

## ARIOSTO AND THE ARABS

### *Contexts of the Orlando Furioso*

Among the most dynamic Italian literary texts of the sixteenth century, Ludovico Ariosto's *Orlando Furioso* (1532) emerged from a world whose international horizons were rapidly expanding. At the same time, Italy was subjected to a succession of debilitating political, social, and religious crises. This interdisciplinary conference takes its point of departure in Jorge Luis Borges' celebrated poem "Ariosto y los Arabes" (1960) in order to focus on the Muslim world as the essential 'other' in the *Furioso*. Bringing together a diverse range of scholars working on European and Near Middle Eastern history and culture, the conference will examine Ariosto's poem, its earlier sources, contemporary resonance, and subsequent reception within a matrix of Mediterranean connectivity from late antiquity through the medieval period, into early modernity, and beyond.

Organized by Mario Casari, Monica Preti,  
and Michael Wyatt.



The conference is funded with support from the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Endowment Fund and the scholarly programs and publications funds in the names of Myron and Sheila Gilmore, Jean-François Malle, Andrew W. Mellon, Robert Lehman, Craig and Barbara Smyth, and Malcolm Hewitt Wiener

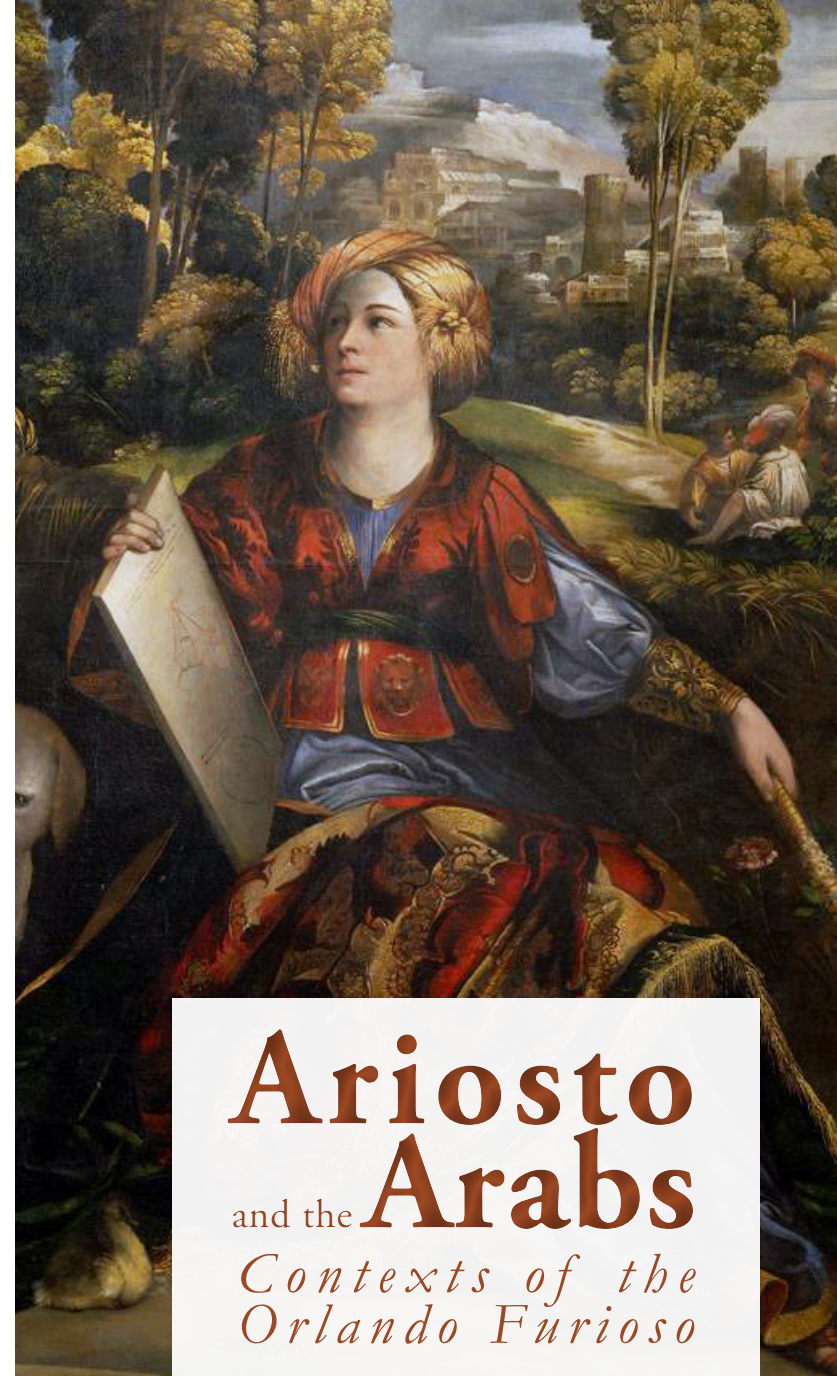
Villa I Tatti  
Via di Vincigliata 26, 50135 Florence, Italy  
+39 055 603 251 [info@itatti.harvard.edu](mailto:info@itatti.harvard.edu)  
[www.itatti.harvard.edu](http://www.itatti.harvard.edu)

