

the lais of marie de france pdf

the lais of marie de france pdf is a highly sought-after resource for students, scholars, and enthusiasts of medieval literature. These lais, composed by Marie de France in the 12th century, are short narrative poems that explore themes of love, chivalry, and the supernatural. Accessing the lais of Marie de France in PDF format allows readers to engage with the authentic texts conveniently and thoroughly. This article offers a comprehensive overview of the lais, their historical and literary significance, and practical guidance on obtaining and utilizing the lais of Marie de France PDF. Additionally, it discusses the structure, themes, and impact of these medieval narratives, making it an essential resource for anyone interested in classical literature. The following sections will cover the background of Marie de France, details about the lais themselves, the importance of the PDF format for study, and where to find reliable versions of these texts.

- Background of Marie de France
- Understanding the Lais of Marie de France
- Significance of the Lais in Medieval Literature
- Advantages of Accessing the Lais of Marie de France PDF
- How to Find and Use the Lais of Marie de France PDF

Background of Marie de France

Marie de France is one of the earliest known female poets writing in the French language. Active during the late 12th century, she is often credited with introducing the Breton lai form to the French literary tradition. Although much about her life remains uncertain, her work reflects a deep understanding of courtly culture and medieval storytelling. She likely composed her lais for a noble audience, blending Celtic oral traditions with contemporary French literary styles. Marie's contributions laid the groundwork for later developments in romance and chivalric literature.

Historical Context

Marie de France lived during a period of vibrant literary activity in medieval Europe, particularly in the courts of England and France. This era saw the rise of courtly love poetry and chivalric tales, which often emphasized ideals such as loyalty, honor, and romantic devotion. Marie's lais, composed in Anglo-Norman French, reflect these themes while incorporating elements from Celtic folklore and mythology. Her work stands at the crossroads of oral tradition and written literature, preserving narratives that might otherwise have been lost.

Literary Contributions

Marie de France's *lais* are notable for their innovative use of verse narrative and their focus on the complexities of human emotion. Her poetry often explores the tension between social expectations and personal desires, particularly in the context of love and fidelity. By crafting concise yet evocative stories, Marie established a model for later medieval romance writers. Her influence can be traced through subsequent centuries of European literature.

Understanding the Lais of Marie de France

The *lais* of Marie de France are a collection of twelve short narrative poems, each usually between 600 and 1000 lines. These poems are unified by their focus on love, adventure, and the supernatural. Each *lai* tells a distinct story, often involving knights, ladies, and magical elements. The *lais* are written in octosyllabic rhyming couplets, a common poetic form of the period.

Structure and Style

Marie's *lais* employ a clear and accessible narrative style, making use of vivid imagery and emotional depth. The poems typically open with a situational introduction, followed by a developing conflict centered on a romantic or ethical dilemma, and conclude with a resolution that often includes a moral or lesson. The use of rhyme and meter enhances the lyrical quality and memorability of the *lais*.

Themes and Motifs

Central themes in the *lais* include:

- **Love and Fidelity:** Many *lais* explore the trials of romantic love, including forbidden or unrequited affections.
- **Supernatural Intervention:** Magical objects, transformations, and mythical creatures frequently appear, emphasizing the mystical nature of the stories.
- **Chivalry and Honor:** The *lais* often highlight the duties and challenges faced by knights and noble characters.
- **Social Constraints:** Conflicts arise from societal expectations, class differences, and gender roles.

Significance of the Lais in Medieval Literature

The *lais* of Marie de France hold a pivotal place in the canon of medieval literature. They represent one of the earliest examples of vernacular narrative poetry in Western Europe and provide insight into the cultural values of the 12th century. The *lais* also bridge the gap between oral tradition and the emerging written literary culture.

Influence on Later Literature

Marie's *lais* influenced many subsequent medieval romances and poetic forms. Their blend of romance, adventure, and the fantastic can be seen echoed in the works of later authors such as Chrétien de Troyes and the writers of Arthurian legend. The focus on psychological complexity and emotional realism was innovative for the time and set a precedent for developing character-driven narratives.

