This companion presents fifteen original and engaging essays by leading scholars on one of the most influential genres of Western Literature. Chapters describe the origins of early verse romance in twelfth-century French and Anglo-Norman courts and analyze the evolution of verse and prose romance in France, Germany, England, Italy and Spain throughout the Middle Ages. The volume introduces a rich array of traditions and texts and offers fresh perspectives on the manuscript context of romance, the relationship of romance to other genres, popular romance in urban contexts, romance as mirror of domestic and social tensions, and the representation of courtly love, chivalry, “other” worlds and gender roles. Together the essays demonstrate that European romances not only helped to promulgate the ideals of elite societies in formation, but also held those values up for questioning. An introduction, a chronology and a bibliography of texts and translations complete this informative overview.
Lancelot crosses the Sword Bridge, as Guenevere and King Bademagu observe from a tower and two lions await him on the other side. From the Old French Prose *Lancelot*. 
THE CAMBRIDGE
COMPANION TO
MEDIEVAL ROMANCE

EDITED BY
ROBERTA L. KRUEGER
Hamilton College, New York
CONTENTS

List of illustrations ........................................................ page ix
List of contributors ......................................................... x
A selective chronology ....................................................... xiii
Introduction Roberta L. Krueger ............................................. 1

PART ONE: THE ORIGINS, FORMS, AND CONTEXTS OF
MEDIEVAL ROMANCE

1 The shape of romance in medieval France ............................... 13
MATILDA TOMARYN BRUCKNER

2 Marvels of translation and crises of transition in the romances
of Antiquity ................................................................. 29
CHRISTOPHER BASWELL

3 Romance and other genres ................................................ 45
SIMON GAUNT

4 The manuscript context of medieval romance ......................... 60
SYLVIA HUOT

PART TWO: EUROPEAN ROMANCE AND MEDIEVAL
SOCIETY: ISSUES FOR DEBATE

5 Courts, clerks, and courtly love ......................................... 81
SARAH KAY

6 The societal role of chivalry in romance: northwestern Europe ....... 97
RICHARD KAEUPER

7 The other worlds of romance ............................................. 115
JEFF RIDER
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Questions of gender in Old French courtly romance</td>
<td>ROBERTA L. KRUEGER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Women and men in late medieval English romance</td>
<td>SHEILA FISHER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>PART THREE: EUROPEAN TRANSFORMATIONS</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>The evolution and legacy of French prose romance</td>
<td>NORRIS J. LACY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Medieval German romance</td>
<td>ANN MARIE RASMUSSEN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Chivalry and medieval Italian romance</td>
<td>F. REGINA PSAKI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Gawain and popular chivalric romance in Britain</td>
<td>THOMAS HAHN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Middle English romance: family, marriage, intimacy</td>
<td>FELICITY RIDDY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Romance at the crossroads: medieval Spanish paradigms and Cervantine revisions</td>
<td>MARINA S. BROWNLEE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Editions and translations 267

Index 280
ILLUSTRATIONS

Lancelot crosses the Sword Bridge, as Guenevere and King Bademagu observe from a tower and two lions await him on the other side (Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, fonds français, 115, fol. 367v). By permission of the Bibliothèque Nationale.

Frontispiece

4.1 The end of the Roman d’Eneas and the beginning of the Roman de Brut (Paris Bibliothèque Nationale, fonds français, 1450, fol. 112v). (Photo: Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris)

4.2 The illustration of the “eaten heart” episode in the Roman du castelain de Couci et de la dame de Fayel (Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, fonds français, 15098, fol. 157v). (Photo: Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris)

4.3 An illustration of Lavinia and her mother in Heinrich von Veldeke’s Eneide (Berlin, Staatsbibliothek, Preussischer Kulturbesitz, MS germ. fol. 282 (B), fol. 64v). (Photo: Staatsbibliothek, Preussischer Kulturbesitz, Berlin)

8.1 Opening initial of Chrétien de Troyes’s Le Chevalier de la Charrette (Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, fonds français, 794, fol. 27). (Photo: Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris)

8.2 A crowd of ladies and noble companions observe as Lancelot and other knights fight. From the Old French Prose Lancelot. (Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, fonds français, 111, fol. 91). (Photo: Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris)
CONTRIBUTORS

CHRISTOPHER BASWELL is Professor and Chair of English at Barnard College. He also teaches in the Graduate School of Columbia University. He is author of *Virgil in medieval England: figuring the ‘Aeneid’ from the twelfth century to Chaucer* (1995) and of numerous articles on classical tradition in the Middle Ages. He is co-editor of *The Longman Anthology of British Literature*, vol. IA, *The Middle Ages* (1998).

