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978-0-521-67975-6 - The Cambridge Companion to Medieval French Literature

Edited by Simon Gaunt and Sarah Kay

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THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO MEDIEVAL  
FRENCH LITERATURE

Medieval French literature encompasses 450 years of literary output in Old and Middle French, mostly produced in Northern France and England. These texts, including courtly lyrics, prose and verse romances, *dits amoureux*, and plays, proved hugely influential for other European literary traditions in the medieval period and beyond. This *Companion* offers a wide-ranging and stimulating guide to literature composed in medieval French from its beginnings in the ninth century until the Renaissance. The essays are grounded in detailed analysis of canonical texts and authors such as the *Chanson de Roland*, the *Roman de la rose*, Villon's *Testament*, Chrétien de Troyes, Machaut, Christine de Pizan and the Tristan romances. Featuring a chronology and suggestions for further reading, this is the ideal companion for students and scholars in other fields wishing to discover the riches of the French medieval tradition.

SIMON GAUNT is Professor of French at King's College London.

SARAH KAY is a Professor of French at Princeton University.

Both have published widely on French medieval literature, and are also co-editors of *The Troubadours: an Introduction* (Cambridge, 1999).

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo

Cambridge University Press

The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9780521679756](http://www.cambridge.org/9780521679756)

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First published 2008

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library*

ISBN 978-0-521-86175-5 hardback

ISBN 978-0-521-67975-6 paperback

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## NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

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WILLIAM BURGWINCKLE is Reader in Medieval French and Occitan at the University of Cambridge and a Fellow of King's College, Cambridge. He published *Sodomy, Masculinity, and Law in Medieval Literature* with Cambridge University Press in 2004 and is currently finishing a co-authored book (with Cary Howie) on hagiography and pornography.

KEITH BUSBY is Douglas Kelly Professor of French at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. An expert on manuscript studies, his major recent work is the two-volume *Codex and Context: Reading Old French Verse Narrative in Manuscripts* (2002); he is now working on the text–image relationship in English, Italian and Burgundian manuscripts of French secular narrative.

EMMA CAMPBELL is Assistant Professor and RCUK Academic Fellow in Medieval French Studies at the University of Warwick. She is the co-editor with Robert Mills of *Troubled Vision: Gender, Sexuality and Sight in Medieval Text and Image* (2004) and is currently finishing a monograph provisionally entitled *Unholy Relations: Reading Social and Sexual Connections in Medieval Saints' Lives*.

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Sheingorn) *Myth, Montage and Visuality in Late Medieval Manuscript Culture: Christine de Pizan's Othea* (2003).

SIMON GAUNT is Professor of French Language and Literature at King's College London. His most recent book is *Martyrs to Love: Love and Death in Medieval French and Occitan Courtly Literature* (2006). He is currently working on a book on the use of French in Italy with particular reference to Marco Polo.

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SARAH KAY is Professor of French at Princeton University. She recently completed *The Place of Thought: the Complexity of One in Late Medieval French Didactic Poetry* (2007) and is now researching the use made of quotations from the troubadours in Occitan literature.

PEGGY MCCRACKEN is Professor of French and Women's Studies at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Her most recent book is *The Curse of Eve, the Wound of the Hero: Blood, Gender, and Medieval Literature* (2003). Her current research focuses on literary representations and reactions to crusade and crusade rhetoric.

DEBORAH MCGRADY is Associate Professor of French at the University of Virginia. She is the author of *Controlling Readers: Guillaume de Machaut and His Late Medieval Audience* (2006). She is currently writing a study entitled *The Gift of Literature: Reinventing Patronage during the Hundred Years War*.

JAMES R. SIMPSON is Senior Lecturer in French at the University of Glasgow. His monograph *Fantasy, Identity and Misrecognition in Medieval French Narrative* appeared in 2000 and he has just completed a book on Chrétien's *Erec et Enide*.



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JANE TAYLOR is Professor of French at Durham University. She specializes in the literature of late medieval France: François Villon, the late medieval Arthurian romances, late medieval courtly lyric. She is past President of the International Arthurian Society, and co-editor of *Medium Aevum*. Her *The Making of Poetry: Poetic Anthologies in Late-Medieval France* appeared in 2007.

