

Parlor Press announces a new edition of Charles Ross's translation of Matteo Maria Boiardo's *Orlando Innamorato* (Orlando in Love).

Charles Ross is professor of English and chair of the Program in Comparative Literature in the School of Liberal Arts at Purdue University. The first edition of this translation was published by the University of California Press in 1989, and Oxford University Press issued an abridged edition in 1995 as part of its Worlds Classics Series. Now the entire text, newly revised and with an expanded introduction and maps, is available in an inexpensive, trade paperback format produced by Parlor Press, based in West Lafayette. Parlor Press was founded by David Blakesley, an associate professor of English and a specialist in digital publishing. He has reformatted the text and found a way to put the entire 220,000-word poem into a convenient book that is already being adapted for courses in Italian literature.



Charles Ross

The *Orlando Innamorato*, written in 1486, tells the story of the knight Orlando's pursuit of the eastern princess Angelica from Paris to the ends of the known world. Part love story, part allegory, the poem combines features of romance and epic as Orlando's adventures take him across the known world to Angelica's castle fortress in Albraca beyond the Caspian Sea. The poem is filled with fairy women and enchanted gardens set in the Middle East, a place of wonders to the Italian imagination.



Matteo Maria Boiardo was the Count of Scandiano and associated with the famous Este court of Ferrara. He was highly educated in the Latin classics and history and used his knowledge to describe the politics of a region that had been known to the Romans but cut off from Europeans during the middle ages. His descriptions of kings and armies from Russia, Turkey, Baghdad, Syria, Turkestan, India, and other areas around modern Iran and Afghanistan are constant reminders that the culture and customs have remained remarkably constant over the centuries.

Professor Ross has produced the first complete English translation of the poem and the first into English verse. This translation captures Boiardo's soaring lyricism, epic battles, and sexual comedy, which alternate through a poem made up of interlaced stories and adventures. The form Boiardo invented, the romantic epic, became the model for later Italian writers such as Ariosto and

Tasso and was the model Edmund Spenser's great English romance, *The Faerie Queene* (1590). Don Quixote had a copy of the *Innamorato* in his library, and the village priest spared it from the flames in which he burned the romances that drove Cervantes's hero mad.

Information

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Orlando Innamorato (*Orlando in Love*) by Matteo Maria Boiardo. Translated with an Introduction and Notes by Charles Stanley Ross. Unabridged and newly translated. © 2004 by Parlor Press; 720 pages; ISBN 1-932559-01-9 (\$40.00 Paper); ISBN 1-932559-10-8 (\$14.00 Acrobat eBook). Includes detailed introduction, maps, notes, bibliography, and index