



The Legacy of Apollo: Antiquity, Authority, and Chaucerian Poetics

Jamie Fumo



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Apollo, the classical god of poetry, truth, light, and the healing arts, held a special fascination for poets and scholars in the late-medieval period. As the English vernacular gained literary prestige in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, poets harnessed the precedent and authority of classical antiquity in order to grant themselves historical legitimacy. Uniquely positioned at the junctures of Latin and vernacular, pagan and Christian, human and divine, the figure of Apollo emerged as an impetus for change in the period's creative re-conceptualization of artistic identity and poetic inheritance.

In *The Legacy of Apollo*, Jamie C. Fumo presents a series of connected readings of classical and medieval texts that shape the god's pre-modern legacy. By examining Ovid's *Metamorphoses* and its commentaries, Virgil's *Aeneid*, mythographic manuals and iconography, popular sermons, saints' lives, and a range of Chaucerian works, Fumo innovatively brings the fruits of current scholarly practices of intertextuality to a body of medieval subject matter. This wide-ranging work traces the resonances of Apollo up to the cusp of the early modern period and reveals the medieval development of a newly self-conscious poetics of inspiration in England.



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