

i **Information**

WRITTEN EXAM
2019/SPRING
2 parts

ENG2156 History of the English Language

4 hours

13 May 2019

This exam consists of two parts.
Answer ONE question from Part 1 and ONE question from Part 2.

All answers must be written in English. Candidates are reminded that in linguistic commentary they are expected to use the standard conventions where appropriate.

For Old English 'thorn', write T (capital 't'); for Old English 'edh', write D (capital 'd'); for Old English 'yogh', write G (capital 'g'). For long vowels, use the acute accent (AltGr+^).

Candidates must receive pass marks on both parts. Candidates may use 1 monolingual English-English dictionary.

What you write will be stored automatically every 15 seconds.

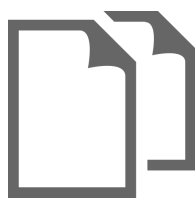
1. Give an account of the rise of Standard (written) English in the fifteenth century.

2. Describe TWO phonological changes in the history of English; then consider their relevance in contributing to the Present-Day English phonological system.

3. Write an essay answering the following questions. How has the system of personal pronouns changed in the history of English, and in what ways has it stayed the same? To what extent are these developments predictable, given (a) the function of pronouns, and (b) general tendencies in the development of case in English?

Question 1

Attached



Part 2

‘The Battle of Ashdown’

From the Parker MS of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle

1 871. Hēr cuōm se here tō Rēadingum on Westseaxe, ond þæs ymb iii
2 niht ridon ii eorlas ūp. Þā gemētte hīe Æþelwulf aldorman on
3 Englafelda, ond him þær wiþ gefeaht, ond sige nam. Þæs ymb iiii niht
4 Æþered cyning ond Ælfred his brōþur þær micle fierd tō Rēadingum
5 gelæddon, ond wiþ þone here gefuhton; ond þær wæs micel wæl
6 geslægen on gehwæpre hond, ond Æþelwulf aldorman wearþ
7 ofslægen; ond þā Deniscan āhton wælstōwe gewald.

8 Ond þæs ymb iiii niht gefeaht Æþered cyning ond Ælfred his
9 brōþur wiþ alne þone here on Æscesdūne. Ond hīe wærun on twæm
10 gefylcum: on oþrum wæs Bāchsecg ond Halfdene, þā hāþnan
11 cyningas, ond on oþrum wæron þā eorlas. Ond þā gefeaht se cyning
12 Æþered wiþ þāra cyninga getruman, ond þær wearþ se cyning
13 Bāgsecg ofslægen; ond Ælfred his brōþur wiþ þāra eorla getruman,
14 ond þær wearþ Sidroc eorl ofslægen se alda, ond Sidroc eorl se
15 gioncga, ond Ōsbearn eorl, ond Fræna eorl, ond Hareld eorl; ond þā
16 hergas bēgen gefliēnde, ond fela þūsenda ofslægenra, ond on
17 feohtende wæron oþ niht.

18 Ond þæs ymb xiiii niht gefeaht Æþered cyning ond Ælfred his
19 brōþur wiþ þone here æt Basengum, ond þær þā Deniscan sige
20 nāmon.

21 Ond þæs ymb ii mōnaþ gefeaht Æþered cyning ond Ælfred his
22 brōþur wiþ þone here æt Meretūne, ond hīe wærun on tuām
23 gefylcium, ond hīe bûtū gefliēmdon, ond longe on dæg sige āhton;
24 ond þær wearþ micel wælsliht on gehwæþere hond; ond þā Deniscan
25 āhton wælstōwe gewald; ond þær wearþ Hēahmund bisceop¹
26 ofslægen, ond fela gōdra monna. Ond æfter þissum gefeohte cuōm
27 micel sumorlida.

28 Ond þæs ofer Ēastron gefōr Æþered cyning, ond hē rīcsode v
29 gēar; ond his līc līþ æt Wīnburnan.

30 Þā fēng Ælfred Æpelwulfing his brōþur tō Wesseaxna rīce.
31 Ond þæs ymb āne mōnaþ gefeaht Ælfred cyning wiþ alne þone here
32 lȳtle werede æt Wiltūne, ond hine longe on dæg gefliēmd, ond þā
33 Deniscan āhton wælstōwe gewald.

34 Ond þæs gēares wurdon viiii folcgefeoht gefohten wiþ þone
35 here on þȳ cynerīce be sūþan Temese, ond būtan þām e him Ælfred
36 þæs cyninges brōþur ond ānlīpig aldormon ond cyninges þegnas oft
37 rāde on ridon þe mon nā ne rīmd; ond þæs gēares wærun ofslægene
38 viiii eorlas ond ān cyning. Ond þȳ gēare nāmon Westseaxe friþ wiþ
39 þone here.

¹ MS reads <bišc>.

‘The Voyage of Ōhthere’

This text is found in King Alfred’s translation of *Orosius’s History*, and is an original interpolation by King Alfred. The text survives in two MSS: (1) the *Lauderdale* MS, from the first half of the 10th century; (2) MS *Cotton Tiberius B.1* from the 11th century. The earlier *Lauderdale* MS has had eight leaves cut out, and so after the mark || (line 25), this transliteration follows the later *Cotton Tiberius* version.

- 1 Ōhthere sǣde his hlāforde, Ælfrede cyninge, þæt hē ealra Norðmonna norþmest
2 būde. Hē cwæð þæt hē būde on þām lande norþweardum wiþ þā Westsǣ. Hē sǣde þēah
3 þæt þæt¹ land sīe swīpe lang norþ þonan; ac hit is eal wēste, būton on fēawum stōwum
4 styccemælum wīciað Finnas, on huntoðe on wintra, ond on sumera on fiscope be þære sǣ.
5 Hē sǣde þæt hē æt sumum cirre wolde fandian hū longe þæt land norþryhte lāge, oþþe
6 hwæðer ænig mon be norðan þām wēstenne būde. Þā fōr hē norþryhte be þām lande: lēt
7 him ealne weg þæt wēste land on ðæt stēorbord, ond þā wīdsǣ on ðæt bæcbord þrīe dagas.
8 Þā wæs hē swā feor norþ swā þā hwælhuntan firrest faraþ. Þā fōr hē þāgīet norþryhte swā
9 feor swā hē meahte on þām oþrum þrim dagum gesiglan. Þā bēag þæt land þær ēastryhte,
10 oþþe sēo sǣ in on ðæt lond, hē nysse hwæðer, būton hē wisse ðæt hē ðær bād
11 westanwindes ond hwōn norþan, ond siglde ðā² ēast be lande swā swā hē meahte on
12 fēower dagum gesiglan. Þā sceolde hē ðær bīdan ryhtnorþanwindes, for ðām þæt land bēag
13 þær sūþryhte, oþþe sēo sǣ in on ðæt land, he nysse hwæper. Þā siglde hē þonan sūðryhte be
14 lande swā swā hē mehte on fīf dagum gesiglan. Ðā læg þær ān micel ēa ūp in on þæt land.
15 Þā cirdon hīe ūp in on ðā ēa, for þām hīe ne dorston forþ bī þære ēa siglan for unfriþe; for
16 þām ðæt land wæs eall gebūn on oþre healfe þære ēas. Ne mētte hē ær nān gebūn land,
17 siþþan hē from his āgnum hām fōr; ac him wæs ealne weg wēste land on þæt stēorbord,
18 būtan fiscerum ond fugelerum ond huntum, ond þæt wæron eall Finnas; ond him wæs ā
19 wīdsǣ on ðæt bæcbord. Þā Beormas hæfdon swīpe wel gebūd³ hira land: ac hīe ne dorston
20 þær on cuman. Ac þāra Terfinna land wæs eal wēste, būton ðær huntan gewīcodon, oþþe
21 fisceras, oþþe fugeleras.
22 Fela spella him sǣdon þā Beormas ægþer ge of hiera āgnum lande ge of þām
23 landum þe ymb hīe ūtan wæron; ac hē nyste hwæt þæs sōþes wæs, for þām hē hit self ne

¹ One <þæt> is not found in the *Lauderdale* MS.

² The *Cotton Tiberius* MS reads <þanon>.

³ The *Cotton Tiberius* MS has <gebūn>.

24 geseah. Þā Finnas, him þūhte, ond þā Beormas spræcon nēah ān geþēode. Swīpost hē fōr
25 ðider, tōēacan þæs landes scēawunge, for þām horshwælum⁴, for ðām hīe habbað swīþe
26 æþele bān on hiora tōþum (þā tēð hīe brōhton sume þām cyninge); ond hiora hȳd⁵ || bið
27 swīðe gōd tō sciprāpum. Sē hwæl bið micle læssa þonne oðre hwalas: ne bið hē lengra
28 ðonne syfan elna lang; ac on his āgnum lande is se betsta hwælhuntað; þā bēoð eahta and
29 fēowertiges elna lange, and þā mæstan fiftiges elna lange; þāra hē sæde þæt hē syxa sum
30 ofslōge syxtig on twām dagum.