MARINA S. BROWNLEE is the Class of 1963 College of Women Professor of Romance Languages at the University of Pennsylvania. She has written on a variety of medieval topics. Her books in this area include *The Status of the Reading Subject in the ‘Libro de Buen Amor’* (1985) and *The Severed Word: Ovid’s ‘Heroides’ and the ‘Novela Sentimental’* (1990), as well as several co-edited volumes such as *Romance: Generic Transformation from Chrétien de Troyes to Cervantes* and *The New Medievalism*.

MATILDA TOMARYN BRUCKNER is Professor of French at Boston College. Her publications include *Shaping Romance: Interpretation, Truth and Closure in Twelfth-Century French Fictions* and *Songs of the Women Troubadours* (in collaboration with Laurie Shepard and Sarah White). Her current book project focuses on Chrétien’s *Perceval* and its Continuations.

SHEILA FISHER is Associate Professor of English at Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut. She has published on Chaucer and on feminist issues in *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* and in earlier literature.


THOMAS HAHN teaches medieval literature and culture at the University of Rochester. He is the General Editor of the Chaucer Bibliographies. Among his publications are *History, Text, Theory: Reconceiving Chaucer* (Exemplaria, 1992); *Sir Gawain: Eleven Romances and Tales* (1995); *Retelling Tales* (with Alan Lupack; 1997);
Contributors

Robin Hood in Popular Culture (1999); “Early Middle English” in the Cambridge History of Medieval English Literature (1999).

Sylvia Huot is University Lecturer in French and Fellow of Pembroke College, Cambridge. She is the author of From Song to Book (1987), The “Romance of the Rose” and its medieval readers (1993) and Allegorical Play in the Old French Motet (1997).

Richard Kaeuper, Professor of History at the University of Rochester, writes on royal finance, public order, and chivalry. His books include Bankers to the Crown (Princeton, 1973); War, Justice and Public Order (1988); and, with Elspeth Kennedy, The Book of Chivalry of Geoffroi de Charny; Chivalry and Violence in Medieval Europe (1999). He is editor of and contributor to Violence in Medieval Society (forthcoming).


Roberta L. Krueger, Professor of French at Hamilton College in Clinton, New York, has published Women Readers and the Ideology of Gender in Old French Verse Romance (1993) and various articles on courtly romance and medieval French didactic literature. Recently she contributed “Female voices in convents, courts, and households: the French Middle Ages” to A History of Women’s Writing in France (forthcoming).

Norris J. Lacy is the Edwin Erle Sparks Professor of French at Pennsylvania State University. He previously taught at Indiana University, the University of Kansas, UCLA, and Washington University in St. Louis. His authored or edited books include The Craft of Chrétien de Troyes, The New Arthurian Encyclopedia, The Arthurian Handbook, Reading Fabliaux, and Early French Tristan Poems.

F. Regina Psaki is Associate Professor of Romance Languages at the University of Oregon. Her research interests include Dante, Boccaccio, courtly romance, authorial subjectivity, discourse analysis, feminist issues, metadisciplinary issues in Medieval Studies, and translation. She has published articles on Dante’s Divine Comedy, Boccaccio’s Decameron, medieval Italian and French romance, the Old Norse Parcevats saga, medieval misogyny, and text editing.

Ann Marie Rasmussen is Associate Professor in the German department at Duke University and author of Mothers and Daughters in Medieval German Literature (1997). Her current research elaborates on her interests in gender studies, manuscript studies, and fifteenth-century German literature and culture.

Felicity Riddy is a professor of English attached to the Centre for Medieval Studies at the University of York, U.K. She is the author of a book on Malory, has edited Middle Scots verse, and has written many articles on medieval English and
Scottish literature and culture. She is currently writing a book on domesticity and urban culture in late-medieval England.

