

The Influence of Ovid on Crestien de Troyes

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THE INFLUENCE OF OVID ON CRESTIEN DE TROYES



Rarebooksclub.com, United States, 2013. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 246 x 189 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can usually download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1921 edition. Excerpt: . Reprinted from The Romanic Review, Vol. XII., No. 3, July-September, 1921. THE INFLUENCE OF OVID ON CRESTIEN DE TROYES Conclusions Except for an incident modeled on the suicide motif of the Pyramus and Thisbe story (4608ff.),32 there is no marked influence of Ovid on Erec et Enide. In Guillaume d Angleterre the description of the storm (2303) is copied from Ovid, but otherwise this tale seems also to be free from Ovidian influence. Philomena, of course, is an adaptation of Ovid s story of Philomela. We have seen that Crestien amplified the description of the heroine and also the love-treatment in this story by the help of suggestions from the Ars amatoria and the Remedia amoris. Our main interest lies in Cliges, Lancelot, and Yvain. Whereas in Erec love is treated rapidly and naturally, in these romances the love-treatment becomes rhetorical. An entirely new psychology of love is developed. And it will probably be admitted by all students of Crestien that the psychological analysis of love is the essential element of these poems. That analysis above all distinguishes them and explains their widespread popularity and influence in the Middle Ages. It cannot be too emphatically stated that Crestien was not primarily interested in the telling of a popular tale. His own words are enough to convince us; for in Erec he expresses his scorn of those who can earn their living by mere story telling.33 His desire is to use a tale of...

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