

Ancient Literature: Survival and Rewriting

Piero Boitani

2016 Balzan Prize for Comparative Literature

Balzan GPC Adviser: Peter Kuon

Project Director: Piero Boitani

Deputy Supervisor for Part 1: Corrado Bologna

Substitute Project Head for Part 2: Emilia Di Rocco

Researchers: Part 1: Francesca Galli, Daria Farafonova; Part 2 Sub-projects: (1) Giulio Guidorizzi (coordinator), A.M. Bowie, E. Cook, L. Edmunds, D. Elmer, J. Pòrtulas, C. Tsagalis; (2) A. D'Agostino (coordinator), M. Capaldo, A. Cipolla, S. Romani, S. Lunardi, F. Conca; (3) Giacomo Berchi; (4) Michele Corradi; (5) S. Halliwell, M. Fusillo; (6) Silvia Montiglio; (7) P. Fedeli (coordinator), G. Vannini, A. Fo, P. Habermehl, R. Dimundo, B. Santorelli, A. Stramaglia, A. Cafagna; (8) A. Barchiesi and L. Graverini (coordinators), W. Keulen, L. Nicolini, S. Mattiacci, I. Marchiesi; (9) F.R. Berno, R. Pierini, C. Torre, Remo Bodei; (10) M. Lapidge, P. Chiesa; (11) C. Bologna, M. Mocan; (12) F. Santi, J.Y. Tillette, I. Caiazzo, L. Pagani, M. Giani, V. Mattaloni

Affiliated Institutions: Part 1: Università della Svizzera Italiana (USI), Lugano; Part 2: Fondazione Lorenzo Valla, Rome

Period: 2017-

Piero Boitani holds the Chair in Comparative Literature at “La Sapienza” University in Rome and teaches at the Università della Svizzera italiana (USI) in Lugano. His research project on ancient literature will have two sections: 1. Beginning and Creation: Re-Writing; 2. The Survival and Rewriting of Ancient Classics.

Part 1: Survival and Re-writing of the Bible: Beginning and Creation

Institution: Università della Svizzera Italiana (USI), Lugano

Coordinator: Piero Boitani (Chair, Comparative Literature, “La Sapienza” University, Rome; Professor, USI)

Deputy supervisor: Corrado Bologna (Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa; USI)

The subject of Creation for two postdoctoral scholarships stems from Boitani’s long-term interest in the subject, including numerous publications. Two postdoc USI students receive a 40% scholarship for two years beginning in 2017. Work between the two postdoc students is divided as follows: 1. The theme of Creation in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries; 2. The theme of Creation in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

Most interesting developments have taken place in the first nine months of the research. Francesca Galli (fourteenth century) has found fascinating new material on literary and figurative creations of the Empyrean before Dante. ‘Scientific’ descriptions of the ‘third realm’ elaborated by Franciscan masters and preachers with great experience in the fields of optics and perspective, such as John Peckham, Bartolomeo da Bologna, Roger Marston, Matteo d’Acquasparta, and the anonymous author of the Commentary on Peter Lombard’s *Sententiae* of MS lat. 16407 of the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, are the most interesting instances. It is hoped that a critical edition of Bartolomeo’s work as well as of the French manuscript will eventually be produced.

Daria Farafonova (sixteenth and seventeenth centuries) has been looking at the Dantean sources of Michelangelo’s conception of the artist. A precise comparison between the painter’s *Rime* and his oeuvre in the Sistine Chapel on the one hand, and Dante’s *Comedy* on the other goes a long way to explain this conception. At the same time, Michelangelo’s “spiritualism”, his reliance on Savonarola, and Joachimite influences are capital in order to understand the relationship between human and divine creation in his ideas.

Part 2: The Classics and their Survival

Institution: Fondazione Lorenzo Valla

Coordinator: Piero Boitani (Executive Vice President and Director of the Fondazione Valla’s Classics series *Scrittori Greci e Latini*)

Substitute Project Head: Emilia Di Rocco (Comparative Literature, Università degli Studi di Roma “La Sapienza”)

A five-year project has started, which will lead to the publication of a series of volumes by the Fondazione Valla and Mondadori, in the series *Scrittori Greci e Latini*. It will fall into several sub-projects personally directed by Piero Boitani and entrusted to scholars worldwide for research and writing. Each volume will consist of the following: 1. drafting of the critical text and apparatus; 2. translation into Italian; 3. introduction and extensive critical commentary on the work, in the tradition of the Valla series; 4. a scholarly essay on the survival of the work (possibly incorporated in the Introduction).

