

Cover Page



Universiteit Leiden



The handle <http://hdl.handle.net/1887/29983> holds various files of this Leiden University dissertation

Author: Veldhoen, Bart

Title: Shaping idealisms : studies in Middle English romances and the literature of the Medieval Revival

Issue Date: 2014-12-10

Shaping Idealisms

Studies in Middle English Romances
and the Literature of the Medieval Revival

PROEFSCHRIFT

ter verkrijging van
de graad van Doctor aan de Universiteit Leiden,
op gezag van Rector Magnificus prof.mr. C.J.J.M. Stolker,
volgens besluit van het College voor Promoties
te verdedigen op woensdag 10 december 2014
klokke 13.45 uur

door
Norbertus Hermanus Gijsbertus Emmanuel Veldhoen
geboren te Eindhoven
in 1945

Promotiecommissie

Promotores: Prof. dr. W. van Anrooij
Prof. dr. R.H. Bremmer

Overige leden: Prof. dr. A.A. MacDonald (Rijksuniversiteit Groningen)
Prof. dr. A. Putter (University of Bristol)
Prof. dr. P.J. Smith

Contents

Preface	5
1 Introduction	7
Part One Studies on the medieval narrative tradition	
2 <i>Floris and Blancheflour</i> : To Indulge the Fancy and to Hear of Love	23
3 “Which was the mooste fre”: Chaucer’s realistic humour and insight into human nature, as shown in <i>The Frankeleyns Tale</i>	41
4 Psychology and the Middle English Romances: Preliminaries to Readings of <i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> , <i>Sir Orfeo</i> , and <i>Sir Launfal</i>	53
5 Towards National Identity. Literary Manipulation in the Arthurian Section of Layamon’s <i>Brut</i>	83
6 <i>The Roman van Walewein</i> Laced With Castles	97
7 Best of Gawain: A Comparison of <i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> and the <i>Roman van Walewein</i>	121
8 Pearl en de fundamenten van het Hemelse Jeruzalem	135
9 A key to <i>The Land of Cokaygne</i> : satire or parody?	147
10 Romances of Royalty and Romances of Chivalry: a differentiation in the Middle English corpus	159
Part Two Studies on the continued effect of the medieval narrative tradition	
11 Tennyson’s Gothic: Idyllic, Unromantic Arthur	177
12 J.R.R. Tolkien, Philologist and Holist	187
13 Niet van deze wereld: <i>Fantasies</i> van mediëvisten-professoren	203
14 Een academische romance: David Lodge, <i>Small World</i>	223
15 The Absent Narrator in Tennyson’s <i>Idylls of the King</i>	245
16 Conclusion	257

Samenvatting	263
Summaries of Dutch articles	271
Curriculum vitae	275

PREFACE

The collection of papers presented here as a thesis consists for the greater part of articles already published earlier. Only the essays nos. 9, 10 and 15 are new for the occasion. The earlier publication also entails publication in the Dutch language of essays nos. 8, 13 and 14. In the Samenvatting/Summary at the end, the Dutch essays have been summarized in English.

Each essay is preceded separately by a statement of the full details of its original publication. The Contents page only quotes the titles of the essays and their numbering. The numbering is used for reference in the Introduction, the Conclusion and the Samenvatting/ Summary. The illustrations on the various title-pages have been taken from William Morris' *The Kelmscott Chaucer*.

I should like to express a debt of gratitude to the Faculty of Arts/Humanities of Leiden University for allowing me research-time and -facilities in spite of my partial disablement since 1988 owing to limited power of vision, and also to the LUCAS research institute for their constant and unremitting help with adapting my typescripts to publishable form.

I should also like to acknowledge my debts to the late Professors August J. Fry and Derek Brewer for teaching me their versions of critical thinking, and to Professor Bart Westerweel for opening my eyes to emblems and for his continuous confidence and stimulation.

B.V.

