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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE *AMERICAN BOCCACCIO ASSOCIATION*

– *studium fuit alma poesis* –



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ABA OFFICERS:

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George Mason University

Valerio Cappozzo - Vice President
University of Mississippi

Maggie Fritz-Morkin - Secretary
University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill

Elsa Filosa - Treasurer
Vanderbilt University



Message from the President

Kristina Olson



Dear Colleagues,

As the pages of this Newsletter demonstrate, we have an abundance of good news to report for the first half of 2022. The Author promises his readers in the Introduction to Day One of the Decameron that there is a “bellissimo piano e dilettevole” after the “montagna aspra e erta” of the plague's description. Indeed, we have had several recent opportunities for beauty and delight which have been welcome after our years of social isolation and distance.

We found our first beautiful and delightful plain in Padua, where we held our fifth Triennial Conference from June 6th to the 8th. Fittingly titled “International Boccaccio/Boccaccio internazionale,” the conference involved an impressive number of scholars from Italy, Europe, Israel, Australia and the Americas: more than one hundred presenters shared research to an equally impressive number of individuals in attendance.

Over the course of three days, we listened to four wonderful keynote lectures by Lucia Battaglia Ricci, Theodore Cachey, Cormac Ó Cuilleain, and Gina Psaki. We visited the exhibit “Boccaccio a Padova: Libri di Boccaccio tra medioevo e prima età moderna” curated by Laura Banella, Giovanna Bergantino and Rino Modonutti, with the assistance of Laura De Luisa and Giulia Simeoni, at the Biblioteca antica del Seminario vescovile. And we were treated to a special performance, “Decameron: canzoni e storie. Un viaggio nel capolavoro di Boccaccio tra racconto e musica,” with none other than David Riondino and Maurizio Fiorilla, together with the musical accompaniment of exceptional musicians.

At the end of our conference, we recognized the outstanding service of four individuals: Simone Marchesi, for his service as past President of the ABA; Fabian Alfie, for his service as past Treasurer of the ABA; Michael Papio, for his generous donation of time and expertise in creating a new website for our Association; and Susanna Barsella, for her extraordinary leadership with our paleography seminar initiative.

Those three days of intellectual exchange and reunion were a resounding success, for which we must recognize the individuals and institutions who made it all possible. The ABA is indebted to the University of Padua for serving as our generous hosts during the years of its eight-hundredth anniversary (1222-2022). The novel idea for this international conference came from Valerio Cappozzo, Vice President, whom I thank profusely for encouraging the Association to bring its triennial conference to Italy for the first time in the history of the ABA. Rino Modonutti, Associate Professor of Medieval Latin Literature at the University of Padua, served together with Valerio as our main conference organizers. We cannot thank Rino enough for his leadership, generosity and time working on the planning and smooth execution of our conference.

Boccaccio internazionale International Boccaccio

American Boccaccio Association
5th Triennial Conference

6-8 giugno 2022

Keynote Speakers

Lucia Battaglia Ricci
Università di Pisa

Theodore J. Cachey Jr.
University of Notre Dame

Cormac Ó Cuilleain
Trinity College Dublin

Regina Psaki
University of Oregon



Università degli Studi di Padova
Dipartimento di Studi Linguistici e Letterari
Via Vendramini 13

Comitato Organizzatore
Rino Modonutti, Università di Padova
Kristina Olson, ABA President
Valerio Cappozzo, ABA vice-President
Maggie Fritz-Morkin, ABA Secretary

Tesoriere
Elsa Filosa, ABA Treasurer
Contatti
international.boccaccio@gmail.com



**DAVID RIONDINO
con Maurizio Fiorilla**

*Decameron
Canzoni e storie*

Un viaggio nel capolavoro di Boccaccio tra racconto e musica

David Riondino - Chitarra e voce
Eleonora Cardellini - Voce
Paolo Antinori - Chitarra
Mio Cossolini - Tromba
Maurizio Fiorilla - Basso
Massimiliano Chiapperi - Percussioni

