



The Vulgate Commentary on Ovid's Metamorphoses

Book 1

edited and translated by Frank Coulson

DESCRIPTION:

Composed around 1250 by an unknown author in the region of Orléans, the Vulgate Commentary on Ovid's Metamorphoses is the most widely disseminated and reproduced medieval work on Ovid's epic compendium of classical mythology and materialist philosophy. This commentary both preserves the rich store of twelfth-century glossing on the Metamorphoses and incorporates new material of literary interest, while the marginal glosses in many respects reflect the scholar interests of an early thirteenth-century schoolmaster. The Vulgate Commentary is always transmitted as a series of interlinear and marginal glosses surrounding the text manuscript, whereas other earlier commentaries were independent of a full text of the poem. The Vulgate Commentary exercised a wide-ranging influence on the understanding and presentation of Ovid's Metamorphoses in the High Middle Ages and Renaissance, and the commentary exists in both French and Italian manuscripts.

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CONTRIBUTORS BIOGRAPHIES:

Frank T. Coulson is a Professor in the Department of Greek and Latin at the Ohio State University where he serves as Director of Palaeography in the Center for Epigraphical and Palaeographical Studies.

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