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CHRONOLOGY

	Historical events	Medieval French and Anglo-Norman authors and texts	Other cultural events in France and its neighbours
1050		<i>Vie de Saint Alexis</i> (c.1050, or later?)	
1060	Philippe I, king of France (1060) Battle of Hastings (1066)		
1090	First Crusade (1095–9) Foundation of Cistercian order (1098)	<i>Chanson d'Antioche</i> (1098)	
1100	Henry I, king of England (1100) Louis VI, king of France (1108)	<i>Oxford Roland</i> (c.1100, or earlier?) <i>Chanson de Guillaume</i> (c.1100, or later?)	Death of Anselm (1109)
1110	Foundation of Bologna University (1113)		
1120	St Bernard founds Clairvaux (1115) First Lateran Council (1123) Foundation of Templars (1128)		<i>Sponsus</i> (macaronic theatrical piece) (c.1120) Abelard's <i>Sic et non</i> (1121) First known troubadour Guillaume de Poitiers dies (1127) Earliest version of the Alexander romance in Franco-Provençal (first third twelfth cent.)
1130	Louis VII, king of France (1137) Construction of abbey at St-Denis begun (1137)	<i>Couronnement de Louis</i> (?) Wace, <i>Vie de sainte Marguerite</i> (before 1155)	Geoffrey of Monmouth, <i>Historia</i> (c.1135–8) Marcabru's poetic activity begins <i>Poema de mio Cid</i> (1140, or possibly early thirteenth cent.)
1140	Second Crusade (1147–50)	<i>Jeu d'Adam</i> (between 1146 and 1174)	Abelard dies (c.1142–4) Jaufre Rudel probably dies <i>outremer</i> (1148)

Historical events	Medieval French and Anglo-Norman authors and texts	Other cultural events in France and its neighbours
1150 Foundation of Paris University (1150) Louis VII divorces Eleanor of Aquitaine, who marries Henry of Anjou (1152) Henry II, king of England (1154) Work begins on Notre Dame de Paris (1163) Foundation of Oxford University (1167)	<i>Charroi de Nîmes</i> (?) <i>Floire et Blancheflor</i> (after 1150) Wace, <i>Roman de Brut</i> (c.1155) <i>Roman de Thèbes</i> (c.1155) <i>Roman d'Apollonius de Tyr</i> (c.1150–60) <i>Sept sages de Rome</i> (c.1160) <i>Roman d'Eneas</i> (1160?) Benoît de Sainte-Maure, <i>Roman de Troie</i> (c.1160) Wace, <i>Roman de Rou</i> (begun c.1160) <i>Pyramus et Thisbe</i> and other Ovidian <i>contes</i> Béroul, <i>Tristan</i> (? could be earlier or later) Earliest French and Anglo-Norman versions of the <i>Roman d'Alexandre</i>	<i>Sententiae</i> of Peter Lombard Troubadours Bernart de Ventadorn and Raimbaut d'Aurenga active <i>Girart de Roussillon</i> (c.1150)  Alan of Lille, <i>De planctu naturae</i> (c.1160–5?)
1170 Thomas Beckett murdered	Thomas, <i>Tristan</i> (c.1170) Chrétien de Troyes, <i>Erec et Enide</i> (late 1160s or 1170), <i>Cligès</i> (c.1176), <i>Yvain / Le Chevalier au lion</i> (c.1177–81), <i>Lancelot/ Le Chevalier de la charrette</i> (c.1177–81) Clemence of Barking, <i>Vie de Sainte Catherine</i> (c.1175–c.1200) Blondel de Nesle (c.1175–1200) Marie de France, <i>Lais</i> (before 1178 and maybe as early as 1160)	

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- Gautier d'Arras, *Ille et Galeron*, *Eracle* (between 1176 and 1184)
- Gace Brulé (between 1179 and 1212)
- Roman de Renart* begins
- Roman d'Alexandre* continues
- Bertran de Bar-sur-Aube, *Ginart de Vienne* (c.1180)
- Prise d'Orange* (c.1180)
- Rhymed *remaniement* of the *Chanson de Roland* (c.1180)
- Chrétien, *Perceval / Le Conte du graal* (c.1180–92)
- Hue de Rotelande, *Ipomedon* (c.1180–5)
- Partonopeu de Blois* (c.1182–5, but could be earlier)
- Châtelain de Couci first known of in 1186
- Roman de Renart* continues
- First Continuation of the *Conte du graal*; also Old English Katherine Group
- Second Continuation (by Denain) (c.1190–1225)
- First surviving *fabliaux* (or earlier?) Averroës dies (1198)
- Renaut de Beaujeu, *Le Bel Inconnu*
- Raoul de Cambrai* (or early thirteenth cent.?)
- Renaut de Montauban* (existed in some form before the end of the twelfth cent.)
- Cycle *des Lorrains* begins with *Garin le Loheren* and *Gerbert de Metz* in the late twelfth cent.
- Jean Bodel, *Les Saisnes*
- 1180 Philippe Auguste, king of France
- (1180)
- Philippe Auguste begins to confirm municipal communes (1182)
- Saladin retakes Jerusalem (1187)
- Richard I, king of England (1189)
- Third Crusade (1189–92)
- 1190 John Lackland, king of England
- (1199)