Letture di:
Bogdan Ataman, Sara Boscolo,
Rebeca Filimon, Filippo Masiero

Martedì 7 Giugno 2022
ORE 21:00

Università di Padova
Complesso Beato Pellegrino
Cortile della Biblioteca
Via Beato Pellegrino 28
Ingresso libero

Boccaccio a Padova

Libri di Boccaccio tra medioevo e prima età moderna

Biblioteca antica del Seminario Vescovile
16 maggio - 8 giugno 2022

In marzo del 1351 Giovanni Boccaccio venne a Padova per far visita a Petrarca, iniziando così una relazione con la città che sarebbe andata ben oltre la sua vita, intrecciandosi con la sua fortuna tra Medioevo e Rinascimento, e più oltre lungo i secoli. A Padova sono stati infatti prodotti libri importanti delle sue opere, manoscritti e a stampa, fino alla ancora capitale edizione di *Tutte le opere*, diretta da Vittore Branca, professore a Padova, tra il 1964 e il 1998. E molti altri libri del Certaldese sono arrivati, da vicino e da lontano, ad arricchire continuamente i tesori di cultura della città. In concomitanza con la quinta conferenza triennale dell'American Boccaccio Association (Dipartimento di studi linguistici e letterari, 6-8 giugno 2022), la mostra rivela e illustra le diverse materializzazioni librarie delle opere di Boccaccio prodotte, spesso proprio a Padova, tra Medioevo, Umanesimo e prima età moderna, e conservate nella Biblioteca antica del Seminario di Padova.

Info e prenotazioni: boccaccio2022.mostra@unipd.it





We are grateful to the Dipartimento di studi linguistici e letterari, and its Director, Sergio Bozzola, as well as Alessandra Petrina, the President of the Scuola di scienze umane, sociali e del patrimonio culturale, for sponsoring our event. Monica Salvadori, the Prorettrice of the Patrimonio artistico, storico e culturale, graciously attended our opening session on behalf of the Magnifica Rettore. Our generous sponsors include the Ente Nazionale Giovanni Boccaccio, Studi sul Boccaccio (Olschki), and SISMEL. We must also thank the organizing team that gave us support on the ground for the conference: Laura Banella, Nicoletta Bisogno, Nicola Carpentieri, Giacomo Comiati and Laura De Luisa. Students from the Liceo Tito Livio di Padova and the Liceo Ferrari di Este served as guides and provided practical assistance as well. International and local scholars and students came together to make our first international conference in Italy a fantastic experience for all. The excitement of the Triennial Conference followed us from Padua to Rome and then Florence and Certaldo for our first onsite Paleography Seminar, titled “Manuscript Culture in Boccaccio's Times.” The Seminar addresses methodological and practical concerns related to the study of Latin and vernacular paleography. The teaching program includes introductions to the major Florentine and Roman libraries, paleography classes using Latin and vernacular manuscripts, and transcription practice.

This initiative is the fruit of a two-year collaboration with the Ente Nazionale Giovanni Boccaccio. In May 2022, our nine participants attended six online seminars with our instructors—Professors Irene Ceccherini, Marco Corsi, Teresa De Robertis, Maddalena Signorini, Stefano Zamponi, and Claudia Montuschi—in preparation for their work in the libraries from June 13th to the 18th. Our intensive week began in Rome with Professors Corsi and Signorini in the Vatican Libraries, where we studied for two days in the Salone Sistino, also under the supervision of Claudia Montuschi, Director of the Manuscript Department of the Vatican Apostolic Library. We are grateful to Dr. Montuschi and the Prefect of the Vatican Apostolic Library, Monsignor Cesare Pasini, for granting us the extraordinary privilege of studying in the frescoed Salone Sistino. After our days in the Vatican Library, we visited two exhibits in the National Library of the Accademia dei Lincei and Corsiniana Library. The following three days were spent in Florence with Professors Zamponi, De Robertis and Ceccherini, at the Biblioteca Riccardiana, the Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana, and the Nazionale.





