

## Abstracts

Emily Martone, *Ontologia tragica e tragedia dell'Esistenza. Il precario equilibrio tra necessità e libertà nella filosofia di Schelling e Kierkegaard*

This paper aims to investigate human ontology and human existence – respectively, in Schelling's philosophy and in Kierkegaard's work – from the point of view of the tragic. More precisely, I will focus on their definitions of tragic as the *identity of freedom and necessity* and as *the suffering contradiction*. I will investigate the tragic nature of human freedom in its relation to necessity and unfreedom. In so doing I will highlight the similarities and differences between their accounts. Even though Schelling delineates an ontology of freedom, while, on the other hand, Kierkegaard describes a phenomenology of freedom – or rather, of unfreedom – the results of their reflections are not so different: Human existence turns out to be tragic, and the individual relates herself to her existence from a tragic perspective.

Luca Crescenzi, *Melancholia e Satana. Walter Benjamin e Agesilaus Santander*

This two-part paper investigates Walter Benjamin's work *Agesilaus Santander* and the history of its interpretations. Its first part evaluates some of Benjamin's critical positions which diverge from the analysis of the text Gershom Scholem developed in 1971. The paper reconstructs Peter Szondi's reaction to the very first presentation of Scholem's biographical reading of Benjamin's prose, as well as its resonances in Giorgio Agamben's own interpretation of *Agesilaus Santander* and in Hans Georg Gadamer's studies of Celan's lyrics. Afterwards, outgoing from the «melancholic» motif of the text, in its second part the paper develops a close analysis of both versions of Benjamin's prose and exploits the hidden concept of the philosopher and his philosophical work in it.



Filippo Ranghiero, *Una storia di potere e sopravvivenza: l'Ospedale Ebraico di Iranische Straße*

After June 1943, when the last representatives of the Jewish Community and of the *Reichsvereinigung* were deported to Theresienstadt, the only Jewish institution still operating in the *Altreich* was the Jewish Hospital of Iranische Straße in Berlin. Its survival was partly instrumental to the Nazi regime in concentrating and controlling the small German-Jewish population of the Reich. The Hospital had nevertheless a much greater significance as it represented the last executive centre of German Jewry in its darkest hour. The controversial doctor Walter Lustig and his few loyal helpers, appointed by the Nazi regime as the German Jews' last representatives, lived and worked inside the Hospital under the strict surveillance of the *Reichssicherheitshauptamt*, the Reich Main Security Office (RSHA). Despite privations and constant deportations, the Hospital became in some degree a place of salvation where a few hundred Jews could survive until its liberation in April 1945.

Michele Sisto, *Cesare Cases e le edizioni italiane del Faust. Letteratura, politica e mercato dal Risorgimento a oggi*

Cesare Cases was the main mediator of Goethe's *Faust* in Italy in the second half of the 20th century: not only he published a number of essays about it, but he also wrote an influential introduction for the Einaudi edition (1965), revised Fortini's 'Meridiani' translation (Mondadori 1970), and commented on the recent Andrea Casalegno's translation (Garzanti 1989). In order to contextualise his role in these editorial as well as literary and political projects, this study takes into account some of the major *Faust*-editions, from the first translation by Giovita Scalvini (Silvestri 1835) to the present. So it will show how the interweaving of the specific logic of literature with those of the market and of politics not only produced different interpretations of the Goethian masterpiece, but also progressively changed its position and symbolic value within Italian culture.

Ida De Michelis, *L'afflato magico di Faust nel cinema italiano*

Even in Italy, the Faustian myth, inescapable reference for the dialectic between modernity and tradition in Western art, has registered its presence in the film production very early. By letting the history of the Italian reception of the Faustian theme interact with the legitimization process of the cinema, it was possible to record the mutual inheritances of the Faustian hermeneutic tradition and the film art.



Anne Klara Bom & Torsten Bøgh-Thomsen, «*La sensazione di una melanconica positività!*». *Valuations of the popular Hans Christian Andersen in Italy*

The Danish author Hans Christian Andersen (1805-1875) has been an object of research for almost as long as his artistic production has existed. This article places itself within what has been termed the third dimension of Andersen research, as it is examined how people in contemporary Italy value Hans Christian Andersen as a cultural icon. Andersen is conceptualised as a potential medium through which new narratives about values can be told. The analysis shows examples of how Italian respondents in surveys and focus group interviews ‘match’ their socially shared values with the content in Andersen’s fairy tales, and it is suggested that a focus on how canonical literature functions as popular culture and objects of valuation can offer a framework where values can be re-articulated as a response to the global instrumentalisation and economisation of values.

