Abstracts

Angelo Bolaffi, *«Ex malo bonum». Politics as a Vocation: From Max Weber to Angela Merkel*

One hundred years after the death of the great German thinker. The 'Spanish Flu' and Covid-19. Spiritual disorientation and economic crisis. The loneliness of Italy and the silence of Europe. History and genesis of the Italian-German conflict. Jean Monnet's warning. The pro-European shift led by France and Germany: a step towards the future of the Union as a global player. The tasks of Italy: from Boccaccio to Manzoni. The topicality of Max Weber and the nobility of politics.

Giorgio Agamben, *Hölderlin's Anti-Tragic Breakthrough*
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Bruno Berni, *Ancient Heroes from Parody to Philosophy. Ludvig Holberg and the Treatment of the Myth*

When Ludvig Holberg publishes the poem Peder Paars in 1719, a parodic attack on classical moral models is blatantly launched. However, beyond the parody, a more comprehensive philosophical and pedagogical project is already mentioned in the introduction to natural law of 1716. The parodic relationship with the classical hero is also developed in the comedies *Melampe* and *Ulysses*, written shortly after the poem. The search for alternative exemplary figures and the evolution of the relationship with myth takes shape in historical works such as the book on the parallel stories of heroes, of 1739 – which takes up Bayle's ideas – and then in philosophical works. For Holberg the concept of the hero changed, from a perspective that concerned the formation of man and, starting in 1744, with the philosophical masterpiece *Moralske Tanker*, and indeed, with Niels Klim's publication in 1741, the criticism of the hero in ancient mythology evolved into a new definition that was (more) suit-

able for modern society. Between the parallel lives and the Moralske Tanker, and finally in the Epistler (1748-1754), Holberg devoted himself to the construction of a modern model, far from the ancient heroes of classical myth.

Margherita Codurelli, *«Hinter dem Stücke geht das Ich an». The* Welttheater *and Shakespeare's Influence on* The Nightwatches of Bonaventura *(1804) by August Klingemann*

The paper investigates Shakespeare's reception in the romantic novel *The Nightwatches of Bonaventura* by August Klingemann, published anonymously in 1804 under the pseudonym of 'Bonaventura'. Starting from an overview of the long and complex debate on the literary authorship of *The Nightwatches*, the study analyses the novel from a structural and thematic point of view, providing insights into the recurring references to Shakespeare's work, also considered as part of the novel's intertextual mechanism and the deeper interest in the English playwright among the German romantics. Following a depiction of human life as a dream and of the world as a stage, the final part of the study focuses on the influence of *Hamlet* on the main character's humorous and nihilistic perspective on life, as opposed to his beloved Ophelia's hopeful search for real love, identity and survival beyond the role we all leave behind us after death.

Francesco Marola, *Approximation to the Impossible. Friedrich Schlegel's Neue Mythologie in the Dialectic of Irony*

The present essay aims to provide an interpretation of Friedrich Schlegel's *Rede über die Mythologie* as a conscious approximation to an ideal deemed impossible: the identity of ancient and modern through the idea of modern literature as mythology. This approximation eventually proves to be based on Schlegel's transcendental philosophy, especially on the dialectic of irony. From this perspective, the neo-mythological theory of the *Rede* will appear to be limited and relativized by the context of the more extensive essay in which it is placed, the *Gespräch über die Poesie*. Likewise, it will prove to be distant from other thematically related formulations produced by the German poetics and philosophy of the late eighteenth century, to which it is often associated.

Giorgio Antonioli – Manuela Caterina Moroni, *Intonation of Conversational Questions in German: A Corpus-Based Case Study at the Interface of Autosegmental Phonology and Interactional Prosody Research*

In this paper, we present the results of a study on the intonation of question activities in everyday German conversations. Our research question concerns the extent to which intonation contributes to the contextualization of conversational questions. In our analysis, we draw on Peters' autosegmen-

tal-metrical model and Selting's taxonomic model of interactional prosody research. Both these models describe phonological or pragmatic aspects of question intonation, two dimensions which, when taken individually, cannot provide a complete description. Drawing on authentic conversational data from the FOLK corpus, we argue for the compatibility of Peters' autosegmental-metrical model and Selting's taxonomic model of question intonation. The features from both models can be combined into bundles associated with specific intonation contours.

