



newsletter
Boccaccio



"studium fuit alma poesis"

Vol. 44, No. 1 **American Boccaccio Association** Fall/Winter 2016/17

Officers:

Timothy Kircher, Guilford College, President
Susanna Barsella, Fordham University, Vice President
Kristina Olson, George Mason University, Treasurer
Jason Houston, Gonzaga University, Secretary



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Message from the President

Dear fellow *boccaccisti*,

As I record my final entry as President for the ABA newsletter, I would like to thank my fellow Boccaccisti for their ongoing, intense work in the field. It has been an easy task fielding panels for conferences; and as for the level of discussion, for example at the triennial meeting last fall, we have maintained a high standard. The scholarly work in both talks and in print has been largely measured, too, by a degree of tolerance and openness for divergent viewpoints, something not witnessed in every academic field. The last three years have seen the efforts of the 700th anniversary ripen and bear fruit, and there is still more to harvest. As such, you have made my role not only an ease to manage, but also a pleasure to fulfill.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the contributors and especially to the editors of the *Lectura Boccaccii*. We have been thankful for your patience and perseverance, in addition to your insights. The series forms a valuable, lasting contribution to our awareness of Boccaccio's playful acumen. Suzanne Rancourt, the series editor at the University of Toronto Press, has been working steadily with all of us to bring the volumes to light.

Finally, I would like to underline my appreciation for my fellow officers Suzanne Barsella, Jason Houston, and Kristina Olson. We have worked together toward our common goal: that of not simply preserving, but rather enhancing the importance of Boccaccio and his times, at a present time when so much cultural energy is being invested in what is seen as the "future," and when "visionary" speakers command the cultural stage. Yet we know that this energy derives from the resources of the past. While these resources are often compressed and transformed under the weight of distraction, ignorance, and inertia, it has been our task to expose, and re-appraise, the greater body of living history. If Orwell remarked that one who controls the past controls the future, we have applied ourselves to treasure the aphorism of T.S. Eliot, and uphold how history may be the well-spring of freedom and inspiration, and not just the slough of servitude and prejudice.

We have sought, therefore, to enlarge our sense of Boccaccio's merits, also to a wider audience. Scholars from other disciplines and languages have aided this effort. May the feast and festivities continue before our convivial *maestro*. I am certain they will, as long as we carry on collaborating and supporting one another's efforts.



Amended ABA Constitution
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
OF
THE AMERICAN BOCCACCIO ASSOCIATION

I. The name of this association shall be:THE AMERICAN BOCCACCIO ASSOCIATION

II. Purpose. The purposes of the Association shall be: the encouragement of Boccaccio studies among American scholars, regardless of their particular disciplines; the establishment of a permanent Boccaccio Studies Center; the hosting of the annual Boccaccio Studies Forum; the publication of a newsletter as a clearing-house of information and communication for Boccaccisti; the sponsoring of a journal of Boccaccio scholarship, consisting of studies, abstracts and reviews.

III. MEMBERSHIP. Any person may become a member of the Association by payment of the dues determined by the Executive Committee. Charter members are those who joined the Association within the first year since its inception, that is, before April 10, 1975. Honorary members may be elected from among non-resident foreign scholars and benefactors of the Association by the Executive Committee.

IV. Organization. Under the Provisional Constitution of the Association, the governing body shall be the Executive Committee, consisting of a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

V. Officers: Election, Term of Office, Duties.

1. The President of the Association shall be elected by the general membership from a slate of candidates prepared by a nominating Committee of three members, for a term of office of three years. The President will preside at all meetings of the Executive Committee and of the General Membership.

2. The Vice President shall be elected in the same manner as the President and will also serve for three years. In the absence of the President the Vice President will assume the President's duties.

3. The Secretary is elected for a term of three years. The Secretary shall act as secretary of the Executive committee and of the General Membership meetings and shall be the editor of the Association newsletter. Editorial and clerical assistance shall be provided to the secretary at the discretion of the Executive Committee and under its supervision.

