



THEODORE ELL

BA (Languages)(Hons I), PhD

Theodore Ell earned a doctorate in Italian at the University of Sydney in 2010, with a thesis on the Second World War poetry of the Florentine Piero Bigongiari, a member of the *terza generazione* of *ermetici*. Theodore's main interests are the philology and history of modern Italian poetry, with an emphasis on *ermetismo* as a voice for Italy's emotional and existential conflicts, and with special attention to poets' personal philosophies, aesthetic evolution and working processes. He has conducted primary research in archives in Florence, Pistoia, Pavia, Siena, Pienza and Milan, transcribing the unpublished manuscripts and correspondence of Piero Bigongiari and contemporaries Mario Luzi, Alessandro Parronchi and Alfonso Gatto, among others. His monograph *A Voice in the Fire: Piero Bigongiari's Poetry of War and Survival* will be published in 2013-2014 by Troubador.

Theodore also translates Italian literature and has produced English editions in the genres of Italian travel writing, philosophy, narrative prose and Enlightenment science. His own poetry has been published by *The Sydney Morning Herald* and Sydney University Press. In 2012 he completed a Masters degree in Publishing, accredited by the Australian Publishers' Association. Theodore is Poetry Editor of the biannual magazine of international writing *Contrappasso*. He is a *Socio accademico corrispondente* (Academic associate member) of the Accademia Pistoiese del Ceppo.

RESEARCH AREAS

19th, 20th and 21st Century Italian poetry and poetics, particularly the *terza generazione* (Piero Bigongiari, Mario Luzi, Alessandro Parronchi, Alfonso Gatto).

20th Century Italian narrative prose – Morante, Pasolini, the individual and history, travel essays

Translation

PUBLICATIONS

Books

A Voice in the Fire: Piero Bigongiari's Poetry of War and Survival. Leicester, UK: Troubador. 2014 (forthcoming).

Articles

“Piero Bigongiari, ‘Greece in Italy, or A Great Silence,’ first English translation, with Introduction – Part Two,” and “Eugenio Montale, ‘On the Sacred Way,’ in *Modern Greek Studies*, Vol 16 (2012), forthcoming.

“Two Letters of Signor Giovanni Arduino, Concerning His Natural Observations: First Full English Translation, Part Two.” *Earth Sciences History*, Vol. 31 No. 2 (September 2012), 168-192.

“‘Una vita della poesia’: the early influence of Giacomo Leopardi on Piero Bigongiari.” *The Italianist*, Vol. 32 No. 1 (April), 1-31, 2012.

“Conflicting motifs of destruction and endurance in Piero Bigongiari’s *Rogo (1944-1952)*.” In *MOSAICI: St Andrews Online Journal of Italian Poetry*, Regular Issue 2 (April 2012): “Poetry in Conflict”
<http://www.mosaici.org.uk/?articles=conflicting-motifs-of-destruction-and-endurance-in-piero-bigongiaris-rogo-1944-1952>

“Piero Bigongiari, ‘Greece in Italy, or A Great Silence,’ first English translation, with Introduction – Part One.” *Modern Greek Studies*, Vol 15 (2011), 64-88.

“Two Letters of Signor Giovanni Arduino, Concerning His Natural Observations: First Full English Translation. Part 1.” *Earth Sciences History*, Volume 30 No.2 (September 2011), 267-286.

“La bicicletta Bianca e altre biciclette di Iacuzzi” [trans. Manuela Mancioppi]. *Atelier: Trimestrale di poesia, critica, letteratura*, Anno XV: no. 58 (June 2010), 55-62.

“Piero Bigongiari’s search for strength along the Arno valley.” *Philament*, Issue 12, “Habits and Habitat,” June 2008
http://www.arts.usyd.edu.au/publications/philament,issue12_contents.htm

Translations (Italian to English)

Paolo Fabrizio Iacuzzi, “Patricidio a New York / Parricide in New York,” “Atlante senza nome del giardino / Atlas of the nameless garden” and “Il soldato Beslan / Beslan the soldier.” *Contrappasso Magazine*, Issue 2 – December 2012, 252-265.

Paolo Totaro, “Gente di Balmain / Balmain People.” *Contrappasso Magazine*, Issue 1 – August 2012, pp. 178-187 <http://contrappassomag.wordpress.com/2012/07/25/from-issue-1-poetry-by-paolo-totaro/>

Paolo Totaro, “Gente di Balmain” / “Balmain People.” Paolo Totaro, *Collected Poems (1950-2011)*. Sydney: Padana Press, 2012, pp. 42-49.

