

Medieval Reading Lessons: What Machaut Can Teach Us about Reception

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Note Location Change:

Delattre Library, Phelps 5309

Guillaume de Machaut (c. 1300-1377) marks the end of the lineage of the trouvères. He refined the emerging polyphonic song forms ballade & rondeau, which became the dominant fixed forms for the following generations. Machaut achieved an "idiomatic and natural combination of words with music, forcefully compelling in its lyrical grace and rhythmic sophistication" (according to Tob McComb). In Professor McGrady's lecture, she will focus on the lessons learned about the reading process from considering Guillaume de Machaut's case. Focusing on reader-response theory as it relates to Machaut's reception, she will address the ways in which the medieval reading experience can inform modern notions of reader reception.

UCSB graduate, Deborah McGrady is now Associate Professor at Tulane University and is well-known for her work on Medieval Studies and reader-response theory. Dr. McGrady is the author of *Controlling Readers: Guillaume de Machaut and His Late Medieval Audience*, just published by Toronto University Press (2006); she co-edited a volume on medieval woman writer (and feminist) *Christine de Pizan: A Casebook*, with Barbara Altmann (Routledge, 2003).

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