



Boccaccio newsletter

Spring 1989

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Antonio Franceschetti, University of Toronto
Michelangelo Picone, McGill University

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ITALIAN STUDIES ANNUAL MEETING
Lowell, Massachusetts, April 13-16, 1989

The "Decameron" and its Influence: The Humorous and the Serious

Friday, April 14, 8:45-10:15 am

Speakers: Mary Ann Carolan; Mary Lyn Hikel; Jo Ann Cavallo. Paper titles were unavailable as we went to press.

Boccaccio

Saturday, April 15, 3:40-5:35 pm

Chair: Millicent Marcus, University of Texas

Papers:

1. "Representing Boccaccio's Heroines: Ginevra of Genoa (*Decameron* II.9)," Paul Watson, Univ. of Pennsylvania
2. "Boccaccio's Ideal Love: Ghismonda vs. Peronella," Angela Iovino, National Endowment for the Humanities
3. "Boccaccio's *Decameron* as a *Caccia al Porco*," James H. McGregor, Univ. of Georgia
4. "Framing Motifs in the *Decameron cornice*," Ernesto Virgulti, Brock Univ.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the American Boccaccio Society was called to order on at 8:37 am on December 29, 1988, at the New Orleans Marriott, President Victoria Kirkham presiding. Twenty-five members and guests were in attendance. The president announced the upcoming *Lectura Boccaccii* (*Decameron* I.9) by Pier Massimo Forni of The Johns Hopkins University, scheduled for that afternoon at 3:30 pm.

There followed the scheduled program, entitled "Boccaccio's *Decameron*: Comparative Approaches." Papers delivered were "Midrashic Repetition on Boccaccio's *Decameron*," James H. McGregor, Univ. of Georgia; "Cross-Fertilizations: Folklore and Literature in *Decameron* IV.5," Millicent Marcus, Univ. of Texas, Austin; "*Decameron* IX.6 and Chaucer, 'The Reeve's Tale': A Comparison," Marga Cottino-Jones, Univ. of California, Los Angeles. A question-and-answer session followed.

The president then offered two reminders: first, that the Association would seek abstracts for its session at the 1989 MLA to be held in Washington, DC; and secondly that members were encouraged to pay their dues if they had not already done so.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 am.

MINUTES OF THE AD-HOC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Ad-Hoc Executive Committee met at 12:15 pm on December 29, 1988, at the Sheraton New Orleans. Attending were Victoria Kirkham, president; Christopher Kleinhenz, vice president; Michael Sherberg, secretary-treasurer; Millicent Marcus, regional representative; and Elissa Weaver, past president.

The president first proposed the formation of a permanent executive committee to rewrite the Association's by-laws and to consult with the president on future planning for the Association. It was agreed that the committee would be composed of the current officers, the two immediate past presidents, and the regional representatives. The executive committee will hold its first meeting at the MLA convention in Washington on December 27, 1989, at 5:30 pm.

Discussion then turned to the current status of the *Lectura Boccaccii* project. Elissa Weaver, editor of the volume of the First Day's *Lecturae*, reported that the University of Pennsylvania Press has expressed interest in publishing the essays. Not all essays have been turned in and some have already been published elsewhere. It was agreed to amend the *Lectura Boccaccii* guidelines to state that in the future essays could not be published elsewhere without permission. Discussion then turned to the problem of the time involved from the beginning of a Day's *Lecturae* to the publication of the volume. It was agreed that to speed up the process the Association would seek to sponsor four *Lecturae* per year instead of the current three (held at the MLA, AAIS, and AATI conventions). Possible venues for a fourth *Lectura* were then discussed; a final decision was postponed. Victoria Kirkham will serve as editor for the *Lecturae* of the Second Day.

Ways of increasing membership in the Association were then discussed. One proposal was that we seek nominations from current members the way other organizations do.

President Kirkham then proposed that the Association name honorary members. Action is pending.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 pm.

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Also at the MLA ...

