In memoriam

Hannibal Sergio Noce

(1915-2001)

Hannibal Noce was born in the village of Mongrando, in the region of Piedmont, on December 11, 1915, but he grew up in San Francisco, where his family moved when he was only six years old. After attending primary and secondary schools in that city, he continued his education at the University of California at Berkeley, obtaining his BA in 1940, and his MA in 1941, both with a major in Italian studies, and finally his PhD in Romance Literature in 1951. Before completing his PhD program, he served overseas in the intelligence department of the US army and, in 1949-1950, completed the Corso di Perfezionamento di Filologia Moderna at the University of Bologna, which he attended, on a Fulbright scholarship, in order to pursue training in the methods of modern textual criticism.

After an initial period of interest in lexicography and grammar, during which, among other things, he edited the Italian-English section of the Britannica World Language Dictionary published by Funk and Wagnalls in 1954, Hannibal Noce concentrated his research on the literature and theatre of early eighteenth-century Italy, most notably on the works of the Bolognese dramatist Pier Jacopo Martello, a field in which he quickly emerged as a textual critic of great distinction. His most outstanding publications in this area include a diplomatic edition of Martello's letters to Ludovico Antonio Muratori, and critical and variorum editions of all of Martello's important works, including 34 plays, 8 works of theory and criticism, and several shorter writings on aspects of contemporary culture and society. Noce's critical editions of Martello's works appeared as four large volumes in the Scrittori d'Italia series published by Laterza, without doubt the most prestigious and highly regarded collection of critical editions produced by Italian textual scholarship.

Professor Noce started his teaching career in 1951 as a lecturer at the University of California at Berkeley, but the following year he moved to the University of Chicago, where he remained until 1966, reaching the rank of associate professor. In 1966 he joined, at the rank of full professor, the Department of Italian Studies in the University of Toronto, from

which he retired in 1980, though he continued to teach as a special lecturer for another two years. At the University of Toronto Professor Noce taught a variety of courses in Italian literature, but he especially championed the study of the literary and theatre history of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, which he introduced to the Department's curriculum when he joined the University. In the field of academic administration, Professor Noce served as the first Academic Secretary of the Graduate Centre for Study of Drama from 1967 to 1970, and as Acting Chair of the Department of Italian Studies in 1978-79. In the course of his career, Professor Noce was an active member of a number of learned societies, serving in various administrative capacities in the Dante Society of America, in the Modern Language Association, in the American Association of Teachers of Italian, and in the Canadian Society for Italian Studies. He was also for many years on the editorial boards of the journal *Modern Philology* and of the Romance Series of the University of Toronto Press.

In addition to being a renowned scholar and a much admired teacher, Hannibal Noce was also a bibliophile with considerable expertise in other areas of historical bibliography and in the history of early printed texts. In the course of his career he had gathered a large collection of rare and precious editions from the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the vast majority of which were not available in any library in Canada and many of which were very difficult to find even in countries with more distinguished libraries in the field of Italian literature. Professor Noce routinely made available his collection to graduate students working on special research projects and, at various times after his retirement, donated most of it to the Thomas Fisher Library of the University of Toronto, where it continues to be used by colleagues and students working in the field that he had first championed in Canada.

Hannibal Noce was an only child and remained single. He is fondly remembered by friends, colleagues and students, for his lifelong dedication to an exacting field of research, for his collegiality, for his enlightened teaching and for his generous mentorship.

Domenico Pietropaolo