

# Dissertation Defense: Florin Beschea

*Thursday, August 15,  
2013  
2:00 PM  
Ballantine Hall  
Room 149*

## COMMITTEE

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French and Italian, Literature

**Wayne H. Storey ,**  
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If you would like to attend, please  
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**INDIANA UNIVERSITY**

**CORPS, CŒUR, ÂME ET RAISON DANS LES MIRACLES DE NOSTRE DAME DE GAUTIER DE COINCI ET DANS LES MIRACLES DE NOSTRE DAME PAR PERSONNAGES**

The object of this study is to analyze the relationships between the terms and concepts body, heart, soul and reason in the Miracles de Notre Dame written by Gautier de Coinci and the Miracles de Notre Dame par personnages and the way in which these complex relationships affect the production of the miracle. The conceptual structure of the miracle, be it in one of the texts by Gautier or in a play from the collection of the 14<sup>th</sup>-century miracle plays known as Miracles de Notre Dame par pesonnages, may be reduced to a basic outline in which we can identify four distinct parts.

I propose that the dynamics of the miracle is directly related to the destabilization of the harmonious relationship between body and reason. In the first part of the miracle, the sinner/main (human) character of the story commits a sinful act induced by the desires of the body against what the reason prescribes, that endangers his eternal soul. He or she realizes the danger and, in the second part, the sinner will repent truthfully for his/her error. While praying, the sinner invokes Virgin Mary and asks for her help. The third moment is marked by the manifestation of the Virgin Mary (in a dream or in person): this manifestation is a miracle in itself, necessary but not sufficient, since she needs to reestablish the general order of things by forgiving the sinner or by acting as mediator between the sinner and God. The conclusion of the story, the fourth moment in the miracle, is the moment in which the Virgin Mary's miracle is made public, which sometimes triggers mass conversions and public displays of adoration of the divine mother.

