

Formulas of Politeness and the Authorship of *Guillaume d'Angleterre*

Although the authorship of *Guillaume d'Angleterre* may never be resolved with certainty, stylistic evidence nevertheless suggests that certain known authors of the late twelfth and thirteenth centuries are relatively more or less likely to have been the author. A study of elements of direct discourse in rhymed romances contemporaneous with *Guillaume d'Angleterre*, especially courtly narratives, reveals an unexpected variety of formulas of politeness that differ largely by individual author. To a lesser degree, much the same can be claimed about the range of vocatives exchanged by characters and the matter of *tu* versus singular *vous* in dialogues rendered in direct discourse. Yet greetings, farewells, requests, expressions of gratitude or well-wishing such as *Dex vos saut, ne vos enuit, a boen eür, Dex vous le mire, gres et mercis* show the largest range of authorial choice in the romances, which permits a degree of identification of authorial style and preference so far as polite, courtly diction is concerned. Whereas some attention will be given to both vocatives like *sire, segnor, vassal, douce dame, pucelle* and the apparent reasons for selecting *tu* or singular *vous* within the scope of our evidence, emphasis will be given to formulas of politeness. For they tend to be those favored by Chrétien de Troyes.