

SPRING 1984

# ABA Boccaccio Newsletter

Elissa Weaver, U. of Chicago, president  
John Ahern, Vassar College, vice-president  
Paolo Giordano, Rosary College, secretary-treasurer  
Elissa Weaver and Paolo Giordano, 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 College  
Madison Sowell, Brigham Young U.

### Canada

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

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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Professor Elissa Weaver has been re-elected President of the American Boccaccio Association for a second term of two years.

The membership has overwhelmingly passed Professor Ahern's motion that "The American Boccaccio Association will institute a Lectura Boccaccii beginning with the 1984 annual meeting of the Modern Language Association in Washington D.C."

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## President's Message

Thank you for expressing satisfaction with my service as president of the American Boccaccio Association and entrusting me with the direction of the Association for another term.

The past few years have seen an increase of our membership and of our activities largely owing to the work of a number of young, energetic, and talented Boccaccio scholars who have organized meetings, presented papers, and contributed time and new ideas. One of their proposals is about to be realized and will give the ABA direction for the coming years, allowing us to make a significant contribution to Boccaccio scholarship and to pay our collective tribute to Giovanni Boccaccio.

Our first Lectura Boccaccii will be held at the MLA Convention in Washington D.C. Professor Robert Hollander of Princeton University will inaugurate the series with a reading of the Proem of the Decameron. There will be twelve lecturae for the First Day (Proem, Introduction, ten stories), three a year beginning in 1985: the first at the annual meeting of the American Association of Italian Studies in Tampa, Florida at the University of South Florida, April 11-13; the second at the 20th International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, Michigan, May 9-12 (we will ask to be scheduled the 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> to avoid conflict with the A.I.S. L.L.I. meeting in Canada, May 6-10); and the third again at the MLA convention in December. The committee has agreed that the First Day readings will be by invitation, and we are beginning to make plans. I hope to be able to announce most, if not all the First Day's program in Washington this December.

Details regarding the first Lectura Boccaccii and our other activities planned for the MLA Convention will be published in the fall Newsletter.

Elissa Weaver, President  
American Boccaccio Association

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#### Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting

The annual business meeting of the American Boccaccio Association was held on December 29, 1983 at the New York Sheraton in conjunction with the MLA Convention. The meeting began at 9:00 A.M.

Treasurer's Report - Paul Giordano reported that as of December 23, 1983 there was \$179.62 in the association's account. Professor Giordano mentioned that the association relies on membership dues for its only source of income. Association funds are used for publication and mailing of the Newsletter and to purchase refreshments for the annual party.

Old Business - None

New Business - The election for President of the association could not be carried out because there were not enough members present to constitute a quorum. It was decided that the voting be done by mail as soon as possible.

Professor John Ahern moved that: "The American Boccaccio Association institute a Lectura Boccaccii beginning with the 1984 annual meeting of the Modern Language Association in Washington D.C." I was decided that voting on Professor Ahern's motion be done through the mail.

It was proposed from the floor that the association not take the responsibility of publishing book reviews in the Newsletter. It was suggested that the association publish summaries of new books in print.

Announcements - Professor Weaver announced that the ABA party will be held in her suite beginning at 8:30 that evening.

Minutes of the Executive Council Meeting, December 29

The meeting began at 5:15.

The main agenda item at the council meeting was the proposed Lectura Boccacii.

It was decided that there should be three or four readings per year, beginning with the 1984 MLA Convention. Other conferences mentioned for possible lecturae are the American Association of Italian Studies and the International Congress for Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo. Professor Weaver will contact these associations and make the necessary inquiries and arrangements.

Professor Ahern has been asked to draft editorial guidelines for the lecturae.

It was also decided that the First Day's readings will be by invitation.

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The following editorial guidelines have been submitted by Professor Ahern:

Editorial Guidelines for the Lectura Boccacci

The American Boccaccio Association has undertaken a series of public readings of the novelle and cornice of the Decameron. Each year we will sponsor three or four readings at professional meetings such as the MLA Convention, the Medieval Conference in Kalamazoo and the American Association of Italian Studies Conference. We foresee a mixed academic audience including medievalists, Italianists, Boccaccio specialists and generalists. Those who present lecturae should bear in mind that the audience as a whole cannot be presumed to understand Italian or any other foreign language; hence quotes should be in English translation as much as possible. When quotation in the original language is necessary, a translation should follow. For long or difficult passages of key importance speakers may wish to provide the audience with mimeographed or dittoed handouts. Because many in the audience will not have read recently the text under discussion, a minimum of plot summary may be necessary. Although each speaker will be conversant with all relevant scholarship, the works of previous critics and scholars should be introduced only when strictly germane to the speaker's argument.

