

# CONTENTS

Acknowledgments	ix
Introduction	1
1. The Epic	
<i>La Chanson de Roland</i> as Beginning and End: Some Preliminary Background	17
Ganelon: the Poetics of Guile and Greed	22
<i>Le Charroi de Nîmes</i> : Language and Social Class	38
<i>Raoul de Cambrai</i> : Violence Turned Societally Inward and the Need for Negotiation	47
Conclusion: the Economic Overview	61
2. The Romance of Chrétien de Troyes	
Introduction	73
The Economic Base and Inner-Class Tension	76
Towns and the Bourgeoisie	83
Monarchy	88
A Crisis of Credit: Debt and Redemption in <i>Yvain</i>	91
Urban Time and the Economy of the Spirit	96
Conclusion	103

### **3. Jean de Meun's *Roman de la Rose***

Introduction	113
An Overview of the Poem	114
<i>Le Roman de la Rose</i> and the Fabliaux:	
Social Origins and Audience	117
Attitudes Toward Wealth	119
<i>The Economics of Moral Degeneration:</i>	
Language Devalued	124
Conclusion	133

### **4. Gift-Giving and Community**

Introduction	137
Gift-Giving in Feudal Society	138
<i>Largesce</i> and <i>Mesure</i> in Chrétien's Romance	148
<i>Le Roman de la Rose</i>	150

### **5. The Overview: Economy, Community, and Language**

165

Bibliography	177
--------------	-----

Index	195
-------	-----