31 Hē wæs swyðe spēdig man on þām āhtum þe heora spēda on bēoð, þæt is, on
32 wildrum. Hē hæfde þāgyt, ðā hē þone cyninge sōhte, tamra dēora unbebohtra syx hund. Þā
33 dēor hī hātað ‘hrānas’; þāra wæron syx stælhhrānas; ðā bēoð swyðe dýre mid Finnum, for
34 ðām hȳ fōð þā wildan hrānas mid. Hē wæs mid þām fyrstum mannum on þām lande:
35 næfde hē þēah mā ðonne twentig hrȳðera, and twentig scēapa, and twentig swȳna; and þæt
36 lȳtle þæt hē erede, hē erede mid horsan. Ac hyra ār is mæst on þām gafole þe ðā Finnas
37 him gyldað. Þæt gafol bið on dēora fellum, and on fugela feðerum, and hwales bāne, and
38 on þām sciprāpum, þe bēoð of hwæles hȳde geworht, and of sēoles. Æghwīlc gylt be hys
39 gebyrdum. Se byrdesta sceall gyldan fiftȳne mearðes fell, and fīf hrānes, and ān beran fel,
40 and tȳn ambra feðra, and berenne kyrtel oððe yterenne, and twēgen sciprāpas; ægþer sȳ
41 syxtig elna lang, oþer sȳ of hwæles hȳde geworht, oþer of sīoles.

42 Hē sæde ðæt Norðmanna land wære swyþe lang and swyðe smæl. Eal þæt his man
43 āþer oððe ettan oððe erian mæg, þæt līð wið ðā sā; and þæt is þēah on sumum stōwum
44 swyðe clūdig; and licgað wilde mōras wið ēastan and wið uppon emnlange þām bȳnum
45 lande. On þām mōrum eardiað Finnas. And þæt bȳne land is ēasteweard brādost, and
46 symle swā norðor swā smælre. Ēastewerd hit mæg bīon syxtig mīla brād, oþþe hwēne
47 brādre⁶, and middeweard þrētig oððe brādre; and norðeweard hē cwæð, þær hit smalost
48 wære, þæt hit mihte bēon þrēora mīla brād tō þām mōre; and se mōr syðþan, on sumum
49 stōwum swā brād swā man mæg on twām wucum oferfēran; and on sumum stōwum swā
50 brād swā man mæg on syx dagum oferfēran.

⁴ The *Lauderdale* MS has <horschwælum>.

⁵ This is where the *Lauderdale* MS ends.

⁶ <brādre> would be the expected form.

51 Donne is tōemnes þām lande sūðewardum, on ððre healfe þæs mōres, Swēoland,
52 oþ þæt land norðeward; and tōemnes þām lande norðewardum, Cwēna land. Þā Cwēnas
53 hergiað hwīlum on ðā Norðmen ofer ðone mōr, hwīlum þā Norðmen on hȳ. And þær sint
54 swīðe micle meras fersce geond þā mōras; and berað þā Cwēnas hyra scypu ofer land on
55 ðā meras, and þanon hergiað on ðā Norðmen; hȳ habbað swȳðe lȳtle scypa and swȳðe
56 lēohte.

57 Ōnthere sæde þæt sīo scīr hātte Hālgoland þe hē on būde. Hē cwæð þæt nān man ne
58 būde be norðan him. Þonne is ān port on sūðewardum þām lande, þone⁷ man hæt
59 Scīringes hēal. Þyder hē cwæð þæt man ne mihte geseglian on ānum mōnðe, gyf man on
60 niht wīcode, and ælce dæge hæfde ambyrne wind; and ealle ðā hwīle hē sceal seglian be
61 lande. And on þæt stēorbord him bið ærest Īraland, and þonne ðā ĭgland þe synd betux
62 Īralande and þissum lande. Þonne is þis land oð hē cymð to Scīringes hēale, and ealne
63 weg on þæt bæcbord Norðweg. Wið sūðan þone Scīringes hēal fylð swȳðe mycel sǣ ūp in
64 on ðæt land; sēo is brādre þonne ænig man ofer sēon mæge. And is Gotland on ððre healfe
65 ongēan, and siððan⁸ Sillende. Sēo sǣ līð mænig hund mīla ūp in on þæt land.

66 And of Scīringeshēale hē cwæð þæt hē seglode on fīf dagan tō þām porte þe mon
67 hæt æt Hǣpum; sē stent betuh Winedum, and Seaxum, and Angle, and hȳrð in on Dene. Ðā
68 hē þiderweard seglode fram Scīringeshēale, þā wæs him on þæt bæcbord Denamearc and
69 on þæt stēorbord wīdsǣ þrȳ dagas; and þā, twēgen dagas ær hē tō Hǣpum cōme, him wæs
70 on þæt stēorbord Gotland, and Sillende, and ĭglanda fela. On þām landum eardodon Engle,
71 ær hī hider on land cōman. And hym wæs ðā twēgen dagas on ðæt bæcbord þā ĭgland þe in
72 [on]⁹ Denemearce hȳrað.

⁷ The form <þonne> would be expected.

⁸ <siðða> would be the expected form.

⁹ The preposition is omitted in the MS.

‘The Nativity of Christ’ – Old English

From the West Saxon translation of the Gospel of Luke, Ch. 2; from MS Cambridge, Corpus Christi College, 140; from the early 11th century.

1 Sōþlice on þām dagum wæs geworden gebod fram þām cāsere Augusto, þæt eall
2 ymbewyrft wære tōmearcod. Þeos tōmearcodnes wæs ærest geworden fram þām
3 dēman Syrige Cirīno. And ealle hig ēodon and syndrige fērdon on hyra ceastre.

4 Ðā fērde Iōsēp fram Galilēa of þære ceastre Nāzareth on Iūdēisce ceastre
5 Dāuīdes, sēo is genemned Bethleem, for þām þe hē wæs of Dāuīdes hūse and hīrede,
6 þæt hē fērde mid Mariān þe him beweddod wæs, and wæs geēacnod.

7 Sōþlice wæs geworden þā hī þār wāron, hire dagas wāron gefyllede þæt hēo
8 cende; and hēo cende hyre frumcennedan sunu, and hine mid cildclāpum bewand, and
9 hine on binne ālēde, for þām þe hig næfdon rūm on cumena hūse.

10 And hyrdas wāron on þām ylcan rīce waciende, and nihtwæccan healdende ofer
11 heora heorda. Þā stōd drihtnes engel wiþ hig, and godes beorhtnes him ymbescān, and
12 hī him mycelum ege ādrēdon. And sē engel him tō cwæð: ‘Nelle gē ēow ādrādan!
13 Sōþlice, nū ic ēow bodie mycelne gefēan, sē bið eallum folce; for þām tō-dæg ēow ys
14 hælend ācenned, sē is drihten Crīst on Dāuīdes ceastre. And þis tācen ēow byð: gē
15 gemētað ān cild hræglum bewunden and on binne ālēd.’

16 And þā wæs fāringa geworden mid þām engle mycelnes heofonlīces werodes
17 god heriendra and þus cweþendra: ‘Gode sý wuldor on hēahnesse, and on eorðan sybb
18 mannum gōdes willan!’

19 And hit wæs geworden þā ðā englas tō heofene fērdon, þā hyrdas him
20 betwēonan spræcon, and cwædon: ‘Uton faran tō Bethleem, and gesēon þæt word þe
21 geworden is, þæt drihten ūs ætiewde.’ And hig efstende cōmon, and gemētton Mariān
22 and Iōsēp, and þæt cild on binne ālēd. Þā hī þæt gesāwon, þā oncnēowon hig be þām
23 worde þe him gesād wæs be þām cilde. And ealle þā ðe gehīerdon wundrodon be þām
24 þe him þā hyrdas sædon.

25 Mariā gehēold ealle þās word on hyre heortan smēagende.

26 Ðā gewendon hām þā hyrdas, god wuldriende and heriende on eallum þām ðe hī
27 gehīerdon and gesāwon, swā tō him gecweden wæs.

'The Nativity of Christ' – Middle English

From the Wyclif-Purvey translation of the Bible; MS BM. Old Royal Library 1 C. 8.; probably before 1420.

1 And it was don in þo daies, a maundement wente out from þe emperour
2 (August), þat al þe world schulde be discryued. þis firste discryuyng was maad of
3 Cyryn, justice of Sirie; and alle men wenten to make professioun, ech into his owne
4 citee.

5 And Ioseph wente vp fro Galilee fro þe citee Nazareth into Judee into a citee of
6 David, þat is clepid Bethleem, for þat he was of þe hous and of þe meyne of David, þat
7 he schulde knoueleche with Marie, hus wijf, þat was wedded to hym and was greet with
8 child.

9 And it was don, while þei weren þere, þe daies weren fulfillid, þat sche schulde
10 bere child. And sche bare hire firstborun sone, and wlappide hym in clothis and leide
11 hym in a cratche, for þer was no place to hym in no chaumbir.

12 And scheepherdis weren in þe same cuntre, wakyng and kepyng þe watchis of
13 þe nyȝt on her flock. And lo! þe aungel of þe Lord stood bisides heme and þe cleernesse
14 of god schinede aboute hem; and þei dredden with greet drede. And þe aungel seide to
15 hem: 'Nyle ȝe drede! For lo, y prech to ȝou a greet joye, þat schal be to al puple; for a
16 savyoure is borun todai to ȝou, þat is Christ, þe lord, in þe citee of David. And þis is a
17 tokene to ȝou: ȝe schulen fynde a ȝong child wlappid in clothis and leid in a cratche.'

18 And sudenli þer was maad with þe aungel a multitude of heuenli knyȝthod,
19 heriyng God and seiynge: 'Glorie be in þe hizeste thingis to god, and in erthe pees be
20 to men of good wille.'

