

Lessico critico decameroniano, a cura di Renzo Bragantini e Pier Massimo Forni. Torino: Bollati Boringhieri, 1995.

This is not just another monograph on Boccaccio's masterpiece. It is a collection of essays, arranged under headings, as in an encyclopedic dictionary.

The headings range from "Architettura" through "Ironia/parodia" to "Sacro", and the final essay is entitled "Per la storia del testo del Decameron". Each of the headings represents a particular aspect of, or perspective on, the *Decameron*. As a whole, the *Lessico* offers a network of perspectives which highlights the multi-layered nature of the text.

The volume also contains a very extensive bibliography and an analytical index.

Undergraduate students may prefer to stick to traditional, linear readings of the *Decameron*. Certainly, the present effort is not the kind of source one would turn to for detailed comments on particular *novelle* or a global reading of the text, although it should be added that the essays are always clearly grounded in the text itself. However, advanced undergraduates or researchers who wish to study specific aspects of the text, such as the use of a framework narrative or representation (mimesis) should find the *Lessico* extremely useful.

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