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In this study of vernacular French narrative from the twelfth century through the later Middle Ages, Donald Maddox considers the construction of identity in a wide range of fictions. He focuses on crucial encounters, widespread in medieval literature, in which characters are informed about fundamental aspects of their own circumstances and selfhood. These always arresting and highly significant moments of “specular” encounter are examined in numerous Old and Middle French romances, hagiographic texts, epics, and brief narratives. Maddox discloses the key role of identity in an original reading of the *Lais* of Marie de France as a unified collection, as well as in Arthurian literature, fictions of the courtly tryst, genealogies, and medieval family romance. The study offers many new perspectives on the poetic and cultural implications of identity as an imaginary construct during the long formative period of French literature.

DONALD MADDOX, Professor of French and Italian Studies at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, is the author of numerous books and articles on the French Middle Ages, including *The Arthurian Romances of Chrétien de Troyes* (Cambridge, 1991).

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For Sara

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## Acknowledgments

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This study has taken shape over a number of years, always necessarily in counterpoint with a considerable variety of other projects that have repeatedly deferred its completion while also prompting me to broaden and diversify its scope. As it comes to fruition, I wish to express my thanks to the many friends, colleagues and students who have on occasion generously offered encouragement, advice and assistance.

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## Abbreviations

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### JOURNALS AND SERIALS

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <i>Annales ESC</i> | <i>Annales: Economies, Sociétés, Civilisations</i>                           |
| <i>AY</i>          | <i>Arthurian Yearbook</i>  |
| <i>BBSIA</i>       | <i>Bulletin Bibliographique de la Société Internationale<br/>Arthurienne</i> |
| <i>BDBA</i>        | <i>Bien Dire et Bien Apprendre</i>   |
| <i>BMMLA</i>       | <i>Bulletin of the Midwest Modern Language Association</i>                   |
| <i>CAIEF</i>       | <i>Cahiers de l'Association Internationale des Etudes Françaises</i>         |
| <i>CC</i>          | <i>Comparative Criticism: A Yearbook</i>                                     |
| <i>CCM</i>         | <i>Cahiers de Civilisation Médiévale</i>                                     |
| <i>CN</i>          | <i>Cultura Neolatina</i>   |
| <i>Coll. Cist.</i> | <i>Collectanea Cisterciensa</i>  |
| <i>Com</i>         | <i>Communications</i>  |
| <i>DS</i>          | <i>Dante Studies</i>   |
| <i>EC</i>          | <i>Etudes Celtiques</i>  |
| <i>ECr</i>         | <i>L'Esprit Créateur</i>   |
| <i>Eur</i>         | <i>Europe: Revue Littéraire Mensuelle</i>                                    |
| <i>FF</i>          | <i>French Forum</i>  |
| <i>FR</i>          | <i>French Review</i>   |
| <i>FRom</i>        | <i>Filologia Romanza</i>   |
| <i>FS</i>          | <i>French Studies</i>  |
| <i>HLF</i>         | <i>Histoire Littéraire de la France</i>                                      |
| <i>HT</i>          | <i>History and Theory</i>  |
| <i>IL</i>          | <i>L'Information Littéraire</i>  |
| <i>JMEMS</i>       | <i>Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies</i>                          |
| <i>JMRS</i>        | <i>Journal of Medieval and Renaissance Studies</i>                           |
| <i>KRQ</i>         | <i>Kentucky Romance Quarterly</i>  |
| <i>LR</i>          | <i>Lettres Romanes</i>   |

