Geneva, 28 to 30 May 2015

Giordano Bruno: Law and Vicissitude
Bruno Festival, 2nd edition

Working theme

“That a profound sensitivity towards spirituality penetrates all Giordano Bruno's philosophy – as Eugenio Garin puts it in his L'umanesimo italiano – in no way can be denied […]. A religious inspiration goes through and inflames all his writings, although it later lead him even to the blasphemy against the Christian religion”. As the statement suggests, religion actually reveals to be indispensable for an adequate understanding of Giordano Bruno’s thought and hence for a correct appreciation of attitudes like, on the one hand, his defence of an infinite universe in cosmology or, on the other hand, his anthropological positions and the importance he gave to philosophy by considering it as an ethical and historical mission.

Starting from the key-concepts “Law” and “Vicissitude”, the event aims to discuss Giordano Bruno’s contribution to history of ideas by focusing in particular on theological, moral and juridico-political aspects of his philosophy and by comparing his views to other significant writers of his times. In continuity with the preceding three meetings already devoted to Bruno (19-20 April, Nola: Giordano Bruno. “Civil conversazione” e riforma religiosa tra eredità medievale e identità moderna ; 7-8 November 2013, Trento:“L'allargo i miei pensieri ad alta preda”. L’infinito di Bruno tra caccia filosofica e riforma religiosa: cosmologia, antropologia, etica, magia; 20-23 February 2014, inaugural edition of Bruno Festival: Verità e dissimulazione. In memoria di Luigi Firpo, maestro agli studi sul Bruno), special – but not exclusive – attention will be paid to his last writings: the “Frankfurt trilogy”, the treatises on magic and the trial documentation.

Speakers: Angelika Bönker-Vallon (Kassel), Raffaele Carbone (Lyon), Tristan Dagron (Lyon), Sergius Kodera (Vienna), Thomas Leinkauf (Münster), Aniello Montano (Salerno), Ingrid Rowland (Notre Dame, In.), Anton Schütz (London), Massimiliano Traversino (London, Trent and Geneva).

A volume containing the transactions of the colloquium will be issued by Cerf, Paris, by the end of 2015.

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Bruno Festival is part of a project entitled “Coniugium quoddam Dei et hominis est religio”, which is under the scientific responsibility of three main European institutes of research: Centre for Research in Political Theology (CRIP) at the School of Law of Birkbeck College, University of London; Institut Romand de Systématique et d'Éthique (IRSE) at the Faculty of Theology of University of Geneva; Centre for Religious Studies of Bruno Kessler Foundation (FBK-ISR) of Trento. Starting from XIII- to XVI-century history of ideas and on a multidisciplinary level, the project aims to contribute to a better evaluation of the impact that Renaissance philosophers and Christian reformers had in the process of formation of modernity.

The 2015 Geneva edition of Bruno Festival is co-financed by Istituto Italiano di Cultura of Zurich and Réforme progressive of Geneva, and is under the moral patronage of the Geneva committee of Società Dante Alighieri.