



Boccaccio newsletter

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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the American Boccaccio Association was convened by President Victoria Kirkham on Saturday, December 28, 1991, in the Sierra Conference Room 5C of the San Francisco Marriott. Approximately 40 members and guests were in attendance. Following brief announcements, four papers were delivered: "Converting Alibech: Rustico's Hellish Paradise Reconsidered," Diane Vacca, Yale Univ.; "La lingua conosce la storia," Pier Massimo Forni, Johns Hopkins Univ.; "La presenza del Boccaccio nelle novelle dell'*Innamorato*, del *Mambrino*, e del *Furioso*," Antonio Franceschetti, Univ. of Toronto, Scarborough; "In Sickness and in Health: Women and Comic Society in Boccaccio and Shakespeare," Kay Stanton, California State Univ., Fullerton.

Other Boccaccio Association events at the MLA convention included a *Lectura Boccaccii* by Prof. Susan Noakes, Univ. of Minnesota, on *Decameron* 2.8, and a cash bar held in conjunction with the Dante Society of America.

LECTURAE BOCCACCII

Here's an updated schedule of the *Lecturae Boccaccii* for Day 2 of the *Decameron*. Look for the upcoming *Lecturae* at the following conferences (an asterisk denotes a *Lectura* that has already been given):

2.1 Kevin Brownlee, Univ. of Pennsylvania

AAIS, 1993

2.2*	Rebecca West, Univ. of Chicago	AAIS, Chapel Hill, 1992
2.3*	David Wallace, Univ. of Minnesota	MLA, Chicago, 1990
2.4	H. Wayne Storey, Fordham Univ.	AAIS, 1993
2.5*	Christopher Kleinhenz, Univ. of Wisconsin	Kalamazoo, 1991
2.6*	Michael Sherberg, Washington Univ.	AAIS, Charlottesville, 1990
2.7	Joan Ferrante, Columbia Univ.	MLA, New York, 1992
2.8*	Susan Noakes, Univ. of Minnesota	MLA, San Francisco, 1991
2.9*	Elissa Weaver, Univ. of Chicago	Kalamazoo, 1992
2.10	Teodolinda Barolini, New York Univ.	MLA, New York, 1992

Please note that, in order to keep to our plan to complete the Day 2 Lecturae in a three-year cycle, we have scheduled two readings for the 1992 MLA in New York. As a result, we will not be soliciting papers for our annual meeting section, as has been traditional. We will return to the regular annual meeting format in 1993.

UPDATE ON PENNTIP AND THE PENN BOCCACCIO PROJECT

Penntip, the Penn Text-Image Project to create a database of images centering around the works of Giovanni Boccaccio, has completed its first phase of investigation. *Penntip* was conceived in 1988 by Victoria Kirkham and Ivy Corfis of the Department of Romance Languages at the Univ. of Pennsylvania. It has proceeded in conjunction with *Penn Boccaccio*, a continuing team project directed by Kirkham that will computer-link full texts of Boccaccio's works with their Renaissance illustrations.

Penntip, which has been funded by the University Research Foundation and developed in conjunction with the Dean's office for computing, has three tasks: data collection, on-line image cataloguing, and catalogue-image linking and retrieval. For this initial phase of the project, 400 black and white reproductions of manuscript illustrations of Boccaccio's *Decameron* and *Teseida* were assembled from museums and libraries in the United States and Europe. These images were digitized using a desk-top computer and catalogued in a database.

The catalog currently resides in Superbase 4, a Microsoft Windows database. It presents information about manuscripts containing the images and also about each single image. Catalogue information on the manuscripts (e.g., where they are housed by city and library and call number, medium, date) is based on Vittore Branca, "Boccaccio visualizzato - Primo elenco di codici illustrati," *Studi sul Boccaccio* 15 (1985-86). For each image, information includes the textual passage it illustrates, a brief descriptive caption, and an index of key words identifying objects depicted.

Eventually, the images with their textual information will be computer-linked to the full texts of the *Decameron* and the *Teseida*, which are already available in electronic form. For now, images can be retrieved from the database based on criteria supplied by the researcher. They can be viewed on screen or printed in hard copy.

