



TARTU STATE UNIVERSITY

SELECTIONS FROM OLD, MIDDLE  
AND EARLY MODERN ENGLISH

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TARTU STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of English

# SELECTIONS FROM OLD, MIDDLE AND EARLY MODERN ENGLISH

COMPILED AND PROVIDED  
WITH NOTES, TRANSLATIONS AND GLOSSARY  
BY O. MUTT

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## P R E F A C E

The aim of this booklet is to supply some Early English texts necessary for the practical studies which should always accompany a theoretical course in the history of English. Special attention has been paid to the needs of correspondence students. A previous knowledge of elementary English historical grammar and of the general history of English is required in order to read the specimens presented here.

Owing to the modest extent of this publication it does not include much more material than can be gone through during one academic year of lectures and seminars covering 2 - 3 periods a week.

The texts are chronologically arranged. Each text is provided with a brief introduction containing material on the period, author (if known) and language. Such an introduction is followed by the specimen itself. The excerpts have been taken chiefly from A.I.Smirnitsky's well-known "Specimens of English" (Moscow 1939<sup>2</sup>; cf. its more recent version *Хрестоматия по истории английского языка*, Москва 1953). Most of the texts are provided with notes and commentaries dealing with the principal difficulties of grammatical construction and explaining some of the words and forms. Modern English translations have been given of the specimens up to "Piers Plowman" (exclusive). A glossary containing all the words that occur in the OE. and ME. texts is given at the end of the booklet. References are made to cognate languages and a number of symbols and abbreviations are used in order to give the student some training to help him use such standard dictionaries as Bosworth-Toller's "Anglo-Saxon Dictionary", W.Skeat's "Etymological Dictionary", etc.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge the valuable criticism and comments made by Assistant Professor J.Silvet, who has had the kindness to read the work in manuscript. I am also indebted to my colleagues G.Kiviväli and G.Liiv of the Chair of English of Tartu State University for a number of corrections and suggestions concerning the preliminary draft of the work.

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O.M.



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## I. O L D    E N G L I S H

### 1.

The Runic Inscription on the Front Panel  
of the Franks Casket; c.650  
(Early Northumbrian)

The runic inscriptions on the Franks casket are regarded as the earliest surviving OE<sup>1</sup> text. The casket is a small box (9 x 7,5 in.) made of whalebone. It received its name from A.W.Franks, a 19th-century British antiquary, who presented it to the British Museum. The inscriptions together with carved illustrations from biblical history and from Roman and Germanic legends cover the sides of the casket and its lid. The dialect of the inscriptions is held to be early Northumbrian. Because of the archaic form of the language, there is room for argument about parts of the translation.

#### T e x t

##### The Inscription on the Front Panel

##### Transliteration

Hronæs bān / fisc flōdu / āhōf on ferz / enberiz /  
warp ȝāsríc ȝrorn pāer hē on ȝrēut ȝiswom.

#### Translation and Notes

(This is) whale's bone. The flood (i.e. the sea) cast up the fish on the rocky shore. The monster was stranded on

---

<sup>1</sup> For a full list of the abbreviations used in this book, see p.59.



the shore in agony (lit.: The monster became vexed where he swam aground on the shingle; according to another interpretation this sentence should be translated as follows: The ocean became turbid where he swam aground on the shingle).

2.

From "Beowulf"; c.700

(West-Saxon with Anglian Elements)

Despite a vast amount of research the origin, composition and date of the Anglo-Saxon epic "Beowulf" remain hypothetical. The epic is believed to have been originally composed in an Anglian dialect about 700. Its sources are partly mythological tales, partly heroic songs and sagas of Scandinavian origin, some of them probably based on actual historical events. "Beowulf" is substantially a product of heathen times, and the Christian elements in the poem were apparently added later. The only surviving MS. of the poem, now in the British Museum, is usually assigned to the late 10th century. The dialect of this MS. is mainly West Saxon, with, however, some admixture of Anglian forms.

The epic is a valuable source of material reflecting the life, customs and interests of the Scandinavians and Anglo-Saxons in the 5th-6th centuries. It has been called an encyclopedia of early Germanic customs, traditions and mythology. Recent archeological excavations at Sutton Hoo in East Anglia brought to light the ship-cenotaph of an East Anglian king of the 7th century. The astonishingly rich finds here probably represent more-or-less contemporary material parallels of the royal banners, swords, helmets, drinking-bowls, harps, etc., mentioned in "Beowulf".

The whole text of the unique MS. contains 3182 lines divided into 43 chapters or fits written like prose without any separations between the verses. Many letters and even whole lines are now lost, chiefly because the parchment was

badly damaged by fire in 1731.

There are many modern editions of Beowulf, e.g., those by M. Heyne-L. Schölkong (11th and 12th ed.), Paderborn 1916; P. Holthausen, Heidelberg 1908-9, etc.; J. Wyatt - R. W. Chambers, Cambridge 1914; C. L. Wrenn, Cambridge 1958, and many others. For a translation into MoE., see, e.g., J. R. C. Hall, Beowulf - A Metrical Translation into Modern English, Cambridge 1914.

### Excerpt...1

(Hrothgar, king of the Danes, suffered from the ravages of a terrible monster called Grendel. Beowulf, a hero of the Gauts (a Scandinavian tribe, cf. Götland) decided to sail to Denmark with 14 companions, to offer his help to Hrothgar, and ordered a good ship to be made ready.)

### T e x t

- |     |   |  |
|-----|---|--|
| 210 | Fyrst forð 3ewāt;<br>bāt under beor3e.<br>on stefn stizōn.<br>sund wið sande <sup>1</sup> .<br>on bearn nacan | flota wæs on ȳðum,<br>Beornas 3earwe<br>Strēamas wundon,<br>Sec3as bāron<br>beerhte frætwe,        |
| 215 | 3ūð-searo 3eatolīc:<br>weras on wil-sið<br>3ewāt pā ofer wæ3-helm<br>flota fāmī-heals <sup>3</sup>            | 3uman ūt scufon,<br>wudu bundenne <sup>2</sup> .<br>winde 3efȳsed<br>fuzle 3elīcoet <sup>4</sup> , |

.....

### N o t e s

1. sund wið sande: lit. - the sea against sand, i.e. the waves beat against the shore.
2. wudu bundenne: lit. - the timber-bound, i.e. the wooden ship.
3. flota fāmī-heals: foamy-necked floater, i.e. ship with its prow covered with sea-foam.

4. fuzle 3elfcost: most like a bird.

### T r a n s l a t i o n

- 210 The time wore away. On the waves was the bark,  
the boat under the cliff. Fighting men in full gear  
stepped on to the ship.' The eddies curled round it,  
sea buffeted sand. To the lap of the vessel  
were borne by the heroes the brilliant trappings,  
215 magnificent war-gear. The men shoved it off  
the timber-bound bark, on its desired journey  
Then over the wave-ridge by wind hurried forward,  
the foamy-necked floater most bird-like departed.

### E x c e r p t --- 2

(Grendel nightly forced an entrance into Heorot, a fine new hall built by the Danes, and carried off some of Hrothgar's warriors. Their weapons were powerless against the monster. Heorot has to be deserted. Beowulf and his friends are feasted in the splendid hall. At night the Danes withdraw, leaving the strangers alone. When all but Beowulf are asleep, Grendel arrives on the scene again.)

### T e x t

- 710      þā cōm of mōre      under mist-hleoðum  
         3rendel 3on3an<sup>1</sup>,      3odes yrre baer.  
         Mynte sē mǣn-scaða      manna cynnes  
         sumne besyrwan      in sele þām hēan<sup>2</sup>;  
         wōd under wolcnum<sup>3</sup>,      tō paes-pe hē wīn-reced,  
715      3old-sele 3umena      3earwost wisse<sup>4</sup>,  
         fættum fāhne.      Ne-waes þæt forma sīð,  
         þæt hē Hrōð3āres      hām 3esōhte<sup>5</sup>;

.....

### N o t e s

1. cōm...3rendel 3on3an: Grendel came striding (came apace).



2. in sele pām hēan: in the high hall = Heorot, referred to in the following lines as 'wīn-reced', '3old-sele 3umena' and 'Hrōð3āres hām'.
3. under wolcnum: under the clouds, i.e. on earth.
4. 3earwost wisse: lit. most clearly knew, i.e. could distinguish or see, most clearly.
5. Hrōð3āres hām 3esōhte: sought (i.e. visited) Hrothgar's home.

### T r a n s l a t i o n

- 710 Then out from the moor and the mist-laden slopes  
 Grendel came gliding, God's anger he bare.  
 The worker of ill thought within the high hall  
 to take one in his toils of the race of mankind;  
 on he went under the clouds till he saw clearly
- 715 the banqueting house, the gold-hall of man,  
 with ornaments brave. That was not the first time  
 that a visit he'd made to Hrothgar's abode..

### 3.

#### West-Saxon Modification of Caedmon's Hymn: c. 890

Caedmon, the Anglo-Saxon Milton, as he is sometimes called, is the earliest English poet to whom we can give a definite name and date. He lived in Northumbria, and is supposed to have died about 680, in the monastery of Whitby. The little we know about Caedmon comes from Bede's "Ecclesiastical History of the English People" (Historia ecclesiastica gentis Anglorum) written in Latin in 731. Bede, "the Venerable Bede" (673-735), popularly called "The Father of English Learning", was a Northumbrian priest and scholar. Notwithstanding its errors and the author's obvious credulity, the "Ecclesiastical History" is a very important source of information concerning English history from the



time of Caesar's invasion to the early part of the 8th century. In its oldest, Northumbrian form, Caedmon's well-known "Hymn" can be found copied at the end of a manuscript of Bede's "Ecclesiastical History" from about 737. The version given below is a later West Saxon transcription dating from the end of the 9th century.

### T e x t

	Mū sculon herizean	heofon-rīces weard,
	meotodes meahte	ond his mōd-ƷeƷanc <sup>1</sup> ,
	weorc wuldor-fæder,	swā hē wundra Ʒehwaes,
	ēce drihten,	ōr onstealde.
5	Hē ærest scēop,	eorðan bearnum <sup>2</sup>
	heofon tō hrōfe,	hāliz scyppend;
	Ʒā middan-Ʒeard <sup>3</sup>	monn-cynnes weard,
	ēce drihten,	æfter tēode
	fīrum foldan,	frēa ælmihtiz

### N o t e s

1. mōd-ƷeƷanc: lit. - mind's thought; probably meaning 'conception, intention'.
2. eorðan bearnum: for the children of the world (dat. pl.).
3. middan-Ʒeard: lit. - the mid earth = the earth; the earth or the abode of man was imagined as occupying an intermediate position between heaven and the nether world (the infernal regions).

### T r a n s l a t i o n

Now should we praise      of the heavenly kingdom the guard-  
dian

Of the creator the might      and his mind's-thought  
the work of the father of glory;      how he of wonders each  
the eternal lord,      the beginning established.

5. He first created      for mankind's children

heaven as a roof, the holy creator.  
Then the middle-world, of mankind the guardian,  
the eternal lord, afterwards established  
for men the world, the lord almighty.

4.

From the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles; Late 9th Century

(Early West Saxon)

Although it is usual to speak of "the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle", it would be more correct to use the plural form because there were several independent chronicles.

The brief records that had been made in Anglo-Saxon monasteries since the 7th century were collected and supplemented at Winchester in the 2nd half of the 9th century, probably on the initiative of King Alfred. These earliest Winchester annals were then rewritten and added to, year by year, at different places - Abingdon, Canterbury, Worcester, and Peterborough, beside Winchester itself. They all start with an account of Caesar's invasion of Britain and continue their record up to different dates in the 10th-12th centuries. The earlier parts dealing with events up to the reign of King Alfred are based on pre-existing materials and are often superficial and fragmentary. Beginning with the last quarter of the 9th cent. the chronicles became contemporaneous narratives of events and are a source of much valuable historical and linguistic information.

There are seven MSS. in existence. Of these, two are especially important: the Parker MS. (belonged formerly to M. Parker, a 16th-century archbishop of Canterbury; No. 173, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge), which is the oldest (portion up to 892 in early West-Saxon); and the so-called Peterborough Chronicle (MS. in the Bodleian, Laud Miscellany 636), which alone continues the annals up to 1154; its last

entries (1122-1154) written in contemporaneous North East Midland dialect, are a very valuable EME. text.

For an edition of six MSS. and their MoE. translations see The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, ed. by B. Thorpe in the series "Rerum Britannicarum Medii Aevi Scriptores", London 1861; a good MoE. version of the Chronicle may also be found in The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, translated by J. Ingram, London - New York 1917.

### ~~Excerpt~~...1

(The Parker MS.)

An. DCC.LXXVII. Hēr<sup>1</sup> nōm<sup>2</sup> Beorhtric cyninȝ Offan<sup>3</sup>  
dohtor Eadburȝe. J<sup>4</sup> on his dazum cuōmon ārest III. scipu.<sup>5</sup>  
J pā sē ȝerēfa pāer tō rād. J hīe wolde drīfan tō pæs  
cyninȝes tūne. þū hē nyste hwaet hīe wāeron. J hiene mon  
ofslōȝ. þæt wāeron pā ārestan scipu Deniscra monna<sup>6</sup> þe  
Anȝelcynnes lond<sup>7</sup> ȝesōhton.<sup>8</sup>

### Notes

1. hēr: here, i.e. in this year.
2. nōm: 'took to wife, married'.
3. Offan: gen. of Offa, king of Mercia and overlord of the southern English, d. 796.
4. The symbol J is employed in many OE. and EME. MSS. to represent 'and'; in the present publication the letter 'J' stands for the symbol.
5. III.scipu: three ships of the Northmen or Scandinavians.
6. Deniscra monna: gen.pl.
7. Anȝelcynnes lond: land of the Angle-kin (= the English people) i.e. England. 'Angelcynn' began to be replaced from about the year 1000 by the term Engla land 'land of the Angles'.
8. ȝesōhton: sought, i.e. came.



## T r a n s l a t i o n

787. In this year King Beorhtric took Offa's daughter Eadburh (to wife). And in his days first came three ships. And then the reeve rode there (to), and would drive them to the king's town, for he knew not what they were, and they there slew him. Those were the first ships of Danish men that sought the land of the English people.

## E x c e r p t \_ \_ 2

An. DCCC.LXXI. Hēr cuōm sē here<sup>1</sup> tō Rēadinzum<sup>2</sup> on Westseaxe. J pæs ymb III. niht ridon II. eorlas<sup>3</sup> ūp. pā zemētte hīe Æpelwulf aldorman on Englafelda<sup>4</sup>. J him pāer wip zefeant J size nam. pæs ymb IIII. niht Æperēd<sup>5</sup> cyninȝ J Ælfrēd<sup>6</sup> his brōpur pāer micle fierd<sup>7</sup> tō Rēadinzum zelæddon. J wip þone here zefuhton. J pāer wæs micel wæl zeslæȝen<sup>8</sup> on zehwæpre hond. J Æpelwulf aldorman wearp ofslæȝen J pā Deniscan āhton wælstōwe zewald<sup>9</sup>.

## N o t e s

1. sē here: the army of the Scandinavians; 'here' acquired a bad meaning through its association with herȝian 'to harry', and hence it applied only to a plundering, marauding body of men.
2. Rēadinzas ma. pl.: MoE. Reading, town in Berkshire, 36 m. west of London.
3. eorlas: here - Scandinavian chiefs or jarls.
4. Englafeald mu.: MoE. Englefield in Berkshire.
5. Æperēd = Æpelrēd: Athelred, king of Wessex (866-871).
6. Ælfrēd: the later King Alfred of Wessex (871-901).
7. fierd: the English army.
8. pāer wæs micel wæl zeslæȝen: there was much slaughter;



cf. Est. 188di suur lahing; G. eine große Schlacht wurde geschlagen.

9. āhton waelstōwe ȝewald: lit. obtained (had) power over the battle field, i.e. gained a victory.

### T r a n s l a t i o n

871. In this year the army came to Reading in Wessex, and three nights after, two jarls rode up, when the alderman Æthelwulf met them at Englefield, and there fought against them, and gained the victory. Four nights after this King Æthered and Ælfred his brother led a large force to Reading and fought against the army, and there was great slaughter on either side; and the alderman Æthelwulf was slain, and the Danes held possession of the battle place.

### E x c e r p t . . .

An. DCCC.XCVII. ... þý ilcan ȝeare drehton þā herȝas on Ēastenzlūm<sup>1</sup> J on Norðhymbrum<sup>2</sup> Westseaxna lond swiðe be þāem sūð staeðe mid staelherȝum, ealra swiðust mid þāem æscom þe hīe fela ȝeare ðer timbredon. þā hēt Ælfred cynȝ timbrian lanȝ scipu<sup>3</sup> onȝan ðā æscom; þā wæron ful nēah tū swā lanȝe swā þā oðru; sume hæfdon LX āra, sume mā; þā wæron ðeȝðer ȝe swiðtran, ȝe<sup>4</sup> unwealtran, ȝe ðac hīeran þonne þā oðru; næron nāwðer nē on Frēsisc<sup>5</sup> ȝescapene, nē on Danisc, būte swā him selfum ðūhte past hīe nytwyrðoste beon meahten.

### N o t e s

1. & 2. herȝas on Ēastenzlūm J on Norðhymbrum: the armies from the East Angles and Northumbrians, i.e. the armies or predatory bands of the Scandinavians from East Anglia and Northumbria.
3. The Accusative with the Infinitive construction with a passive sense.

4. æȝðer 3e ... 3e: both ... and, as well.
5. nē on Frēsisc ȝescaepene: not shaped like the Frisian (i.e. the Frisian ships).

### T r a n s l a t i o n

897. In the same year the armies from the East Angles and Northumbrians harassed the West Saxons' land, very much on the south coast, by predatory bands; (though) most of all by the long ships, which they had built many years before. Then King Alfred commanded long ships to be built against them, which were full nigh twice as long as the others; some had sixty oars, some more; they were both swifter and steadier, and also higher than the others; they were shapen neither as the Frisian nor as the Danish, but as it seemed to himself that they might be most useful.

### 5.

From King Alfred's Translation of Orosius's

"Universal History"; c. 893

(Early West Saxon)

A number of Latin books were translated into the West Saxon dialect on the initiative of King Alfred (871-901) or by him personally. They include the "Universal History of Orosius" (Historiarum adversus Paganos Libri septem, i.e. "Seven Books of History against the Heathen"). Orosius was a Spanish monk of the 5th century, whose "History" became a favourite textbook during the Middle Ages. King Alfred's translation is a rather free and abridged one. It is especially valuable for Alfred's own additions which contain highly interesting geographical and ethnographical information. Among these original insertions there are the narratives of Ohthere's and Wulfstan's voyages. The first voyage of Ohthere, a rich Norwegian from present-day Helgeland, was

to the White Sea, where he came in contact with Lapps, Permians and probably Karelians. Ohthere's second voyage took him to Schleswig. Wulfstan is believed to have been a Dane. He made a voyage along the southern coast of the Baltic Sea from Schleswig to a point somewhat eastward of the mouth of the Vistula, where he met the Ests, a Baltic people who were probably the ancestors of the ancient Prussians. The accounts of both Ohthere's and Wulfstan's voyages are of the highest value for information about the lands and peoples of north-western Europe in the 9th century.

### T e x t

#### From Ohthere's Account of His First Voyage

(The Lauerdale MS.)

Ohthere <sup>s</sup>sæde his hlāforde, Ælfrēde cyninze, þæt hē ealra Norðmonna<sup>1</sup> norpmēst būde. Hē cwæð þæt hē būde on þæm lande norpweardum wip þā Westsæ<sup>2</sup>. Hē s<sup>s</sup>æde þeah þæt þæt<sup>3</sup> land sīe swīpe lanȝ norp þonan; ac hit is eal wēste, būton on fēawum stōwum styccem<sup>s</sup>ælum wīcīað Finnas<sup>4</sup>, on huntode<sup>5</sup> on wintra and on sumera on fiscap<sup>5</sup> be þære s<sup>s</sup>æ.

.....

Fela spella him s<sup>s</sup>ædon þā Beormas<sup>6</sup> æȝþer ȝe of hiera āȝnum lande ȝe of þæm landum þe ymb hīe ūtan wæron<sup>7</sup>, ac hē nyste hwaet þæs sōþes waes, for-þæm hē hit self ne ȝeseah. þā Finnas, him þūhte, and þā Beormas spræcon nēah ān ȝepēode.

.....

(The Cotton MS.)

Hē<sup>8</sup> waes swyðe spēdiȝ man on þæm æhtum þe heora spēda on bēoð, þæt is, on wildrum<sup>9</sup>. Hē ū h<sup>s</sup>æfde þā ȝȳt, ðā hē<sup>10</sup> pone cyninȝc sōhte, tamra dēora unbebohtra syx hund. þā dēor hī hātað 'hrānas'; þāra wæron syx stael-hrānas; ðā bēoð swyðe dȳre mid Finnum, for-ðæm hȳ fōð þā wildan hrānas mid. Hē<sup>10</sup> waes mid þæm fyrstum mannum<sup>11</sup> on þæm lande.



