

RIVALROUS MASCULINITIES

New Directions in Medieval Gender Studies

EDITED BY ANN MARIE
RASMUSSEN

Advance Praise . . .

"In 1994, the groundbreaking volume *Medieval Masculinities* appeared in print. More than twenty years later, *Rivalrous Masculinities* showcases state-of-the-art work in medieval masculinity studies. Ann Marie Rasmussen needs to be commended for having assembled an impressive . . . collection of essays. The fact that this anthology exhibits a wide range of contributions in terms of time, geography, and disciplines is welcome."

—HELMUT PUFF, University of Michigan

"The essays in this book together make it clearer than ever that gender is never monolithic. Beyond reminding us in sophisticated and illuminating ways of this basic insight, however, the studies included demonstrate not only the plurality of medieval and early modern masculinities but also, and more significantly, that at the center of this plurality is rivalry. Multiple ways of 'acting like a man' mean that individuals (both men and women) will compete for the power and status this behavior will accord them. Focusing on both imagined and inhabited worlds from a variety of traditions, this book is a must read for anyone thinking in any way about gender and the past."

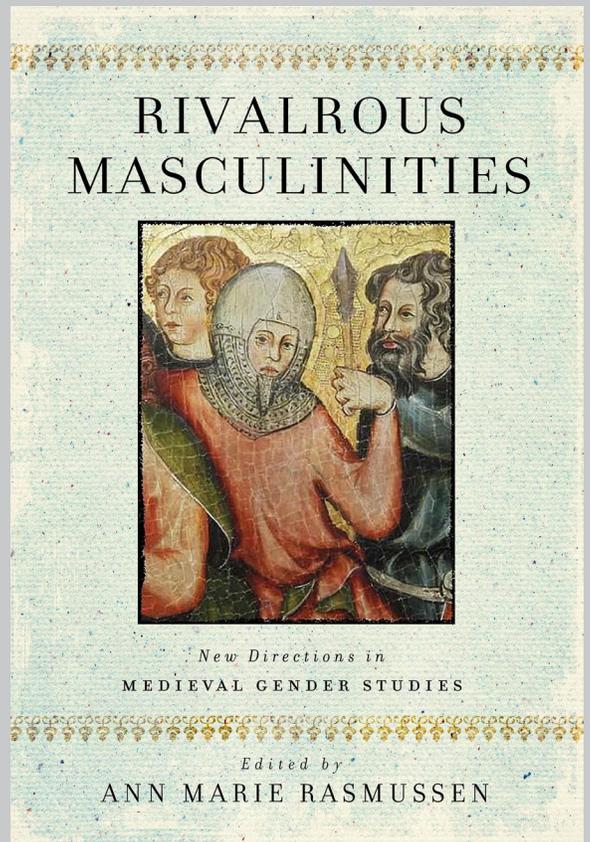
—SARA S. POOR, Princeton University

Bringing together the work of both leading and emerging scholars in the field of medieval gender studies, the essays in *Rivalrous Masculinities* advance our understanding of medieval masculinity as a pluralized category and as an intersectional category of gender. The essays in this volume are distinguished by a conceptual focus that goes beyond heteronormativity and by their attention to constructions of medieval masculinity in the context of femininity, class, religion, and place. Some widen the field of medieval gender studies inquiry to include explorations of medieval friendship as a framework or culture of arousal and deep emotionality that produced multiple, complex ways of living intensely with respect to gender and sexuality, without reducing all forms of intimacy to implicit sexuality. Some examine intersections of identity, explicating change and difference in conventional modes of gender with regards to regional culture, religion, race, or class. In order to ground this intersectional and interdisciplinary approach with the appropriate disciplinary expertise, the essays in this volume represent a broad cross-section of disciplines: art history, religious studies, history, and French, Italian, German, Yiddish, Middle English, and Old English literature. Together, they open up new intellectual vistas for future research in the field of medieval gender studies.



NOTRE DAME PRESS

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\$60 • 288 pages • April 30, 2019

ISBN: 978-0-268-10557-0 (cloth)

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