Preservation and Transmission

The *lais* were preserved in manuscripts that have survived through the centuries, allowing modern readers to access these medieval texts. Their transmission has been facilitated by scholarly editions, translations, and now digital formats such as PDFs, which democratize access to these important cultural artifacts.

Advantages of Accessing the Lais of Marie de France PDF

Accessing the *lais* of Marie de France in PDF format offers numerous benefits for both academic and casual readers. Digital formats enhance the convenience, portability, and usability of these medieval texts.

Convenience and Accessibility

The PDF format allows readers to easily download and store the *lais* on various devices, including computers, tablets, and smartphones. This portability supports study and reference without dependency on physical copies. PDFs can also be printed if preferred, maintaining the flexibility of traditional formats.

Enhanced Study Features

Many PDFs of the *lais* of Marie de France include scholarly annotations, translations, and critical commentary. These features provide valuable context and aid comprehension, especially for readers unfamiliar with medieval language or cultural references. Searchability within PDFs also simplifies locating specific passages or themes.

Preservation of Formatting and Quality

PDFs maintain the original layout, typography, and formatting of the text, which can be essential for accurately conveying poetic structure and stylistic elements. This fidelity ensures that readers experience the *lais* as closely as possible to their intended form.

How to Find and Use the Lais of Marie de France PDF

Locating a reliable and complete PDF version of the lais of Marie de France involves identifying reputable sources and understanding copyright considerations. It is essential to use editions that are accurate and accompanied by necessary scholarly apparatus.

Sources for Downloading PDFs

Several academic institutions, libraries, and educational platforms offer free or purchasable PDF editions of the lais. These may include:

- University digital collections and open-access repositories
- Online literary archives specializing in medieval texts
- Commercial vendors providing annotated editions and translations
- Public domain versions made available by scholarly projects

Tips for Using the PDF Effectively

When studying the lais of Marie de France PDF, consider the following strategies:

1. Utilize the search function to quickly find key terms or passages.
2. Read accompanying notes and introductions to gain historical and literary context.
3. Compare different translations or editions to deepen understanding of ambiguous or complex sections.
4. Take advantage of digital highlighting and annotation tools to mark important themes or questions.

Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I find a free PDF of The Lais of Marie de France?

Free PDFs of The Lais of Marie de France can often be found on public domain websites like Project Gutenberg or archive.org, as the text is in the public domain.

Is there a reliable annotated PDF version of The Lais of Marie de France available online?

Yes, some university websites and literary resource platforms offer annotated PDF versions of *The Lais of Marie de France*, providing helpful notes and translations alongside the original text.

What is the best translation of The Lais of Marie de France available in PDF format?

One of the most respected translations is by Glyn S. Burgess, which may be available in PDF format through academic libraries or bookstores, though it might not be free.

Can I legally download The Lais of Marie de France PDF for educational use?

Yes, since *The Lais of Marie de France* was written in the 12th century, it is in the public domain, so downloading PDFs for educational use from legitimate sources is generally legal.

Are there any modern adaptations of The Lais of Marie de France available as a PDF?

Modern adaptations or retellings of *The Lais of Marie de France* may be available in PDF format through publishers or educational platforms, but they are typically copyrighted and require purchase or subscription.

Additional Resources

1. The Lais of Marie de France: Text and Context

This book offers a comprehensive exploration of Marie de France's *lais*, delving into their historical background and literary significance. It includes both the original Old French texts and modern English translations, making the *lais* accessible to contemporary readers. The author also examines themes of love, chivalry, and supernatural elements within the *lais*.

2. Marie de France and the Medieval Art of Storytelling

Focusing on narrative techniques, this volume analyzes how Marie de France crafted her *lais* to engage medieval audiences. It explores her use of symbolism, poetic form, and the interweaving of folklore and courtly love traditions. The book also situates her work within the broader context of medieval literature.

