

MARITIME METAPHORS IN SEBASTIAN BRANT'S *THE SHIP OF FOOLS*

Iuliana Tănase
University of Bucharest

Abstract: *Although the maritime metaphor of the ship was not applied to Sebastian Brant's The Ship of Fools in the initial version but was subsequently added as a framing device, the compound metaphor of 'the ship of fools' remains a prominent symbol of the late Middle Ages. The complexity of the work is linked to the late-medieval transition to the modern age and the attending shifts in the medieval worldview. The paper aims to investigate the symbolism of the ship as used by S. Brant by reference to the contemporary context. It examines the relevance of the historical context and analyses whether the maritime metaphors are used solely as formal and structural device or they actually participate in the underlying significance of the book.*

Keywords: *Sebastian Brant, "the ship of fools" metaphor, maritime metaphors*