Gabriella Catalano, *Vera Icon. Goethe e la collezione Boisserée in «Ueber Kunst und Alterthum»*

The reproduction of the Saint Veronica painting (Boisserée collection) is published at the end of the reportage «Kunst und Alterthum am Rhein und Mayn», which was to inaugurate the first number of Goethe’s journal «Ueber Kunst und Alterthum». This image shows Goethe’s new attempt to establish a dialogue between the classical and the gothic. The drawing is part of this dialectics: it uses the ‘Vera Icon’ iconographic model as the emblem of the transformation of the religious tradition into the artistic. Through the painting’s reproduction Goethe deals with the idea, which is fundamental in his intellectual production, of capturing the essence of the original through the presentation of a copy.

Paola Di Mauro, *Biopolitica di un’assenza: in margine alla fiaba di Dornröschen*

Theoretically centered on the centennial absence narrated by the fairy tale, the analysis proposed here starts from the usual psychoanalytic approaches of the textual criticism to move towards the elaboration of further analytical grids based on the systematic dialogue between cultural studies and anthropology extending towards extra-textual scenarios: the investigation of the most common experience of absences will be related to purely cultural imaginations, finally oriented towards more intrinsic and consubstantial elements that allow the physiological functioning of sleep to appear as an event of cerebral construction that is anything but static.



Fabrizio Cambi, *L'insalvabilità dell'io e il gesto espressionista nella poetica del superamento e nell'orizzonte goethiano di Hermann Bahr*

Hermann Bahr's impressive work of non fiction, which develops over a period of more than fifty years, offers insight into the plurality of currents in the figurative and literary fields that characterize the *Moderne* and in particular the *Jungwien*. Being aware that contemporary art, as well as the Impressionists and the Expressionists represent the truth only partially, Bahr's critical analysis focuses on the relationship between the eye on the one hand, and the vision and the visionary on the other, in a constant consonance with Goethean reflections on the inside view and on the eye of the spirit.

Riccardo Concetti, *Die Verhüllte di Robert Michel. Turbamenti orientalisti in un racconto dimenticato della Wiener Moderne*

Robert Michel (1876-1957) is a little known Austrian writer who played a marginal, yet not irrelevant part in the literary scene of early Austrian modernism. In his role as lieutenant of the imperial and royal army, he was garrisoned in Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1898 and stayed there afterwards through 1901. His encounter with this country inspired Michel to a long literary activity which was almost entirely concerned with the representation of Bosnia and its Muslim culture. The paper focuses on the remarkable short story *Die Verhüllte*, published in 1907, where the author uses the literary clichés of Orientalism in a subtly ironical way as a means to depict the crisis of the modern male ego, a widespread topic of the Austrian literature of the time.

Massimo Libardi – Ferdinando Orlandi, *La «Soldaten-Zeitung». Una palestra per L'uomo senza qualità*

The First World War and in particular the period while Robert Musil lived in Bolzano and directed the review «Soldaten-Zeitung» are peculiar for his spiritual development and for the shaping of his main work *Der Mann ohne Eigenschaften*. This period and its evolution have been largely neglected by the German studies so far. The writer's appointment to the direction of the «Soldaten-Zeitung» takes place in a moment when the military High Command cultivates political projects for a general renewal of the Habsburg Monarchy which was threatened not only by the war but also by the lack of self confidence as well as by the absence of strong and centralized institutions exposed to competing national irredentisms. The authors try to assess the level of Robert Musil's personal involvement in these political issues. They argue that his commitment to disseminate such ideals through the «Soldaten-Zeitung» was full as



evidenced by his articles on the meaning of the State, i.e. on its absence, and on the «non-existence» of an Austrian culture. With different stylistic features all these topics are present and developed in *Der Mann ohne Eigenschaften*.