Ingrid Basso, *When «the author is akin to the reader». A Danse Macabre Between August Strindberg and Søren Kierkegaard*

The article aims to chronologically trace the encounter between August Strindberg and the work of Søren Kierkegaard – in particular *Enten-Eller* (1843) – in an attempt to identify the explicit and implicit traces that the thought of the Danish philosopher left in Strindberg's work, especially in his prose. Strindberg's reading of Kierkegaard's work is peculiar because of the total absence of philosophical pre-understanding. In its genuine immediacy, it testifies to the full success of the Kierkegaardian communication strategy, which consisted in attracting the readers through aesthetics before confronting them with their own desperation, while instilling in them the need for the religious antidote. Strindberg declared, after reading *Enten-Eller*, that he had found Christian ethics 'smuggled' into it. The article also examines Strindberg's interest in 'experimental psychology' operating from a literary point of view in Kierkegaard's philosophical novels.

Stefania Ragaù, *The Utopic Return to Zion. The Antinomies by Gershom Scholem in the Light of Some Criticisms by Jacob Taubes*

The article puts forth some considerations on the history of Zionism through two well-known Jewish figures of the 20th century, Gershom Scholem and Jacob Taubes, whose contrast seems to exemplify well a division still very much present within the contemporary Jewish world. Indeed, in promoting the «return to Zion» of the Jews in the diaspora, Zionism introduced a messianic problem into modern Judaism, which arose during the age of emancipation and which took shape at the end of the 19th century. By drawing on the Enlightenment's idea of historical progress, the Zionist doctrine secularized the idea of the Messiah to create a new political concept – the «return to Zion» – which caused the two concepts to clash. By analysing Scholem's antinomic thought in the light of the criticism levelled by Taubes, this paper aims to bring out some problematic points of this discourse around which Scholem structured those disjunctions that are being scrutinized here.

Valentina Mignano, *The Project* DIGIT.IISG *and the Cultural Activities of the Istituto Italiano di Studi Germanici*

This article aims to present the *DIGIT.IISG* project: a communication plan through which a team of researchers is trying to create a website and a video clip dealing with the main cultural events that have made the history of the Istituto Italiano di Studi Germanici. The goal of this project is to retrace the history of the complex relations between Italy and Germany during the last century through the lens of cultural events held at Villa Sciarra-Wurts. The archives preserved here contain a vast array of valuable materials, which testify to the rich cultural life of the Istituto Italiano di Studi Germanici: brochures, invitation cards, propaganda materials as well as pictures and old footage will be the primary elements of the *DIGIT.IISG* project. These documents, once properly selected, digitized, and reconfigured, will be turned into useful media tools capable of reaching an extensive audience.

Simona Leonardi – Valentina Schettino, *Places and Memory: Preliminary Thoughts on a Mapping of the Israelkorpus*

This contribution intends to present an outline of a research project conducted within the broader project *Places and memory: a mapping of the Israelkorpus* (*Luoghi e memoria: per una mappatura dell'Israelkorpus*), funded by the Istituto Italiano di Studi Germanici. More specifically, we tackle the places mentioned in the so-called *Israelkorpus* by taking into account their emotional dimension. From this particular perspective, the focus is on places, which are analysed in their function within the mnestic and narrative processing of the interviews in the corpus, i.e. autobiographical narratives by German-speaking Jews who were mainly forced to emigrate during the Third Reich. Narrating their life stories, interviewees retrace the path which brought them to Israel, thus highlighting various places, which are often characterized by a considerable amount of emotivity. This emotional dimension is explored here on a prosodic level, with an acoustic approach. Moreover, we present work carried out in support of the general project, particularly as regards transcriptions, implementation of bibliographic management tools, and future publications.