

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Much evidence about the role of gender in the literary production of the Middle Ages lies in manuscripts. This volume of *MFN* brings together three essays which illuminate that role. A single codex may, as Rosemary Appleton points out, exhibit the influence of women from beginning to end: from women as patrons, to women as authors, copyists, readers and owners (both intended and actual). Her essay examines one such manuscript. Suzanne Kocher's article treats a historically specific case: a manuscript of Marguerite Porete's *Mirror of Simple Souls* (c. 1298) as read by Marguerite de Navarre (1547). The manuscript in question, presumably commissioned and owned exclusively by women, is still extant.

Finally, David F. Tinsley's essay, "Gender, Paleography, and the Question of Authorship in Late Medieval Dominican Spirituality" focuses on the role paleography and textual criticism can play in the attribution (or non-attribution) of a text to a female author.

While these essays in themselves form a cohesive and interesting whole, it is clear that much work remains to be done in the area of manuscript studies and that such work constitutes the basis of medieval feminist research.

I would like to draw your attention to the Call for Papers for *MFN* 27 in this volume. The marginalization of women in medieval culture can take many forms. We welcome contributions from all disciplines.

Finally, I would like to thank the Associate Editors, Nancy Jones, Sarah Stanbury and Mary Suydam; Managing Editor, Gina Psaki; and Book Review Editor, Clare Lees; as well as the University of Oregon production team. My thanks also to my editorial assistant, Shana Semler.

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