Mario Perniola, "Silence: The Utmost in Ambiguity." *CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture* Vol. 12, No. 4 (2010): <http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/clcweb/vol12/iss4/2>

Piero Bigongiari, "Through clenched teeth" ("A labbra serrate"), "Snows and tears" ("Nevi e lacrime") and "Particulars" ("Particolari") from *Rogo (1944-1952)*. *Philament*, Issue 12, "Habits and Habitat," June 2008.

http://www.arts.usyd.edu.au/publications/philament,issue12_contents.htm

Original poetry

"The cent." *Cuttings, Issue 0: A Cosy Catastrophe*, January 2013 [online: awaiting link]

"Convalescence." *Sydney Morning Herald*, 'Spectrum', 12-13 May 2012, p. 39.

"Disappearance." *Sydney Morning Herald*, 'Spectrum', 19-20 March 2011, p. 35.

"This Harbour." *Sandstone: Sydney University Annual Anthology*. Sydney: Sydney University Press, pp. 54-55.

"Cold snap," "Pardon the scherzo." *Cellar Door: Sydney University Annual Anthology*. Sydney: Sydney University Press, pp. 66 & 96.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

"Giacomo Leopardi and the stagnation of Italian revolutionary feeling," at the postgraduate symposium *Reflections of Romanticism and Revolution*, Romantic Studies Association of Australia, University of Sydney, 25-26 November 2011.

"Alessandro Parronchi's songs for an unfriendly century," at the biennial conference of the Australasian Centre for Italian Studies, University of Melbourne, Australia, 13-16 July 2011.

"Motifs of destruction and endurance in Piero Bigongiari's *Rogo (1944-1952)*," at the *Second Mosaici International Conference: Poetry in Conflict*, a collaboration of the University of Glasgow, the University of Hull and the University of St Andrews, hosted by the University of St Andrews, Scotland, 15-17 March 2010.

"Heartache, fear and resolution in Piero Bigongiari's *Rogo (1944-1952)*," at the annual conference of the Association for the Study of Modern Italy, Centre for Germanic and Romance Studies, University of London, United Kingdom, 27-28 November 2009.

"A Voice in the Fire: Piero Bigongiari's *Rogo (1944-1952)* and the quest for survival," at School of Languages and Cultures Research Day, University of Sydney, 24 August 2009.

“Inward-looking sovereignty: Piero Bigongiari’s hopes for European culture after the fall of the Axis,” at the biennial conference of the Australasian Association for European Historians, Flinders University, Adelaide, 6-9 July 2009.

“Poetry, prophecy and testimony in Piero Bigongiari’s journey through Egypt,” at the conference *Enlightening Encounters: Italian Literature and Photography Through Time*, University of Warwick (Coventry), United Kingdom, 13-14 March 2009.

“Quaderni ermetici: Piero Bigongiari, poetic motifs and black books,” at the biennial conference of the Australasian Centre for Italian Studies, University of Auckland, New Zealand, 18-21 February 2009.

“Una vita della poesia: Piero Bigongiari’s early understanding of Giacomo Leopardi,” at the joint biennial conference of the American Association for Italian Studies and the American Association of Teachers of Italian, Taormina – Giardini Naxos, Sicily, Italy, 22-24 May 2008.

“Piero Bigongiari, intellectual partisan and idealistic European,” at the conference *18 April 1948: Italy Between Continuity and Rupture*, University of Reading and the London Italian Institute of Culture, United Kingdom, 18-19 April 2008.

“Haunting motifs in the poetry of Piero Bigongiari after the siege of Florence,” at *Hauntings: Spectres, spectrality and spectatorship*, postgraduate symposium in the School of English, Media and Performing Arts, University of New South Wales, 11-12 October 2007.

“Lichens on broken stone: Piero Bigongiari’s *Rogo* (1944-1952) and the quest for survival,” at *CONNECT 2007*, interdisciplinary postgraduate conference, University of Sydney, 26-28 September 2007.

“Ignorance is risk: Pasolini and the dark side of 1968 in Italy” at the biennial conference of the Australasian Association for European Historians, University of Sydney, 1-4 July 2007.

PROFESSIONAL ROLES

Poetry Editor, *Contrappasso Magazine*, biannual magazine of international writing, published by Sydney Samizdat Press. www.contrappasso.com

Socio accademico corrispondente, Accademia Pistoiese del Ceppo.