

Massimo Zaggia - Curriculum Vitae

Born (in 1958) and bred in Bolzano (a traditionally bilingual - Italian-German - area), Massimo Zaggia attended university at the Scuola Normale Superiore in Pisa. He was awarded an undergraduate degree and PhD in Romance Philology, studying under Gianfranco Contini (when presenting his PhD thesis, he received the "Giuseppe Orlandi" prize for the best thesis in Modern Philology submitted at the Scuola Normale Superiore between 1978-1988). He then began his professional career as an Italian and Latin teacher in middle and secondary schools, before being seconded to the Centro Studi di Filologia Italiana at the Accademia della Crusca in Florence (1986-1991). In 1991 he took up a research post in Linguistics and Philology of the Italian Language at the University for Foreigners in Siena. In 2006 he was appointed Associate Professor at the University of Bergamo, a position he still holds today. He lives between Bergamo and Milan.

In addition to the university courses he has taught, he has spent entire semesters as Visiting Professor in France (at the Blaise Pascal University in Clermont-Ferrand, 2002), in the United States (Indiana University Bloomington, 2003), and in Germany (Technische Universität in Dresden, 2018). He has lectured in Italian language and culture at a number of levels at different Italian cultural centers abroad, including Argentina (Buenos Aires and Cordoba, 1997 and 1999), the United States (Chicago, 2000), and at the Libera Università di Bolzano, Faculty of Economics (2005). He has spent long study periods at research institutes in France (Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, 2004) and the United States (Notre Dame University, 2005; Harvard University, 2010) and, prior to this, in other centers in Italy and abroad (Avignon and elsewhere). He has lectured, held lessons and participated in scientific conferences in many different universities throughout Italy (Milan, Pavia, Trento, Padua, Venice, Parma, Ferrara, Florence, Pisa, Rome, Naples, Messina) and abroad (Lausanne, Klagenfurt, Munich, Strasbourg; Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore; Bryn Mawr College, Philadelphia).

As far as his publications are concerned, he has published seven books and over thirty articles in specialist journals on a variety of subjects regarding literary civilization in Italy (in Latin and several other vernaculars) between the 1200s and the 1500s: a list of his

research papers is provided separately.

His first book (1987) was a critical edition and commentary of three 16th century texts of great linguistic and literary specificity which had an enormous impact in Europe at the time, *Macaronnee minori (Zanitonella, Moscheide, Epigrammi)* by Teofilo Folengo: this work was published in the «Nuova raccolta di classici italiani annotati» edited by Gianfranco Contini and published by Giulio Einaudi. This was followed by other works exploring macaronics and linguistic experimentation in Renaissance literature.

Massimo then turned his interest to 15th century civilization in Lombardy. The most significant work in the field is his book *Giovanni Matteo Bottigella, cortigiano, uomo di lettere e committente d'arte: un percorso nella cultura lombarda di metà Quattrocento*. This book was printed in 1997 as part of the series Quaderni di «Rinascimento» published by the Istituto Nazionale di Studi sul Rinascimento in Florence, and adopts an interdisciplinary approach as it reconstructs the life and work of this important patron and man of culture. A number of other articles by Massimo explore texts, prominent characters and lines of development regarding the cultural history of 15th century Milan and Lombardy, focusing on the manuscripts produced there and illustrated with examples of paleography: in particular, his work *Codici milanesi del Quattrocento all'Ambrosiana* (2007) is based on a study of 983 manuscripts which were examined firsthand at the Ambrosiana Library. Other works, such as his paper *Bramante uomo di lettere* (2015), share historical and artistic interests.

In 2003 Massimo published a three-volume work, *Tra Mantova e la Sicilia nel Cinquecento*. The aim of this work is primarily to describe, through meticulous research, the main characteristics of life in Sicily (its history, linguistics, culture and religion) at the beginning of the modern age. It also attempts - in this particular case highlighting the complex dynamics of the local history and culture — to explain the complicated relations between the island and the surrounding territories at the time. In short, the work highlights the transition, albeit troubled and gradual, of Sicily from its general position in the Mediterranean (depicted in Fernand Braudel's grand fresco of the island, which was enjoying relative prosperity at the time, as the center of the Mediterranean, at the crossroads of civilization) to its new reality as a region of Italy, anchored to this new nation whose unification was fraught with

setbacks. One part of the research, however, is dedicated to the monks of the Cassinese Benedictine Congregation and the important books they published throughout the 16th century, convinced as they were that religious history, with all its implications, was an integral part of general and cultural history. The work, which was also reviewed in the national press (Adriano Prosperi described it as a "A great work of history" in the «Corriere della Sera» on 12 February 2004), was awarded the Pozzale Luigi Russo Prize (2004) and the Calabria International Award (2006, Massimo's name was put forward by Dante Isella).

In 2009 Massimo published his critical commentary of the vernacularization of Ovid's *Heroides* by the Florentine Filippo Ceffi dated around 1325 (volume one of the Edizione Nazionale degli Antichi Volgarizzamenti). From a linguistic point of view, the work was revered by literary purists from the 1500s onwards, as it was considered one of the most venerable 'language books' of its kind. The introduction establishes the philological fundamentals of the book, as well as explaining these historical and linguistic aspects, while the section dedicated to the lexicon is analytically illustrated in the glossary. The introduction also attempts to place Ceffi's work in the ups and downs of the popularity Ovid's work in Medieval times (Latin and Romance), and more specifically it collocates it in the lively literary scene of the vernacularizations of the classics produced in Florence in the years between Dante and Boccaccio. The second volume (2014) illustrates in detail the remarkable success the text enjoyed between the 1300s and the 1400s in manuscripts (including illustrated manuscripts) and incunabula. The third volume (2015) is an analytical study of the often innovative variant readings of the text transmission, and illustrates other paths within the transmission of other related works.

Massimo's current research projects and future publications include: a census of manuscript witnesses (235 verified to date) of Ovid's *Heroides*; 14th century Italian vernacularizations of Ovid's *Metamorphoses* and Cicero's *De amicitia*; an edition of Filippo Ceffi's *Dicerie*; the Bible and, in particular, *Genesis* in 1300-1400 vernacular Italian; an edition of the Latin translation of Dante's *Commedia*, with comment, by the Olivetan monk Matteo Ronto between 1427 and 1431; Leonardo Bruni, *De primo bello Punico*; a monography of *Un domenicano piemontese del Quattrocento fra Cristianità e Islam: Antonio Neyrot da Rivoli*; a commentary of the

correspondence between Gianfranco Contini and Raffaele Mattioli (1943-1973) which was of particular significance as it gave an insight into the philological studies and, more generally speaking, the cultural history of 20th century Italy.