3. Women and Power in the Lais of Marie de France

This scholarly work investigates the portrayal of female characters in Marie de France's *lais*, highlighting themes of agency and influence. It discusses how women navigate social constraints and assert power in a patriarchal medieval society. The book offers critical insights into gender dynamics and feminist readings of the texts.

4. The Medieval Romance of Marie de France

An introduction to the romance genre as exemplified by Marie de France's *lais*, this book explores the conventions of medieval romance and how Marie's

work both adheres to and subverts these norms. It provides historical context and compares her *lais* to other contemporary romances, illuminating their unique qualities.

5. *Myth and Magic in the Lais of Marie de France*

This study examines the supernatural elements in Marie de France's *lais*, such as enchantments, transformations, and mythical creatures. The author discusses how these fantastical motifs serve to enhance the moral and emotional impact of the stories. The book also considers the influence of Celtic and Breton folklore on the *lais*.

6. *Translation and Transmission: The Lais of Marie de France in Manuscript and Print*

Focusing on the textual history of the *lais*, this book traces their journey from medieval manuscripts to modern printed editions and translations. It addresses challenges in translating Old French and discusses the impact of different editorial choices on interpretation. The work is valuable for scholars interested in medieval textual transmission.

7. *Love and Loyalty in the Lais of Marie de France*

This book explores the central themes of love and loyalty that permeate Marie de France's *lais*, analyzing how these concepts shape character motivations and plot developments. It examines the tension between personal desire and social obligation, offering a nuanced understanding of medieval courtly love.

8. *Medieval Women Writers: Marie de France and Her Contemporaries*

Placing Marie de France alongside other female authors of the medieval period, this volume highlights the contributions of women to medieval literature. It discusses the challenges these writers faced and the ways they expressed female perspectives through their works, including the *lais*.

9. *Exploring the Breton Tradition: The Cultural Roots of Marie de France's Lais*

This book investigates the Breton cultural and literary influences that shaped Marie de France's *lais*. It delves into the oral storytelling traditions and folklore of Brittany, revealing how they informed the themes and motifs in her poetry. The study enriches understanding of the *lais*' regional and cultural significance.

[The Lais Of Marie De France Pdf](#)

Delving into the Lais of Marie de France: A Comprehensive Guide to the PDF and Beyond

This ebook provides a thorough exploration of Marie de France's *Lais*, examining their historical context, literary significance, modern interpretations, and the availability of various PDF versions online, addressing both scholarly and casual reader needs. We will navigate the complexities of accessing and understanding these influential medieval works, analyzing their enduring appeal and impact on contemporary literature and scholarship.

Ebook Title: Unlocking the Medieval World: A Guide to Marie de France's Lais (and Finding Reliable PDFs)

Contents Outline:

Introduction: The Life and Works of Marie de France, setting the stage for understanding the Lais.

Chapter 1: Analyzing the Lais: Themes, Motifs, and Literary Style. Exploring the recurring themes and literary techniques employed by Marie de France.

Chapter 2: The Historical Context of the Lais. Examining the social, political, and cultural influences shaping the narratives.

Chapter 3: Finding Reliable PDFs of the Lais: A Critical Approach. Navigating the digital landscape to find trustworthy and accurate versions.

Chapter 4: Modern Interpretations and Critical Analysis of the Lais. Exploring diverse scholarly perspectives and contemporary relevance.

Chapter 5: The Enduring Legacy of Marie de France and her Lais. Assessing the impact of these works on subsequent literature and culture.

Conclusion: A summary of key findings and encouragement for further exploration.

Detailed Explanation of Outline Points:

Introduction: This section introduces Marie de France, her life (what little is known), and her literary output. It provides essential background for understanding the Lais within their historical and literary context. We'll discuss the manuscript traditions and the challenges of establishing definitive texts.

