

Narrative Constellations: New Perspectives on the Old French Prose Lancelot-Grail Cycle

A02 (Strand “Narrating History”)

Summary

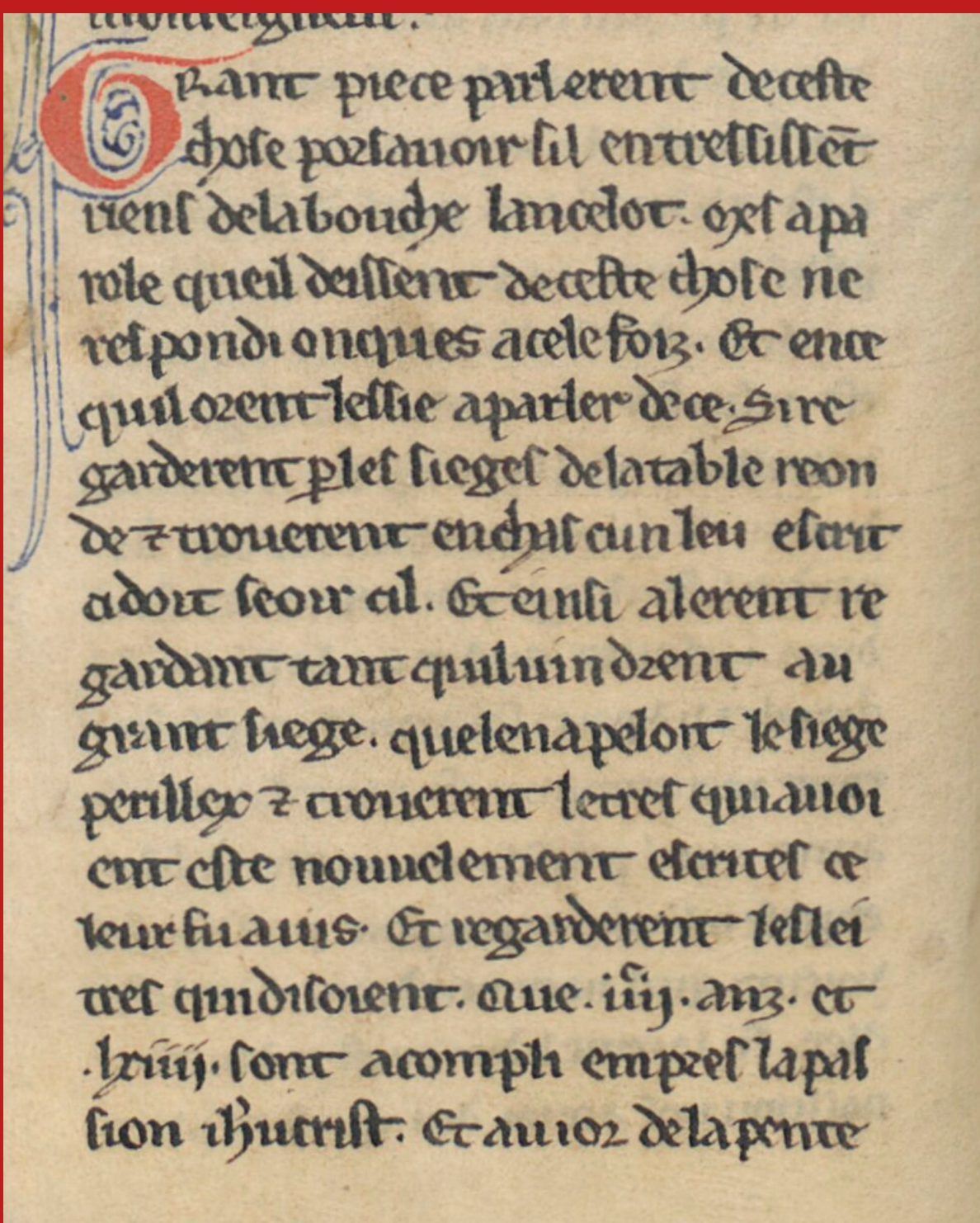
The project aims to uncover important characteristics of vast medieval prose narratives through a newly conceived narratological framework. We part from the idea that narration, in prose romances, is only a question of plot, motifs, or unilateral motivations; rather, it is also a question of narrative constellations.

Such narrative constellations bundle narrative strategies in important sections of the romances to organize the process of narrating history – irrespectively of the linear time of narration.

Prof. Dr. Susanne A. Friede
Dr. Marc Schäfer
Medieval French Literature

B05 Runggemeier
DH Rabus

C01 Brüggem
C02 von Contzen



Corpus

- The Prose-Lancelot-Grail Cycle consists of five parts (*Estoire*, *Merlin*, *Lancelot*, *Queste del saint Graal*, *Mort Artu*)
- (re)written between 1210 and 1240 (diff. versions)
- Length: Bonn, UB 526 (base for ed. Poirion, 2001): 47 7 fol. (r/v) à 3 col, i.e. about 150.000 lines
- Illustration (lefthand): Paris, Ars. 3347, fol. 214v, col. d

Narrative Constellations

We assume three fundamental types of narrative constellations that focus on:

- (1) **metaliterary aspects and authority**
- (2) **chivalric practices**
- (3) **history and its religious crossovers**

Our database of paradigmatic examples will use criteria such as: type of constellation; passage; length; important terms; main characters; cross references beyond the linear time frame; metaliterary/praxeological/religious embedding, etc.