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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN BOCCACCIO ASSOCIATION

– *studium fuit alma poesis* –



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University of North Carolina -
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Elsa Filosa - Treasurer
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Message from the President

Dear Colleagues,

At the time of our last newsletter in Fall 2020, we were bracing ourselves for the future onslaught of our “pestiferia infermità,” and rightly so. According to the Johns Hopkins University database, the novel coronavirus has claimed a total of 3.94 million lives worldwide. In November 2020, the United States surpassed the threshold of 250,000 fatalities from COVID-19. The disease has now taken 604,000 lives in the United States alone, and 128,000 lives in Italy. We have suffered immeasurable loss during the past eighteen months.

In stark contrast with this loss, there is also a vitality and newfound interconnectedness that has flourished in our community over the past year. Technology has facilitated the forging of new connections and nourished our existing collaborations. During the past several months, we have taken part in an overwhelming number of virtual conferences and seminars that have featured Boccaccio’s works and times. I am very proud of the many efforts by this Association to create such opportunities, and thank my fellow officers — Valerio Cappozzo, Vice-President; Maggie Fritz-Morkin, Secretary; and Elsa Filosa, Treasurer — for their tireless work that has brought these different ideas to fruition.

Foremost are two ABA programs that have originated in this pandemic year. Both have met with great success: the “Virtual Brigata” series and the Online Summer Paleography Seminar.



The Virtual Brigata is a series of monthly lectures on research-in-progress that deals with any topic related to Boccaccio's life and works. We thank Alyssa Granacki, Teresa Nocita, Alyssa Falcone, Olivia Holmes, Virginia Machera, Valerio Cappozzo, Albert Ascoli, Carmen Blanco Valdés, and Grace Delmolino for their excellent presentations. We have been delighted with the high level of these talks, the strong attendance and copious comments and feedback that have been offered at these monthly meetings. We look forward to continuing this successful series during the 2021-2022 academic year. Please consider participating by proposing to present your current work with our ABA community.

This summer we launched our first paleography seminar, titled Manuscript Culture in Boccaccio's Times, which was organized by the American Boccaccio Association together with the generous support of the Ente Nazionale Giovanni Boccaccio, as well as the organizational and technological support of the Center for Medieval Studies at Fordham University. This online seminar was the fruit of a collaboration between representatives of ABA, namely Valerio Cappozzo, current Vice President and former Secretary of ABA; Susanna Barsella, Professor of Italian at Fordham University, and former Vice President of ABA; and Elsa Filosa, current Treasurer, and former two-term Secretary of ABA. Together with Professors Irene Ceccherini, Marco Cursi, Teresa De Robertis, Maddalena Signorini, and Stefano Zamponi, they initiated the planning for this "scuola estiva" on Boccaccio paleography back in the Fall of 2019, with the intention of bringing students from North America to various libraries in Rome, the Vatican City, and Florence, who would learn from these masters onsite in June 2020. Of course, no one knew back then what 2020 would bring.

We heartily thank Professors Ceccherini, Cursi, De Robertis, Signorini, and Zamponi, for guiding our seminar participants in the methodological and practical elements of Latin and vernacular paleography, and for taking us on a virtual tour through the Angelica, Corsini and Vallicelliana libraries in Rome; the Vatican Library; the Riccardiana, Laurenziana, and Central National Libraries in Florence.

Based upon these successes, we have also initiated a new online program: the Member Book Launch series. This virtual series features new books authored or edited by Association members. Books that have been released within the previous two years and the current calendar are eligible for inclusion in the series (from 2019 onwards). These presentations are approximately thirty minutes in length, followed by a question-and-answer session with the audience, and may be held in English or Italian. In the case of an edited collection, editors may arrange for a roundtable discussion with a selection of the contributing authors. This series was inaugurated by Dino Cervigni with a presentation of his book, "Boccaccio's Decameron: Rewriting the Christian Middle Ages and the Lyric Tradition" (ACMRS, 2021). The second book presentation in this series was Niccolò Acciaiuoli, *Boccaccio e la Certosa del Galluzzo: Politica, religione, ed economica nell'Italia del Trecento* (Viella, 2020), edited by Alessandro Andreini, Susanna Barsella, Elsa Filosa, Jason Houston and Sergio Tognetti.