Chapter 1: Analyzing the Lais: Themes, Motifs, and Literary Style: This chapter delves into the narrative structures, recurring themes (love, betrayal, fate, courtly love, the supernatural), and stylistic features of the Lais. We'll examine motifs like the deceptive appearances and the consequences of choices, analyzing specific examples from individual lays. We'll discuss Marie de France's use of poetic devices and the overall aesthetic impact of her work.

Chapter 2: The Historical Context of the Lais: This section explores the socio-political landscape of 12th-century Anglo-Norman England and its influence on the stories. We'll examine the role of courtly love, the power dynamics between genders, and the impact of religious beliefs on the narratives presented in the Lais. We will consider the historical accuracy (or lack thereof) and the ways in which the Lais reflect the anxieties and aspirations of their time.

Chapter 3: Finding Reliable PDFs of the Lais: A Critical Approach: This crucial chapter addresses the practical challenge of accessing the Lais in digital format. We'll discuss the pitfalls of unreliable online sources, the importance of verifying translations, and the benefits of using scholarly editions. We'll provide guidance on how to identify reputable publishers and online archives for accessing accurate and well-annotated PDFs.

Chapter 4: Modern Interpretations and Critical Analysis of the Lais: This chapter explores various interpretations of the Lais offered by literary critics over the centuries. We'll examine feminist interpretations, post-structuralist readings, and analyses focusing on specific themes. This section incorporates recent research and debates within Marie de France scholarship, highlighting diverse perspectives and methodologies.

Chapter 5: The Enduring Legacy of Marie de France and her Lais: This chapter evaluates the lasting

impact of Marie de France's work on literature and culture. We will trace the influence of the Lais on subsequent literary works, including modern adaptations and retellings. We'll examine the continuing relevance of the themes and motifs explored in the Lais in contemporary society.

Conclusion: This concluding section summarizes the key arguments and insights discussed throughout the ebook. It reiterates the significance of Marie de France and her Lais and encourages further exploration of this fascinating area of medieval literature. We'll suggest avenues for continued research and reading.

FAQs

1. Where can I find free, reliable PDFs of Marie de France's Lais? While many PDFs are available online, caution is advised. Prioritize scholarly editions from reputable universities or publishers, which often offer digitized versions. Free versions found on less established websites may contain inaccuracies or incomplete texts.
2. What are the major themes explored in Marie de France's Lais? Common themes include courtly love, betrayal, fate, the supernatural, and the complexities of human relationships. Many Lais explore the consequences of choices and the power of chance.
3. What is the significance of the Lais in the context of medieval literature? The Lais are crucial for understanding the development of the Breton lai, a popular genre during the Middle Ages. They also offer valuable insights into the social, political, and cultural aspects of 12th-century Anglo-Norman society.
4. Are there modern adaptations or retellings of Marie de France's Lais? Yes, the Lais have inspired numerous modern adaptations in various media, including novels, films, and even contemporary music. These retellings offer fresh perspectives on the original stories, often exploring their relevance to contemporary concerns.
5. What languages were Marie de France's Lais originally written in? The Lais were written in Anglo-Norman French, a dialect of Old French spoken in medieval England.
6. How many Lais are there in total? The collection generally comprises twelve Lais, although there's ongoing scholarly debate on the authenticity and inclusion of some texts.
7. What are the most popular or frequently studied Lais? Some of the most widely studied include "Lanval," "Bisclavret," "Eliduc," and "Chevrefoil." Each explores different themes and narrative techniques.
8. What are some key critical approaches to studying Marie de France's Lais? Feminist criticism, post-structuralism, and narratology are all valuable lenses through which to examine the Lais, revealing layers of meaning and interpretation.
9. Are there academic journals or books dedicated to studying Marie de France and her work? Yes, numerous scholarly articles and books delve into various aspects of Marie de France's life and work.

Searching academic databases like JSTOR and Project MUSE will yield numerous relevant results.

