



## The Lost Love Letters of Heloise and Abelard: Perceptions of Dialogue in Twelfth-Century France (The New Middle Ages)

*By Constant J. Mews*

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This new edition offers fascinating insights into one of the most celebrated love affairs of the Middle Ages. A new chapter charts the debate about the letters and offers fresh evidence to attribute them to Abelard and Heloise. The complete Latin text is reproduced with an annotated translation by Chiavaroli and Mews.

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- Sales Rank: #1149901 in Books
- Published on: 2008-09-15
- Released on: 2008-09-16
- Ingredients: Example Ingredients
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.50" h x .99" w x 5.50" l, 1.30 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 421 pages

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### **Editorial Review**

From Library Journal

The illicit love affair between Abelard and Heloise was one of the most talked-about relationships in the Middle Ages. While the letters they wrote after both had become monastics have been well-publicized, these early love letters had not previously been identified as theirs. Mews (history and director of the Ctr. for Studies in Religion, Monash Univ., Australia) carefully sets forth the reasons for his identification of these letters with the famous couple. For Mews, these letters reveal a conflict of values between Heloise and Abelard that reflects monastic debates on the nature of love itself. Mews discusses Heloise's influence on Abelard through her respect for non-Christian classical authors, her concern for practicality in monastic rules, and her idea of love as involving friendship and equality. Important for Medievalists, feminists, and those captivated by the Heloise and Abelard myth; highly recommended. A Carolyn M. Craft, Longwood Coll., Farmville, VA

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### **Review**

Reviews of the first edition:

'This book stands as a treasure trove of new information about Heloise, and Abelard too. . . This excellent edition allows us modern readers to interpret these medieval Latin letters for ourselves, and even to reconstruct the correspondence of Abelard and Heloise.' - Michael Clanchy in The Times Literary Supplement

'A thorough, sympathetic appraisal of the [letters] . . . By restoring this magnificent literary dialogue to its rightful place in Latin letters, Mews has performed a signal service not only for scholars of Abelard and Heloise, but for all who love literature.' -The Medieval Review

'Important for Medievalists, feminists, and those captivated by the Heloise and Abelard myth; highly recommended.' - Library Journal

### **Language Notes**

Text: English, Latin (translation)

Original Language: Latin

### **Users Review**

**From reader reviews:**

**Curtis Salas:**

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