

# THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN BOCCACCIO ASSOCIATION

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## ABA OFFICERS:

Kristina Olson - President  
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



## THE AMERICAN BOCCACCIO ASSOCIATION



Dear Friends in Boccaccio,

As I write my final presidential letter, I see on my shelf the rich results of our community's scholarship: books by our members published in 2022, including those written by Renzo Bragantini, Elsa Filosa, Olivia Holmes, and Gur Zak, as well as *The Decameron Ninth Day in Perspective* edited by Susanna Barsella and Simone Marchesi, the most recent volume in the *Lectura Boccaccii* series published by the University of Toronto Press. Gathered near my keyboard are further signs of three productive and felicitous years: a conference program from the ABA's first international Triennial Conference in Padua (June 2022), whose proceedings we (Valerio Cappozzo, Rino Modonutti, Maggie Fritz-Morkin, and I) are editing for publication. And, to my right, notes with dates and details from the recent iteration of the joint ENGB/ABA *Seminario di Paleografia*, which we held for the second time this year.

It is impossible not to feel a great sense of pride over the accomplishments of the American Boccaccio Association this past decade, during which I have had the privilege to serve in three consecutive terms, first as Treasurer, then as Vice President, and finally as President. The ABA has been tireless in its many activities: the Triennial Conference, the *Seminario di Paleografia*, the Virtual Brigata and Book Launch series, the *Lectura Boccaccii* series, sponsored sessions at the MLA and RSA annual meetings, the undergraduate and graduate Velli Prizes and graduate travel scholarships, and more. My fellow officers — Valerio Cappozzo (Vice President), Maggie Fritz-Morkin (Secretary), and Elsa Filosa (Treasurer) — and I have dedicated ourselves to bringing long-term projects to completion, like the LB series, and to initiating new projects that create opportunities for exchange and growth for our members, especially graduate students, who hold the future of our field in their hands. Yet it takes more than even a dream team of four individuals to make such growth happen in a short period of time. Two years ago, former ABA President Michael Papio, who founded *Heliotropia* and continues to serve as its Editor in Chief, donated his time and energy in creating a new website for the ABA in a moment of critical need.

He continues to maintain our site even today and has pledged to do so for the years to come. Rino Modonutti and his team at the University of Padua seamlessly executed our first international conference on Italian soil. Former ABA Vice President Susanna Barsella, who first envisioned and designed our joint ENGB/ABA *Seminario di Paleografia*, has now served as its director for its first two editions in 2022 and 2023 with great success. Their essential, uncompensated volunteer work for the Association has brought our diverse communities together to make the Association stronger than it has ever been on the eve of its fiftieth anniversary.

One of our most important new initiatives for scholarly growth and development, the *Seminario di Paleografia*, has now been successfully executed for two years in a row. This year, another ten participants studied manuscripts in the Vatican and Corsinian Libraries in Rome, with Marco Cursi and Maddalena Signorini, and in the Laurenziana, Riccardiana and National Library in Florence with Teresa De Robertis, Stefano Zamponi, and Irene Ceccherini.



SEMINARI  
DI PALEOGRAFIA LATINA

ABA - ENGB

— 2023 —



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The group of participants and ABA Officers were generously hosted by Giovanna Frosini, Maurizio Fiorilla, and Martina Dani in Certaldo, where the group yet again enjoyed the town's spectacular *Cena Medievale*. On the following day, the group was greeted by President Frosini, who delivered a presentation on "Il fiorentino dell'età di Boccaccio." This was followed by a presentation delivered by Veronica Ricotta (Università per Stranieri di Siena), who spoke on "Alla ricerca dell'elitropia: Lingua e stile in Decameron VIII. 3." Both talks were followed by a creative reading and performance of Decameron VIII. 3 by the Oranona Teatro. The Seminario di Paleografia is a unique opportunity for the upcoming generation of Boccaccio scholars, not only through its purpose of educating its participants, but by opening new doors for collaboration and connection for our graduate students with our members in Italy.

Our collaborations with the ENGB have grown over the past few years, in large part due to the conversations created by the Seminario di Paleografia. Another new opportunity has developed out of these newly-strengthened ties with the ENGB: a co-sponsored scholarship for a North American student to participate in the ENGB's Scuola Estiva. The Scuola Estiva began in 2019 under the auspices of the ENGB in the Museo di Casa Boccaccio. The ENGB normally accepts only ten European students through an application process carried out by an internal committee. Beginning in 2023, the ENGB will accept one American graduate student selected by the ABA Executive Committee. We are proud to announce that Vincent Leung (Harvard University) was selected as the ABA-appointed participant to this year's ENGB Scuola Estiva. Congratulazioni, Vincent!



