

The filigree hiding the gothic

THE MALATESTI

the books, the sword, the women
and their popes

Thursday, November 30, 2006

UCLA, Royce Hall 314

- 1:00 P.M.** Welcoming remarks
Brian Copenhaver, Director,
UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies
Lee Walcott, Managing Director, Ahmanson Foundation
Massimo Ciavolella, Chair, UCLA Department of Italian
Moderator: **Luigi Ballerini**, UCLA
- 1:30 P.M.** **Marjorie Perloff**
Stanford University
*'A bit too POLUMETIS': The Comedy of Polylingualism
in the Malatesta Cantos*
- 2:15 P.M.** **Massimo Bacigalupo**
University of Genoa
Sigismondo and Ezra Pound's Anti-Waste Land
- 3:00 P.M.** Break
- 3:30 P.M.** **Donald Beecher**
Carleton University, Ottawa
Singing for Cleofe: Dufay at the Malatesta Court
- 4:15 P.M.** Concert
- 5:00 P.M.** Reception on loggia Royce 306

Friday, December 1, 2006

UCLA, Royce Hall 314 (morning sessions only)

- 8:30 A.M.** Coffee
Moderator: **Roberto Fedi**, University for Foreigners,
Perugia
- 9:00 A.M.** **Italo Pantani**
University of Rome
*From 'diva' to 'dea': Poetic Transfigurations of
Sigismondo's beloved Isotta degli Atti*
- 9:45 A.M.** **Pier Giorgio Pasini**
Art Historian
La corte dei Malatesta e l'arte
- 10:30 A.M.** Break
- 10:45 A.M.** **Joanna Woods-Marsden**
University of California, Los Angeles
How Sigismondo Malatesta Used Art
- 11:30 A.M.** **Joseph Rykwert**
University of Pennsylvania
A Pantheon for the Malatesta?
- 12:15 P.M.** Lunch
- Getty Research Institute,
The Getty Center
1200 Getty Center Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90049**
*Transportation will be provided for attendees from UCLA to the Getty
Research Institute. Advance registration required by November 27, 2006
Contact CMRS at 310-825-1880 to reserve your place.*
- 2:30 P.M.** Presentation of the facsimile of Roberto Valturio's
De re militari, by **Franco Cardini**, Istituto di Studi
Umanistici of Florence
- 3:30 P.M.** Reception and Special Collections Tours with Presentation
(Four tour options available, maximum twenty per tour)

Saturday, December 2, 2006

UCLA, Royce Hall 314

- 9:30 A.M.** Coffee
Moderator: **Massimo Ciavolella**, UCLA
- 10:00 A.M.** **Ferruccio Farina**
University of Urbino, Italy
*Francesca da Rimini: Le fortune artistiche e
il mito tra Europa e America*
- 10:45 A.M.** **Roberto Fedi**
University for Foreigners, Perugia
*Noble Tales for the Most Noble of Lovers:
From Francesca to Giulietta*
- 11:30 A.M.** **Paolo Fabbri**
University of Venice
Paolo breaks his silence
- 12:15 P.M.** Lunch on loggia Royce 306
- 1:45 P.M.** **Marina Montesano**
University of Genoa
*Mala Testa. Some notes about Malatesta's Heraldic
Symbols*
- 2:30 P.M.** **Elisa Tosi Brandi**
University of Bologna
*Sumptuous Dress. Women's Fashion and Symbols
of Power at the Malatesta Court*
- 3:15 P.M.** **Amilcare Iannucci**
University of Toronto
Francesca da Rimini: Passion and Punishment
- 4:00 P.M.** Closing remarks
Lauro Martines
University of California, Los Angeles



Although not as well-known as other prominent families such as the Medici, Este, or Gonzaga, the Malatesti occupy a central position in the history of the Italian Renaissance. We may recall that in *Inferno V* Dante recounts the tragic story of Paolo Malatesti and Francesca da Polenta, one of the most famous and enduring episodes of the entire *Divine Comedy*. Pope Pius II, in his *Commentaries*, devotes a long section to the “unspeakable crimes” of Sigismondo Malatesta, lord of Rimini, a man gifted with eloquence and great military skill, who “surpassed every barbarian in cruelty ... the worst of all men who have lived or ever will live, the shame of Italy, the disgrace of our age.”

Four hundred years later the great historian Jakob Burckhardt, in his influential *The Civilization of the Renaissance in Italy*, turned his attention to the same Sigismondo, whom he considered a “whole man,” the crowning figure among “the furtherers of humanism,” a condottiere equally capable in war and art, unscrupulous, cruel, and yet refined, in other words the epitome of the new man capable of changing the course of civilization, and of ushering in the age of modernity.

Ezra Pound’s definition of Sigismondo in his *Malatesta Cantos* as the “the filigree hiding the gothic” takes us back to Burckhardt’s definition of the Italian Renaissance as a time of physical violence and artistic delicacy, and of Sigismondo Malatesti as the source of one of the highest cultural achievements of the West.

This conference will try to untangle the complex web of contradictory opinions built on the house of the Malatesti throughout the centuries by looking at all aspects of their history: the military and political skills that allowed an unknown family from the town of Verucchio to become the masters of many cities in Romagna and the March of Ancona; their relationship with the papacy, which culminated in pope Pius II’s excommunication of Sigismondo Malatesti; their patronage of the arts, especially on the part of Sigismondo in Rimini and Novello Malatesti in Cesena.

Advance registration is not required for the conference. No admission fee. Seating is limited and seats will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Advance registration is required for transportation to the Getty Research Institute on Friday afternoon. Call CMRS at 310-825-1880 to reserve your place.

Parking: Campus parking permits may be purchased for \$8 each day from any UCLA Parking Services kiosk. Tell the attendant that you are here to attend the Malatesti Conference. You will be directed to park in the nearest available Lot.

Need More Information? Please contact the
Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies
 (310) 825-1880 or cmrs@humnet.ucla.edu
www.cmrs.ucla.edu/programs/malatesti.html

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UCLA

Department of Italian
 Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies
 Italian Cultural Institute of Los Angeles

November 30 – December 2, 2006