Much of our normal programming and activities continue, from sponsored sessions at the MLA and RSA conventions, to the support of undergraduate, graduate, and creative work by means of the Giuseppe Velli Prizes. Our *Lectura Boccaccii* series, published with the University of Toronto, was featured during a special panel discussion in May. This event, sponsored by UTP, featured Suzanne Rancourt, the Manager of Humanities Acquisitions at UTP, and the editors of Days Four, Six, and Eight: Michael Sherberg, David Lummus, and William Robins.

We have more good news to share on the LB series front: "The Decameron Day Six in Perspective", edited by Lummus, is hot off the press! I am also pleased to announce that the volume on Day Nine, edited by Susanna Barsella and Simone Marchesi, will also be published within this calendar year. The remaining volumes of the series (Days Two, Five, Seven and Ten) are all making steady progress towards completion.

Our website has gone through a series of challenges these past several years, but we are happy to report that former ABA President Michael Papio is in the process of rebuilding it to be even better than ever. Michael will serve as the ABA Web Developer, and we are infinitely grateful to him for graciously volunteering his expertise at no cost to the Association. Grazie infinite, Michael!

Last, and by no means least, we are planning for our upcoming Triennial Conference, to be hosted by the University of Padua, June 6-8, 2022. We are indebted to our colleagues in Padua, especially Rino Modonutti, for creating this opportunity for us to unite in Italy after such difficult times. We are excited to announce our four keynote speakers for this event: Lucia Battaglia Ricci, Theodore Cachey, Cormac Ó Cuilleaináin, and Gina Psaki. Please read ahead in this newsletter for our call for papers. Join us in Padua! We will offer travel scholarships for graduate students and contingent faculty members to help with the costs of international travel.

The ABA is fortunate to have such a vibrant and supportive membership. We thank all of you for donating your time, energy, ideas, and resources to make it such a successful and productive association.

I look forward to seeing you in Padua!



Kristina Olson

New Publications

Essays

Banella, Laura. "Fiammetta and Héloïse: Boccaccio's Female Auctor and Women Intellectuals." *Mediaevalia*, Vol. 42 (2021): 227-268.

Beck, Eleonora. "Miriam's Timbrel: The Decameron as Exodus." *Music and Jewish Culture in Early Modern Italy: New Perspectives*. Eds. Lynette Bowring, Rebecca Cypess, and Liza Malamut. Bloomington: Indiana UP: 2022.

Granacki, Alyssa. "Domesticating Philosophy: Dante's Women in Boccaccio." *Mediaevalia*, Vol. 42 (2021): 269-.

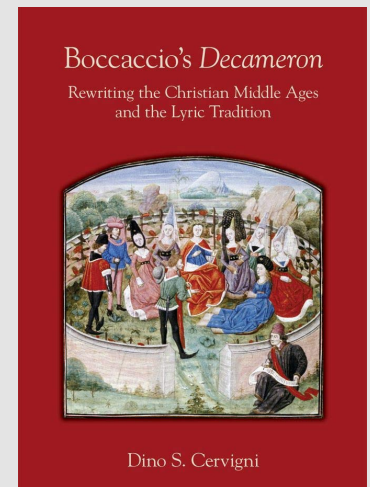
Kirkham, Victoria. "Why is Pampinea 28? Pythagoras Meets Aquinas in the Decameron." *Bibliotheca Dantesca* 3 (2020): 26-69.

Zak, Gur. "Boccaccio's Filocolo and the Polyphony of Consolation." *Mediaevalia*, Vol. 42 (2021): 187-226.

Books

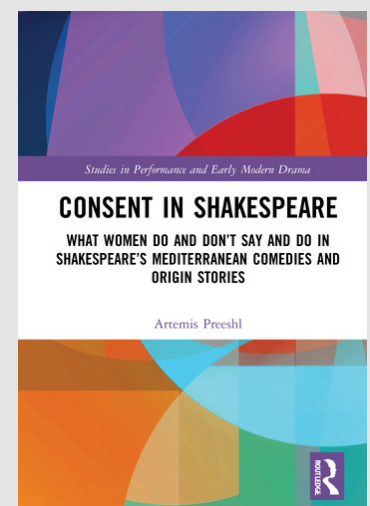
Cervigni, Dino S. *Boccaccio's Decameron: Rewriting the Christian Middle Ages and the Lyric Tradition*. ACMRS 2021.

