

## Editor's Note

The theme of this issue of *Terminus* is time in old Romance literatures. Among the eight articles presented in the issue, spanning the period from the 12th till the 17th century, some reflect upon various aspects of time, such as waiting for the beloved one, for a knight, for a wife's love, or for the possibility of devoting oneself to creative work against the hardships of everyday life, and others deal with ordinary time opposed to the eternity, chronology and dating of literary works, attitudes to the past or time discipline at a monarch's court.

Six out of the eight papers deal with medieval works. Katarzyna Dybeł's study analyzes the motif of the long-awaited knight (*le chevalier desirré*) in two Old French romances of the Round Table: *Lancelot* by Chrétien de Troyes (ca. 1177–1181) and the anonymous work *The Quest of the Holy Grail* from the first half of the 13th century.

Joanna Gorecka-Kalita focuses on the complexity and originality of reflection upon time in Thomas of England's *Tristan*, and also on its ties with Saint Augustine idea in which human time was opposed to the eternity. As the Author points out, time in *Tristan* is of dual nature: one is linear and subjective, inevitably leading to death, and the other is eternal, grounded in the ideal of love represented by the gold ring, the role of which is not only symbolic.

Alicja Bańczyk scrutinizes references to the past in *Book of the Marvels of the World*, written in the 13th century by the Venetian explorer and merchant Marco Polo, who traveled to Asia, and whose memories were written down by Rustichiello da Pisa. Discussing the role of the past time in Polo's work, the Author distinguishes a few functions for which the past references were utilized. One of them is showing how Kublai Khan's rule had changed Asia and by

this token emphasizing that the expansion of the Mongol empire contributed to the development of civilization.

Aleksandra Urbaniak's article offers an analysis of lyrical poetry by presenting variants of the time motif in the love poems of the 13th century poet Chiaro Davanzati. The main question addressed by the analysis is how the lexeme *tempo* coconstructs the discourse of courtly love poetry.

Michał Sawczuk-Szadkowski explores the chronology of *Le Roman de Flamenca* in two aspects, i.e. dating the text itself and dating the time of the action. From a thorough analysis of previous research and the author's own conceptions of the chronology, an interesting interpretive problem has emerged, namely, whether *Le Roman de Flamenca* is a current comedy of manners or a historical work.

The article by Joanna Augustyn entitled *Waiting for the Writing Time – Christine de Pizan's Complaint* is the last one among the studies dealing with the medieval period. Here, the Author analyzed the 15th century prose piece *L'Avison de Christine*, in which Christine de Pizan describes her longing for the possibility of focusing on writing, having to face the reality of everyday life and social constraints imposed on women.

The last two papers in this issue take us to the Early Modern Period. Dariusz Krawczyk provides a detailed account of the rigorous daily routine at the court of Henry III of Navarre (the future Henry IV of France), presented by Philippe Duplessis-Mornay in the paraenetic work *Advis donné au Roy de Navarre sur le reglement de sa façon de vivre* (1583). A well-organized daily routine was to be the most reliable way to prove Henry's credibility and worth as a ruler of European protestants and a potential heir to the French throne.

Monika Kulesza devotes her article to two figures of unloved husbands from 17th-century novels: *Princess de Clèves* (1678) by Madame de Lafayette and *Count of Amboise* (1689) by Catherine Bernard. The concepts of time, waiting and patience are utilised for analysing the behaviour and feelings of unloved husbands, and more generally, sketching a vision of human nature that emerges from this analysis.

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