



newsletter BOCCACCIO



"studium fuit alma poesis"

Vol. 48, No. 2 American Boccaccio Association Fall/Winter 2023

Officers:

Elsa Filosa, Vanderbilt University, President
Maggie Fritz-Morkin, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Vice President
Sara Díaz, Fairfield University, Treasurer
Francesco Ciabattoni, Georgetown University, Secretary-Newsletter Editor



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WELCOME FROM THE NEW ABA OFFICERS:

Dear Friends in Boccaccio,

We hope this finds you all well at the start of 2024. After the election of June 2023, we are writing to express our gratitude and enthusiasm for the opportunity we have been given to serve the American Boccaccio Association as officers. For those of you who does not know us yet, we provide brief bios at the bottom of this message to introduce ourselves.

We have been working to plan the forthcoming three years of the ABA. Following the previous ABA's officers' mandate, we will offer a paleography seminar in 2024, this year scheduled to take place in Florence, Certaldo, and Rome from June 5-12. The announcement and application guidelines can be found at the end of the newsletter or on our website. Also, we would like to thank Professor Paola Ureni (CUNY, College of Staten Island) for helping us in the process with logistics and emails.

In 2023, the ABA hired a web designer, Ana Piore, to redesign and improve the functionality of the ABA's official website. The revamped site will serve as a hub where the ABA can publish in real time all relevant information about upcoming events, the Association prizes, provide links to external projects, and many other features. Please, take a moment to explore the website, including our new membership options: <https://boccaccio-usa.org/>

2024 marks the 50th anniversary of our association, which was established in 1974 during the celebration of Petrarch's sixth death centenary at the Folger's Library. Hence, starting in spring 2024, we will have Zoom meetings with some previous ABA officers to bridge the old with the new through a revisitation of each decade of the American Boccaccio Association. This will create a shared oral history of the ABA thanks to the exchange of our memories and projection into the future. Keep an eye out for upcoming details posted on our listserv, Facebook page, and ABA website.

Moreover, 2025 will mark the 650th anniversary of Boccaccio's death. To celebrate appropriately this important event, we plan to hold our triennial international conference at the Newberry Library in Chicago, on September 18-20, 2025. More information will be become available during the current year, but in the meantime, remember to mark your calendars!

In the body of this Newsletter, you will also find announcements related to the organized Boccaccio sessions at the major professional conferences for 2024. As I thank you for renewing your membership for the year, I would like to reassert our commitment to have the Association put your dues to good use, especially by sponsoring the Velli Prizes, travel fellowships for graduate students, the Paleography Seminar, and the maintenance of the new website in years to come. The new membership rates reflect and support these important activities of the American Boccaccio Association.

We wish to express our gratitude to all ABA member for their continuing support of the *Lectura Boccaccii* series. Only four volumes are now missing, and we expect to get them published within the end of our mandate with the University of Toronto Press. Your contributions, both scholarly and monetary, are vital to this collective effort!

OFFICERS BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:

President: Elsa Filosa is Assistant Professor of the Practice in Italian at Vanderbilt University. She holds a Ph.D. in Romance Languages from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her research focuses on Fourteenth century Italian Literature, with particular emphasis on Boccaccio, Petrarch, Dante. She published *Tre Studi sul De mulieribus claris* (Milan: LED Edizioni Universitarie, 2012), several articles on American and Italian journals, and three co-edited volumes. In 2015-2016 she was awarded the Villa I Tatti Fellowship in Florence, where she did research for her book *Boccaccio's Florence: Politics and People in his Life and Work* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, June 2022), winner of several prizes – Winner: Flaiano International Prize for Italian Studies; AATI Book Award for Literary, Critical Theory, and Cultural Studies; MLA Scaglione Prize for Italian Studies (Honorable Mention).

Vice President: Maggie Fritz-Morkin is Assistant Professor of Italian at UNC-Chapel Hill, where she teaches the works of Boccaccio in courses like Medieval Frauds and Contagion and Culture: Lessons from Italy. She has published numerous essays on visceral language in medieval Italian literature, and her book *Obscenity and Authorship in the Tre Corone* will be published by the University of Toronto Press. Before her current term as Vice President, she served the American Boccaccio Association as Secretary.

