

THE WESTERN CANON: *THE CHRIST COLLOQUY* & ACADEMIA

In *The Western Canon: The Books and School of the Ages*, (1994), Harold Bloom, wrote that new writing, must be “strange and strong” in order to be canonical, and to form part of The Western Canon.

“One mark of an originality that can win canonical status for a literary work is strangeness that we neither never altogether assimilate, or that becomes such a given that we are blinded to its idiosyncrasies. Dante is the largest instance of the first possibility, and Shakespeare, the overwhelming example of the second”.

(Bloom, Harold, *The Western Canon*, Papermac, 1994, p.4).

“Canonical strangeness can exist without the shock of such audacity, but the tang of originality must always hover in an inaugural aspect of any work that incontestably wins the agon with tradition and joins the Canon”. (p.6). “All strong literary originality becomes canonical”, (Bloom, Harold, p. 25).

I was discovered by Professor Robin Kirkpatrick, Professor *Emeritus* of Italian and English Literature, and Life Fellow of Robinson College, Cambridge. His books include studies of Dante’s *Commedia*, the European Renaissance, and Shakespeare. His verse translation of Dante’s *Commedia* was published by Penguin Classics in three volumes (with introductions and notes) between 2006 and 2007.

On 27/07/2018, Professor Robin Kirkpatrick emailed:

“Grattan’s work is as strong as it is strange. One admires especially the energy and richness of its Christian imagination”.

THE DANTE SOCIETY OF AMERICA

- **Dr. Christian Dupont**, (Secretary and Librarian of The Dante Society of America and Head Librarian, John J. Burns Library, Boston College, Massachusetts, United States of America), emailed: “I will be happy to tell others of your work as I have occasion, letting the strength of your verse speak for itself”, (19/01/2016).

- **Professor Teodolinda Barolini**, (Previous President of The DSA; Columbia University, New York, (The Italian Academy); *Dante Studies* International Advisory Board), emailed: “Congratulations!”, (11/07/2016).

- **President Professor Albert Russell Ascoli**, (**President of The DSA**; University of California, Berkeley), emailed: “You certainly have a unique take on Dante’s work”, (17/12/2016).

Professor Arielle Saiber (Bowdoin College & *Dante Today*), posted a citing of my website on **October 18 2016**

Filed Under: Written Word, Tagged With: 2016, Poetry Andrew Grattan

DANTE TODAY Citings & Sightings of Dante’s Works in Contemporary Culture

website submitted on **16/12/2016**, backdated and paired with, the citing/sighting of a new biography:

Marco Santagata, DANTE *The Story of His Life*, posted on **October 17 2016**

- **Professor Ronald L. Martinez**, (Brown University; *Dante Studies* Editorial Board), (*Inferno*, OUP, 1996; *Purgatorio*, OUP, 2003; *Paradiso*, OUP, 2011, edited & translated by Robert M. Durling; introduction, commentary, notes and interpretive essays, by Ronald L. Martinez), emailed: “I’ll pass this on to my students, who will likely be very interested. It’s a teaching resource, too, and I appreciate it”, (19/04/2017).

- **Assistant Professor Elizabeth Coggeshall**, (Florida State University (FSU) & *Dante Today*), emailed: “I frequently teach material from our digital collection in my course on Adaptations of the *Commedia*, and I am always looking for examples of poetry that I can direct to my students’ attention. I look forward to learning more about your work”, (1/03/2018). “Your approach to the poem is distinctive, and I look forward to sharing it with my students!” (26/03/2018).

THE AUTHORITY OF THE DANTE SOCIETY OF AMERICA: 2 KEYS / 2 EMAILS

THE PAPAL INSIGNIA - 2 GOLD & SILVER KEYS IN SALTIRE

THE DANTE SOCIETY OF AMERICA GOLD MEDAL

THE GREYHOUND INSIGNIA - 2 BLACK KEYS IN SALTIRE

- **Dr. Dupont**: “Thank you for sharing these explanations of the symbols and symbolism that is so deeply embedded in your poetry. The greyhound prophecy has remained the most puzzling of Dante’s prophecies. I wonder sometimes how long he thought these end times might last. Surely not the centuries that they have? Yours, with good will”.

- **Mr. Grattan email 1: 15/03/2018** **2 SIMULTANEOUS EMAIL REPLIES:** **Dr. Dupont: 28/03/2018 at 05.14 am**

- **Dr. Dupont**: “At the conclusion of this Lenten Season, I wish you fulfilment and joy as we enter the Easter Triduum. Thank you for sharing your new and updated PDFs. I see that you have been reading Prof. Ascoli’s work more closely!”

- **Mr. Grattan email 2: 22/03/2018** **2 SIMULTANEOUS EMAIL REPLIES:** **Dr. Dupont: 28/03/2018 at 05.14 am**

Dante Studies International Advisory Board members, acknowledgement emails:

Professor Luisa Maria Ardizzone, (New York University), (24/03/2018); Gary Cestaro, (*Dante Studies* Editorial Board, De Paul University), (26/03/2018); Richard H. Lansing, (*Dante Studies* Editor *Emeritus*, Brandeis University), (28/03/2018); Giorgio Inglese, (Università di Roma La Sapienza), (3/04/2018); Roberto Antonelli, (Università di Roma La Sapienza), (3/04/2018); Marko Tavoni, (Università di Pisa), (4/04/2018); Christopher Kleinhenz, (University of Wisconsin-Madison and first recipient of The DSA’s Distinguished Service Award, 2018), (8/04/2018)