Mauro Nervi, «Jargon ist alles». *Kafka e la lingua jiddisch*

In February 1912, Kafka gave a brief introductory lecture to a Yiddish poetry evening starring Jitzchak Löwy at the Jewish Town Hall in Prague. In his speech, Kafka summarizes what he regards as the hallmarks of a language which both attracts and repels his audience of assimilated Jews, recommending a way of listening that is above all emotional and connotative rather than intellectual and denotative, in order to overcome the instinctive fear that any reference to Jargon aroused in recently assimilated Jews. The historical and cultural context of the lecture is presented and analysed, also in relation to themes from Kafka's diaries and narrative.

Vanessa Pietrantonio, *Tra i corpi celesti e il deserto. La topografia immaginaria di Anna Maria Ortese e Ingeborg Bachmann*

The essay proposes tracing a network of intertextual relationships between Anna Maria Ortese and Ingeborg Bachmann, following, as a thread, the theme of imaginary topography which has been outlined by both of them. In fact, both Ortese and Bachmann have associated their writing to the search for an unknown space which has not yet been geographically defined. This ideal state is formed by a plurality of places. For Ortese it is a heavenly place which hugs the land, or the mythographic transfiguration of Naples and, again, that foreign, beautiful Italy seen in numerous journalistic reports. In the eyes of Bachmann this «primitive country» coincides with Southern Italy a fantasmic projection of an ancient mythology, or with the desert. Such a plurality of spaces, on one hand, offers Ortese and Bachmann the exciting possibility of an endless search, while at the same time offering the reality of the impossibility of even reaching that imaginary state they are so set on finding.

Anne-Kathrin Gärtig, *Italianismen im Deutschen: Potentiale und Grenzen der Analyse mithilfe der Datenbank OIM*

The article presents the online portal *Osservatorio degli Italianismi nel Mondo* (OIM), developed by the Accademia della Crusca and yet little known to Germanists, and shows how it can be used for research on the lexical borrowing from Italian into German. After an introduc-



tion to its data, which for the most part originates from the *Dizionario di italianismi in francese, inglese, tedesco* (DIFIT, 2009), and to the various research options it offers, four exemplary analyzes of the 3000 Italianisms in German contained in the database are carried out. They deal with the ways and the typology of borrowing of the Italianisms in German, compared to those in English and French, with the most important semantic areas from which the Italianisms derive, with borrowings in only one diatopic variety of German and with the chronology of borrowings in German. In conclusion, some limitations of the OIM are described and solutions as well as complementary research approaches are outlined.

Elisa D'Annibale, *Gentile, Gabetti e i fuoriusciti ebrei tedeschi. Il caso di Karl Löwith*

This essay seeks to contribute, at least partially, to the reconstruction of the complex relationship with Italian culture in which Jew scholars, especially German Jews who had migrated to Italy, engaged under fascism. Such reconstruction focuses in particular on the contexts associated to Giovanni Gentile in the 1930s and – through the analysis of the figure of Giuseppe Gabetti, then director of the Institute of Germanic Studies (which was presided by Gentile) – attempts to shed light on the thick network of interventions aimed at supporting, both culturally and financially, scholars such as Paul O. Kristeller and Karl Löwith. While Kristeller's case is rather renowned, Löwith's still captures historians attention due to the papers, which are yet to be probed, gathered at the Institute of Germanic Studies in Villa Sciarra.

Natascia Barrale, *I germanisti e l'accordo culturale italo-tedesco: l'avvio di una ricerca*

The article aims to offer a *Forschungsbericht* on the research activity that had been recently started at the Italian Institute of German Studies within the project «ARCGER. Archives, ideologies and canon of German Studies in Italy (1930-1955)». In particular, the research line «Germanists and racial laws: between subalternity and resistance» focuses on a recognition of the positions that Italian Germanists adopted towards German-speaking Jewish authors and towards their literary production after the promulgation of the racial laws. After a brief introduction on the historical-political context in which the project is placed, the article describes the possible trajectories of research, illustrates an overview of the investigation framework and introduces the first obtained results.



Elena Giovannini, *Il viaggio in Italia. Nuove prospettive di ricerca sui resoconti di viaggio*

The research project *Travels to Italy. New Perspectives of Research on Travel Literature* has been financed since September 2017 by IISG and aims to analyse travel literature from mid-18th to mid-19th century from less common viewpoints. For example, it focuses on topics such as the objects that travellers carry with them, the confessional aspects of the journey, violence and crime, everyday-life during the journey, the Italian facilities, sensuality and transgression, esoteric or masonic travel experiences, and gender questions.

