Structural Arithmetic Metaphor in the Oxford “Roland”
Structural
Arithmetic Metaphor
in the Oxford “Roland”

Eleanor Webster Bulatkin

Ohio State University Press
to Iliya Bulatkin
Cossack of the Don
Contents

INTRODUCTION: Dante, the "Vie de Saint Alexis," and the Oxford "Roland" xi

CHAPTER 1: The Meaning of Numbers in the Middle Ages 3

ELEMENTARY NUMERICAL ASSOCIATIONS. ASTRONOMICAL ASSOCIATIONS. PYTHAGOREAN NUMBERS. TRANSMISSION TO THE MIDDLE AGES.

CHAPTER 2: The Numerical Structures in the Oxford "Roland" 23


CHAPTER 3: The Creation of the Numerical Patterns 59

THE PROBLEM OF OLIVIER. FRANCE AT THE END OF THE CAROLINGIAN DYNASTY. CHARLEMAGNE AND THE TWELVE PEERS.

CHAPTER 4: The Inventors at Work 79


EPILOGUE: The Provenience of the Oxford "Roland" 99

Appendix 103
Bibliography 107
Index 109
Illustrations

FIGURE 1: The Roland Theme: Betrayal 28
FIGURE 2: The Olivier Theme: Démesure 29
FIGURE 3: The Charlemagne Theme: Absence 31
FIGURE 4: The 66 Pattern 33
FIGURE 5: The 66 Pattern (reverse) 34
FIGURE 6: Démesure, Death, and Burial 39
FIGURE 7: Predictions: Démesure, Vengeance on Ganelon, Baligant's oath of Vengeance 40
FIGURE 8: Betrayal, Betrayal Revealed, Charlemagne's Prayer for Vengeance 42
FIGURE 9: The 91 Pattern 43
FIGURE 10: The 91 Pattern (reverse) 44
FIGURE 11: Defeat and Vengeance 46
FIGURE 12: The 66 and 91 Patterns 80
FIGURE 13: Distribution of Roncevaux and Baligant Material 81
FIGURE 14: The Original 66 Pattern 86
FIGURE 15: The Original 66 Pattern (reverse) 88
FIGURE 16: Parallel Laisses 92