Jeff Rider is Associate Professor of French and Medieval Studies at Wesleyan University. He has published numerous articles on medieval literature and has co-edited, with Peter Allen, Reflections in the Frame: New Perspectives on the Study of Medieval Literature as a special issue of Exemplaria (1991). He has edited Galbert of Bruges’s De multro, traditione, et occisione gloriosi Karoli, comitis Flandriarum (1994) and will soon publish God’s Scribe: The Historiographical Art of Galbert of Bruges.
It is often impossible to determine the precise year in which a romance was composed. Most dates below are approximations, and sometimes scholars have proposed a range of dates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Work</th>
<th>Language</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>c. 1138</td>
<td>Geoffrey of Monmouth, <em>Historia regum Britanniae</em> (History of the Kings of Britain)</td>
<td>Latin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. 1147–60</td>
<td><em>Floire et Blancheflor</em> (&quot;aristocratic&quot; version)</td>
<td>Old French (including Anglo-Norman)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. 1150–55</td>
<td>Wace, <em>Roman de Brut</em></td>
<td>Old French (including Anglo-Norman)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. 1150–55</td>
<td><em>Roman de Thèbes</em></td>
<td>Old French (including Anglo-Norman)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. 1155(?)–87</td>
<td>Béroul, <em>Tristan</em> (&quot;common&quot; version)</td>
<td>Old French (including Anglo-Norman)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. 1156</td>
<td><em>Roman d’Enéas</em></td>
<td>Old French (including Anglo-Norman)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. 1160</td>
<td><em>Sept Sages de Rome</em> (original version)</td>
<td>Old French (including Anglo-Norman)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. 1165–70</td>
<td>Benoît de Sainte-Maure, <em>Roman de Troie</em></td>
<td>Old French (including Anglo-Norman)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1169–70 (or c. 1230)</td>
<td>Chrétien de Troyes, <em>Erec et Enide</em></td>
<td>Old French (including Anglo-Norman)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1170</td>
<td><em>Jaufre</em></td>
<td>Medieval Occitan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Trierer Floyris</em></td>
<td>Low German</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A selective chronology

- c. 1170–75  Thomas d’Angleterre, Tristan (“courtly” version) [OF]
- c. 1170–77  Chrétien de Troyes, Cligés [OF]
- c. 1170–80  Marie de France, Lais [OF]
- 1170–84  Gautier d’Arras, Ille et Galeran [OF]
- 1174–1200  Thomas of Kent, Le Roman de Toute Chevalerie [OF]
- 1170s or  Eilhart von Oberge, Tristram [MHG]
- 1185–90  Heinrich von Veldeke, Eneide [MHG]
- c. 1174–81  Chrétien de Troyes, Le Chevalier de la Charrette (Lancelot) [OF]
- c. 1175  Robert Biket, Lai du cor [OF]
- 1175–81  Chrétien de Troyes, Le Chevalier au Lion (Yvain) [OF]
- c. 1179–91  Chrétien de Troyes, Le Conte du graal (Perceval) [OF]
- post-1180  Alexandre de Paris, Le Roman d’Alexandre [OF]
- c. 1180–85  Hue de Rotelande, Ipomedon [OF]
- 1180–90  Hartmann von Aue, Erec [MHG]
- c. 1182–85  Partonopeu de Blois [OF]
- c. 1185–90  Hue de Rotelande, Protheselaus [OF]
- c. 1185–95  Renaut de Beaujeu, Le Bel Inconnu [OF]
- c. 1188  Aimon de Varennes, Florimont [OF]
- c. 1190  Hartmann von Aue, Gregorius [MHG]
- c. 1190–1200  First Continuation of Perceval (short version) [OF]
- c. 1190–1200  Wauchier de Denain, Second Continuation of Perceval [OF]
- c. 1195  Hartmann von Aue, Der arme Heinrich [MHG]
- c. 1196  Ulrich von Zatzikhoven, Lanzelet [MHG]
- c. 1200  Robert de Boron (verse romances) [OF]
- c. 1200  Hartmann von Aue, Iwein [MHG]
- early 1200s  Gliglois [OF]
- c. 1200–10  Gottfried von Strassburg, Tristan und Isolde [MHG]
- 1200–02  Jean Renart, L’Escoufle [OF]
- c. 1200–12  Wolfram von Eschenbach, Titurel [MHG]
- c. 1200–25  Layamon, Brut [ME]
- c. 1200–20  Konrad Fleck, Flore und Blanscheflur [MHG]
A selective chronology

