

Mary B. Speer

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Professor of French

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Education: B.A., Duke University

M.A., Ph.D., Princeton University

Fields of Research: Old French Literature, Theory and Practice of Textual Criticism As a medievalist, I am particularly interested in the structures and styles of Old French texts, the formation of canons and textual traditions, and the transmission and transmutation of both individual texts and traditions. I have worked extensively on the verse and prose romances of the Seven Sages Cycle (12th-13th centuries) and on the prose Lancelot-Grail Cycle (early 13th century). While studying transmission problems in a variety of medieval texts, I have also focused on the history, theory, and methods of editing Old French texts. At present I am completing a new critical edition of the prose *Mort du roi Artu*, the concluding romance in the Arthurian Vulgate Cycle. Selected Publications:

- *La Mort le roi Artu*, critical edition forthcoming in *Le Livre du Graal*, ed. Daniel Poirion and Philippe Walter (Gallimard, Bibliothèque de la Pleiade, 2008).
- "Jean-Baptiste-Bonaventure de Roquefort (1777-1834): The First Editor of Marie de France." *The Reception and Transmission of the Works of Marie de France, 1774-1974*, ed. Chantal Maréchal (Mellon, 2003).
- "Gaston Paris, Philologist and Mythographer: Discursive Doubling and Methodical Stalemate." *Translatio Studii: Essays by his Students for Karl D. Uitti in Honor of His Sixty-Fifth Birthday*, ed. with Renate Blumenfeld-Kosinski, Kevin Brownlee, and Lori J. Walters (Rodopi, 1999)
- "The Prodigal Knight, the Hungry Mother, and the Triple Murder: Mirrors and Marvels in the Dolopathos Dog Story," in *The Court and Cultural Diversity*, ed. John Thompson and Evelyn Mullally (Boydell & Brewer, 1997)
- "The Long and the Short of Lancelot's Departure from Logres: Abbreviation as Rewriting in *La Mort le roi Artu*," in *Text and Intertext in Medieval Arthurian Literature*, ed. Norris J. Lacy (Garland, 1996)
- "Editing Old French Literary Texts," in *Scholarly Editing: A Guide to Research*, ed. D.C. Greetham (MLA, 1995)

- *Le Roman des Sept Sages de Rome: A Critical Edition of the Two Verse Redactions of a Twelfth-Century Romance* (French Forum, 1989) *On Editing Old French Texts*. Co-authored with Alfred Foulet (1979, Regents Press of Kansas)

Graduate Courses:

- The Birth of Romance: From Rome to Camelot and Back
- Old French Language and Literature (Survey)
- History of the French Language
- Medieval Lyric Poetry in French and Occitan
- Medieval Lyric and Narrative Expansions
- Arthurian and Tristanian Narratives
- Old French Epic
- Lancelot-Grail Cycle
- Roman Foundations of Twelfth-Century Romance Holy Lives/Saintly Fictions: Hagiographical Texts in Medieval France and Norman England

Undergraduate Courses:

- Aspects of French Literature
- Advanced Grammar and Composition
- Translation
- History of the French Language
- Chrétien de Troyes
- Medieval French Literature
- Lancelot-Grail Cycle
- The Roman Heritage in Medieval France
- Love, Identity, and Gender in Medieval Narratives
- *Quests for Love in Medieval Literature Shaping a Life* (Douglass All-College Course) Program Connections: Medieval Studies

Comparative Literature