Historical events	Medieval French and Anglo-Norman authors and texts	Other cultural events in France and its neighbours
1200 Capetians begin to impose royal currency (c.1200) Charter of University of Paris (1200) Fourth Crusade (1202–4); crusaders capture Constantinople (1204) Albigensian Crusade begins (1209) Foundation of Franciscan order (1209)	Jean Bodel, <i>Jeu de Saint Nicolas</i> (1199–1201) <i>Ami et Amile</i> (c.1200) Thibaut de Champagne born 1201 <i>Jourdain de Blaye</i> (early thirteenth cent.) French translations of the <i>Pseudo-Turpin</i> (c.1202) Châtelain de Couci dies <i>outrémer</i> (1203) Villehardouin, <i>Conquête de Constantinople</i> (after 1207)	Alan of Lille dies (1203) Layamon, <i>Brut</i> (1205?) Walter Map dies (c.1209) Wolfram von Eschenbach, <i>Parzival</i> (c.1205–12)
1210 Battles of Bouvines (1214) <i>Magna carta</i> (1215) Third Lateran Council (1215) Dominican order founded (1216) Fifth Crusade (1217–21) End of Albigensian Crusade (1219)	<i>Chansons de geste</i> about Guillaume d'Orange recast into cyclical form <i>Huon de Bordeaux</i> (?) Raoul de Houdenc, <i>Merangis de Portlesguez</i> (between 1200 and 1220) Conon de Béthune dies (c.1219) Jean Bodel dies (1210) Jean Renart, <i>Roman de la rose</i> (1210s–20s?) Non-cyclic <i>Prose Lancelot</i> (c.1215–20?) Third Continuation of the <i>Conte du graal</i> , by Manessier (1214–27) Raoul de Houdenc, <i>Roman des eles</i> (First third of thirteenth cent.) <i>Athis et Prophilias</i> (between 1210 and 1225)	<i>Chanson de la Croisade Albigeoise</i> (1212–19) Gottfried von Strassburg's <i>Tristan</i> interrupted by his death (1216?)

- 1220 Louis VIII, king of France (1223)  
Louis IX, king of France (1226)  
University of Salamanca founded (1227)  
Sixth Crusade (1228)  
University of Toulouse founded (1229)
- Fourth Continuation of the *Conte du graal*, by Gerbert (1220s)  
Cyclic *Prose Lancelot: Lancelot Proper*, followed by the *Queste and Mort* (c.1220–35?)  
*Gaydon* (between 1225 and 1234)
- Death of Wolfram von Eschenbach (c.1220; born c.1170)  
After 1220, death of Hartmann von Aue (born c.1160–70)  
Francis of Assisi dies (1226)  
*King Horn* (1225?)  
German prose *Lanzelet* (1225? Or late thirteenth cent.)  
Occitan romance of *Jaufre* (c.1225–8)  
Sicilian School (c.1220–67)  
Death of Walther von der Vogelweide (c.1230, born. c.1170)  
*Ancrene Wisse* (c.1230)  
Translation into Castilian of the *Prose Lancelot* (1230–40)
- 1230 Inquisition established in Languedoc (1233)  
Cordoba falls to Christians (1236)
- Guillaume de Lorris, *Roman de la rose* (c.1225–45)  
Expansions of the cyclic *Prose Lancelot*, *Estoire del saint graal* and *Estoire de Merlin* (c.1230–40?)  
*Tristan en prose* (c.1230–5)  
*Aucassin et Nicolette* (or earlier?)
- 1240 Seventh Crusade; Saint Louis captured (1248)  
University College, Oxford, founded (1249)
- Peter of Spain, writings on logic (first half thirteenth cent.)  
Gerbert de Montruel, *Roman de la violette* (before 1250)  
Rurebeuf, *Dit des cordeliers* (1249)
- 1250 Treaty of Paris between France and England (1259)
- Aquinas lectures in theology at Paris (1256–9); composition of the *Summa theologiae* begins (1259)  
Thomas Aquinas resumes teaching in Paris (1269–72), completes the *Summa*, dies 1273
- 1260 Thibaut de Champagne dies (1253)  
Rurebeuf, *Dit de Guillaume de Saint-Amour* (1258)  
Brunetto Latini, *Li livres dou trésor* (c.1260–6, or later?)  
Rurebeuf, so-called *poésies personnelles* (1260–2), *Frère Denise* (1262), *Marie l’Egyptienne* (1263), *Miracle de Théophile* (1264)

