



**University of Guelph  
Department of History**

**MA Thesis Defence**

Student: Jenny Duong	Date: Thursday, April 17, 2014
Time: 10:00 am	Place: MacKinnon Extension Rm. 2020

**Title**

**"Désirant tout, envahissant tout, ne connaissant le prix de rien": Materiality in the Queenship of Isabeau of Bavaria**

**Abstract**

This thesis revisits the origins of Isabeau of Bavaria's notorious reputation – her 'Black Legend'. Among medievalists, the commonly held opinion regarding Isabeau, Queen Consort of France (1385-1422), is that she was the scorn of contemporary writers. She is charged with a lengthy inventory of sins including profligacy, adultery and treason, among a myriad of other offences. However, by assessing the works of contemporary chroniclers and evaluating the material culture of Isabeau's court, I propose that the foundation of her 'Black Legend' is linked to the problem of greed, over spending and taxation at her court – the only valid charges against the queen. Accordingly, research reveals that Isabeau skillfully navigated her queenship by performing expected gender ideology. By actively crafting her iconography modeled after the Virgin Mary using extra-literary devices and through conspicuous consumption, Isabeau was able to compensate for France's lack of political stability and, ultimately, operated as a regnant queen due to the mental disability of Charles VI.

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