\begin{itemize}
\item[c. 1200–50] *Flors inde Blanzeflors* [MHG]
\item[c. 1204–10] Wirnt von Grafenberg, *Wigalois* [MHG]
\item[c. 1205–12] Wolfram von Eschenbach, *Parzival* [MHG]
\item[c. 1209–28] Jean Renart, *Le Roman de la rose ou de Guillaume de Dole* [OF]
\item[before 1210] *Le Chevalier aux Deux Epées* [OF]
\item[before 1210] Raoul de Houdenc (?), *La vengeance Raguidel* [OF]
\item[c. 1210] *Perlesvaus* [OF]
\item[c. 1215] Non-cyclic Prose *Lancelot* [OF]
\item[c. 1220] *Diu Crône* [MHG]
\item[c. 1220] *La Fille du comte de Pontieu* [OF]
\item[1220–40] Ulrich von Türheim, *Cligés* [MHG]
\item[c. 1220–40] *Libro de Apolonio* [MS]
\item[c. 1220–40] *Libro de Alexandre* [MS]
\item[c. 1214–35] Manessier, Third Continuation of *Perceval* [OF]
\item[c. 1215–35] *Lancelot-Grail cycle* (*Prose Lancelot; Queste; Mort le roi Artu*) [OF]
\item[c. 1225] *Didot-Perceval* [OF]
\item[c. 1225] *La Queste del Saint Graal* [OF]
\item[c. 1225] *Seven Sages* in prose (first of several versions) [OF]
\item[c. 1225–28] *Jaufré* [MO]
\item[c. 1225–40] Guillaume de Lorris, *Le Roman de la Rose* [OF]
\item[c. 1230–35] Prose *Tristan* (first version) [OF]
\item[c. 1235] Rudolf von Ems, *Wilhelm von Orlens* [MHG]
\item[c. 1235] Ulrich von Türheim, *Tristan* (continuation of Gottfried’s *Tristan*) [MHG]
\item[1235–40] Post-Vulgate Cycle [OF]
\item[c. 1230–50] *Marques de Rome* [OF]
\item[c. 1226–30] Gerbert de Montreuil, Fourth Continuation of *Perceval* [OF]
\item[c. 1227–30] Gerbert de Montreuil, *Roman de la Violette* [OF]
\item[1227–37] First Continuation of *Perceval* (long version) [OF]
\item[mid–late 1200s] *King Horn* [ME]
\item[c. 1200s] *Joufroi de Poitiers* [OF]
\end{itemize}
A selective chronology

before 1250  \( \text{Walewein} \) [MD]

c. 1250  \( \text{Le Roi Flore et belle Jehanne} \) [OF]

c. 1250  Prose \( \text{Tristan} \), second version [OF]

c. 1250  Konrad von Würzburg, \( \text{Das Herzmaere} \) [MHG]

c. 1250  \( \text{Wigamur} \) [MHG]

c. 1250–70  \( \text{Laurin} \) [OF]

c. 1255  Ulrich von Liechtenstein, \( \text{Frauendienst} \) [MHG]

c. 1260  Diederik van Assende, \( \text{Floris} \) [MD]

c. 1260–72  Albrecht, \( \text{Der jüngere Titurel} \) [MHG]

c. 1270  \( \text{Cassidorus} \) [OF]

after 1250  First Continuation of \( \text{Perceval} \) (mixed version) [OF]

mid–late 1200s  \( \text{Floris and Blancheflur} \) [ME]

1270–80  Heldris de Cornuälle, \( \text{Roman de Silence} \) [OF]

c. 1260–80  \( \text{Flamenca} \) [MO]

c. 1270–80  Jean de Meun, Continuation of Guillaume de Lorris’s \( \text{Roman de la Rose} \) [OF]

c. 1270  \( \text{Historia troyana polimétrica} \) [MS]

1272–98  Arthurian compilation of Rusticiano da Pisa

c. 1275  \( \text{Havelok the Dane} \) [ME]

c. 1275  \( \text{Lantsloot vander Hagedochte} \) [MD]

c. 1280?  \( \text{Prose Yvain} \) [OF]

c. 1284–95  \( \text{Crónica de Flores y Blancaflor} \) [S]

c. 1285  Jakemés, \( \text{Le castelain de Couci et la dame de Fayel} \) [OF]

late 1200s  \( \text{Amis and Amiloun} \) [ME]

late 1200s  \( \text{Arthur and Merlin} \) [ME]

late 1200s  \( \text{Tristano Riccardiano} \) [I]

late 1200s  Rusticiano da Pisa, \( \text{Meliadus} \) [I]

c. 1295  \( \text{Gran conquista de Ultramar} \) [MS]

