Fall 1997

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Modern Language Association Convention
Toronto, Ontario, December 27-30, 1997

Annual Meeting of the American Boccaccio Association
Tuesday, December 30, 10:15-11:30 a.m., Elgin, Sheraton Centre

"Fiammetta versus Dioneo in Decameron 1, 4, and 5," Marilyn Migiel, Cornell Univ.
"Of Amazons and Painted Pictures: Redactors, Illustrators, and the Quattrocento Reception of Boccaccio's Teseida," Suzanne C. Hagedorn, Coll. of William and Mary
"Boccaccio's Marginia in the Teseida," Roberta Ricci, Johns Hopkins Univ.

Cash Bar Arranged by the American Boccaccio Association and the Dante Society of America
Monday, December 29, 5:15-6:30 p.m., Conference Room C, Sheraton Centre

MLA Convention sessions of further interest to Boccaccisti:

Oral Tradition and Manuscript Authority in the Middle Ages
Saturday, December 27, 9:00-10:15 p.m., Toronto, Royal York

Religion and Politics in Medieval Literature
Sunday, December 28, 8:30-9:45 a.m., 203A, Toronto Convention Centre
The Winter Meeting of the Dante Society
Sunday, December 28, 12:00 noon-1:15 p.m., Conference Room B, Sheraton Centre

Chaucer's Queer Nation
Sunday, December 28, 7:15-8:30 p.m., Tudor 7, Royal York

Christine de Pizan: An Open Session
Monday, December 29, 8:30-9:45 a.m., Windsor, Sheraton Centre

Transformations of the Novella
Monday, December 29, 10:15-11:30 a.m., Conference Room G, Sheraton Centre

Chaucer and Boccaccio: Beyond Sources and Influences
Monday, December 29, 12:00 noon-1:15 p.m., Manitoba, Royal York

Medieval Intertextualities
Monday, December 29, 7:15-8:30 p.m., Confederation 3, Royal York

From the President

It is a tradition in the American Boccaccio Association for the new president to offer an overview of his or her plans for the organization in the coming years. As Newsletter editor I am far more used to typing other presidents' messages than composing my own, so this is a new and unusual task for me. My first words must be of thanks to our immediate past president, Christopher Kleinhenz, not only for his steady stewardship of the organization over the last four years but for his tireless devotion to the annual American Boccaccio Bibliography, the latest edition of which you will find here. Chris performs a crucial service to the Association; I suspect many of our members subscribe just to receive the Bibliography every year. I thank Steven Grossvogel, too, for his service as vice president over the past few years.

So, to the future. The shape of Boccaccio studies is changing; we must both monitor and support that change. In recent years we have undertaken to strengthen our contacts with European colleagues; while we are the American Boccaccio Association, we must not neglect the value that closer ties with Europe can offer us. European and American Boccaccisti have much to teach one another about their approaches to Boccaccio which, while often very different, are nonetheless valid and useful. We are also witnessing the development of an electronic Boccaccio, as texts appear in CD-ROM anthologies of Italian literature, websites spring to life, and the proliferation of e-mail access facilitates quicker communication with distant colleagues. We must ask ourselves what role, if any, we will play in promoting these new technologies.

We also have ongoing projects to monitor. The first Lectura Boccaccii volume is now under consideration at a new press. Possibilities for publication appear promising at this time, and we hope to have a happy announcement soon. We must get our public readings moving again, as they both raise our profile at conferences and make a significant contribution to Boccaccio studies in America.

Finally, as secretary of the Association for about 10 years, I have had the chance to track the waxing and waning of interest in Boccaccio, which I tended to measure by the number of paper proposals we received every year for our session at the MLA. A few years ago I began to despair that no one was very interested in Boccaccio anymore: another dead white male had faded into the background as scholars found more interesting and challenging topics elsewhere. Today I believe that there is still room for Boccaccio at the table, perhaps a Boccaccio who can be read from the point of view of gender, of alterity, of his influence on previously unheeded voices. The Association will continue to offer a venue to scholars who seek to take Boccaccio in new and exciting directions.
Members Report Activities

Eleanora Beck's article, "Music in the Cornice of Boccaccio's Decameron," is forthcoming in Medievalia et Humanistica.

Steven Grossvogel has published "What do We Really Know of Se Ciappelletto?" in Il Vetro 40 (1996): 133-37.

Robert Hollander is working on a project entitled "Framers of the Frame: The Three Male Brigatisti in the Decameron." On September 13 of this year he was made an honorary citizen of Certaldo.

Victoria Kirkham reports that Einaudi will soon publish Boccaccio visualizzato, edited by Vittore Branca, a project that had been delayed for several years. Her contribution on portraits of Boccaccio, an essay with catalogue, will appear there: "L'immagine fisica del Boccaccio nella memoria rinascimentale."

Marilyn Migiel is working on a book manuscript, A Rhetoric of the Decameron (and why women should read it).

Dues Reminder

If you have not yet paid your annual dues ($5 regular member/$15 sustaining member), please send your check or money order (Canadian members: US funds, please), together with your name and mailing address, to the Editor. We've provided our convenient form, which enables you to pay for one year ($5) or two ($10).

