

New views on Chaucer - essays in generative criticism

Society for New Language Study - C. David Benson, Pardoner: His Sexuality and Modern critics; critical study

Description: -

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Bible. -- Versions -- Coverdale

Coverdale, Miles, -- 1488-1568

Women -- Health and hygiene

Sexual disorders

Women

Sexual Dysfunctions, Psychological

Sexual Dysfunction, Physiological

Chardin, Jean Baptiste Siméon, -- - Exhibitions.

Croatian literature.

Serbian literature.

Authors, Serbian.

Authors, Croatian.

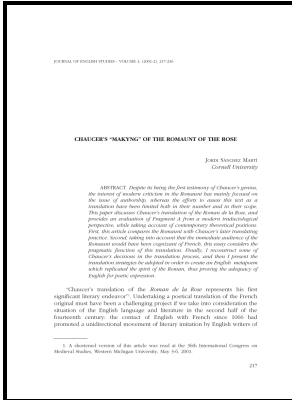
Chaucer, Geoffrey, -- d. 1400 -- Criticism and interpretation

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Vision, Truth, and Genre in the Merchant's Tale

Later romances move more definitively in the direction of consent; Bevis of Hampton, for instance, makes it clear that the heroine desires to marry the hero but must wait patiently until he consents to the relationship. If the tensions inherent in French chivalric romances suggest that marriage was a vexed institution in late medieval France, then it was no less problematic in late medieval England, where from the thirteenth century onward ecclesiastical officials did their best to regulate in practice what was proposed in theory.

Vituperations in Chaucer's Poetry

Realizing this problem, some critics have been satisfied to regard the Pardoner as a simple eunuch ignoring Curry's specific diagnosis of ex-nativitate, but even this interpretation is not justified by contemporary evidence. .

Reinterpreting the on JSTOR

When cataclysmic changes in the economic, social, and political conditions of society allow aggressive women to challenge authority, as does Chaucer's Wife of Bath, male anxieties about female chastity and cuckoldry, potency and paternity become magnified; male sexual power becomes a metaphor for social power, and a perceived decline in prowess in the bedchamber translates into emasculation and potential ridicule in the public sphere. Two fabliau texts preceding those of Chaucer - Dame Sirith and the Interludium de clerico et puella - suggest the well-established presence of this kind of English fabliau prior to the end of the fourteenth century. If anything like this were meant, one would expect to find it among the other crimes attributed to the Summoner in the Friar's Tale.

DISTURBING OSSIFICATION

As John DuVal suggests, the tale throws the notion of nobility into question when the measure of a person's value is represented by productivity rather than by birthright.

Critical essays on the General prologue to the Canterbury tales, Geoffrey Chaucer in SearchWorks catalog

It is probably no coincidence that these two works and others like them were written at a time when members of the English aristocracy engaged in courtly love with great enthusiasm - Edward II's notorious relation with his French male lover and Queen Isabella's courtly liaison with Roger Mortimer actually threatened the kingdom, while the elderly Edward III's antics with the strong-willed Alice Perrers and John of Gaunt's long-term relation with Katherine Swynford caused intense public anxiety. Any conscientious ecclesiastic seeking to infuse dry didactic homilies with exciting storytelling could look to it for complete narratives.

Critical essays on the General prologue to the Canterbury tales, Geoffrey Chaucer in SearchWorks catalog

The names of these two instruments correspond to a pair of antonyms common in classical and medieval Latin: *laus* and *vituperatio*. If, in such statements, Dryden appears to anticipate certain Romantic predispositions, these comments are counterbalanced by other positions which are deeply entrenched in a classical heritage.

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