Related Articles:

1. Courtly Love in Marie de France's Lais: An Exploration: This article focuses on the portrayal of courtly love in Marie de France's work, analyzing its conventions and variations across different lais.
2. The Supernatural in Marie de France's Lais: Magic, Faeries, and Transformations: This article examines the use of supernatural elements in the Lais, discussing their role in shaping the narratives and reflecting medieval beliefs.
3. Feminist Interpretations of Marie de France's Lais: This article explores how feminist criticism has illuminated the female characters and perspectives presented in the Lais, challenging traditional interpretations.
4. A Comparative Study of Marie de France's Lais and Arthurian Legend: This article compares and contrasts the themes and characters found in Marie de France's Lais with those of the broader Arthurian legend.
5. The Linguistic Features of Marie de France's Anglo-Norman French: This article examines the linguistic aspects of the Lais, highlighting the unique characteristics of Anglo-Norman French.
6. Marie de France's Lais and the Breton Tradition: This article explores the connection between Marie de France's Lais and the broader Breton literary tradition from which they emerged.
7. Modern Adaptations of Marie de France's Lais in Film and Literature: This article surveys modern interpretations and retellings of the Lais in film, novels, and other media.
8. The Manuscript Tradition of Marie de France's Lais and its Implications for Textual Criticism: This article examines the different manuscript versions of the Lais and the challenges they pose for modern editors and scholars.
9. The Role of Animals in Marie de France's Lais: Symbolism and Metaphor: This article delves into the symbolic representation and metaphorical significance of animals in Marie de France's narratives.

the lais of marie de france pdf: [The Lais of Marie de France](#) Claire M. Waters, 2018-01-30
Composed in French in twelfth-century England, these twelve brief verse narratives center on the joys, sorrows, and complications of love affairs in a context that blends the courtly culture of tournaments and hunting and otherworldly elements such as self-steering boats, shape-shifting lovers, and talking animals. Popular with readers across countries and languages since their composition, the Lais have made their author, Marie, one of the most famous women writers of the Middle Ages, renowned for her brilliant use of language and cultural allusion as well as her keen eye for human behavior. This new edition provides a complete facing-page edition with the original text alongside a new modern English translation. A single manuscript, Harley 978, is used as the copy text. Appendices include contemporary literature on love, animals, and courtly life, as well as a list

of textual variants in other manuscripts.

the lais of marie de france pdf: *The Lais of Marie de France* Marie de France, 1999-06-01 The leading edition of the work of the earliest known French woman poet—the subject of Lauren Groff’s bestselling novel *Matrix Marie de France* (fl. late twelfth century) is the earliest known French woman poet and her lais—stories in verse based on Breton tales of chivalry and romance—are among the finest of the genre. Recounting the trials and tribulations of lovers, the lais inhabit a powerfully realized world where very real human protagonists act out their lives against fairy-tale elements of magical beings, potions and beasts. De France takes a subtle and complex view of courtly love, whether telling the story of the knight who betrays his fairy mistress or describing the noblewoman who embroiders her sad tale on the shroud for a nightingale killed by a jealous and suspicious husband. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

the lais of marie de france pdf: *The Lais of Marie de France* Marie De France, 2019-11-07 Though little is known about Marie de France, her work changed romantic writing forever. The Lais of Marie de France challenged social norms and the views of the church during the twelfth century concerning both love and the role of women. She wrote within a court unknown to scholars, in a form of Anglo-Norman French. Inspired by the Greeks and Romans long before her, Marie de France sought to write something not only morally instructive, but memorable, leaving an indelible imprint on the reader's memory. In her Lais, Marie de France confronts the issue of love as a topic of suffering and misery, fraught with infidelity. What was revolutionary about this, however, was the fact that the infidelity she addressed was committed by women, and in some circumstances condoned. This challenged the submissive role of women in her time, and illustrated them with a sense of power and free will. Her condensed yet powerful imagery remains timeless, still relevant and evocative to modern day readers. This edition follows the translation of Eugene Mason and is printed on premium acid-free paper.