Front Cover image:  
Dosso Dossi  
*Melissa*, c. 1518, detail  
Galleria Borghese  
Rome

Back cover image:  
*Sirat alf layla wa-layla*  
Ms. M.a. VI 32,  
15th-16th century, detail,  
Universitätsbibliothek  
Tübingen

This conference is open to the public with no charge

 Villa I Tatti  
The Harvard University Center  
for Italian Renaissance Studies



# Ariosto and the Arabs

## *Contexts of the Orlando Furioso*

AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
OCTOBER 18 - 19, 2017  
VILLA I TATTI, FLORENCE

## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18

### INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

- 09.30 **Alina Payne** (Villa I Tatti / Harvard University)
- 09.40 **Mario Casari** ('Sapienza' - Università di Roma)  
**Monica Preti** (Musée du Louvre)  
**Michael Wyatt** (Independent Scholar)

### KEYNOTE

- 10.00 **Karla Mallette** (University of Michigan)  
*Endings: Storytelling from a Mediterranean Perspective*
- 10.45 *Coffee*

### TEXTUAL CONTEXTS: INSIDE THE *FURIOSO*

Chair: **Lina Bolzoni** (Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa)

- 11.00 **Stefano Jossa** (Royal Holloway, University of London)  
*Between Two Worlds: Ariosto's Religion*
- 11.30 **Maria Pavlova** (University of Oxford)  
*Orlando Furioso: the Saracen Perspective*
- 12.00 **Discussion**
- 13.00 *Buffet lunch*

### TEXTUAL CONTEXTS: AROUND THE *FURIOSO*

Chair: **Joseph Luzzi** (Villa I Tatti / Bard College)

- 14.30 **Jacopo Gesiot** (Università di Udine)  
*Chivalric Plurilingualism as a Motif in Italian Literature from Pulci to Ariosto*

## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18 (cont.)

- 15.00 **Fabrizio Lelli** (Università del Salento)  
*Jews and Judaism in Ludovico Ariosto's Literary Production*
- 15.30 **Vincent Barletta** (Stanford University)  
*"A un giovine Africano si donò in tutto": The Marriage of Africa and India in Ariosto and Camões*
- 16.00 **Discussion**
- 16.45 *Coffee*
- 17.00 **Claudia Ott** (Georg-August-Universität, Göttingen)  
*Orlando and the World of the Arabian Nights*
- 17.30 **Thomas Bauer** (Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität, Münster)  
*Literary Life in Mamluk Syria and Egypt (1250-1517)*
- 18.00 **Discussion**

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19

### FERRARESE CONTEXTS

Chair: **Marzia Faietti**

(Gabinetto Disegni e Stampe degli Uffizi)

- 10.00 **Giovanni Ricci** (Università di Ferrara)  
*"Popol la più parte circonciso": Ariosto in Ferrara and the Muslim World of His Time*
- 10.30 **Massimo Rossi** (Fondazione Benetton Studi Ricerche, Treviso)  
*Cultura geocartografica alla corte estense tra Tolomeo e il Furioso*

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19 (cont.)

- 11:00 **Discussion**
- 11.30 *Coffee*
- 11.45 **Vincenzo Farinella** (Università di Pisa)  
*L'immagine di Rodomonte: l'ambiguo fascino del nemico nel Furioso e nella tradizione figurativa ariostesca*
- 12:15 **Discussion**
- 13.00 *Buffet lunch*

### PERFORMATIVE CONTEXTS

Chair: **Julie Cumming** (Mc Gill University, Montreal)

- 14.30 **Dwight Reynolds** (UC Santa Barbara)  
*"... and of these things a dream was left behind called 'Antar': Arabic Performative Traditions and Epic Poetry*
- 15.15 **Adam Goldwyn** (North Dakota State University)  
*Performing the Medieval Greek Romance from Digenis Akritis to the Erotokritos*
- 15.45 **Michael Wyatt** (Independent Scholar)  
*'Trobar', 'Cantar', 'Recitar' - The Performance of Chivalry from Andalusia to Ferrara and Palermo to Cairo*

- 16.30 **Discussion**
- 17.00 *Coffee*