

SEIJO ENGLISH MONOGRAPHS

———— NO. 21 ————

# THE LYFE OF IPOMYDON

EDITED BY  
TADAHIRO IKEGAMI  
PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH  
SEIJO UNIVERSITY

VOLUME I  
TEXT AND INTRODUCTION



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## PREFACE

The only satisfactory edition of the Middle English romance *The Lyfe of Ipomydon* by Eugen Kölbing is now about a century old. It has been an admirable work but already unobtainable, and we need a new edition.

The main purpose of this edition is to provide a more readable and correct text than Kölbing's. This edition, therefore, hopes to improve on his text—more accurate readings of the manuscript are introduced, manuscript readings are retained as defensible in many cases which he emended especially for rhyme words, a very few emendations are put forward, and less editorial punctuation is employed. I have also referred to Henry Weber's text, an older one than his.

The Introduction (Part II), Commentary, and Glossary of this edition will follow in another volume.

'Chapter II Language, A. Sounds and Spellings' has been written by my wife, Mrs Masa Ikegami, who used to be a graduate student under Professor E. J. Dobson's guidance at Oxford, and it is an important contribution to the edition.

The late Professors Junzaburo Nishiwaki and Fumio Kuriyagawa of Keio University, Tokyo, whose stimulating scholarship and guidance I have respected, led me to medieval English studies and exerted a strong influence upon me. This work was begun more than ten years ago, when I stayed in Cambridge and Oxford between 1970 and 1972. During the years in which I have been working on this text, I have accumulated many

obligations for kindness and assistance of all sorts. When I was on the staff at the University of Tsukuba, Mrs Yasuko Nakau eased my work by the care and skill with which she typed my transcription of the text, which made it possible to complete this edition more easily.

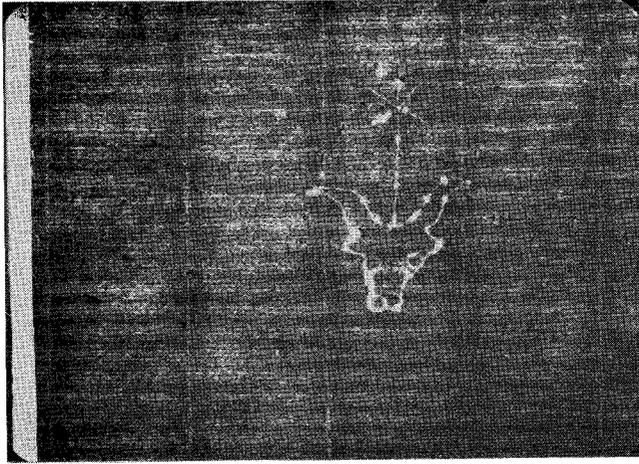
I take this opportunity to thank those teachers and friends, both in this country and abroad, who have been willing to be consulted and have been forthcoming with information, advice, and help. I wish to thank Dr W. H. Kelliher and the staff of the Department of Western Manuscripts, the British Library, London, for their kind help and the Trustees for permission to reproduce the plates. I also owe thanks to Professor Angus McIntosh, Mr Malcolm B. Parkes, and Dr Pamela R. Robinson for advice and information; to the Huntington Library, San Marino, California, and the Pierpont Morgan Library, New York, for providing research materials. Mrs Junko Asakawa assisted me in her uncomplaining proof-reading, which saved me from many possible errors.

Tadahiro Ikegami

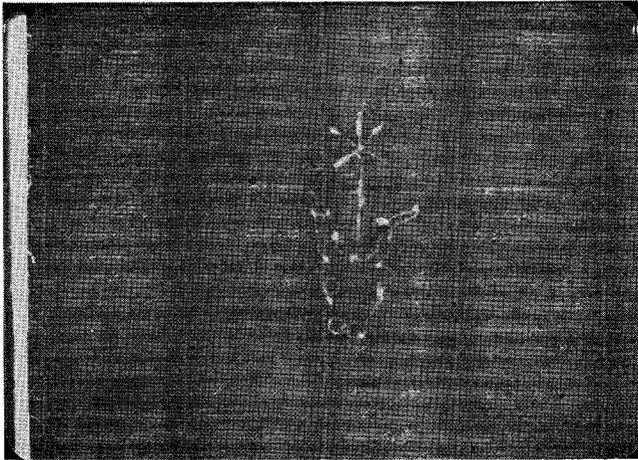
*Seijo University, Tokyo*  
*March 1983*