4. The Treasurer is elected for a term of three years. The Treasurer will handle all business arrangements, including the collection of dues and the budgeting of Association expenses.

5. In order to ensure the continuity of the Association and to foster the participation of its members, the Nominating Committee will ensure that at least one office in the Executive Committee be contested in every election by two current members of the Executive Committee.

6. When an elected official leaves office before the expiration of the term of office, the Executive Committee shall provide a replacement for the duration of the term.

7. Nomination to honorary positions is made at the discretion of the Executive Committee and should be submitted to the general membership for approval. Such nomination should be made rarely and only of scholars of outstanding achievement.

VI. Committees. A Nominating Committee of three members shall be elected from the general membership. The membership shall propose a slate of candidates to be elected to the Nominating Committee via electronic polling. The general membership shall then elect from that slate the three-member Nominating Committee who shall subsequently elect their own chair and determine their own organization. The Nominating Committee shall solicit nominations from current members for the elected offices, ensure the willingness of each candidate to serve and present to the general membership for a vote a slate of two candidates for each office.

VII. Dues. The payment of dues entitles members to all of the rights and privileges of membership and immediate access to the newsletter. Members in good standing may vote, serve on committees, contribute to the newsletter and other publications and participate in the formation of policy.

VIII. Meetings. The Association's annual meeting will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of Renaissance Society of America. An organizational meeting of the Executive Committee shall be held at least one-month prior, whether in person or by conference call.

IX. Amendments to and revisions of the Association's by-laws and constitution may be submitted to the Executive Committee by any member in good standing. All changes must be approved by a two-thirds majority of the general membership in order to be ratified.

BYLAWS

1. Membership Lists. Copies of the membership lists, updated after the general membership meeting each year, will be given to the members of the Executive committee. No one may use the membership lists, except for the normal uses of the Association, without express permission from a majority of the Executive Committee.

2. Filing of records and documents. Originals of Association documents and records are to be kept by the Secretary. The Treasurer is responsible for all financial records and related documents. Digital archiving shall be the preferred means of preservation of such documents.

3. All communication issuing from and directed to the Association shall take place via electronic means. The Association's contact e-mail address shall be that of the Secretary.



**The Giuseppe Velli Prize
for the Best Graduate Student Essay on Boccaccio
THE AMERICAN BOCCACCIO ASSOCIATION
ANNOUNCES:**

**THE GIUSEPPE VELLI PRIZE
FOR THE BEST GRADUATE STUDENT ESSAY ON BOCCACCIO**

The ABA is happy to announce the winner of the American Boccaccio Association's 2016 Velli Prize for the best graduate student essay on Boccaccio. Ms. Chiara Girardi of Johns Hopkins University has been selected as the winner for her essay "European Reactions to the Wealth and Beauty of Saracen Women in *Decameron* II.7 and IV.4." We had a number of quality submissions, but her essay was the unanimous choice as the most outstanding. We thank the members of the Prize Committee (S. Marchesi and F. Alfie) for evaluating the submissions.

**The American Boccaccio Association
announces:**

**The 2017 GIUSEPPE VELLI PRIZE
for the best GRADUATE STUDENT essay on BOCCACCIO**

and

**a New Undergraduate Prize for best essay, creative work, or performance
on Boccaccio**

Thanks to the support of an anonymous donor, this year (2017) the *American Boccaccio Association* can continue the annual prize competition for the best graduate student essay on a subject related to the life or works of Giovanni Boccaccio. The Giuseppe Velli Prize of three hundred dollars will be awarded to the best essay submitted by a graduate student in any American or Canadian University or by anyone not currently enrolled as a graduate student, provided that he or she has received the degree of M.A. or Ph.D. within one year of submission. The winning essay will also be automatically considered for publication in *Heliotropia*.

All submissions must be made by email attachment in PDF and sent to the Secretary of the American Boccaccio Association (vcappozz@olemiss.edu). No hardcopy submissions will be accepted. The essays should be no longer than 7500 words, including bibliography and other related material. The deadline for submission is Friday December 29, 2017.