Our rewarding days of study came to a celebratory conclusion in Certaldo, where the Ente Nazionale Giovanni Boccaccio generously hosted our group. We had a tour of the Casa del Boccaccio and the Palazzo Pretorio, and then enjoyed a spectacular evening at the town's "cena medievale." Professors Maurizio Fiorilla and Elsa Filosa delivered two presentations (or "lezioni non magistralis") the next day before our departure. We are currently in the planning stages of the 2023 Paleography Seminar. Two committees with representatives from the ABA and the ENGB have been formed to carry out the planning and organizational work for another successful iteration next year. We continue to offer modest grants for graduate student participants, just as we have funded graduate student travel to our triennial conferences. Students have written enthusiastically about their experiences with us this summer; we invite you to visit their testimonials in the next pages or on our website (<https://boccaccio-usa.org/initiatives.html#>). We plan to launch a fundraising campaign to offset the expenses to attend the Paleography Seminar. The generosity of our membership would ensure the future of graduate student participation in this unique formative experience. We hope that you will consider donating to this new and promising initiative which we hope to offer on an annual basis.

In short, these months have been essential to the vitality of our diverse scholarly community. The ABA has solidified its connections with our primary interlocutors and institutions abroad, defining us as an international society. In this regard, we are particularly happy to have increased and strengthened our collaborations with the Ente Nazionale Giovanni Boccaccio, with whom we will continue to organize the Paleography Seminar, as well as other initiatives to promote the study of Boccaccio.



Ente Nazionale Giovanni Boccaccio
American Boccaccio Association

Incontro internazionale

Certaldo Alta
18-19 giugno 2022





We are especially pleased to announce that Professor Stefano Zamponi has been inducted as an **Honorary Member of the American Boccaccio Association**, which took effect in June 2022 by the unanimous election of the ABA officers. While it is impossible to summarize his extensive *curriculum vitae*, I will attempt to give a brief glimpse of his several formidable accomplishments here.

President of the ENGB since 2010, Stefano Zamponi is Professor Emeritus of Latin Paleography at the University of Florence, where he was the Chair of Medieval and Renaissance Studies, the Chair of History, Archaeology, Geography, Art and Performatives Arts, and the Director of the Doctoral Program in “Filologia e tradizione dei testi.” He served as the Direttore scientifico of the census of Italian manuscripts in Tuscany from 1992 to 2013, and was the founder and President of Associazione Italiana Manoscritti Datati (1994-2007). He was a member of the Consiglio Scientifico of the Società Internazionale per lo studio del Medioevo Latino (Certosa del Galluzzo – Firenze).



He has been the Director of the Archivio Capitolare of Pistoia 2009-2020, and Officer (2000-2005) and President of the Comité International de Paléographie Latine (2005 to 2015). Professor Zamponi has authored and edited several volumes, including those in the series *Manoscritti datati d'Italia*, *Manoscritti medievali del Veneto* e *Manoscritti medievali della Toscana*. Most recently, he has published *Le ragioni della scrittura. Piccoli scritti di paleografia*, edited by Teresa De Robertis and Nicoletta Giovè Marchioli (Viella Libreria Editrice, 2021). We are delighted to recognize Professor Zamponi for his plentiful and wide-ranging contributions to our field with this honor.

We continue to organize sessions at the annual conventions of the Modern Language Association and the Renaissance Society of America. We will relaunch our Virtual Brigata and Member Book Launch presentations during 2022-23 and encourage you to present your current research or recent publications in those online series. Please read further in this newsletter for more good news about our recent Giuseppe Velli Prize winners in the two categories that were recognized (best graduate essay and best undergraduate essay). The *Lectura Boccaccii* series has seen the publication of its sixth volume! *The Decameron Ninth Day in Perspective*, edited by Susanna Barsella and Simone Marchesi, was just published with the University of Toronto Press. We offer our heartfelt congratulations to our Velli Prize winners, as well as to Susanna, Simone, and contributors to their volume.

