



# The New Philology

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## *Speculum* 1990

- Special issue of *Speculum* 65.1 (1990)
- 5 papers from a symposium with an introduction by Stephen Nichols
- (with Kevin Brownlee and Marina Brownlee.) *The New Medievalism*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. 1991.



## Manuscript Culture

- “Introduction: Philology in a Manuscript Culture,” *Speculum* (January 1990), 65(1):1-10.



## Main premise

- Need to remove the isolation of philology from other disciplines
- “Postmodern return to the origins of medieval studies”
  
- “Orientation” rather than a Methodology



## Auerbach / Philology

- Philology saves texts “not only from oblivion, but from the changes, mutilations, and additions that necessarily result from popular consumption or the negligence of copyists.” (Auerbach)
- The manuscript seen only as an issue of text/language

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## Cerquiglioni / Writing

- “Medieval writing does not produce variants; it is a variance” (Cerquiglioni)
  - *Éloge de la variante* (Seuil, 1989)
- Return to the manuscript culture itself

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## Manuscript Culture is a Composite Work

- Medieval folio was the result of the *composite* of any number of individuals
  - Poet
  - Scribe
  - Illuminator
  - Rubricator
  - Commentator

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## Neglected Features of the Manuscript

- Neglected
  - Visual Images
  - Annotation
    - Rubrics
    - “Captions”
    - Glosses
    - Interpolations

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## Supplant / Multiply / Split

- Manuscript copying
  - Scribe supplants the original poet
- Manuscript
  - Multiple forms of representation
- Lacanian split
  - Doubling of perceptual field in illuminated mss

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## Manuscript & Language

- Suzanne Fleischman
  - Idiosyncrasies
  - Incoherences
    - Gaps in the text
    - Anomalies of grammar
    - Variance in script usage
    - Variety of text structures

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## What is the Text?

- “The Text” for the New Philology
  - Destabalised into the plurality of its variants
  
- As opposed to classical philological approach of the reduction of interpretation to
  - Univocity
  - Monosemantism
    - A *singular* meaning