

Realism in the 'Tirant lo blanc'

The realism of the Tirant lo blanc has been noticed since Cervantes made the famous statement: "Digoos verdad...que por su estilo es este el mejor libro del mundo: aquí comen los caballeros y duermen y mueren en sus camas, y hacen testamento antes de su muerte, con otras cosas de que todos los demás libros deste género carecen." Certain more recent commentators, notably Dámaso Alonso, have been fascinated by these features and it is with one of them, namely the role of sex in this work, that the present paper is concerned. It will be its aim to show that in this respect the Tirant is uninhibited and detailed in a way for which the obvious parallel is not the Decameron, the Romance of the Rose, Chaucer or the Celestina, but rather something like the Golden Ass.