I pray god thank you master deye  
that ye me love & may so hope  
than they blessed thowm to go  
horse they toke And harness alle  
off alle things they wanted none  
wre to his fuder the child is gone  
on thos he falle by fere the longe  
and prayd hym of his deye blessinge  
that blessinge have y my funder sp  
that aneye guff qv funder sp  
n o the go forth on the way  
spowdon to the mon yan for  
that there be none of them alle  
So wady by the ndme of god alle  
wysre so they wend fere vnto  
se oute the fange vnto  
no man wold what I am  
what I shall be ne whom I am  
alle they prayd his commandment  
And fere the wnt to the offere  
spowdon And wnt to  
vnto and on and mantell n. 11  
off the wchost y it myght be  
there was fere in that compe  
for in my was the vnto fere  
that the mantell he vnto  
So long there woyd they some name  
that w wchost they w come  
they come to the fere the w  
10 fere was the wchost  
the fere w the wchost y in alle  
and prayd hym to go in the wchost  
and in the lude fere and the  
for it comen to mon of fere compe  
and if it prayd hym the wchost fere  
that the wchost fere w the wchost

2.



3.



Plates 2—5. The main types of watermark of MS Harley 2252 (fols. 54–133<sup>v</sup>).

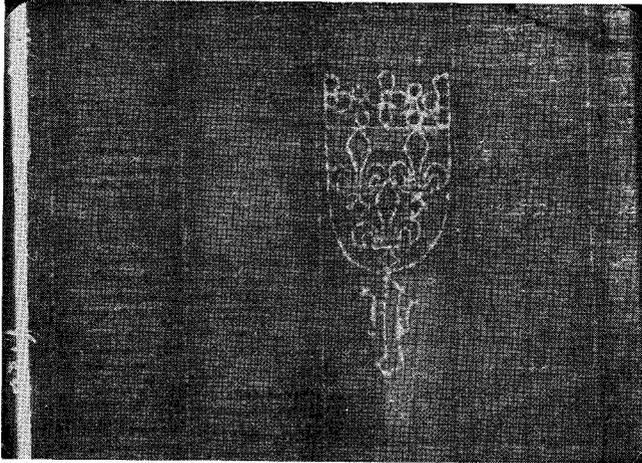
2. (fol. 59) and 3. (fol. 80) *Tête de boeuf à yeux et à narines.*

Reproduced by permission of the British Library

4.



5.



4. (fol. 95) *Char à deux roues.* 5. (fol. 120) *Trois fleurs de lis.*  
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## CONTENTS

PREFACE	i
BIBLIOGRAPHICAL ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS	v
INTRODUCTION	xii
I The Manuscript	xii
II Language	xvii
A Sounds and Spellings	xvii
B Morphology	xlii
C Vocabulary	li
D Rhyme and Metre	liii
III Provenance and Date	lx
IV The Presentation of the Text	lxv
TEXT	1
APPENDIX	
A leaf of the text printed by Wynkyn de Worde	87
PLATES	
Plate 1 London, British Library MS Harley 2252, f. 57	<i>Frontispiece</i>
Plate 2—5 The main types of watermark of MS Harley 2252 (fols. 54–133 <sup>v</sup> )	

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- Ipomadon A* *Ipomadon* (A Version).
- Ipomadon B* *The Lyfe of Ipomydon* (B Version)
- Ipomadon C* *Ipomedon* (C Version).
- K Kölbing, Eugen. ed. *Ipomedon in drei englischen bearbeitungen*. Breslau, 1889.
- Kölbing-Koschwitz Kölbing, Eugen und E. Koschwitz. eds. *Hue de Roteland, Ipomedon, Ein Französischer Abenteuerroman des 12 Jabrhunderts*. (Breslau, 1889), rpt. Genève, 1975.
- LH A later hand in darker or black ink (in the MS).
- LI *The Lyfe of Ipomydon* (B Version).
- MS London, British Library, MS Harley 2252.
- W Weber, Henry. ed. *Metrical Romances of the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Centuries*. 3 vols. Edinburgh, 1810.