The monograph develops a new interpretation of the Decameron, a masterpiece which has found renewed popularity in the wake of COVID. The author offers an all-inclusive, unified, and novel reading of the masterpiece, emphasizing the essential nature of the ten evening ballads and showing that the first ninety tales of the Decameron offer a parodic rewriting of the Christian Middle Ages, while the last ten tales craft a reconstruction of society based on human and liberal principles such as secular generosity and sacrifice. The ten evening songs, likewise, rewrite all topoi characteristic of *dolce stil nuovo* poetry.



Preeshl, Artemis. *Consent in Shakespeare: What Women Do and Don't in Shakespeare's Mediterranean Comedies and Origin Stories*. Forthcoming from Routledge in September 2021.

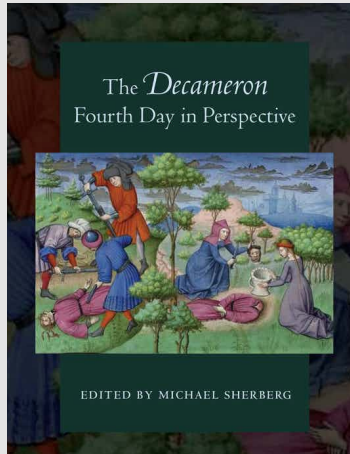
This refreshing take on Shakespearean comedy and tragicomedy in the Early Modern Mediterranean promotes heightened awareness of intersection of identities in consent-based practices in the academy and entertainment industry. Boccaccio scholars will appreciate Chapter 6, "Is all well on love's pilgrimage? Boundary crossings between the sheets," which discusses Boccaccio's "Gillette of Narbonne" in relation to All's Well That Ends Well. Additionally, Chapter 7, "Measuring consent: The consequences of "yes," "no," and "no, but..."", discusses Boccaccio's "Titus and Gisippus."



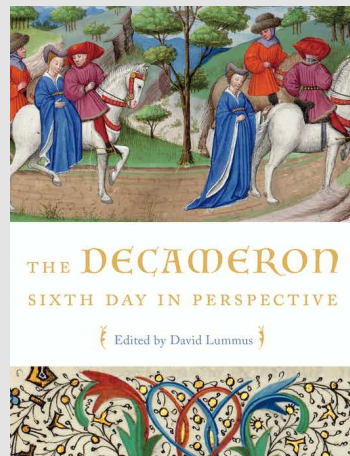
Lectura Boccaccii Series

The American Boccaccio Association is thrilled to see these three new volumes in our series published in the last year by University of Toronto Press:

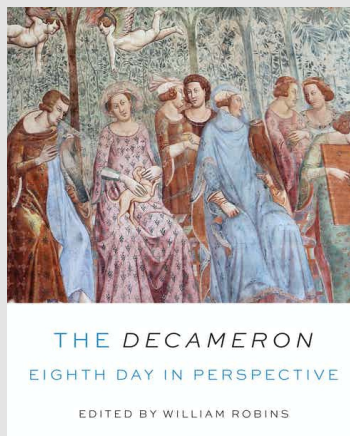
The Decameron: Fourth Day in Perspective. Ed. Michael Sherberg.



The Decameron: Sixth Day in Perspective. Ed. David Lummus.



The Decameron: Eighth Day in Perspective. Ed. William Robins.



Giuseppe Velli Prize 2020

We are pleased to announce the winners of the 2020 Velli Prizes, which were made possible through the generous support of anonymous donors and established by the American Boccaccio Association in commemoration of the scholarship of Prof. Giuseppe Velli (1928-2013).