the lais of marie de france pdf: *The Lais of Marie De France* Marie France, 2011-10-27 Marie de France (fl. late twelfth century) is the earliest known French woman poet and her lais - stories in verse based on Breton tales of chivalry and romance - are among the finest of the genre. Recounting the trials and tribulations of lovers, the lais inhabit a powerfully realized world where very real human protagonists act out their lives against fairy-tale elements of magical beings, potions and beasts. De France takes a subtle and complex view of courtly love, whether telling the story of the knight who betrays his fairy mistress or describing the noblewoman who embroiders her sad tale on the shroud for a nightingale killed by a jealous and suspicious husband.

the lais of marie de france pdf: *The Lais of Marie de France* Marie (de France), 1982

the lais of marie de france pdf: *The Lais of Marie de France* Claire M. Waters, 2018-02-15 Composed in French in twelfth-century England, these twelve brief verse narratives center on the joys, sorrows, and complications of love affairs in a context that blends the courtly culture of tournaments and hunting and otherworldly elements such as self-steering boats, shape-shifting lovers, and talking animals. Popular with readers across countries and languages since their composition, the Lais have made their author, Marie, one of the most famous women writers of the Middle Ages, renowned for her brilliant use of language and cultural allusion as well as her keen eye for human behavior. This new edition provides a complete facing-page edition with the original text alongside a new modern English translation. A single manuscript, Harley 978, is used as the copy text. Appendices include contemporary literature on love, animals, and courtly life, as well as a list of textual variants in other manuscripts.

the lais of marie de france pdf: *The Metabolism of Desire* Guido Cavalcanti, 2012 Text in Italian with English translation on opposite pages.

the lais of marie de france pdf: *The Anonymous Marie de France* R. Howard Bloch,

2011-04-29 This book by one of our most admired and influential medievalists offers a fundamental reconception of the person generally assumed to be the first woman writer in French, the author known as Marie de France. The Anonymous Marie de France is the first work to consider all of the writing ascribed to Marie, including her famous *Lais*, her 103 animal fables, and the earliest vernacular Saint Patrick's Purgatory. Evidence about Marie de France's life is so meager that we know next to nothing about her—not where she was born and to what rank, who her parents were, whether she was married or single, where she lived and might have traveled, whether she dwelled in cloister or at court, nor whether in England or France. In the face of this great writer's near anonymity, scholars have assumed her to be a simple, naive, and modest Christian figure. Bloch's claim, in contrast, is that Marie is among the most self-conscious, sophisticated, complicated, and disturbing figures of her time—the Joyce of the twelfth century. At a moment of great historical turning, the so-called Renaissance of the twelfth century, Marie was both a disrupter of prevailing cultural values and a founder of new ones. Her works, Bloch argues, reveal an author obsessed by writing, by memory, and by translation, and acutely aware not only of her role in the preservation of cultural memory, but of the transforming psychological, social, and political effects of writing within an oral tradition. Marie's intervention lies in her obsession with the performative capacities of literature and in her acute awareness of the role of the subject in interpreting his or her own world. According to Bloch, Marie develops a theology of language in the *Lais*, which emphasize the impossibility of living in the flesh along with a social vision of feudalism in decline. She elaborates an ethics of language in the *Fables*, which, within the context of the court of Henry II, frame and form the urban values and legal institutions of the Anglo-Norman world. And in her *Espurgatoire*, she produces a startling examination of the afterlife which Bloch links to the English conquest and occupation of medieval Ireland. With a penetrating glimpse into works such as these, *The Anonymous Marie de France* recovers the central achievements of one of the most pivotal figures in French literature. It is a study that will be of enormous value to medievalists, literary scholars, historians of France, and anyone interested in the advent of female authorship.

