The Book of the Duchess and Fonteinne Amoureuse: Chaucer and Machaut Reconsidered

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The Book of the Duchess, Chaucer’s first major poem, is foundational for our understanding of Chaucer’s literary achievements in relation to late-medieval English textual production; yet in comparison with other works, its treatment has been somewhat peripheral in previous criticism. This volume, the first full-length collection devoted to the Book, argues powerfully against the prevalent view that it is an underdeveloped or uneven early work, and instead positions it as a nuanced literary and intellectual effort in its own right, one that deserves fuller integration with twenty-first-century scholarship.

8 ‘Counterfeit’ Imitatio: Understanding the Poet–Patron Relationship in Machaut’s Fonteinne amoureuse and Chaucer’s Book of the Duchess. (pp. 157–176).