

**TROUVÈRES AND
TROUBADOURS: A
POPULAR TREATISE**

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Trouvères and Troubadours: A Popular Treatise by Aveling Aubry & Claude Aveling

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AVELING AUBRY & CLAUDE AVELING

**TROUVÈRES AND
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POPULAR TREATISE**

TROUVÈRES
AND
TROUBADOURS.

A Popular Treatise

BY
PIERRE AUBRY

TRANSLATED FROM THE SECOND FRENCH EDITION
BY
CLAUDE AVELING

G. SCHIRMER
NEW YORK & LONDON

1914

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TO THE
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CONGRESS

TRANSLATOR'S NOTE

This popular account of Troubadour Music is the swan-song of a scholar of remarkable erudition and attainment, lightened by enthusiasm for his subject and sympathy with the general reader. PIERRE AUBRY died in 1910, as the result of a fencing accident, at the age of thirty-six, a time when many men's activities are just beginning to reach fruition. Yet Pierre Aubry, in his short life, not only covered a vast field of research, but gave to the world practical results by the score. The references under his name in the Bibliography (at end) would do honor to twice his years; and in reading this study of Troubadours and their music, described by Mr. E. J. Dent as "Medieval Music without tears," one realises, with admiration, the author's skill in adapting the fruits of his erudition to the reconstruction of attractive scenes in the life and society of the period.

In order that the original texts of the songs may be followed without difficulty, the English translations (most of them new) have been made as simple as possible. A slight acquaintance with Latin and French (with due caution as to the traps that always lurk in 'unseens') will enable the reader to make out the meaning for himself.

In this connection, the Translator's grateful acknowledgments are due to Miss Barbara Smythe, whose London University lectures on Troubadour Music have done much to stimulate interest in this branch of medieval history.

The original French work is published in the series entitled "Les Maitres de la Musique," alluded to on page 1, line 2.

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TROUVÈRES and TROUBADOURS

I

THE TROUVÈRES AND TROUBADOURS WERE MUSICIANS AS WELL AS POETS

A first glance at the title of this book may provoke surprise, for a series devoted to masters of music hardly suggests to the unsuspecting reader a volume on trouvères and troubadours, who would seem to be more appropriately assigned to a survey of literature. But the paradox is mental rather than actual, based on the conception of medieval lyrical poetry formed by modern historians of literature, rather than on tangible and ascertainable fact; it is the development of a point of view generally adopted in a period not far removed from our own.

It is true that eighteenth-century explorers whose daring prompted them to study the lyrical art of the middle ages—*e. g.*, Levesque de la Ravallière (*Poésies du Roi de Navarre, 1742*) and De La Borde (*Essai sur la Musique ancienne et moderne, 1780*)—happily realised that the trouvères and troubadours were musicians as

NOTE. This second edition has enabled me to correct certain errors and modify passages which appeared to undervalue the achievements of my colleague M. Jean Beck.