Thanks to the support of another anonymous donor, this year (2017) the American Boccaccio Association is happy to add a second category to the Velli Prize. The Giuseppe Velli Undergraduate Prize of two hundred dollars will be awarded to the best essay, creative project, or performance submitted by an undergraduate student in any American or Canadian University, or by anyone not currently enrolled as an undergraduate student, provided that the work was completed as an undergraduate and that he or she has received an undergraduate degree within one year of submission. Essays should be submitted in PDF format. Creative projects or performances can be submitted as digital recording or another media file.”

For both prizes, the author should provide a cover page (as the first page of the file) containing the author’s name, email, mailing and email addresses, the title of the essay/project/performance and institutional affiliation. The author’s name should not appear on the essay title page (to follow the cover page) or on any other page of the submission. Quotations from Boccaccio’s works should be cited in the original language, and the format of the essay should conform to MLA Style Sheet guidelines. Submissions will be judged by a committee appointed by the President of the ABA. The committee will consist of a Chair, one member of the ABA executive, and one other member of the ABA. The results will be announced in early autumn and published in the fall issue of the *ABA Newsletter*. While the essays remain the intellectual property of their authors, the submitted texts will not be returned to them.

The American Boccaccio Association established this annual award in commemoration of the scholarship of Giuseppe Velli. Professor Velli (1928-2013), was a remarkable Boccaccio scholar whose work remains fundamental in Italy and North America to this day. As a young man, he studied at the Scuola Normale di Pisa and elsewhere with the likes of Giorgio Pasquali, Luigi Russo, Alessandro Perosa, Paul Oskar Kristeller, Augusto Campana and Reto Bezzola. Upon the completion of his studies, he spent several years teaching abroad, first holding appointments in Paris and New York before taking an assistant professorship at the University of California Los Angeles and later a post as full professor at Smith College. Afterwards, he returned to Italy where he taught *Letteratura umanistica* at the Università di Macerata, *Letteratura italiana e filologia dantesca* at the Università di Venezia and lastly as professor of Italian literature at the Università degli Studi di Milano. Beginning in the 1980s, he maintained an important presence in the United States as a visiting scholar at UCLA, Johns Hopkins University, the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and Indiana University. Professor Velli’s studies ranged widely, but the ABA is particularly appreciative of his work on Boccaccio. His work, including the edition of the *Carmina* for Mondadori’s “Tutte le opere” series and his famous volume entitled *Petrarca e Boccaccio. Tradizione · memoria · scrittura* (1995), helped enhance our understanding: the patterns of intertextuality between Boccaccio’s works and classical literature; the relationship between Boccaccio

and Petrarch; and the *modus operandi* of Boccaccio at his *scriptorium*. Essays on these topics are particularly welcome.



Report from the ABA Treasurer

The Association currently has approximately \$8,500 in funds which will be used to sponsor the subvention costs of forthcoming *lecturae boccaccii* volumes as well as the future 2019 Triennial Conference.

If you wish to renew your regular, student, or sustaining membership, please visit <http://abaonline.us/membership.html> to submit your 2017 dues, as well as to make a donation to the *Lecturae Boccaccii* series, via PayPal. You may also send dues and contributions by mail using the printable form available on the website. Please note that all international members of the Association are now required to pay membership dues.

Membership in the American Boccaccio Association costs \$25 per year (\$15 for students). Sustaining memberships of \$40 provide additional resources for the association's activities. Your membership dues enable the Association to support initiatives based upon the ABA's core mission to promote the work of *il nostro* and more generally Trecento studies. To this end, the ABA is a society of collaborative international scholarship through its web presence, scholarly journal, bibliographic efforts, conference panels, and not least its own triennial conference, which will take place again in 2016. These funds enable the Association to maintain and enhance these activities, and contribute to future endeavors to support research and outreach in Boccaccio studies. Please contact Kristina Olson (kolson4@gmu.edu) with any questions about your membership or to suggest potential members of ABA.



