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Semiotics of Deceit

THE PATHELIN ERA

Donald Maddox

With a new English Prose translation of Maistre Pierre Pathelin
by ALAN E. KNIGHT
Semiotics of Deceit

THE PATHELIN ERA

Donald Maddox

*With a new English Prose translation of Maistre Pierre Pathelin by ALAN E. KNIGHT*

Lewisburg
Bucknell University Press
London and Toronto: Associated University Presses
Semiotics of Deceit: The Pathelin Era
Bucknell University Press, 1984

Extensive critical study of the late fifteenth-century comic masterpiece *Maistre Pierre Pathelin* focuses on the narrative and discursive aspects of deceit found throughout the play. In the initial chapter narratological analyses show how the anonymous playwright wove the intricate intrigue from several clever variants of the "deceiver-deceived" paradigm widespread in folktales and in Old French *fabliaux*. Subsequent chapters take up the elaborate figures of deceit derived from medieval proverbs, the rhetoric of portraiture, and the intertextual evocations of the woodcuts that illustrate the late medieval Arts of Dying – the *Ars moriendi*. Also analyzed are configurations of deceit in juridical discourse; strategies of delusive manipulation; and deceptive speech acts. The study also includes Alan Knight's admirably lucid and engaging English prose translation of the play.
Contents

Illustrations and Acknowledgments 9
Preface 11
  1. Semiopathelin 17

Part I. The Narrative Dimension of Deceit
  2. Infrapathelin, the Deceived Deceiver 29

Part II. The Verbal and Semantic Structures of Deceit
  3. Paremiopathelin the Sententious 43
      Excursus: The Three Faces of Logopathelin 59
  4. Pathegyrics, or the Subversive Encomium 62
  5. Thanatopathelin and the Art of Dying 72
  6. Antipathiqueulin and the Rhetoric of Torts 95
  7. Manipathulin, the Delusive Persuader 109
  8. Illocupathelin, Speech Actor 118

Part III. Pathelin and the Discourse of Deceit in Medieval French Drama

Part IV. The Cultural Dimension of Deceit
  10. Ideopathelin: The Signs of the Times 157
      Conclusion 171
      Master Pierre Pathelin, translated by Alan E. Knight 173
      Appendix: Narrative and Discoursive Semiotics 200
      Notes 206