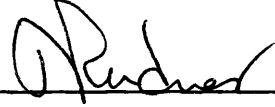


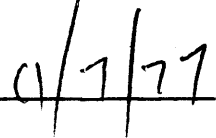
A THESIS  
PRESENTED TO THE GRADUATE FACULTY  
OF WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE COLLEGE

by  
Thomas E. Vesce

IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT  
OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE  
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Thesis Advisor

  
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## Abstract

The Knight of the Parrot, Being the First Translation into English of the Middle French Arthurian Romance, Le Chevalier du Papegau

This curious Arthurian romance survives in a single manuscript in the French collection of the National Library in Paris (BN, fr. 2154). It measures 15 x 21 cm., and is of seventy-five folios with an average of twenty-six to thirty lines to the folio. It is written in what appears to be the standard northern Francien language, with traces of Burgundian and Provençal, and offers evidence that the scribes hailed from the district around the cultural center of southern France, Lyon.

Since the manuscript hands date from the late fifteenth or early sixteenth century, the surviving manuscript probably does not contain the original version of the story about King Arthur which, because of internal linguistic problems, the only modern editor of the French text, Ferdinand Heuckenkamp believed must derive from a lost thirteenth century metrical romance.

Despite the (sole) edition of the story that was made available in 1897, critics have been content to reiterate the generally unfavorable verdicts of other, previous readers of the story, or discuss the relationship of the story's themes with works by German (Wirnt von Gravenberg) and French (Chrétien de Troyes) masters. The main purpose of the present endeavor

is not to review the various opinions expressed by such as Gaston Paris or J. D. Bruce, but rather to present a readable version of the story, following the conventions of Heuckenkamp's edition, which has been translated into English for the first time, and in this way help the interested student towards a more direct appraisal of the story's artistic and literary value.

The introductory remarks also contain some perspectives on the figure of Arthur, here seen as an active knight errant (a role not usual for him in the literature of the period), the treatment of chivalry and courtesy, and the realistic portrayal of society, all of which should again facilitate a fresh appreciation of what has unhappily been a sorely neglected account of some novel adventures that befell the young King Arthur of Albion.

A table of proper nouns and a bibliography of selected Arthurian sources is provided as well as a table of folklore motifs that has been devised with the help of the Stith Thompson Index. [T. E. V.].

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