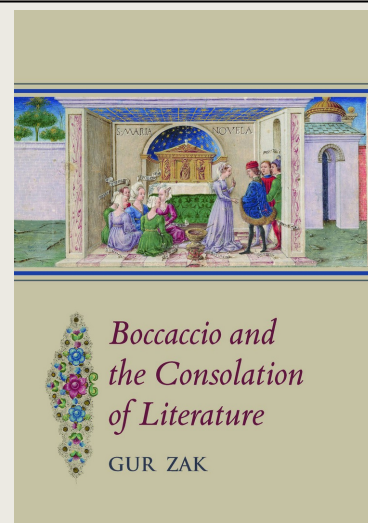
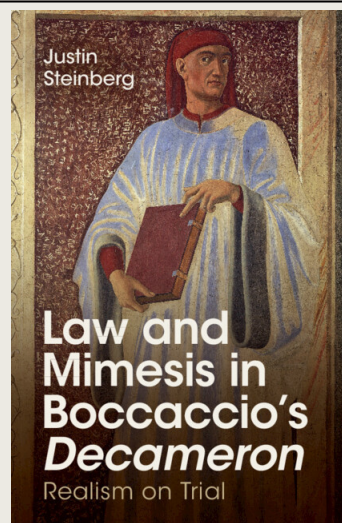
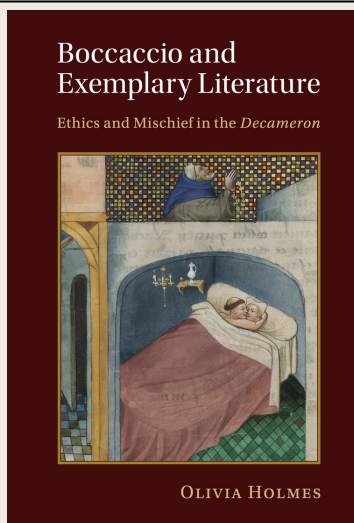
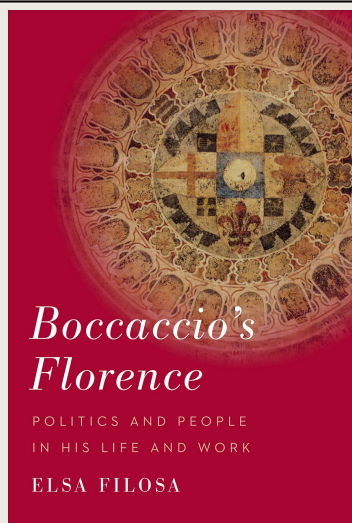
To conclude: I will confess that it is with some sadness that I write this last presidential message. These past nine years of serving the ABA, filled with conversations with colleagues from both shores, have been a source of joy for nearly one decade. But I look forward to continuing those conversations with you now as a member of the ABA — a sustaining member, to be precise — as it enters what promises to be an even more robust phase of growth under new leadership. With Elsa Filosa as incoming President, Maggie Fritz Morkin as Vice President, Francesco Ciabattoni as Secretary, and Sara Diaz as Treasurer, the Association will be in extremely good hands.

*With gratitude,  
Kristina Olson*





## THE AMERICAN BOCCACCIO ASSOCIATION



## NEW PUBLICATIONS

Filosa, Elsa. *Boccaccio's Florence: Politics and People in His Life and Work*. University of Toronto Press, 2022.\*

Holmes, Olivia. *Boccaccio and Exemplary Literature: Ethics and Mischief in the Decameron*. Cambridge University Press, 2023.

Steinberg, Justin. *Law and Mimesis in Boccaccio's Decameron: Mimesis on Trial*. Cambridge University Press, 2023.

Zak, Gur. *Boccaccio and the Consolation of Literature*. Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies, 2022.



\* Book awarded awarded by the Premio internazionale Flaiano per l'Italianistica 'Luca Attanasio' 2023.



THE AMERICAN BOCCACCIO ASSOCIATION



**THE AMERICAN BOCCACCIO ASSOCIATION  
ANNOUNCES:**

**THE GIUSEPPE VELLI PRIZE  
FOR THE BEST UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ESSAY ON BOCCACCIO**

**GRACE AIONO  
CORNELL UNIVERSITY**

“HOW TALANO TRICKS HIS WIFE:  
THE VIOLENCE OF RHETORIC IN *DECAMERON* 9.7”

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**THE GIUSEPPE VELLI PRIZE  
FOR THE BEST CREATIVE WORK INSPIRED BY BOCCACCIO**

**ALLIE DERUBEIS                      DALLAS MERCURIO  
CHRIS MATTHEWS                  RAFAEL ROMERO LAURO  
BRIANA MCMAHON                  DANIEL TURILLO**

DIRECTED BY PROFS. ALBERTO IOZZA AND CHIARA MONTERA AT  
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

“ASPETTANDO CHICHIBIO [WAITING FOR CHICHIBIO]”  
A BILINGUAL PLAY

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=9PDSYoYKGF4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9PDSYoYKGF4)



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## Call For Papers: RSA 2024 March 21-23, Chicago

The American Boccaccio Association invites proposals for our sponsored sessions at the upcoming Renaissance Society of America meeting in Chicago. Please submit proposals for individual papers and complete sessions on Boccaccio's life, works, and reception by July 21, 2023 to [mfritzm@email.unc.edu](mailto:mfritzm@email.unc.edu).

### Individual Proposals:

The ABA will organize some 3-and 4-paper panels around the themes/topics of individual submissions. Each individual paper proposal should include:

- name, email address, institutional affiliation
- paper title (15-word maximum)
- paper abstract (200-word maximum)
- curriculum vitae (no longer than 5 pages)

### Session Proposals:

This year the RSA has increased the variety of session types we can offer. In addition to traditional 3-4 paper panels, consider proposing a panel of lightning talks, seminar, roundtable, or workshop. Each type of panel has its own submission requirements (typically the above information for each participant, and a short rationale for the session), so please refer to the submission guidelines as you prepare your proposals. All presenters on ABA-sponsored panels must be members in good standing of both the ABA and the RSA; you will be invited to renew your ABA membership in January 2024.



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*Social Media*

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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  
Sara Diaz at [sdiaz5@fairfield.edu](mailto:sdiaz5@fairfield.edu)