We encourage the use of all valid critical methodologies and wish to stimulate new departures and original work in the criticism of the Decameron. We do not want eloquent restatements

of previous scholarship. Although each reading may have a personal focus, it should nonetheless constitute a complete reading of the text in question. We will not ordinarily assign a novella to a scholar who has already published on it. We exclude all investigation of the fortuna or subsequent influence of Boccaccio's texts on other writers. Investigation of sources and analogues of Boccaccio's tales is encouraged when it illuminates Boccaccio's craft and not as an end in itself. An hour will be set aside for each lectura. Allowing for an introduction and some discussion afterwards, the speaker should count on about 45 minutes in which to present the text.

It is our intention to publish these readings in amplified form in ten volumes at intervals of three or four years. We see these ten volumes as forming a basic reference tool for readers of the Decameron at whatever level, from undergraduates reading the Decameron in English for the first time to Boccaccio specialists.

The completed typescript of not more than thirty pages, including notes, should be a revision of the original lectura. Secondary sources should be cited in English, primary sources in the original and in English. The Decameron should be quoted in Vittore Branca's edition of 1976. Instead of recommending a single English translation we ask each contributor to supply an original literal translation. Other works should be cited in the best available editions.

The format of the written version (which should be submitted four months after the public presentation) should be that of an article in the PMLA; as explained in the "Report of the Advisory Committee on Documentation Style," PMLA 97, May 1982, 318-324. In general as much documentation as possible should be incorporated into the body of the text. Footnotes should be kept to a necessary minimum. The bibliographies of the individual lecturae will be merged into a single bibliography at the end of the volume. Each contributor should provide either in the text or notes a concise, up to date survey of major scholarship surrounding the text under discussion, so that interested readers may easily extrapolate a bibliography. Finally, we encourage contributors to refer to each others' readings, for the project, as we conceive it, is an ongoing, open ended, many voiced dialogue on the Decameron.

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Boccaccio Papers at 1984 Meetings

American Association of Italian Studies, Indiana University,  
April 13-15.

Boccaccio Session I - Anthony Tamburri, Middlebury College  
presiding:

"Boccaccio's Genealogie Deorum: A Reassessment"  
Thomas Hamel, St. Olaf College.

"Deception and Disguise in The Decameron" Elizabeth  
Welles, State University of New York, Albany.

"The Structure, Form, and Wit of Deceit (Decameron  
VIII.10)" Karl Ludwig Selig, Columbia University.

Boccaccio Session II - Paolo Giordano, Rosary College  
presiding:

"Boccaccio and the Revival of the Arts" Stelio Cro,  
McMaster University.

"The Non-Naming Nouns of Renaming in The Decameron"  
H. Wayne Storey, University of Virginia.

"How Chaucer Read Boccaccio" David Wallace, Cambridge  
University.

XIX International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, May  
10-13

Boccaccio - Organizer Anthony Cassell, U. Illinois

"Narrative Dilation in the Filocolo" Donald Chaney,  
University of Massachusetts.

"The Legacy of Dante's Petrose: The Novella of  
Nastagio degli Onesti" Ronald L. Martinez, University  
of Minnesota.

"The Trattatello in laude di Dante and the Evolution  
of Boccaccio's Dantismo" Todd Boli, University of  
Florida.

"The Decameron: Plaugue and Recreation" Susanna Peters  
Coy, University of Connecticut.

In the session, The Body and the Bawdy: The Aesthetics of  
Obscenity II Franca Schettino, University of Southern  
California presented "Ribaldry as Narrative Form in  
Boccaccio's Decameron."

In the session Chaucer and Other Poets David Wallace,  
University of Cambridge presented "Chaucer's  
Assessment of Boccaccio's Filostrato"

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It has come to our attention that the following items were not  
included in the bibliography section of the fall Newsletter:

Cottino-Jones, Marga, Order from Chaos: Social and  
Aesthetic Harmonies in Boccaccio's Decameron  
(Washington D.C.: University Press of America, 1982)

Franceschetti, Antonio, "Dall'amore cortese all'adulterio  
tranquillo: Lettura della novella di Tedaldo degli  
Elisei," Miscellanea di studi in onore di Vittore  
Branca.

AMERICAN BOCCACCIO ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL-1984

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

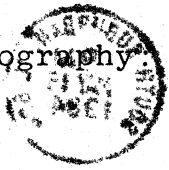
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CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER

1. Works in Progress:

2. Announcements:

3. ~~Boccaccio Bibliography~~

4. Other:



Name \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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