21 And it was don, as þe aungelis passiden awei fro hem into heuene, þe
22 scheepherdis spaken togider and seiden: 'Go we ouer to Bethleem, and se we þis word
23 þat is maad, which þe lord haþ maad and schewide to vs.' And þei hiȝyng camen and
24 founden Marie and Ioseph, and þe ȝong child leid in a cratche. And þei seyng knewen
25 of þe word þat was seid to hem of þis child. And alle men þat herden wondriden, and of
26 these thingis þat weren seid to hem of þe scheepherdis.

27 But Marie kepte alle þese wordis, beryng togider in hir herte.

28 And þe scheepherdis turneden aȝen, glorifyng and heriyng god in alle thingis
29 þat hadden herd and seyn, as it was seid to hem.

‘The Nativity of Christ’ – early Modern English

William Tyndale, 1534

1 And it chaunced in thoose dayes that ther went oute a commaundment from
2 Auguste the Emperour, that all the woorlde shuld be taxed. And this taxynge was the
3 fyrst and executed when Syrenius was leftenaunt in Syria. And every man went vnto his
4 awne citie to be taxed.

5 And Ioseph also ascended from Galile, oute of a cite called Nazareth, into Iurie:
6 vnto the cite of David which is called Bethleem, because he was of the housse and
7 linage of David, to be taxed with Mary his spoused wyfe which was with chylde.

8 And it fortunied whyll they were there, her tyme was come that she shuld be
9 delyvered. And she brought forth her fyrst begotten sonne and wrapped him in
10 swadlynge cloothes, and layed him in a manger, because ther was no rouse for them
11 within the ynne.

12 And ther were in the same region shepherdes abydinge in the felde and watching
13 their flocke by nyght. And loo: the angell of the lorde stode harde by them, and the
14 brightnes of the lorde shone rounde aboute them, and they were soore afrayed. But the
15 angell sayd vnto them: “Be not afrayed. For beholde, I bringe you tydings of greate
16 ioye that shal come to all the people; for vnto you is borne this daye in the cite of David
17 a saveoure which is Christ the lorde. And take this for a signe: ye (s)hall fynde the
18 chylde swadled and layed in a manger.”

19 And streight waye ther was with the angell a multitude of hevenly souldiers,
20 laudyng God and sayinge: “Glory to God an hye, and peace on the erth, and vnto men
21 reioysynge.”

22 And it fortunied, assone as the angels were gone awaye from them in to heven,
23 the shepherdes sayd one to another: “Let vs goo even vnto Bethleem, and se this thyng
24 that is hapened which the Lorde hath shewed vnto vs.” And they cam with haste, and
25 founde Mary and Ioseph and the babe layde in a manger. And when they had sene it,
26 they publisshed a brode the sayinge which was tolde them of that chylde. And all that
27 hearde it, wondred at those thinges which were tolde them of the shepherdes.

28 But Mary kept all thoose sayinges, and pondered them in hyr hert.

29 And the shepherdes retourned, praysinge and lauding God for all that they had
30 herde and sene, evyn as it was told vnto them.

The Ormmulum (extract); MS Junius 1
Dedication

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Nū, brōþerr Wallterr, brōþerr mīn | 30 þā Goddspelless nēh alle, |
| 2 affterr þe flæshess kīnde; | 31 þatt sinndenn ō þe messebōc |
| 3 7 ¹ brōþerr mīn ī Crisstenndōm | 32 inn all þe ȝēr att messe. |
| 4 þurh fulluhht 7 þurh throwwþe; | 33 7 aȝz affterr þe Goddspell stannt |
| 5 7 brōþerr mīn ī Godess hūs, | 34 þatt tatt te Goddspell mēneþþ, |
| 6 ȝét ō þe þridde wīse, | 35 þatt mann birrþ spellenn tō þe folle |
| 7 þurh þatt witt hafenn tākenn bā | 36 off þeȝȝre sāwle nēde; |
| 8 ān rezhellbōc tō follȝhenn, | 37 7 ȝét tær tēkenn māre inōh |
| 9 unnderr kanunnkess hād 7 līf, | 38 þū shallt tæronne fīndenn, |
| 10 swā-summ Sannt Awwstīn sette; | 39 off þatt tatt Crīstess hallȝhe þēd |
| 11 icc hafe dōn swā-summ þū badd, | 40 birrþ throwwenn wēl 7 follȝhenn. |
| 12 7 fōrþedd tē þīn wille, | 41 Icc hafe sett hēr ō þiss bōc |
| 13 icc hafe wennd inntill Ennglissh | 42 amāng Goddspelless wōrdess, |
| 14 goddspelless hallȝhe lāre, | 43 all þurh mē sellfenn, manīȝ wōrd |
| 15 affterr þatt little witt þatt mē | 44 þe rīme swā tō fillenn; |
| 16 mīn Drihhtīn hafeþþ lēnedd. | 45 acc þū shallt fīndenn þatt mīn wōrd, |
| 17 þū þohhtesst tatt itt mihhte wēl | 46 eȝȝwhær þær itt iss ēkedd, |
| 18 till mikell frame turnenn, | 47 maȝȝ hellpenn þā þatt rēdenn itt |
| 19 ȝiff Ennglissh folle, forr lufe off Crīst, | 48 tō sēn 7 t'unnderrstanndenn |
| 20 itt wollde ȝērne lērnenn, | 49 all þess te bettere, hū þeȝȝm birrþ |
| 21 7 follȝhenn itt, 7 fillenn itt | 50 þe Goddspell unnderrstanndenn; |
| 22 wiþþ þohht, wiþþ wōrd, wiþþ dēde. | 51 7 forr-þī throwwe icc þat tē birrþ |
| 23 7 forr-þī ȝerrndesst tū þatt icc | 52 wēl þolenn mīne wōrdess, |
| 24 þiss werre þē sholde wirrkenn; | 53 eȝȝwhær þær þū shallt fīndenn hemm |
| 25 7 icc itt hafe fōrþedd tē, | 54 amāng Goddspelless wōrdess. |
| 26 acc all þurh Crīstess hellpe; | 55 forr whā-se mót tō læwedd folle |
| 27 7 unnc birrþ bāþe þannkenn Crīst | 56 lārspell off Goddspell tellenn, |
| 28 þatt itt iss brohht till ēnde. | 57 hē mot wēl ēkenn manīȝ wōrd |
| 29 icc hafe sammnedd ō þiss bōc | 58 amāng Goddspelless wōrdess. |

¹ = annd 'and'

59 7 icc ne mihhte nohht mīn ferrs
60 azz wiþþ Goddspelless wōrdess
61 wēl fillenn all, 7 all forr-þī

62 sholde icc well offte nēde
63 amāng Goddspelless wōrdess dōn
64 mīn wōrd, mīn ferrs tō fillenn.

Geoffrey Chaucer (ca. 1340-1400): *The Canterbury Tales* (1380s)

Extract from *The Wife of Bath's Tale*, Ellesmere Manuscript.

- 1083 Greet was the wo / the knyght hadde in his thought
1084 Whan he was with his wyf abedde ybrought /
1085 He walweth / and he turneth to and fro
1086 His olde wyf / lay smylyng euermo
1087 And seyde / o deere housbonde benedicitee
1088 Fareth euery knyght / thus w^t his wyf / as ye ?
1089 Is this the lawe / of kyng / Arthures hous ?
1090 Is euery knyght of his so dangerous ?
1091 I am youre owene loue / and your wyf /
1092 I am she / which þ^t saued hath youre lyf
1093 And certes / yet ne dide I yow neuere vnright /
1094 Why fare ye thus with me / this firste nyght /
1095 ye faren lyk a man / had lost his wit /
1096 What is my gilt / ? for goddes loue tel it
1097 And it shal been amended / if I may
1098 Amended quod this knyght / ? allas nay / nay /
1099 It wol nat been amended neuere mo
1100 Thou art so loothly / and so oold also
1101 And ther to comen / of so lough a kynde
1102 That litel wonder is / thogh I walwe and wynde
1103 So wolde god / myn herte wolde breste
1104 Is this quod she / the cause of youre vnreste ?
1105 Ye certainly quod he / no wonder is
1106 Now sire quod she / I koude amende al this
1107 If that me liste / er it were dayes thre
1108 So wel ye myght / bere yow vn-to me
1109 Bvt for ye speken / of swich gentillesse
1110 As is descended / out of old richesse
1111 That therfore / sholden ye be gentil men
1112 Swich arrogance / is nat worth an hen

1113 Looke who that is / moost vertuous alway
1114 Pryuee and apert / and moost entendeth ay
1115 To do / the gentil dedes that he kan
1116 Taak hym / for the grettest gentil man
1117 Christ wole / we clayme of hym oure gentillesse
1118 Nat of oure eldres / for hire old richesse
1119 For thogh they yeue vs / al hir heritage
1120 For which we clayme / to been of heigh parage
1121 Yet may they nat biquethe / for no thyng /
1122 To noon of vs / hir vertuous lyuyng /
1123 That made hem / gentil men ycalled be
1124 And bad vs / folwen hem in swich degree