	Historical events	Medieval French and Anglo-Norman authors and texts	Other cultural events in France and its neighbours
1270	Philippe III, king of France (1270) Marco Polo leaves Venice (1271) Condemnations at Paris University by Bishop Tempier (1276–7) Foundation of Peterhouse, Cambridge (1284) Philippe IV (the Fair), king of France (1285)	<i>Châteline de Vergy</i> (c.1270?) Adam de la Halle, <i>Jeu de la feuillée</i> (c.1276) Jean de Meun, <i>Roman de la rose</i> (between 1268 and 1285) Jakemes, <i>Castelain de Couci</i> (c.1280?) Adam de la Halle, <i>Jeu de Robin et Marion</i> (c.1283) Heldris de Cornuailles, <i>Roman de Silence</i> (late thirteenth cent.) Jean de Meun, <i>Testament</i> (before 1305) Marco Polo, <i>Le Devisement du monde</i> (1298)	<i>Flamenca</i> (c.1270 or earlier) Bonaventure dies (1274; born c.1221) Thomas Aquinas dies (1274) Albertus Magnus dies (1280; born c.1220) Cavalcanti and <i>dolce stil novo</i> (c.1280–c.1300) Alfonso the Wise dies (1284; born 1221) Dante, <i>Vita Nuova</i> (1293–4)
1290	War between France and England (1294) Marco Polo returns to Venice (1295) Avignon papacy begins (1309)	Joinville, <i>Saint Looys</i> (c.1305–6) <i>Roman de Perceforest</i> (c.1314–c.1340)	Dante, <i>De Vulgari eloquentia</i> and <i>Convivio</i> (1304–7) Duns Scotus dies (1308; born c.1266) Dante completes <i>Inferno</i> (1314) Raimon Llull dies (1316? born 1235?) Dante dies (1321) Meister Eckhart dies (1327; born c.1260) First version of Juan Ruiz, <i>Libro de buen amor</i> (1330) <i>La tavola ritonda</i> (c.1330)
1300			
1310	Louis X, king of France (1314) Philippe V, king of France (1316) Charles IV, king of France (1322) Philippe VI, king of France (1328) Beginning of 100 Years' War (1337)	Machaut, <i>Jugement du roi de Behaigne</i> (1330) Machaut, <i>Dit dou vergier</i> (1330s) <i>Miracles de Nostre Dame par personnages</i> (c.1339–82)	



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- 1340 Battle of Crécy (1346)  
 English capture Calais (1347)  
 Black Death (1347–50)  
 Dauphiné ceded to France (1349)  
 Foundation of the University of Florence (1349)  
 Jean II, king of France (1350)  
 Battle of Poitiers (1356)
- 1350 Machaut, *Jugement dou roy de Navarre* (1350s)  
 Machaut, *Remede de Fortune* (1350s)  
 Jean de Mandeville, *Voyages* (1356)  
 Machaut, *Confort d'amy* (1356–7)  
*Ysaïe le triste* (c.1360)  
 Froissart begins his *Chroniques* (c.1360)  
 Machaut, *Fontaine amoureuse* (c.1361)  
 Machaut, *Voir dit* (1363–5)  
 Christine de Pizan born (c.1364)  
 Froissart, *Espinette amoureuse* (c.1369)  
 Froissart, *Prison amoureuse* (1372–3) and *Joli Buisson de Jonece* (1373)  
 Machaut dies (1377)
- 1370 End of Avignon papacy (1377)
- 1380 Charles VI, king of France (1380)
- Harley Lyrics (c.1340)  
 Second version of Juan Ruiz *Libro de buen amor* (1343)  
 William of Ockham dies (1347; born c.1285)  
 Boccaccio, *Decameron* (1349–52)  
 Petrarch, *Trionfi* begun (finished 1374)
- Chaucer, *Book of the Duchess* (c.1369–70)  
 Langland, *Piers Plowman A-Text* (1367–70)
- Nicole Oresme translates Aristotle's *Ethics, Politics, Economics*, and *Meteorologia* into French (1370–7)  
 Petrarch dies (1374)  
 Boccaccio dies (1375)  
 Wycliff and others translate the Bible into English  
 Chaucer, *Troilus* (c.1382–6)  
 Chaucer begins *Canterbury Tales* (c.1387)

