

Heliotropia at Twenty

This issue marks the journal's twentieth anniversary. Founded in the now far-off year of 2003, it has stubbornly persisted in its original mission to provide «a forum for Boccaccio research and interpretation». Since then, the publication's readership has changed substantially, most notably with respect to humankind's inevitable *correre a la morte*. After two decades of riding Chronos' unslowable travelator, we've all lost some friends and colleagues... but have also, perhaps, discovered a few new ones along the way. During these years (comprising even a plague of our own), rivers of water have flowed under the proverbial bridge, and thousands of pages of Boccaccio-related research have been submitted, studied, revised, edited and published in this venue. Of course, if *Heliotropia* has held out for this long, it's surely thanks, on the one hand, to the scholars who generously lent us the fruit of their studies and, on the other, to the many thousands of readers who've stopped by to learn something for free.¹

Aware of our privileged position as a conduit of scholarship within the field of Boccaccio Studies, *Heliotropia* is introducing, as of this issue, a series of interviews with senior members of the field because we are committed to facilitating a kind of generational *translatio studii (et etiam morum)*, to be honest) for the benefit of our readers. It's our hope that these more personal reflections will be enlightening and at times even inspiring.

Next year's special issue will be guest-edited by Profs. Sabrina Ferrara and Franziska Meier who are preparing a series of *lecturae Boccaccii lecturarum*, a selection of canto-by-canto close readings of the *Esposizioni*. Reviews and other regular content will continue normally. As always, the journal's usefulness is directly related to our colleagues, whether authors of essays and reviews or of reader reports. Without them, there simply would be no *Heliotropia*. While I'm grateful to all of them, I'd like to express special thanks to Alberto Gelmi and Giovanni Spani who have done yeoman's work in preparing this twentieth issue.

Lastly, I'd like to remind you that we invite studies, reviews and scholarly notes throughout the year. Please don't hesitate to contact us.

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¹ Bending a bit the stylistic rules of the preface, I'm sneaking in a footnote for those who may not be especially familiar with the current gloomy state of Open Access publishing in the humanities. It's shamelessly self-referential, yet still somewhat useful. [[link](https://www.heliotropia.org/20/papio.pdf)]