Among the many speakers on Boccaccio heard at the MLA convention this year was Professor Antonio Illiano of the Univ. of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, who spoke at the Business Meeting of the Gamma Kappa Alpha National Italian Honor Society on December 28, 1988. His talk was entitled "Per una rilettura del *Corbaccio*." Professor Illiano's address was not mentioned in the December newsletter; we apologize for the oversight.

BOCCACCIO 1990

An international Boccaccio conference is being planned by Kevin Brownlee and Victoria Kirkham, to take place at the University of Pennsylvania in October, 1990. "Boccaccio 1990: The Poet and His Renaissance Posterity" will deal broadly with Boccaccio's writings, emphasizing those that made him the most widely known narrative and historical writer of the Renaissance: the biographies, mythographies, translations into the European vernaculars, representations in the visual arts. Vittore Branca has accepted an invitation to attend as guest of honor, and papers are being solicited from other scholars in Europe and the United States. Further information may be obtained from the Center for Italian Studies, 535 Williams Hall, Univ. of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 19104.

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MEMBERS REPORT ACTIVITIES

MASSIMO CIAVOLELLA's edition of Jacques Ferraud's *Erotomania* (1621) will be published by Syracuse UP in May.

FRANCO FIDO has published *Il regime delle simmetrie imperfette: Studi sul "Decameron,"* Milano: Franco Angeli, 1988.

EUGENIO L. GIUSTI announces a dissertation in progress, *From Courtly Love to "Understanding": Boccaccio's Journey from the Early Works to the Decameron.* His article "Il Corbaccio: Tra misogenia e comprensione," is forthcoming in *Italiana* (1988).

STEVEN GROSSVOGEL's article, "Astrology in Boccaccio's *Filocolo*," is forthcoming in *Italiana*.

CRAIG KALLENDORF's book, *In Praise of Aeneas: Virgil and Epideictic Rhetoric in the Early Italian Renaissance*, scheduled for May publication by the UP of New England, will contain a chapter entitled "Boccaccio's Two Didos: Virgil, Petrarca, and 'Il Più Grande Discepolo.'"

MARC PELEN has written an essay entitled "Irony in Boccaccio's *Decameron* and in Chaucer's 'Clerk's Tale,'" which currently awaits publication. He writes: "In my current work on Chaucerian irony, I have proceeded with further considerations of the recent English- and Italian-language criticism of Boccaccio irony. The latter derives quite substantially from ironic techniques in the *Roman de la Rose*, for which see my *Latin Poetic Irony in the Roman de la Rose*, Vinaver Studies in French 4 (Liverpool: Francis Cairns, 1987)."

ALDO SCAGLIONE announces a book in progress on court society and courtly literature, 1100-1628, in Germany, France, and Italy. The chapters on Italy include a discussion of the social dimensions of the *Decameron* with regard to the chivalric ideology.

JANET LEVARIE SMARR's study, "Ovid and Boccaccio: A Note on Self-Defense," is forthcoming in *Medievalia* 13, a special issue entitled "Ovid and Medieval Culture" edited by Marilyn Desmond.

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DUES REMINDER

Members who have not yet paid 1989 dues (\$5 regular member/\$15 sustaining member): please send your check (Canadian members: US funds please) or money order, together with your name and mailing address. A convenient form is provided at the end of the newsletter.

Now that the ABA sponsors the *Lecturae Boccaccii*, followed by receptions for the participants, our expenses have more than doubled. We ask those of you who can and who are pleased with these new activities to support our projects financially by becoming sustaining members.

CII.

Dante, se tu nell'amorosa spera,
Com'io credo, dimori riguardando
La bella Bice, la qual già cantando
Altra volta il trasse là dov'era:
Se per cambiar fallace vita a vera
Amor non se n'oblia, io ti domando
Per lei, di gratia, ciò che, contemplando,
A far ti fia assai cosa leggiera.
Io so che, infra l'altra anime liete
Del terzo ciel, la mia Fiammetta vede
L'affanno mio dopo la sua partita:
Pregala, se 'l gustar dolce di Lethe
Non la m'à tolta, in luogo di merzede,
A sé m'impetri tosto la salita.