Historical events	Medieval French and Anglo-Norman authors and texts	Other cultural events in France and its neighbours
1390	Deschamps, <i>Art de dictier</i> (1392) Jean d'Arras, <i>Mélusine</i> (1392–3) Christine de Pizan, <i>Cent ballades</i> (?), <i>Epistre au dieu d'amours</i> (1399)	Gower, <i>Confessio amantis</i> (c.1390)
1400 Assassination of Louis d'Orléans (1407)	Froissart finishes <i>Chroniques</i> (1400 probably) and dies (after 1404) Christine de Pizan, <i>Epistre Othea</i> (1400), <i>Querelle du Roman de la rose</i> (1399–1402), <i>Livre du chemin de long estude</i> , and <i>Livre de la mutacion de Fortune</i> (1403) Coudrette, <i>Mélusine</i> (c.1402) Eustache Deschamps dies (1404)	Chaucer dies (1400) <i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> and related texts (MS dates from c.1400)
1410 Battle of Agincourt (1415) Assassination of Jean sans Peur (1419)	Christine de Pizan, <i>Livre de la cité des dames</i> (1405), <i>Livre des trois vertus</i> (1405), <i>Livre de l'advison Cristine</i> (1405), <i>Livre du corps de policie</i> (1407) Christine de Pizan, <i>Livre des fais d'armes et de chevalerie</i> (1410), <i>Lamentacion sur les maux de la guerre civile</i> (1410), <i>Livre de la paix</i> (1415), <i>Epistre de la prison de vie humaine</i> (1418) Alain Chartier, <i>Le Livre des quatre dames</i> (c.1416)	Hoccleve, <i>Regiment of Princes</i> (1411) Lydgate, <i>Troy book</i> (1412–20)

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|------|---|---|---|
| 1420 | Charles VII, king of France (1422)<br>Jeanne d'Arc's victories (1428–9)   | Alain Chartier, <i>La Belle Dame sans mercy</i> (1424)<br>Christine de Pizan, <i>Ditié de Jehanne d'Arc</i> (1429)  | Circulation of earliest Spanish<br><i>Romances</i> (1421)                           |
| 1430 | Jeanne d'Arc burned at Rouen (1431)<br>Treaty of Arras between France and Burgundy (1435)   | Jean Gerson dies (1429)<br>Alain Chartier dies (1430)<br><i>Mystère du siège d'Orléans</i> (c.1430–40)<br>Christine de Pizan dies (c.1431)<br>Martin Le Franc, <i>Champion des dames</i> (1441–2)   |   |
| 1440 |   |   |   |
| 1450 | France retakes Normandy and Gascony (1450–3)  | Arnoul Gréban, <i>Mystère de la passion</i> (c.1450)<br>Antoine de la Sale, <i>Jehan de Saintré</i> (1456)<br><i>Cent Nouvelles nouvelles</i> (1456–61)<br>François Villon, <i>Lais</i> (1456)<br>Charles d'Orléans dies (1465)<br><i>Farce de Maître Pierre Pathelin</i> (1460)<br>François Villon, <i>Testament</i> (1461–2)<br>Jean Meschinot, <i>Lunettes des princes</i> (1461–5)<br>François Villon dies (after 1463)<br>Jean Molinet, <i>Complainte de Grece</i> (1464)<br><i>Mystère des Actes des Apôtres</i> (c.1470) | Malory, <i>Morte D'Arthur</i> (after 1450)<br>Ausias March dies (1459; born c.1397) |
| 1460 | Louis XI, king of France (1461)<br>Philip the Good, duke of Burgundy, dies (1467)   |   |   |
| 1470 | First printing press in Paris (1470)<br>First printing press in Lyon (1473)<br>Charles the Bold, last duke of Burgundy, dies (1477) |   | Career of Caxton (from 1473)  |
| 1480 | Division of Burgundian lands between France and empire (1482)<br>Charles VIII, king of France (1483)                                | Jean Michel, <i>Mystère de la passion</i> (c.1480)<br>Jean Molinet, <i>Ressource du petit peuple</i> (1481)<br>Philippe de Commynes, <i>Mémoires</i> (1489–98)  | Birth of Martin Luther (1483)   |

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-67975-6 - The Cambridge Companion to Medieval French Literature

Edited by Simon Gaunt and Sarah Kay

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1500		Jean Marot, <i>Voyage de Gênes</i> (1507) and <i>Voyage de Venise</i> (1509) Lemaire de Belges, <i>Temple d'honneur et de vertu</i> (1504) and <i>Epitres de l'amant vert</i> (1505) Jean Molinet dies (1507) Lemaire de Belges, <i>Illustrations de Gaule et singularités de Troie</i> (1511–13)	Wynkin de Wordé's new press established (1500)