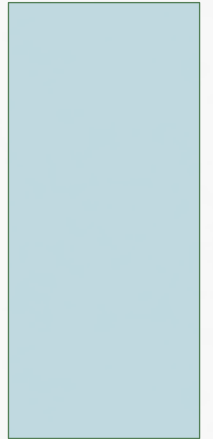




COURTLY LOVE

LE ROMAN DE LA ROSE



ORIGINS

- The Occitans, 12^o century; Provençal region.
- Influence from Arabic and Iberian literature



GROWTH

- 12- 14^o century peak
- France , England, Italy
 - Areas of Norman influence
- Court culture
 - Elite in a court, especially royal court
 - Emphasis to fashion as important to status
 - Spread in English courts from 13th to 15th century



CHIVALRY

- From French «chevalier» - knight or noble warrior who means to own a horse.
- A knight should have the skills to face combat but also to temper his aggressive side with the chivalrous side of his nature.
- Traditional and new paths to honour:
 1. **Loyalty** – good vassal and good lord
 2. **Piety** – prayer and faith in God, limiting violence.
 3. **Largesse** – generosity and large grants/gifts
 4. **Courtesy /gallantry**–good manners at court (clever, witty, good at conversation)



MARRIAGE

- Marriages were arranged and had nothing to do with love. Business transactions.
- A marriage should bring material advantages to the participants and their own families.
- Love was unrelated to marriage.
- Romance could be gained outside marriage.
- As long as the rules relating to chastity and fidelity were strictly adhered to.



THE RULES OF LOVE

- Written down by a French man Andreas Cappellanus
- Marriage is not real excuse for not loving
- He who is not jealous, cannot love
- No one can be bound to a double love
- It is well know that love is always increasing or decreasing
- That which a loved takes against the will of his beloved has no relish
- Boys do not love until they reach the age of maturity (15,16 years old)
- When a lover dies a widowhood of two years is required

- No one should be deprived of love without the very best of reasons.
- Love is always a stranger in the home of avarice (greed)
- It is no proper to court a woman whom one would be ashamed to seek to marry. (someone of your own class)
- A true lover does not desire to embrace in love anyone else but his beloved.
- When made public love rarely endures.
- Difficulty in attainment make love prized.(hard to get)
- Every lover turns pale at the presence of his beloved.



- When a lover suddenly catches the sight of his beloved, his heart palpitates.
- A new love put to flight the old one.
- Good character alone makes any man worthy of love.
- A man in love is always apprehensive.
- Real jealousy always increases the feeling of love.
- Jealousy, and therefore love, are increased when one suspects his beloved.
- He, whom the thought of love vexes, eats and sleeps very little.
- Nothing forbids one woman to be loved by two men or one man by two women.



COURTLY LOVE OR *FIN AMOUR*

- Dedication to a lady as if she were a lord, generally a high ranking **unattainable** one. She is usually addressed as:
 1. Angel
 2. Saint
- Focuses on knight's deeds and character, not station.
- Man could be elevated socially for love and deeds done for love's sake.





IDEALIZATION OF WOMEN

- Most of those women were married (lord, king..)
- By the ways, he knight's behavior could not be untoward and undermine the lord's family and betray God committing adultery
- Women are in a position of power, higher class recipient of love.
- Placed on a pedestal, women are objects of worship.
- They are expected to be passive and beautiful rather than use that power.
- It was common for a married lady to give a token (scarf, hankerchief..) to a knight of her choice to be worn during tournaments

GUINEVERE AND LANCELOT

- Lancelot is King Arthur's best friend and first knight.
- He begins as Guinevere's champion, but soon they fall in love
- This leads to the downfall of the entire kingdom of Camelot
- They are both traitors





LE ROMAN DE LA ROSE



- Written by Guillaume de Lorris and Jean de Meun who added 18.000 lines to finish the work. About 22.000 lines in all.
 - Translated by Chaucer.
 - 300 manuscripts about the Rose in vernacular.
 - It was the best known and the most imitated text of the Middle Ages.
 - Allegorical love poem.
1. It tells the story of a man who falls asleep and in his dream he enters into a high walled garden.
 2. In the very fountain where Narcissus drowned himself he sees the reflection of a beautiful rose bud and he is immediately inflamed with desire to possess it, as the God of Love shot him with several arrows, leaving him forever in love.
 3. Allegorical characters help him in his journey, till he eventually manages to pluck his rose bud. It looks like a violent, rape like conquest.
- One of the illustrious readers was Dante. The Rose echoes in the Divine Comedy.
 - An anonymous text «Il Fiore» might have been written by Dante himself. Probably he composed it while he was on his trip to France