BOCCACCIO'S DECAMERON: TOWARD A CRITICAL LEXICON

The Johns Hopkins Univ. was site of the Charles S. Singleton Colloquium of Italian Studies, "Boccaccio's *Decameron*: Toward a Critical Lexicon," held April 24-25, 1992. Speakers addressed the following topics: "Tragedy," Carlo Ossola, Università di Toronto; "Word," Claude Cazalé, Université de Paris; "Truth," Pier Massimo Forni, The Johns Hopkins Univ.; "Dialogue," Renzo Bragantini, Università di Venezia; "Morality," Victoria Kirkham, Univ. of Pennsylvania; "Memory," Giuseppe Velli, Università di Milano; "Sacred," Paolo Valesio, Yale Univ.; "Architecture," Franco Fido, Harvard Univ.

AUTHOR'S QUERY

Margie Burns seeks information on copies of *Apollonius of Tyre* bound together with the Griselda story. Members knowing of any such examples should address her at 6113 Lombard St., Cheverly, MD 20785. For more information on her research, see "Oedipus and Apollonius," *International Journal of Moral and Social Studies* 7.1 (1992) 3-17.

MEMBERS REPORT ACTIVITIES

Nora M. Beck is currently finishing her dissertation entitled *The Aesthetics of Music in the Tuscan Trecento*, which relies on an examination of music in the *Decameron*. She would very much like to share her findings with members of the Association.

Congratulations to Steven Grossvogel on his publication of *Ambiguity and Allusion in Boccaccio's Filocolo*, Biblioteca dell'"Archivium Romanicum" 248, Florence: Olschki, 1992; 254 pp.

Albert N. Mancini's "Riscrivere Boccaccio: Varietà e digressione nella novellistica dell'età elisabettiana," appears in *Limite e ulteriorità: Studi in onore di Italo Bertonì*, ed. A. Erbetta (Milano: Marzorati, 1991) 275-92.

Janet Smarr's study, "Boccaccio and Renaissance Women Writers," is forthcoming in *Studi sul Boccaccio*.

RECENT CONFERENCES

12th Annual Conference of the American Association for Italian Studies, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, April 9-12, 1992

Boccaccio and the Classical Heritage

"Boccaccio's *Elegia* and the Uses of Classics," Janet Smarr, Univ. of Illinois, Urbana

"Elements of Attic and Roman Law in *Decameron* 10.8," Rose T. Antosiewicz, Univ. of New Hampshire

"*Ovide démoralisé*: The Making of a *Genealogia*," James L. Fuchs, Univ. of Rhode Island

Literature and Authority in the Trecento

"Boccaccio and the Institution of Authorship," Jeffrey Thompson Schnapp, Stanford Univ.

Italian Linguistics: The Languages of the Renaissance

"The Evolving Lie: Rhetoric, Gender, and Indirection in Boccaccio and Castiglione," Teresa A. Kennedy, Mary Washington College

The Decameron and Its Influence

"Per una lettura ludica del *Decameron*," Michelangelo Picone, Universität Zürich

"In forma della donna': An Analysis of *Decameron* 3.5," Olivia Holmes, Northwestern Univ.

"Boccaccio in Marguerite de Navarre's *Heptaméron*: The Muted Confronts the Dominant," Silvia R. Fiore, Univ. of South Florida

IMPORTANT: DUES NEWS

A hearty thanks, as always, to all members who have recently paid their dues. Those of you who have not yet paid (\$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. We've provided our convenient form, and you may now pay for one year (\$5) or two (\$10).

If you haven't noticed our new address labels, please take a look now. You'll see a date in the upper right-hand corner of label. That's the expiration date of your Boccaccio Association membership. We hope this added feature will help you keep track of when your dues are due. Naturally, a date earlier than this month reflects an expired membership.

Now that the ABA sponsors the *Lecturae Boccaccii*, followed by receptions for the participants, our expenses have increased significantly. We ask those of you who can to support our projects financially by becoming sustaining members of the Association.

**AMERICAN BOCCACCIO ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL**

Name _____ Institution _____

Mailing Address _____

Membership: Regular \$5.00 - 1 year _____ New
 \$10.00 - 2 years
 Sustaining \$15/year _____ Renewal

Membership nominee _____

Address _____

Send this form along with your dues to Michael Sherberg, Romance Languages and Literatures, Washington University, Campus Box 1077, One Brookings Drive, St. Louis, MO 63130-4899.

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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, Campus 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 ABA Newsletter, would appreciate any special information you might have on publications that he could integrate with his own findings.