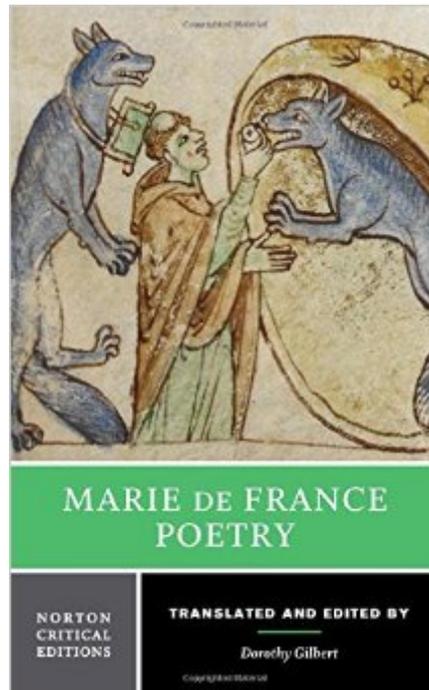


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Marie De France: Poetry (Norton Critical Editions)



Synopsis

Marie de France's beautiful poems of courtly love, enchantment, and mystery are now available in a Norton Critical Edition. Marie de France was a medieval poet who was probably born in France and who lived in England during the twelfth century. Prominent among the earliest poets writing in the French vernacular, Marie de France helped shape the style and genres of later medieval poetry. This Norton Critical Edition includes all of Marie's *lais* (short narrative verse poems); selected fables; and a generous excerpt from Saint Patrick's *Purgatory*, a long poem based on a well-known medieval legend. Each text is accompanied by detailed explanatory annotations. For comparative reading, two *lais*, *Bisclavret* and *Yvain* are accompanied by Marie's facing-page originals. "Backgrounds and Contexts" is thematically organized to provide readers with a clear sense of Marie's inspirations. Topics include *The Supernatural*, *Love and Romance*, *Medical Traditions*, *Fable Sources and Analogues: Similar Themes*, and *Purgatory and the Afterlife*. Ovid, Chaucer, Andreas Capellanus, Boccaccio, Aristotle, and Bede are among the authors included. From the wealth of scholarly work published on Marie de France, Dorothy Gilbert has chosen excerpts from nine pieces that address issues of history and authorship as well as major themes in the *lais*, fables, and Saint Patrick's *Purgatory*. The contributors are Thomas Warton, Abbé Gervais de la Rue, Joseph Bedier, Leo Spitzer, R. Howard Bloch, E. A. Francis, Jill Mann, and Jacques Le Goff. A selected bibliography is also included.

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Customer Reviews

Dorothy Gilbert's translations of Marie de France's verse narratives are lucid and lovely. Knowing that I am an admirer of Marie de France, my husband, Irvin Yalom, ordered this for me recently through Amazon and gave it to me as a much appreciated gift. I am so impressed with Gilbert's ability to translate in such a readable fashion, and to find appropriate rhymes for the original. This makes a perfect introduction into medieval romance.

Great collection of a very key player in Medieval Literature.

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