* * *

1219 Chese now quod she / oon of thise thynges tweye
1220 To han me foul and old / til that I deye
1221 And be to yow / a trewe humble wyf /
1222 And neuere yow displese / in al my lyf /
1223 Or elles / ye wol han me yong and fair
1224 And take youre auenture / of the repair
1225 That shal be to youre hous / by cause of me
1226 Or in som oother place / may wel be
1227 Now chese your seluen / wheither þ^t yow liketh
1228 This knyght auyseth hym and sore siketh
1229 But atte laste / he seyde in this manere
1230 My lady and my loue / and wyf so deere
1231 I put me / in youre wise gouernance
1232 Cheseth your self / which may be moost plesance
1233 And moost honour / to yow and me also
1234 I do no fors / the wheither / of the two
1235 For as yow liketh / it suffiseth me
1236 Thanne haue I gete of yow / maistrie quod she
1237 Syn I may chese / and gouerne as me lest /

1238 Ye certes wyf quod he / I holde it best /
 1239 Kys me quod she / we be no lenger wrothe
 1240 For by my trouthe / I wol be to yow bothe
 1241 This is to sayn / ye bothe fair and good
 1242 I prey to god / þ^t I moote steruen wood
 1243 But I to yow / be also good and trewe
 1244 As euere was wyf / syn þ^t the world was newe
 1245 And but I be tomorn / as fair to seene
 1246 As any lady / Emperice or queene
 1247 That is bitwixe the Est / and eke the west
 1248 dooth w^t my lyf / and deth / right / as yow lest /
 1249 Cast vp the curtyn / looke how that it is
 1250 And whan the knyght / saugh verrailly al this
 1251 That she so fair was / and so yong ther to
 1252 For ioie / he hente hir / in hise armes two
 1253 His herte bathed / in a bath of blisse
 1254 A thousand tyme arewe / he gan hir kisse
 1255 And she obeyed hym in euery thing /
 1256 That myghte doon hym plesance or likyng/
 1257 And thus they lyue / vn-to hir lyues ende
 1258 In perfit ioie / and Iesu crist vs sende
 1259 Housbondes meeke / yonge / and fresshe a-bedde
 1260 And grace / touerbyde hem þ^t we wedde
 1261 And eek / I pray Iesu shorte hir lyues
 1262 That nat wol be gouerned by hir wyues
 1263 And olde and angry nygardes of dispence
 1264 God sende hem soone / verray pestilence.

Heere endeth / the Wyues tale of Bathe

Roger Ascham (1515-1568): 'Seeing the Wind'

1 To see the wind, with a man his eyes, it is impossible, the nature of it is so fine, and subtle,
2 yet this experience of the wind had I once myself, and that was in the great snow that fell four
3 years ago: I rode in the highway betwixt *Topcliffe-upon-Swale*, and *Borowe Bridge*, the way
4 being somewhat trodden afore, by wayfaring men. The fields on both sides were plain and lay
5 almost yard deep with snow, the night afore had been a little frost, so that the snow was hard
6 and crusted above. That morning the sun shone bright and clear, the wind was whistling aloft,
7 and sharp according to the time of the year. The snow in the highway lay loose and trodden
8 with horse feet: so as the wind blew, it took the loose snow with it, and made it so slide upon
9 the snow in the field which was hard and crusted by reason of the frost overnight, that thereby
10 I might see very well, the whole nature of the wind as it blew that day. And I had a great
11 delight and pleasure to mark it, which maketh me now far better to remember it. Sometime
12 the wind would be not past two yards broad, and so it would carry the snow as far as I could
13 see. Another time the snow would blow over half the field at once. Sometime the snow would
14 tumble softly, by and by it would fly wonderfull fast. And this I perceived also that the wind
15 goeth by streams and not whole together. For I should see one stream within a score on me,
16 then the space of two score no snow would stir, but after so much quantity of ground, another
17 stream of snow at the same very time should be carried likewise, but not equally. For the one
18 would stand still when the other flew apace, and so continue sometime swiftlier, sometime
19 slowlier, sometime broader, sometime narrower, as far as I could see. Nor it flew not straight,
20 but sometime it crooked this way sometime that way, and sometime it ran about in a compass.
21 And sometime the snow would be lift clean from the ground into the air, and by and by it
22 would be all clapped to the ground as though there had been no wind at all, straightway it
23 would rise and fly again.

24 And that which was the most marvel of all, at one time two drifts of snow flew, the
25 one out of the west into the east, the other out of the north into the east: And I saw two winds
26 by reason of the snow the one cross over the other, as it had been two highways. And again I
27 should hear the wind blow in the air, when nothing was stirred at the ground. And when all
28 was still where I rode, not very far from me the snow would be lifted wonderfully. This
29 experience made me more marvel at the nature of the wind than it made me cunning in the
30 knowledge of the wind: but yet thereby I learned perfectly that it is no marvel at all though
31 men in a wind lose their length in shooting, seeing so many ways the wind is so variable in
32 blowing.

(*Toxophilus*, 1545)

Thomas Wilson (?1525-1581): 'Inkhorn Terms'

1 Among all other lessons this should be first learned, that we never affect
2 any strange inkhorn terms, but so speak as is commonly received, neither
3 seeking to be over fine, nor yet living over careless, using our speech as
4 most men do, and ordering our wits as the fewest have done. Some seek so
5 far for outlandish English, that they forget altogether their mother's
6 language. And I dare swear this, if some of their mothers were alive, they
7 were not able to tell what they say; and yet these fine English clerks will
8 say, they speak in their mother-tongue if a man should charge them for
9 counterfeiting the King's English. Some far-journeyed gentlemen at their
10 return home, like as they love to go in foreign apparel, so they will powder
11 their talk with oversea language. He that cometh lately out of France will
12 talk French English and never blush at the matter. Another chops in with
13 English Italienated, and applieth the Italian phrase to our English speaking,
14 the which is, as if an Orator that professeth to utter his mind in plain Latin,
15 would needs speak Poetry, and far-fetched colours of strange antiquity. The
16 Lawyer will store his stomach with the prating of Pedlars. The Auditor in
17 making his accompt and reckoning, cometh in with *sise sould*, and *cater*
18 *denere*, for vis. *iiiiid*. The fine courtier will talk nothing but *Chaucer*. The
19 mystical wisemen and Poetical Clerks will speak nothing but quaint
20 Proverbs, and blind Allegories, delighting much in their own darkness,
21 especially, when none can tell what they do say. The unlearned or foolish
22 fantastical, that smells but of learning (such fellows as have seen learned
23 men in their days) will so Latin their tongues, that the simple cannot but
24 wonder at their talk, and think surely they speak by some Revelation. I
25 know them that think *Rhetoric* to stand wholly upon dark words, and he that
26 can catch an inkhorn term by the tail, him they count to be a fine
27 Englishman, and a good *Rhetorician*.
28 (From *The Art of Rhetorique*, 1553)

Robert Greene (1558-1592): *Pandosto* (1588)

1 Dorastus hearing that they were arrived at some harbour, sweetly kissed Fawnia,
2 and bad her be of good cheare: when they told him that the Port belonged unto the
3 chiefe Citie of Bohemia where Pandosto kept his Court, Dorastus beganne to be sad;
4 knowing that his Father hated no man so much as Pandosto, and that the king himselfe
5 had sought secretly to betray Egistus: this considered, he was halfe affrayd to goe on
6 land, but that Capnio counselled him to change his name and his country, untill such
7 time as they could get some other Barke to transport them into Italie. Pandosto liking
8 this devise, made his case privy to the Mariners, rewarding them bountifully for their
9 paines, and charging them to say, that he was a Gentleman of Trapolonia called
10 Meleagrus. The shipmen, willing to shew what friendship they could to Dorastus,
11 promised to be as secret as they could, or hee might wish: and uppon this, they landed
12 in a little Village a mile distant from the Cittie: where, after they had rested a day,
13 thinking to make provision for their marriage, the fame of Fawnias beautie was spred
14 throughout all the Cittie, so that it came to the eare of Pandosto: who then being about
15 the age of fiftie, had notwithstanding young and fresh affections: so that he desired
16 greatly to see Fawnia: and to bring this matter the better to passe, hearing they had but
17 one man, and how they rested at a very homly house, he caused them to be apprehended
18 as spyes, and sent a dozen of his Guard to take them: who being come to their lodging,
19 told them the Kings message. Dorastus no whit dismaied, accompanied with Fawnia
20 and Capnio, went to the Court (for they left Porrus to keepe the stuffe) who being
21 admitted to the Kings presence, Dorastus and Fawnia with humble obeysance saluted
22 his Majestie.

23 Pandosto, amazed at the singuler perfection of Fawnia, stood half astonished,
24 viewing her beauty, so that he almost forgot himselfe what he had to doe: at last with
25 sterne countenance he demaunded their names, and of what countrey they were, and
26 what caused them to land in Bohemia? Sir (quoth Dorastus) know that my name is
27 Meleagrus, a Knight borne and brought up in Trapolonia, and this Gentlewoman, whom
28 I meane to take to my wife, is an Italian borne in Padua, from whence I have now
29 brought her. The cause I have so small a traine with me, is for that, her friends
30 unwilling to consent, I intended secretly to convey her into Trapolonia, whither I was
31 sayling and by distresse of weather, I was driven into these coasts; thus have you heard
32 my name, my Countrey, and the cause of mye voyage. Pandosto starting from his seat
33 as one in choler, made this rough reply.

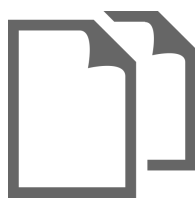
34 Meleagrus, I feare this smooth tale hath but small truth, and that thou coverest a
35 foule skin with faire paintings. No doubt this Lady, by her grace and beauty, is of
36 higher degree, more meete for a mightie Prince, than for a simple Knight: and thou like
37 a perjured traytor has bereft her of her Parents, to their present grieve, and her ensuing
38 sorrow. Till therefore I heare more of her parentage, and of her calling, I wil stay you
39 both here in Bohemia.

