ENGLISH LITERATURE AND THE CRUSADES

The period from the Mamlūk reconquest of Acre (1291) to the Ottoman siege of Constantinople (1453) witnessed the production of a substantial corpus of Middle English crusade romances. Marcel Elias places these romances in dialogue with multifarious European writings to offer a novel account of late medieval crusade culture: as ambivalent and self-critical, animated by tensions and debates, and fraught with anxiety. These romances uphold ideals of holy war while expressing anxieties about issues as diverse as God's endorsement of the crusading enterprise, the conversion of Christians to Islam, the sinfulness of crusaders, and the morality of violence. Reinvigorating debates in medieval postcolonialism, drawing on emotion studies, and excavating a rich multilingual archive, this book is a major contribution to the cultural history of the crusades. This title is part of the Flip it Open programme and may also be available open access. Check our website Cambridge Core for details.

MARCEL ELIAS is Assistant Professor of English at Yale University. His essays on crusade literature, European representations of Muslims and Islam, and the history of emotions have appeared or are forthcoming in *Speculum*, *Review of English Studies*, *New Medieval Literatures*, *Studies in Philology*, and elsewhere.

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 17 Nov 2026 at 20:34:27, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108935463

CAMBRIDGE STUDIES IN MEDIEVAL LITERATURE

Founding Editor
Alastair Minnis, *Yale University*

General Editors
Marisa Galvez, *Stanford University*
Daniel Wakelin, *University of Oxford*

Editorial Board
Anthony Bale, *Birkbeck, University of London*
Zygmunt G. Barański, *University of Cambridge*
Christopher C. Baswell, *Barnard College and Columbia University*
Mary Carruthers, *New York University*
Rita Copeland, *University of Pennsylvania*
Roberta Frank, *Yale University*
Alastair Minnis, *Yale University*
Jocelyn Wogan-Browne, *Fordham University*

This series of critical books seeks to cover the whole area of literature written in the major medieval languages – the main European vernaculars, and medieval Latin and Greek – during the period c.1100–1500. Its chief aim is to publish and stimulate fresh scholarship and criticism on medieval literature, special emphasis being placed on understanding major works of poetry, prose, and drama in relation to the contemporary culture and learning which fostered them.

Recent titles in the series

Emma O. Bérat *Women's Genealogies in the Medieval Literary Imagination: Matrilineal Legacies in the High Middle Ages*
Anne Schuurman *The Theology of Debt in Late Medieval English Literature*
Jennifer A. Lorden *Forms of Devotion in Early English Poetry: The Poetics of Feeling*
Harriet Soper *The Life Course in Old English Poetry*
Taylor Cowdery *Matter and Making in Early English Poetry: Literary Production from Chaucer to Sidney*
Olivia Holmes *Boccaccio and Exemplary Literature: Ethics and Mischief in the "Decameron"*
Joseph Taylor *Writing the North of England in the Middle Ages: Regionalism and Nationalism in Medieval English Literature*
Mark Faulkner *A New Literary History of the Long Twelfth Century: Language and Literature between Old and Middle English*
Mark Chinca and Christopher Young (eds.) *Literary Beginnings in the European Middle Ages*
Andrew M. Richmond *Landscape in Middle English Romance: The Medieval Imagination and the Natural World*
David G. Lummus *The City of Poetry: Imagining the Civic Role of the Poet in Fourteenth-Century Italy*
Richard Matthew Pollard *Imagining the Medieval Afterlife*

A complete list of titles in the series can be found at the end of the volume.

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 17 Nov 2026 at 20:34:27, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108935463

ENGLISH LITERATURE AND THE CRUSADES

Anxieties of Holy War, 1291–1453

MARCEL ELIAS
Yale University

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 17 Nov 2026 at 20:34:27, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108935463

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05-06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,
a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of
education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108832212

DOI: 10.1017/9781108935463

© Marcel Elias 2024

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions
of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take
place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press & Assessment.

When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI 10.1017/9781108935463

First published 2024

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
NAMES: Elias, Marcel, 1985- author.
TITLE: English literature and the crusades : anxieties of holy war, 1291-1453 /
Marcel Elias, Yale University, Connecticut.
DESCRIPTION: Cambridge ; New York, NY : Cambridge University Press, 2024. |
Series: Cambridge studies in medieval literature | Includes bibliographical
references and index.
IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2024004239 (print) | LCCN 2024004240 (ebook) | ISBN 9781108832212
(hardback) | ISBN 9781108940702 (paperback) | ISBN 9781108940702 (epub)
SUBJECTS: LCSH: Romances, English–History and criticism. | English literature–Middle English,
1100-1500–History and criticism. | Crusades in literature. | Emotions in literature. |
Islam–Relations–Christianity. | Christianity and other religions–Islam. |
LCGFT: Literary criticism.
CLASSIFICATION: LCC PR321 .E45 2024 (print) | LCC PR321 (ebook) |
DDC 820.9/358207–DC23/eng/20240314
LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2024004239
LC ebook record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2024004240

ISBN 978-1-108-83221-2 Hardback

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence
or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this
publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will
remain, accurate or appropriate.

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 17 Nov 2026 at 20:34:27, subject to the
Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108935463