

Foreward

This volume of the *Proceedings* of the Medieval Association of the Midwest continues to reinforce the judgement of the Council in establishing the series. The literatures represented include English, French, and Spanish. The poems treated span the spectrum from *Beowulf* to Lydgate. The topics reflect rhetoric, social ethics, love, war, and religion. The breadth of this collection clearly reflects the interdisciplinary nature of the Association.

The only worry for some of us is simultaneously a source of pride. Our acceptance rate for this issue was just under twenty-five percent. While this rate reflects the high quality of the essays that we published, many good essays could not be published for lack of space in the *Proceedings*. This situation was coupled with another factor. During the years that the Medieval Association of the Midwest publishes a volume of *Proceedings*, membership clearly increases. We know that those who have joined the organization look forward to the *Proceedings* and may even time their membership to coincide with publication of the volume. This situation has led the membership committee and the Council to consider alternate publication proposals.

Once again, our deepest thanks must be extended to Mel Storm and his readers (whom he lists in the Editor's Note) for the excellent job they have done. Our library subscriptions have increased, not dramatically but steadily. It is largely through the work of Mel and his colleagues that the *Proceedings* have succeeded so magnificently.

Finally, it is important to remember the efforts of two other colleagues. John McCully of Iowa State University took on the first burden of editing the *Proceedings*. Merle Fifield, who served as Executive Secretary from 1976 until 1988, has now retired from her position at Ball State University. Her outstanding contribution to the organizational structure and financial stability of the Association will remain with us for years to come.

Robert L. Kindrick
Executive Secretary
Medieval Association of the Midwest
The University of Montana