It is an honor and a pleasure for me to serve such a vital and engaged Association with my dedicated fellow officers: Valerio Cappozzo, Vice-President; Maggie Fritz-Morkin, Secretary; and Elsa Filosa, Treasurer. Without them none of these ideas would have become a reality. As our days in Padua, Rome, Florence and Certaldo made abundantly clear, our Association is stronger than ever.

Kristina Olson
ABA President





The American Boccaccio Association, in collaboration with the Ente Nazionale Giovanni Boccaccio, is pleased to sponsor workshops taught by internationally renowned paleographers for the benefit of its members.

The most recent Seminar, titled "Manuscript Culture in Boccaccio's Times," was taught in June 2022 (Rome-Florence-Certaldo) by Profs. Irene Ceccherini, Marco Corsi, Teresa De Robertis, Maddalena Signorini and Stefano Zamponi, with guidance by Claudia Montuschi, Director of the Manuscript Department at the Vatican Library.





The Paleography Seminar

June 13-19 2022

Would you like to write a few sentences about your experience to share in our ABA newsletter?

"I really don't know where to start. This has been an experience that I will never forget for the rest of my life. I will treasure it as it gave me a lot, both professionally and personally. The professors I met were not only amazing scholars, and the best in their discipline, they were also fantastic people with whom you could establish a genuine relationship. This can be said about the other participants too, and especially to the organizers, who did a spotless job in creating an environment that despite being extremely high in professionalism, was also very chill and welcoming. In other words, this experience makes you meet and learn from world's experts while you feel at ease. Chapeau! Moreover, we should highlight that all this happened while we were working in four of the most renowned libraries and collections of the entire planet; places so beautiful that would be worth visiting even if they didn't have books in them. Now, imagine what it would be like if they also own Boccaccio's autograph manuscripts, and that, in some cases, you could also touch them, respectfully, with your own hands. I truly felt privileged throughout this journey."

Francesco Ciabattoni

Pierpaolo Spagnolo



"A truly exceptional opportunity to access manuscripts, learn about material culture and handwriting. It was an enormously enriching experience to work with colleagues and world-leading experts in Boccaccian manuscripts!"



"The ABA/ENGB Paleography Seminar in Florence and Rome provided unique access to rare works of Renaissance and Medieval literature with world-class experts in Florentine and Roman libraries. The online paleographic and codicological seminars (in May) offered tools to interpret and understand the meaning of the texts. The comradery and bon esprit among participants and professors ensured that the experience was rewarding both personally and professionally. I highly recommend this valuable opportunity to Renaissance and Medieval scholars, especially the Boccaccisti."

Artemis Preeshl



The Paleography Seminar

June 13-19 2022

"We all know what is absolutely necessary for a humanistic scholar to not lose the straightway: things of beauty and good colleagues. During the ENGB/ABA Paleography Seminar we had both. The splendor of the Libraries was reflected in the individual codices we analyzed during the week, and the analytical description of the manuscripts has become a magical place where you can recreate the lost gold from a coat of arms with the lucky one of a decorated drop capital. We learned to recognize the different shape of the same letters – from the gothic's angularity to the roundish stroke of the merchant script – and to perceive the evanescent writing of the palimpsest sheet. And while you are measuring manuscripts with the ruler and leafing through the pages, someone might suddenly announce a break to admire the anthology of Dante's works designing and shaping by Boccaccio or a recently rediscover manuscript with Petrarch's notes and marginalia. Boccaccio led us with his writings, his drawings and the shape of his books, but it was my new friends and Professors who showed me how perceive beauty where I could no longer see it."

Marina Zanobi



Publications

Lectura Boccacii Series

The American Boccaccio Association continues to make great progress toward the completion of our ten-volume series with the University of Toronto Press. This year we welcome a new volume in print:

The Decameron Ninth Day in Perspective. Eds. Susanna Barsella and Simone Marchesi. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2022.

