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FOREWORD

Carte Italiane, a journal of Italian Studies, is published by the graduate students of the Department of Italian at UCLA with the financial support of the Graduate Students Association of UCLA and the assistance of the faculty and staff of the Department of Italian. Volume 4 of *Carte Italiane* contains papers selected among those received from graduate students across the nation and, in following with past tradition also contains an interview with a prominent scholar in Italian Studies who has recently visited UCLA. This year's interview was conducted with Professor Vittore Branca, one of the distinguished participants of *L'Intercambio di Linguaggio e Cultura*, a conference held at UCLA and sponsored by the Istituto Italiano di Cultura of San Francisco and the Department of Italian at UCLA. We have provided additional information regarding the conference in the events section at the back of the issue.

Carte Italiane is very pleased to announce to its readers that for the first time since its inception the journal became the co-sponsor of a UCLA symposium. The symposium was entitled "Petrarca and Petrarchism in Europe" and was sponsored in conjunction with the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies and the Department of Italian. The interdisciplinary character of the symposium attracted faculty and students from a wide variety of departments and clearly contributed to the success of the event. We look forward with interest to the opportunity of continuing to lend our support to such events and will be reporting on them to our readers in the newly added events section.

In presenting Volume 4 we would like to thank the professors and the graduate students of the Department of Italian for their advice and encouragement, and all of those who have supported the journal with their interest and their readership.

Peggy Kidney
Editor-in-chief