

Fantasies of the Other's Body in Middle English Oriental Romance

**STUDIES IN ENGLISH MEDIEVAL
LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**

Edited by Jacek Fisiak

Advisory Board:

John Anderson (Methoni, Greece), Ulrich Busse (Halle),
Olga Fischer (Amsterdam), Marcin Krygier (Poznań),
Roger Lass (Cape Town), Peter Lucas (Cambridge),
Donka Minkova (Los Angeles), Akio Oizumi (Kyoto),
Katherine O'Brien O'Keeffe (UC Berkeley, USA),
Matti Rissanen (Helsinki), Hans Sauer (Munich),
Liliana Sikorska (Poznań), Jeremy Smith (Glasgow),
Jerzy Welna (Warsaw)

Vol. 40

Anna Czarnowus

**Fantasies of the Other's
Body in Middle English
Oriental Romance**

Bibliographic Information published by the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek

The Deutsche Nationalbibliothek lists this publication in the Deutsche Nationalbibliografie; detailed bibliographic data is available in the internet at <http://dnb.d-nb.de>.

This publication was financially supported
by the University of Silesia.

All publications in the series are peer reviewed.

Cover Design: © Olaf Glöckler, Atelier Platen, Friedberg

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Czarnowus, Anna.
Fantasies of the Other's Body in Middle English Oriental Romance /
Anna Czarnowus.
pages cm. — (Studies in English Medieval Language and Literature ; 40)
Includes bibliographical references.
ISBN 978-3-631-64446-1
1. Romances, English—History and criticism. 2. English literature—
Middle English, 1100-1500—History and criticism. 3. English philology—
Middle English, 1100-1500. 4. Other (Philosophy) in literature. 5. Orientalism
in literature. I. Title.
PR321.C93 2013
821'.109—dc23

2013022668

ISSN 1436-7521
ISBN 978-3-631-64446-1 (Print)
E-ISBN 978-3-653-03119-5 (E-Book)
DOI 10.3726/978-3-653-03119-5

© Peter Lang GmbH
Internationaler Verlag der Wissenschaften
Frankfurt am Main 2013
All rights reserved.

Peter Lang Edition is an Imprint of Peter Lang GmbH.

Peter Lang – Frankfurt am Main · Bern · Bruxelles · New York · Oxford ·
Warszawa · Wien

All parts of this publication are protected by copyright. Any
utilisation outside the strict limits of the copyright law, without
the permission of the publisher, is forbidden and liable to
prosecution. This applies in particular to reproductions,
translations, microfilming, and storage and processing in
electronic retrieval systems.

www.peterlang.de

Contents

Introduction.....	9
Chapter One Ethnic difference and body marvellous: the case of Chaucer's <i>Squire's tale</i> and <i>Sir Ferumbras</i>	37
Chapter Two Community, <i>Richard le Coer de Lyon</i> , and chivalric anthropophagy	63
Chapter Three Bodies enslaved in <i>Aucassin et Nicolette</i> and <i>Floris and Blancheflour</i>	95
Chapter Four Black giantesses as communal flesh in the <i>Firumbras</i> romances.....	123
Chapter Five Genealogy and desire in <i>King Horn</i>	153
Chapter Six Transformation and regeneration in <i>Kyng Alisaunder</i> and <i>The wars of Alexander</i>	177
Conclusion	207
References.....	211

