

# Boccaccio Newsletter

Published Twice Yearly by the American Boccaccio Association

Winter 2004

## Officers:

Janet Smarr, Univ. of California, San Diego, President  
Roberta Morosini, Wake Forest Univ., Vice President  
Eugenio Giusti, Vassar Coll., Secretary-Treasurer  
Michael Sherberg, Washington Univ., Newsletter Editor

## Regional Representatives:

(United States)

Millicent Marcus, Univ. of Pennsylvania  
Angelo Mazzocco, Mount Holyoke Coll.  
Madison Sowell, Brigham Young Univ.

(Canada)

Antonio Franceschetti, Univ. of Toronto

## Greetings from the President

Our organization currently has about 75 members. Boccaccio would no doubt be surprised and pleased at the flourishing of Boccaccio studies after so many centuries and on the far side of the world that he thought uninhabited.

One of the benefits our officers would like to provide in the next *Newsletter* is a directory of *Boccaccisti*, to facilitate your contact with one another. We have names and mailing addresses but not your e-mails. Could you please e-mail either <eugiusti@vassar.edu> or <jsmarr@ucsd.edu> so that we may include your e-mail addresses as well? Do it soon so you don't forget! This is also an opportunity to let us know if for some reason you do *not* wish your addresses included in the distribution list. Otherwise we will assume that you are happy to be included.

I would also like to encourage members to let us know, by US mail or e-mail, about your own work, whether papers, talks, or research in progress. Those of you lucky enough to have the opportunity to teach Boccaccio might share with us some information about the contexts in which you teach his work and the texts you select for those contexts.

Any other news that you think would interest the readership is welcome: reviews of books you have read or exhibits you have seen, alerts about upcoming conferences and sessions, etc. Finally, any suggestions you have for how we can make this organization and this *Newsletter* work well for you would be welcomed.

--Janet Levarie Smarr

## *The Decameron First Day in Perspective*

The Univ. of Toronto Press has just published *The Decameron First Day in Perspective*, a collection of readings first delivered as part of our ongoing *Lectura Boccaccii* series. Edited by Elissa B. Weaver, the volume includes essays by Marga Cottino-Jones, Dante Della Terza, Franco Fido, Pier Massimo Forni, Robert Hollander, Victoria Kirkham, Millicent Marcus, Ronald Martinez, Michelangelo Picone, Pamela Stewart, Thomas C. Stillinger, and Janet Levarie Smarr. Toronto has issued the volume in both hardcover (\$50) and paperback (\$27.95). Please order your personal copy today, and make sure your library orders a copy too. Energetic sales of the volume will no doubt encourage Toronto to stick with the project beyond its commitment to Volume II.

Volume II, edited by Victoria Kirkham, is currently moving forward with Toronto.

Congratulations to all who worked so hard to realize this important contribution to *Decameron* studies, and especially to Elissa Weaver, who conceived the *Lectura Boccaccii* series while president of the Association. We recall in passing that Weaver's study, *Convent Theatre in Early Modern Italy: Spiritual Fun and Learning for Women*, which appeared with Cambridge Univ. Press in 2002, details how Boccaccio's works served as a source for convent plays.

## More about the *Lectura Boccaccii* Project

Now that the first volume of the *Lectura Boccaccii* series has been published, we have started up our public readings again. Pier Massimo Forni continues his stewardship of the Day III readings; most recently Anthony Cassell contributed a reading of *Decameron* III.9 at the MLA Convention held in San Diego in December. Michael Sherberg will organize the *Lecturae* for Day IV. *Boccaccisti* interested in contributing to Day IV should contact Sherberg by e-mail at <sherberg@wustl.edu>.