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- Index* Brown, C. and R. H. Robbins. eds. *The Index of Middle English Verse.* New York, 1943.
- Manual 1* Severs, J. B. ed. *A Manual of the Writings in Middle English 1050-1500.* 6 vols. New Haven, 1967-1980. Fascicule 1: I. Romances (1967).
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- ODEE Onions, C. T. ed. *The Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology.* Oxford, 1966.
- OED Murray, James A. H., Henry Bradley, W. A. Craigie, C. T. Onions. eds. *The Oxford English Dictionary.* 13 vols. (Oxford, 1933), rpt. 1961.
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4. For the names of languages and dialects and for grammatical terms, abbreviations in common use are used.

acc.	accusative
adj.	adjective
adv.	adverb
AN	Anglo-Norman
Angl	Anglian
compar.	comparative
conj.	conjunction
Da	Danish
dat.	dative
Du	Dutch
F	French
fem.	feminine
gen.	genitive
Gmc	Germanic
imp.	imperative
ind.	indicative
inf.	infinitive
int.	interjection
intr.	intransitive (vi.)

Kt	Kentish
L	Latin
masc.	masculine
MDu	Middle Dutch
ME	Middle English
med L	medieval Latin
MLG	Middle Low German
ModE	Modern English
Nhb	Northumbrian
nom.	nominative
Norw	Norwegian
num.	numeral
obs.	obsolete word
OE	Old English
OF	Old French
OKt	Old Kentish
ON	Old Norse
ONF	Old Northern French
ONhb	Old Northumbrian
pl.	plural
poss.	possessive
pp.	past participle
prep.	preposition
pres.	present
pres. part.	present participle
presE	Present-day English
pron.	pronoun
proper n.	proper name
pt.	preterite
sb.	substantive
sg.	singular
StE	Standard English
subj.	subjunctive
superl.	superlative

Sw	Swedish
tran.	transitive (vt.)
vb.	verb
WGmc	West Germanic
wk. vb.	weak verb
WS	West Saxon

5. The following symbols are used for ME phonemes :

long vowels : /i:/, /e:/, /ɛ:/, /y:/, /ø:/, /a:/, /u:/, /o:/, /ɔ:/.

short vowels : /i/, /e/, /ə/, /y/, /ø/, /a/, /u/, /o/.

diphthongs : /ei/, /ai/, /ui/, /oi/, /ou/, /au/, /eu/, /iu/.

consonants : /p/, /b/, /t/, /d/, /k/, /g/, /tʃ/, /dʒ/, /f/, /v/, /θ/, /ð/,  
/s/, /z/, /ʃ/, /x/ ([ç], [x]), /h/, /m/, /n/, /l/, /r/, /w/,  
/j/.

For OE, ON, OF and AN phonemes, conventional symbols (e.g. OE *ȝ*, ON *ǰ*) are generally used. OE *ǣ*<sup>1</sup> signifies WS *ǣ*, non-WS *ē* < WGmc *ā*; OE *ǣ*<sup>2</sup> signifies WS and Angl *ǣ*, Kt *ē* < WGmc *ai+ij*.

6. / / indicates a phoneme.

< > indicates a spelling.

    <sub>R</sub> indicates that the form occurs in rhyme.

< from, deriving from.

> became, becomes.

## INTRODUCTION

### I The Manuscript

1. As far as we know, the Middle English romance *Ipomadon* is extant in three versions: *Ipomadon* (A Version: 12-line tail-rhyme stanzas aabccbddbeeb) preserved in Manchester, Chetham's Library, MS 8009, ff. 191-335 (*Manual 1* [102], *Index* 2635); *The Lyfe of Ipomydon* (B Version: four-stressed lines in rhyming couplets) in London, British Library, MS Harley 2252, ff. 54-84 (*Index* 2142); and *Ipomedon* (C Version: prose, 1700 lines in the printed text) in Longleat MS 257, ff. 90-106<sup>v</sup>. The present text is that of *The Lyfe of Ipomydon* or *Ipomadon B*.

2. The text was printed in the early sixteenth century, but only fragments of copies survive. There is one leaf (56 lines in couplets) of that printed by Wynkyn de Worde (c. 1522), (*The Metrical Romance of Ipomydon*, 4<sup>o</sup>, *STC*<sup>2</sup> No. 5732.5), preserved in London, British Library, Bagford Ballads, Vol. i, No. 18; and 38 leaves (2028 lines in couplets) of another imperfect copy of that printed by Wynkyn de Worde (Robert Copland) (c. 1530), (*The Life of Ipomydon* 4<sup>o</sup>, *STC*<sup>1</sup> No. 5733), preserved in New York, Pierpont Morgan Library 20896.<sup>1)</sup> This extant book now consists of two booklets: *The Milner of Abyngton* and *Ipomadon B*. The text lacks in the opening part of the romance and begins at line 193 of our text.