Sessions Sponsored by the American Boccaccio Association

ABA Triennial Conference, Duke University September 30- October 2

Friday, 30 September

Graduate Student Workshop: Futures of the Field in Pedagogy and Scholarship

Discussants include Eugenio Giusti, Martin Eisner, Jason Houston, Kristina Olson, Timothy Kircher, Susanna Barsella

Opening Keynote David Wallace, Judith Rodin Professor of English, University of Pennsylvania

“No Respect: Two Views of Boccaccio (1932, 1946)”

Saturday, 1 October

Decameron I

Chair, Michael Papio, Professor at University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Warren Ginsberg, Professor at University of Oregon, "Boccaccio and Intertextuality: Nastagio degli Onesti (5.8)"

Michaela Paasche Grudin, Lewis & Clark, "Boccaccio's Decameron and the Poetics of Unorthodoxy"

Dante and Boccaccio (DSA-ABA co-sponsored panel)

Chair, Kristina Olson, Associate Professor at George Mason University

Jelena Todorovic, Associate Professor at University of Wisconsin-Madison, "Dante's Poets in Boccaccio's Argomento al Purgatorio"

Beatrice Arduini, Assistant Professor at University of Washington, "The system of virtues: Boccaccio's incorporation of Dante in Decameron X"

Irene Cappelletti, Ph.D. candidate at Università della Svizzera italiana, "Qualche ipotesi sulla struttura del Decameron"

Decameron II

Chair, Susanna Barsella, Fordham University

Marco Veglia, Professor at Università di Bologna, "Tra donna Berta e ser Martino. La rappresentazione e la lettura della storia nel "Decameron" del Boccaccio"

Joel Pastor, University of South Carolina, "'Peace in Our Time': Tyranny and Consensus in Decameron 10.10"

Chiara Girardi, Ph.D. candidate at the Johns Hopkins University, "Literary representation of Islam in the Decameron"

Boccaccio Beyond the Book: Meaning, Matter, and Questions of Reception

Chair, Beatrice Arduini, University of Washington

David Lummus, Assistant Professor at Stanford University, "Fragments of an (Im)material Poetics in Boccaccio's Works"

James C. Kriesel, Assistant Professor at Villanova University, "Allegory and (Im)materiality in Boccaccio's Vernacular Anthologies"

Gur Zak, Assistant Professor at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, "Rewriting Ghismonda: The Ethics of Tragedy after Boccaccio"

Boccaccio e dintorni

Chair, Elsa Filosa, Vanderbilt University

Federico Canaccini, Princeton University, "Philosophical Currents in Boccaccio's Naples"

Giovanni Spani, College of the Holy Cross, and Francesco Galassi, University of Zurich, "A Multidisciplinary Palaeo-pathographic Reassessment of the Decline and Demise of Giovanni Boccaccio"

Chiara Gaiardoni, Università per Stranieri di Perugia, "Metamorfosi del 'Trionfo' dall'Antico a Boccaccio al tardo umanesimo."

Chaucer's Boccaccio: Acts of Translation and Appropriation

Chair, Katherine McKinley, University of Maryland Baltimore County

Kara Gaston, University of Toronto, "Returning to Thebes in The Thebaid and The Knight's Tale"

Teresa Russo, University of Toronto, "Mnemonic movement in Boccaccio's Teseida and Chaucer's The House of Fame"

Jessica Harkins, College of St. Benedict/St. John's University, "Dante's 'matta bestialità' in the Griselda stories of Boccaccio and Chaucer"

Taylor Cowdery, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, "Chaucer's 'Petra' and Lydgate's 'Bochas': Authorial Bodies in the Middle English *De casibus virorum illustrium*"

Class and Gender

Chair, Helen Solterer, Professor at Duke University

Julianna Visco, Columbia University, "Beyond Mimesis: Boccaccio's Engagement with Wool Production in the Decameron"

Kristen Swann, University of New Hampshire, "'O figliuol, del tuo padre specchio': Paternal Resemblance and the Patrilineage in Boccaccio's *Ninfale fiesolano*."

