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# The English Association

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The English Association and Basil Blackwell Ltd have pleasure in sending you the text of the reviews appearing in The Year's Work in English Studies (Volume 68 for 1987) of books published by you. The Association is most grateful to the publishers who have supplied copies of their books for review.

- 25 Menocal, Maria Rosa. *The Arabic Role in Medieval Literary History*. UPenn. pp. xvii + 178. \$27.95. ISBN 0 8122 8056 3.

The tantalizing Arabic connections of works like *Dame Sirith* and *Floris and Blancheflour*, to which Swanton alludes, confirm the significance of *The Arabic Role in Medieval Literary History*, explored by Maria Rosa Menocal. In a deliberately non-factual study, Menocal exposes the selectiveness of traditional literary history, which has largely ignored the importance of Arabs in medieval European culture, and in an attempt to set the question of cultural influences in the context of modern critical theories, suggests some crucial illustrative issues: Petrus Alfonsi's compilation of the *Disciplina Clericalis*; the origins of 'courtly love'; the role of female narrators; Dante's access to Arabian philosophy.