*List of abbreviations*

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <i>LS</i>        | <i>Language and Style</i>   |
| <i>MAev</i>      | <i>Medium Aevum</i>   |
| <i>MAge</i>      | <i>Le Moyen Age</i>   |
| <i>MedP</i>      | <i>Medieval Perspectives</i>  |
| <i>M&amp;H</i>   | <i>Medievalia &amp; Humanistica</i>   |
| <i>MGH/S</i>     | <i>Monumenta Germaniae Historica, Scriptores</i>  |
| <i>MLN</i>       | <i>Modern Language Notes</i>  |
| <i>MLR</i>       | <i>Modern Language Review</i>   |
| <i>MP</i>        | <i>Modern Philology</i>   |
| <i>MR</i>        | <i>Medioevo Romano</i>  |
| <i>MRom</i>      | <i>Marche Romane</i>  |
| <i>MRS</i>       | <i>Michigan Romance Studies</i>   |
| <i>MS</i>        | <i>Medieval Studies</i>   |
| <i>MW</i>        | <i>Man and World</i>  |
| <i>Neo</i>       | <i>Neophilologus</i>  |
| <i>NLH</i>       | <i>New Literary History</i>   |
| <i>O&amp;C</i>   | <i>Oeuvres et Critiques</i>   |
| <i>op. cit.</i>  | <i>op. cit.: Revue de littérature française et comparée</i>   |
| <i>PBF</i>       | <i>Programmheft der Bayreuther Festspiele</i>   |
| <i>PG</i>        | <i>Paroles Gelées</i>   |
| <i>PL</i>        | <i>Patrologia Latina</i>  |
| <i>PMLA</i>      | <i>Publications of the Modern Language Association of America</i>                                       |
| <i>PQ</i>        | <i>Philological Quarterly</i>   |
| <i>QM</i>        | <i>Quaderni Medievali</i>   |
| <i>RC</i>        | <i>Revue Celtique</i>   |
| <i>RF</i>        | <i>Romanische Forschungen</i>   |
| <i>RHT</i>       | <i>Revue d'Histoire du Théâtre</i>  |
| <i>RLR</i>       | <i>Revue des Langues Romanes</i>  |
| <i>RN</i>        | <i>Romance Notes</i>  |
| <i>Rom</i>       | <i>Romania</i>  |
| <i>RPh</i>       | <i>Romance Philology</i>  |
| <i>RQ</i>        | <i>Romance Quarterly</i>  |
| <i>RR</i>        | <i>Romanic Review</i>   |
| <i>Rzfl/CHLR</i> | <i>Romanistische Zeitschrift für Literaturgeschichte/Cahiers de l'histoire des littératures romanes</i> |
| <i>SFR</i>       | <i>Stanford French Review</i>   |
| <i>SM</i>        | <i>Studi Medievali</i>  |
| <i>SMS</i>       | <i>Studier i modern språkvetenskap</i>  |
| <i>SP</i>        | <i>Studies in Philology</i>   |

*List of abbreviations*

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| <i>TLL</i>    | <i>Travaux de Linguistique et de Littérature</i>          |
| <i>UTQ</i>    | <i>University of Toronto Quarterly</i>                    |
| <i>Versus</i> | <i>Versus: Quaderni di Studi Semiotici</i>                |
| <i>VR</i>     | <i>Vox Romanica</i>                                       |
| <i>WG</i>     | <i>Die Welt als Geschichte</i>                            |
| <i>YFS</i>    | <i>Yale French Studies</i>                                |
| <i>ZfdP</i>   | <i>Zeitschrift für deutsche Philologie</i>                |
| <i>ZffSL</i>  | <i>Zeitschrift für französische Sprache und Literatur</i> |
| <i>ZfP</i>    | <i>Zeitschrift für romanische Philologie</i>              |
| <i>ZfSL</i>   | <i>Zeitschrift für romanische Sprache und Literatur</i>   |

COLLECTIVE VOLUMES

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <i>Actes LPR</i>    | Kremer, D., ed. <i>Actes du XVIII<sup>e</sup> congrès international de littérature et de philologie romanes</i> . Tübingen: Niemeyer, 1988. |
| <i>ALMA</i>         | Loomis, R. S., ed. <i>Arthurian Literature in the Middle Ages</i> . Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1959.  |
| <i>Amour</i>        | Dufournet, J., ed. <i>Amour et merveille: Les Lais de Marie de France</i> . Paris: Champion, 1995.  |
| <i>ACTR</i>         | Frappier, J. <i>Amour courtois et table ronde</i> . Geneva: Droz, 1973.   |
| <i>Approches</i>    | Dufournet, J., ed. <i>Approches du Lancelot en prose</i> . Paris: Champion, 1984.   |
| <i>Arturus</i>      | Van Hoecke, W. et al., eds. <i>Arturus Rex II: Acta Conventus Lovaniensis 1987</i> . Leuven: University Press, 1991.                        |
| <i>Aspects</i>      | Maddox, D. and S. Sturm-Maddox, eds. <i>Literary Aspects of Courtly Culture</i> . Cambridge: D. S. Brewer, 1994.                            |
| <i>Buschinger</i>   | Crépin, A. and W. Spiewok, eds. <i>Tristan-Tristrant: Mélanges Danielle Buschinger</i> . Greifswald: Reineke-Verlag, 1996.                  |
| <i>Caplan</i>       | Wallach, L., ed. <i>The Classical Tradition: Literary and Historical Studies in Honor of Harry Caplan</i> . Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell, 1966.    |
| <i>Carrefour</i>    | <i>Au Carrefour des routes d'Europe: la chanson de geste</i> . Aix-en-Provence: CUERMA, 1987.   |
| <i>La Chasse</i>    | <i>La Chasse au Moyen Age</i> . Paris: Les Belles Lettres, 1972.  |
| <i>Le Chevalier</i> | Dufournet, J., ed. <i>Le Chevalier et la merveille dans "Le Bel Inconnu", ou le beau jeu de Renaut</i> . Paris: Champion, 1996.             |
| <i>Conjunctures</i> | Busby, K. and N. J. Lacy, eds. <i>Conjunctures: Medieval Studies in Honor of Douglas Kelly</i> . Amsterdam: Rodopi, 1994.                   |
| <i>Contexts</i>     | Poirion, D. and N. Regalado, eds. <i>Contexts: Style and Value in</i>   |

