

Boccaccio Newsletter

Published Twice Yearly by the American Boccaccio Association

Spring 1996

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Minutes of the Annual Meeting

President Christopher Kleinhenz convened the annual meeting of the American Boccaccio Association at 8:30 a.m. on December 30, 1995, in the Indiana-Iowa Room of the Chicago Marriott.

President Kleinhenz opened the meeting by inviting non-members in attendance to join the Association. He also reminded everyone of the March 20, 1996 deadline for submission of paper proposals for the next MLA convention. He announced that the Association would sponsor sessions on Boccaccio at the April 1996 AAIS meeting in St. Louis and at the Kalamazoo conference in May.

President Kleinhenz also reported on ongoing discussions with European *Boccaccisti*, aimed at developing an International Boccaccio Bibliography. He also reported that several American Boccaccists would be attending the International Seminar on "Lo Zibaldone del Boccaccio" in April 1996.

Progress in the *Lecturae Boccacii* continues on two fronts: negotiations are proceeding for publication of Days 1 and 2, and Day 3 readings are continuing under the leadership of Pier Massimo Forni.

Following these announcements, the following speakers presented their papers:

Pier Massimo Forni, The Johns Hopkins Univ.: "Boccaccio and Ovid, Again"

Victoria Kirkham, Univ. of Pennsylvania: "'Classic' Wine Labels: From Dante Gabriel Rossetti to Boccaccio Chianti"

Following a short question period and in the absence of any other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Members Report Activities

Claude Cazalé Bérard (Université Lille III) has published "Boccaccio e la poetica: Mercurio, Orfeo e Giasone, tre chiavi dell'avventura ermeneutica," *Studi sul Boccaccio* 22 (1995): 277-306.

Eugenio Giusti's essay, "The Widow in Giovanni Boccaccio's Works: A Negative 'Exemplum' or a Symbol of Positive Praxis?" has appeared in *Gendered Contexts: New Perspectives in Italian Cultural Studies*, ed. L. Benedetti, J. Hairston, S. Ross (New York: Peter Lang, 1996) 39-48. He has also published three book reviews: of *Diana's Hunt/Caccia di Diana: Boccaccio's First Fiction*, ed. V. Kirkham and A. Cassell, *Italica* 71.1 (Spring 1994) : 121-23; of Francesco Bruni, *Boccaccio e l'invenzione della letteratura mezzana*, *Italica* 72.1 (Spring 1995): 109-12; and of A. Illiano, *Per l'esegesi del Corbaccio*, *MLN* 110.1 (January 1995): 209-11. Giusti teaches at Vassar Coll.

Christopher Nissen (Northern Illinois Univ.) is working on a book project to be entitled *Narrative Voices and Views of Society in the Early Italian Novella*.

Janet Smarr (Univ. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) delivered the keynote address at the Univ. of Chicago's conference on "Spazi Marginali" in April 1996. Her talk concerned Boccaccio's representation of non-European and non-Christian people and places in the *Decameron*.

Daniel J. Taylor, professor of classics at Lawrence Univ., has received an NEH Research Fellowship for College Teachers for his project entitled "F: The Biography of a Book (Varro's *De Lingua Latina*)." He will spend the 1996-97 academic year in Italy researching the study, which will trace the history of the manuscript (now codex Laurentianus pluteus 51.10) from its birth in Monte Cassino in the eleventh century to its installation in the Laurentian Library late in the Cinquecento. "F" is the only extant manuscript of the surviving six books of Varro's important book. The study will involve Boccaccio inasmuch as Zanobi da Strada stole "F" from Monte Cassino for Boccaccio.

Recent Conference Papers

American Association of Teachers of Italian, Chianciano Terme - Perugia - Siena, December 11-13, 1995

Steven Grossvogel, The Univ. of Georgia: "What Do We Really Know of Ser Ciappelletto?"

Patrizia Grimaldi Pizzorno, Univ. della Calabria, Cosenza: "La pietrificazione dell'amore nella sepoltura (Dante e Cavalcanti nel *Decameron* IV, 1)"

American Association for Italian Studies, St. Louis, Missouri, April 11-14, 1996

Rose T. Antosiewicz, Univ. of New Hampshire: "Irony, Parody, and Genre Redefinition in Boccaccio's *Filocolo*"

Flaminio Di Biagi, Loyola Univ. - Rome: "Rewriting Boccaccio's *Decameron* According to Aldo Busi"

Newberry News

An upcoming Newberry Library course may be of interest to *Boccaccisti*. Sandra Hinman, professor of art history at Northwestern Univ., will teach "Late Medieval Manuscripts and Early Printed Books: A Workshop," during the fall of 1996. The course will investigate primary evidence, drawn from Special Collections at the Newberry, on the conditions of making, illustrating, and reading books produced from about 1350 to 1550. Its particular focus will be on European centers of production in France, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Italy. Topics of special interest include: the structure of the "atelier" or shop; the division or hierarchy of labor; the relationship between text and image; and the changing patterns of reading and looking. The course is particularly recommended for graduate students at the pre-dissertation stage. For more information and to register, contact the Newberry Library, Center for Renaissance Studies, 60 West Walton St., Chicago, IL 60610-3380; phone 312/ 943-9090; e-mail <renaissance@newberry.org>.