## N o t e s

1. Norðmonna: (gen.pl.) of the Northmen, i.e. inhabitants of the north, Scandinavians, esp. Norwegians.
2. Westsæ: the West Sea = the North Atlantic off the Norwegian coast.
3. þæt þæt: conjunction followed by a demonstrative pronoun.
4. Finnas: Finns, probably the Lapps; (in Norway the Lapps are occasionally still called 'finner', whereas the Finns are referred to as 'kvaerner').
5. on huntode ... on fiske: in hunting ... in fishing, i.e. engaged in hunting. etc.
6. Beormas: the Permians, an Eastern Finnic people; Onthere probably means the Karelians or Komi on the western coasts of the White Sea (the ancient Scandinavians gave the name 'Bjarmaland' to the region around the White Sea).
7. þe ymb hīe ūtan wæron: lit. - that were around them outside, i.e. that lay round about them.
8. Hē: the local chieftain or king (cyninȝ).
9. on wildrum: (dat. pl.) in wild animals, here the reference is to reindeer.
10. Hē: Onthere.
11. mid þāem fyrstum mannum: with the first men, i.e. among the most important.

## T r a n s l a t i o n

Onthere told his lord King Alfred that he had been farthest north of all the Northmen. He said that he had gone on the land northwards along the Western Sea, yet he said that the land was very extensive northwards from thence, but it is all waste, except (that) in a few places



here and there by the sea dwell Finns (engaged) in hunting in winter, and in fishing in summer.

.....

The Permians told him many stories both of their own land and of the lands that lay round about them, but he did not know what of it was true because he himself did not see it. The Finns, it seemed to him, and the Permians spoke nearly one language.

.....

He was a very prosperous man (rich) in those possessions of which their wealth consists, that is in reindeer. He had still, when he visited the king, six hundred unsold tame animals. They call the animals 'reindeer'; of them six were decoy-reindeer; those are very dear among the Finns, because they catch the wild reindeer with (them). He was among the first men in that land.

6.

From Ælfrio's Translation of the Book of Genesis;

c. 1000

(Late West Saxon)

Ælfric, called the Grammarian (c. 955 - 1020), English abbot and scholar, was the most prolific writer of the Late OE. period. He was probably a native of Wessex and lived for many years in Winchester before becoming abbot of a monastery near Oxford. Ælfric was the author, among other things, of numerous Homilies, a Latin Grammar and Glossary, a "Lives of the Saints" and an abridged translation of the first seven books of the Old Testament.

Ælfric's language, as it is exemplified in the best MSS. of his English works, represents classical Late West Saxon in its culmination.

## T e x t

### Excerpt from the Story of Jacob's Deceit in the Book of Genesis

(Jacob, son of Isaac and Rebecca, grandson of Abraham, and the traditional ancestor of the people of Israel, is the twin brother of Esau. Whilst Esau is actually the elder, Jacob by trickery obtains the rights and privileges of seniority.)

1. Ðā Īsaac ealdode and his ēaȝan pȳstrodon, þæt hē ne mihte nān pinȝ ȝesēon, þā clypode hē Ēsau, his yldran sunu, 2. and cwæð tō him: 'þū ȝesihst þæt ic ealdize, and ic nāt hwaenne mīne dāȝas āȝāne bēop<sup>1</sup>. Nim þīn ȝesceot, þīnne coour and þīnne boȝan and ȝanȝ ūt; and, þonne þū āniz pinȝ beȝite, þæs-pe þū wēne 4. þæt mē lȳcize<sup>2</sup>, brinȝ mē, þæt ic ete and ic þē blētsize, sēar-þām-pe ic swelte.' 5. Ðā Rēbecca þæt ȝehīrde and Ēsau ūtāȝan waes, 6. þā cwæð hēo tō Īacobe, hire suna: 'Ic ȝehīrde þæt þīn faeder cwæð tō Ēsauwe, þīnum brēper: 7. "Brinȝ mē of þīnum huntōpe, þæt ic blētsize þē beforan drihtne, sēar ic swelte." 8. Sunu mīn, hlyste mīnre lāre: 9. far tō dāere heorde and bring mē twā þā betstan tyccenu, þæt ic macize mete þīnum faeder þæs-of, and hē ytt lustlice. 10. Ðonne þū þā in brinȝst, hē ytt and blētsap þē, sēar hē swelte.' 11. Ðā cwæð hē tō hire: 'þū wast þæt Ēsau, mīn brōður, ys rūh<sup>3</sup>, and ic eom smēpe. 12. Ȝif mīn faeder mē handlāp and mē ȝecnēowō, ic ondrāede þæt hē wēne þæt ic hine wylle beswīcan and þæt hē wirize mē, næs nā blētsize. 13. Ðā cwæð sēo mōdor tō him: 'Sunu mīn, siȝ sēo wirizȝys ofer mē: Dō swā ic þē secȝe: far and brinȝ þā pinȝ þe ic þē bēad.'

.....

## N o t e s

1. hwaenne mīne dāȝas āȝāne bēop: lit. - when my days are gone (past), i.e. the day of my death.

2. *pæst mē lȳcize*: impersonal construction, lit. - that me likes = that I like.
3. *rūh*: rough; here = hairy.

### T r a n s l a t i o n

1. And when Isaac grew old, and his eyes became dim, so that he could not see anything, he called Esau, his elder son, 2. and said to him: "Thou seest that I am getting old, and I know not the day of my death. 3. Take thy weapons, thy quiver and thy bow, and go out; and when you get something that you think 4. that I like, bring it to me, that I may eat and bless thee before I die." 5. And when Rebecca heard that and Esau was gone out, 6. then spake she to Jacob her son: "I heard that thy father spake to Esau thy brother: 7. 'Bring me of thy hunting that I may bless thee before the Lord before I die'. 8. My son, listen to my teaching: 9. go now to the flock and bring me two of the best kids that I may make food for thy father there-of and he may eat willingly. 10. And then thou shalt bring it in (to thy father), that he may eat and bless thee before he die." 11. Then said he to her: "You know that Esau my brother is rough, and I am smooth. 12. If my father were to feel me and recognize me, I fear that he will think that I want to deceive him and that he will curse me and not bless me!" 13. And then his mother said to him: "My son, be this curse upon me! Do as I tell thee: go and fetch the things that I bade you."

7.

### A Charter of William the Conqueror: c. 1070

(Transition from OE. to ME.)

The original of this charter is preserved in the Town Clerk's Office, Guildhall, London. It probably dates from the first year of William's reign (1066-87). The document



is very important because it is one of the earliest written in London. Its language is almost identical with the West Saxon dialect and is evidence of the latter's predominance. The spelling is very conservative, but a few deviations from Late OE. orthographical traditions, especially some phonetical spellings, indicate that changes had already taken place by that time and thus the text belongs to the transition period from Old to Middle English.

### T e x t

Charter Issued To the City of London in 1066 (1067?)

Will(el)m kynz 3rēt Will(el)m bisceop and 3osfre3ð portirēfan<sup>1</sup> and ealle pā burhwaru binnan Londone, Frencisce and Engliscce, frēondlice. And ic kȳðe ēow pæt ic wylle pæt 3et bēon eallra pāera laza weorðe<sup>2</sup> pē 3yt wāeran on Eadwerdes<sup>3</sup> dæ3e kyn3es. And ic wylle pæt ælc cyld bēo his fæder yrf-nume æfter his fæder dæ3e. And ic nelle 3epolian pæt æniz man ēow æniz wran3 bēode. 3od ēow 3ehealde!

### N o t e s

1. portirēfan: acc.sg. of portirēfa 'portreeve', in Early English history the bailiff or manager charged with keeping the peace and other duties in a port or town.
2. weorðe: East Saxon form of West Saxon wyrðe 'valuable, honoured, valid'.
3. on Eadwerdes dæ3e kyn3es: in the day of King Edward, i.e. Edward the Confessor (d. 1066).

### T r a n s l a t i o n

King William greets Bishop William and Portreeve Gosfreth and all the inhabitants of (lit. within) London, French and English, in a friendly manner. And I make known to you that I desire that all those laws be further valid



which were that in the day of King Edward. And I desire that every child be his father's heir after the latter's death. And I will not suffer it that anybody should do (offer) you any wrong. God keep you!

## II. M I D D L E      E N G L I S H

### 8.

#### Proclamation of Henry III: 1258

(Early London Midland with Southern Elements)

The "Proclamation" of 1258 was issued by Henry III (1216-1272) as a formal announcement of his adhesion to the "Provisions of Oxford", a kind of constitution drawn up by a body of 24 counsellors, who had been chosen half by the barons and half by the king himself. The proclamation was issued in English as well as in French and Latin. It was, as far as is known, the first proclamation in the English language since the Conquest, and its appearance may be taken as an indication that English was coming to be recognized as an official language. The document is a good specimen of 13th century London English, at least of that form of this dialect which was considered the "best" by the king's officials. The language of the proclamation is still largely of the archaic southern type in grammar and orthography (e.g. the old Southern -eth occurs alongside the Midland -en in the Present Tense Plural; oa is used to denote the open o-sound instead of the more common ME. o, etc.) Of the numerous copies which must have been made (one for each county), only two have survived: the Oxford recension and the Huntingdonshire recension.

## T e x t

(Opening lines of the Huntingdonshire recension)

Henr'<sup>1</sup>, þurȝ Godes fultume king on Engleneloande,  
lhoaverd on<sup>2</sup> Yrloand'<sup>3</sup>, duk on Norm'<sup>4</sup>, Aquitain'<sup>5</sup> and  
eorl on Anjow<sup>6</sup> send<sup>7</sup> i-gretinge to alle hise<sup>8</sup> holde,  
i-lærde<sup>9</sup> and i-leawede on Huntendon'schir'<sup>10</sup>. þæt witen  
ȝe wel alle, þæt<sup>11</sup> we willen and unnen þæt þæt ure  
raedesmen<sup>9</sup>, alle oper þe moare dæl<sup>9</sup> of heom, þæt beoþ  
i-chosen þurȝ us and þurȝ þæt loandes folk on ure  
kuneriche, habbeþ i-don and schullen don in þe worþnesse  
of Gode and on ure treowpe for þe frame of þe loande, þurȝ<sup>9</sup>  
þe besizte of þan toforen i-seide redesmen. beo stedefæst<sup>9</sup>  
and i-lestinde<sup>12</sup> in alle þinge a buten ænde.<sup>9+13</sup>

## N o t e s

1. Henr': Oxf. (=in the Oxford recension) Henri.
2. on: of.
3. Yrloand: OE. Īra-land, Īr-, MoE. Ireland; cf. OE. Īras 'the Irish'.
4. Norm': abbrev. for Normandi, MoE. Normandy.
5. Aquitain': Aquitaine, the name of an ancient province in south-western France.
6. Anjow: Anjou, a former province in north-western France.
7. send: contracted form of 3.pers.sg.prs. sendeþ.
8. hise: Oxf. his.
9. i-lærde: Oxf. /e/ for /æ/.
10. Huntendon'schir': Huntingdonshire, an east midland county of England.
11. þæt: Oxf. þet.
12. i-lestinde: Oxf. without the prefix i-.

13. a butenænde: either 'abuten' is used here for 'buten' = OE. būtan 'without' or it is 'a buten', where a = OE. ā 'always', i.e. 'always without end'.

### T r a n s l a t i o n

Henry, by the grace of God king of England, lord of Ireland, duke of Normandy and Aquitaine, and count of Anjou sends greetings to all his faithful, cleric and lay, in Huntingdonshire. (That) know ye all well that we will and grant that that which our counsellors, all or the greater part of them, that be chosen by us and by the people of the land of our kingdom, have done and shall do in honour of God and in loyalty to us, for the benefit of the country, by the provision of the aforesaid counsellors, be steadfast and lasting in all things without end.

### 9.

From the Chronicle Known as Robert of Gloucester's:

c. 1300

(Southern Dialect)

Robert of Gloucester, English chronicler, is known almost exclusively through the work which bears his name. The chronicle is a vernacular history of England, from the days of the legendary Brut<sup>1</sup> to the year 1270, and is written in rhymed couplets. It was probably written about the year 1300. Robert is a compiler of material drawn from earlier English chronicles and some minor sources. When he approaches his own time, references to oral tradition become more frequent. From 1256 to 1270 he has the value of a contemporary authority. On the whole, however, the work is of more importance to the philologist than to the historian.

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<sup>1</sup> Brut = in British legend, a great-grandson or descendant of Aeneas, who led a Trojan colony to Britain and founded New Troy (Trinovantum = London).



The language used is an especially conservative variety of the southern dialect.

### T e x t

(lines 7537-7545)

þus com lo! Engeland into Normandies hond<sup>1</sup>.  
And þe Normans ne coupe speke bote hor owe speche  
and speke Frensh as hiil dude<sup>2</sup> atom<sup>3</sup>, and hor children  
dude also teche.

So þat heimen of þis lond, þat of hir blod come<sup>4</sup>,  
holdeþ alle þulke speche<sup>5</sup>, þat hiil of hom nome.  
Vor<sup>6</sup> bote a man conne Frensh, me telp of him lute;  
Ac lowe men holdeþ to Engliss and to hor owe speche  
yute.

Ioh wene þer ne bep in al þe world contreyes none,  
þat ne holdeþ to hor owe speche, bote Engeland one.

### N o t e s

1. The line refers to the Norman Conquest.
2. dude: pt. of doon.
3. atom: at home
4. þat of hir blod come: the descendants of the Normans.
5. holdeþ alle þulke speche: (they) all keep (on speaking) the same language.
6. vor: southern variant of 'for'.
7. Me telp of him lute: one tells little of him, i.e. one does not reckon him to be of any importance.

### T r a n s l a t i o n

Thus came, lo! England into Normandy's hand, and the Normans knew not (how to) speak then but their own speech, and spoke French as (they) did at-home, and their children



did so teach, so that (the) high-men of this land, that of their blood came, hold all the-same (the-ilk) speech that they of them took; for unless a man knows French, one reckons (tells) of him little; but (the) low men hold to English, and to their own speech yet. I ween there be not in (the) world countries none, that hold not to their own speech, but England alone (one).

10.

From W. Langland's "Piers Plowman"; 1377

(West Midland with East Midland elements)

William Langland (c. 1332 - c. 1400) is generally regarded as the author of the poem "The Vision of William concerning Piers the Plowman, together with Vita de Do-wel, etc.", commonly referred to, for short, as "Piers Plowman". Very little is known of the supposed author. Such biographical information as exists is derived almost entirely from the poem itself and indicates that Langland was of West Midland peasant stock. He seems to have obtained some education, to have taken minor clerical orders and to have lived in London for a long time. The traditional view, accepted, e.g. by W. Skeat, etc., that a single author was responsible for the whole poem has been disputed. At the beginning of this century Prof. J. M. Manly of Chicago asserted that there had taken place a "confusion of what is really the work of five men" and that Langland himself was "a mythical author." This view has obtained increasing acceptance among scholars. The argument for the distinction in authorship rests on internal evidence and on analysis of style and diction.

In the times of Wat Tyler and the Lollard movement the poem played a revolutionary role. It is a merciless satire in allegorical and mystical disguise directed against

all the shams, corruption and parasitic elements of society. At the same time it represents an eloquent protest of the working people against the desperate social conditions under which they had to live.

It is significant that the poem is written in the alliterative verse which was obviously still popular among the masses.

"Piers Plowman" exists in three versions, each represented by numerous MSS. The earliest and shortest (2567 lines) version, the so-called A-text, dates from about 1362 (chief MS.: Vernon in the Bodleian Library, Oxford, ab. 1370-80); the next, the B-text (c.1377) is nearly three times as long, and the best of the three texts (chief MS.: Laud Miscellany 581, in the Bodleian, possibly in the author's own handwriting); the C-text (c. 1395-98) with 7357 lines is a revision of B. All three texts were edited by W. Skeat, *The Vision of William concerning Piers the Plowman*, Oxford 1886.

#### Excerpt 1

##### From the beginning of "Piers Plowman"

(In the first vision, that of the "Field full of Folk," the poet lies down on one of the Malvern Hills in Western England on a May morning, and a vision comes to him in sleep. On the plain beneath him gather a multitude of folk, a vast crowd representing the varied life of the world. All classes and conditions are there).

In a somer seson        whan soft was the sonne,  
I shope me in shroudes<sup>1</sup>        as I a shepe<sup>2</sup> were,  
In habite<sup>3</sup> as an heremite        unholy of workes,  
Went wyde in this world        wondres to here.  
Ac on a May mornynge        on Malverne hilles  
Me byfel a ferly        of fairy<sup>4</sup> me poughte.  
I was wery, for-wandred        and went me to reste  
Under a brode banke        by a bornes side,

And as I lay and lene and loked in þe wateres,  
 I slombred in a slepyng, it sweyed so merye<sup>5</sup>.  
 þanne gan I meten a merveilouse swevene,<sup>6</sup>  
 þat I was in a wilderness, wiste I never where;

### N o t e s

1. shope me in shroudes: lit. - shaped myself in shrouds;  
 put me in clothes, i.e. clad myself.
2. shepe: here = shepherd.
3. habite: dress, garb, garment.
4. ferly of fairy: a strange thing or wonder, fairylike  
 in character.
5. sweyed so merye: sounded so pleasant.
6. merveilouse swevene: marvellous dream.

### Excerpt 2

(From Passus IV in the B Text, MS. Laud Miscel. 581)

- 47 And þanne come Pees into parlement<sup>1</sup> and put forth a  
 bille (in which he complained that Wrong had ill-treated  
 him in many ways)

.....

- 78 Pees put forþ his hed and his panne blody:  
 'Wythouten gilte, God it wote, gat I þis skape,  
 80 Conscience and þe comune knowen þe sothe.'  
 Ac Wisdom and Witt were a-bout faste<sup>2</sup>  
 To overcome þe kyng with catel<sup>3</sup>, 3if þei miȝte:  
 þe kyng swore, bi Crist and bi his crowne bothe,  
 þat Wronge for his werkis sholde wo þolye,<sup>4</sup>  
 85 And comaunded a constable to casten hym in yrens:  
 'And late hym nouȝte þis swevene ȝere seen his feet  
 ones!<sup>5</sup>



## Notes

1. parlement: one of the principal functions of parliament in its early days was to act as a court of appeal where petitions were heard and grievances redressed.
2. were about faste: were quickly in the act of = set about or prepared immediately.
3. to overcome ... with catel: to overcome with property or money, i.e. to bribe.
4. for his werkis sholde wo polye: should suffer (woe) for his deeds.
5. Line 86 refers to some particularly savage form of imprisonment where the prisoner could not see his feet either because the latter were confined in stocks, etc., or because the prisoner was stretched on a rack so as to be unable to bend his neck.

11.

### From Trevisa's Translation of the "Polychronicon" of R. Higden; 1387

(South-West Midland Dialect)

Ranulf Higden (c. 1299 - c. 1363), English chronicler, was a monk of a Benedictine monastery in Chester. He was the author of the "Polychronicon", a summary in Latin of general history popular in the 15th century. Higden probably did not go farther than 1327, after which time the chronicle was carried on by two continuators. The best known and most important of the translations of the work is that by John de Trevisa (1326-1412), a Cornishman by birth, who was educated at Oxford, but who spent most of his life in Gloucestershire as chaplain to Lord Berkeley. He is known as the translator of numerous Latin works. In his translation completed in 1387, Trevisa inserted many original

passages, which he himself marked off by putting his name before them, and the letter 'R' before the continuation of R. Higden's text. In 1482 Trevisa's English version of the "Polychronicon" was printed by Caxton, who found it necessary to change 'the rude and old englyssh' of the MS. Trevisa's English seemed particularly archaic to Caxton because of its south-western character. It should be noted that the language of Chaucer, a contemporary of Trevisa, did not appear too old-fashioned in Caxton's time. The south-western character of Trevisa's language is most conspicuous in the earliest of the extant MSS. (Cotton Tiberius D VII in the British Museum). The excerpt given below comes from another of the principal MSS. (H. I. St. John's College, Cambridge), which was written about 1420. The dialect is of a mixed South-West Midland type.

### T e x t

From the First Book

(MS. H. I. St. John's Coll.)