## *Essays in Honor of Marga Cottino-Jones*

Also of recent publication is *Essays in Honor of Marga-Cottino Jones*, a *Festschrift* of contributions by her former students. Edited by Laura Sanguineti White, Andrea Baldi, and Kristin Phillips, and published by Edizioni Cadmo in Fiesole, the volume includes essays by Luisella Bovio Arnold, Theodore J. Cachey, Jr., Rita Cavigioli, Carlo Celli, Cristina Della Coletta, Glenn P. Pierce, Francesca Santovetti, Francesca Savoia, Michael Sherberg, Elissa Weaver, as well as the three editors. A bibliography of Cottino-Jones's writings completes the volume.

Cottino-Jones, professor emerita of Italian at UCLA, has dedicated most of her scholarly career to the study of Boccaccio and the *novella* tradition, while contributing significantly to our knowledge of sixteenth-century Italian theater and the Italian baroque as well. Long an important voice in Boccaccio studies in North America as well as in Italy, she is rightly remembered in this important book.

## Annual Meeting of the American Boccaccio Association

At the Annual Meeting of the Association, held at the MLA Convention in San Diego on December 29, 2003, attendees heard two papers: "Boccaccian Voices of Lament and the Genesis of Petrarch's *Canzoniere*," by Ronald Martinez (Brown Univ.), and "'Seppellito con richissimi ornamenti': Andreuccio da Perugia and Fourteenth-century Neapolitan Burial Practice," by Julie Singer, Duke U.

## Upcoming Conferences

For information about the 2004 International Conference on Medieval Studies at Kalamazoo, Michigan, visit the conference website at <<http://www.wmich.edu/medieval/congress>>. The Conference will take place May 6-9.

The American Association for Italian Studies (AAIS) will hold its 2004 annual meeting at the University of Ottawa April 29-May 2. For information, visit the conference website at <<http://www.aais.info/2004>>.

## Recent Conferences

The Thirty-Eighth International Conference on Medieval Studies, held at Kalamazoo May 8-11, 2003, included two papers of interest to *Boccaccisti*: "The Bold, the Bad, and the Good: Three Female Protagonists of Boccaccio's *Decameron*," by Nancy L. D'Antuono, St. Mary's Coll., and "Christian Love or Pagan Transgression: Marriage and Conversion in *Floire et Blancheflor*," by Lynn Shutters, New York Univ.

## Heliotropia

Michael Papio, Brown Univ., has launched a new on-line journal of Boccaccio studies, *Heliotropia*. Visit it at <[http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Italian\\_Studies/heliotropia](http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Italian_Studies/heliotropia)>. Volume I, number 1, which came out in Spring 2003, included essays by Ronald Martinez, Regina Psaki, Janet Smarr, and Jonathan Usher, as well as book reviews. The site also contains the North American Boccaccio Bibliography for 1985-2000, compiled by Christopher Kleinhenz, and a list of recent dissertations (2002-2003) on Boccaccio. Guidelines for future submissions can be found on the website.

Papio is also the founder, with Massimo Riva, of the Decameron Web, which began as a class project at Brown and has been adding pages over time. Visit it at <[http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Italian\\_Studies/dweb/dweb.shtml](http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Italian_Studies/dweb/dweb.shtml)>.

## Recent Books from Europe

The 2001 International Conference on Boccaccio, held in his hometown of Certaldo and organized by Michelangelo Picone, now has a paper record in a volume of essays: *Autori e lettori di Boccaccio: Atti del Convegno Internazionale di Certaldo (20-22 settembre 2001)*, ed. Michelangelo Picone (Firenze: Franco Cesati Editore, 2002). The volume includes four sections of essays: Boccaccio europeo, Boccaccio e i generi letterari, Boccaccio fra Dante e Petrarca, and Boccaccio e le arti. Janet Smarr contributed an essay entitled "Boccaccio pastorale tra Dante e Petrarca," and Victoria Kirkham wrote "Il canonista e la sua dama: iconografia della Fiammetta."