Sub-projects

- 1, Homer, *Iliad*. This is a completely new edition in six volumes by an international team of younger and established scholars, coordinated by Professor Giulio Guidorizzi (Turin), who will also do the translation and write the general introduction. The editors are Professors A.M. Bowie (Oxford); E. Cook (Trinity, Texas); L. Edmunds (Rutgers); D. Elmer (Harvard); J. Pòrtulas (Barcelona); C. Tsagalis (Thessaloniki), each of whom will edit four books of the work. A seminar in which the entire team will discuss the edition and the commentary is planned for 2019 in Milan or Turin.
- 2, *Troy after Troy*. Two volumes coordinated by A. D'Agostino (Milan), along the same lines as *Alessandro nel Medioevo occidentale*, published by Valla in 1997. It will collect classical Greek and Latin texts later than the *Iliad*, and English, German, Scandinavian and Slavic romances from the Middle Ages to the sixteenth century. M. Capaldo (Lincei), A. Cipolla (Verona), A. D'Agostino, S. Romani, S. Lunardi (Milan) and F. Conca will collaborate on the project.
- 3, *Stories of Ulysses*. Edited by Piero Boitani, with the collaboration of assistant Giacomo Berchi (doctoral student at New York and Yale Universities). Three volumes that will collect works regarding the figure and vicissitudes of Ulysses after the *Odyssey*, in classical, medieval and modern literature, down to our own times, with original texts and translations into Italian, a general introduction, introductions to each work, and a commentary. The work for this volume is in an advanced state, and a great deal of material has been found in Rome and Cambridge libraries.
- 4, Protagoras and Gorgias, *Works*. Edited (text, translation, introduction, comment) by the young researcher Michele Corradi (Aix-Marseille).
- 5, Pseudo-Longinus, *The Sublime*. Text, introduction and commentary by S.

- Halliwell (St. Andrews), with a long essay by M. Fusillo (L'Aquila) on the very important *Nachleben* of this work. The text and introduction have already been received.
- 6, Heliodorus, *Aethiopica*, entirely edited by Silvia Montiglio (John Hopkins, Baltimore).
 - 7, Petronius, *Satyricon*. Two volumes, coordinated by P. Fedeli (Bari and Lincei), critical text by G. Vannini (Perugia), translation by A. Fo (Siena), commentary by P. Habermehl (Humboldt), R. Dimundo (Bari), P. Fedeli (Bari and Lincei), B. Santorelli (Bari), A. Stramaglia (Cassino) and A. Cafagna (Bari).
 - 8, Apuleius, *Metamorphoses (The Golden Ass)*. Four volumes, coordinated by A. Barchiesi (New York University) and by L. Graverini (Siena), text L. Nicolini (Genoa), translation L. Graverini, commentary W. Keulen (Rostock), L. Nicolini, S. Mattiacci (Siena), I. Marchiesi (Hofstra, New York). An English edition is planned with Cambridge University Press. The first volume will appear in 2019.
 - 9, Seneca, *Letters to Lucilius*. Three volumes edited by F.R. Berno (Sapienza), R. Pierini (Florence), C. Torre (Milan), introduction by Remo Bodei.
 - 10, *The Martyrs of Rome*, 2 volumes edited by M. Lapidge (Cambridge), with translations by P. Chiesa (Milan). A collection of the most important stories of the Roman martyrs brought together and published for the first time in modern days, with an introduction and commentary by one of the major specialists in the field.
 - 11, *Arks: Noah, Covenant, Memory*. Three volumes edited by C. Bologna (Scuola Normale Superiore and USI) and M. Mocan (Roma 3 and USI). Five archetypes of “arks” widely diffused in Medieval, Renaissance and Baroque culture are the focus of attention here – Noah’s Ark, the Ark of the Covenant, the Church, the Body of Christ, and “arks of memory”. The texts in the selection include (I) Ambrose, *De Noe et arca*; Hugh of St. Victor, *De arca Noe*; (II) Hugh of St. Victor, *Libellus de formatione archae*; Richard of St. Victor, *De arca mystica* I-III; (III) Richard of St. Victor, *De arca mystica* IV-V; Giulio Camillo, *L’Arca del Patto*; Athanasius Kircher, *Arca Noe in tres libros digesta*.
 - 12, *The Poetry and Philosophy of Chartres*. The editors of this anthology in two volumes are F. Santi (Cassino and SISMEL, Florence), J.Y. Tillette (Geneva), I. Caiazzo (CNRS, Paris), L. Pagani, M. Giani, V. Mattaloni. The texts include (I) Bernardus Silvestris (*Cosmographia*), Thierry of Chartres (*Tractatus de sex dierum operibus*), Alain de Lille (*Sermo de sphaera intelligibili*), William of Conches («*Anima mundi*»), and (II) Alain de Lille (*Anticlaudianus* and *De planctu naturae*). Some of the texts of these volumes deal with the themes of the Beginning and of Creation.

Finally, yearly book launches in Rome are foreseen, as are one or two Balzan-Valla-Lincei Annual Lectures on the classics, European literature and the world, to be held in Rome at the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, and eventually in other places both in Italy and abroad. The first two Balzan-Lincei-Valla Lectures were held at the Accademia dei Lincei in Rome on 23 November 2017 by Peter Dronke (Cambridge) and Piero Boitani (Sapienza), and are being published by the Edizioni di Storia e Letteratura. Silvia Montiglio (Johns Hopkins, Baltimore) and Alessandro Schiesaro (Manchester) will hold the second set of these lectures on 29 November 2018.