Also Engliche men, þey hadde from the bygynnyng þe manere speche, norþerne, sowþerne, and middel speche in þe myddel of þe lond, as þey come of þe manere peple of Germania<sup>1</sup>, noþeles by comyxtioun and mellyng firste wip Danes and afterward wip Normans, in meny<sup>2</sup> þe contray longage is apayred, and som useþ straunge wlafferynge, chiterynge, harrýnge, and garrynge grisbayting<sup>3</sup>. This apayrynge of the burþe of þe tunge<sup>4</sup> is bycause of tweie þinges; oon is for children in scole aȝenst þe usage and manere of alle opere naciouns beþp compelled for to leue hire owne langage, and for to construe<sup>5</sup> hir lessouns and here þynges in Frensche, and so þey haveþ seþ þe Normans come first in to Engelond. Also gentil men children beþp i-tauȝt to speke Frensche from þe tyme þat þey beþp i-rokked in here cradel, and kunneþ speke and playe wip a childes broche; and uplondisshe men wil likne hym self to gentil men, and fondeþ wip greet

besynesse for to speke Frensche, for to be i-tolde of.  
Trevisa. þis menere was moche i-used to for<sup>6</sup> firste deth<sup>7</sup>  
 and is sippe sumdel i-chaunged; for John Cornwaile, a  
 maister of grammer, chaunged þe lore in gramer scole and  
 construccion of Frensche in to Engliche<sup>9</sup>; and Richard  
 Pencriche lerned þe manere techynge of hym and of opere men  
 of Pencrich; so þat now, þe 3ere of oure Lorde a þowsand  
 þre hundred and foure score and fyve, and of þe secounde  
 kyng Richard after þe conquest nyne, in alle þe gramere  
 scoles of Engelond, children leueþ Frensche and construeþ  
 and lerneþ an Engliche, and haueþ þerby avauntage in oon  
 side and disavauntage in anoþer side<sup>10</sup>; here avauntage is  
 þat þey lerneþ her gramer in lasse tyme þan children were  
 i-woned to doo; disavauntage is þat now children of gramer  
 scole conneþ na more Frensche þan can hir lift heele, and  
 þat is harme for hem and þey schulle passe þe see and  
 travaille in straunge landes and in many oper places. Also  
 gentil men haveþ now moche i-left for to teche here children  
 Frensche. R. Hit semep a greet wonder how Engliche men and  
 her owne langage and tonge, is so dyverse of sown in þis oon  
 ilond, and þe langage of Normandie is comlynge of anoþer  
 londe, and hath oon manere soun among alle men þat spekeþ  
 hit ariȝt in Engelond. Trevisa. Neverþeles þere is many  
 dyvers manere Frensche in þe reem of Fraunce as is dyvers  
 manere Engliche in þe reem of Engelond. R. Also of þe for-  
 saide Saxon tonge þat is i-deled apre<sup>11</sup>, and is abide  
 scarsliche wiþ fewe uplondisshe men, is greet wonder; for  
 men of þe est wiþ men of þe west, as it were undir þe same  
 partie of hevене, acordeþ more in sownynge of speche þan <sup>12</sup>  
 men of þe norþ wiþ men of þe souþ; þerfore it is þat Mercii,  
 þat beep men of myddel Engelond, as it were parteners of the  
 endes, understondeþ bettre þe side langages, norþerne and  
 souþerne, þan norþerne and souþerne understondeþ eiper oper.



### Notes

1. pre manere peple of Germania: the three Germanic tribes which settled in Britain, i.e. the Angles, Saxons and Jutes; note that Trevisa uses the Latin name 'Germania' without Anglicizing it.
2. in meny: in meny pynges.
3. wlafferynge, chiterynge, etc.: semi-onomatopoeic terms used to express the uncouth effect produced by sounds in unfamiliar dialects; see Glossary for the meaning of individual words.
4. apayrynge of the burpe of þe tunge: impairment (deterioration) of the mother tongue (cf. birpe tonge = 'birth tongue').
5. construe hir lessouns: do their lessons; cf. MoE. to construe.
6. to for: before.
7. firate deth: the Black Death of 1349.
8. J. Cornwaile (= Cornwall) and R. Pencriche (= Pencrich) are known to have been teachers of Latin in Oxford at this time.
9. chaunged þe lore ... and construccioun of Frensche in to Engliche: English was substituted for French as the language of instruction.
10. in oon side ... and ... in anoper side: on the one hand ... and ... on the other hand.
11. is i-deled apre: is divided into three.
12. Mercii: the Mercians, Trevisa adopts the Latin form from Higden.

From Chaucer's Prologue to His "Canterbury Tales":c. 1384-1400

(East Midland Dialect)

Geoffrey Chaucer (? 1340-1400) was the son of a London wine merchant. His later works are evidence that he must have received a fairly complete medieval education, but he does not seem to have gone to a university. In his youth he was a page and later a personal attendant in the Royal Household. Later he became a diplomatic messenger to the king and was sent on several important missions to Flanders, France and Italy. He probably met the poet Petrarch and became familiar with the works of Dante and Boccaccio.

From 1374 onwards Chaucer held a number of official appointments. He was in turn comptroller of customs, superintendent of public works, etc. In 1386 he was elected member of parliament for Kent. Towards the close of his life Chaucer was at times in financial trouble as the political fortunes of his patron John of Gaunt waned. According to an old tradition, which seems to be trustworthy, Chaucer died on Oct. 25, 1400; and was buried in Westminster Abbey, in that part afterward called Poets' Corner.

Towering head and shoulders above his contemporaries, Chaucer is universally regarded as the most important writer in English literature before Shakespeare. Among Chaucer's numerous writings - the translations from the French, Italian and Latin, the new versions of medieval and classical stories and the independent compositions - the "Canterbury Tales" (C.T.) with their realistic portraits of representatives of different strata of medieval English society are his greatest work. The "C.T." are unfinished. It is not known exactly when each part was written, but there is evidence that the actual writing, revising and combination of all the stories

into a whole took place after 1384.

Probably none of the 57 known MSS. of the "C.T." is absolutely identical with the original Chaucerian text. Of the 14 earliest MSS., the so-called Ellesmere MS. is considered to be the best. The "C.T." were first edited by Caxton himself as early as 1478. The best of the modern editions are those by W. Skeat in 6 vols. and in one vol., and the Globe edition. Chaucer's use of English in the "C.T." and his other works has been the subject of an immense amount of research by such well-known specialists as M. Kaluza, B. Ten Brink, W. Skeat, A. Pollard, B. A. Ilyish, R. Berndt, etc.

The language of Chaucer is that of London, i.e. the East Midland dialect, which was already beginning to grow into the standard literary language of the country. The relatively numerous south-eastern forms in Chaucer's verse (e.g. those of e for i in fest 'fist', kessen 'to kiss', etc.; retention of the prefix y- and loss of final -n in past participles, e.g. y-ronne, y-taught, etc.) may be accounted for either as archaisms retained by the author as poetical forms from the older London City type or as Chaucer's personal characteristic, which can be explained by his links with Kent.

Chaucer did not use the old traditional alliterative verse, but borrowed his verse forms from the French. In the "C.T." he uses lines of ten syllables and five accents each and the lines run in couplets, i.e. decasyllabic couplets (see below, p. 33). The following general rules make it possible to read Chaucer without any preliminary thorough study of the intricacies of ME. phonology: 1. The vowels in Chaucer have much the same value as in Estonian or Latin, the consonants are practically the same as in MoE. 2. Final -ed and -es are usually pronounced as distinct syllables, e.g. bathed [ba:ðed], inspired [in'spi:red]; schoures [ʃu:ræs], croppes [krɒpəs]. 3. Final -e is generally sounded as a neutral [ə] except where the following word



begins with a vowel or with h. In the latter case there is elision, that is the final syllable of one word and the first of the word following are run together as in reading Latin verse.. E.g. droghte [druxtə], nature [natiurə], sonne [sunna], y-ronne [iʀunna]; but cf. the droghte of March [ðə'druxt ov'martʃ], nature in her corages [natiur in her kuʀa:dʒəs] . 4. Many words of French origin are still stressed at the end in the French manner: lifour meloðye, nature. 5. To get the lilt, the rhythm of the lines, one should read them over aloud a few times to catch the swing of the measure, just as one would read or scan Latin verse. 6. Any strange-looking words should be pronounced aloud. Where the eye fails, the ear will often recognize the meaning. If both eye and ear fail, consult the glossary found in every good edition of the poet's works.

To help the beginner to read Chaucer more or less properly, the opening lines of the following extract from the "Prologue to the C.T." have been provided with a phonetic transcription. Both the text and the transcription have been taken with slight modifications from R. Berndt, "Einführung in das Studium des Mittelenglischen", Halle (Saale) 1960.

### T e x t

- 1      Whan that Aprille with his<sup>1</sup> shoures soote<sup>2</sup>  
         The droghte of March<sup>3</sup> hath perced to the roote,  
         And bathed every veyne<sup>4</sup> in swich licour<sup>5</sup>,  
         Of which vertu engendred is the flour<sup>6</sup>;
- 5      Whan Zephirus<sup>7</sup> eek with his swete breeth  
         Inspired hath in every holt and heeth  
         The tendre croppes<sup>8</sup>, and the yonge sonne  
         Hath in the Ram<sup>9</sup> his halve cours y-ronne<sup>10</sup>,  
         And smale foweles maken melodye.<sup>11</sup>
- 10     That slepen al the nyght with open ye -  
         So priketh hem nature in here corages -

Thanne longen folk to goon on pilgrimages,  
 And palmeres for to seken straunge strondes,  
 To ferne halwes,<sup>12</sup> couthe in sondry londes;  
 15 And specially, from every shires ende  
 Of Engeland to Caunterbury they wende<sup>13</sup>,  
 The heoly, blisful martir<sup>14</sup> for to seke,  
 That hem hath holpen, whan that they were seeke<sup>15</sup>;  
 Bifil that in that seson on a day  
 20 In Southwerk<sup>16</sup> at the Tabard<sup>17</sup> as I lay,  
 Redy to wenden on my pilgrymage  
 To Caunterbury with ful devout corage,  
 At nyght were come into that hostelrye  
 Wel nyne and twenty in a compaignye  
 25 Of sondry folk by aventure y-falle  
 In felaweshipe, and pilgrimes were they alle,  
 That toward Canterbury wolden ryde.  
 The chaumbres and the stables weren wyde,  
 And wel we weren esed atte beste<sup>18</sup>.  
 30 And shortly, whan the sonne was to reste<sup>19</sup>,  
 So hadde I spoken with hem everichon,  
 That I was of her felaweshipe anon,  
 and made forward erly for to ryse,  
 To take oure wey ther, as I yow devyse<sup>20</sup>;  
 35 But nathelees, whil I have tyme and space,  
 Er that I ferther in this tale pace<sup>21</sup>,  
 Me thynketh it acordaunt to resoun<sup>22</sup>  
 To telle yow al the condicioun  
 Of ech of hem, so as it semed me,  
 40 And whiche they were, and of what degree,  
 And eek in what array that they were inne;  
 And at a knyght than wol<sup>23</sup> I first bigynne.  
 A Knyght ther was, and that a worthy man,  
 That fro the tyme that he first bigan  
 45 To riden out, he loved chivalrie,  
 Trouthe and honour, fredom and curteisie.  
 .....

- 70 He nevere yet no vileynye ne sayde  
 In al his lyf unto no maner wight<sup>24</sup>;  
 He was a verray parfit gentil knyght.  
 .....  
 And Frensch she spak ful faire and fetisly,  
 125 After the scole of Stratford atte Bowe<sup>25</sup>,  
 For Frensch of Parys was to hire unknowe.

Phonetic Transcription of Lines 1 - 18

Note: [ɔ] , [ɛ] denote open sounds, whereas [o] , [e]  
 stand for the corresponding close vowels.

- 1 wan ðæt apríl:lə wíp (h)is ʃú:rəs sɔ:tə  
 ðə drúxt qv mártʃ hæθ pɛ:rsəd tɔ: ðə rɔ:tə  
 and bá:ðəd ɛvri véin in swítʃ likú:r  
 qv wítʃ vertíu endʒéndrəd íz ðə flú:r  
 5 wan zéfírús ɛ:k wíð (h)is swé:tə brɛ:θ  
 inspí:rəd hæθ in ɛvri hólt and hɛ:θ  
 ðə téndre krɒppəs ánd ðə júŋgə súnnə  
 hæθ ín ðə rá:m (h)íz hálvə kú:rs írúnnə  
 and smá:lə fú:ləs má:kən mɛlɒdíə  
 10 ðæt slɛ:pən ál ðə níxt wíð ɔ:pən í:tə  
 sɔ: príkəθ (h)ém natiúr in hér kurá:dʒəs  
 ðæn lɔ:ŋgən fɒlk tɔ: gɔ:n on pílgřimá:dʒəs  
 and pálmers fɔr tə sɛ:kən stráundʒə strɒndəz  
 tɔ: fɛrnə hálwəs kú:ð in súndri lɔ:ndəz  
 15. and spésiállí: fróm ɛvri ʃí:rəz éndə  
 qv éŋgəlɒnd tɔ: káuntərbri ðái wéndə  
 ðə hɔ:lí blísfúl mártir fɔr tə sɛ:kə  
 ðæt (h)ém hæθ hɒlpən wán ðæt ðái wɛ:r sɛ:kə.

N o t e s

1. his: neuter form, MoE. its.
2. with his shoures soote: with its sweet showers.
3. droughte of March: the dryness of March.



4. veyne: MoE. vein, here: sap-vessels in plants or, perhaps, cracks and little cavities in the earth.
5. swich licour: such moisture; refers to the dew and the rainwater.
6. Line 4: by virtue of which the flower is produced; i.e. such moisture as gives rise to or produces flowers.
7. Zephirus: the west wind.
8. tendre croppes: the young shoots on the trees and shrubs and the new blades of grass in the spring-time.
9. Ram: constellation of Aries in the Zodiac (Est. 'Jǣra tǣhtkuju').
10. Lines 7-8: the young sun (i.e. the sun at the beginning of its annual journey) has completed the second half of its course in the Ram. In other words the sun had left the zodiacal sign Aries, which it did in Chaucer's time on April 11th. The events to be recorded took place therefore after April 11.
11. Line 9: literally - And little fowl make melody, i.e. little birds sing. Note that in MoE. we generally speak of domestic fowl, i.e. poultry; cf., however, sea fowl, water fowl, wild fowl.
12. ferne halwes: distant shrines.
13. they wende: 3rd pers. pl. pres. = they go.
14. the holy blisful martir: the holy blessed martyr; refers to Thomas à Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, murdered by courtiers of Henry II, in the belief they would please the king, with whom Becket had quarrelled as to the respective authorities of the king and the archbishop to judge offences committed by the clergy. Canterbury was henceforth regarded as a shrine for pilgrims to visit.
15. seeke: sick, ill; note the old predicative use of the adjective which has survived in American English and is

being reintroduced into British usage.

16. Southwark: a central borough of London on the south bank of the Thames, name pronounced in MoE. as [ʰsʌðək].
17. Tabard Inn: an inn in Southwark, London, the sign of which was a tabard, the official garment of a herald.
18. weren esed atte beste: were very well lodged.
19. whan the sonne was to reste: when the sun had set; cf. MoE. to be at rest, to go to rest, etc.
20. Line 34: to take our way whither I have told you.
21. Line 36: before I go further with this tale, i.e. before I continue my story.
22. Line 37: I think it accords with reason, i.e. it seems reasonable to me.
23. wol: a variant of the 1. & 3. pers. sg. prs. of ME. wille(n); hence line 42 means: And with a knight I will begin.
24. Lines 70-71: note the plural (quadruple) negation.
25. Stratford atte Bowe: Stratford-le-Bow, a fashionable seminary for nuns, near London. The French of the prioress was a dialect and not Parisian.

13.

From Caxton's Preface to the "Eneydos", c. 1490

(London Midland Dialect)

William Caxton (c. 1422-1491), the first English printer, was born in Kent. After a three-year apprenticeship to a wealthy London merchant Caxton went to the Low Countries in 1441. He lived mainly in Bruges, then the center of Anglo-Flemish trade, for 35 years. He presently entered business on his own account and seems to have prospered. He associated with persons of rank and was employed in official negotiations

concerning the wool trade. His position and activities enabled him to become an accomplished linguist and already in 1468-1471 he made his first translation from the French, "The Recuyell of the Historyes of Troye". While in Cologne in 1471-1472, Caxton learned the art of printing. On his return to Bruges, he set up a press and printed his "Recuyell". His second translation "The Game and Playe of Chesse" was finished in 1474, and printed in 1476. In the same year Caxton returned to England and set up his printing-press at Westminster. The first dated book printed in England was "The Dictée or Sayenges of the Phylosophers", a translation by Lord Rivers, revised by Caxton, which came out in 1477. From this time until his death Caxton was busy writing and printing. His output as a printer was over 18,000 pages, and he published almost 100 separate works or editions of works, e.g. the "Boke of the Historyes of Jason", 1477?; "The Historye of Reynart the Foxe", 1481; Trevisa's translation of Higden's "Polychronicon", 1482 (with an eighth book added by himself, bringing the narrative down from 1358 to 1460, see No. 11 above; "The Golden Legend", 1483; the "Morte d'Arthur", compiled by Th. Malory, 1485; the "Eneydos", 1490; editions of Chaucer, Gower, Lydgate, etc., etc.). About one third of these publications were Caxton's own translations from the French. But even when publishing translations by others and works of earlier English writers, Caxton acted as an editor. He was always concerned with their language, striving to find and fix a standard form of English. The oft-quoted passage reproduced below from the preface to the "Eneydos", one of Caxton's own translations from the French, is very illustrative both of his work on language and of the state of English in his time. In it Caxton makes clear the conflicting tendencies in literary circles at the end of the 15th century and also illustrates the conflict between dialects still alive during the transition to the Early Modern English period.



T e x t

And whan I had advysed me<sup>1</sup> in this sayd boke<sup>2</sup>, I delyvered<sup>3</sup> and concluded to translate it in-to Englysshe. And forthwyth toke a penne & ynke and wrote a leef or tweyne, whyche I oversawe agayn to corecte it. And whan I saws the fayr and straunge termes thesyrin, I doubted that it sholde not please some gentylnen which late blamed me, sayeing pat in my translacyons I had over curyous termes which coude not be understande of comyn peple and desired me to use olde and homely termes in my translacyons. And fayn wolde I satisfye every man, and so to doo toke an olde booke and redde therin, and certaynly the Englysshe was so rude and brood that I coude not wele understande it. And also my lorde abbot of Westmynster ded do shewe to me late certayn evidences<sup>4</sup> wryton in olde Englysshe for to reduce it in to our Englysshe now usid. And certaynly, it was wryton in suche wyse that it was more lyke to Dutche than Englysshe; I coude not reduce ne brynge it to be understonden. And certaynly, our langage now used varyeth ferre from that which was used and spoken whan I was borne. For we Englysshe men ben borne under the domynacyon of the mone<sup>5</sup>, whiche is never stedfaste but ever waverynge, wexynge one season, and waneth & dycreaseth<sup>6</sup> another season. And that comyn Englysshe that is spoken in one shyre varyeth from another in so moche that in my dayes happened that certayn marchauntes were in a ship in Tamys<sup>7</sup> for to have sayled over the see into Zelande<sup>8</sup>. And for lacke of wynde thei taryed atte forlond<sup>9</sup>; and wente to land for to refreshe them. And one of thaym, named Sheffelde, a mercer, came in to an hows and axed for mete<sup>10</sup>, and specyally he axyd after eggys. And the goode wyf answered that she coude speke no Frenshe. And the marchaunt was angry; for he also coude speke no Frenshe, but wolde have hadde eggys; and she understode hym not. And thenne at laste a nother<sup>11</sup> sayd that he wolde have eyren<sup>12</sup>. Then the good wyf sayd that she understod hym wel. Loo, what sholde a man in

thyse dayes now wryte: egges or eyren? Certynly it is harde to playse every man by cause of dyversitie & chaunge of langage. For in these dayes every man that is in ony reputacyon in his countre wyll utter his comyncacyon and maters in such maners & termes that fewe men shall understonde theym. And som honest and grete clerkes have ben wyth me and desired me to wryte the moste curyous termes that I coude fynde. And thus bytwene playn, rude & curyous, I stande abasshed. But in my judgments the comyn termes that be dayli used ben lyghter to be understonde than the olde and auntyend<sup>6</sup> Englysshe. And for as moche as this present booke is not for a rude uplondyssh man to labour there in, ne rede it, but onely for a clerke & a noble gentylman that feleth and understondeth in faytes of armes<sup>13</sup>, in love, & in noble chyvalrye, therefor in a meane bytwene bothe I have reduced & translated this sayd booke in to our Englysshe, not over rude ne curyous, but in such termes as shall be understanden by Goddys grace accordynge to my cople.

#### N o t e s

1. I had advysed me: 'I had made myself familiar with'.
2. This sayd boke: i.e. the 'Eneydos'.
3. I delyvered: I deliberated, I decided.
4. ded do shewe to me late certayn evydences: showed me recently certain written matter (i.e. papers or documents).
5. An obvious astrological reference.
6. A collocation of two synonyms used to strengthen the effect of the style. Similar double expressions known as collocations were used earlier to help the adoption of French words, i.e. a French word was used side by side with its native synonym, the latter serving as an interpretation of the former for the benefit of those not yet familiar with the more refined word, e.g.:

cherite þet is lufe; ignoramnce þet is unwisdom & unwitenesse, etc.

7. Tamyse = the Thames (< Tamesis, in Latin sources; the French Th- stands for earlier T-).
8. Zelande: Zeeland, a province in the southwestern part of the Netherlands.
9. atte forlond: at the foreland, i.e. the North Foreland in northeastern Kent.
10. axed for mete: asked for food. Note metathesis in the verb.
11. a nother: another; a case of metanalysis, cf. such established cases as MoE. nickname < ME. an ekename which was understood as 'a nekename'; MoE. newt < RME. an ewte, etc.
12. eyren: the southern plural of 'egg', (< OR. *æg3ru*, pl. of *æg3*; cf. MoGer. sg. Ei, pl. Eier.)
13. faytes of armes: feats of arms, i.e. exceptional deeds or exploits in the military field.

