



# Boccaccio newsletter

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am personally moved and deeply honored by your vote of confidence and pledge to do my best to continue the distinguished tradition established by the past presidents of the Association. My special thanks go to Victoria Kirkham for her wise and energetic leadership over the past several years and to Michael Sherberg for his excellent management of the Association's secretarial and financial affairs, both past and future. I am pleased to welcome Steven Grossvogel as the newly elected vice-president; we will both endeavor to provide the sort of leadership the Association has come to expect of its officers.

As you know, the Association is actively engaged in sponsoring an ongoing project--the *Lecturae Boccaccii*--which, when completed, will provide critically insightful and bibliographically current readings of all of the 100 tales in Boccaccio's *Decameron*. The first volume in the series for the *prima giornata*, edited by Elissa Weaver, is scheduled for publication by the Univ. of Pennsylvania Press, and the second volume, edited by Victoria Kirkham, is in the final stages of preparation. The third cycle of readings for the *terza giornata* is currently being organized by Pier Massimo Forni of The Johns Hopkins Univ.

In addition to these scholarly initiatives and the sponsoring of sessions on Boccaccio at regional and national meetings, the American Boccaccio Association would like to hear from you about other projects that we might wish to undertake. Please let us know your thoughts on these and any other matters of interest and concern to you.

(continued ...)

I would like to remind those of you who have not yet renewed your membership in the Association to do so as soon as possible. If you have forgotten when your membership expires, that date is indicated in the upper right-hand corner of the address label. The dues for the Association are perhaps the greatest bargain in the scholarly world today! I would also like to encourage you to invite interested students and colleagues to become members of the Association and to join us in our collective efforts to further the study of Giovanni Boccaccio and his works. I look forward to hearing from you and to serving the Association.

Christopher Kleinhenz  
University of Wisconsin - Madison

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the American Boccaccio Association was called to order at 8:30 am on December 30, 1992, in the Liberty 3 room of the Sheraton New York, with President Victoria Kirkham presiding.

President Kirkham made brief announcements about the status of the *Lecturae Boccaccii* series. In addition to announcing that the Univ. of Pennsylvania Press had accepted volume 1 for publication, she explained that the 1992 MLA would include two *lecturae* rather than the usual one, in order to complete the cycle for the *seconda giornata*. Accordingly, she explained, the annual meeting would feature a *lectura* rather than the three papers that are traditionally presented. She further explained that the annual meeting would return to the three-paper format in 1993.

Following the announcements, Prof. Joan Ferrante of Columbia Univ. offered her *lectura* of *Decameron* 2.7 and accepted questions from the audience. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 9:45 am.

## MEMBERS REPORT ACTIVITIES

**Eren Branch** (Univ. of San Diego) is working on a translation into English of Boccaccio's letters.

**Konrad Eisenbichler** (Univ. of Toronto) has recently translated, with Jacqueline Murray, Agnolo Firenzuola's *On the Beauty of Women*, a dialogue set in a Boccaccian atmosphere in a garden in Prato. The work has been published by the Univ. of Pennsylvania Press (1992).

**Victoria Kirkham** (Univ. of Pennsylvania) is working on a book, *Boccaccio's Tuscan Muse*, a literary portrait of the poet with a focus on the *Filocolo*. A volume of her essays on Boccaccio is forthcoming: *The Sign of Reason in Boccaccio's Fiction* (Florence: Leo S. Olschki, 1993).

**Richard Kuhns** (Columbia Univ.) has published "The Writer as Painter: Observations on Boccaccio's *Decameron*," in *Malerei und Stadtkultur in der Dantezeit*, ed. Hans Belting and Dieter Blume (Munich: Hirmer Verlag, 1989) 65-70.

## NEWBERRY LIBRARY PROGRAMS

The Center for Renaissance Studies at Chicago's Newberry Library has announced two upcoming programs that may be of interest to *Boccaccisti*. The first, entitled *The Medieval Sermon: Form, History, and Theology*, will run on 10 Thursdays from August 26 to November 3, 1993, and will be conducted by Prof. Thomas Hall of the Univ. of Illinois at Chicago. The second, *Late Medieval Manuscripts and Early Printed Books: A Workshop*, will run on 10 Tuesdays from September 21 to November 23, 1993, and will be conducted by Prof. Sandra L. Hindman of Northwestern Univ.

The greater part of the seminar on sermons will consist of a survey of sermon literature, in Latin and Western vernaculars, from the late patristic era to the close of the Middle Ages. Emphasis will fall on the formal, rhetorical, and exegetical aspects of the sermon; on the composition and evolution of medieval homilies and sermon collections; and on the relationship of the sermon to other medieval literary genres. One class will be devoted to the extraordinarily rich genre of medieval Marian sermons and to methods of research in medieval sermons and sermon manuscripts, drawing upon the extensive collections of the Newberry Library.

The manuscripts workshop will also draw on the rich resources of the Newberry, in order to investigate primary evidence on the conditions of making, illustrating, and reading books produced from about 1350 to 1500. Its particular focus will be on centers of production in Europe: France, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Italy. Topics of specific 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 workshop is designed primarily for graduate students at the pre-dissertation stage.

To register for these courses please write the Center for Renaissance Studies, The Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton St., Chicago, IL 60610-3380. Funds are available to subsidize travel expenses for members of the Center for Renaissance Studies consortium.

### DUES NEWS

If you who have not yet paid your 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. We've provided our convenient form, which enables you to pay for one year (\$5) or two (\$10).

Please remember to examine 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 added feature will help you keep track of when your dues are due.

And please remember to contribute, if you can, to help defray publication costs for volume I of our *Lectura Boccaccii* series.

**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

**Lectura Boccaccii, Volume 1: Contribution to help defray publication costs: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

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.