Also, please remember to check your address label: you'll see a date in the upper right-hand corner. That's the expiration date of your Boccaccio Association membership. We hope this feature will help you keep track of when your dues are due.
American Boccaccio Association
Membership Application/Renewal

Name ___________________________ Institution ___________________________

Mailing address ___________________________________________________________.

Membership: Regular ______ $5/1 year ______ Sustaining ______ $15/year
New ______ $10/2 years ______ New ______ $10/2 years
Renewal ______ Renewal ______ Renewal

Membership nominee _______________________________________________________

Address _________________________________________________________________

Send this form, along with your dues, to: Eugenio Giusti, Department of Italian, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.

Contributions to the Newsletter

Name ___________________________ Institution ___________________________

1. Work in progress

2. Announcements

3. Boccaccio bibliography

4. Other

Mail to: Boccaccio Newsletter, c/o Michael Sherberg, Romance Languages and Literatures, Washington University Box 1077, One Brookings Drive, St. Louis, MO 63130-4899. Nota bene: Christopher Kleinhenz, editor of the Boccaccio Bibliography that appears annually in the Fall Boccaccio Newsletter, would appreciate any information you might have on publications that he could integrate with his own findings.
AMERICAN BOCCACCIO BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR 1997
(through November, 1997)
compiled by Christopher Kleinhenz
(University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Books:


Articles:


Calabrese, Michael A. "Feminism and the Packaging of Boccaccio’s Fiammetta," Italica, 74, No. 1 (Spring, 1997), 20-42.


Peters, Edward. "Henry II of Cyprus, Rex inutilis: A Footnote to Decameron 1.9," Speculum, 72, No. 3 (July, 1997), 763-775.


Therivel, William A. "Praised Be Italy for the Birth of the Visitor Personality and Western Civilization. Praised Be Italy for Gregory VII at Canossa, Alexander III at Legnano, Innocent III at Runnymede; For Dante, Petrarch, Boccaccio," *Rivista di Studi Italiani*, 15, No. 1 (Giugno, 1997), 25-40.


**Book (forthcoming):**


**Articles (forthcoming):**


_____. "'Per difetto rintegrate,' ovvero, il *Filocolo* di G. Boccaccio," *Bollettino dell’Accademia lucchese di Arti, Lettere e Scienze*; 3 (1997)

**Dissertations:**

Dietrich, Stephanie Sewell. "'Slydying' Gender in the Portraits of Chaucer’s *Troilus and Criseyde*," *Masters Abstracts International*, 35, No. 1 (February, 1997), p. 57. (M.A., University of Houston, 1996; 120 p.) ["To elucidate Chaucer’s manipulation, I examine the source portraits of Dares, Joseph of Exeter, Benoit, Guido, and Boccaccio against those in *Troilus and Criseyde*; delineate gender shifts within multiple renderings of Troilus and Criseyde, and then juxtapose the aforementioned against the singular, stable portrait of Diomede."

Doden, Frank Arlan. "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to My Dissertation," *Dissertation Abstracts International*, 56, No. 11 (May, 1996), p. 4395. (Ph.D., University of Kansas, 1995; 436 p.) [The dissertation "is a collection of poems, essays, columns, and comedy sketches." The intention, however, is "not only to entertain, but also to discuss and demonstrate the subversive nature of humor. The scholarly introduction, ‘The Name of the Dissertation,’ covers the latter subject in some detail, examining humor as a subversive device within the framework of medieval literature, specifically in the works of Chaucer and Boccaccio."

Lee, Dongchoon. "Chaucer as a Storyteller," Dissertation Abstracts International, 58, No. 3 (September, 1997), p. 858. (Ph.D., The University of Rochester, 1997; 440 p.) ["The focus of the second chapter will be on Chaucer's storytelling techniques inherited from his literary predecessors (Ovid, Jean de Meun, Boccaccio) or shared with his contemporary (John Gower)."]


Reed, Laura Marie. "Interrupted Feasts: Confrontations with the Uncanny in Medieval and Renaissance Texts," Dissertation Abstracts International, 57, No. 6 (December, 1996), p. 2495. (Ph.D., Yale University, 1996; 187 p.) [One chapter discusses Boccaccio's Decameron with regard to "the extent to which feasts succeed in sublimating the violence and desire which has disrupted communities."]


Book Reviews:


Kellogg, Laura D. *Boccaccio's and Chaucer's Cressida* (New York: Peter Lang, 1995). Reviewed by:

Stephen Murphy, *Renaissance Quarterly*, 50, No. 3 (Autumn, 1997), 924-926.


Lisa Freinkel, *Spenser Newsletter*, 28, No. 2 (Spring-Summer, 1997), 15-17;

Rumble, Patrick. *Allegories of Contamination, Pier Paolo Pasolini's 'Trilogy of Life'* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1996). Reviewed by:
Carlo Celli, *Rivista di Studi Italiani*, 15, No. 1 (Giugno, 1997), 306-307;

Antonio Corsaro, *Esperienze letterarie*, 20, 4 (ottobre-dicembre, 1995), 103-106;


Staples, Max Alexander. *The Ideology of the "Decameron"* (Lewiston: Mellen, 1994). Reviewed by:

Stefano Ugo Baldassarri, *Rivista di Studi Italiani*, 15, No. 1 (Giugno, 1997), 221-223.