Boccaccio's Women

                                              Italian 537 - Fall, 2002

                                             Thurs., 2-4, Williams 29

Professor Victoria Kirkham

534 Williams Hall

Office hours: Tues. 4-5; Thurs. 11-12

vkirkham@sas.upenn.edu

215-898-6028

**Sept. 5**.  Intro. to course. Discussion of *Decameron* Proem (handout).

**Sept. 12**. *Decameron*, Intro. and Day I

Additional reading: Boccaccio's "Life," Ch. 2 of Bergin, *Boccaccio*; Kirkham, "Boccaccio's Dedication to Ladies in Love," in *The Sign of Reason in Boccaccio's Fiction*

Responses:

--I, 5

--I, 10

**Sept.19**. *Decameron*, Day II (5, 7, 10);  Day III (Intro., 1, 9, 10)

Additional reading: Kirkham, "Love's Labors Rewarded and Paradise Lost (*Dec*. III, 10," in *The Sign of Reason*

Responses:

--II, 7

--III, 10

**Sept. 26**. *Decameron*, Day IV (Intro., 1, 5, 8); Day V (1, 8, 10)

Additional reading: Kirkham, "The Word, the Flesh, and the *Decameron*," in *The Sign of Reason*

Responses:

-- IV, 1

-- V, 1

**Oct. 3**. *Decameron*, Day VI (1, 7); Day VII (2, 7); Day VIII (3, 7).

Reading: Kirkham, "An Allegorically Tempered *Decameron*," in *The Sign of Reason*

Responses:

--VI, 7

--VIII,7

**Oct. 10**. *Decameron* Day IX (2, 3, 9); Day X (8, 10); Author's Conclusion

Responses:

--X, 10

--Kirkham, "The Last Tale in the *Decameron*," in *The Sign of Reason in Boccaccio's Fiction*.

**Oct. 17**.  "The Little *Decameron*."  *Ameto* (*Comedia delle ninfe fiorentine*)

Reading: Smarr, xxx, in *Boccaccio and Fiammetta*; Kirkham, "A New Flame," in *The Sign of Reason*

**Midterm paper: Ideals of Female Beauty**

**Oct. 24**.  *Amorosa visione*.

Reading: Kirkham, "Amorous Vision, Scholastic Vistas," in *The Sign of Reason in Boccaccio's Fiction*; Kirkham typescript, "Virgils in Skirts".

Responses:

--Fiammetta in *Ameto*

--Fiammetta in the *Amorosa visione*

**Oct. 31**. *Elegia di Madonna Fiammetta (Amorous Fiammetta)*

Reading: Hollander, xxx, in *Boccaccio's Two Venuses*

**Nov. 7**.  *Corbaccio*.  The misogynistic tradition.

Reading: Introduction to the text by Cassell (*Corbaccio*, Univ. of Illinois, 1978); Marcus, xxx, *Stanford Italian Review*

Response: "Woman as Sewer"

**Nov. 14**.  *Famous Women* (*De mulieribus claris*).  Chs. 1-51.

Response: "Eve."  Reporter to present also "Adam and Eve" from *De casibus virorum illustrium*.

**Nov. 21**.  *Famous Women*. Chs. 52-Conclusion.

Response: articles by Philippy, xxx??? Benson???

**Nov. 28**. Thanksgiving

**Dec. 5**. *Famous Women* (*De mulieribus claris*).  Chs. 52-Conclusion.

Second half of class: **Hour Exam**

Requirements:

1. Regular attendance, preparation, and participation in class discussion.

2. Three 7-min. class reports.

3. An hour exam to cover all readings on syllabus, December 5.

4. A final paper (15-20 pp.@ 250 words/page), due in my box in 521 Williams by 5 PM, Tues., Dec. 17. Possible topics might be: a work of your choice other than those we have read with emphasis on the feminine or gender issues; a focus on a particular category of women: e.g., the Amazons (cf. *Teseida*); or on mythological women, e.g., the goddess Diana; the goddess Venus (cf. *Diana's Hunt, Filocolo*, *Genealogies of the Gentile Gods*); Boccaccio's mistress Fiammetta; allegorical females; literary females (e.g., Boccaccio's two Dido's); characters created by Boccaccio (e.g., patient Griselda).

Required texts:

Boccaccio, Giovanni. *Diana's Hunt. Caccia di Diana.  Boccaccio's First Fiction*. Edited by Antony K. Cassell and Victoria Kirkham.  Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1991. Hardcover.  ISBN: 0-8122-8219-1. [Amazon lists it discounted at $27.97]  8 copies.

------. *Amorosa visione*.  Milan: MONDADORI. Paperback. ISBN: 8804481404.  [Schoenhof's Foreign Books list price $18.95.] 6 copies.

------. *Elegia di madonna Fiammetta*. *Corbaccio*, ed. Francesco Erbani. Milan: Garzanti, 1988 paperback. ISBN: 8811583586. [Schoenhof's lists at $15.95.] 6 copies.

------. *The Elegy of Lady Fiammetta*, trans. Causa-Steindler and Murch.  Univ. of Chicago.  Paperback. ISBN: 0226062767. [Amazon lists at 14.95.] 4 copies

------. Decameron, ed. Cesare Segre. Milan: Mursia, 1966. ISBN: 8842504211 [Scheonhof's lists at  $18.95.]  6 copies

------.  *Decameron*. trans. G. H. McWilliam (Penguin, most recent). [Amazon lists at $11.16.] 4 copies

------.  *The Corbaccio or the Labyrinth of Love,*trans. Anthony K. Cassell.  Pegasus Paperbooks, 1993. [Amazon List Price: $10.95.] 4 copies

------. *Famous Women*, ed. and trans. Virginia Brown.  I Tatti Renaissance Library.  Harvard Univ. Press, 2001.Hardcover. ISBN 0-674-00347--0. [Amazon lists at 29.95.] 10 copies

Kirkham, Victoria.  *The Sign of Reason in Boccaccio's Fiction*.  Florence: Olschki, 1993.  ISBN 88-222-4111-8.  Paperback. 8 copies.

Bulkpack with selections from *Filocolo*, *Ameto*, *Genealogie deorum gentilium*.

On reserve in the library:

The *Amorosa visione* in English w/ facing text in Italian, edited and translated by Robert Hollander et al.Hanover, N.H.: University Press of New England, 1986, is prohibitive--about $110.  It will be available on reserve in library.

Kirkham on Boccaccio Chianti.

------.  *Fabulous Vernacular.  Boccaccio's Filocolo and the Art of Medieval Fiction*.  Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2001.

////////// *Amorosa visione*.

Reading