

Steven Millen Taylor

Professor of French
Coordinator, Medieval Studies Minor

Ph.D. / 1976 / Wayne State University

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BIOGRAPHY

Teaching French language and literature and promoting French culture has been my life-long vocation. I enjoy teaching and advising students at all levels, from elementary French to advanced grammar and literature. Over the years, I have developed innovative courses to introduce students to practical and cultural topics such as Business French and African-Francophone Cinema. Outside the classroom, I have directed Marquette's Study Abroad program in Limoges, France (1982-1984) and served as moderator for Pi Delta Phi, the French honorary (1985-1986; 2003-2006). I introduced service learning to my French courses in the early 1980s, a practice which I continue today.

In particular, I focus on sharing my enthusiasm for French medieval language and literature with students and with the community as Coordinator of Marquette's Medieval Studies interdisciplinary minor. In addition to developing numerous courses on topics such as medieval women authors, medieval marriage, the medieval city, and Joan of Arc, I organized symposia on "The Cathedral and the Medieval Community," "Arthur and the Arts," and "Jewish-Christian Encounter in the Middle Ages: The Psalms." For more than twenty years, I have been an active member of the Fifteenth-Century Society, organizing sessions which the society and its journal, *Fifteenth-Century Studies*, sponsor at the annual International Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University.

My interest in Medieval French literature and culture is reflected in my scholarly research on late-medieval French authors, including Alain Chartier and Christine de Pizan. The majority of my research has focused on the works of Martin Le Franc, a fifteenth-century French author whose texts provide a wealth of scholarly material through their innovative and provocative structure, content, and context. My primary goal has been to render his allegorical defense of women, *Le Champion des Dames* (1440-1442), accessible to an English-speaking audience while maintaining the structure and tone of the middle French original. In this regard, I have published a translation of Book IV of that work (*The Trial of Womankind*; McFarland, 2005); my translation of Book V, dealing with the Immaculate Conception of Mary, is currently under consideration at a major academic press. I have also just completed a translation of Le Franc's shorter work, *La Complainte du livre du Champion des Dames a maistre Martin Le Franc son acteur*. I am now preparing a critical commentary to accompany this first English version of the text.

COURSES TYPICALLY TAUGHT:

All levels of French Language
The Logic of Grammatical Analysis
French for the Professions
French for Graduate Reading
Medieval French Literature (The Middle Ages)
16th Century French Literature
ARSC 130 – Medieval Models

RESEARCH INTERESTS:

Martin Le Franc
Christine de Pizan
Joan of Arc
Fifteenth-Century Studies
Medieval French Language and Literature
Business French
African Francophone Cinema

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:

“Down to Earth and Up to Heaven: The Nine Muses in Martin Le Franc’s *Le Champion des Dames*,” *Fifteenth-Century Studies* 32 (2007): 164-175.

Le Franc, Martin. *The Trial of Womankind: A Rhyming Translation of Book IV of the Fifteenth-Century Le Champion des Dames*. Ed. and trans. Steven Millen Taylor. Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company, Inc., 2005.

“Christine de Pizan’s Spiritual Intercessions for Her Sisters in Christ,” *Magistra: A Journal of Women’s Spirituality in History* 7.1 (Summer 2001): 52-66.

“Les Vices de Vilenie: la métamorphose des péchés capitaux et des vertus chez Alain Chartier,” *Le Moyen Age* CII.5.10 (June 1996): 73-79.

“Le Procès de la sorcellerie chez Martin Le Franc: *Le Champion des Dames*, livre IV,” *Wodan* 4.3 (Spring 1994): 203-212.

“Martin Le Franc’s Rehabilitation of Notorious Women: The Case of Pope Joan,” *Fifteenth-Century Studies* 19 (1992): 261-278.

“God’s Queen: Chess Imagery in the Poetry of Gautier de Coinci,” *The Medieval Text: Methods and Hermeneutics*. Eds. William C. McDonald and Guy Mermier. Special number of *Fifteenth-Century Studies* 17 (1990): 403-419.

HONORS/AWARDS:

Chevalier, Order of Les Palmes Académiques; presented by the Republic of France for contributions to French culture

Honorary Member, Alpha Delta Gamma; National Honor Society for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, given in recognition for attainments and devotion to the study of the Middle Ages and Renaissance; College of William and Mary; Williamsburg, VA

Honorary Citizen and Recipient of the Municipal Medal; City of Limoges, France

\$3,000 - \$5,000 Mellon Grants from the Klingler College of Arts and Sciences for 2004-2009 Native Instructional Assistants in Intermediate Foreign Language Courses; Marquette University; Milwaukee, WI (with John Pustejovsky)

\$10,000 Grant from the Religious Commitment Fund to organize a Symposium on "Jewish-Christian Encounter in the Middle Ages: The Psalms"; Marquette University; Milwaukee, WI; 1990

\$8,500 Grant from the Religious Commitment Fund to organize a Symposium on "The Cathedral and the Medieval Community"; Marquette University; Milwaukee, WI; 1987

NEH Summer Seminar on "The Medieval Lyric" (1987)

NEH Summer Seminar on "Teaching of Medieval Civilization" (1981)