### III. EARLY MODERN ENGLISH

14.

From Ralph Robynson's Translation of the "Utopia":

1551

Sir Thomas More (1478-1535), English statesman, author of "Utopia" and one of the founders of Utopian Socialism, was born in London, the son of a lawyer. During a few years spent at Oxford he was attracted by humanism and later attained mastery of Latin and Greek. For some years he worked as a lawyer and then held a number of government



appointments. In 1521 he was knighted, and in 1523 became Speaker of the House of Commons. In 1529 he was made Lord High Chancellor. His activities as writer and statesman soon brought him into conflict with Henry VIII, whom he refused to recognize as the supreme head of the English church. He resigned the chancellorship in 1532, was committed to the Tower in 1534 and executed on July 7, 1535.

The "Utopia" (< Greek ou + topos - 'No-place') was written in Latin and its first edition appeared in 1516 (the next editions in 1517, 1518, 1519). In it More relates the conversation of himself and a friend with a fictitious mariner Ralph Hythlodaye, who has sailed with Amerigo Vespucci. Hythlodaye had visited England and has much to say of the evils of social and political inequality. This description is compared with that of the imaginary Island of Utopia where the absence of private property, a national system of education, the rule of work for all and the equality of all citizens, make an ideal state. Despite certain shortcomings (e.g., the retention of slavery, indifference to technical progress, etc.) More's views concerning the ideal social order have played a very important part in the development of the socialist working-class movement.

Among Th. More's other writings, the "Life of Richard III", written in English, is important for the influence it had upon the development of English prose style.

The first English translation of "Utopia" was published in 1551. (Subsequent editions appeared in 1556, 1597 and 1624). The translator was Ralph Robynson, born in Lincolnshire in 1521, educated at Oxford and a Fellow of Corpus Christi College. R. Robynson's translation is on the whole very accurate, without being slavish. Its English is idiomatic and can be considered a good specimen of the contemporary literary language. In striving for accuracy Robynson often renders a single English word by two or three partial English equivalents, which may produce the impression of redundancy. But redundancy is also characteristic of many

original writings of that time.

Excerpt\_\_1

Title-page of the first edition of R. Robynson's  
translation of the "Utopia"

U t o p i a

A f r u t e f u l

and pleasaunt worke of the  
beste state of a publike weale<sup>1</sup>, and  
of the newe yle<sup>2</sup> called Utopia: written  
in Latine by Syr Thomas More  
knyght, and translated into Englyshe  
by Raphe Robynson Citizein and  
Goldsmythe of London, at the  
procurement, and earnest re-  
quest of George Tadlowe  
Citizein & Haberdassher  
of thesame Citie.

(..)

Imprinted at London  
by Abraham Wele, dwelling in Pauls  
churcheyarde at the sygne of  
the Lambe. Anno,  
1551

.....

N o t e s

1. publike weale: public well-being, prosperity, welfare;  
cf. commonwealth, now rare in the meaning of 'public  
welfare'; see below, p. 43, Note No. 1.
2. yle: isle, see Glossary.

Excerpt==2

U t o p i a

The Second Book, Chapter IX. From the Conclusion

(The 1st ed. of Robynson's transl.)

Nowe I have declared and descrybyd unto yowe, as truely as I coulde, the fourme and ordre of that commen wealth<sup>1</sup>, which verely<sup>2</sup> in my judgement is not onlye the beste, but also that whiche alone of good ryght may clayme and take upon it the name of a common wealthe or publique weale<sup>1</sup>. For in other places they speake stil of the commen wealth; but everye man procureth hys owne pryvate wealthe. Here where nothyng is pryvate, the commen affayres be earnestly loked upon. And truely on both partes they have good cause so to do as they do. For on<sup>3</sup> other countreys who knoweth not that he shall starve for honger, onles he make some severall provision for hymself, though the commen wealthe floryshe never so muche in ryches? And therefore he is compelled, even of verye necessitie, to have regarde to hym selfe rather then to the people, that is to saye, to other. Contrarywyse, there where all thynges be commen to everye man, it is not to be dowted that any man shal lacke anye thyng necessarye for hys pryvate uses, so that the commen store howses and barnes be sufficientlye stored. For there nothyng is distrybuted after a nyggyshe sorte, nother there is any poore man or begger. And though no man have any thyng, yet everye man is ryche. For what can be more ryche then to lyve joyfullye and merylye without all grieve and pensifenes; not caryng for hys owne lyving, nor vexed or trowbled with hys wyfes importunate complayntes, not drydyng povertie to his sonne, nor sorrowng for his dowghters dowray? Yea<sup>4</sup>, they take no care at all for the lyvyng and wealthe of themselves and all theirs; of theirs wyfes, their chyl dren, their nephewes, their childrens chyl dren,



and all the succession that ever shall followe in their posteritie. And yet, besydes thys, there is no lesse provision for them that were ones labourers, and be nowe weake and impotent, then for them that do nowe labour and take payne.

.....

Is not thys an unjust and an unkynd publyque weale<sup>5</sup>, whyche gyveth great fees and rewardes to gentelmen, as they call them, and to goldsmythes<sup>6</sup> and to suche other, whiche be other ydell persones or els onely flatterers, and devysers of vayne pleasures; and, of the contrary parte, maketh no gentle provision for poore plowmen, colliers, laborers, carters, yronsmaythes, and carpenters, without whome no common wealth can continue? But when it hath abused the labourers of their lusty and flowring age, at the laste, when they be oppressed with old age and sykennes, being nedye, poore and indigent<sup>7</sup> of all thynges; then forgettyng their so many paynfull watchynges, not remembryng their so many and so great benefytes; recompenseth and acquyteth them moste unkyndly with myserable death. And yet besides this the riche men not only by private fraud, but also by common lawes, do every day plucke and snatch away from the poore some parte of their daily living. So, where as it semed before unjuste to recompense with unkyndnes their paynes that have bene beneficiall to the publyque weale, nowe they have to this their wrong and unjuste dealinge (whiche is yet a muche worse point), given the name of justice, yea, and that by force of a law.

### Notes

1. common wealth: state, body politic, commonwealth (the latter term was formerly freely used in a general sense irrespective of any special form of government, monarchical or republican; cf. republic<lares 'thing, affair' + publica 'public, common', which was likewise used formerly to denote any type of state).

2. *vsrely*: *verily* = in very truth, truly, really (now arch. or lit.).
3. *on*: *in*.
4. *Yea*: *yes*; until about 1550 a distinction was made between '*yes*' and '*yea*', '*no*' and '*nay*'. '*yea*' and '*nay*' were the simple affirmative and negative, and were used esp. to answer a simple question, such as "Will he come?" '*yes*' and '*no*' were more emphatic, and were used esp. to answer questions framed with a negative, as, "Will he not come?"
5. *an unkynd publyque weal*: the reference is to England.
6. *goldsmaythes*: we should now rather say 'bankers, usurers', etc.
7. Note the use of three partial synonyms to render the Latin '*indigos*' in '*omnium rerum indigos*'.

# 15.

## From W. Shakespeare's "Hamlet"; c. 1600

William Shakespeare (1564-1616) was born at Stratford-on-Avon in Warwickshire. His father seems to have been a well-to-do yeoman and small tradesman. It is generally assumed that W. Shakespeare was educated at the Stratford Grammar School. There is no documentary evidence of his having continued his education at a university. Shakespeare's perfect knowledge of technical legal language has led to the supposition that he may have worked for some time in his youth as a lawyer's clerk. At the age of 22 Shakespeare left Stratford for London, where he soon became an actor and shareholder in the most prosperous of the theatrical companies (performing at the Globe, the Blackfriars, the Rose, etc.). At the same time Shakespeare probably began his career as a dramatist. His first work was obviously the revision of old plays for the performances of his company.

He then began to write his own plays (ab. 1590). By the close of the century Shakespeare had already become famous as the author of "The Comedy of Errors", "The Two Gentlemen of Verona", "Love's Labour Lost", "A Midsummer Night's Dream", "The Merchant of Venice", "Romeo and Juliet", etc. These essentially optimistic and cheerful plays of his first period were followed by a succession of great plays, chiefly tragedies, "All's Well that Ends Well", "Macbeth", "Julius Caesar", "Hamlet", "Othello", "King Lear", etc. which are pervaded by sober realism, gloom and sorrow probably reflecting Shakespeare's disillusionment with the society of his time. Shakespeare did not, however, entirely lose faith in man, and, in his third and last period, his approach and treatment grew mellowed and more romantic ("Cymbeline", "A Winter's Tale", "The Tempest", etc.).

Shakespeare's success on the stage was attended by material prosperity and in 1597 he purchased New Place, a large house with gardens in Stratford-on-Avon. About 1612 Shakespeare seems to have left London and settled permanently in his native town. Here he led the life of a retired gentleman until his death on April 23, 1616.

Almost everything connected with Shakespeare's biography is surrounded in mystery. The scantiness of our knowledge of Shakespeare's life has even led to theories (mainly unscientific and sensation-mongering in character) which attribute his plays and poems to Francis Bacon, Chr. Marlowe, the Earl of Oxford or other contemporaries.

There is no proof that Shakespeare personally superintended the printing of his plays, 18 of which came out in small quarto volumes during his life-time. Many, if not all of these separate editions known as the Quartos, were printed without Shakespeare's consent from copies surreptitiously obtained from the playhouse. The texts of some First Quartos may represent memorized reconstructions or they may have been taken down in shorthand during actual performances and this may account for their occasional brevity and textual



corruption.

In 1623 a group of Shakespeare's friends brought out 36 of the 38 plays now attributed to the dramatist in a folio volume. This edition is known as the famous First Folio.

Shakespeare's plays and poems have been very thoroughly studied by linguists and literary specialists alike. The bibliography of so-called Shakespeareology is very extensive. The more important reference books on Shakespeare's language are those by C.T. Onions, E.A. Abbott, Al. Schmidt, W. Franz, J. Bartlett, etc. Soviet specialists who have dealt with problems of Shakespearian textology include A. Smirnov, R. Samarin, M. Morosov.

It is not known exactly when "Hamlet" was written. The play is not mentioned in a list of Shakespeare's plays published in 1598, and it was first printed in 1603. Thus it must have been written between c. 1598 and 1603. The second edition of "Hamlet" came out in 1604. The text of this edition differs so much from that of the first, that the second edition is, properly speaking, a new version of the tragedy, not merely a new edition. The text of the second quarto may even have been recast by the author himself. The version of "Hamlet" in the First Folio of 1623, on which subsequent editions have been based, coincides, on the whole, with that of the 2nd Quarto.

~~Excerpt~~==1

From the Title-page of the First Quarto Edition  
of "Hamlet"

T r a g i c a l l   H i s t o r i e   o f

H A M L E T

Prince of Denmarke

By William Shakespeare.

As it hath beene diuerse times acted by his Highnesse ser

uants in the Cittie of London : as also in the two V  
niuersities of Cambridge and Oxford, and else-where

At London printed for N.L. and Iohn Trundell.  
1603.

Excerpt==2

From Act III, Scene II

The Performance

(1. q. = the 1st quarto, 1603 )

Enter in a Dumbe Shew<sup>1</sup>, the King and the Queene, he  
sits downe in an Arbor, she leaues him; Then enters Iacianus  
with poyson in a Viall, and powres it in his eares, and goes  
away; Then the Queene commeth<sup>2</sup> and findes<sup>2</sup> him dead; and  
goes away with the other.

---

(2. q. = the 2nd quarto, 1604. )

The Trumpets sounds. Dumbe show followes: Enter a King  
and a Queene, the Queene embracing him, and he her, he takes  
her vp, and declines his head upon her necke, he lyes him  
downe upon a bancke of flowers, she seeing him asleepe,  
leaues him: anon come in an other man, takes off his crowne,  
kisses it, pours poyson in the sleepers eares, and leaues  
him: the Queene returnes, finds the King dead, makes pas-  
sionate action, the poyaner with some three of foure come in  
again, seems to condole with her, the dead body is carried  
away, the poyaner wooes the Queene with gifts, shee seems  
harsh<sup>3</sup> awhile; but in the end accepts loue.

---

(1. q.)

Ofel. What meanes this my Lord? Enter the Prologue.

Ham. This is myching Mallico<sup>4</sup>, that meanes my chiefe.

Ofel. What doth this meane my lord?

Ham. you shall heare anone, this fellow will tell you  
all.

Ofel. Will he tell vs what this shew meanes?

Ham. I, or any shew you'll shew him,  
Be not afeard to shew, hee'll not be afeard to  
tell:  
O these Players cannot keepe counsell, thei'll  
tell all

Prolog. For vs, and for our Tragedie,  
Heere stowping to your clemencie,

---

(2.q.)

Oph. VVhat meanes this my Lord?

Ham. Marry<sup>5</sup> this munching Mallico<sup>4</sup>, it meanes mischief.

Oph. Belike<sup>6</sup> this show imports the argument of the play.

Ham. We shall know by this fellow, Enter Prologue.  
The Players cannot keepe, they'll tell all.

Oph. Will a tell vs what this show meant?

Ham. I<sup>7</sup>, or any show that you will show him, be not  
you asham'd to show, heele<sup>8</sup> not shame to tell  
you what it meanes

Oph. You are naught<sup>9</sup>, you are naught, Ile<sup>10</sup> mark the  
play.

Prologue. For vs and for our Tragedie,  
Heere stooping to your clemencie,

---

(1.q.)

We begge your hearing patiently.

Ham. I'st a prologue, or a poesie<sup>11</sup> for a ring?

Ofel. T'is short my Lord.

Ham. As womens loue.

Enter the Duke and Dutchesse.

Duke Full fortie yeares are past, their date is gone,  
Since happy time loyn'd both our hearts as one:  
And now the blood that fill'd my youthfull veines,  
Ruunes weakly in their pipes, and all the straines



Of musicke, which whilome pleasde mine eare,  
Is now a burthen that Age cannot beare;  
And therefore sweete Nature must pay his due,  
To heauen must I, and leaue the earth with you.

---

(2.q.)

We begge your hearing patiently.

Ham. Is this a Prologue, or the posie<sup>11</sup> of a ring?

Oph. Tis breefe my Lord.

Ham. As womans lous.

Enter King and Queene.

King. Full thirtie times hath Phebus<sup>12</sup> cart gone round  
Neptunes salt wash, and Tellus<sup>13</sup> orb'd the ground,  
And thirtie doeen Moones with borrowed sheene  
About the world haue times twelue thirties beene  
Since loue our harts, and Hymen<sup>14</sup> did our hands  
Vnite comutuell in most sacred bands.

Quee. So many ioutneyes<sup>15</sup> may the Sunne and Moone  
Make vs againe count ore<sup>16</sup> ere loue be doone,  
But woe is me, you are, so sicke of late,  
So farre from cheere, and from our former state,  
That I distrust you, yet though I distrust,  
Discomfort you my Lord it nothing must.  
For women feare too much, euen as they loue,  
And womens feare and loue hold quantitie,  
Eyther none, in neither ought<sup>17</sup>, or in extremitie.  
Now what my Lord<sup>18</sup> is<sup>18</sup> prooffe hath made you know.  
And as my loue is cis'd<sup>19</sup>, my feare is so,  
Where loue is great, the litlest doubts are feare,  
Where little feares grow great, great loue growes  
there.

King. Faith I must leaue thee loue, and shortly to,  
My operant powers their functions leaue to de  
And thou shalt liue in this faire world behind,  
Honord, belou'd, and haply one as kind,  
For husband shalt thou.

Quee. O confound the rest.

Such loue must needes be treason in my brest,  
In second husband let me be accurst,  
None wed the second, but who kild the first.

Ham. That's wormwood<sup>20</sup>

The instances that second marriage moue  
Are base respects of thrift, but none of loue,  
A second time I kill my husband dead,  
When second husband kisses me in bed.

King I doe believe you thinke what now you speake?  
But what we doe determine, oft we breake?

.....  
Our thoughts are ours, their ends none of our owne,  
So thinke thou wilt no second husband wed,  
But die thy thoughts when thy first Lord is dead.

Quee. Her earth to me giue foode, nor heauen light,  
Sport and repose lock from me day and night,  
Te desperation turne my trust and hope,  
And Anchors cheere<sup>21</sup> in prison be my scope,  
Each opposite that blacks the face of joy,  
Meete what I would haue well, and it destroy,  
Both heere and hence pursue me lasting strife,  
If once I be a widdow, euer I be a wife. // Ham.

If she  
should  
breake  
it now.

King. Tis deeply sworne, sweet leaue me here a while,  
My spirits grow dull, and faine I would beguile  
The tedious day with sleepe.

Quee. Sleepe rock thy braine,  
And neuer come mischance betweene vs twaine. Exeunt.

Ham. Madam, how like you this play?

Quee. The Lady doth protest too much mee thinks.<sup>22</sup>

Ham. O but shee'le keepe her word.

King. haue you heard the argument? is there no offence  
in't?

Ham. No, no, they do but iest, poyson in iest, no  
offence i'th world.

King. What doe you call the play?

Ham. The Mousetrap, mary<sup>23</sup> how tropically<sup>24</sup>, this play  
is the Image of a murther doone in Vienna, Gonzago  
is the Dukes name, his wife Baptista, you shall  
see anon, tis a knauish peece of worke, but what  
of that? your Maiestie, and wee that haue free  
soules, it touches vs not, let the gauled Iade  
winch, our withers are vnwrong<sup>25</sup>. This is one  
Lucianus, Nephew to the King.

Enter Lucianus.

Luc. Thoughts black, hands apt, drugges fit, and time  
agreeing,  
Considerat<sup>26</sup> season els no creature seeing,  
Thou mixture rancke, of midnight weedes collected,  
VVith Hecats<sup>27</sup> ban thrice blasted, thrice  
inuected<sup>28</sup>,  
Thy naturall magicke, and dire property,  
On wholesome life vsurps immediatly.

Ham. A<sup>29</sup> poysons him i'th Garden for his estate, his  
names Gonzago, the story is extant, and written in  
very choice Italian, you shall see anon how the  
murtherer  
gets the loue of Gonzagoes wife.

Oph. The King rises.

Quee. How fares my Lord?

Pol. Giue ore<sup>30</sup> the play.

King. Giue me some light, away.

Pol. Lights, lights, lights. ~~Exeunt all but Ham. &~~  
Horatio.

Ham. Why let the strooken<sup>31</sup> Deere goe weepe,



The Hart vngauled<sup>32</sup> play,  
For some must watch while some must sleepe<sup>33</sup>,  
Thus runnes the world away<sup>33</sup>.

### N o t e s

1. Dumb Shew: dumb show, i.e. a pantomime; formerly, a part of a dramatic representation, given without words. Note that many nouns in the extract are spelt with a capital initial letter.
2. the Queene commeth and findes: in Shakespeare's time the ending -(e)s was rapidly becoming usual in the 3rd pers. sg. present tense, but the older ending still occurred as in this text from the First Quarto.
3. harsh: here - unwilling, reluctant.
4. myching Mallico: sneaking (lurking) mischief.
5. Marry: an expression of asseveration or surprise.
6. belike: probably.
7. I: aye = yes.
8. hee'le: he'll.
9. naught: naughty.
10. Ile: I'll.
11. poesie (posie): posy = a brief inscription or motto, especially in verse, inscribed in a ring, on a knife, etc., as accompanying a gift.
12. Phebus cart: Phoebus' chariot, i.e. the sun (Phoebus or Apollo, the sun god, is commonly represented as driving the flaming chariot of the Sun).
13. Tellus: goddess of the earth in classical mythology.
14. Hymen: the god of marriage in classical mythology.
15. ioutneyes: journeys.
16. ore: o'er.

17. ought: aught = anything (at all).
18. my Lord is: my love is.
19. ciz'd = sized.
20. wormwood: bitter experience, mortification.
21. Anchors cheere: anchoret's (=hermit's) food.
22. mee thinks: methinks = it seems to me; an impersonal construction; cf. MoGer. mich dünkt.
23. mary = marry; see above, Note 5.
24. tropically: figuratively (< trope).
25. let the gauled Iade winch, our withers are vnwrong:  
let the galled Jade wince, our withers are unwrung =  
let him who considers that an accusation, insult, etc.  
is levelled at him resent it, we are not affected;  
these lines are often quoted in full or in part.
26. considerat: confederate.
27. Hecats: Hecate's (Hecate = a goddess combining the  
characters of moon goddess, earth goddess' and under-  
world goddess in classical mythology. Later she was  
regarded more as the dark goddess of magic and witch-  
craft).
28. inuected: infected.
29. A: He.
30. ore: o'er.
31. strooken: stricken.
32. vngauled: ungalled = unhurt, unaffected.
33. Two lines frequently quoted which refer to the variety  
of human character and activities in the world.

A Private Letter by John Dryden; c. 1682

The English poet, dramatist and critic John Dryden (1631-1700) was born in Northamptonshire. He was educated at Westminster School and Trinity College, Cambridge. In 1657 he moved to London. Like the rest of his family he was an adherent of Cromwell. This did not prevent him from writing "Astraea Redux", a poem of welcome to Charles II in 1660.