Treasurer: Sara Díaz is an Associate Professor of Modern Languages and Literatures at Fairfield University. Her scholarship centers on comedy, gender, and authorship in the works of the *Tre corone*, as well as in the volumes produced by the seventeenth century *virtuosa*, Margherita Costa. In addition to serving as the Treasurer of the American Boccaccio Association (2023-2026), she also serves as a Councilor (2023-2026) and Bibliographer (2023-2025) for the Dante Society of America, and as the MLA Regional Delegate for New England and Eastern Canada (2022-2024).

Secretary: Francesco Ciabattoni is Professor of Italian Literature at Georgetown University, where he is also Director of the Global Medieval Studies Program. He is Book Review Co-Editor for *Quaderni d'italianistica* and an Officer of the Dante Society of America. Prof. Ciabattoni's research interests include medieval and contemporary literature and the interplay with music. He has published *Dante's Journey to Polyphony* (Toronto, 2010), *The Decameron Third Day in Perspective: Volume Three of Lectura Boccaccii* (Toronto, 2014, edited with Pier Massimo Forni) and *La citazione è sintomo d'amore* (Carocci, 2016). He is the founder of <http://theitaliansong.com/>. His new monograph titled *Dante's Performance: Music, Dance, and Drama in the Commedia* will be published by De Gruyter in 2024.



PALEOGRAPHY SEMINAR

The American Boccaccio Association in collaboration with the Ente Nazionale Giovanni Boccaccio presents:

The 2024 Paleography Seminar June 5-12, 2024

The 2024 ABA paleography seminar will be on June 5-7 in Florence (Laurenziana, Riccardiana, and Nazionale Centrale); June 8-9 in Certaldo (Casa di Boccaccio and Medieval dinner); and June 10-12 in (Vatican and Corsiniana Libraries).

The Paleography Seminars is a series of intensive lessons taught in the major historical libraries of Florence and Rome by top paleographers in the field of Boccaccio Studies. The seminar includes methodological and practical components of Latin and vernacular paleography. The teaching program will include: propaedeutic online sessions in May; eight days in Italy (Florence, Certaldo, and Rome) in June, with regular classes in the morning and supervised study sessions in the afternoon; introductions to the major Florentine and Roman libraries; paleography activities on Latin and vernacular manuscripts, and transcription practice.



Participants must be ABA members and have good knowledge of the Italian language as the seminars will be conducted in Italian. The Seminar is open to scholars and graduate students; applicants should be affiliated with a North American university. Qualified applicants should send their CV and a statement which explains their interest in participating in the seminar (maximum 250 words) by March 15, 2024 to Paola Ureni at: paola.ureni@csi.cuny.edu

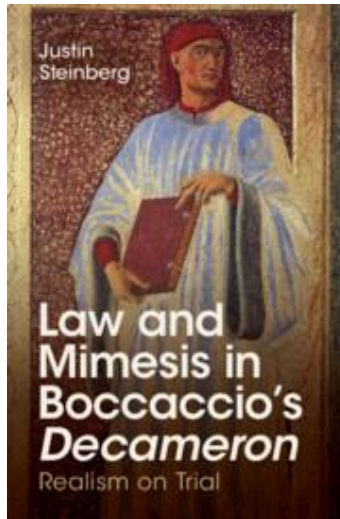
Seminars are taught by internationally renowned scholars:

Irene Ceccherini, Marco Corsi, Teresa De Robertis, Claudia Montuschi, David Speranzi, Maddalena Signorini, and Stefano Zamponi

The program fee for the seminar is **\$800 (USD)** to be paid to the American Boccaccio Association upon notification of acceptance. Participants will receive notice of their acceptance by the end of March 2024. The American Boccaccio Association will provide two travel **grants of \$250** each to graduate students. In addition to a CV and brief statement of interest, graduate students should also provide a brief description of their research project in the field of Boccaccio studies (including title, abstract, description of the project, contribution to the field, and selected bibliography).



FALL 2023 BOOK LAUNCH:



In the fall of 2023, the ABA book launch series featured Prof. Justin Steinberg's [*Law and Mimesis in Boccaccio's Decameron*](#) (Cambridge University Press, 2023). Prof. Steinberg sheds light on the new Italian city states' role—driven largely by a communitarian, private approach—in proactively prosecuting crime and on how this affected the representation of legal proceedings staged in the *Decameron*.



