The Cambridge History of
Literary Criticism

VOLUME 2
The Middle Ages

This is the first-ever history of the literary theory and criticism produced during the Middle Ages that covers all the main traditions in Latin, the major European vernaculars, and Byzantine Greek. Starting with sections on the rich array of materials found within the study of grammar and the formal ‘arts’ of poetry, letter-writing and preaching, it proceeds to offer a full description of the Latin commentary tradition on classical and classicising literature, followed by explanations of medieval views on literary imagination and memory, and the ways in which certain texts were believed to achieve moral profit through pleasure. The remainder of the volume, and its largest part, is taken up with accounts of the diverse theoretical and critical traditions which developed in the vernacular languages, ranging from Medieval Irish to Old Norse, Occitan to Middle High German. Since many of the most significant developments occurred in Italy, a series of chapters is devoted to the contributions made by Dante and the commentators on his *Commedia*, the debates on Latin versus vernacular, and humanist views on poetry and prose. Finally the volume moves from the Latin West to Greek Byzantium, to review the attitudes held there concerning literature and its various uses.
The Cambridge History of Literary Criticism

FOUNDING EDITORS
Professor H. B. Nisbet
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The Cambridge History of Literary Criticism provides a comprehensive historical account of Western literary criticism from classical Antiquity to the present day, dealing with both literary theory and critical practice. The History is intended as an authoritative work of reference and exposition, but more than a mere chronicle of facts. While remaining broadly non-partisan it will, where appropriate, address controversial issues of current critical debate without evasion or false pretences of neutrality. Each volume is a self-contained unit designed to be used independently as well as in conjunction with the others in the series. Substantial bibliographical material in each volume provides a foundation for further study of the subjects in question.

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The Cambridge History of Literary Criticism

VOLUME 2
The Middle Ages

Edited by
Alastair Minnis and Ian Johnson
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## Abbreviations

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<td><strong>AHDLMA</strong></td>
<td><em>Archives d’histoire doctrinale et littéraire du Moyen Âge</em></td>
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<td><strong>ANTS</strong></td>
<td>Anglo-Norman Texts Society</td>
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<td><strong>BGPM</strong></td>
<td>Beiträge zur Geschichte der Philosophie des Mittelalters</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CCCM</strong></td>
<td>Corpus Christianorum, continuatio mediealis</td>
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<td><strong>CCSL</strong></td>
<td>Corpus Christianorum, series latina</td>
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<td><strong>CFHB</strong></td>
<td><em>Corpus fontium historiae Byzantinae</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CHLMP</strong></td>
<td><em>The Cambridge History of Later Medieval Philosophy</em></td>
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<td><strong>ChR</strong></td>
<td><em>The Chaucer Review</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CIBN</strong></td>
<td>Bibliothèque nationale, <em>Catalogue des incunables</em> 1– (Paris 1981–)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CIMAGL</strong></td>
<td><em>Cahiers de l'Institut du moyen âge grec et latin</em></td>
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<td><strong>CP</strong></td>
<td><em>Classical Philology</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CSEL</strong></td>
<td>Corpus scriptorum ecclesiasticorum latinorum</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EETS ES</strong></td>
<td>Early English Text Society, Extra Series</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EETS OS</strong></td>
<td>Early English Text Society, Original Series</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EETS SS</strong></td>
<td>Early English Text Society, Supplementary Series</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GW</strong></td>
<td><em>Gesamtkatalog der Wiege run drucke</em> (7 vols., Leipzig 1923–58); 8– (Stuttgart, 1978–).</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hist. ling.</strong></td>
<td><em>Historiographia linguistica</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HTR</strong></td>
<td><em>Harvard Theological Review</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>JEGP</strong></td>
<td><em>Journal of English and Germanic Philology</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MAE</strong></td>
<td><em>Medium Ævum</em></td>
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List of abbreviations

MGH Monumenta germaniae historica
MGH AA Monumenta germaniae historica, auctores antiquissimi
M&H Mediaevalia et humanistica
MLN Modern Language Notes
MLQ Modern Language Quarterly
MLR Modern Language Review
MP Modern Philology
MS Mediaeval Studies
Notices et extraits Notices et extraits des manuscrits de la Bibliothèque nationale
PBB Beiträge zur Geschichte der deutschen Sprache und Literatur (Tübingen).
PMLA Publications of the Modern Language Association of America
RP Romance Philology
RR Romanic Review
RTAM Recherches de théologie ancienne et médiévale
SAC Studies in the Age of Chaucer
SATF Société des anciens textes français
SMC Studies in Medieval Culture
SP Studies in Philology
StLV Bibliothek des Litterarischen Vereins in Stuttgart
TAPA Transactions of the American Philological Association
TSL Tennessee Studies in Literature
Acknowledgements

On the completion of the present book, which has taken many years to grow into its state of completion, the editors wish to extend their warmest thanks both to those longstanding contributors who in the early stages laid its foundation by producing chapters and materials for comment and compilation, and to those who joined the team of contributors quite recently and filled in major gaps in its coverage. We owe a special debt to James Simpson for the materials and structural principles he contributed to Chapter 15. Winthrop Wetherbee, the author of Chapter 5, wishes to acknowledge the original contribution of the late Judson Boyce Allen, who was to have been his collaborator in chronicling the medieval study of classical authors. We can only regret that Professor Allen was unable to set his own hand to a task for which he was so uniquely qualified.


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Ian Johnson

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