

ARIOSTO AND THE ARABS

Contexts of the Orlando Furioso

Among the most dynamic Italian literary texts of the sixteenth century, Ludovico Ariosto's *Orlando furioso* (1532) emerged from a world whose international horizons were rapidly expanding. At the same time, Italy was subjected to a succession of debilitating political, social, and religious crises. This interdisciplinary conference takes its point of departure in Jorge Luis Borges' celebrated poem "Ariosto y los Arabes" (1960) in order to focus on the Muslim world as the essential 'other' in the *Furioso*. Bringing together a diverse range of scholars working on European and Near Middle Eastern history and culture, the conference will examine Ariosto's poem, its earlier sources, contemporary resonance, and subsequent reception within a matrix of Mediterranean connectivity from late antiquity through the medieval period, into early modernity, and beyond.

Organized by Mario Casari, Monica Preti,
and Michael Wyatt.

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Back cover image:
Sinat al-fayla wa-dayla
Ms. M.a. VI 32,
15th-16th century, detail,
Universitätsbibliothek
Tübingen



Villa I Tatti
The Harvard University Center
for Italian Renaissance Studies

AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 18 - 19, 2017
VILLA I TATTI, FLORENCE

This conference is open to the public with no charge

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18 (*cont.*)

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

- 09.30 Alina Payne (Villa I Tatti / Harvard University)
09.40 Mario Casari ('Sapienza' - Università di Roma)
Monica Preti (Musée du Louvre)
Michael Wyatt (Independent Scholar)

KEYNOTE

- 10.00 Karla Mallette (University of Michigan)
Endings: Storytelling from a Mediterranean Perspective
10.45 Coffee

TEXTUAL CONTEXTS: INSIDE THE FURIOSO

- Chair: Lina Bolzoni (Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa)
11.00 Stefano Jossa (Royal Holloway, University
of London)
Between Two Worlds: Ariosto's Religion
11.30 Maria Pavlova (University of Oxford)
Orlando furioso: the Saracen Perspective
12.00 Discussion
13.00 Buffet lunch

- 10.00 Giovanni Ricci (Università di Ferrara)
*'Popul la più parte circonciò': Ariosto in Ferrara
and the Muslim World of His Time*
Chair: Joseph Luzzi (Villa I Tatti / Bard College)

- 14.30 Jacopo Gesiot (Università di Udine)
*Chiadric Phulingualism as a Motif in Italian
Literature from Pulti to Ariosto*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19 (*cont.*)

Discussion

- 15.00 Fabrizio Lelli (Università del Salento)
*Jews and Judaism in Ludovico Ariosto's Literary
Production*
15.30 Vincent Barletta (Stanford University)
*"A un giovane Aphriana sì donò in tutto": The Marriage
of Africa and India in Ariosto and Camões*

Discussion

- 16.00 Discussion
16.45 Coffee

- 17.00 Claudia Ott (Georg-August-Universität, Göttingen)
Orlando and the World of the Arabian Nights
17.30 Thomas Bauer (Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität,
Münster)
Literary Life in Mamluk Syria and Egypt (1250-1517)

- 11.00 Discussion
11.30 Discussion
12.00 Discussion
13.00 Buffet lunch
- 10.00 Discussion
10.30 Massimo Rossi (Fondazione Benetton Studi
Ricerche, Treviso)
*Cultura geocartografica alla corte estense tra
Tolomeo e il Furioso*
- 11.30 Discussion
11.45 Vincenzo Farinella (Università di Pisa)
*L'immagine di Rodomonte: l'ambiguo fascino
del nemico nel Furioso e nella tradizione
figurativa aristesca*

PERFORMATIVE CONTEXTS

- Chair: Julie Cumming (Mc Gill University, Montreal)
12.15 Discussion
13.00 Buffet lunch
- 14.30 Dwight Reynolds (UC Santa Barbara)
*"... and of these things a dream was left behind
called 'Antar': Arabic Performative Traditions
and Epic Poetry"*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19

Discussion

- 15.15 Adam Goldwyn (North Dakota State University)
*Performing the Medieval Greek Romance
from Digenis Akritis to the Eriotokritos*
15.45 Michael Wyatt (Independent Scholar)
*'Troban', 'Cantar', 'Recitar' - The Performance of
Chivalry from Andalusia to Ferrara and
Palermo to Cairo*
16.30 Discussion
17.00 Coffee