*List of abbreviations*

- Medieval Art and Literature*. New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 1991.
- Continuations* Lacy, N. J. and G. Torrini-Roblin, eds. *Continuations: Essays on Medieval French Literature and Language in Honor of John L. Grigsby*. Birmingham, Ala.: Summa, 1989.
- Court* Mullally, E. and J. Thompson, eds. *The Court and Cultural Diversity*. Cambridge: D. S. Brewer, 1997.
- C and P* Burgess, G., ed. *Court and Poet: Selected Proceedings of the Third Congress of the International Courtly Literature Society*. Liverpool: Cairns, 1981.
- Courtly* Busby, K. and E. Kooper, eds. *Courtly Literature, Culture and Context*. Amsterdam: Rodopi, 1990.
- Craft* Arrathoon, L., ed. *The Craft of Fiction: Essays in Medieval Poetics*. Rochester, Mich.: Solaris, 1984.
- Cyc* B. Besamusca, F. Brandsma, W. Gerritsen, and O. Lie, eds. *Cyclification: The Development of Narrative Cycles in the Chansons de Geste and the Arthurian Romances*. Amsterdam: North-Holland Publishing Company, 1994.
- Le Droit* Buschinger, D., ed. *Le Droit et sa perception dans la littérature et les mentalités médiévales*. Göppingen: Kummerle, 1993.
- Dufournet* *Et c'est la fin por quoy sommes ensemble: Hommage à Jean Dufournet, Professeur à la Sorbonne Nouvelle. Littérature, histoire et langue du Moyen Age*. 3 vols. Paris: Champion, 1993.
- Eigeldinger* *Le Lieu et la formule: Hommage à Marc Eigeldinger*. Neuchâtel: La Baconnière, 1979.
- L'Enfant* *L'Enfant au Moyen Age*. Aix-en-Provence: CUERMA, 1980.
- Entretiens* Gandillac, M. de and E. Jeuneau, eds. *Entretiens sur la renaissance du XIII<sup>e</sup> siècle*. The Hague and Paris: Mouton, 1968.
- L'Erotisme* Roy, B., ed. *L'Erotisme au Moyen Age*. Montréal: Aurore, 1977.
- Father* Davis, R. C., ed. *The Fictional Father: Lacanian Readings of the Text*. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 1981.
- Folena* *Omaggio a Gianfranco Folena*. Modena: Programma, 1980.
- Foulon* *Mélanges de langue et littérature françaises du Moyen Age et de la Renaissance offerts à Charles Foulon*. 1: Rennes: Université de Haute Bretagne, 1980; II: *Marche Romane*, vol. xxx, nos. 3 and 4 (1980).
- France* Jondorf, G. and D. Dumville, eds. *France and the British Isles in the Middle Ages and Renaissance*. Woodbridge: Boydell, 1991.

