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978-0-521-82756-0 - Love and Conflict in Medieval Drama: The Plays and their Legacy

Lynette R. Muir

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LOVE AND CONFLICT IN MEDIEVAL DRAMA

This book provides a detailed survey of the hundreds of non-biblical serious plays which survive from the tenth to the sixteenth centuries. The performers vary from civic groups and literary societies to courts and convents; they were mainly amateurs, but they left a legacy of stories that was drawn upon by the writers for the professional theatre companies of Elizabethan England, Golden Age Spain and the rich baroque theatre of France, including Shakespeare and Lope de Vega. Stories from the Golden Legend and collections of Marian miracles appear side by side with folk tales and traditional stories brought from the Middle East by merchants, pilgrims and other travellers. In each section of the book, the later plays are included with their earlier versions, arranged chronologically. Staging and language vary, but, as the study demonstrates, the story itself is substantially unchanged.

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The important role played by French drama in the evolution of the European theatre in the period between 1450 and 1550 is emphasised

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- EMD: *European Medieval Drama*.

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