

Exemplum Corner

The 14th capital of the Carmelite cloister in Bamberg shows a woman, breasts bared and flowing hair, atop a bearded male. "Her attributes normally belong to personifications of luxuria, and their appropriation here has a kind of visual 'gloss' to the mounted Aristotle effects an iconographic merger that was very likely suggested and mediated by contemporary representations of Luxuria riding on the back of a goat, an animal symbolizing lust... The Bamberg capital is capable of being understood either as the mounted Aristotle specifically, with the lady represented as the embodiment of carnality as *she* is in Jacques de Vitry's exemplum, or generically as an image visualizing the fate of any man who allows himself to be dominated by lust."

Susan Smith *The Power of Women* p. 123
Contributed by Elizabeth B. Moore



Phyllis and Aristotle

Rouen



Phyllis and Aristotle

Dordrecht



Phyllis and Aristotle

Oviedo