 1983 Summer Institute in the Archival Sciences, which will be led by Professor Armando Petrucci, Director of the Institute of Paleography, the University of Rome. Assisted by Professor Franca Nardelli, Dr. Petrucci will provide intensive training in the reading, transcribing, and editing of Italian vernacular manuscripts (1300-1650). He will also offer a thorough orientation in the organization of Italian archives, libraries, and manuscript collections.
- b) The Association will hold its annual party at the Biltmore Hotel this evening at 6:00 in Professor Weaver's suite.
- c) A book of interest to ABA members has just been published by Pratiche (Parma, 1982). Il Testo moltiplicato is a collection of five essays representing different approaches to the study of the novella of Lisabetta and the pot of basil (Decameron, IV, 5) by Barato, Serpieri, Segre, Nencioni and Cirese.

## 4. Old Business

There was much discussion about the Association's Newsletter and how possibly to improve it. Various suggestions were made:

- a) Solicit reviews of works on Boccaccio
- b) Professor Marga Cottino Jones suggested that part of each fall Newsletter be dedicated to a systematic bibliography of recent Boccaccio studies and that people be urged to send bibliographical information to the editors.

#### 5. New Business

Professor Weaver announced that the Association is planning to undertake a major project, a *Lectura Boccaccii* devoted to the Decameron, stories and framing tale.

At the executive council meeting preliminary discussions were held, and it was decided to hold two meetings of the planning committee this summer in Italy--one in Florence in June and a second in Certaldo in late July at the house of Boccaccio.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Giordano

#### TREASURER'S REPORT - 1982

		<u>BALANCE</u>
Dec. 31, 1981		263.30
Jan. 31, 1982	Deposit 55.00	315.30
	Expenses 3.30	
Feb. 28, 1982	Deposit 70.00	346.40
	Expenses 38.90	
March 31, 1982	Deposit 112.00	454.15
	Expenses 4.25	
April 30, 1982	Deposit 169.00	405.08
	Expenses 218.07	
May 31, 1982	Deposit 5.00	406.93
	Expenses 3.15	
June 30, 1982	Deposit 17.00	398.97
	Expenses 24.96	
July 31, 1982	Deposit .00	393.97
	Expenses 5.00	
Aug. 31, 1982	Deposit 15.00	400.62
	Expenses 8.35	
Sept. 30, 1982	Deposit .00	395.62
	Expenses 5.00	
Oct. 31, 1982	Deposit .00	390.62
	Expenses 5.00	
Nov. 30, 1982	Deposit .00	385.62
	Expenses 5.00	
Dec. 31, 1982	Deposit 40.00	420.07
	Expenses 5.55	

This list details monthly income and monthly expenses. Our income is generated solely by membership dues and our expenses are incurred mainly for printing and mailing of our Newsletter (Spring and Fall) and the yearly party. In addition, this year (1982) we acted as a sort of middle man to make available to the

(Treasurer's Report)

membership Professor Bergin's book Boccaccio at half the cover price. This service cost the Association \$30 in postage charges.

The University National Bank of Hyde Park has changed its policies towards checking accounts, the result of which costs the Association a sizeable monthly sum in handling costs. After consultation with Professor Weaver we decided to investigate plans offered by other banks. I hope that by the time you read this report the matter will have been resolved.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Giordano, Secretary-Treasurer

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Boccaccio papers at 1983 meetings:

AAUPI, New York, April 7-9

"La Ballate del Decameron," Lisa Muto, McGill U.

Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, U. of Kentucky, Lexington, KY  
April 21-23

"Il problema della narrazione interrotta: La prima novella della sesta giornata del Decameron," Christine Clark-Evans, Bryn Mawr C.

International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 5-8  
Session on Boccaccio Sponsored by the ABA, Victoria Kirkham, U. of Pennsylvania, presiding:

"Felice's Sacrifice and the Role of Paganism in Boccaccio's Filocolo," James H. McGregor, U. of Georgia

"Boccaccio and Christine de Pisan: The Adaptation of the De mulieribus claris in the Livre de la Cité des Dames," Earl Jeffrey Richards, Purdue U.

"Giovanni Boccaccio on Florentine Painters," Paul F. Watson, U. of Pennsylvania.

In the session, Critical Approaches to Medieval Latin Literature

"Boccaccio's Olympia and Latin Pastoral Verse," David Carlson, Centre for Medieval Studies, Toronto.

Learned Societies Conference, 1983, U. of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C.,  
May 30-June 3

"Oriental Sources for Novella VIII, Giornata VIII of Boccaccio's Decameron," Gabriele Erasmi, McMaster U.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The ABA program for the New York MLA is complete. There will be two Boccaccio sessions; one will be a special session devoted to Boccaccio and English literature.

The ABA will sponsor two sessions devoted to Boccaccio at the Spring 1984 meeting of the AAIS to be held at Indiana University in Bloomington, April 13-15. The program is almost complete but there may still be room for a paper. If you are interested, contact Peter Bondanella (Center for Italian Studies, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405) who is in charge of the meeting.

AMERICAN BOCCACCIO ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL 1983

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

Send this form with dues to:

Paolo Giordano  
Dept. of Modern Foreign Languages  
Rosary College  
River Forest, IL    60305

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CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER

1. Works in Progress:

2. Announcements:

3. Boccaccio Bibliography

4. Other

Mail to:    Boccaccio Newsletter    c/o Paolo Giordano  
          Dept of Modern Foreign Languages, Rosary College  
          River Forest, IL    60305

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BALLOT  
FOR VICE PRESIDENT

Current members of the ABA please vote for one of the following candidates for the office of Vice-President:

John Ahern, Vassar C.

Angelo Mazzocco, Mt. Holyoke C.

Send ballot to Paolo Giordano, secretary-treasurer, American Boccaccio Association, Department of Modern Foreign Languages, Rosary College, Rivert Forest IL 60305 as soon as possible, but no later than June 10, 1983.