In 1667 Dryden became popular by his "Annus Mirabilis", a narrative poem describing the war with Holland and the terrors of the great fire of London. During 20 years he produced many plays. The best of these is "All for Love". In 1668 he published the "Essay on Dramatic Poesy", which established his reputation as a critic. During this time Dryden became the best known literary man of London. He was appointed poet laureate. After the revolution of 1688 he lost his offices. In his old age, being reduced to hackwork, he wrote plays, poems, prefaces for other men, obituaries. His most successful work at this time was his translations of Vergil, Ovid and Homer. He also published, under the title of "Fables", versions of Boccaccio and Chaucer, to which was added one of his great prefaces. Dryden was buried in Westminster Abbey.

The greatest writer of the Restoration period, Dryden is comparatively little read nowadays. He had, however, a very marked influence on the development of English literature and the English language. The classical school, which followed the Restoration, looked to him as a leader. His numerous prefaces and especially the "Essay on Dramatic Poesy" are the foundation of English literary criticism. Dryden encouraged the use of a natural and direct prose style. He wrote in relatively short sentences, taking pains to state his thoughts clearly and concisely. Dryden was one



of the most distinguished and consistent advocates of the creation of an English Academy to refine and fix the standard of the English language.

Dryden's repeated changes of side in political and religious matters won him the ignoble reputation of a turn-coat. At different times of his life Dryden lived in straitened circumstances and was compelled to appeal for material assistance. In the letter reproduced below Dryden complains to the Earl of Rochester, then First Lord of the Treasury, of his extreme want and applies for a post in the government service. The letter is without date, but was probably written in 1682 or 1683. Dryden was made Collector of Customs in the port of London (an office once held by Chaucer) on December 17, 1683. The letter (Brit. Mus. Add. MS. 17,017, F.49) is reproduced from the facsimile in G.H. McKnight, *Modern English in the Making*, N.Y. - Ldn. 1928, p. 275.

### T e x t

My Lord

I know not whether my Lord Sunderland has interceded with your Lordship, for half a yeare of my salary: But I have two other Advocates, my extreame wants, even almost to arresting<sup>1</sup>, & my ill health, which cannot be repaired without immediate retireing into the country. A quarters allowance is but the Jesuites powder<sup>2</sup> to my disease<sup>3</sup>; the fitt will return a fortnight hence. If I durst I wou'd plead a little merit, & some hazards of my life from the Common Enemyes, my refuseing advantages offerd by them, & neglecting my beneficiall studyes for the Kings Service: But I onely thinke I merite not to sterve. I never applyd my selfe to any Interest contrary to your Lordships, and, on some occasions, perhaps not known to you, have not been unserviceable, to the memory & reputation of My Lord your father. After this, My Lord, my conscience assures me I may write boldly though I cannot speake to you. I have three

Sonns growing to mans estate, I breed them all up to learning beyond my fortune; but they are too hopefull to be neglected though I want. Be pleasd to looke on me with an eye of compassion; some small Employment wou'd render my condition easy. The King is not vnsatisfyed of me, the Duke has often promised me his assistance; & Your Lordship is the Conduit through which their favours passe. Either in the Customes, or the Appeales of the Excise<sup>5</sup>, or some other way; meanes cannot be wanting if you please to have the will. Tie enough for one Age to have neglected Mr Cowley<sup>6</sup>, and stervd Mr Buttler<sup>7</sup>; but neither of them had the happiness to live till your Lordships ministry. In the meane time be pleased to give me a gracious and speedy answer to my present request of halfe a yeares pention for my necessities. I am going to write somewhat by his Majestyes command, & cannot stirr into the Country for my health and studies, till I secure my family from want. You have many petitions of this nature, & cannot satisfy all, but I hope from your goodnesse to be made an Exception to your generall rules; because I am, with all sincerity,

Your Lordships most obedient

Humble Servant

John Dryden

#### N o t e s

1. even almost to arresting: up to the point of being arrested for debt.
2. Jesuites powder: powdered cinchona bark; quinine, employed as a febrifuge and antiperiodic.
3. my disease: a reference to Dryden's poverty which tended to return in fits, i.e. intermittently or periodically.
4. Customes: Customs revenue department.

5. Appeals of the Excise: an office dealing with the collection of and appeals against excise duties.
6. Mr. Cowley: Abraham Cowley (1618-1667), English poet.
7. Mr. Buttler: Samuel Butler (1612-1680) English poet, author of "Hudibras", who died in extreme poverty.



## GLOSSARY

### Introductory Notes

1. The alphabetical order in the Glossary is as follows (letters under the same number occupy the same alphabetical place):

1. a, ae, æ	10. j	17. s
2. b	(k, see c)	18. t
3. c, k, q	11. l	19. þ, ð, th
4. d	12. m	20. u
5. e	13. n	21. v
6. f	14. o	22. w
7. ȝ, g	15. p	23. x
8. h	(q, see c)	(y, see i)
9. i, y	16. r	24. z

2. Words that are used in LME. and EME. texts in exactly or practically the same spelling and with the same meaning as in present-day English are not as a rule listed in the Glossary.
3. The underlined item given at the beginning of an article in the Glossary is the OE. form of the word. Any further material which follows up to the first sign of derivation (>) in the same article pertains to the OE. word. Underlined items occurring elsewhere in an article are also OE. forms. The word in ordinary print standing immediately after the first sign of derivation and any information which follows up to first semicolon or colon refer to the ME. form. Capitals are used to distinguish standard ME. forms. A dash at the beginning of an article indicates that the word does not occur in OE. (the form which follows is consequently ME.). Absence of a form in capital letters indicates that the corresponding word does not occur in standard ME.

E.g.: man(n) mc. > man(n); MAN:  
 - gentil-man; GENTLEMAN:  
herian w.l > herie(n):

4. A letter in round brackets indicates that the letter is sometimes omitted, e.g. al(1).
5. The types of EE. stems are indicated by corresponding letters, following the letters which denote gender, as  
 ma. = masculine a-stem, nn. = neuter n-stem, mc. = masculine consonant stem, etc.

#### List of Signs

- > 'changed to' or 'became'
- < 'changed from' or 'derived from'
- [ ] enclose phonetic transcription
- \* in front of and slightly above an entry indicates a reconstructed or hypothetical form
- // this sign stands before etymologically cognate words of other languages
- o 'archaic'
- \* 'poetical'
- ? means 'possibly', 'not certain' when placed before the word, etc. to which it refers

#### Abbreviations

- a., adj. = adjective
- ab. = about
- acc. = accusative
- adv. = adverb
- an. = anomalous
- AE. = American English
- art. = article
- attr. = attributive
- c. = circa, about

cent.	= century
cf.	= compare
cnj.	= conjunction
Com.Gmc.	= Common Germanic
comp.	= comparative
d.	= died, deceased
dat.	= dative
dial.	= dialect(al)
Du.	= Dutch
E.	= English
ed.	= edition
EE.	= Early English
EME.	= Early Middle English
EMoE.	= Early Modern English
esp.	= especially
Est.	= Estonian
exc.	= except
f., fem.	= feminine
Finn.	= Finnish
fr.	= from
G.	= German (Modern High German)
gen.	= genitive
Gmc.	= Germanic
Gr.	= Greek
Gt.	= Gothic
IE.	= Indo-European
imit.	= imitative
imp., imper.	= imperative
indef.	= indefinite
inf.	= infinitive
intj.	= interjection
intr.	= intransitive
IOE	= O.Mutt, An Introduction to Old English, Tartu 1962.
L.	= Latin
lg(s).	= language(s)



LL.	=	Late Latin, Low Latin
lit.	=	literally
LME.	=	Late Middle English
M.	=	Middle
m.	=	masculine
ME.	=	Middle English
MoE.	=	Modern English
MoFr.	=	Modern French
MoGer.	=	Modern German
MoRuss.	=	Modern Russian
MS(S).	=	manuscript(s)
n.	=	neuter
nom.	=	nominative
num.	=	numeral
O.	=	old
obj.	=	objective
OE.	=	Old English
OF.	=	Old French
OGmc.	=	Old Germanic
OHG.	=	Old High German
ON.	=	Old Norse (Old Icelandic)
OS.	=	Old Saxon
p., part.	=	participle
pers.	=	person
pl.	=	plural
poss.	=	possessive
pp.	=	past participle
prep.	=	preposition
prn.	=	pronoun
prs.	=	present
pt.	=	preterite
pt.-prs.	=	preterite - present
q.	=	quarto
refl.	=	reflexive
S.	=	Southern (dialect form)
s.	=	substantive (noun)

sbj.	=	subjunctive
Sc.	=	Scottish
Scn.	=	Scandinavian
sg.	=	singular
spec.	=	specifically
str.	=	strong
sup.	=	superlative
Sw.	=	Swedish
tr.	=	transitive
usu.	=	usually
v.	=	verb
w.	=	weak
WS.	=	West Saxon

## GLOSSARY PROPER

### A, AE, & Å

ā-bīdan str. 1 abide(n); ABIDE: O/ME. await, expect, remain, abide.

ac conj. > ac: but // Gt. ak; cf. Est. aga.

- acordaunt a.; ACCORDANT: fr. OF. accordant, prs.p. of accorder; see ME. acorde(n).

- acorde(n); ACCORD: fr. OF. accorder LL. accordare.

- acquyten; ACQUIT: ME. release, acquit: fr. OF. aquiter. (advisen v., see ME. avysen.)

æfre adv. > ever(e); EVER: æfre ælc prn. > everich; EVERY; æfre ælc + ān > everich-o(o)n prn.; EVERY ONE.

æfter adv. & prp. (+ dat.) > after; AFTER.

æȝ nc. (pl. æȝru) > ey (pl. eyre(u) = a double plural): egg // G. Ei, cf. ME. egg.

āȝan pt. prs. (prs. sg. āh, āhst, pl. āȝon; pt. āhte; pp. āȝen) > awen, owen (pt. auhte, oughte); 1. OWE & 2. OUGHT: OE. possess, have, ME. have, owe, be obliged // OHG. eigan 'possess', Gt. aigan.

ā-ȝān an.v. (see ȝān; pp. ā-ȝān) > agoon (pp. agoon>); AGO adv.; EE. go by, pass.

āȝen a. (< pp.) > awen, owen; OWN // G. eigen, cf. Gt. aigin.

æȝðer prn. & conj. > either; EITHER: OE. each, every one (of two or more); æȝðer (ȝe) ... ȝe, both ... and, as well ... as.

ā-hebban str.6 > ahebben, aheve(n): lift up, raise



// G. erheben.

ā-hōf pt., see ā-hebban.

aht fl.(um.pl.) > eight(e): possessions, property, wealth // OHG. eht, Gt. ahts; see āzan.

ahton pt.pl., see āzan.

ā-hwæðer, āwðer, āðer, prn. & cnj. > 1. o(u)ther & 2. or cnj.; OR: OE. one (of two), either, some/any one, something: M/EMoE. either, or // G. jeder.

ælc, æz-hwīlc, prn. > elch, æch, eech; EACH: O/ME. every, each (one) // G. jeglich(er).

aldorman, ealdor-.mc. > alderman; ALDERMAN: OE. chief, nobleman of high rank, magistrate; see eald.

al(1) prn., see eal(1).

æl-mihtiz a. > almyghty; ALMIGHTY: æl- = eal(1); mihtiz < miht.

ān num. & a. > 1. oon, o, num., a., & prn., & 2. o(n), a(n), art.; 1. ONE & 2. A(N): OE. one, single; certain, one, any // G. ein, ON. einn, Gt. ains. 1. eal āna > aloon; ALONE // G. allein, Sw. allena. 2. on ān > anoon adv.; ANON o : soon, presently; O/ME. immediately.

and, end, ond, cnj. > and; AND // G. und.

(æende a., see ende.)

ānes adv. > ones; ONCE

Angel-cynn, lit. Angle-kin, i.e. 'English people'; old name for the English and their country, replaced from about the year 1000 by the term 'Englaland' (= land of the Angles) > England.

æni3 prn. > any; ANY // G. einige.

(anon adv., see ān.)

- apayre(n), empeire(n); IMPAIR: ME. make worse, injure,

impair: fr. OF. empeirer, cf. L. peior.

ǣr adv., prp. (+ dat.), & conj. > er, or; ERE o prp. conj. (in EMOE. also adv.): before; OE. earlier, formerly, before; ME. before // G. eher, Gt. airis.

ǣra fō. > ore; OAR // ON. ár; cf. Est. aer, Finn. airo fr. Gmc.

ǣr(e)st adv. (sup. of ǣr) > arest, erst; ERST o 'formerly'; EE. first, at first, before all // G. erst.

ǣr-līc a. > erlich, erly; EARLY.

ǣr-bān-be conj.: before; see ǣr & bēat.

(ariȝt adv., see riht s.)

æsc ma. > assh; ASH (tree): OE. ash, \* spear; boat, ship.

ǣscian w. 2. > aske(n), axe(n); ASK, ax (dial.).

ǣ-stellan (< on-st.) w.1: set up, appoint, establish, start // cf. G. (auf)stellen.

æt prp. (+ dat.) > at; AT // ON. at, Gt. at.

(atte = at the; see æt & sē.)

(a-pre OE. on brēo, see OE. on & brī).

- auncyen(d) a.; ANCIENT: fr. OF. ancien.

- avauntage s.; ADVANTAGE: fr. OF. avantage.

- avysen; ADVISE: EE. consider, notice, advice; advysen in 'make familiar with': fr. OF. aviser.

(axen v., see ascian.)

## B

bān na. > boon; BONE // G. Bein 'leg', ON. bein.

bǣr pt. sg., see beran.

bǣron pt. pl., see beran.

- bāt ma. > boot; BOAT // G. Boot, Sw. bāt; cf. Est. paat.
- be prp. = bi adv. & prp.
- bearn na. > bern; BAIRN (So.): child, son or daughter  
// Gt. barn, Sw. barn.
- bēad pt.sg., see bēodan.
- bearm ma. > berm: bosom, lap // OHG. barm, Sw. barm,  
Gt. barms.
- be-byczan w.l: pay, exchange, buy & sell.
- be-feallan str.7 > bifalle(n); BEFALL: OE. fall; befall;  
ME. befall, happen // G. befallen.
- beforan adv. & prp. (+ acc./dat.) > bifor(en); BEFORE.
- be-3innan str.3 > bygynne(n), bi-, be-; BEGIN // G. be-  
ginnen.
- be3ytan, -3i-, str.5 > biyete(n), bigate(n); BEGET: OE.  
get, obtain, find; ME. also 'beget' // Gt.  
bigitan; cf. ME. geten.
- bēodan str.2 > bede(n): command, declare, offer // G.  
bieten, ON. bjóða, Gt. (ana-)biudan; cf. MoE.  
to bid < biddan.
- bēon an.v. (see IOE, p.69) > bee(n); BE (pp. BEEN) // G.  
prs. 1.sg. bin, 2.sg. bist.
- beor3, -rh-, ma. > bergh, berw; BARROW (burial-mound): EE.  
mountain, hill; barrow // G. Berg, ON. bjarg; cf.  
Est. perv, Russ. *гeпep*.
- beorht, briht, a. > bright; BRIGHT // ON. bjartr, Gt.  
bairhts.
- beorn ma.\* > bern: man, warrior, hero.
- beran str.4 > bere(n); BEAR // G. (ge-)bāren 'give birth  
to', ON. bera 'carry', Gt. baíran.
- be-sēon str.5 > biseen: behold, look round, look after,  
provide for.



? > besiȝt, besight, s.: provision, determination; see be-sēon.

(besynesse s., see bisiznes.)

besyrwan w. 1: ensnare, deceive.

beswican str. 1 > biswyke(n): deceive, betray.

betst a. sup. & adv. sup., see ȝōd.

bī, biz, adv. & prp. (+ dat./instr.) > be, by; BY: OE.  
(adv.) by; (prp.) near, along, by; concerning  
// G. bei, Gt. bi.

biddan str. 5 > bidden; BID: O/ME. ask for, pray; EME.  
also command, bid // G. bitten, ON. biðja, Gt.  
bidjan.

(byfel, bifil, pt. of bifalle(n), see befeallan.)

(bygynnyge s., see be-rinnan.)

bindan str. 3 bynde(n); BIND // G. binden, ON. binda,  
Gt. bindan.

binnan prp. (+ acc./dat.) > bynne(n), byn: within, inside  
of, in // G. binnen.

biso(e)op ma. > bieshop; BISHOP: fr. L. episcopus fr.  
Gr. episkopos 'overseer'.

bisiznes fō. > besynesse; BUSINESS.

blētsian w. 2 > bleese(n); BLESS: OE. bless, consecrate.

blōdiȝ a. > bloody; BLOODY // G. blutig.

boȝa mn. > bowe; BOW // G. Bogen, ON. bogi.

(born s., see burn.)

(bete, adv., prp. see būte.)

brād a. > brood; BROAD // G. breit, ON. brei r, Gt.  
braids.

bræð m. > breeth; BREATH: OE. also 'vapeur, odour'.

(breeth s., see bræð.)

bringan str. w. v. (pt. brōhte, pp. ze-brōht) > bryngen;  
BRING // G. bringen, Gt. briggan.

- broche s.; BROOCH: ME. pin, brooch; jewel, ornament.  
(brod, brood, a., see brād.)

brōpar, -or, -er, mr. > brother; BROTHER // G. Bruder,  
Gt. brōpar.

būan an.v. (pt. būde, pp. zebūn, -būd): (intr.) stay,  
dwell; (tr.) inhabit, cultivate // G. bauen, cf.  
MoGer. Bauer, ON. búa, Gt. bauen 'dwell'.

būde pt. sg., see būan.

bunden pp., see bindan.

burh-warū fō. (collect.) inhabitants of a 'burg', i.e.  
of a walled town.

burn(a) s. > bo(u)rne, BOURN, BURN; stream, rivulet,  
brook, well // G. Brunnen, Sw. brunn, Gt. brunna.

būte, būtan, adv. prp. (+ dat.) & conj. > bute(n), but;  
BUT: O/ME. but, except, unless, without.

#### C, K, Q

- caste(n); CAST: fr. Scn. (ON.) kasta

- catel, chatel, s.; 1. CATTLE & 2. CHATTEL: ME. also  
property, wealth: fr. OF. catel,  
chatel < L. capitale.

cēosan str. 2 (pt. pl. curon, pp. ze-coren) > chese(n)  
(pt. sg. chees, /oo/, pl. chose(n), pp. y-core(n),  
y-chose(n) ; CHOOSE // G. kiesen, ON. kjósa,  
Gt. kiusan; cf. Est. kiusama.

- chaumbre, chambre s.; CHAMBER; o room (esp.) bedroom:  
fr. OF. chambre < L. camera.

- chaungen; CHANCE: fr. OF. changier.

- chitere(n); CHITTER: twitter, chirp, chatter (imit.).

cild, cyld, n.>child; CHILD: O/ME. child, a youth of gentle birth.

cyne-riċe nja.> kuneriche, kyneriche: kingdom; cf. OE. cyninȝ-riċe // G. Kōnigreich; cf. Est. kuning-riik.

cyn(n) nja.> kyn(n); KIN: OE. kind; tribe, clan, people, kin; ME. kind, kindred, kin // Gt. kuni 'kin, tribe'; cf. Est. -kond in 'maakond', etc.

cyninȝ(c), cynȝ ma.> kyng; KING // G. Kōnig, OHG. kuning; cf. ON. konungr; cf. Est. & Finn. kuningas, Russ. князь 'prince', fr. Gmc.

cȳðan, /k-/, w. 1> kuthe(n), kithe(n): make known, proclaim // G. (ver-)künden, Gt. (ga-swi-)kunþjan; cf. cūð; cunnan

clerec m.> clerk; CLERK: OE. clergymen; ME. clerk, scholar, student: fr. LL. clericus.

clypian w.2> clepe(n), (pp.> ); YCLEPT a. o named ... : OE. cry, call, summon; M/EMOE. call, name.

cnāwan str.7> knowen; KNOW: OE. know; ȝe-cnāwan 'know, perceive, recognize'.

cocur ma. quiver (a case for carrying arrows) // G. Köcher; cf. Est. kukkur.

- colier, coliar; COLLIER.

com pt. sg., see cuman.

- comyn, comun(e); COMMON: fr. OF. comun < L. communis.

- comynacyon; COMMUNICATION: fr. L. communicatio.

- comyxtioun s.: COMMIXTION 'mixture'.

(comlyng s., see cuman v.)

- compaignye, companye s.; COMPANY: fr. OF. companie. < LL. companies - L. com- 'together' + panis 'bread'.

- comune s.; 1. COMMUNE & 2. COMMONS: ME. also community: fr. OF. comune.



- contrey, contree, s.; COUNTRY: fr. OF. contree = LL. contrata 'country', 'that which is opposite'.
- cople s.; COPY: ME. abundance, plenty; copy: fr. OF. copie < L. copia.
- corage s.; COURAGE: ME. heart, spirit; fr. OF. corage, of. L. cor.

