2007

Note to the Reader

Delta Editorial Board

_Illinois Wesleyan University_
Dear Reader,

Welcome to the second edition of The Delta, the English Department journal. After the success of the first edition, our goals this year were to maintain the high standards of quality we had established with that first edition while also improving the presentation of the material. Due to the standards established by last year’s editorial board, the efforts of this year’s board, and everyone who submitted their work, we believe we have been successful on both counts.

Once again, we received many high quality submissions, which made the selection process challenging. We followed a blind selection procedure in order to ensure that the editorial board judged the papers based solely on the criteria established in our call for submissions:

We seek original and analytical papers unified around a specific thesis. The paper must be cohesive, well-supported, and, where applicable, properly cited using MLA format. While we will only publish excellent papers, we seek a diverse representation of work so that the publication covers many time periods, genres, subjects, and methodologies.

The editorial board would like to thank everyone who submitted a paper for consideration. We are also grateful to Susan Sombeck and Carrie Hymer at Printing Services for their help in improving the format of The Delta, as well as to Student Senate for providing funding for our publication. Thanks to Carol Ambrose as well for making our blind selection process possible. Thanks and congratulations to the Alpha Eta Pi chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, winner of the National Outstanding Chapter Award. Thank you also to Rachel Shulman for her work on our cover. And, last but not least, thank you to Dr. Theune for his guidance and support throughout this process.

We hope you enjoy the second edition of The Delta,

The Delta editorial board

Fabricating a Fabliau: The Shipman’s Tale

Rebecca W.

Of all the bawdy tales, or fabliaux, in The Canterbury Tales (CT), the Shipman’s Tale alienates the most readers and critics alike. Lifeless and plain compared to other Miller’s (MiT), Reeve’s (RvT) and Smoothy-end (SvT) tales, the Shipman’s Tale as it usually is, as a fabliau takes relationships to the level of commedia dell’arte in that it is antclimactic and amoral, it is neither nor of “best sentence.” However, read as it usually is, as a fabliau the tale to a level of “best sentence.”

Shipman takes a stand on the morality of the tale, the fabliau serves as the perfect trade in the familiar guise of a fabliau where the story lacks a moral standard by which to judge relationships to the level of commedia dell’arte. Further, the Shipman’s Tale comparison between merchants and friends both financially and sexually presenting an honest and just mercantilist view of the Merchant pilgrim, who represents the biggest business rivals. In this way the more playful aspect of “most solaas” an contribution to the pilgrims’ tale-telling.

I. The Shipman’s Tale: a Critical Analysis

In her chapter on the ShT tale in Chaucer: The Canterbury Tales, Hillenbrand on the ShT is to point out the problem of the first 15 lines as evidence for the tale was originally written for the Wife of Bath before commencing her analysis, shifting the tale from its final narrator. She adds less connection here than in any of