40 Dorastus, in whom rested nothing but Kingly valour, was not able to suffer the
41 reproches of Pandosto, but that he made him this answere.

42 It is not meete for a king, without due prooffe to appeach any man of ill
43 behaviour, nor upon suspition to inferre beliefe: strangers ought to be entertained with
44 curtesie: not to be intreated with cruelty, least beeing forced by want to put up injuries,
45 the Gods revenge their cause with rigor.

Question 2

Attached



Part 2

‘The Battle of Ashdown’

From the Parker MS of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle

1 871. Hēr cuōm se here tō Rēadingum on Westseaxe, ond þæs ymb iii
2 niht ridon ii eorlas ūp. Þā gemētte hīe Æþelwulf aldorman on
3 Englafelda, ond him þær wiþ gefeaht, ond sige nam. Þæs ymb iiii niht
4 Æþered cyning ond Ælfred his brōþur þær micle fierd tō Rēadingum
5 gelæddon, ond wiþ þone here gefuhton; ond þær wæs micel wæl
6 geslægen on gehwæpre hond, ond Æþelwulf aldorman wearþ
7 ofslægen; ond þā Deniscan āhton wælstōwe gewald.

8 Ond þæs ymb iiii niht gefeaht Æþered cyning ond Ælfred his
9 brōþur wiþ alne þone here on Æscesdūne. Ond hīe wærun on twæm
10 gefylcum: on oþrum wæs Bāchsecg ond Halfdene, þā hāþnan
11 cyningas, ond on oþrum wæron þā eorlas. Ond þā gefeaht se cyning
12 Æþered wiþ þāra cyninga getruman, ond þær wearþ se cyning
13 Bāgsecg ofslægen; ond Ælfred his brōþur wiþ þāra eorla getruman,
14 ond þær wearþ Sidroc eorl ofslægen se alda, ond Sidroc eorl se
15 gioncga, ond Ōsbearn eorl, ond Fræna eorl, ond Hareld eorl; ond þā
16 hergas bēgen gefliēnde, ond fela þūsenda ofslægenra, ond on
17 feohtende wæron oþ niht.

18 Ond þæs ymb xiiii niht gefeaht Æþered cyning ond Ælfred his
19 brōþur wiþ þone here æt Basengum, ond þær þā Deniscan sige
20 nāmon.

21 Ond þæs ymb ii mōnaþ gefeaht Æþered cyning ond Ælfred his
22 brōþur wiþ þone here æt Meretūne, ond hīe wærun on tuām
23 gefylcium, ond hīe bûtū gefliēmdon, ond longe on dæg sige āhton;
24 ond þær wearþ micel wælsliht on gehwæþere hond; ond þā Deniscan
25 āhton wælstōwe gewald; ond þær wearþ Hēahmund bisceop¹
26 ofslægen, ond fela gōdra monna. Ond æfter þissum gefeohte cuōm
27 micel sumorlida.

28 Ond þæs ofer Ēastron gefōr Æþered cyning, ond hē rīcsode v
29 gēar; ond his līc līþ æt Wīnburnan.

30 Þā fēng Ælfred Æpelwulfing his brōþur tō Wesseaxna rīce.
31 Ond þæs ymb āne mōnaþ gefeaht Ælfred cyning wiþ alne þone here
32 lýtla werede æt Wiltūne, ond hine longe on dæg gefliēmda, ond þā
33 Deniscan āhton wælstōwe gewald.

34 Ond þæs gēares wurdon viiii folcgefeoht gefohten wiþ þone
35 here on þy cynerīce be sūþan Temese, ond būtan þām e him Ælfred
36 þæs cyninges brōþur ond ānlīpig aldormon ond cyninges þegnas oft
37 rāde on ridon þe mon nā ne rīmda; ond þæs gēares wærun ofslægene
38 viiii eorlas ond ān cyning. Ond þy gēare nāmon Westseaxe friþ wiþ
39 þone here.

¹ MS reads <bišc>.

‘The Voyage of Ōhthere’

This text is found in King Alfred’s translation of *Orosius’s History*, and is an original interpolation by King Alfred. The text survives in two MSS: (1) the *Lauderdale* MS, from the first half of the 10th century; (2) MS *Cotton Tiberius B.1* from the 11th century. The earlier *Lauderdale* MS has had eight leaves cut out, and so after the mark || (line 25), this transliteration follows the later *Cotton Tiberius* version.

- 1 Ōhthere sǣde his hlāforde, Ælfrede cyninge, þæt hē ealra Norðmonna norþmest
2 būde. Hē cwæð þæt hē būde on þām lande norþweardum wiþ þā Westsǣ. Hē sǣde þēah
3 þæt þæt¹ land sīe swīpe lang norþ þonan; ac hit is eal wēste, būton on fēawum stōwum
4 styccemælum wīciað Finnas, on huntoðe on wintra, ond on sumera on fiscap̃e be þære sǣ.
5 Hē sǣde þæt hē æt sumum cirre wolde fandian hū longe þæt land norþryhte lāge, oþþe
6 hwæðer ænig mon be norðan þām wēstenne būde. Þā fōr hē norþryhte be þām lande: lēt
7 him ealne weg þæt wēste land on ðæt stēorbord, ond þā wīdsǣ on ðæt bæcbord þrīe dagas.
8 Þā wæs hē swā feor norþ swā þā hwælhuntan firrest farap̃. Þā fōr hē þāgīet norþryhte swā
9 feor swā hē meahte on þām oþrum þrim dagum gesiglan. Þā bēag þæt land þær ēastryhte,
10 oþþe sēo sǣ in on ðæt lond, hē nysse hwæðer, būton hē wisse ðæt hē ðær bād
11 westanwindes ond hwōn norþan, ond siglde ðā² ēast be lande swā swā hē meahte on
12 fēower dagum gesiglan. Þā sceolde hē ðær bīdan ryhtnorþanwindes, for ðām þæt land bēag
13 þær sūþryhte, oþþe sēo sǣ in on ðæt land, he nysse hwæper. Þā siglde hē þonan sūðryhte be
14 lande swā swā hē mehte on fif dagum gesiglan. Ðā lǣg þær ān micel ēa ūp in on þæt land.
15 Þā cirdon hīe ūp in on ðā ēa, for þām hīe ne dorston forþ bī þære ēa siglan for unfriþe; for
16 þām ðæt land wæs eall gebūn on oþre healfe þære ēas. Ne mētte hē ǣr nān gebūn land,
17 siþþan hē from his āgnum hām fōr; ac him wæs ealne weg wēste land on þæt stēorbord,
18 būtan fiscerum ond fugelerum ond huntum, ond þæt wæron eall Finnas; ond him wæs ā
19 wīdsǣ on ðæt bæcbord. Þā Beormas hæfdon swīpe wel gebūd³ hira land: ac hīe ne dorston
20 þær on cuman. Ac þāra Terfinna land wæs eal wēste, būton ðær huntan gewīcodon, oþþe
21 fisceras, oþþe fugeleras.
22 Fela spella him sǣdon þā Beormas ægþer ge of hiera āgnum lande ge of þām
23 landum þe ymb hīe ūtan wæron; ac hē nyste hwæt þæs sōþes wæs, for þām hē hit self ne

¹ One <þæt> is not found in the *Lauderdale* MS.

² The *Cotton Tiberius* MS reads <þanon>.

³ The *Cotton Tiberius* MS has <gebūn>.

24 geseah. Þā Finnas, him þūhte, ond þā Beormas spræcon nēah ān geþēode. Swīpost hē fōr
25 ðider, tōēacan þæs landes scēawunge, for þām horshwælum⁴, for ðām hīe habbað swīþe
26 æþele bān on hiora tōþum (þā tēð hīe brōhton sume þām cyninge); ond hiora hȳd⁵ || bið
27 swīðe gōd tō sciprāpum. Sē hwæl bið micle læssa þonne oðre hwalas: ne bið hē lengra
28 ðonne syfan elna lang; ac on his āgnum lande is se betsta hwælhuntað; þā bēoð eahta and
29 fēowertiges elna lange, and þā mæstan fiftiges elna lange; þāra hē sæde þæt hē syxa sum
30 ofslōge syxtig on twām dagum.

31 Hē wæs swyðe spēdig man on þām āhtum þe heora spēda on bēoð, þæt is, on
32 wildrum. Hē hæfde þāgyt, ðā hē þone cyninge sōhte, tamra dēora unbebohtra syx hund. Þā
33 dēor hī hātað ‘hrānas’; þāra wæron syx stælrānas; ðā bēoð swyðe dýre mid Finnum, for
34 ðām hȳ fōð þā wildan hrānas mid. Hē wæs mid þām fyrstum mannum on þām lande:
35 næfde hē þēah mā ðonne twentig hrȳðera, and twentig scēapa, and twentig swȳna; and þæt
36 lȳtle þæt hē erede, hē erede mid horsan. Ac hyra ār is mæst on þām gafole þe ðā Finnas
37 him gylðað. Þæt gafol bið on dēora fellum, and on fugela feðerum, and hwales bāne, and
38 on þām sciprāpum, þe bēoð of hwæles hȳde geworht, and of sēoles. Æghwīlc gylt be hys
39 gebyrdum. Se byrdesta sceall gyldan fiftȳne mearðes fell, and fīf hrānes, and ān beran fel,
40 and tȳn ambra feðra, and berenne kyrtel oððe yterenne, and twēgen sciprāpas; ægþer sȳ
41 syxtig elna lang, oþer sȳ of hwæles hȳde geworht, oþer of sīoles.