Books

Bragantini, Renzo. *Il Decameron e il Medioevo rivoluzionario di Boccaccio*. Roma: Carocci, 2022.

Heise, Pedro. Translation. *Vida de Dante by Giovanni Boccaccio*. Penguin-Companhia, 2021.

Morosini, Roberta. *Rotte di poesia, rotte di civiltà. Il Mediterraneo degli dei nella Genealogia di Boccaccio e Piero di Cosimo*. Roma: Castelvechi, 2021.

Essays

Delcorno, Carlo. "Giovanni Boccaccio." *Augustine and the Humanists. Reading the City of God from Petrarch to Poliziano*. Eds. Guy Claessens and Fabio Della Schiava. Gent: Lysa, 2021. 75-97.

---"Dec II 6. Madama Beritola. Movimenti della storia e movimenti della Fortuna." *La II giornata del Decameron: nel dominio della Fortuna*. Ed. F. Palma. *Letteratura Italiana Antica XXIII* (2022): 149-164.

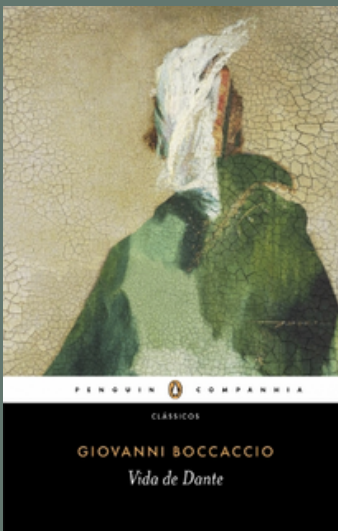
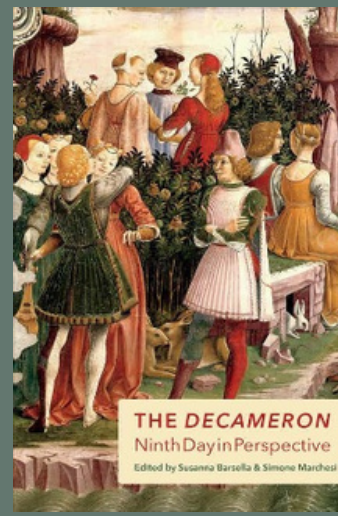
---"Ira e pazienza. Echi dei Moralia in Job in Boccaccio." *Studi sul Boccaccio L* (2022): forthcoming.

Cappozzo, Valerio. Review of Forni, Pier Massimo, Renzo Bragantini, and Christopher Kleinhenz, eds.; Michael Papio, trans. *The Decameron: A Critical Lexicon*. *The Medieval Review*.

Filosa, Elsa. "Decameron II 8. Gli angioini tra genealogia e intertestualità." *Letteratura italiana antica XXIII* (2022): 177-192.

Kircher, Timothy. Review of *Le Décaméron de Boccace: Une œuvre de transition* by Catherine Guimard. *Renaissance Quarterly LXXV*, no.2 (2022): 722-23.

Rosado, Brenda. "Women Bridled and Unbridled: Contagions of Shame and Maladies of Governance in the Decameron." *California Italian Studies 11* no. 1 (2022):1-22.



Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Conferences RSA San Juan 2023. Mar. 9-11:

The American Boccaccio Association will sponsor five panels at the Annual Meeting of the Renaissance Society of America, and we will hold our annual membership meeting in conjunction with the conference.

MLA 2023 San Francisco. Jan. 5-8:

"Teaching Boccaccio's Decameron during the COVID 19 Pandemic" is the session sponsored by the ABA together with the MLA LLC Forum on Medieval and Renaissance Italian Literature.

The ABA also organized a *Lectura boccaccii* panel with two talks on Decameron II.7 and VII.6.

