



Locating Boccaccio in 2013

Events hosted by the University of Manchester, UK
July 2013 (provisional date, to be confirmed)

organized by
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Rationale

Where is Boccaccio in 2013? We will seek to problematize the field of Boccaccio studies, and the historical figure of Boccaccio himself, in this anniversary year seven centuries after his birth. We will explore the curious marginality of Boccaccio in literary and historical studies, and will attempt to (re-)situate him in a number of critical locales.

Boccaccio's status as one of the canonical *tre corone* of Italian medieval literature remains unchallenged (or perhaps, little discussed), yet his standing in the academy sometimes seems to be regarded as rather less impressive than that of his senior colleagues Dante and Petrarch. How and why has this conception of Boccaccio and his writings come about?

Issues we will address include:

- Does this critical trend derive from Boccaccio's own articulations of his authorial anxieties? Or is this historiographical strand in fact a by-product of the long-standing Dante and Petrarch industries, which have sidelined Boccaccio to a supporting role in the narratives of these great authors?
- Why have reception studies become such a central and dominant strand in the field?
- In 2013, can we even talk about a unified field of Boccaccio studies, or have the Italian and Anglophone worlds diverged from each other?
- Why does Boccaccio offer such a productive space to female scholars?
- Can we measure the marginal status of Boccaccio in our institutions and in our publications?

We will seek to locate Boccaccio temporally (in 2013 and in the past), materially (in the forms of his writings and the forms of their subsequent incarnations), geographically (within Italy and beyond), and critically.

Events and Publications

- Two-day international conference at The John Rylands Library, University of Manchester
- Exhibition showcasing the Boccaccio holdings of the Rylands library and including contemporary Artists' Books created for the septcentenary
- Hands-on workshops and master classes
- Academic publications
- Exhibition catalogue

More Information

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