42 Hē sæde ðæt Norðmanna land wære swyþe lang and swyðe smæl. Eal þæt his man
43 āþer oððe ettan oððe erian mæg, þæt līð wið ðā sā; and þæt is þēah on sumum stōwum
44 swyðe clūdig; and licgað wilde mōras wið ēastan and wið uppon emnlange þām bȳnum
45 lande. On þām mōrum eardiað Finnas. And þæt bȳne land is ēasteweard brādost, and
46 symle swā norðor swā smælre. Ēastewerd hit mæg bīon syxtig mīla brād, oþþe hwēne
47 brādre⁶, and middeweard þrētig oððe brādre; and norðeweard hē cwæð, þær hit smalost
48 wære, þæt hit mihte bēon þrēora mīla brād tō þām mōre; and se mōr syðþan, on sumum
49 stōwum swā brād swā man mæg on twām wucum oferfēran; and on sumum stōwum swā
50 brād swā man mæg on syx dagum oferfēran.

⁴ The *Lauderdale* MS has <horschwælum>.

⁵ This is where the *Lauderdale* MS ends.

⁶ <brādre> would be the expected form.

51 Donne is tōemnes þām lande sūðewardum, on ððre healfe þæs mōres, Swēoland,
52 oþ þæt land norðeward; and tōemnes þām lande norðewardum, Cwēna land. Þā Cwēnas
53 hergiað hwīlum on ðā Norðmen ofer ðone mōr, hwīlum þā Norðmen on hȳ. And þær sint
54 swīðe micle meras fersce geond þā mōras; and berað þā Cwēnas hyra scypu ofer land on
55 ðā meras, and þanon hergiað on ðā Norðmen; hȳ habbað swȳðe lȳtle scypa and swȳðe
56 lēohte.

57 Ōnthere sæde þæt sīo scīr hātte Hālgoland þe hē on būde. Hē cwæð þæt nān man ne
58 būde be norðan him. Þonne is ān port on sūðewardum þām lande, þone⁷ man hæt
59 Scīringes hēal. Þyder hē cwæð þæt man ne mihte geseglian on ānum mōnðe, gyf man on
60 niht wīcode, and ælce dæge hæfde ambyrne wind; and ealle ðā hwīle hē sceal seglian be
61 lande. And on þæt stēorbord him bið ærest Īraland, and þonne ðā ĭgland þe synd betux
62 Īralande and þissum lande. Þonne is þis land oð hē cymð to Scīringes hēale, and ealne
63 weg on þæt bæcbord Norðweg. Wið sūðan þone Scīringes hēal fylð swȳðe mycel sǣ ūp in
64 on ðæt land; sēo is brādre þonne ænig man ofer sēon mæge. And is Gotland on ððre healfe
65 ongēan, and siððan⁸ Sillende. Sēo sǣ līð mænig hund mīla ūp in on þæt land.

66 And of Scīringeshēale hē cwæð þæt hē seglode on fīf dagan tō þām porte þe mon
67 hæt æt Hǣpum; sē stent betuh Winedum, and Seaxum, and Angle, and hȳrð in on Dene. Ðā
68 hē þiderweard seglode fram Scīringeshēale, þā wæs him on þæt bæcbord Denamearc and
69 on þæt stēorbord wīdsǣ þrȳ dagas; and þā, twēgen dagas ær hē tō Hǣpum cōme, him wæs
70 on þæt stēorbord Gotland, and Sillende, and ĭglanda fela. On þām landum eardodon Engle,
71 ær hī hider on land cōman. And hym wæs ðā twēgen dagas on ðæt bæcbord þā ĭgland þe in
72 [on]⁹ Denemearce hȳrað.

⁷ The form <þonne> would be expected.

⁸ <siðða> would be the expected form.

⁹ The preposition is omitted in the MS.

‘The Nativity of Christ’ – Old English

From the West Saxon translation of the Gospel of Luke, Ch. 2; from MS Cambridge, Corpus Christi College, 140; from the early 11th century.

1 Sōþlice on þām dagum wæs geworden gebod fram þām cāsere Augusto, þæt eall
2 ymbewyrft wære tōmearcod. Þeos tōmearcodnes wæs ærest geworden fram þām
3 dēman Syrige Cirīno. And ealle hig ēodon and syndrige fērdon on hyra ceastre.

4 Ðā fērde Iōsēp fram Galilēa of þære ceastre Nāzareth on Iūdēisce ceastre
5 Dāuīdes, sēo is genemned Bethleem, for þām þe hē wæs of Dāuīdes hūse and hīrede,
6 þæt hē fērde mid Mariān þe him beweddod wæs, and wæs geēacnod.

7 Sōþlice wæs geworden þā hī þār wāron, hire dagas wāron gefyllede þæt hēo
8 cende; and hēo cende hyre frumcennedan sunu, and hine mid cildclāpum bewand, and
9 hine on binne ālēde, for þām þe hig næfdon rūm on cumena hūse.

10 And hyrdas wāron on þām ylcan rīce waciende, and nihtwæccan healdende ofer
11 heora heorda. Þā stōd drihtnes engel wiþ hig, and godes beorhtnes him ymbescān, and
12 hī him mycelum ege ādrēdon. And sē engel him tō cwæð: ‘Nelle gē ēow ādrādan!
13 Sōþlice, nū ic ēow bodie mycelne gefēan, sē bið eallum folce; for þām tō-dæg ēow ys
14 hælend ācenned, sē is drihten Crīst on Dāuīdes ceastre. And þis tācen ēow byð: gē
15 gemētað ān cild hræglum bewunden and on binne ālēd.’

16 And þā wæs færinga geworden mid þām engle mycelnes heofonlīces werodes
17 god heriendra and þus cwependra: ‘Gode sý wuldor on hēahnesse, and on eorðan sybb
18 mannum gōdes willan!’

19 And hit wæs geworden þā ðā englas tō heofene fērdon, þā hyrdas him
20 betwēonan spræcon, and cwædon: ‘Uton faran tō Bethleem, and gesēon þæt word þe
21 geworden is, þæt drihten ūs ætiewde.’ And hig efstende cōmon, and gemētton Mariān
22 and Iōsēp, and þæt cild on binne ālēd. Þā hī þæt gesāwon, þā oncnēowon hig be þām
23 worde þe him gesād wæs be þām cilde. And ealle þā ðe gehīerdon wundrodon be þām
24 þe him þā hyrdas sædon.

25 Mariā gehēold ealle þās word on hyre heortan smēagende.

26 Ðā gewendon hām þā hyrdas, god wuldriende and heriende on eallum þām ðe hī
27 gehīerdon and gesāwon, swā tō him gecweden wæs.

'The Nativity of Christ' – Middle English

From the Wyclif-Purvey translation of the Bible; MS BM. Old Royal Library 1 C. 8.; probably before 1420.

1 And it was don in þo daies, a maundement wente out from þe emperour
2 (August), þat al þe world schulde be discryued. þis firste discryuyng was maad of
3 Cyryn, justice of Sirie; and alle men wenten to make professioun, ech into his owne
4 citee.

5 And Ioseph wente vp fro Galilee fro þe citee Nazareth into Judee into a citee of
6 David, þat is clepid Bethleem, for þat he was of þe hous and of þe meyne of David, þat
7 he schulde knoueleche with Marie, hus wijf, þat was wedded to hym and was greet with
8 child.

9 And it was don, while þei weren þere, þe daies weren fulfillid, þat sche schulde
10 bere child. And sche bare hire firstborun sone, and wlappide hym in clothis and leide
11 hym in a cratche, for þer was no place to hym in no chaumbir.

12 And scheepherdis weren in þe same cuntre, wakyng and kepyng þe watchis of
13 þe nyȝt on her flock. And lo! þe aungel of þe Lord stood bisides heme and þe cleernesse
14 of god schinede aboute hem; and þei dredden with greet drede. And þe aungel seide to
15 hem: 'Nyle ȝe drede! For lo, y prech to ȝou a greet joye, þat schal be to al puple; for a
16 savyoure is borun todai to ȝou, þat is Christ, þe lord, in þe citee of David. And þis is a
17 tokene to ȝou: ȝe schulen fynde a ȝong child wlappid in clothis and leid in a cratche.'

18 And sudenli þer was maad with þe aungel a multitude of heuenli knyȝthod,
19 heriyng God and seiynge: 'Glorie be in þe hizeste thingis to god, and in erthe pees be
20 to men of good wille.'

21 And it was don, as þe aungelis passiden awei fro hem into heuene, þe
22 scheephirdis spaken togider and seiden: 'Go we ouer to Bethleem, and se we þis word
23 þat is maad, which þe lord haþ maad and schewide to vs.' And þei hiȝynge camen and
24 founden Marie and Ioseph, and þe ȝong child leid in a cratche. And þei seyngne knewen
25 of þe word þat was seid to hem of þis child. And alle men þat herden wondriden, and of
26 these thingis þat weren seid to hem of þe scheephirdis.

