

THE EARLY MIDDLE ENGLISH PERIOD

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Abstract: The early period called medieval literature. Any work produced in Latin or the vernacular between 476 and 1500 CE is considered medieval literature. This includes philosophical writings, legal documents, works of fiction and religious treatises. The most famous writers of this period are William Langland and Geoffrey Chaucer.

Key words: English, epic, language, literature, fiction and religious.

Аннотация: Ранний период называется средневековой литературой. Любое произведение, написанное на латыни или на местном языке между 476 и 1500 годами нашей эры, считается средневековой литературой. Сюда входят философские сочинения, юридические документы, художественные произведения и религиозные трактаты. Самыми известными писателями этого периода являются Уильям Ленгленд и Джеффри Чосер.

Ключевые слова: Английский, эпик, язык, литература, произведения и религия.

So'zboshi: Erta davr o'rta asr adabiyoti deb ataladi. Milodiy 476-1500 yillar oralig'ida lotin yoki xalq tilida yaratilgan har qanday asar o'rta asr adabiyoti hisoblanadi. Bunga falsafiy yozuvlar, huquqiy hujjatlar, badiiy adabiyotlar va diniy risolalar kiradi. Bu davrning eng mashhur yozuvchilari Uilyam Lenglanddir. va Jeffri Chaucer.

Kalit so'zlar: Ingliz tili, epik, til, adabiyot, badiiy asar va din.

The English language and literature did not immediately change as a result of the Norman Conquest. During the latter part of the 11th century, older poetry was still being duplicated; two early 12th-century poems, "Durham," which extols the city's cathedral and relics, and "Instructions for Christians," a didactic work, demonstrate that accurate alliterative verse could still be written long after 1066. Though their rhythms differed from the prescribed forms seen in traditional Old English verse, even before the conquest, rhyme had started to replace alliteration rather than enhance it in some poems that still maintained the older four-stress line. One example from the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle about a poem written after the conquest is "The Grave," which has many rhyming lines and commemorates William the Conqueror.

The long epic Brut (about 1200), written by a Worcestershire priest named Lawamon, seems antiquated for its use of rhyming couplets and alliterative lines while primarily avoiding French terminology by the end of the 21st century. The Brut is largely based on Wace's Anglo-Norman Roman de Brut, but Lawamon gives the Arthurian tale a Germanic and heroic flavor that is mostly absent from Wace's version. There are two manuscripts of the Brut—one from approximately 1200 and the other from about 50 years later. The subsequent version's high degree of modernization and minimal abridgement illustrates how swiftly the English language and literary preferences were changing at the time. The Proverbs of Alfred, composed somewhat earlier in the late 12th century, present common knowledge through a combination of alliterative lines and rhymed couplets. It is doubtful if anything in them truly originated with the ruler whose wisdom they revere. In the early 13th-century Bestiary, alliterative lines, three- and four-stress couplets, and septenary lines are all combined. However, because the poet was mimicking the different metre patterns of this Latin source, this combination makes more sense than in the Brut and the Proverbs.

Without a doubt, the greatest poetry of this century is The Owl and the Nightingale, a poem in the popular argumentative style. The two birds argue on a wide range of topics, including relationships, prophecies, proper worship styles, appearances, grooming habits, and music. The birds part ways to give their cases to Nicholas of Guildford, a smart man, even if there isn't a clear winner in this debate. The owl symbolizes the serious aspects of life, while the nightingale stands for the happy ones. The poem wears its knowledge of church tradition fairly lightly, as the disputants utilize casual and oftentimes vulgar language.

The owl and the nightingale, like the Poema morale, is metrically regular but employs French metre with an assurance not often seen in such an early work. The lyric was somewhat understood by the Old English poets. The so-called songs "Deor" and "Wulf and Eadwacer" are examples of Old English poetry with more narrative substance than more contemporary pieces. These poems have a different theme from those that were first transmitted orally in the twelfth century and were widely documented in the thirteenth. The two most popular themes in Middle English secular lyric poetry are springtime and passionate love, which many painstakingly replicate. A poem such as "The Man in the Moon" reminds us that early Middle English poetry was rarely "courtly," even though it was increasingly influenced by Anglo-Norman literature composed for the courts.

Whether they were writing about peasants or monarchs, most English poets had a bourgeois perspective on life. Their work sometimes lacks nuance, but it nevertheless has an energy that comes from focusing on everyday issues. Old English prose works were copied for over a century following the Norman Conquest; Aelfric's homilies were especially popular, and the only manuscripts surviving from the 12th century are

King Alfred's translations of Augustine and Boethius. Early in the 13th century, reading Old English manuscripts became difficult, as demonstrated by the anonymous Worcester employee who glossed certain terms in several of these manuscripts.

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