PAST CONFERENCES:

“Das vernachlässigte Spätwerk Giovanni Boccaccios: Le Esposizioni sopra la Commedia di Dante Alighieri,” Göttingen 18-20 October 2023.

Organizers: Sabrina Ferrara, Franziska Meier, Matthias Roick, and Enrica Zanin.



MLA Convention: Philadelphia, Jan. 4-7, 2024. ABA sponsored panels”

Panel 310: *Lectura Boccaccii* Day Ten.

Chair & Organizer Kristina M. Olson;

Presenters:

Daniel Armenti (College of the Holy Cross) “Decameron X.1”
Massimo Riva (Brown University) “Decameron X.5.”

Panel 105: Boccaccio’s Progeny:

“The Decameron’s Afterlife in German Literature and Film,”

Presenter:

Claire Baldwin (Colgate University).

Panel 629:

**“Epistemology and Poetics in the Early Modern
Transatlantic World Luis Rodríguez-Rincón,”**

Presenter:

Luis Rodríguez-Rincón
(Haverford College, Cornell University,
University of Oregon, University of California, Berkeley).

UPCOMING CONFERENCES:

RSA: Chicago, March 21-23, 2023. Panels sponsored by ABA:

Boccaccio at the Crusades.

Organizers: Nicola Esposito (University of Notre Dame) and Valentina Rovere (Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore)

Chair: Chiara Sbordonì (University of Leeds)

Presenters:

Nicola Esposito (University of Notre Dame), “Narrating the Holy Land: Echoes of the Crusades in the *Decameron*.”

Valentina Rovere (Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore), “Translating and Visualizing the Crusades: from Boccaccio to 15th-Century France.”

Alejandro Cuadrado (Yale University), “An Island in the Stream: Boccaccio’s Cyprus and Mobility in the *Decameron*’s Mediterranean.”

Boccaccian Reflections in History and Art.

Organizer: Maggie Fritz-Morkin (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

Chair: Alison Cornish (New York University)

Presenters:

John Mark Adrian (University of Virginia), “Boccaccio 125 years later: examining a late fifteenth-century portrait medal”

Cosette Alana Bruhns Alonso (University of Pennsylvania), “Dirty Pictures: Learning from Clara Tice’s 1925 *Decameron* Illustrations.”

Maggie Fritz-Morkin (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), “Hortensia, Filippa, Novella.”

Matteo Pace (Connecticut College), “Giletta, Jacoba, and the Other mediche. Gendering Science in *Decameron* III.9.”

Reframing Ethics in Boccaccio's Works.

Organizer: Maggie Fritz-Morkin (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

Chair: Francesco Ciabattoni (Georgetown University)

Presenters:

Alison Cornish (New York University), “*Decameron’s* Frames and the Sense of the Sacred”

Mario Sassi (Williams College), “Divergent Lessons: The Interpretation of the Infernal Hunt between Dante, Boccaccio, and Passavanti”

Paolo Scartoni (Rutgers University), “Con più ordinato parlare e coperto. Songs, Novellas, and Boccaccio’s Ethics of Narration”

Chiara Sbordoni (University of Leeds), “Poeta fui’: Dante’s Virgil through Boccaccio’s *Esposizioni sopra la Comedia.*”

Boccaccio and the Daughters of Lot: Plague, Population, and Natural Law.

Organizer & Chair: Maggie Fritz-Morkin (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

Presenter:

Justin Steinberg (University of Chicago)

Panel Respondent:

Enrica Zanin (Université de Strasbourg)



MEMBERS’ NEWS AND RECENT PUBLICATIONS:

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

Follow us on [Facebook!](#)

See our newly designed website and updates: <https://boccaccio-usa.org/>

We are delighted to announce that

Elsa Filosa’s *Boccaccio’s Florence: Politics and People in His Life and Work* won the 2023 MLA Scaglione Prize for Italian Studies (honorable mention)



Congratulations to Elsa Filosa, President of the American Boccaccio Association!