Sara Diaz, "Iuventa corripuit, senecta correxit: The Gendering of Age in Boccaccio and Petrarch"

Familiar Boccaccio: Letters and Histories

Chair, Jason Houston, Director of Gonzaga University in Florence

Alberto Gelmi, City University of New York, "Erudition and storytelling: Boccaccio's love letters in *Filostrato*"

Roberto Risso, Clemson University, "Essa scrisse una lettera e in quella ciò che a fare il dí seguente avesse per esser con lei gli mostrò: Letters and Epistolary Narrations in Boccaccio's Prose Works"

Chelsea Pomponio, Franklin & Marshall College, "Troy, Rome, Certaldo? Locating Boccaccio's Family Tree"

Women in Boccaccio: Vaghe e valorose donne

Chair, Marilyn Migiel, Professor at Cornell University

Laura Banella, Duke University, "Di propria mano: Fiammetta and Medieval Women Intellectuals"

Alyssa Granacki, Duke University, "Desire and the Limits of the Law, Decameron VI.7"

Rino Monodutti, Università di Padova, "Mulieres clarae da Giovanni Boccaccio a Domenico Bandini"

Boccaccio philologus

Chair, David Lummus, Assistant Professor at Stanford University

Samantha Mattocci, University of Wisconsin Madison, "The Codex as a Book: Exploring Boccaccio's Writing Practices in the Manuscript Laurenziano Pluteo 29.8"

Teresa Nocita, Università dell'Aquila, "Boccaccio, the Decameron and the Hamilton 90 Codex"

Michael Papio and Albert Lloret, University of Massachusetts Amherst, "Editing Boccaccio's *De montibus*"

Keynote Address, Corrado Bologna, Professor of Romance Philology, Università di Roma Tre

"Boccaccio e l'invenzione del canone dei Classici moderni"

Boccaccio's Life and Times

Chair, Martin Eisner, Associate Professor at Duke University

William Caferro, Professor at Vanderbilt University, "Boccaccio as Florentine Public Servant, 1351-1353"

Elsa Filosa, Associate Professor at Vanderbilt University, "Chi era Pino de' Rossi?"

Kristina M. Olson, Associate Professor at George Mason University, "*Panni corti* and Minos's Tail: Boccaccio's History of Fashion and Governance in *Esposizioni* 5"

Boccaccio's Opere minori

Chair, James Kriesel, Assistant Professor at Villanova University

Roberto Fedi, Professor at Università Italiana per Stranieri di Perugia, "Boccaccio Lirico"

Andrea Gazzoni, Ph.D. candidate at University of Pennsylvania, "How (Not) to Start an Epic: *Teseida* 1"

Marilyn Migiel, Professor at Cornell University, "Tests and Traps in Boccaccio's *De casibus virorum illustrium*"

Boccaccio and Islam

Chair, Timothy Kircher, Professor at Guilford College

Brenda Deen Schildgen, Professor at the University of California Davis "Boccaccio, Saladin, and Islam in the *Decameron*"

Valerio Cappozzo, Assistant Professor at the University of Mississippi, "The Sultan al-Kamil Seen Through Saint Francis, Frederick II, and the *Decameron*"

Andrea Celli, Assistant Professor at the University of Connecticut, 'Sotto il ritratto del Saladino'. Boccaccio and Other Sources in Giovo's *Elogium* of the Ayyubid Sultan"

Rewriting Boccaccio in the Cinquecento

Chair, Valeria Finucci, Professor at Duke University

Raffaella Anconetani, independent scholar, "L'arrivo in porto: la memoria dei congedi del *Filostrato* e del *Teseida* nel proemio dell'ultimo canto dell'*Orlando furioso*"

Alyssa Falcone, Ph.D. candidate at the Johns Hopkins University, "Boccaccio Spirituale: Overhauling the *Decameron* in the Name of Religion"

Christina McGrath, Ph.D. candidate at Columbia University, "Manipulated, Misrepresented, and Maligned: the Censorship and *Rassetatura* of the *Decameron*"

Keynote Address, Janet Smarr, Professor of Theatre and Dance, University of California, San Diego
"Women rewrite Griselda"

Modern Languages Association Annual Conference, January

Lectura Boccacii

Presiding: David Lummus, Stanford Univ.