27 But Marie kepte alle þese wordis, beryng togider in hir herte.

28 And þe scheepherdis turneden aȝen, glorifyng and heriyng god in alle thingis
29 þat hadden herd and seyn, as it was seid to hem.

'The Nativity of Christ' – early Modern English

William Tyndale, 1534

1 And it chaunced in thoose dayes that ther went oute a commaundment from
2 Auguste the Emperour, that all the woorlde shuld be taxed. And this taxynge was the
3 fyrst and executed when Syrenius was leftenaunt in Syria. And every man went vnto his
4 awne citie to be taxed.

5 And Ioseph also ascended from Galile, oute of a cite called Nazareth, into Iurie:
6 vnto the cite of David which is called Bethleem, because he was of the housse and
7 linage of David, to be taxed with Mary his spoused wyfe which was with chylde.

8 And it fortunied whyll they were there, her tyme was come that she shuld be
9 delyvered. And she brought forth her fyrst begotten sonne and wrapped him in
10 swadlynge cloothes, and layed him in a manger, because ther was no rouse for them
11 within the ynne.

12 And ther were in the same region shepherdes abydinge in the felde and watching
13 their flocke by nyght. And loo: the angell of the lorde stode harde by them, and the
14 brightnes of the lorde shone rounde aboute them, and they were soore afrayed. But the
15 angell sayd vnto them: "Be not afrayed. For beholde, I bringe you tydings of greate
16 ioye that shal come to all the people; for vnto you is borne this daye in the cite of David
17 a saveoure which is Christ the lorde. And take this for a signe: ye (s)hall fynde the
18 chylde swaddled and layed in a manger."

19 And streight waye ther was with the angell a multitude of hevenly souldiers,
20 laudyng God and sayinge: "Glory to God an hye, and peace on the erth, and vnto men
21 reioysynge."

22 And it fortunied, assone as the angels were gone awaye from them in to heven,
23 the shepherdes sayd one to another: "Let vs goo even vnto Bethleem, and se this thyng
24 that is hapened which the Lorde hath shewed vnto vs." And they cam with haste, and
25 founde Mary and Ioseph and the babe layde in a manger. And when they had sene it,
26 they publisshed a brode the sayinge which was tolde them of that chylde. And all that
27 hearde it, wondred at those thinges which were tolde them of the shepherdes.

28 But Mary kept all thoose sayinges, and pondered them in hyr hert.

29 And the shepherdes retourned, praysinge and laudinge God for all that they had
30 herde and sene, evyn as it was told vnto them.

The Ormmulum (extract); MS Junius 1
Dedication

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Nū, brōþerr Wallterr, brōþerr mīn | 30 þā Goddspelless nēh alle, |
| 2 affterr þe flæshess kīnde; | 31 þatt sinndenn ō þe messeböc |
| 3 7 ¹ brōþerr mīn ī Crisstenndōm | 32 inn all þe ȝēr att messe. |
| 4 þurh fulluhht 7 þurh throwwþe; | 33 7 aȝz affterr þe Goddspell stannt |
| 5 7 brōþerr mīn ī Godess hūs, | 34 þatt tatt te Goddspell mēneþþ, |
| 6 ȝét ō þe þridde wīse, | 35 þatt mann birrþ spellenn tō þe folle |
| 7 þurh þatt witt hafenn tākenn bā | 36 off þeȝȝre sāwle nēde; |
| 8 ān rezhellböc tō follȝhenn, | 37 7 ȝét tær tēkenn māre inōh |
| 9 unnderr kanunnkess hād 7 līf, | 38 þū shallt tæronne fīndenn, |
| 10 swā-summ Sannt Awwstīn sette; | 39 off þatt tatt Crīstess hallȝhe þēd |
| 11 icc hafe dōn swā-summ þū badd, | 40 birrþ throwwenn wēl 7 follȝhenn. |
| 12 7 fōrþedd tē þīn wille, | 41 Icc hafe sett hēr ō þiss böc |
| 13 icc hafe wennd inntill Ennglissh | 42 amāng Goddspelless wōrdess, |
| 14 goddspelless hallȝhe lāre, | 43 all þurh mē sellfenn, manīȝ wōrd |
| 15 affterr þatt little witt þatt mē | 44 þe rīme swā tō fillenn; |
| 16 mīn Drihhtīn hafeþþ lēnedd. | 45 acc þū shallt fīndenn þatt mīn wōrd, |
| 17 þū þohhtesst tatt itt mihhte wēl | 46 eȝȝwhær þær itt iss ēkedd, |
| 18 till mikell frame turnenn, | 47 maȝȝ hellpenn þā þatt rēdenn itt |
| 19 ȝiff Ennglissh folle, forr lufe off Crīst, | 48 tō sēn 7 t'unnderrstanndenn |
| 20 itt wollde ȝērne lērnenn, | 49 all þess te bettere, hū þeȝȝm birrþ |
| 21 7 follȝhenn itt, 7 fillenn itt | 50 þe Goddspell unnderrstanndenn; |
| 22 wiþþ þohht, wiþþ wōrd, wiþþ dēde. | 51 7 forr-þī throwwe icc þat tē birrþ |
| 23 7 forr-þī ȝerrndesst tū þatt icc | 52 wēl þolenn mīne wōrdess, |
| 24 þiss werre þē sholde wirrkenn; | 53 eȝȝwhær þær þū shallt fīndenn hemm |
| 25 7 icc itt hafe fōrþedd tē, | 54 amāng Goddspelless wōrdess. |
| 26 acc all þurh Crīstess hellpe; | 55 forr whā-se mót tō læwedd folle |
| 27 7 unnc birrþ bāþe þannkenn Crīst | 56 lārspell off Goddspell tellenn, |
| 28 þatt itt iss brohht till ēnde. | 57 hē mot wēl ēkenn manīȝ wōrd |
| 29 icc hafe sammnedd ō þiss böc | 58 amāng Goddspelless wōrdess. |

¹ = annd 'and'

59 7 icc ne mihhte nohht mīn ferrs
60 azz wiþþ Goddspelless wōrdess
61 wēl fillenn all, 7 all forr-þī

62 sholde icc well offte nēde
63 amāng Goddspelless wōrdess dōn
64 mīn wōrd, mīn ferrs tō fillenn.

Geoffrey Chaucer (ca. 1340-1400): *The Canterbury Tales* (1380s)

Extract from *The Wife of Bath's Tale*, Ellesmere Manuscript.

1083 Greet was the wo / the knyght hadde in his thought
1084 Whan he was with his wyf abedde ybrought /
1085 He walweth / and he turneth to and fro
1086 His olde wyf / lay smylyng euermo
1087 And seyde / o deere housbonde benedicitee
1088 Fareth euery knyght / thus w^t his wyf / as ye ?
1089 Is this the lawe / of kyng / Arthures hous ?
1090 Is euery knyght of his so dangerous ?
1091 I am youre owene loue / and your wyf /
1092 I am she / which þ^t saued hath youre lyf
1093 And certes / yet ne dide I yow neuere vnright /
1094 Why fare ye thus with me / this firste nyght /
1095 ye faren lyk a man / had lost his wit /
1096 What is my gilt / ? for goddes loue tel it
1097 And it shal been amended / if I may
1098 Amended quod this knyght / ? allas nay / nay /
1099 It wol nat been amended neuere mo
1100 Thou art so loothly / and so oold also
1101 And ther to comen / of so lough a kynde
1102 That litel wonder is / thogh I walwe and wynde
1103 So wolde god / myn herte wolde breste
1104 Is this quod she / the cause of youre vnreste ?
1105 Ye certainly quod he / no wonder is
1106 Now sire quod she / I koude amende al this
1107 If that me liste / er it were dayes thre
1108 So wel ye myght / bere yow vn-to me
1109 Bvt for ye speken / of swich gentillesse
1110 As is descended / out of old richesse
1111 That therfore / sholden ye be gentil men
1112 Swich arrogance / is nat worth an hen

1113 Looke who that is / moost vertuous alway
1114 Pryuee and apert / and moost entendeth ay
1115 To do / the gentil dedes that he kan
1116 Taak hym / for the grettest gentil man
1117 Christ wole / we clayme of hym oure gentillesse
1118 Nat of oure eldres / for hire old richesse
1119 For thogh they yeue vs / al hir heritage
1120 For which we clayme / to been of heigh parage
1121 Yet may they nat biquethe / for no thyng /
1122 To noon of vs / hir vertuous lyuyng /
1123 That made hem / gentil men ycalled be
1124 And bad vs / folwen hem in swich degree

* * *

1219 Chese now quod she / oon of thise thynges tweye
1220 To han me foul and old / til that I deye
1221 And be to yow / a trewe humble wyf /
1222 And neuere yow displese / in al my lyf /
1223 Or elles / ye wol han me yong and fair
1224 And take youre auenture / of the repair
1225 That shal be to youre hous / by cause of me
1226 Or in som oother place / may wel be
1227 Now chese your seluen / wheither þ^t yow liketh
1228 This knyght auyseth hym and sore siketh
1229 But atte laste / he seyde in this manere
1230 My lady and my loue / and wyf so deere
1231 I put me / in youre wise gouernance
1232 Cheseth your self / which may be moost plesance
1233 And moost honour / to yow and me also
1234 I do no fors / the wheither / of the two
1235 For as yow liketh / it suffiseth me
1236 Thanne haue I gete of yow / maistrie quod she
1237 Syn I may chese / and gouerne as me lest /