*List of abbreviations*

- Frappier* *Du Moyen Age à la Renaissance: Etudes d'histoire et de critique littéraire.* Paris: Champion, 1976.
- Gardens* MacDougall, E., ed. *Medieval Gardens.* Washington, D.C.: Dumbarton Oaks, 1986.
- Gender* Chance, J., ed. *Gender and Text in the Later Middle Ages.* Gainesville, Fla.: University Press of Florida, 1996.
- Graal* Nelli, R., ed. *Les Romans du graal dans la littérature médiévale des XII<sup>e</sup> et XIII<sup>e</sup> siècles.* Paris: Editions du CNRS, 1956.
- Grundriss* *Grundriss der romanischen Literaturen des Mittelalters*, vol. IV, 2. Heidelberg: Winter, 1984.
- L'Humanisme* Fourrier, A., ed. *L'Humanisme médiéval dans les littératures romanes du XII<sup>e</sup> au XIV<sup>e</sup> siècle.* Paris: Klincksieck, 1964.
- Ideals* Harper-Bill, C. and R. Harvey, eds. *Ideals and Practice of Medieval Knighthood II.* Woodbridge: Boydell, 1986.
- Images* Blumenfeld-Kosinski, R. and T. Szell, eds. *Images of Sainthood in Medieval Europe.* Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell, 1991.
- L'Imaginaire* Angeli, G. and L. Formisano, eds. *L'Imaginaire courtois et son double.* Naples: Edizioni Scientifiche Italiane, 1992.
- Jeux* Roy, B., ed. *Jeux de mémoire.* Montréal: Presses de l'Université de Montréal, 1985.
- Jonin* *Mélanges de langue et littérature françaises du Moyen Age, offerts à Pierre Jonin.* Aix-en-Provence: CUERMA/Paris: Champion, 1979.
- Kibler* Kibler, W. ed. *The Lancelot-Grail Cycle: Text and Transformations.* Austin: University of Texas Press, 1994.
- Köhler* *Mittelalterstudien, Erich Köhler zum gedenken.* Heidelberg: Winter, 1984.
- Legacy* Lacy, N. J., K. Busby, and D. Kelly, eds. *The Legacy of Chrétien de Troyes.* 2 vols. Amsterdam: Rodopi, 1987, 1988.
- Le Gentil* *Mélanges de langue et de littérature médiévales offerts à Pierre Le Gentil.* Paris: SEDES, 1973.
- Lejeune* *Mélanges offerts à Rita Lejeune.* 2 vols. Gembloux: Duculot, 1969.
- Liebe* Schulze, P., ed. *Liebe und Aventure in Artusroman des Mittelalters.* Göttingen: Kummerle, 1990.
- L and P* Kurzweil, E. and W. Phillips, eds. *Literature and Psychoanalysis.* New York: Columbia, 1983.
- La Litt.* *La Littérature narrative d'imagination, des genres littéraires aux techniques d'expression.* Paris: Presses Universitaires de France, 1961.

*List of abbreviations*

- LPQRO* Felman, S., ed. *Literature and Psychoanalysis: The Question of Reading: Otherwise*. Baltimore, Md.: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1982.
- Medievalism* Bloch, R. H. and S. G. Nichols, eds. *Medievalism and the Modernist Temper*. Baltimore, Md.: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996.
- Mél. Bec* *Mélanges de langue et de littérature occitanes en hommage à Pierre Bec*. Poitiers: CESCUM, 1991.
- Mél. Imbs* *Mélanges de linguistique française et de philologie et littérature médiévales offerts à Paul Imbs*. Strasbourg: CPLR, 1973.
- Mél. Wathelet* *Mélanges de philologie et de littérature romanes offerts à Jeanne Wathelet-Willem*. Liège: Marche Romane, 1978.
- Melusine* Maddox, D. and S. Sturm-Maddox, eds. *Melusine of Lusignan: Founding Fiction in Late Medieval France*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1996.
- Memory* *Memory and the Middle Ages*. Chestnut Hill, Mass.: Boston College Museum of Art, 1995.
- Ménard* Labbé, A., J.-C. Faucon, and D. Quéruef, eds. *Miscellanea Medievalia: Mélanges offerts à Philippe Ménard*. 2 vols. Paris: Champion, 1998.
- Mimesis* Lyons, J. and S. Nichols, eds. *Mimesis: From Mirror to Method, Augustine to Descartes*. Hanover, N.H.: University Presses of New England, 1982.
- Misrahi* Runte, H., H. Niedzielski, and W. Hendrickson, eds. *Studies in the Seven Sages of Rome and Other Essays in Medieval Literature Dedicated to the Memory of Jean Misrahi*. Honolulu: Educational Research Associates, 1978.
- Mittelalter* Ruhe, E. and R. Behrens, eds. *Mittelalterbilder aus neuer Perspektive: Würzburger Kolloquium*. Munich: Fink, 1986.
- Myth* Sebeok, T. A., ed. *Myth: A Symposium*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1972.
- Nature* Grunmann-Gaudet, M. and R. F. Jones, eds. *The Nature of Medieval Narrative*. Lexington, Ky.: French Forum, 1980.
- New* Brownlee, M., K. Brownlee, and S. Nichols, eds. *The New Medievalism*. Baltimore, Md.: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1991.
- Nicodemus* Izydorczyk, Z. *The Medieval "Gospel of Nicodemus": Texts, Intertexts, and Contexts in Western Europe*. Tempe, Ariz.: Medieval & Renaissance Texts and Studies, 1997.