(coude, coude pt., see cunnan.)

(couthe pp., see cunnan.)

cradol m. > credel, CRADLE.

crop(p) m. > erop(p); CROP: O/ME. sprout, ear of corn.

cuman str. 4 > oomen; COME // G. kommen, ON. koma, Gt. qiman.

(cunnep, kunnep, prs. pt., see cunnan.)

(kuneriohe s., see cynae-rice)

cunnan pt.-prs. (prs. sg. cān, cānst, cān, pl. cunnen; pt. cūðs; pp. (3e-)cunnen & a. pp. cūð) > conne(n) (prs. sg. can, pl. conne(n), -eth; pt. couthe, cou(1)de; pp. & a. couth; conne, con; CAN, pt. COULD; EE. know, be able // G. können, Gt. kunnan 'know'.

cūom pt. sg., see cuman.

cūōmon pt. pl., see cuman.

- curteisie s.; COURTESY: fr. OF. curteisie.

cūð a. pp. & cūðe pt., see cunnan.

cwēð pt. sg., see cwēðan.

cwēðan str. 5 > quethe(n) (pt. sg. quoth >); QUOTH o: EE. say, speak // OHG. quedan, ON. kveða, Gt. qipan; cf. BEQUEATH < OE. be-cwēðan.

D

dae3 ma. > day; DAY // G. Tag, ON. dagr, Gt. dags.

da3as nom. pl., see dae3.

dael mi. > deel; DEAL: O/ME. part, share // G. Teil, Sw. del, Gt. dails.

dālan w.7 > dele(n); DEAL: OF. divide, separate, distribute; ME. also 'deal' // G. teilen, ON. deila, Gt. dailjan.

(dele(n) v., see dālan.)

- delyvere(n), delibere(n); DELIBERATE: ME. also 'resolve': fr. L. deliberare.

Denisc a. > Danyssh; DANISH

dēor na. > deer; DEER: ME. animal (usu. wild), beast, deer // G. Tier, Sw. djur, Gt. dius.

- devyse(n); DEVISE: ME. divide; arrange; describe, talk: fr. OF. deviser.

dýre, dēore a. > dere; DEAR // G. teuer, ON. dyrr.

- dyvers(e) a.; 1. DIVERSE different; 2. DIVERS several; fr. OF. divers L. diversus.

dohtor fr. > doughter; DAUGHTER // G. Tochter, ON. dottir, Gt. dauhtar.

- domynacyon s.; DOMINATION: fr. OF. dominacion < L. dominatio.

dōn an.v. (pt. dyde, pp. 3e-dōn) > doo(n) (pt. dude, dide, ded; pp. y-doo(n)); DO // G. tun.

- doute(n), dowte; DOUBT: ME. (usu.) fear; (rarely) doubt: fr. OF. deuter < L. dubitare.

(dowte v., see ME. doute(n).)

dra3an str. 6 > drawe(n); DRAW: ME. drawn after 'borrow

from. imitate' // G. tragen, ON. draza, Gt. drazan.  
 (drawe(n) v., see drazan.)  
dreccan w.1 (pt. drehte) > drecchen: trouble, vex,  
 oppress.  
drehton pt. pl., see dreccan.  
 (dryde v., see on-draēdan.)  
drifan str. 1 > dryven; DRIVE // G. treiben, Gt. dreiban.  
drihten, dry-, ma. > drichte(n): ruler, lord, God // cf.  
 Sw. drottning 'queen'.  
 (droght(e) s., see drū3oð.)  
drū3oð ma. > droght(e); DROUGHT.

### B

ēac adv. > eek; EKE o: also, as well // G. auch, ON. ok,  
 Gt. auk 'for, as'.  
ēaze nn. eye, ye; EYE // G. Auge, ON. auga, Gt. augō.  
eald, ald a. (cmp. yldra, ie-; sup. yldest, ie-) > eld,  
 old; OLD // G. alt.  
ealdian w. 2 > elde(n): grow old; see eald.  
eal(l), al(l), prn. & adv. > al(l); ALL // G. all, Gt.  
 alls.  
ēast adv. & a. > e(e)st, adv. a., & s.; EAST // G. Ost,  
 ON. austr.  
East-enȝle mi. pl.: the East Angles, East Anglia.  
ēce a. > eche: eternal // cf. G. ewig; Est. iga 'age',  
 igavene.  
 (ech prn., see aelc.)  
 (eek, eke adv. & cmp., see ēac.)  
 - egg s.; EGG: fr. Scn. egg; cf. OE. æg.



(eyren pl. of ey s. = OE. ǣz.)

(eiper, see ǣzðer.)

ende mja. > ende; END // G. Ende, ON. endi, Gt. andeis.

- engendre(n); ENGENDER: fr. OF. engendrer < L. ingenerare.

com prs. 1. sg., see wesan.

eorl ma. > erl; EARL: OE. chief, leader, nobleman // OS.

erl 'man', ON. jarl 'nobleman, count'.

eorðe fn. > erthe; EARTH // G. Erde, Gt. áirpa.

ēow, see zē prn.

(er(e) prp. & cmp., see ǣr.)

(erly a. & adv., see ǣr-līc.)

- ese(n) v.; EASE: ME. make convenient/easy, accomodate  
fr. OF. eser.

(est, see ǣast.)

etan str. 5 > ete(n); EAT // G. essen, ON. eta, Gt. itan.

(everichon prn., see ǣfre ǣlc + ān.)

## P

faeder mr. > fader; FATHER // G. Vater, Gt. fadar.

fæzen a. > fayn; PAIN: O/ME. glad, joyful, fain // ON.  
feginn; cf. Gt. faginōn v. 'rejoice'.

fæzer a. > fair; FAIR O/ME. beautiful, lovely, fair ON.  
fagr, Gt. fagrs.

fāh a. > fogh, fow: coloured, variegated, shining,  
beautiful.

(fayn a., see fæzen.)

(faire adv., see fæzer a.)

(fayt s., see ME. feet.)

fāmi-heals a.\* 'foamy-necked'.

- fāndian w. 2 > fonden: explore, try.
- faran str. 6 > fare(n); FARE: OE. go, travel; fare, suffer  
// G. fahren, Gt. faran; cf. MoE. fare n. + v.,  
farewell.
- faet n.: ornament (of gold).
- feallan str. 7 > falle(n); FALL // G. fallen. ON. falla.
- fēaw a. & adv. > fewe; FEW.
- feet a.; FEAT: ME. deed, feat: fr. OF. fet, fait < L.  
factum.
- fela a. & adv. > fel(e): many, much // G. viel, ON. fjöl,  
Gt. filu.
- felan w. 1. > fele(n); FEEL // G. fühlen.
- felawe-shipe s.; FELLOWSHIP.
- fechtan str. 3 > flighte(n); FIGHT // G. fechten.
- feorran adv. > ferre(n), ferne, adv. & a.: O/ME. from  
afar, far away, at a distance // G. fern.
- ferien-beriz s. ? mountain (? high shore) // cf. Gt.  
fafrguni 'mountain'; WS. beorȝ (which see).
- ferly s.; FERLY o dial.: something wonderful, marvel,  
wonder; cf. OE. fēarlic 'eudden' < fēar 'fear' +  
-lic // cf. G. gefährlich, Sw. farlig 'dangerous'.
- (fern a., see feorran adv.)
- (ferre adv./a. comp., see fyr(r).)
- fetis a.; elegant, handsome: fr. OF. fe(i)tis.
- fierd, fyrð, fi. > ferd(e): expedition, army: cf. OE.  
faran.
- fyr(r) adv. comp., & fyrra, etc. a. comp. > ferre, ferrer,  
farther; FARTHER.
- firas mja. pl. > men, mankind // cf. Lat. vir; MoE. wer-  
in wer(e)wolf.

- fīrst, frist    ml. > first, frist; FRIST \* : space of time  
// G. Frist, ON. frest.
- fyrst    (< fyrest) a. & adv. > first; FIRST: OE. foremost,  
first // G. Fūrst, ON. fyrstr; cf. Est. vūrst.
- fýsan    w. l > fuse(n); FREEZE o dial.: O/ME. send away,  
drive, impel, hasten.
- fisc    ma. > fissh; FISH // G. Fisch, ON; fiskr, Gt. fisks.
- fiscap    ma. fishing; see fisc.
- fisc-flōdu    mu. \* 'fish-flood', sea.
- flōd    ma. > flood; FLOOD: OE. stream, flood, river; sea  
// G. Flut, ON. flóð, Gt. flōdus.
- floryshe(n), florische(n); FLOURISH: fr. OF. florir < L.  
florere.
- flota    mn. > flote; FLOAT: OE. 'floater', ship, sailor;  
ME. fleet, float // G. Floss, ON. flot.
- flour    s.; FLOWER: fr. OF. flour, flor (MoFr. fleur) <  
L. flos.
- folc    na. > folk; FOLK: OE. people (as sg./ pl.), army;  
ME. people (as sg./pl.) // G. Volk, ON. folk.
- folde    fn. \* earth, ground, country.
- fōn    str. 7 (pt. fēn<sub>3</sub>, pp. fan<sub>3</sub>en) > fonge(n): seize,  
catch, take; get // G. fangen, ON. fá, Gt. fāhan.
- (fonde(n)    v., see fāndian.)
- forma.    (+ -est) formest    a. + num. > forme, comp. former,  
sup. formest; 1. FORMER; 2. FOREMOST: OE. earlier,  
first; ME. earlier, former; foremost // Gt. fruma.
- forð    adv. > forth; FORTH // G. fort.
- for-pāem    cnj. > for-pān; for-pe(n): therefore, because.
- for-wandre(n): wander far, become weary from wandering;  
see OE. wāndrian.



fōð prs. pl., see fōn.

- fourme, form s.; FORM fr. OF. forme < L. forma.

(fowel, fowl, s., see fuzol.)

frām adv. & prp. > from; FROM: OE. forth, away, from,  
since; ME. from, since // ON. frá, Gt. fram.

fraetwa, fwō. pl. ornaments, treasures, armour; cf. MoE.  
fret 'adorn, variegate'.

frēa mn. \* lord, master // Gt. frauja; ON. freyja  
'mistress'; G. Frau 'woman, wife, Mrs'.

fremu fin-o. > freme: advantage, benefit.

frēond ma. > frend; FRIEND // G. Freund; cf. ON; fraendi;  
Gt. frijonds.

frēond-līc a. frendlich, friendly; FRIENDLY.

- fro adv. & prp.; FRO fr. Scn. // fram.

Frēsisc a. Frisian, cf. FRIESIC, with a latinized ending;  
cf. Frīesa mn.a. Frisian // G. Friesen, ON.  
Frīsar.

fuzol ma. > fowel, foul; FOWL: O/ME. bird // G. Vogel,  
ON. fugl, Gt. fugls.

ful(1) a. & adv. > ful(); FULL: O/ME. (a.) full; (adv.)  
very, quite // G. voll, Gt. fulls.

fultum ma. > fultum: help.

### 3 & G

gān an.v. (pt. ēode) > goon (pt. ede, yede); GO (pt. WENT,  
see wendan) // G. gehen, Sw. gå; cf. gānzan.

gan3 imp., see gān.

gānzan str. 7 > gongen; GANG (Sc.): go, walk // OHG.  
gangan, ON. ganga, Gt. gaggan; cf. gān.

(gan(n)) pt., see on-3innan)

- garren: growl, snarl, chatter, twitter, (imit.)

(garrynge, see ME. garre(n).)

ǵærīc m. ? savage person, ? beast, ? monster.

(gat pt., see gete(n).)

ǵe- pref. (unstressed) > i-, y-; expressing intensity; in verbs usu. perfectivizing; without any special meaning; at an earlier, prehistoric stage the meaning was evidently 'together', which developed into 'altogether', 'completely', etc. In ME. the OE. meanings weakened and were gradually lost. // G. ge-, Gt. ga-.

ǵē prn. 2. pl. (acc.+dat. ēow; gen. ēower) > ye; YE o\* (obj.>) YOU.

ǵē ... ǵē conj.: both ... and, (see also under ǣzðer.)

ǵear, ǵēr, na. > ǵer, yere, ye(e)r; YEAR // G. Jahr, ON. ár, Gt. jēr.

ǵeard ma. > yard; YARD: OE. enclosure, court, earth, world // cf. Gt. gards 'house', ON. garðr 'yard, garth', Sw. gård 'yard, farm'.

ǵearu a. > yare; YARE o\* : ready, prepared, equipped // G. gar.

ǵearwe a.m.pl., see ǵearu.

ǵearwost a. (sup. of ǵearu): most readily, clearly.

ǵeato-lic a. \* adorned, splendid.

ǵecnaewð prs.sg., see cnāwan.

ǵefeahht pt.sg., see feohtan.

ǵefýsād pp., see fýsan.

ǵefuhton pt.pl., see feohtan.

ǵehirde pt.sg., see hýran.

ǵe-hwā (f., n.) indef. prn.: each, every one.

ǵehwæs gen.sg., see ǵe-hwā.

ǵe-lic a. > y-lic, lik; LIKE: O/ME. like, resembling //

G. gleich, ON. glíkr, Gt. galeiks.

3ehwæper prn.: each (of two), either.

3elæddon pt.pl., see lædan.

3e-læred a./s. > i-læred, y-lered: learned (person); clerical (as opposed to lay) // G. Gelehrte; see læran.

3emette pt.sg., see mētan.

3e-nō3 a. & adv. > inoh, ynough, i-now; ENOUGH, ENOW\*: O/ME. enough, sufficient(ly), abundant(ly) // G. genug, ON. gnógr, Gt. ganōhs.

- gentil a.; GENTLE: EE. belonging to the gentry/nobility; noble, gentle, pleasant: fr. OF. gentil.

3eon3 a. > yong; YOUNG: OE. also 'recent' // G. jung, ON. ungr, Gt. jugs.

(3er, ye(e)r, a., see 3ear.)

3erēfa mjn. > reve: REEVE (Hist.): OE. administrative official, steward, reeve; ME. bailiff; steward // cf. MoE. sheriff OE. scīr-3erēfa, i.e. 'shire-reeve'.

3emceapen pp., see scyppan.

3e-sceot, scot, na. > shot; SHOT: OE. shot, shooting, missile; implements for shooting; ME. shot, missile // G. Geschoss; see OE. sceotan.

3eseah pt.sg., see sēon.

3esēon, see sēon.

3eslæ3en pp., see slēan.

3e-sohte pt.sg., see sēcan.

3et adv., see 3yt.

- gets(n); GET: fr. ON. geta // OE. -3ytan (occurs only in compounds).

3epēode nja.: speech, language; see bēod.



þe)bolian w. 2 > thole(n); THOLE (dial.): suffer, endure;  
undergo // ON. þola; cf. Gt. þulan; G. dulden.

zewald s., see ze-weald.

zewāt pt.sg., see zewītan.

ze-weald na.: power, control // G. Gewalt; cf. Est. vald,  
vāgivald, etc.; see wealdan.

ze-wītan str. 1. go, move, depart.

ze-þanc m/na. thought, mind // G. Gedanke.

zif conj. > yif; IF // ON. ef, Gt. jabai.

zylt mi. > gilt; GUILT.

(gilt(e) s., see zylt.)

zi-swom EOE pt., see swimman.

zyt, zēt adv. > yet; YET: OE. yet, still, besides; þā zyt  
yet.

zōd a. (comp. betera, sup. betst) > good; GOOD // G. gut,  
ON. góðr, Gt. gōps; cf. adv. wēl.

zod ma. & na. > god; GOD // G. Gott, ON. god, Gt. gup.

zold na. > gold; GOLD // G. Gold, ON. gull, Gt. gulf;  
cf. Est. kuld, Finn. kulta fr. Gmc.

zold-sele m.: gold-hall (a hall adorned with gold, or one  
in which gold is distributed); see OE. zold and  
sele.

(goon v., see zān.)

zreat a. > greet; GREAT // G. gross.

(greet a., see zreat.)

zreot na. > greet(e); GRIT (small particles of stone or  
sand): EE. gravel, and // G. Griess.

zretan w. 1 > grete(n); GREET: OE. greet, address // G.  
grüssen.

zretinz fō. > gretyng(e): GREETING: see zretan.

3reut = 3reot.

3rist-bitun3 fō. > grisbayting; GRISTBITING: gnashing of teeth.

3rorn a. sad, vexed.

3uma mn.\* > gome: man // OHG. gomo, ON. gumi, Gt. guma;  
cf. brȳd-3uma > brīdgome; BRIDEGROOM // G. Bräutigam.

3ūð fō.\* battle, war.

3ūð-searo nwa.\* 'battle-device', armour; see 3ūð.

## H

habban w. 3 > have(n); HAVE // G. haben, Gt. haban.

- habite s., HABIT: fr. OF. habit < L. habitus; state, dress, custom.

haefde pt. sg., see habban.

haefdon pt. pl., see habban.

hāl a. > hool; WHOLE: O/ME. uninjured, healthy, sound, entire, whole // G. heil, Gt. hails.

hāl3a mn. (< hāl3 a.) > halwe; HALLOW (in ALL HALLOWS): saint; ME. also holy place, shrine.

hāl3 a. > holy; HOLY // G. heilig; see hāl, hāl3a.

(halve, half, see healf.)

(halwe s., see hāl3a.)

hām ma. & adv. > hoom; HOME // G. Heim; ON. heimr 'abode, village, country', Gt. haims 'village'.

hānd fu. > hond, hand; HAND // G. Hand, ON. hond, Gt. handus.

hāndlian w. 2 > handlen; HANDLE // G. handeln 'trade, treat'.

- harre(n); HARR, HURR (Sc. & dial.); make a rolling/bur-  
ring noise (imit).

hātan str. 7 > hote(n); pp. HIGHT o named: O/ME. name, order, command; (pass.) be called // G. heiseen, ON. heita, Gt. haitan.

hæð m/nl. > heeth; HEATH: O/ME. also 'untilled land' // G. Heide, ON. heiðr, Gt. haiði. of. hæðen a. (also as s., esp. of the Danes) > hethen; HEATHEN.

hē prn. 3. sg. M. (acc. hine, dat. him, gen. his) > 1. he (obj. hine, him, hym); & 2. (gen. >) his poss. prn.; HE (obj. HIM); & 2. HIS: // OS. he, hi, Dutch hij.

hēafod na. > hed, heed; HEAD // G. Haupt, ON. haufa, Gt. haubip.

hēah a. (comp. hīerra, sup. hīehst) > heigh, high; HIGH // G. hoch, Gt. hauhs.

(ie-)healdan str. 7 > heelde(n), hoolde(n); HOLD // G. halten, ON. halda, Gt. haldan; cf. Est. haldama, hooldama.

healf a. > half; HALF // G. halb, ON. halfr, Gt. halbe.

(hed s., see hēafod.)

(heeth s., see hæð.)

- helemen: lit. 'high-men', members of the upper classes, the aristocracy.

helpan str. 3 > helpe(n): HELP // G. helfen, ON. hjalpa, Gt. hilpan.

hēo prn. 3. sg. f. (acc. hie; gen./dat. hiere) > she; SHE (cf. poss. HER).

heofen, heofon ma. > heven(e); HEAVEN (sg.\*; in prose usu. pl.) // OS. heban; cf. Gt. himins, G. Himmel.

heofen-riče nja. > hevenerich(e); kingdom of heaven.

heord fō. > herde; HERD: // G. Herde, ON. hjorð, Gt. haírda.



- hēr adv. > heer, here; HERE // G. hier, Gt. hēr.
- here, herȝe mǡa. > here: army, host, troop (chiefly of enemies), predatory band, // G. Heer, Gt. harȝis.
- (her(e) prn. 3. pl. gen., see hȳ, hī.)
- herȝas m. pl., see here, herȝe.
- herian w. 1 > herie(n): glorify, praise, extol // Gt. hazjan.
- herlȝean v. = herian.
- hēt pt. sg., see hātan.
- hȳ, hī, (< hīe) prn. 3. pl. (acc. like nom.; dat. him; gen. hisra) > hi, he; hem; here, & fr. Scn.; 'EM, & fr. Scn.: O/EME. they, them, there.
- hīe prn. 3. pl., see hȳ, hī.
- hiene, hine prn. 3. sg., see hē.
- hīer(r)a comp., see hēah.
- hyll m. > hill, hull, hell; HILL // G. Hügel.
- hȳran, hōran. w. 1 > here(n); HEAR // G. hören, ON. heyra, Gt. hausjan.
- hire prn. 3. sg. f. gen., see OE. hēr.
- his, /y/, prn. 3. sg. m./n. gen., see hē (m.) & hit (n.).
- hit prn. 3. sg. n. (dat. him, gen. his) > 1. hit, it, & 2. (gen. >) his poss. prn.; 1. IT; & 2. ITS.
- hlāf ma. lhof, loof; LOAF: OE. bread, loaf. // G. Laib, ON. hleifr, Gt. hlaiifs; cf. Russ. хле́б, Est. leib.
- hlāford ma. > 1(h)overd, lord; LORD: OE. master, lord: hlāf + weard 'bread-keeper'.
- hlānan w. > lenen; LEAN // G. lehnén.
- hlystan w. 1. (+ gen.) > list(n) e(n); LIST o & LISTEN. // cf. Sw. lyssna.

hold a. hold: OE. friendly, kind, faithful, loyal; ME. faithful, loyal // G. hold, ON. hollr, Gt. hulps.