the lais of marie de france pdf: Spark of Light Valerie Henitiuk , Supriya Kar, 2016-12-12 *Spark of Light* is a diverse collection of short stories by women writers from the Indian province of Odisha. Originally written in Odia and dating from the late nineteenth century to the present, these stories offer a multiplicity of voices—some sentimental and melodramatic, others rebellious and bold—and capture the predicament of characters who often live on the margins of society. From a spectrum of viewpoints, writing styles, and motifs, the stories included here provide examples of the great richness of Odishan literary culture. In the often shadowy and grim world depicted in this collection, themes of class, poverty, violence, and family are developed. Together they form a critique of social mores and illuminate the difficult lives of the subaltern in Odisha society. The work of these authors contributes to an ongoing dialogue concerning the challenges, hardships, joys, and successes experienced by women around the world. In these provocative explorations of the short-story form, we discover the voices of these rarely heard women.

the lais of marie de france pdf: Fables Marie (de France), Marie De France, Medieval Academy of America, 1994 Comprising the 103 tales that form the earliest extant vernacular collection of fables from western Europe, this edition captures the fresh and lively tone of Marie de France's text. This is a reprint of the first edition published in 1987.

the lais of marie de france pdf: Marie de France Sharon Kinoshita, Peggy McCracken, 2012 Marie de France is the author of some of the most important and influential works of the French Middle Ages: the *Lais*, her best-known work, the *Ysopë* (a translation from the Aesopic tradition), and the *Espurgatoire seint Patriz* (St Patrick's Purgatory). Taking Marie less as a biographical subject than as author of these three texts, this Companion rethinks standard questions of interpretation through a variety of perspectives that highlight both the unity of Marie's oeuvre and the distinctiveness of the individual works attributed to her name.--Page 4 of cover.

the lais of marie de france pdf: The Middle English Breton Lays Anne Laskaya, Eve Salisbury, 1995-11-01 This volume is the first to make the Middle English Breton lays available to

teachers and students of the Middle Ages. Breton lays were produced by or after the fashion of Marie de France in the twelfth century and claim to be literary versions of lays sung by ancient Bretons to the accompaniment of the harp. The poems edited in this volume are considered distinctly English Breton lays because of their focus on the family values of late medieval England. With the volume's helpful glosses, notes, introductions, and appendices, the door is opened for students to study Middle English poetry and the medieval family alike.

the lais of marie de france pdf: Sodomy, Masculinity and Law in Medieval Literature William E. Burgwinkle, 2004-07-08 William Burgwinkle surveys poetry and letters, histories and literary fiction - including Grail romances - to offer a historical survey of attitudes towards same-sex love during the centuries that gave us the Plantagenet court of Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine, courtly love, and Arthurian lore. Burgwinkle illustrates how 'sodomy' becomes a problematic feature of narratives of romance and knighthood. Most texts of the period denounce sodomy and use accusations of sodomitical practice as a way of maintaining a sacrificial climate in which masculine identity is set in opposition to the stigmatised other, for example the foreign, the feminine, and the heretical. What emerges from these readings, however, is that even the most homophobic, masculinist and normative texts of the period demonstrate an inability or unwillingness to separate the sodomitical from the orthodox. These blurred boundaries allow readers to glimpse alternative, even homoerotic, readings.

the lais of marie de france pdf: Singlewomen in the European Past, 1250-1800 Judith M. Bennett, Amy M. Froide, 2013-02-01 When we think about the European past, we tend to imagine villages, towns, and cities populated by conventional families—married couples and their children. Although most people did marry and pass many of their adult years in the company of a spouse, this vision of a preindustrial Europe shaped by heterosexual marriage deceptively hides the well-established fact that, in some times and places, as many as twenty-five percent of women and men remained single throughout their lives. Despite the significant number of never-married lay women in medieval and early modern Europe, the study of their role and position in that society has been largely neglected. *Singlewomen in the European Past* opens up this group for further investigation. It is not only the first book to highlight the important minority of women who never married but also the first to address the critical matter of differences among women from the perspective of marital status. Essays by leading scholars—among them Maryanne Kowaleski, Margaret Hunt, Ruth Mazo Karras, Susan Mosher Stuard, Roberta Krueger, and Merry Wiesner—deal with topics including the sexual and emotional relationships of singlewomen, the economic issues and employment opportunities facing them, the differences between the lives of widows and singlewomen, the conflation of singlewomen and prostitutes, and the problem of female slavery. The chapters both illustrate the roles open to the singlewoman in the thirteenth through eighteenth centuries and raise new perspectives about the experiences of singlewomen in earlier times.