Studies in English Medieval Language and Literature

Edited by Jacek Fisiak

- Vol. 1 Dieter Kastovsky / Arthur Mettinger (eds.): Language Contact in the History of English. 2nd, revised edition. 2003.
- Vol. 2 Studies in English Historical Linguistics and Philology. A Festschrift for Akio Oizumi. Edited by Jacek Fisiak. 2002.
- Vol. 3 Liliana Sikorska: *In a Manner of Morall Playe*: Social Ideologies in English Moralities and Interludes (1350-1517). 2002.
- Vol. 4 Peter J. Lucas / Angela M. Lucas (eds.): Middle English from Tongue to Text. Selected Papers from the Third International Conference on Middle English: Language and Text, held at Dublin, Ireland, 1-4 July 1999. 2002.
- Vol. 5 Chaucer and the Challenges of Medievalism. Studies in Honor of H. A. Kelly. Edited by Donka Minkova and Theresa Tinkle. 2003.
- Vol. 6 Hanna Rutkowska: Graphemics and Morphosyntax in the *Cely Letters* (1472-88). 2003.
- Vol. 7 The *Ancrene Wisse*. A Four-Manuscript Parallel Text. Preface and Parts 1-4. Edited by Tadao Kubouchi and Keiko Ikegami with John Scahill, Shoko Ono, Harumi Tanabe, Yoshiko Ota, Ayako Kobayashi and Koichi Nakamura. 2003.
- Vol. 8 Joanna Bugaj: Middle Scots Inflectional System in the South-west of Scotland. 2004.
- Vol. 9 Rafal Boryslawski: The Old English Riddles and the Riddic Elements of Old English Poetry. 2004.
- Vol. 10 Nikolaus Ritt / Herbert Schendl (eds.): Rethinking Middle English. Linguistic and Literary Approaches. 2005.
- Vol. 11 The *Ancrene Wisse*. A Four-Manuscript Parallel Text. Parts 5-8 with Wordlists. Edited by Tadao Kubouchi and Keiko Ikegami with John Scahill, Shoko Ono, Harumi Tanabe, Yoshiko Ota, Ayako Kobayashi, Koichi Nakamura. 2005.
- Vol. 12 Text and Language in Medieval English Prose. A Festschrift for Tadao Kubouchi. Edited by Akio Oizumi, Jacek Fisiak and John Scahill. 2005.
- Vol. 13 Michiko Ogura (ed.): Textual and Contextual Studies in Medieval English. Towards the Reunion of Linguistics and Philology. 2006.
- Vol. 14 Keiko Hamaguchi: Non-European Women in Chaucer. A Postcolonial Study. 2006.
- Vol. 15 Ursula Schaefer (ed.): The Beginnings of Standardization. Language and Culture in Fourteenth-Century England. 2006.
- Vol. 16 Nikolaus Ritt / Herbert Schendl / Christiane Dalton-Puffer / Dieter Kastovsky (eds.): Medieval English and its Heritage. Structure, Meaning and Mechanisms of Change. 2006.
- Vol. 17 Matylda Włodarczyk: Pragmatic Aspects of Reported Speech. The Case of Early Modern English Courtroom Discourse. 2007.
- Vol. 18 Hans Sauer / Renate Bauer (eds.): *Beowulf* and Beyond. 2007.
- Vol. 19 Gabriella Mazzon (ed.): Studies in Middle English Forms and Meanings. 2007.
- Vol. 20 Alexander Bergs / Janne Skaffari (eds.): The Language of the Peterborough Chronicle. 2007.
- Vol. 21 Liliana Sikorska (ed.). With the assistance of Joanna Maciulewicz: Medievalisms. The Poetics of Literary Re-Reading. 2008.
- Vol. 22 Masachiyo Amano / Michiko Ogura / Masayuki Ohkado (eds.): Historical Englishes in Varieties of Texts and Contexts. The Global COE Program, International Conference 2007. 2008.
- Vol. 23 Ewa Ciszek: Word Derivation in Early Middle English. 2008.
- Vol. 24 Andrzej M. Łęcki: Grammaticalisation Paths of *Have* in English. 2010.
- Vol. 25 Osamu Imahayashi / Yoshiyuki Nakao / Michiko Ogura (eds.): Aspects of the History of English Language and Literature. Selected Papers Read at SHELL 2009, Hiroshima. 2010.
- Vol. 26 Magdalena Bator: Obsolete Scandinavian Loanwords in English. 2010.
- Vol. 27 Anna Cichosz: The Influence of Text Type on Word Order of Old Germanic Languages. A Corpus-Based Contrastive Study of Old English and Old High German. 2010.
- Vol. 28 Jacek Fisiak / Magdalena Bator (eds.): Foreign Influences on Medieval English. 2011.
- Vol. 29 Władysław Witalisz: The Trojan Mirror. Middle English Narratives of Troy as Books of Princely Advice. 2011.
- Vol. 30 Luis Iglesias-Rábade: Semantic Erosion of Middle English Prepositions. 2011.
- Vol. 31 Barbara Kowalik: Betwixt *engelaunde* and *englene lond*. Dialogic Poetics in Early English Religious Lyric. 2010.
- Vol. 32 The Katherine Group. A Three-Manuscript Parallel Text. Seinte Katerine, Seinte Marherete, Seinte Iulienne, and Hali Meïðhad, with Wordlists. Edited by Shoko Ono and John Scahill with Keiko Ikegami, Tadao Kubouchi, Harumi Tanabe, Koichi Nakamura, Satoko Shimazaki and Koichi Kano. 2011.
- Vol. 33 Jacob Thaisen / Hanna Rutkowska (eds.): Scribes, Printers, and the Accidentals of their Texts. 2011.
- Vol. 34 Isabel Moskowich: Language Contact and Vocabulary Enrichment. Scandinavian Elements in Middle English. 2012.
- Vol. 35 Joanna Esquibel / Anna Wojtyś (eds.): Explorations in the English Language: Middle Ages and Beyond. Festschrift for Professor Jerzy Welna on the Occasion of his 70th Birthday. 2012.
- Vol. 36 Yoshiyuki Nakao: The Structure of Chaucer's Ambiguity. 2013.
- Vol. 37 Begoña Crespo: Change in Life, Change in Language. A Semantic Approach to the History of English. 2013.
- Vol. 38 Richard Dance / Laura Wright (eds.): The Use and Development of Middle English. Proceedings of the Sixth International Conference on Middle English, Cambridge 2008. 2012.
- Vol. 39 Michiko Ogura: Words and Expressions of Emotion in Medieval English. 2013.
- Vol. 40 Anna Czarnowus: Fantasies of the Other's Body in Middle English Oriental Romance. 2013.

www.peterlang.de

This study attempts to analyze diverse aspects of the corporeality of cultural others in Middle English oriental romances. The theoretical introduction situates the romances in the context of anthropology of the body. The analysis includes a psychoanalytical perspective on an oriental female body in Chaucer's *Squire's tale* and *Sir Ferumbras*, anthropophagy in *Richard le Coer de Lyon*, slavery and hybridity in *Floris and Blancheflour*, Roberto Esposito's theory of immunization and the question of female grotesque in the English Charlemagne romances, *King Horn* and the othering of the same, and the influence of monstrous races on a Westerner in the Middle English Alexander romances. The overall perspective is not entirely a negative one. The Wonders of the East tradition counterbalances the negative vision to some extent, since it predates Romantic infatuation with the Orient.

Anna Czarnowus is a lecturer in English literature at the University of Silesia, Katowice (Poland). She teaches in the applied languages French and English programme at the Institute of Romanic Languages and Translation Studies. She has published on Chaucer and Middle English literature. Her doctoral thesis *Inscription on the body: monstrous children in Middle English literature* was published in 2009.

