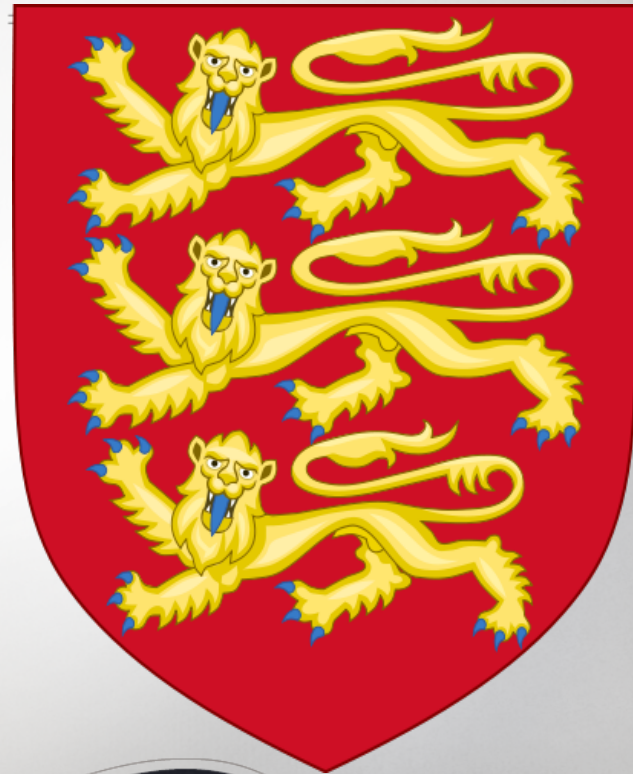




MIDDLE ENGLISH

1066 - 1500

MIDDLE ENGLISH



MIDDLE ENGLISH HISTORY

- ❖ ... began in 1066 following the **Norman Conquest** of England.
- ❖ The Normans were Vikings who spoke a French dialect that would permeate English society.



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HISTORY



... basically, a whole
four and a half
centuries full of
chaotic social and
political upheaval ...

HISTORY

❖ ... which ends around 1500
after the **printing press** is
introduced to London in 1470.

❖ A dialect called Chancery
Standard gained dominance for
most official purposes.



MIDDLE ENGLISH LITERATURE

❖ **Significant literature** from this time included chivalric romances, allegorical poems, religious plays, and more secular literature such as folk ballads.



LITERATURE

Geoffrey Chaucer's The Canterbury Tales introduced iambic pentameter, the rhyming couplet, and other Italian conventions to English.



LITERATURE



Other notable works include:

Sir Gawain and the Green

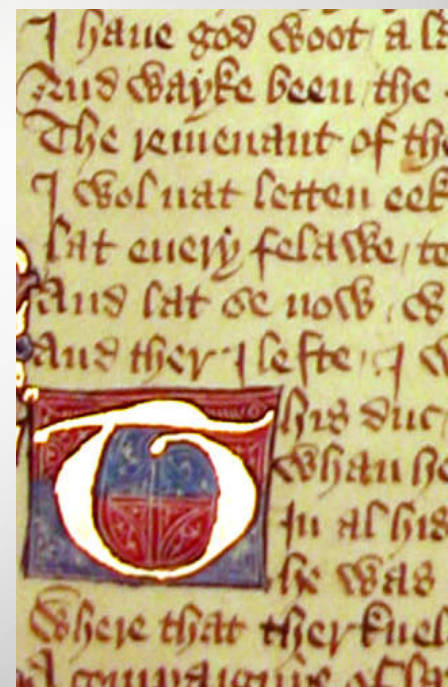
Knight (Anonymous), Piers

Plowman (Langland), and Le

Morte d'Arthur (Malory).

MEDIEVAL THEMES

- ❖ courtly love
- ❖ chivalry
- ❖ devotion to God
- ❖ virtues and sins



ARCHAIC LETTERS

❖ Æ æ Ash

❖ Ð ð Eth

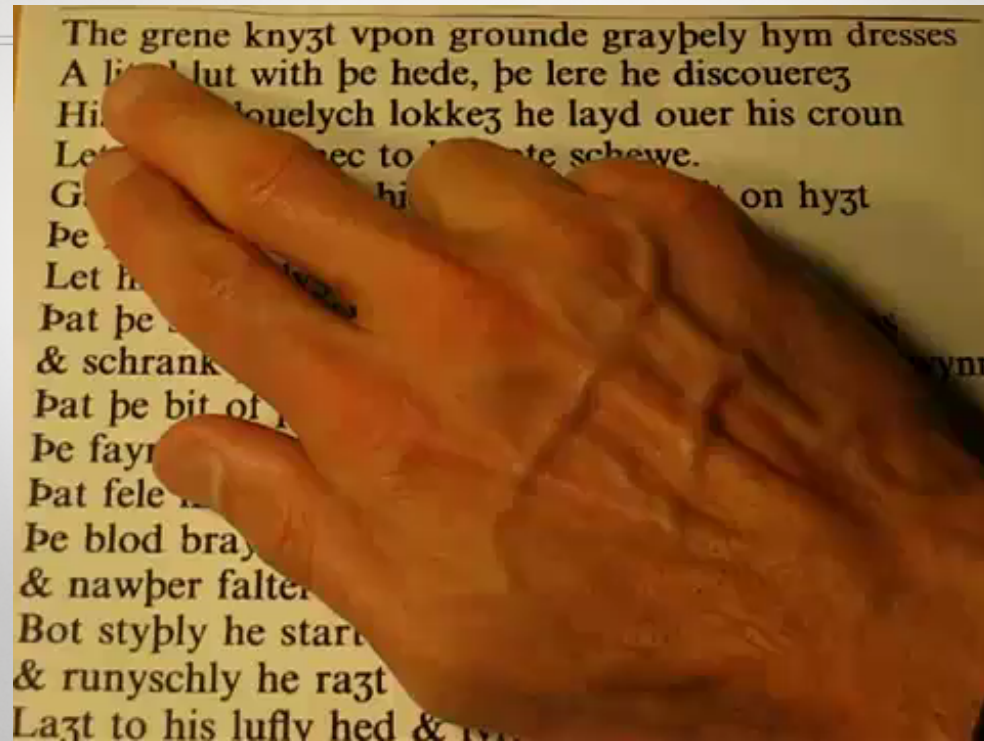
❖ ȝ ȝ Yogh

❖ þ þ Thorn

❖ ƿ ƿ Wynn



GAWAIN READING

A close-up photograph of a hand with a wooden-textured glove pointing to a line of text in a manuscript. The text is in a historical script, likely Middle English, and is arranged in a column. The hand is positioned over the text, with the index finger pointing to the word 'schewe'. The manuscript page is yellowed with age and has a decorative border.

The grene knyzt vpon grounde graybely hym dresses
A lute lut with þe hede, þe lere he discouerez
His louelych lokkez he layd ouer his croun
Let me see to þe schewe.
Gawain on hyzt
þe
Let h
þat þe
& schrank
þat þe bit of
þe fayr
þat fele
þe blod bray
& nawper falter
Bot stybly he start
& runyschly he razt
Lazt to his lufly hed & r