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FOREWORD

Now in its third year of publication, *Carte Italiane* this year contains papers selected from those received from universities nationwide, on a variety of subjects and disciplines, from the humor of Pirandello to the Italian *melodramma* of the Ottocento. In addition, we are continuing a practice established last year of publishing an interview with a prominent scholar in Italian Studies who has visited UCLA during the past year. This year's interview, with Paolo Valesio of Yale University, took place during the recent conference of the AAUPI held here under the direction of Marga Cottino-Jones, chairman of the department of Italian at UCLA.

In thanking Dr. Cottino-Jones, we would like to mention not only her support of *Carte Italiane* since its inception, but her guidance of the Department of Italian over the last five years. We have attempted to acknowledge this large debt by presenting this volume, with its papers on two of Boccaccio's works, in her honor.

Publication of *Carte Italiane* would not be possible without the generous financial support of the Graduate Students Association of UCLA. An additional form of support, that of the interest expressed in our journal by readers worldwide, has been very encouraging and is warmly appreciated. The commitment to the publication of *Carte Italiane* demonstrated by our editors, by the professors of our department in contributing many hours in an advisory capacity, and by those who have offered their financial support and their readership, has resulted in the publication of this journal, and it is my hope that they will find themselves repaid in this contribution to Italian Studies.

Cynthia Craig
Editor