(holde(n), see (3e-)healdan.)

(helpen pp., see helpan).

holt na. > holt; HOLT: OE. wood (material); forest, grove; ME. grove // G. Holz, ON. holt.

(hom, see hām.)

(hor prn. 3. sg. f., see hēo.)

- hostelrye s.: HOSTELRY: fr. OF. hostellerie.

hran na. whale.

hrān na. reindeer // ON. hreinn (whence REIN- in REIN-DEER).

hrōf na. > rhof, roof; ROOT: OE. roof, covering // cf. Est. roovi(latt), Russ. кровля.

hron s. = hrān.

(hull s., see hyll.)

hund na. hund: hundred // OHG. hunt, Gt. hund.

huntoð na. > hunteth: hunting; what is caught by hunting, game.

hwā prn. m. (& f.) interr. & indef. (acc. hwone, dat. hwāem, gen. hwæs) > hwo, who; WHO.

hwæne adv. > whan(ne); WHEN // G. wann, wem.

hwæt prn. n. interrog. & indef. > what; WHAT // G. was, Gt. hwa; cf. hwā (of which hwæt is the neuter).

hwīl fō. > whil(e); WHILE: OE. time, while // G. Weile, Gt. hweila; hwile dat./acc. > while adv. & conj.; WHILE.

# I & Y

ic prn. 1. sg. > ich, i; I // G. ich, ON. ek, Gt. ik.

(i-chosen pp., see cēosan.)

idel a. > idel, ydell; IDLE: O/ME. vain, empty, useless,  
idle // G. eitel.

(ye a., see ēa3e.)

(y-falle pp., see feallan.)

I3-land na. > ilond; ISLAND // G. Eiland, ON. ey-land;  
cf. OE. I3 'island'; the 's' in 'island' was  
inserted in the 16th century from mistaken  
association with the word 'isle', a word of  
French origin derived from the Latin insula.

(i-gretinge a., see 3e- + 3rētin3)

(i-knowe pp., see cnāwan.)

(i-laerde pl., see (3e)-lāered)

ilce prn. > ilche, ilke; ILK (in 'of that ilk'): same;  
cf. OE. ælc.

yldra, eldra a. comp. > eldre, elder; ELDER; see eald.

- yle, ile; ISLE: fr. OF. ile, isle < L. insula, cf. MoFr.  
île; see OE. I3-land.

(i-leawede a., see 3e- + lāwede)

(i-lestinde prs. p., see lāestan.)

(ilond a., see I3-land.)

ymb prp. (+ acc.) & adv. > umbe: round, about, near, con-  
cerning // G. um, ON. umb; cf. Est. umbes, ümber.

(inow, ynough, a. & adv., see 3e-nō3.)

- i-now adv.; ENOW dial. & Sc.: presently (dial.); just  
now (Sc.) short for e'en (= even) now.

(yong(e) a. see 3eon3.)



īren nja. > iren; IRON // G. Eisen, ON. járn, Gt. eimarn.

yrfe nja. heritage, property // G. Erbe, Gt. arbi.

yrfe-numa mn. 'heritage-taker', heir.

(y-ronne pp., see rinnan.)

yrre n.: anger, wrath, ire, rage; MoE. ire is derived from OF. < L. ira.

(i-seid pp., see seczan.)

(i-tauzt, pp., see tāscan.)

ytt prs. 3. sg., see etan.

ȳð fjð. \* wave, billow.

yute adv. (S.), see ȳt.)

( K, see C. )

## L

lā intj. lo; LO o: Look!, see, behold!

lāēdan w. l. > lede(n); LEAD: O/ME. lead, carry, bring // G. leiten.

laefan w. l. > leve(n); LEAVE // ON. leifa, cf. G. bleiben.

lazu fō. > lawe; LAW: fr. ON. lag // cf. Sw. lag.

lānd na. > lond; LAND: OE. lond, country // G. Land, ON. land, Gt. land.

lānz a. > long; LONG // G. lang, Gt. laggs.

- lessoun s.; LESSON: fr. OF. leçon < L. lectio.

- longage, langage s.; LANGUAGE: fr. OF. langage - langue < L. lingua.

lānzian w. 2. > longen; LONG EE., also desire, belong // ON. langa, cf. G. verlangen.

lār fō. > lore; LORE: O/ME. teaching, learning, lore // G. Lehre; cf. OE. lēran.

lāeran w. 1. > lere(n); lere: OE. teach, advise; ME. teach; learn, study // G. lehren, ON. lāera, Gt. laisjan; cf. OE. lār.

lāes adv. & lāessa a. > lees adv. & lasse a.; LESS.

(lasse a. see lāes adv.)

lāestan w. 7 > laste(n); LAST: OE. do, perform; follow; suffice, last, endure; ME. last, endure, live // G. leisten, Gt. laistjan.

lāewede a. > lewede; LEWD. O/ME. untaught, ignorant, lay; (as s.) layman.

(lenen, see hlāenan.)

(leve(n) v., see lāefan)

(lhoaverd s., see hlāford)

līcian w. 1. > like(n); LIKE: O/ME. please: M/EMoE. please, like // ON. lika, Gt. leikan.

- licour; LIQUOR: EE. liquid, moisture, sap, liquor: fr. OF. licur L. liquor.

lif na. > lif, lyf; LIFE // cf. G. LEIB 'the body', ON. lif.

(lift a., see lyft.)

lyft a. > left; LEFT

lýtél a. (comp. lāessa, sup. lāest; adv. lýt, lýtél; comp. lāes, sup. lāest) > lutel, litel; LITTLE // OS. luttil, Du. lutel.

(lo(o) intj., see lā.)

(loand s., see lānd.)

(longen v., see lānzian.)

(lore s., see lār.)

- low a.; LOW: fr. Scn.

lust ma. > lust; LUST: O/ME. pleasure, joy, desire, lust

// G. Lust, Gt. luetue; of. Est. lust.

lustlice adv. willingly, gladly; see lust.

(lute adv. (S.), see lȳtel.)

## M

mā adv. (comp. of micle, sup. maest) > mo (sup. moost):  
more; (sup.) most, mostly // G. mehr; cf. OE. māra a.

macian w. 2 > maken; MAKE // G. machen.

magan pt. prs. (pt. sg. meante or mihte, pt. pl. mehton  
or mihton) > mowe(n), (prs. sg. may, pl. mowen; pt.  
myghte) MAY, MIGHT: O/ME. be able, have permission,  
can, may // G. mögen, Gt. magan.

maister ma. > maister; 1. MASTER & 2. MISTER: O/ME.  
master: fr. L. magister (> OF. maistre).

(maister s., see maister.)

mān n.: wickedness, crime, sin.

- maner(e); MANNER. fr. OF. maniere < LL. manarius - L.  
manus.

mān(n) mc. > 1. man(n) & 2. me(n) indef. prn.; MAN: OE.  
human being, person: ME. man; one (prn.) // G.  
Mann, man; Gt. mann(a).

man(n)-cyn(n) nja. > mankyn(n), mankind, people.

mān-scaða mn.: evil-doer, worker of evil; cf. OE. mān  
'wickedness' + scaða 'injurer, criminal'.

māra a. (comp. of micel; sup. maest; adv. mā) > more (sup.  
moost); MORE a. & adv.: O/ME. larger; greater,  
mightier; more // G. mehr, Gt. maiza.

- marchaunt s., MERCHANT: fr. OF. marchant < LL. merca-  
tans; cf. L. merx.

martyr m. > martir: MARTYR: fr. L. martyr.

(me indef. prn., see mān(n).)



meaht s. = miht.

meahten, mihton, pt. pl., see mazan.

- medle(n), melle(n); MEDDLE; ME. mix: fr. OF. medler, cf.  
MoE. MEDLEY.

(mellynge, see ME. medle(n).)

- melodye s.; MELODY: fr. OF. melodie < L. melodia.

meotod ma. \* fate; creator; cf. metan v.

(merye a., see myr3e.)

- merveilouse; MARVELLOUS: < OF. merveilleos.

metan str. 5 > mete(n); METE: EE. measure, mete out,  
estimate // G. messen, Gt. mitan.

mētan w. 1 > mete(n); MEET: // OS. motion; cf. OE.  
(3e-)mōt n. MOOT.

mete mi. mete; MEAT, o food: OE. food; ME. food, meal  
// ON. matr, Gt. mats.

metod n. = meotod.

micel, my-, a. (comp. māra, sup. māes, adv. micle) > miche(1),  
moche(1) a. & adv.; MUCH: OE. large, great,  
adv. greatly, much // OHG. mihhil, Gt. mikils.

- mychen, MICHE o (dial.): ME. pilfer; lurk, sneak // cf.  
OE mȳcan 'lurk, sneak'.

mid prp. (+ dat./instr./acc.) & adv. > mid; with // G. mit,  
Gt. mip.

middan-3eard ma. > middenerd: the world, earth // OHG.  
mittingart, Gt. midjungards.

midde fn. > midde: middle, centre, // G. Mitte.

miht fi. > myght(e); MIGHT: O/ME. might, power // G. Macht,  
Gt. mahts.

mihte pt. sg., see mazan.

min poss. prn. > my(n): 1. MINE & 2. MY // G. mein,

ON. minn, Gt. meins.

myntan w. l: to mean, intend, propose; cf. OE. ȝemunan  
think, remember; māenan tell, intend, wish // G.  
meinen, ON. meina, Sw. mena.

mynte pt. sg., see myntan.

myrȝe a. murȝe, /y/, /e/; MERRY: O/ME. pleasant,  
agreeable, merry.

myrðran w. l > mordere(n), mordre(n); murther, MURDER  
// cf. G. (er)morden, Mord.

mist-hleoðum dat.pl. of mist-hlīð n. mist veil or covering.

(moare a., see māra.)

(moche a. & adv., see micel.)

mōd na. > mood; MOOD: OE. mind, spirit, temper, mood,  
courage; ME. mood, anger // G. Mut.

mōdor fr. > moder; MOTHER // G. Mutter, ON. mōðir.

mōd-ȝebanc ma. 'mind's thought', inner thought,  
? conception, intention.

mōna mn. > mone; MOON // ON. māni, Gt. mēna, cf. MoGer.  
Mond.

(mone s., see mōna.)

mōr m. > more; MOOR // G. Moor, ON. mor.

(murtherer s., see myrðran v.)

## N

nā adv. > no; NO: OE. never, not even, not at all  
(emphasizing the negative); ME. no, not // G. nie,  
ON. nei, Gt. ni aiw.

naca mn. \* boat, ship

- nacioun s.; NATION: ME. nationality, nation: fr. OF.  
nacion = L. natio.

nā-hwæðer, nawðer, naðer, prn. & cnj., see nawðer;  
cf. æwðer.

nām, nōm pt. sg., see niman.

næron pt. pl., see ne + wesan.

nees adv. not at all.

nāt prs. sg., see nitan.

(nathelees adv., see nā-py-lāes.)

nā-py-lāes adv. > nothelees, natheless: nevertheless

- nature s.; NATURE: fr. OF. nature = L. natura.

nā-wiht, nauht, nōht, s. & prn. (also adv.) > naught,  
nought; 1. NAUGHT, NOUGHT & 2. NOT; see wiht.

nāwðer, nā-hwæðer, prn. & cnj. > no(u)ther, nor; NOR:  
OE. neither; nāwðer nē ... nē neither ... nor.

nē neg. adv. & cnj. > ne: OE. not, and not, nor;  
ne ... ne 'neither ... nor'.

nēah a., adv. & prp. (+ dat.) (a. comp. nēara, sup.  
nēahst; adv. comp. nēar) > neigh, nygh (comp. neer,  
sup. next); 1. NIGH o \*dial.; 2. NEAR; 3. NEXT:  
O/ME. near, close; nearly // G. nahe, nach, Gt.  
nēhw.

(nedy a., see nȳd a.)

nelle, nele, neg. prs. = ne wille, ne wile: see ne &  
willan.

nȳd fi. > need, nede; NEED: O/ME. need, hardship, trouble,  
pain // G. Not, OM. nauðr, Gt. nauds; n. + -iȳ >  
nedy a.; NEEDY.

- nyg s.: niggard: n. + -iȳsh > nyggysh a. 'niggardly,  
stingy'.

(nyggysh a., see ME. nyg s.)

(nyght s., see niht.)



(nyh a., adv. & prp. = nēah.)

niht fc. > nyght; NIGHT // G. Nacht, ON. nátt, Gt. nahts.

niman str. 4 > nymen: take, seize, take in marriage // G. nehmen, Gt. niman.

nyste pt. sg., see nitan.

nitan pt. prs. (< ne + witan; prs. sg. nāt, nāst, (we) nyton; pt. nyste, nyton): not to know, to be ignorant

nytwyrðe a. useful, profitable: nyt(t) 'use, utility' // G. Nutz(en); wyrðe 'worthy, worth'.

nōm, nām pt. sg., see niman.

(nome pt., see niman.)

norð adv. & ? a. > north; NORTH // G. Nord-, n/, ON. norð(r).

norperne a. > norperne, northren; NORTHERN.

Norð-hymbre mi. pl.: the Northumbrians, Northumbria.

Norð-man mc. > NORTHMAN: OE. inhabitant of the north, Scandinavian, esp. Norwegian.

norpmōst a. & adv. > northmost; NORTHMOST a. (rare) northernmost.

norpweard a. > northward; NORTHWARD: norð + weard.

(napeles adv., see nā-py-lāes.)

(nother prn. & cnj., see nawðer.)

(nouzt(e), see nā-wiht.)

nū adv. > nou, now; NOW // OHG. nū, ON. nu.

0

of adv. & prp. (+ dat.) > of(f); 1. OFF & 2. OF (adv.) away, off; (prp.) from, off, about // G. ab ON. af, Gt. af.

ofer adv. & prp. (+ acc./dat.) > over; OVER // G. ober, Gt. ufar; cf. G. ūber, ON. yfir.

ofer-sēon str. 5 > oversee(n); OVERSEE: EE. survey; overlook.

of-slaezzen pp., see of-slēan.

of-slēan str. 6 > ofsle(e)n, ofslaye(n): OE. strike down, kill: ME. slay; see OE. slēan.

on, an prp. & adv. (+ acc./dat./instr.) > on; ON: OE. (prp.) on, at, in, etc., (place in general); during, at, etc. (simultaneity); (adv.) on, forward, onward; (as prefix often without spec. meaning) // G. an 'at, on', etc., ON. a, Gt. ana.

ond conj. = and.

ondredan str. 7 > adreden; DREAD.

(ones adv., see ānes.)

on-3ēan adv. & prp. (+acc./dat.) > 1. ayen, ayeyn (adv.) & 2. ayeyn(es) (prp.); 1. AGAIN & 2. AGAINST: OE. (adv.) opposite, back, again; (prp.) opposite to, towards, against; ME. back, again; against // cf. G. entgegen.

on3ēn = on-3ēan.

on-3innan str. 3 > gynne(n): begin.

onstealde pt. sg., see ā-stellan.

(oon, on, see ān.)

ōr na. beginning, origin // cf. G. ur- in uralt, Ursprung, etc.; Est. ūrg- in ūrgaeg, ūrgne, etc.

oðer > other; OTHER: O/EME, other, second // G. ander, Gt. anþar.

(oper conj.: or, either; see oððe & ā-hwæðer.)

oððe conj. or // G. oder; ON. e a, Gt. aippau; see ā-hwæder.

- outre(n) v.; UTTER: EE. put out/forth, utter // G.  
Mussern; OE. ūtera < ūt.

(oversawe pt., see ofer-sēon.)

P

- palmer(e) s.; PALMER (pilgrim returning from Palestine  
with a palm branch or leaf in token of his  
having been there).

panne fn. > panne; PAN: ME. pan, skull, forehead // G.  
Pfanne, Sw. panna.

- parfit s.; PERFECT: fr. OP. parfit < L. perfectus.

- partener, parcener s.; 1. PARCENER, 2. PARTENER: ME.  
also 'sharer': fr. OP. parsoner < LL. partio-  
narius.

- partie s.; PARTY: ME. also 'portion'; fr. OP. partie,  
- L. pars.

- pensif a.; PENSIVE: EE. pensive, thoughtful; fr. OP.  
pensif.

- peple s.; PEOPLE: fr. OP. pueple < L. populus; of.  
MoFr. peuple.

- percen v.; PIERCE: fr. OP. percier.

- pilgrimage s.; PILGRIMAGE: fr. OP. pelegrinage or  
independently derived from ME. pilgrym  
'pilgrim'.

- playse(n), plesen v.; PLEASE fr. OP. plesir < L.  
placere.

port-i-rēfa, /-ɹe-/, mn. > PORTREEVE (Hist.).

prician w. 2. > prike(n); PRICK; M/EME. also 'spur,  
incite'.



# R

rād pt. sg., see rīdan.

ræd ma. > reed; REDE o: advice, counsel, resolution  
// G. Rat, ON. ráð; cf. Est. raad.

ræde a. > rede: OE. 'ready for riding'; prepared, ready  
// cf. G. bereit, ON. greiðr, Gt. garaips.

rædes-man(n) mc. > redesman(n): councillor, councillor;  
see ræd.

(redy a., see ræde.)

- reducen; REDUCE: EE. bring back; transform, translate;  
reduce; fr. L. reducere.

- reem, reaume, realme, s.; REALM: fr. OF. reiaume,  
realme.

- reputacyon s.; REPUTATION: fr. L. reputatio.

rīce nja. > riche: power, authority; reign, realm; (cf.  
-ric in MoE. bishopric < OE. biac(e)op-rīce 'province  
of a bishop, diocese') // G. Reich, ON. ríki, Gt.  
reiki; cf. Est. riik.

rīdan str. 1 > ride(n); RIDE: // G. reiten, cf. Est.  
ratsutama.

(ryde v., see rīdan.)

ridon pt. pl., see rīdan.)

riht na. > rīzt; RIGHT // G. Recht, ON. réttr; on riht >  
arīzt; ARIGHT: rightly.

rinnan str. 3 > rynne(n), renne(n) (pt. ran, pp. ronne);  
RUN // G. rinnen 'flow', ON. rinna, Gt. rīnan.

roccian w. 2 > rokke(n); ROCK.

rūh a. > rough; ROUGH // G. rauh.

sāb m/fi. > se(e); SEA: OE. sea, lake // G. See, ON. sær, Gt. saíws.

sāde pt. ag., see secȳan.

sānd ma. > sand; SAND // G. Sand, ON. sandr.

- scarsliche adv.; SCARCELY: ME. parsimoniously, meagrely.

scēap na. > sheep, shepe; SHEEP // OS. skāp, G. Schaf.

scēop pt. ag., see scyppan.

scēotan str. 2 > shete(n); SHOOT // G. schießen, ON. skjóta.

(schullen prs. pl., see sculan.)

scip na. ship; SHIP // G. Schiff, Gt. skip.

scuppan str. 6 > shapen; SHAPE: OE. create, make; ME. form, shape, devise // G. schaffen, Gt. (ga-)skapjan.

scyppend mn. (< scyppan v.) > sheppend: creator.

scōl fō. > scole; SCHOOL (for education): fr. L. schola.

scrȳdan w. 1 > shroude(n); SHROUD: O/ME. clothe, dress, array // cf. Est. rūtama.

scrūd nc. > shroud; SHROUD: O/ME. garment, clothing, shroud // cf. Est. rūū.

scūfan str. 2 > shoven; SHOVE // ON. skúfa, G. schieben, Gt. skiuban.

sculan pt.-prs. (prs. ag. sceal, scealt, sceal, pl. sculen; pt. scolde) > prs.ag. shal, pl. shul(1)e(n), shul; pt. sholde; SHALL, SHOULD: OE. owe; be obliged, have to; be necessary; must, shall; ME. shall, must // G. sollen, OHG. sculan, Gt. skulan.

sculon prs. pl., see sculan.

scūr fo. & ma. > shour; SHOWER (of rain, etc.) // G.  
Schauer, ON. skúr, Gt. skūra 'commotion'.

sē m.; sēo, f. paet, n. dem. (also rel.) prn. & def.art.;  
(for inflections and later development, see IOE,  
pp.53-54).

sēcan w. 1 (pt. sōhte) > seche(n), seke(n), (pt. soughte);  
SEEK (pt. SOUGHT): OE. seek; visit // G. suchen,  
ON. sōekja, Gt. sōkjan.

secc mja.\* > segg: warrior, man.

secjan w. 3 (pt. saeȝde, saede) > seye(n), saye(n), pt.  
saide, pp. y-said; SAY (pt. SAID): OE. say, tell  
// G. sagen, ON. segja.

(see s., see sāe.)