Elsa Filosa, Vanderbilt Univ.

"Boccaccio's Letter to Pino de' Rossi: A Pamphlet on Innocence,"

Renaissance Society of American Annual Conference, March 30-April 1st, Chicago, IL.

Boccaccio and Compassion

Organizer, Gur Zak, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Chair and Respondent: Hannah Chapelle Wojciehowski, University of Texas at Austin

Gur Zak, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Compassion and Literary Empathy in the Filostrato and the Decameron

Olivia Holmes, Binghamton University Decameron 5.8: "Di compassion piena"

F. Regina Psaki, University of Oregon Compassion in Boccaccio's Later Writings

Boccaccio and Law

Organizer and Respondent: Kristina M. Olson, George Mason University Chair: Kevin Brownlee, University of Pennsylvania

Justin Steinberg, University of Chicago

The Artist and the Police: Calandrino's Invisibility and the All-Seeing Sun of Decameron 8.3

Michael Sherberg, Washington University in St. Louis A Legal Theory of Exile in Boccaccio

Boccaccio and Tradition

Organizer: Elsa Filosa, Vanderbilt University Chair: Susanna Barsella, Fordham University

Francesco Ciabattoni, Georgetown University Decameron 7.1: Tessa and Gianni de' Lotteringhi

Angela Porcarelli, Emory University

Constructing Alternative Identities: The Narrative Device of Confession in Decameron 7.5

Elsa Filosa, Vanderbilt University

The Expunction of the Monarchia in the Second Redaction of Boccaccio's Life of Dante



Other Papers on Boccaccio Given by ABA Members

RSA 2017

Jon Solomon, University of Illinois

“Olympian Gods of Fire, Air, and Water in Boccaccio’s *Genealogia deorum gentilium*,”

Villa I Tatti

Albert Ascoli, University of California, Berkeley, “Boccaccio’s Giotto and Cavalcanti: Nature, Art, Knowledge,” April 2017.

Justin Steinberg, University of Chicago, “Legal and Literary Probability in *Decameron* 4.7,” December 2016.

NYU Villa La Pietra

Albert Ascoli, University of California, Berkeley, “Interpreting Emilia: A Reading of *Decameron* 9.9,” January 2017.

Theodore Cachey, University of Notre Dame, “Mapping Italy in Dante, Petrarch, and Boccaccio,” April 2017.



Reminders and Announcements



Kathryn McKinley published her monograph *Chaucer’s House of Fame and Its Boccaccian Intertexts: Image, Vision, and the Vernacular*. Toronto: Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies, December 2016. [weblink](#)



Alyssa Falcone of Johns Hopkins University defended her dissertation "*Decamerons Without Women: The Spiritualization of Italian Literature in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries*" in April 2017.



Christopher Kleinhenz and Elsa Filosa would similarly appreciate your assistance in their yearly compilation of the **North American Boccaccio Bibliography**. Please send them Boccaccio-related citations so that he may integrate them with his own

findings. Email: ckleinhe@wisc.edu; elsa.filosa@vanderbilt.edu.



Reminders and Announcements for the Spring/Summer 2017 newsletter are welcome at any time through August. Besides publication announcements and conference announcements, we welcome news on fellowships one, innovative teaching initiatives, and successful examples of public outreach related to Boccaccio. Additionally, we will happily consider for publication in the newsletter proposals for short articles on anything related to Boccaccio. Please send all items or proposals for the newsletter to ABA Secretary Valerio Cappozzo (vcappozz@olemiss.edu).