*List of abbreviations*

- La Nouvelle* Picone, M., G. Di Stefano, and P. M. Stewart, eds. *La Nouvelle: Genèse, codification et rayonnement d'un genre médiéval*. Montréal: Plato, 1983.
- Opus* Kelly, D., ed. *The Medieval Opus: Imitation, Rewriting, and Transmission in the French Tradition*. Amsterdam: Rodopi, 1996.
- Orbis* *Orbis Medievalis: Mélanges de langue et de littérature médiévales offerts à Reto Radulf Bezzola*. Berne: Francke, 1978.
- Pope* *Studies in French Literature and Medieval Literature Presented to Professor Mildred K. Pope*. Manchester University Press, 1929.
- Psychoanalysis* Hartman, G., ed. *Psychoanalysis and the Question of the Text*. Baltimore, Md.: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1978.
- QAB* Ashe, G., ed. *The Quest for Arthur's Britain*. St Albans: Paladin, 1975.
- Quest* Maréchal, C. ed. *In Quest of Marie de France, A Twelfth Century Poet*. Lewiston, N.Y.: Mellen, 1993.
- Le Récit* Buschinger, D., ed. *Le Récit bref au Moyen Age*. Amiens: Université de Picardie, 1980.
- Reid* *History and Structure of French: Essays in Honour of T. B. W. Reid*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1972.
- Relire* Dufournet, J., ed. *Relire le Roman d'Enéas*. Paris: Champion, 1985.
- Renaissance* Benson, L. and G. Constable, eds. *Renaissance and Renewal in the Twelfth Century*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1982.
- Rethinking* Brownlee, K. and S. Huot, eds. *Rethinking the "Roman de la Rose": Text, Image, Reception*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1992.
- Romance* Brownlee, K. and M. Brownlee, eds. *Romance: Generic Transformations from Chrétien de Troyes to Cervantes*. Hanover, N.H.: University Presses of New England, 1985.
- Shifts* Pratt, K., ed. *Shifts and Transpositions: A Festschrift for Elspeth Kennedy*. Cambridge: D. S. Brewer, 1994.
- Sign* Eco, U. and T. Sebeok, eds. *The Sign of Three: Dupin, Holmes, Peirce*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1983.
- Solano* Cormier, R. and U. T. Holmes, Jr., eds. *Essays in Honor of Louis Francis Solano*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1976.

*List of abbreviations*

- Sower* Pickens, R. T., ed. *The Sower and his Seed: Essays on Chrétien de Troyes*. Lexington, Ky.: French Forum, 1983.
- Spiewok* Buschinger, D., ed. *Europäische Literaturen im Mittelalter: Mélanges en l'honneur de Wolfgang Spiewok*. Griefswald: Reineke-Verlag, 1994.
- Spirit* Burgess, G. and R. Taylor, eds. *The Spirit of the Court*. Cambridge: D. S. Brewer, 1985.
- Spitzer* *Studia philologica et litteraria in honorem Leo Spitzer*. Berne: Francke, 1958.
- Topsfield* Noble, P. and L. Paterson, eds. *Chrétien de Troyes and the Troubadours: Essays in Memory of the Late Leslie Topsfield*. Cambridge: St Catharine's College, 1984.
- Le Temps* *Le Temps et la durée dans la littérature au Moyen Age et à la Renaissance*. Paris: Nizet, 1986.
- Transtext* Sturm-Maddox, S. and D. Maddox, eds. *Transtextualities: of Cycles and Cyclicity in Medieval French Literature*. Binghamton, N.Y.: Medieval & Renaissance Texts and Studies, 1995.
- Vergers* *Vergers et jardins dans l'univers médiéval*. Aix-en-Provence: CUERMA, 1990.
- Voices* Cormier, R. J., ed. *Voices of Conscience: Essays in Memory of James D. Powell and Rosemary Hodgins*. Philadelphia, Penn.: Temple University Press, 1976.
- Voyage* *Voyage, quête, pèlerinage dans la littérature et la civilisation médiévales*. Aix-en-Provence: CUERMA, 1976.
- Woledge* North, S., ed. *Studies in Medieval French Language and Literature Presented to Brian Woledge*. Geneva: Droz, 1988.
- Women* Guggenheim, M., ed. *Women in French Literature*. Saratoga, Calif.: Anma Libri, 1988.