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EVENTS OF THE 1982-1983 ACADEMIC YEAR

Literature and the Visual Arts in the Nuclear Age

On November 20, 1982 the Department of Italian at UCLA under the direction of Professors Lucia Re and Pier Massimo Forni sponsored an interdisciplinary symposium with faculty and student participation on the subject of *Literature and the Visual Arts in the Nuclear Age*. Graduate students and faculty from a variety of departments presented papers on works from the field of literature and the visual arts in which the fears and risks of a holocaust are reflected.

The symposium opened with an historical analysis of apocalyptic literature presented by Cynthia Craig. Prof. Lucia Re discussed Paolo Volponi's work entitled *Il Pianeta Irritabile*, while Prof. Pier Massimo Forni examined two short stories by Dino Buzzati: "All'idrogeno" and "Rigoletto". Aldous Huxley's *Ape and Essence* was discussed by Luisa Del Guidice, while the poems: "America", "Hūm Bōm!", "Death on all Fronts" and "Song" by Allen Ginsberg were examined by Daniele Capisani. Finally Peggy Kidney and Laura Willet analyzed eschatological themes in two works from the field of the visual arts with an analysis of the 1963 film, *Dr. Strangelove: or, how I learned to stop worrying and love the bomb* by Stanley Kubrick and the 1981 painting by Robert Morris entitled *Atomic Shrouds*.

All those who attended the conference agreed that more events such as this one should be held to provide an opportunity for faculty and

students of the Humanities to share their ideas on life and artistic expression in our age, the nuclear age.

Lori Repetti

Petrarca and Petrarchism in Europe

On April 30, 1983 CARTE ITALIANE, the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies and the Department of Italian, co-sponsored the symposium "Petrarca and Petrarchism in Europe". The symposium focused on the impact of Petrarca on the various European literary and artistic traditions and was chaired by Professor Fredi Chiappelli, director of the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies and eminent Petrarca scholar. Participants in the morning session included Professor Jean Claude Carron from the Department of French, Professor Michael B. Allen from the Department of English and assistant director of the CMRS, and Professor Roberto Tisconi, visiting professor in the Department of Italian from the University of Genova.

The afternoon session explored Petrarca's influence on art and music history. Mr. Burton Fredricksen, Curator of Painting at the J. Paul Getty Museum, presented evidence for the attribution of the lozenge-shaped panel in the Getty Collection labeled "Allegory of a Man on Horseback" to Hans Holbein in view of the panel's probable function and its inscription with the Petrarchan verse: "e così desir me mena". Professor Frederick Hammond from the Department of Music concluded the symposium with an informal talk followed by a performance on harpsichord of Monteverdi's madrigal based on the Petrarchan sonnet "Hor che'l ciel e la terra e'l vento tace". Professor Hammond was accompanied vocally by UCLA's "Musica Antiqua", a group directed by Professor Hammond.

The symposium, which was held in the idyllic and informal setting of the Sunset Canyon Recreation Center at UCLA, provided a welcomed forum for interdisciplinary dialogue on the Italian Trecento master, his work and influence.

Luisa Del Giudice

L'intercambio di Linguaggio e Cultura

On December 29-30 the Istituto Italiano di Cultura of San Francisco and the Department of Italian at UCLA sponsored *L'Intercambio di Linguaggio e Cultura*. The symposium which followed the annual meeting of the Modern Language Association of America, was held on the UCLA campus and addressed the following topics: "Doveri e poteri della Lingua", "La Lingua di fronte alle possibilità ed alle esigenze dello schermo", and "Linguaggio e media, pubblicità e propaganda". The participants were welcomed by Dr. F. Valente, Director of the Istituto Italiano di Cultura, San Francisco, and Prof. E. Tuttle, Chairman of the Department of Italian at UCLA. Prof. F. Chiappelli was the moderator of the first session at which Vittore Branca spoke on the subject of "Espressivismi linguistici e letterari vecchi e nuovi" and Ignazio Baldelli on "Tipologia linguistica e intenti politico-culturali negli scrittori italiani contemporanei". At the second session, under the direction of Gianni Pasquarelli, Giovanni Grazzini addressed the question of "Il cinema, una mala lingua?" while Maurizio Scaparro spoke on "La lingua e il teatro". At the final session for which Mario Messinis was the moderator, Gianni Pasquarelli spoke on "Il messaggio pubblicitario nella società dei mass-media" while Carlo Sartori spoke on "La retorica televisiva, tra informazione e spettacolo"

The symposium also featured an exhibit chronicling the achievements of Arnoldo Mondadori, the renowned Italian publisher. The exhibit was brought directly from Italy, courtesy of the Italian Consulate in Los Angeles.

The Semiotic Imagination: A Talk with Umberto Eco

On June 14, 1983 Umberto Eco, world famous critic, theorist and journalist, author of *The Open Work*, *A Theory of Semiotics*, and *The Role of the Reader* presented his novel *The Name of the Rose* (*Il nome della rosa*)—the acclaimed historical detective story set against the turbulence of medieval Italy. The event was held at the UCLA Faculty Center and sponsored by the Italian Consulate, The UCLA Department of Italian, The Italian Institute of Culture, San Francisco and Harcourt Brace Jovanovich.

Professor Lucia Re of the Department of Italian introduced Umberto Eco who spoke informally about the motivations, the structuring, and other issues concerning the writing of the novel and then answered questions from the audience. A reception 'al fresco' offered his many guests a further opportunity to meet and question Professor Eco.

Contemporary Italian Theatre

On May 17 and 19, 1983 the Department of Italian, under the direction of Professor Lucia Re, organized a video tape presentation entitled *Contemporary Italian Theatre*. Giuseppe Bartolucci and Giorgio Veronesi introduced and commented on videotapes of the following performances:

Giorgio Strehler:
ARLECCHINO SERVITORE DI DUE PADRONI
 by Carlo Goldoni

Dario Fo:
MISTERO BUFFO

Luca Ronconi:
ORLANDO FURIOSO
 by Ariosto-Sanguineti

Eduardo De Filippo
IL BERRETTO A SONAGLI
 by Luigi Pirandello

Carmelo Bene:
UN AMLETO IN MENO
 from Shakespeare

The event was co-sponsored by The Italian Consulate and The Italian Cultural Institute.