the lais of marie de france pdf: A Companion to Marie de France Logan Whalen, 2011-05-10 Presenting traditional views alongside new critical approaches, the chapters in this book present fresh perspectives on the poetics of the 12th-century author, Marie de France, the first woman of letters to write in French.

the lais of marie de france pdf: Marie de France and the Poetics of Memory Logan E. Whalen, 2008 *Marie de France and the Poetics of Memory* presents the first exhaustive treatment of the rhetorical use of description and memory in all the narrative works of the late 12th-century poet, Marie de France--the first woman to compose literary texts in French.

the lais of marie de france pdf: The Fables of Marie de France Marie (de France), Mary Lou Martin, 1984 *Esopische fabels van de 12e eeuwse Bretonse dichteres*.

the lais of marie de france pdf: French Chivalry Sidney Painter, 2020-02-03 Originally published in 1940. Chivalry denotes the ideals and practices considered suitable for a noble. The word itself is reminiscent of the aristocratic society of medieval France dominated by mounted warriors. As early as the eleventh century, several different views of chivalric standards and

behavior had appeared. During the next four hundred years, these conceptions of the ideal nobleman were developed by and for the feudal ruling class. French Chivalry studies chivalry from the perspectives of both social history and the history of ideas. The first chapter provides readers unfamiliar with medieval history the background required for understanding the chapters on chivalry.

the lais of marie de france pdf: The Life of Saint Audrey , 2014-01-10 Preserved in a single manuscript in the British library, the Life of Saint Audrey or Vie Seinte Audree is the story of an Anglo-Saxon princess, who, though twice married, remains a virgin until her death. Her tale reveals that spiritual marriage was not an easy path to sainthood, particularly with an unwilling husband. The text is a fine example of what some critics have called a hagiographical romance--a saint's life that borrows many characteristics from secular romance. Recent scholarship, thoroughly discussed in this book's introduction, suggests that the Vie Seinte Audree is a fourth text by Marie de France, to whom the Fables, the Lais, and the Espurgatoire Seint Patriz have been attributed. Written in the late twelfth or early thirteenth century, the Vie Seinte Audree is published here for the first time in English, along with the Old French text. The editors of this new edition provide helpful material on the life of the historical Saint Etheldreda (as St. Audrey is called in Latin) and her Anglo-Saxon world. They also discuss women's writing in Anglo-Norman England as well as the subject of spiritual marriage. In addition, they examine secondary sources that have focused on the Vie Seinte Audree. A map of seventh-century England, a table of proper names and a genealogical chart of the Royal Lineage of Saint Audrey are all included.

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This long tradition would certainly not be a reason in itself to keep or restore the subject, had it not something to do with the subject itself. All of the associations between the past and literature, all of the signs that point towards an essential link between the notion of literature and a feeling for the past, are crystallized in medieval literature. The curiosity that medieval literature has aroused since it was rediscovered at the dawn of Romanticism presupposes such associations. The very forms of this literature bear indications of them. They encourage us to consider jointly the interest of modern times in the medieval past and the signs of the past with which the Middle Ages marked its own literature. Even more, they invite us to seek in the relationship with the past a defining criterion for literature, a most necessary task with reference to a time when words are not understood in their modern sense, and there is no guarantee that a corresponding notion exists. The best reason to continue with this hundred-and-fifty-year-old teaching is that its object may not even exist.

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