RECENT PUBLICATIONS :

- Beck, Aaron. "Miriam's timbrel: the Decameron as Exodus" in *Music and Jewish Culture in Early Modern Italy: New Perspectives*, ed. by Lynette Bowring, Rebecca Cypess, Liza Malamut, Indiana University Press, 2022.
- Bragantini, Renzo. *Il 'Decameron' e il Medioevo rivoluzionario di Boccaccio*, Rome: Carocci, 2022.
- Bragantini, Renzo. "Stazioni di un 'topos' narrativo: il racconto durante il viaggio," in *La novella in viaggio*, ed. by Luca Sacchi e Cristina Zampese, Milan: Ledizioni, 2022.
- Bragantini, Renzo, Figorilli, Maria Cristina, e Nocita Teresa, "La riflessione sulle forme e sui generi letterari: il potere nella novellistica, nel romanzo, nel teatro. Al centro del potere: la novellistica," in *Letteratura e Potere/Poteri, Atti del XXIV Congresso dell'ADI (Associazione degli Italianisti), Catania, 23-25 settembre 2021*, ed. by Andrea Manganaro, Giuseppe Traina, Carmelo Tramontana, Rome: Adi editore, 2023.
- Robin, Anne. *À la recherche de l'équilibre. De la maladie à la santé: l'histoire de la lieta brigata du Decameron*, Ravenna: Longo editore, col. «Memoria del Tempo», 2022.
- Robin, Anne. "Il potere dei medici e le fonti letterarie nel *Decameron*," in *Letteratura e Potere/Poteri. Atti del XXIV Congresso dell'ADI - Associazione degli Italianisti (Catania, 23-25 settembre 2021)*, ed. by Andrea Manganaro, Giuseppe Traina, Carmelo Tramontana, Rome, Adi editore, 2023.
- Kirkham, Victoria. "Virgils in Skirts: An Allegorical Map for the *Amorosa visione*." *Studi sul Boccaccio* 50 (2022): 189-220.
- Merola, Valeria, Nocita, Teresa, Zanin Enrica, eds. "Novella e teatro. Dal Decameron al XVIII secolo. Dinamiche testuali fra intermedialità e transcodifica," in "*Arnovit (Archivio Novellistico Italiano)*", 8 (2023): 2-4. (Rpt. *Novella e teatro*, Rome: La Giustizia Penale e Spolia, 2023, pp. 8-10).
- Nocita, Teresa. "Novella e Teatro. Part I," ed. by Valeria Merola, Teresa Nocita, Enrica Zanin, in *Arnovit (Archivio Novellistico Italiano)*, 7 (2022): 2-76.
- Nocita, Teresa. "Teatralità implicita nella novella boccacciana: visual writing, tratti performativi e marche dell'oralità nel Decameron," in *Arnovit (Archivio Novellistico Italiano)*, 7 (2022): 2-17; (rpt. *Novella e teatro*, ed. by Valeria Merola, Teresa Nocita, Enrica Zanin, Rome: La Giustizia Penale e Spolia, 2023. 11-26).
- Nocita, Teresa. "Novella e Teatro." Part II, ed. by Valeria Merola, Teresa Nocita, Enrica Zanin, in *Arnovit (Archivio Novellistico Italiano)*, 8 (2023): 2-78.
- Sotgiu, Antonio. "La decima giornata del *Decameron* e la logica del dono: la rappresentazione del potere tra modellizzazione e ironia," in *Letteratura e Potere/Poteri, Atti del XXIV Congresso dell'ADI (Associazione degli Italianisti), Catania, 23-25 settembre 2021*, ed. by Andrea Manganaro, Giuseppe Traina, Carmelo Tramontana, Rome, Adi editore, 2023.
- Tramontana, Carmelo. "«Non pieghevoli per novelle». Potere della letteratura e rischio mimetico nel *Decameron*," in *Letteratura e Potere/Poteri, Atti del XXIV Congresso dell'ADI (Associazione degli Italianisti), Catania, 23-25 settembre 2021*, ed. by Andrea Manganaro, Giuseppe Traina, Carmelo Tramontana, Rome, Adi editore, 2023.



VELLI PRIZES:

The **Giuseppe Velli Graduate Prize** for the best graduate student essay on a subject related to the life or works of Giovanni Boccaccio. The prize of three hundred dollars (\$300) will be awarded to a graduate student enrolled in any American or Canadian University, or by a recent graduate who earned an M.A. or Ph.D. during the year prior to submission. The winning essay will also be automatically considered for publication in [*Heliotropia, a forum for Boccaccio research and interpretation*](#).