1300–50  \( \text{Flos unde Blankeflos} \) [LG]

c. 1300  \( \text{Guy of Warwick} \) [ME]

c. 1310  \( \text{Libro del Caballero Zifar} \) [MS]

early 1300s  \( \text{Horn Childe and the Maiden Rymnild} \) [ME]

early 1300s  \( \text{Lai le Freine} \) [ME]
A selective chronology

early 1300s  Sir Degaré [ME]
early 1300s  Sir Isumbras [ME]
early 1300s  Sir Orfeo [ME]
early 1300s  Tristano Veneto [I]
early 1300s  La Storia di Merlinio [I]
1300s  Fiorio e Biancifiore [I]
1300s  Paris y Viana [MS]
1300s  El conde Partinuplés [S]
1300–50  Sir Percyvell of Gales [ME]
c. 1310  Lancelot-Compilatie [MD]
1313  Brother Juan Vives, translation of Post-Vulgate Cycle [MS]
1314  Johann von Würzburg, Wilhelm von Osterreich [MHG]
1314–40  Perceforest [OF]
c. 1330  La Tavola Ritonda [I]
1336–38  Boccaccio, Filocolo [I]
before 1350  Ywain and Gawain [ME]
before 1350  Libeaus Desconus [ME]
c. 1350  Gamelyn [ME]
c. 1350  Octavian [ME]
1350–61  William of Palerne [ME]
1350–1400  Chevelere Assigne [ME]
c. 1350–1400  Sir Gawain and the Green Knight [ME]
c. 1351  Geoffroi de Charny, Livre de chevalerie [OF]
c. 1360  Ysaïe le Triste [OF]
c. 1360–70  La Faula [MS]
1375–1400  Athelston [ME]
c. 1375  Joseph of Arimathie [ME]
after 1383  Froissart, Meliador [MF]
c. 1385–86  Geoffrey Chaucer, Troilus and Criseyde [ME]
c. 1387  The Canterbury Tales begun [ME]
1387–93  Jean d’Arras, Mélusine [MF]
1391  Arthurian compilation of Jehan Vaillant [MF]
A selective chronology

late 1300s Gamelyn [ME]
late 1300s Sir Amadace [ME]
late 1300s Le Bone Florence of Rome [ME]
late 1300s Alliterative Morte Arthure [ME]
late 1300s Stanzaic Morte Arthur [ME]
c. 1400 Emaré [ME]
c. 1400 Sir Torrent of Portyngale [ME]
c. 1400 Sir Gawain and the Carle of Carlisle [ME]
early 1400s The Tournament of Tottenham [ME]
1401 Coudrette, Mélusine [MF]
1403 (?) Christine de Pizan, Le Livre du Duc des Vrais Amants [MF]
c. 1420 Die Beichte einer Frau (minnerede) [MHG]
c. 1420 Henry Lovelich, History of the Holy Grail [ME]
c. 1420 Henry Lovelich, Merlin [ME]
1440 Sierzo libre de amor [S]
1443–60 Curial y Guelfa [S]
1450–1500 King Ponthus and Fair Sidone [ME]
c. 1454 Prosification of Chrétien’s Cligés and Erec [MF]
before 1456 Antoine de la Sale, Le Petit Jehan de Saintré [MF]
1469–70 Sir Thomas Malory, Morte Darthur [ME] published 1485
1470 Arthurian compilation of Michot Gonnot [MF]
1470 Ulrich Füetrer, Lanzelot (prose and verse versions) [MHG]
1473 Pulci, Morgante [I]
c. 1475 Lancelot of the Laik [Middle Scots]
1476–94 Boiardo, Orlando Innamorato [I]
1485 Ulrich Füetrer, Buch der Liebe [MHG]
c. 1500 The Wedding of Sir Gawain and Dame Ragnelle [ME]
c. 1500 The Greene Knight [ME]
c. 1500 The Turke and Sir Gawain [ME]
c. 1500 Gologras and Gawain [ME]
1508 Amadís de Gaula [S]
1512 Primaleón [S]
1514 Lisuarte de Grecia [S]
A selective chronology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Work</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1516–32</td>
<td>Ariosto, <em>Orlando Furioso</em> [I]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. 1520</td>
<td>Pierre Sala, <em>Prose Yvain</em> [F]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1554</td>
<td>Jean Maugin, <em>Le Nouveau Tristan</em> [F]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. 1560</td>
<td><em>The Jeaste of Sir Gawain</em> [ME]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1560–75</td>
<td>Tasso, <em>Gerusalemme Liberata</em> [I]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>after 1600</td>
<td><em>The Wedding of Sir Gawain</em>; ballad [eModE]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>after 1600</td>
<td><em>The Carle of Carlisle</em>; [eModE]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>after 1600</td>
<td><em>King Arthur and King Cornwall</em>; ballad [eModE]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1605, 1615</td>
<td>Cervantes, <em>Don Quijote de la Mancha</em> [S]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1617</td>
<td>Cervantes, <em>Los trabajos de Persiles y Sigismunda</em> [S]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>