1238 Ye certes wyf quod he / I holde it best /
 1239 Kys me quod she / we be no lenger wrothe
 1240 For by my trouthe / I wol be to yow bothe
 1241 This is to sayn / ye bothe fair and good
 1242 I prey to god / þ^t I moote steruen wood
 1243 But I to yow / be also good and trewe
 1244 As euere was wyf / syn þ^t the world was newe
 1245 And but I be tomorn / as fair to seene
 1246 As any lady / Emperice or queene
 1247 That is bitwixe the Est / and eke the west
 1248 dooth w^t my lyf / and deth / right / as yow lest /
 1249 Cast vp the curtyn / looke how that it is
 1250 And whan the knyght / saugh verrailly al this
 1251 That she so fair was / and so yong ther to
 1252 For ioie / he hente hir / in hise armes two
 1253 His herte bathed / in a bath of blisse
 1254 A thousand tyme arewe / he gan hir kisse
 1255 And she obeyed hym in euery thing /
 1256 That myghte doon hym plesance or likyng/
 1257 And thus they lyue / vn-to hir lyues ende
 1258 In perfit ioie / and Iesu crist vs sende
 1259 Housbondes meeke / yonge / and fresshe a-bedde
 1260 And grace / touerbyde hem þ^t we wedde
 1261 And eek / I pray Iesu shorte hir lyues
 1262 That nat wol be gouerned by hir wyues
 1263 And olde and angry nygardes of dispence
 1264 God sende hem soone / verray pestilence.

Heere endeth / the Wyues tale of Bathe

Roger Ascham (1515-1568): 'Seeing the Wind'

1 To see the wind, with a man his eyes, it is impossible, the nature of it is so fine, and subtle,
2 yet this experience of the wind had I once myself, and that was in the great snow that fell four
3 years ago: I rode in the highway betwixt *Topcliffe-upon-Swale*, and *Borowe Bridge*, the way
4 being somewhat trodden afore, by wayfaring men. The fields on both sides were plain and lay
5 almost yard deep with snow, the night afore had been a little frost, so that the snow was hard
6 and crusted above. That morning the sun shone bright and clear, the wind was whistling aloft,
7 and sharp according to the time of the year. The snow in the highway lay loose and trodden
8 with horse feet: so as the wind blew, it took the loose snow with it, and made it so slide upon
9 the snow in the field which was hard and crusted by reason of the frost overnight, that thereby
10 I might see very well, the whole nature of the wind as it blew that day. And I had a great
11 delight and pleasure to mark it, which maketh me now far better to remember it. Sometime
12 the wind would be not past two yards broad, and so it would carry the snow as far as I could
13 see. Another time the snow would blow over half the field at once. Sometime the snow would
14 tumble softly, by and by it would fly wonderfull fast. And this I perceived also that the wind
15 goeth by streams and not whole together. For I should see one stream within a score on me,
16 then the space of two score no snow would stir, but after so much quantity of ground, another
17 stream of snow at the same very time should be carried likewise, but not equally. For the one
18 would stand still when the other flew apace, and so continue sometime swiftlier, sometime
19 slowlier, sometime broader, sometime narrower, as far as I could see. Nor it flew not straight,
20 but sometime it crooked this way sometime that way, and sometime it ran about in a compass.
21 And sometime the snow would be lift clean from the ground into the air, and by and by it
22 would be all clapped to the ground as though there had been no wind at all, straightway it
23 would rise and fly again.

24 And that which was the most marvel of all, at one time two drifts of snow flew, the
25 ~~one out of the west into the east, the other out of the north into the east. And I saw two winds~~
26 by reason of the snow the one cross over the other, as it had been two highways. And again I
27 should hear the wind blow in the air, when nothing was stirred at the ground. And when all
28 was still where I rode, not very far from me the snow would be lifted wonderfully. This
29 experience made me more marvel at the nature of the wind than it made me cunning in the
30 knowledge of the wind: but yet thereby I learned perfectly that it is no marvel at all though
31 men in a wind lose their length in shooting, seeing so many ways the wind is so variable in
32 blowing.

(*Toxophilus*, 1545)

Thomas Wilson (?1525-1581): 'Inkhorn Terms'

1 Among all other lessons this should be first learned, that we never affect
2 any strange inkhorn terms, but so speak as is commonly received, neither
3 seeking to be over fine, nor yet living over careless, using our speech as
4 most men do, and ordering our wits as the fewest have done. Some seek so
5 far for outlandish English, that they forget altogether their mother's
6 language. And I dare swear this, if some of their mothers were alive, they
7 were not able to tell what they say; and yet these fine English clerks will
8 say, they speak in their mother-tongue if a man should charge them for
9 counterfeiting the King's English. Some far-journeyed gentlemen at their
10 return home, like as they love to go in foreign apparel, so they will powder
11 their talk with oversea language. He that cometh lately out of France will
12 talk French English and never blush at the matter. Another chops in with
13 English Italienated, and applieth the Italian phrase to our English speaking,
14 the which is, as if an Orator that professeth to utter his mind in plain Latin,
15 would needs speak Poetry, and far-fetched colours of strange antiquity. The
16 Lawyer will store his stomach with the prating of Pedlars. The Auditor in
17 making his accompt and reckoning, cometh in with *sise sould*, and *cater*
18 *denere*, for vis. *iiiiid*. The fine courtier will talk nothing but *Chaucer*. The
19 mystical wisemen and Poetical Clerks will speak nothing but quaint
20 Proverbs, and blind Allegories, delighting much in their own darkness,
21 especially, when none can tell what they do say. The unlearned or foolish
22 fantastical, that smells but of learning (such fellows as have seen learned
23 men in their days) will so Latin their tongues, that the simple cannot but
24 wonder at their talk, and think surely they speak by some Revelation. I
25 know them that think *Rhetoric* to stand wholly upon dark words, and he that
26 can catch an inkhorn term by the tail, him they count to be a fine
27 Englishman, and a good *Rhetorician*.
28 (From *The Art of Rhetorique*, 1553)

Robert Greene (1558-1592): *Pandosto* (1588)

1 Dorastus hearing that they were arrived at some harbour, sweetly kissed Fawnia,
2 and bad her be of good cheare: when they told him that the Port belonged unto the
3 chiefe Citie of Bohemia where Pandosto kept his Court, Dorastus beganne to be sad;
4 knowing that his Father hated no man so much as Pandosto, and that the king himselfe
5 had sought secretly to betray Egistus: this considered, he was halfe affrayd to goe on
6 land, but that Capnio counselled him to change his name and his country, untill such
7 time as they could get some other Barke to transport them into Italie. Pandosto liking
8 this devise, made his case privy to the Mariners, rewarding them bountifully for their
9 paines, and charging them to say, that he was a Gentleman of Trapolonia called
10 Meleagrus. The shipmen, willing to shew what friendship they could to Dorastus,
11 promised to be as secret as they could, or hee might wish: and uppon this, they landed
12 in a little Village a mile distant from the Citty: where, after they had rested a day,
13 thinking to make provision for their marriage, the fame of Fawnias beautie was spred
14 throughout all the Cittie, so that it came to the eare of Pandosto: who then being about
15 the age of fiftie, had notwithstanding young and fresh affections: so that he desired
16 greatly to see Fawnia: and to bring this matter the better to passe, hearing they had but
17 one man, and how they rested at a very homly house, he caused them to be apprehended
18 as spyes, and sent a dozen of his Guard to take them: who being come to their lodging,
19 told them the Kings message. Dorastus no whit dismaied, accompanied with Fawnia
20 and Capnio, went to the Court (for they left Porrus to keepe the stuffe) who being
21 admitted to the Kings presence, Dorastus and Fawnia with humble obeysance saluted
22 his Majestie.

23 Pandosto, amazed at the singuler perfection of Fawnia, stood half astonished,
24 viewing her beauty, so that he almost forgot himselfe what he had to doe: at last with
25 sterne countenance he demaunded their names, and of what countrey they were, and
26 what caused them to land in Bohemia? Sir (quoth Dorastus) know that my name is
27 Meleagrus, a Knight borne and brought up in Trapolonia, and this Gentlewoman, whom
28 I meane to take to my wife, is an Italian borne in Padua, from whence I have now
29 brought her. The cause I have so small a traine with me, is for that, her friends
30 unwilling to consent, I intended secretly to convey her into Trapolonia, whither I was
31 sayling and by distresse of weather, I was driven into these coasts; thus have you heard
32 my name, my Countrey, and the cause of mye voyage. Pandosto starting from his seat
33 as one in choler, made this rough reply.

34 Meleagrus, I feare this smooth tale hath but small truth, and that thou coverest a
35 foule skin with faire paintings. No doubt this Lady, by her grace and beauty, is of
36 higher degree, more meete for a mightie Prince, than for a simple Knight: and thou like
37 a perjured traytor has bereft her of her Parents, to their present grieve, and her ensuing
38 sorrow. Till therefore I heare more of her parentage, and of her calling, I wil stay you
39 both here in Bohemia.

40 Dorastus, in whom rested nothing but Kingly valour, was not able to suffer the
41 reproches of Pandosto, but that he made him this answere.

42 It is not meete for a king, without due prooffe to appeach any man of ill
43 behaviour, nor upon suspition to inferre believe: strangers ought to be entertained with
44 curtesie: not to be intreated with cruelty, least beeing forced by want to put up injuries,
45 the Gods revenge their cause with rigor.