(seek a., see sēoc.)

sele m. hall // G. Saal, ON. salr; of. Est. saal.

self prn. > self (prn. & s.); SELF: OE. added to pers.  
prn-s to emphasize them, e.g., ic self I myself,  
he self he himself, etc. // G. selb(st), Gt. silba.

sēman w. 1 > semen; SEEM: OE. reconcile, satisfy; ME.  
seem.

sendan w. 1 > sende(n) (pt. sente, pp. y-sent.) // G.  
senden, ON. senda, Gt. sandjan.

sēoc a. > seek; SICK: OE. also 'ill, feeble' // G.  
slech, ON. sjukr, Gt. siuks.

sēon str. 5 (pt. sg. sēah, pl. saeȝon, sawon; pp. sewen) >  
see(n) (pt. sg. sey, saugh, pl. seye(n), sowe(n);  
pp. sewen, y-sene; SEE (pt. SAW; pp. SEEN) // G.  
sehen, Sw. se, Gt. saihwan.

- seson, sesoun, s.; SEASON: fr. OF. seson L. satio;  
sowing, planting season.

(sep adv. & conj. = OE. siððan.)



(shepe s., see scēap.)

(shope pt., see scyppan.)

(shour s., see sour.)

(shroude(n) v., see scrȳdan.)

si, sīe, sbj., see wesan.

siȝe mi. victory // G. Sieg, Gt. sigis.

syndriȝ a. > sondry; **SUNDRY** o: O/ME. various, divers.

sið ma. > sith(e): motion, journey; turn, time // ON. sinn, Gt. sinþs; cf. Est. sðit.

siððan adv. & conj. > siþe(n), sep; **SINCE** // G. seit(dem), ON. sið, Gt. seipus.

six, six num. > six; **SIX** // G. sechs, ON. sex, Gt. saíhs.

- skape, scathe s.; **SCATHE** (o exo. in 'without scathe'): ME. harm, injury, misfortune; is scathe 'is a pity'; fr. Scn. // G. Schade, cf. OE. scaða 'injurer, criminal, enemy', e.g. in mān-scaða 'evil-doer'.

slaepan str. 7 & w. 1 > slepe(n); **SLEEP** // G. schlafen, Gt. slēpen.

slēan str. 6 (pt. slōh, pp. slæren) > slee(n) (pt. slaw, slew); **SLAY**: OE. strike, beat, kill, slay // cf. G. schlagen, Gt. slahan 'strike, beat'.

(slepe(n) v., see slāpan.)

smæl a. > smal; **SMALL**: OE. narrow, slender // G. schmal, Sw. smal, Gt. smale.

smēpe, smōð a. > smothe; **SMOOTH**.

(somer s., see sumor.)

(sondry a., see syndriȝ.)

(sonne s., see sunne.)

(soote a. & adv., see swōte a.)

sōð na. > sothe, sooth; SOOTH o: truth, reality

- sown, soun s.; SOUND (noise, etc.); fr. OF. soun < L. sonus.

- sower, sounen; SOUND (ring, etc.); fr. OF. suner < L. sonare.

(sowperne a., see sūðerne.)

(spak pt., see sprecan.)

(speche s., see spraec.)

spēd fl. > speed(e); SPRED; OE. success, luck, wealth, power, rapidity; M/EMoE. success, luck, rapidity.

spēdiȝ a. > spedy; SPEDY; OE. prosperous, rich, powerful; M/EMoE. successful, speedy; see spēd.

(speke(n), see sprecan.)

spel(l) na. > spel(l); SPELL; OE. story, tale, narration, report; ME. narrative: story // OHG. spel, Gt. spill 'fable, story'.

sp(r)æc fō. > speche; SPERCH // G. Sprache, Du. spraak.

spraecon pt. pl., see sprecan.

sprecan str. 5 > speke(n); SPRAK // G. sprechen.

stael-herc mja. predatory army.

stael-hrān ma. decoy-reindeer (tame reindeer trained to entice wild ones).

staoð m/na. > stath(e); STAITH (dial.) landing-place: O/ME. riverbank, shore // OHG. stad; cf. G. Gestade.

stede-fæst a. > stedefast; STEADFAST // Du. stedevast, ON. stadfaste.

stefn ni. > stem; STEM; OE. stem; prow/stern of ship // G. Stamm, ON. stafn; cf. Est. tēlv.

steorfan str. 3 > sterve(n); STARVE: O/ME. // G. sterben.  
(sterve(n) v., see steorfan.)

styoce-mællum adv. (< dat. pl.) piecemeal, piece by piece; here and there: styoce nja.  
'piece, portion' (> ME. stucche // G. Stück, cf. Est. tükk).

stīzan str. 1 > sty(e)n; STY o: OE. move (upwards/ downwards); usu. ascend // G. steigen, ON. stiga, Gt. steigan.

stōw fwō. > stowe: place, locality // cf. MoE. to stow, stowaway.

strand n. > strond; STRAND (shore) // G. Strand, ON. strond.

- straunge a.; STRANGE: ME. foreign, strange, difficult: fr. OF. estrange < L. extraneus.

strēam ma. > stream; STREAM: OE. stream, flow; (pl. the sea-waves) // G. Strom, ON. straumr.

sum a. prn. > som; SOME // Gt. sums; sunne dæel acc. sumdel > adv. somedeal, somewhat.

(sumdel, see sum.)

sumor mu. > somer; SUMMER // G. Sommer, ON. sumar.

sund na. > sound; SOUND (strait): OE. strait, \* sea // G. Sund, ON. sund.

sunne fn. > sonne; SUN // G. Sonne, ON. sunna, Gt. sunne.

sunu mu. > sone; SON // G. Sohn, ON. sunn, Gt. sunus.

sūð adv. & a. & s. > south; SOUTH // G. Sūd(en), etc.

sūðerne a. > souperne, southern; SOUTHERN.

swa adv., cnj. & particle > swo, eo(o); SO: O/ME. so; as // G. so, Gt. swa.

swefn na. > sweven: sleep, dream // ON. svefn; cf. Sw.



sova 'to sleep'.

swēzan w. 1 > sweye(n): to make a noise, sound; move with a noise // Gt. jaswogian.

(sweye(n) v., see swēzan.)

sweltan str. 3 > swelte(n): die, perish, cf. MoE. swelter // OHG. swelzan, ON. svelta, Gt. swiltan.

swēte a. (adv. swōte) > swete, swote, soote; SWEET // G. süß, ON. sötr; Gt. sūts.

(swevene s., see swefn.)

(swich prn., see swilc.)

swift a. > swift; SWIFT.

swilc prn. > swich, s(w)uch; SUCH // G. solch, ON. slíkr, Gt. swaleiks.

swimman str. 3 > swymmen; SWIM // G. schwimmen, ON. swimma.

swið a. strong, violent, active // cf. G. geschwind.

swiðe adv. > awythe: OE. strongly; (very) much; ME. quickly; very.

## T

tācan w. 1 (pt. tāhte) > teche(n) (pt. taughte); TEACH: OE. show, direct, teach.

tām a. > tame; TAME // G. zahm, ON. tamr; cf. Gt. gatamjan 'to tame'.

(tarye v., see tyrzan.)

(teche, see tācan.)

tellan w. 1 (pt. tealde) > telle(n) (pt. tolde); TELL: O/ME. count, consider, esteem; narrate, tell; ME. been y-told of 'be reckoned with, be esteemed' // G. zählen, ON. telja.

tēde pt. sg., see tēon.

tēon w. 2 (pt. tēode): make, prepare, establish, create  
// cf. Est. tegema.

(me thynketh, mee thinks, see byncan.)

tyccen, ti-, na. > ticche(n): kid // OHG. zikkin; cf. G.  
Zicke & Ziege.

tīma mn. > tyme; TIME // ON. tími, Sw. timme 'hour'.

timbran w. 1 & timbrian w. 2 > tymbre(n): build, shape //  
ON. timbra, Gt. timrjan; cf. MoE. timber, G.  
Zimmermann 'carpenter'.

timbredon pt. pl., see timbran.

(tyme s., see tīma.)

tyrzan w. 1 > tarie(n), tarye; TARRY: OE. worry, vex; ME.  
also 'delay, tarry'.

tō adv. & prp. (+ dat./gen/) > to; 1. TOO; 2. TO // G.zu.

tō-foran prp. (+ dat.) > tofore(n) adv. & prp.; TOFORE:  
OE. before (time and place), above (superiority);  
M/EMoE. (adv.) before, in front // G. zuvor; cf.  
OE. be-foran.

(tonge s., see tunze.)

- translacyon s.; TRANSLATION: fr. OF. translation < L.  
translatio.

- travail(len); 1. TRAVAIL; 2. TRAVEL: EE. afflict, vex;  
labour, toil; travel; fr. OF. 'travaillier.

(treowþe, see trȳwð(u).)

trȳwð(u), fō. > trowthe; 1. TRUTH; 2. TROTH (in 'plight  
one's troth'): O/ME. truth, fidelity, faith //  
ON. trygg 'fidelity'.

(trouthe s., see trȳwð(u).)

tūn ma. > toun; TOWN: O/ME. enclosure, manor; village,  
town // G. Zaun 'hedge, fence'.

tunze fn. > tongue; TONGUE // G. Zunge, ON. tunga, Gt. tuggō.

twā, see twēzen.

twēzen num. m., tū (twā) n., twā f. > tweyne, two; TWAIN  
o\*, TWO // G. zwei, of. ON. tveir, Gt. twai.

(tweyne num., see twēzen.)

## D, D & TH

ðā adv. & conj. > tho: then, when, as // OS. thā, ON. pá.

ðā acc. ag.; nom. pl. etc. prn. & art., see sē.

ðanan adv. > thannes, thennes; THENCE; O/ME. thence, from  
that time / place // G. dannen.

ðanne adv. & conj. > than(ne), then(ne); 1. THAN; 2. THEN  
// G. dann, denn; ON. þa, Gt. þan.

þær, þāra, adv. & conj. > þer, ther(e); THERE; O/ME.  
where // G. da, ON. þar, Gt. þar.

þæs-þe conj., see þæt conj.

þæt & þætte (< þæt-þe) conj. > that; THAT: OE. that,  
so that, in order that.

þæt prn. & art., see OE. sē.

þeah conj. > though, thow; THOUGH // G. doch, Scn. þo, Gt.  
þauh 'than, or, yet'.

þencan w. l. (pt. þōhte, pp. þepōht) > thenke(n),  
thynke(n); THINK: O/ME. think, intend // G.  
denken.

þēod fō. > þed(e): tribe, people; region/country (inhab-  
ited by a certain tribe/people) // OHG. diota, Gt.  
piuda; of. Deutsch, Dutch, etc.

þy, þi conj. þi, thy: because, therefore.

þīn poss. prn. > thy(n); 1. THINE o\*; 2. THY o\* // G.  
dein, ON. þinn, Gt. þeins.



- bȳncan w. 1 (pt. sg. būhte) > thynken (pt. boughte); prs. -THINKS, pt. -THOUGHT, (ln 'methinks, methought')  
// G. dūnken; cf. pēncan.
- binz na. > thyng; THING: OE. thing, affair; council, assembly; ME. thing, fact, affair // G. Ding, ON. þing 'thing; meeting, assembly'.
- bȳstrian w. 2 > thestren; become dark or dim // cf. G. düster 'dark, gloomy'.
- (þo, tho, adv. & cnj., see ðā.)
- polian w. 2 > thole(n); THOLE (dial.): suffer, endure, undergo // ON. þola; cf. G. dulden, Gt. þulan.
- ponan adv. = pānan.
- pone prn./art. acc. m., see sē.
- bonne, panne. adv. & cnj. > than(ne), then(ne); 1. THAN;  
2. THEN // G. dann, denn; Gt. þan.
- (powsand, see pūsend.)
- (pre, thre, -ee, see prī.)
- prī(e) m., prēo n./f. num. > thre; THREE // G. drei, ON. þrír, Gt. þreis.
- pū prn. 2. sg. > thou; THOU // G. du, ON. þu, Gt. þū.
- ðūhte pt. sg., see bȳncan.
- (pulke, thilke, = the ilke; the same; see sē & ilca.)
- purh, /ruh, adv. & prp. (+ acc., also + dat./gen.) > thurgh, thorough; THROUGH adv. & prp.; 2. THOROUGH a.  
// G. durch, cf. Gt. þáirh.
- bus adv. > thus; THUS: OE. thus, so // OS. thus, Du. dus.
- pūsend num. s. n. > þusend, powsand; THOUSAND // G. tausend, ON. þūsund, Gt. þūsundi.

# U

un-be-boht neg. pp., a. not sold/bought; cf. be-byrcan.

under adv. & prp. (+ acc./dat.) > under; UNDER // G. unter, ON. undir, Gt. undar.

(unknowe pp., see cnāwan.)

unnan pt.-pra. > unne(n): OE. favour, wish, grant: ME. grant // G. (g-)önnen, ON. unna; cf. Est. önn.

un-wealt a. steady, stable.

ūp-lendisc a. > uplondissh; UPLANDISH: OE. from the uplands, rural; M/EMoE. also 'rustic, rude, unpolished'.

ūre prn.poss. > oure; OUR // G. unser, Gt. unsar.

ūt adv. > out; OUT (motion) // G. aus, ON. út, Gt. ūt.

ūt-ā-ian an. v. go out.

ūtan adv. > oute(n); OUT (position): OE. outside, beyond, from without // G. aussen, ON. útan, Gt. ūtana; see OE. ūt.

ūtera a. > outer, utter; 1. OUTER; 2. UTTER.

# V

- veyne s.; VEIN: fr. OF. veine < L. vena.

- verray a.; VERY ad. & adv. ME. true, very: fr. OF. vrai (MoFr. vrai) < L. verus.

- vertu s.; VIRTUE: manly strength, courage, valour; power, potency: fr. OF. vertu < L. virtus.

- vileynye s.; VILLAINY: ME. coarseness, villainy: fr. OF. vileinie.

W

wadan str. 6 > wade(n); WADE: O/ME. travel, advance, trudge, wade // G. waten, ON. vaða.

wæ3-holm ma.\* surging sea.

wæol na. body of a warrior slain in battle; slaughter; field of battle.

(Walsch a. = OE. Wylisc.)

wæol-stōw fwō. place of slaughter, battle-field; see wæol and stōw.

wandrian w. 2 > wandre(n): WANDER // G. wandern; cf. OE. windan turn, wendan go.

wānian w. 2 > wane(n); WANE: OE. diminish, fade, perish, wane.

wæron pt. pl., see wesan.

wæss pt. sg., see wesan.

warb pt. sg., see weorðan.

wāst prs. 2. sg., see witan.

- waveren; WAVER: cf. OE. wæfre a. unstable, wandering, wavering.

wealdan, wa- str. 7 rule, control, cause // G. walten, Gt. waldan; cf. Est. valdama; see OE. 3e-weald.

weard ma. > ward(e); WARD: O/ME. guard, keeper, watchman // G. Wart, Gt. (daura-)wards, 'doorkeeper'; cf. Est. vardja.

weaxan str. 7 > waxe(n), wexe(n); wax (increase): OE. increase, grow, ME/EMoE. also 'become' // G. wachsen ON. vaxa, Gt. wahsjan.

wēl adv. (comp. bet, sup. betst) > we(e)l (wells); WELL: O/ME. well, very, enough // G. wohl, ON. vel; cf. Gt. waila.



- wēnan w. 1. > wene(n); WKEN \* : think, be of the opinion: O/ME. expect, hope, suppose, think // G. wāhnen, ON. vāna, Gt. wēnjan.
- wendan w. 1 (pt. wende, pp. wend) > wende(n); WEND (o exc. in 'wend one's way'; old pt. 'went' used as pt. of GO: O/ME. turn, direct, turn oneself, go // G. wenden, ON. venda, Gt. wandjan.
- weorc, /o/, na. > werk, /o/; WORK: O/ME. work, action // G. Werk. (For the verb, see OE. wyrcan.)
- weorð, wyrðe, a. > worth(e); WORTH: OE. valuable, valid, honoured, worth; ME. worth, worthy // G. wert, ON. verðr, Gt. wairps; cf. Est. vārt.
- weorðan, str. 3 > worthe(n); prs. subj. WORTH o be (only in o 'woe worth the day', etc.); O/ME. become, happen, take place // G. werden, ON. verða, Gt. wairpan.
- weorðnes(s) fjō. > worthnesse: worth, excellence, worthiness; see weorð.
- wer ma. > wer(e); man, husband; \* hero // OHG. wer, ON. verr, Gt. wair; cf. MoE, wer(e)wolf.
- (wery a., see wēriȝ.)
- wēriȝ a. > weri(e), wery; WEARY // OHG. wuarag 'drunk'. (werk, werc, s., see weorc.)
- wesan defect. str. 5 (for inflections see IOE, p.69) > prs. sg. am, art is, pl. ar(n), pt. sg. was, pl. were(n), prs. AM, ART o, IS, ARE, pt. WAS, WERE: OE. be // Dutch wezen, OHG. wesan, Gt. wisan.
- west adv. > west(e) adv., a., & s.; WEST // G. west, ON. vest(r).
- wēste a. ja/jō. > wast; WASTE: waste, desolate // G. wüst, cf. L. vastus.
- Westse fi. > WEST-SEA: OE. Western Sea, the Atlantic.
- West-Seaxe pl. m.: the West-Saxons, Wessex.

(wexen v., see weaxan.)

(whil a., adv., & cnj., see hwil.)

wīcian w. 2 dwell, encamp: wīc na. dwelling-place, village, camp. (> -WICH, -WICK, in place-names); fr. L. vicus 'village'.

(wight s., see wiht.)

wiht f/ni. > wight; 1. WIGHT o person & 2. WHIT o a bit: O/ME. creature, being, person, thing, bit // G. Wicht, ON. vættr, Gt. waíht.

wild, wildor nc. (pl. wildru): wild beast/animal; (spec.) reindeer.

wilde a. wylde; WILD // G. wild, ON. villr, Gt. wilpeis.

wylisc, wælsce, a. > welsh; WELSH: OE. foreign; Welsh // G. welsch; cf. OE. wealh 'foreigner, stranger'; esp. Briton, Welshman.

willan an. v. (prs. sg. wille, wilt, wile, pl. willað; pt. wolde) > willen (pt. wolde); prs. WILL & pt. WOULD: O/ME. desire, intend, will; ENE will (aux.), desire; & would, desired // G. wollen (prs. will, pt. wollte), ON. vilja, Gt. wiljan.

wylle prs. sg., see willan.

wil-sið m.a. desired journey/voyage; see sið.

wind ma. > wynd; WIND // G. Wind, ON. vindr, Gt. winds.

windan str. 3 > wyndan; WIND // G. winden, ON. vinda, Gt. (us-)windan.

wīn-reced m. n.: wine-house, tavern; banqueting hall; palace.

winter mu. > wynter; WINTER // G. Winter, D. vinter, Gt. wintrus.

wyrcan w. 1 (pt. worhte, wrohte, pp. ze-worht) > wircke(n), werke(n), wo/, pt. wroughte, pp. wrought); WORK:

- O/ME. work, perform, make // Gt. waurkjan, cf. G. wirken. (For the corresponding noun, see weorc.)
- wirizan, wyrjan w. 1. > werie(n): outlaw, curse // Gt. (ga-)wargjan; cf. weary ma. 'wolf, outlaw, criminal' // ON. vargr; cf. Est. vargus, varas.
- wirizans fja. curse; see wirizan.
- wisse pt. sg., see witan.
- (wiste pt., see witan.)
- witan pt.-prs. (prs. sg. wāt, wāst, wāt, pl. witon; pl. wisse, pp. witan) > witen; WIT o (prs. 1/3 sg. WOT, pt. WIST): observe, know, understand // G. wissen, ON. vita, cf. witan; cf. MoE. to wit, unwittingly, etc.
- wit(t) nja. wit(t); WIT: O/ME. understanding, sense, wit // G. Witz; cf. OE. witan.
- wib prp. (+ acc./dat./gen.) > with; WITH: OE. towards, against, opposite, near; with, toward; ME. with, against, by // G. wider, Gt. wipra.
- (wythouten, see wið-ūtan.)
- wið-ūtan adv., & pp. (+ dat.) > wythouten; WITHOUT.
- wlafferynge, see wlaffian.)
- wlaffian w. 2 > wlaffen: stammer, speak indistinctly.
- wōd pt. sg., see wadan.
- (wol prs., see willan.)
- wolcen n.a. (pl. wolcnu) > pl. welkene; WELKIN sg. o \* sky; OE. cloud // G. Wolke.
- wolde pt., see willan.
- (wolden pt. pl., see willan.)
- (wonen v., see wunian.)
- (worpnesse, see weorðnes.)



(wot(e) pra., see witan.)

wrǣnz s. > wrong s. & a.; WRONG: OE. wrong, injustice;  
ME. injury, pain; wrong.

wudu mu. > wode; WOOD: OE. forest, wood; timber; \* ship.

wuldor na. glory, splendour.

wuldor-faeder mr. \* father of glory, glorious king.

wundon pt. pl., see windan.

wundor na. > wunder, wonder; WONDER: O/ME. wonder, marvel,  
horror; strange thing, monster // G. Wunder.

wundra gen. pl., see wundor.

wunian w. 2 > wone(n): be used (accustomed) to; remain,  
dwell // G. wohnen; cf. WONT.

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