The **Giuseppe Velli Undergraduate Prize** of two hundred dollars (\$200) will be awarded for the best essay submitted by an undergraduate student in any American or Canadian University, or by a recent graduate who earned a B.A. during the year prior to submission.

The **Giuseppe Velli Creative Prize** of two hundred dollars (\$200) will be awarded for the best creative work, performance, or translation related to Boccaccio's works by a graduate or undergraduate student in any American or Canadian University. Materials can be submitted as digital recording or other media files.

Please note the following requirements for submission:

- The author's name should not appear on the essay's title page or elsewhere in the submission.
- Quotations from Boccaccio's works should be cited in the original language, and the format of the essay should conform to MLA Style Sheet guidelines.
- The essays should be no longer than 7500 words, including bibliography and other related material.
- The deadline for submission for all categories is June 1, 2024.
- Submissions should be sent to Francesco Ciabattoni velli.prize@gmail.com. Please write "VELLI PRIZE" in the Subject field.



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 important publications, announcements of general interest, and other similar tidbits to Francesco Ciabattini: fc237@georgetown.edu

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 he may integrate them with his own findings. Email: ckleinhe@wisc.edu & elsa.filosa@vanderbilt.edu

News on Updated Membership Dues! Your membership enables the ABA to maintain and enhance programming, support research and outreach in Boccaccio studies, and collaborate with partner institutions through its web presence, conference panels, journals, bibliographies, scholarships, and prizes. Initiatives such as the volumes of *Lectura Boccaccii*, Member Book Launch Series, Paleography Seminar, and Triennial Conference would not be possible without your generous contributions. Please consider renewing or donating today.

[RENEW TODAY!](#)

Feel free to contact ABA Treasurer Sara Díaz (treasurer.boccaccio.us@gmail.com) with any membership questions.



BOOKS AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW ON *HELIOTROPIA*:

Submissions from ABA members are especially encouraged. Guidelines and a list of books available for review are available at: <http://www.heliotropia.org>. For further information, please contact Michael Papio (papio@hfa.umass.edu).

Avati, Pupi. *L'alta fantasia: il viaggio di Boccaccio alla scoperta di Dante*, Milan: Solferino, 2021.

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

Chines, Loredana. *Filigrane: nuovi tasselli per Petrarca e Boccaccio*, Rome; Padua: Antenore, 2021.

Ferrara, Sabrina, ed. *Échanges épistolaires autour de Pétrarque et Boccace*, Paris: Champion, 2021.

Fiorilla, Maurizio and Irene Iocca, eds. *Boccaccio*, Rome: Carocci, 2021.

Lumms, David, ed. *The Decameron Sixth Day in Perspective*. Toronto: UTP, 2021.

Morosini, Roberta. *I cieli naviganti: Domenico Rea, Boccaccio e Napoli*, Naples: Libreria Dante & Descartes, 2021.

Palma, Flavia, ed. *La 2. Giornata del 'Decameron': nel dominio della Fortuna*, with Giuseppe Chiecchi (Introduction) and Marco Veglia (Conclusion), Pisa; Rome: Fabrizio Serra, 2022.

Revelli Sorini, Alex, et al. *La cucina di Dante e Boccaccio: saggio storico e ricette ritrovate*, Foligno: Il Formichiere, 2021.

Robin, Anne. *À la recherche de l'équilibre. De la maladie à la santé: l'histoire de la lieta brigata du Décaméron*, Ravenna: Longo, 2022.

Robins, William, ed. *The Decameron Eighth Day in Perspective*, Toronto: UTP, 2020.

Tufano, Ilaria. *Boccaccio e il suo mondo: studi e letture sul Decameron*, Soveria Mannelli: Rubbettino, 2021.

Santagata, Marco. *Boccaccio indiscreto: il mito di Fiammetta*, Bologna: Il mulino, 2021.

Tramontana, Carmelo. *Il contagio e la parola onesta: interpretare Boccaccio*, Naples: Loffredo, 2021.

Vecce, Carlo. *Il Decameron di Pasolini, storia di un sogno*, Roma: Carocci, 2022.

Viti, Paolo. *L'ascesa al Parnaso: Petrarca e Boccaccio alle origini dell'umanesimo*, Lecce: Milella, 2021.