Best graduate essay (\$300):

Nora Siena (Cornell), “The Invisibility of Rape in Boccaccio’s Decameron”

Best undergraduate essay (\$200):

Esther Zora Nikolic (SUNY-Binghamton), “Defying Gender Stereotypes in Boccaccio’s Decameron: How Women Respond to Bad Fortune”

Best Creative Work (\$200):

RK Fauth (Georgetown), “UNPRECEDENTED”

Congratulations!

Calls For Papers



Renaissance Society of America—Dublin 2022

Paper and panel proposals for ABA-sponsored sessions will now be accepted until July 20. We invite any scholarship pertaining to the life and works of Giovanni Boccaccio. Each paper submission must include a title (max. 15 words), an abstract (max. 150 words), and a CV (max. 5 pages). Session proposals should also include a title and the names of the organizer and panel chair. Send all proposals to Maggie Fritz-Morkin at mfritzm@email.unc.edu by July 20, 2021. Accepted panelists must be members of both the RSA and the ABA at the time of the conference.

Virtual Brigata: Zoom Lecture Series

The ABA is pleased to continue its series of monthly zoom lectures on Boccaccio-related research in progress. Lectures may be delivered in English or in Italian and should be between 25 and 30 minutes in length to allow for a question and answer session afterwards. Scholars who are current members of the Association are eligible to apply. We particularly encourage BIPOC scholars, junior scholars and advanced doctoral students, to submit their materials for consideration. Lectures will be recorded.

Preference will be given to proposals submitted by August 20, 2021. Submissions received after that date will be considered on a rolling basis as availability allows. Please send a brief bio, paper title and a 500-word abstract to Maggie Fritz-Morkin at mfritzm@email.unc.edu.

Virtual Series: Member Book Launch

This new virtual series features recently published books authored or edited by ABA members. Books that have been released within the previous two years and the current calendar year are eligible for inclusion in the series (from 2019 onwards). These presentations will be approximately thirty minutes in length, followed by a question-and-answer session with the audience, and may be held in English or Italian. In the case of an edited collection, editors may arrange for a roundtable discussion with a selection of the contributing authors. Presentations will be recorded and archived on the Decameron Web site. Please submit your presentation proposal for consideration to Maggie Fritz-Morkin at mfritzm@email.unc.edu. Proposals will be considered on a rolling basis.

Fifth ABA Triennial Conference

Boccaccio internazionale *International Boccaccio*

*American Boccaccio Association
5th Triennial Conference
Università degli Studi di Padova
Padua, June 6-8, 2022*

Keynote Speakers

Lucia Battaglia Ricci
Università di Pisa

Theodore Cachey
University of Notre Dame

Cormac Ó Cuilleaináin
Trinity College Dublin

Regina Psaki
Oregon University



We invite proposals for papers or panels (in English or Italian) on Boccaccio's life, thought, and works, and their reception and transformation up to the present.

Selected papers will be published in the conference proceedings. All participants in the conference need to be members in good standing with the Association.

Please send abstracts of 300 words along with a brief biographical note (100 words max) to Valerio Cappozzo and Rino Modonutti (international.boccaccio@gmail.com) by November 15, 2021.

The American Boccaccio Association will award at least 4 travel grants of \$500 each for contingent faculty and graduate students who are currently preparing a thesis or dissertation on Boccaccio and would like to present at the conference. Interested parties should send a letter of application and updated CV, along with their proposed paper abstract to the provided email address above.



Società Internazionale
per lo Studio del Medioevo Latino
S.I.S.M.E.L.

Social Media

Join in conversation with colleagues around the globe in our private group on Facebook

Follow us @boccaccious on Twitter and Instagram

See updates to the ABA website

Send announcements for our mailing list to the ABA Secretary Maggie Fritz-Morkin at mfritzm@email.unc.edu

Reminders

Christopher Kleinhenz and Elsa Filosa would appreciate your assistance in their yearly compilation of the North American Boccaccio Bibliography. Please send them Boccaccio-related citations to the following email addresses:

ckleinhe@wisc.edu and elsa.filosa@vanderbilt.edu

Dues News!!! If you have not yet paid your annual dues for 2021 (\$25 regular member / \$15 student / \$40 sustaining member), please, consider doing so at the following PayPal link: paypal.me/abaconference

Thank you!

