

French 15 : Preparatory Reading

Updated 2019

We encourage students to explore the material over the summer. It is also particularly important to begin studying the Occitan language, using the resources indicated below.

You should commence your search for books in the library or a local bookshop. If the books in question are not available there, you should know that Blackwell's online offers some of these texts. Beyond that, we encourage students to explore, for French-language books, chapitre.com, which offers good prices. Books are searchable by author, title, or ISBN number (EAN13).

Recordings

The best way to start studying the troubadours is by listening to the music. Many albums (of very different production quality) are available. We recommend that students try a couple of the following:

Camerata Mediterranea, *Lo gai saber* (Erato Disques, 1991) and *Bernartz de Ventadorn: Lo fou sur le pont* (Erato Disques, 1994)

Ensemble Beatus, *Trobar: Chansons d'amour, de la Vierge à la Dame* (Alpha, 2006) and *L'orient des troubadours* (AV Records, 2011)

Ensemble Celadon, *Nuits occitanes: Troubadours' Songs* (outhere music, 2013/2014)

Paul Hillier, *Proensa* (ECM Records, 1989)

Sequentia, *Dante and the Troubadours* (BMG, 1995)

Medieval Texts

The lyric texts are most easily accessible in:

Lark in the Morning: The Verses of the Troubadours, edited by Robert Kehew, with translations by Ezra Pound, W. D. Snodgrass, and Robert Kehew (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005) ISBN 978-0226429335

Songs of the Women Troubadours, edited and translated by Matilda Bruckner, Laurie Shepard, and Sarah White (New York: Routledge, 2000) ISBN 978-0815335689

Students will also find a small selection of lyric texts of graduated difficulty, with notes and translation, in Paden, *An Introduction to Old Occitan* (below). Additional lyric texts will be provided during the year, along with a complete list of the lyrics to be covered by the examination.

The non-lyric set texts will include the following, which have student editions still in print:

Novas. In *Nouvelles occitanes du Moyen Âge*, edited and translated by Jean-Charles Huchet (Paris: Flammarion, 1999, ISBN 978-2080705556)

Flamenca, edited by François Zufferey, translated by Valérie Fasseur (Paris: Livre de poche, 2014, 978-2253082569) / *The Romance of Flamenca*, edited and translated by E. D. Blodgett (New York: Garland, 1995, ISBN 0824051696)

The Song of the Albigensian Crusade. In *La Chanson de la croisade albigeoise*, edited and translated by Henri Gougaud, preface by Georges Duby, introduction by Michel Zink (Paris: Livre de Poche, 1992, ISBN 978-2253050841). Students without a reading knowledge of French will find a prose translation, but not the Occitan text, in *The Song of the Cathar Wars: A*

History of the Albigensian Crusade, translated by Janet Shirley (New York: Routledge, 2000, 978-0754603887)

Occitan Language

For an introduction to the Occitan language, see Parts 1 and 4 of:

William D. Paden, *An Introduction to Old Occitan* (New York: Modern Language Association, 1998, ISBN 978-1603290548)

The lyric readings appended to each chapter (including the chapters in parts 2 and 3) offer an ideal self-tutorial for reading Old Occitan, and we encourage students to work through them over the summer, though we will also provide some language instruction during the year.

Do not be overwhelmed by the linguistic material covered in parts 2 and 3! This historical approach to the language constitutes a distinguished branch of linguistics as a discipline, but it is not a component of FR15.

Introductory and Contextual Material

For a brief, accessible literary history, see:

Zink, Michel, *Les Troubadours. Une histoire poétique* (Paris: Perrin, 2013)

For chapters on different aspects of the troubadour tradition, including origins, rhetoric, topoi, versification, music, manuscript transmission, and posterity, see:

Akehurst, F. R. P., and Judith Davis, *A Handbook of the Troubadours* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1995)

For critical interpretation of the lyric, students may begin with one of the following:

Gaunt, Simon, and Sarah Kay, eds., *The Troubadours: An Introduction* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999)

Roubaud, Jacques, *La fleur inverse. L'art des troubadours*, 2nd edition (Paris: Belles lettres, 1994)

For the special topic, students may begin with one or more of the following:

Zumthor, Paul, *La lettre et la voix. De la 'littérature' médiévale* (Paris: Seuil, 1987)

Dolar, Mladen, *A Voice and Nothing More* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2006)

Cavarero, Adriana, *A più voci: per una filosofia dell'espressione vocale* (Milan: Feltrinelli, 2003) / *For More than One Voice: Toward a Philosophy of Vocal Expression*, translated by Paul Kottman (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2005)

Students particularly interested in the music or the historical context may consult the following:

Aubrey, Elizabeth, *The Music of the Troubadours* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1996)

Cheyette, Fredric L., *Ermengard of Narbonne and the World of the Troubadours* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2004)