

Piero Boitani

Born in Rome in 1947, married in Dublin to Joan FitzGerald, PB has three children and lives in Rome. He studied at the "Liceo T. Tasso", then at the University of Rome "Sapienza" (Laurea in Lettere, 1971). He has a BA from Wittenberg University, Ohio (1970) and a Ph.D from the University of Cambridge (1975). Taught Italian Lit at Cambridge, then American and English Lit at the Universities of Pescara and Perugia. Became Full Prof of English Lit in 1981, since 1985 at the University of Rome "Sapienza". Since 1998 Prof of Comparative Lit at "Sapienza", Chair of the Dept of Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures 2004-2010, Director of SUM-Sapienza Ph.D. program in European Literature and Culture, 2007-2010. Chair of Comparative Literature at the University of Italian Switzerland, Lugano since 2007. Visiting Prof in the Universities of Cambridge, Connecticut, Berkeley, Ohio State, Keio (Tokyo), Notre Dame, Harvard, Toronto, etc. President of the European Society for English Studies 1989-95, Fellow of the British Academy, the Academia Europaea, the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Accademia delle Scienze di Torino, the Accademia dell'Arcadia, the Medieval Academy of America, the Dante Society of America, the Accademia dei Lincei, Arts and Humanities Advisor to the American Academy in Rome, in 2002 he has received the Feltrinelli Prize for Literary Criticism, in 2010 the De Sanctis Prize. He is the Literary Editor of the Greek and Latin classics series, Fondazione Valla.

Medievalist, Dante scholar, comparatist, interested in ancient myth as well as modern literatures, PB has published, amongst others, the following volumes: *Prosatori Negri Americani del Novecento* (Storia e Letteratura, 1973); *Chaucer and Boccaccio* (Medium Aevum, 1977); *English Medieval Narrative of the 13th and 14th Centuries* (Cambridge UP 1982); *Chaucer and the Imaginary World of Fame* (Brewer 1984); *The Tragic and the Sublime in Medieval Literature* (Cambridge UP 1989); *La letteratura del Medioevo inglese* (Nuova Italia Scientifica, 1991); *The Shadow of Ulysses. Figures of a Myth* (Oxford UP 1994; It. orig. 1992; transl. Spanish and Brazilian, 2001, 2005); *Sulle orme di Ulisse* (Bologna, Il Mulino, 1998, 2007); *The Bible and its Rewritings* (Oxford UP 1999, It. orig. 1997); *The Genius to Improve an Invention* (Notre Dame-London, University of Notre Dame Press; It. orig. 1999); *Winged Words. Flight in Poetry and History* (University of Chicago Press, 2007, It. orig. 2004); *Esodi e Odissee* (Liguori, 2004); *Dante's Poetry of the Donati* (*Italian Studies*, 2007); *La prima lezione sulla letteratura* (Laterza, 2007), *Letteratura europea e Medioevo volgare* (Il Mulino, 2007); *Il Vangelo secondo Shakespeare* (Il Mulino, 2009).

Edited and contributed to, amongst others, the following: *Chaucer and the Italian Trecento* (Cambridge UP 1983); *The Cambridge Chaucer Companion*, with J. Mann (Cambridge UP 2003²); *The European Tragedy of Troilus* (Oxford UP 1989), *Lo spazio letterario del Medioevo volgare* (5 vols. Salerno, 2005), with A. Varvaro and M. Mancini. Edited and translated into Italian *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* (Adelphi 1986, verse), Shakespeare's *Cymbeline* (Garzanti 1994, verse), *The Cloud of Unknowing* (Adelphi 1998), a complete

Chaucer with facing texts (Einaudi 2000), and (*Life and Introduction*) W.B. Yeats, *Opera poetica* (Mondadori, 2005); *Il viaggio dell'anima* (Fondazione Valla-Mondadori, 2007). He is currently engaged in writing books on *Storia delle stelle* (Mulino), *Recognition* (Einaudi), and one on Dante (*Storia e Letteratura*).