

Robert Miner

Great Texts / Honors College

Subvention for Italian translation of Robert Miner's book Vico, Genealogist of Modernity

In 2002, my first book *Vico, Genealogist of Modernity* was published by the University of Notre Dame Press. The book received positive reviews, and established me as one of the leading young Vico scholars writing in English. Proof for the latter assertion is that Yale University Press approached me to write the Introduction to a new English translation of Vico's "On the Most Ancient Wisdom of the Italians," forthcoming in 2010.

In 2004, Anna Castriota of Oxford University (St. Clare's College) and I met to lay the groundwork for a translation of my book into Italian. That initial meeting has finally borne fruit in a draft of a complete Italian translation of the text. Ms. Castriota has not only rendered my text into Italian, but also begun the process of finding a suitable Italian publisher by contacting (on my behalf) the Centro di Studi Vichiani in Naples.

The present application is to request funding for (a) \$700 as reimbursement for the portion of the final honorarium I had paid to Ms. Castriota last month (her total honorarium is \$1000; \$300 was paid in 2004, at the project's beginning); (b) a final meeting in Oxford with Ms. Castriota in Oxford. This meeting is crucial for two reasons. First, it will enable me to review her draft of the Italian translation line by line, consulting with her to ensure that the final version of the translation is completely accurate. Second, it will enable me to continue the work, already initiated by Ms. Castriota, of communicating with Italian presses.

The work's importance is succinctly indicated by John Schaeffer, writing in *New Vico Studies*: "He really is the first Vico scholar to try this kind of synthesis in a systematic way ... Miner deserves great credit for calling attention to the New Science, and Vico's thinking as a whole, as an important episode in the study of the history of ethics and religion."