Longo Editore in Ravenna has published *Studi sul canone letterario del Trecento. Per Michelangelo Picone*, ed. Johannes Bartuschat and Luciano Rossi (2003). The volume includes a bibliography of Picone's work, edited by Tatiana Crivelli. Two essays of specific interest to *Boccaccisti* are: "Non pur Policleto, ma la natura. Perfezione dell'arte e perfezione della natura in Dante e Boccaccio," by Johannes Bartuschat, and "Boccaccio Ghirlandaio: l'incoronazione universale del *Decameron*," by Jonathan Usher.

*The Cambridge Companion to the Italian Novel* has appeared, edited by Peter Bondanella and Andrea Ciccarelli (Cambridge UP, 2003). Two essays of interest to *Boccaccisti* are: "The belated development of a theory of the novel in Italian literary culture," by Remo Cesarani and Pierluigi Pellini, and "The forms of long prose fiction in late medieval and early modern Italian literature," by Albert N. Mancini.

Finally, readers of the *Corbaccio* will want to consult Simonetta Mazzoni Peruzzi, *Medioevo francese nel Corbaccio*, in the series "Quaderni degli Studi sul Boccaccio" (Firenze: Le Lettere, 2001).

## Members Report Activities

Congratulations to **Roberta Morosini**, who has published *Per difetto rintegrare. Una lettura del Filocolo di Boccaccio*. (Ravenna: Longo Editore, 2004). Also out are two articles: "Boccaccio and the Mediterranean Legend about Virgil the Magician and the Castle of the Egg in Naples with a Note on Ms

IV 31 and *Decameron* X 5," in *Scripta Mediterranea* 23 (2002): 13-30, and "Prose di romanzi ... or novelle?: A Note on Adaptations of *franceschi romanzi*. The case of the *Tristano riccardiano* and the *Novellino*," *Tristania* 22 (2003): 23-48. Her essay "A 'Plebeian Nymph' in Naples: 'Representational spaces' and Labyrinth in Domenico Rea's *Ninfa plebea*" has appeared in *Italian Women and the City: Essays*, ed. Janet Levarie Smarr and Daria Valentini (Madison, NJ: Farleigh Dickinson Univ. Press, 2003) (and congratulations to **Janet Levarie Smarr** on the publication of this volume). Morosini continues working on a project entitled "Boccaccio the Poet-Philosopher of the *Filocolo*: Rewriting *Floire et Blancheflor* and Writing Literary Theory."

His former students have honored **Karl-Ludwig Selig** by establishing a scholarship in his name at Columbia Univ. In a further gesture in honor of Selig, professor emeritus of Spanish and Portuguese at Columbia and Honorarprofessor at the Universität Greifswald, at last spring's Columbia Crew Dinner a boat, a four-man shell for use by lightweights, was christened with his name.

In addition to the volume *Italian Women and the City: Essays*, which she recently edited with Daria Valentini, **Janet Levarie Smarr** has published a review of Vittore Branca, ed., *Merchant Writers of the Italian Renaissance from Boccaccio to Machiavelli*, tr. Murtha Baca (NY: Marsilio, 1999), in *Italica* 80.4 (Winter 2003).

## Dues Reminder

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

Also, please remember to check 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 feature will help you keep track of when your dues are due.

### American Boccaccio Association Membership Application/Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

Membership:	Regular	_____ \$5/1 year	_____ New
		_____ \$10/2 years	_____ Renewal
	Sustaining	_____ \$15/year	

Membership nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Send this form, along with your dues, to: Eugenio Giusti, Box 314, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.

### Contributions to the Newsletter

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Institution \_\_\_\_\_

1. Work in progress

2. Announcements

3. Boccaccio bibliography

4. Other

**Mail Newsletter contributions to:** Boccaccio Newsletter, c/o Michael Sherberg, Romance Languages and Literatures, Washington University Box 1077, One Brookings Drive, St. Louis, MO 63130-4899.

*Nota bene:* Christopher Kleinhenz, editor of the Boccaccio Bibliography that appears annually in the Spring Boccaccio Newsletter, would appreciate any information you might have on publications that he could integrate with his own findings.