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ANNA CERA

Reflexions on La Venexiana

On April 3, 1985, the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, UCLA and the Istituto Italiano di Cultura San Francisco-Los Angeles, co-sponsored a workshop on *La Venexiana*, a 16th-century play in venetian dialect. The play was performed in English, under the direction of Maurizio Scaparro, [Artistic Director, Teatro di Roma], in late March at the Ralph Freud Theater.

The workshop was chaired by Prof. Fredi Chiappelli, [Director of the Center for Medieval & Renaissance Studies], and participants in the panel discussion included: Prof. Michael J. B. Allen [Dept. of English], Marco Bernardi [Artistic Director, Teatro Stabile di Bolzano], Prof. Michael Hackett [Dept. of Theater], Prof. Henry Goodman [Dept. of Theater], Prof. Albert R. Braunmuller [Dept. of English], Valeria Moriconi, leading actress, Prof. Pier Maria Pasinetti [Dept. of Italian], translator of the text with Murtha Baca, Prof. Norman Welsh [Dept. of Theater], Renzo Tian [president of the Associazione Critici Teatrali Italiani and critic for *Il Messaggero*, Rome], and, finally, Prof. Agostino Lombardo [University of Rome], who concluded the workshop with his talk on "The Myth of Venice and the Theater." [Cf. Alessandra Venezia, "Intervista a Maurizio Scaparro: *Il linguaggio del futuro*," pp. 70-75]

Lectures

Francesco Bruni, [Università di Napoli], *L'italiano: elementi di storia della lingua e della cultura*, Nov. 13, 1984;

*The Mirror and the Net: Three Case-Studies in
Thirteen-Century Uses of the Classics*, Nov. 15, 1984

Gino Rizzo, [University of Melbourne], *Inferno XXVI: Ulisse*, Jan. 18, 1985

Northrop Frye, [University of Toronto], *The Influence of Vico and Bruno on James Joyce's Finegan's Wake*, Feb. 22, 1985

Paolo Galluzi, [Museum for the History of Science, Florence], *The Birth of Scientific Illustration*, Mar. 5, 1985

Giorgio Varanini, [Università di Pisa], *Struttura, ritualità e recupero morale nel canto XXVII del Purgatorio*, Apr. 17, 1985

Poetry Performance

On Nov. 7, 1984 the Italian Avant-Garde poet Giulia Niccolai performed her "Bilingual Poetry" at Beyond Baroque. This event was made possible by support from the National Endowment for the Arts, the California Arts Council, the Cultural Affairs Dept. of the City of Los Angeles, the Italian Cultural Institute of San Francisco, the Dept. of Italian UCLA, and the Italian Consulate of Los Angeles. [Cf. Luisa Del Giudice, Pasquale Verdicchio with Paul Vangelisti, "Intervista con Giulia Niccolai: I think I'm becoming Japanese," pp. 1-18]

Italian Theater Arts

Students of Mrs. Althea Reynolds' Italian Theater Arts class presented two one-act plays: *La Marcolfa* a hilarious farce by Dario Fo and *Il pomo di Paride*, a pastoral comedy, in the Shoenberg Theater on Mar. 13, 1985.

Graduate Student Workshops

Graduate students of the Dept. of Italian established the Friday afternoon meetings in order to present work in progress and debate topics in Literature and Language.

- Chiara Bassi: *Language, Power and Dominance*, Nov. 16, 1984
 Pasquale Verdicchio: *Vernacular Architecture: the Language of the Murgia*, Dec. 7, 1984
 Amy Morris: *Why Comparative Literature?*, Jan. 18, 1985
 Filippo Grazzini: *Machiavelli narratore nelle Lettere*, Feb. 22, 1985
 Loredana Anderson: *Women of Shadows*, Mar. 18, 1985
 Giuseppe Billanovich: [Università di Padova], *La tradizione del testo di Livio e le origini dell'Umanesimo*, Mar. 19, 1985

Circolo Italiano

The Circolo Italiano was formed by Suzanne Branciforte to give undergraduates the opportunity to become more acquainted with Italian language and culture, in a congenial and informal atmosphere. Among the events of interest: A trip to the beautiful Getty Museum; talks by Prof. Roberto Fedi, visiting from Florence, *Cultura letteraria e società civile nell'Italia unita*, and Prof. Pier Maria Pasinetti, *Venice*; dinners at Italian restaurants; showing of "Il giardino dei Finzi contini" [presented by Peggy Kidney], and "Italian opera nights" [La Bohème].

Visiting Professors / courses given

Fall 1984:

Francesco Bruni, University of Naples: *The Age of Lorenzo de' Medici and Poliziano; Italian Literature of the 15th C*

Winter 1985:

Roberto Fedi, University of Florence: *From D'Annunzio to Futurism and the Early 20s; Italian Literature of the 19th C*

Alessandro Falassi, University of Siena: *Folk Tradition in Italian Literature; Tradition and Innovation in Italian Culture*

Giovanni Da Pozzo, University of Padua: *Methods of Literary Criticism / History of Literary Criticism; Literature of the Renaissance*

Spring 1985:

Giorgio Varanini, University of Pisa: *The First Documents of the Italian Language; The Trecento*