Virtual Brigata: Zoom Lecture Series

The ABA is pleased to continue its series of zoom lectures on Boccaccio-related research in progress. Lectures may be delivered in English or in Italian and should be between 25 and 40 minutes in length to allow for ample discussion. Scholars who are current members of the Association are eligible to apply. Events may be recorded and archived on the ABA website. We particularly encourage presentations by BIPOC scholars, junior scholars. Submissions will be considered on a rolling basis for monthly events. 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

In this series, we celebrate 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 2020 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 round table discussion with a selection of the contributing authors. Presentations will be recorded and archived on the ABA website site. Please contact Maggie Fritz-Morkin at mfritzm@email.unc.edu with proposals; these will be considered on a rolling basis.



Prizes, Awards, and Honors

2021 Giuseppe Velli Prize Winners

Through the generous support of anonymous donors wishing to commemorate Prof. Giuseppe Velli (1928–2013), each year the American Boccaccio Association awards up to three prizes for the best scholarly and creative projects on the life and works of Giovanni Boccaccio. This year's winners are:

Alexander Brock (Princeton), Giuseppe Velli Prize for Best Graduate Essay (\$300)
“When Il Grasso Becomes Calandrino: La Novella del Grasso Legnaiuolo and The Productive Failure of Literary Imitation”

Carlisle Di Valentin (Emory), Giuseppe Velli Prize for Best Undergraduate Essay (\$200)
“When the pawn hits the King: a preemptive strike against a tyrannical ruler and instructions on how to outlive one”

American Boccaccio Association Outstanding Service Awards

Simone Marchesi (for his service as past President of the ABA)

Fabian Alfie (for his service as past Treasurer of the ABA)

Susanna Barsella (for her work on the organization of the Paleography Seminar)

Michael Papio (for his development of a new ABA website)

American Boccaccio Association Travel Awards

The ABA supports early career researchers traveling to present conference papers. This year, four \$500 awards were given to scholars traveling to Padova for our Triennial Conference:

Charlotte Alton (Selwyn College)

Alessandro Ceteroni (University of Connecticut)

Alexandre Vico Martori (Universitat de Girona)

Pier Paolo Spagnolo (Duke University)

Cosette Bruhns Alonso has been awarded a **Mellon Seminar Fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania's Price Lab For Digital Humanities** for project “Technologies of Representation: The Decameron in Medieval to Modern Media.”

Treasurer's Report

The American Boccaccio Association is in good standing with its finances that are healthy and steady. Our funds are used to sponsor the subvention costs of forthcoming *Lecturae Boccaccii* volumes, support students with the upcoming paleography seminar, and prizes for graduate and undergraduate students. If you wish to renew your regular, student, or sustaining membership, please visit <https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/abaconference> to submit your 2022 dues, as well as to make a donation to the *Lecturae Boccaccii* series, via PayPal. You may also send a check payable to the American Boccaccio Association by mail, using the printable form available on the website: <https://boccaccio-usa.org/membership.pdf>, where it is provided also the mailing address. 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 the Virtual Brigata.

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 Elsa Filosa (elsa.filosa@vanderbilt.edu) with any questions about your membership or to suggest potential members of ABA.

FRIENDLY REMINDERS: The ABA newsletter is an invaluable tool for disseminating important information among our members. Please, consider sending items of significance, such as notes on work in progress, announcements of general interest and other similar tidbits to Maggie Fritz- Morkin at mfritzm@email.unc.edu. Updated information is available between newsletters on the ABA's web site. Please note that the newsletter will be published on the site only after a six-month lag in order to ensure that the ABA's members receive the principal benefit of its publication.

*** Christopher Kleinhenz and Elsa Filosa would similarly appreciate your assistance in his yearly compilation of the North American Boccaccio Bibliography. Please send them Boccaccio-related citations so that they may integrate their own findings. Email: ckleinhe@wisc.edu; elsa.filosa@vanderbilt.edu.

*** Dues News!!! If you have not yet paid your annual dues (\$25 regular member / and possibly an eventual donation for the *Lecturae Boccaccii*), please do so on the ABA website: <http://www.ABAonline.us/membership.html>



Social Media

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

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See updates to the ABA website
<https://boccaccio-usa.org/>

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

