



## Vernacular Poetics in the Middle Ages

edited by Lois Ebin

### DESCRIPTION:

This volume deals with the attitudes and assumptions about poetry of vernacular writers from the eleventh to the fifteenth century. In contrast to most previous studies, the essays consider not only the formal poetics, but, more importantly, the self-conscious examination of poetry which is increasingly evident in the poems themselves in this period as writers turn from Latin to the imperfect, mutable language of the vernacular. From different perspectives, the essays explore the poets' changing conceptions of their roles and their efforts to develop an effective medium in the vernacular. In the largely neglected dialogue between poets which underlies many medieval poems, the essays reveal an important reassessment of the value and effect of poetry. -from the Introduction.

### TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Contents Introduction by Lois Ebin Poetic Emblems in Medieval Narrative Texts by Robert W. Hanning Obscurity and Memory: Sources for Invention in Medieval French Literature by Douglas Kelly Walther versus Reinmar: The Regeneration of Poetic Language in Medieval German Literature by Frederick Goldin Farai un vers de dreyt nien: The Craft of the Early Trobadors by Joan M. Ferrante The Differing Seed: Dante's Brunetto Latini by Eugene Vance Per te poeta fui, per te cristiano: Dante, Statius, and the Narrator of Chaucer's Troilus by Winthrop Wetherbee Self-Consciousness of Poetic Activity in Dante and Langland by George D. Economou Grammar, Poetic Form, and the Lyric Ego: A Medieval A Priori by Judson Boyce Allen Toward a Poetics of the Late Medieval Court Lyric by Glending Olson Late Medieval Images and Self-Images of the Poet: Chaucer, Gower, Lydgate, Henryson, Dunbar by Robert O. Payne Poetics and Style in Late Medieval Literature by Lois Ebin

### CONTRIBUTORS BIOGRAPHIES:

Lois Ebin was a professor of English at Barnard College.

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