3. All versions derive ultimately from *Ipomedon* written by Hue

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1) Severs, J. B. ed. *A Manual of the Writings in Middle English 1050-1500*, 6 vols. New Haven, 1967-80. Fascicule 1: I. Romances (1967), pp. 153-55 & 309-12.

de Rotelande for Gilbert Fitz-Baderon, Lord of Monmouth, between 1174 and 1191,<sup>1)</sup> an Anglo-Norman poem of 10,580 lines, which is preserved in five manuscripts: London, British Library, Cotton MS Vespasian A. VII., ff. 37-104; and MS Egerton 2515, ff. 3-70<sup>v</sup>; Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS Rawlinson Misc. D. 913, which contains a fragment of 162 lines; Dublin, Trinity College MS 523 (anc. 18 E I 39); and C. H. Livingston's MS.<sup>2)</sup>

4. *MS The Lyfe of Ipomydon* is preserved in London, British Library, MS Harley 2252. The book measures *c.* 280×190 mm and consists of 167 paper leaves (foliated 1-133, 133\*, 134-166), made up into nine quires. It is a composite manuscript forming the well-known commonplace book assembled, and largely written, by John Colyn, a London merchant of the time of Henry VIII. On fol. 133<sup>v</sup> just below the colophon 'Explycit le morte arthur' there is the inscription:

Thys Boke belongythe to John Colyn' mercer of London'  
dwellyng' in the parysshe of our lady of Wolchyrchehawe  
anexid' the Stockes in þe pultre yn' Anno domini 1517,

followed by the owner's signatures. Colyn's name also appears on ff. 1<sup>v</sup>, 2, 163, 165 and 166. Subsequently the name 'Robert Farrer' was added on ff. 1<sup>v</sup> and 166, and an entry on f. 162<sup>v</sup> indicates that the manuscript was owned by 'Robert Farrers' in 1570. Afterwards the book was bought for the Harleian collection from the bookseller, Nathaniel Noel (fl. 1681-*c.* 1753)

- 
- 1) Legge, M. D. *Anglo-Norman Literature and its Background*. Oxford, 1963, p. 85.  
2) Ward, H. L. D. ed. *Catalogue of Romances in the Department of Manuscripts in the British Museum*. 3 vols. London, 1883-1910, rpt. 1961. Vol. I, pp. 728-57. Kölbing, E. und E. Koschwitz. eds. *Hue de Rotelande, Ipomedon, Ein Französischer Abenteuerroman des 12 Jahrhunderts*. Breslau, 1889, rpt. Genève, 1975, pp. vii-viii. A. J. Holden. ed. *Ipomedon*, Paris, 1979, pp. 16-18.

on 13 August 1724.<sup>1)</sup>

5. The manuscript contains a miscellaneous collection of items. The *Catalogue of the Harleian MSS* lists seventy-five items,<sup>2)</sup> P. R. Robinson lists eighty-two items<sup>3)</sup> and Guddat-Figge eighty-one.<sup>4)</sup> Most of these are in the hand of John Colyn himself (ff. 1<sup>v</sup>-53<sup>v</sup>, 84<sup>v</sup>-85, 133<sup>v</sup>-166). The entries relate to English history, current events, petitions to the king, medical recipes, London topography, affairs of his own parish and prognostications. The collection also contains works by Skelton ('Colyn Clout,' 'Parot,' etc.) Lydgate, Henryson, and seven poems not mentioned in the *Index*.

6. The section of the manuscript containing *The Lyfe of Ipomydon* or *Ipomadon B* is made up of the two quires of sixteen leaves each. It was originally one of two independent booklets<sup>5)</sup> written in the hand of an amalgam of features proper to the Anglicana and Secretary scripts<sup>6)</sup> by two late-fifteenth-century scribes: Scribe A (ff. 54-84, 86-101<sup>v</sup>, except for f. 83<sup>v</sup>, which has been written by a different hand, but similar to Scribe B) and

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- 1) Robinson, P. R. *A Study of Some Aspects of the Transmission of English Verse Texts in Late Mediaeval Manuscripts* (B. Litt. Thesis, Oxford, 1972), p. 177.
  - 2) *A Catalogue of the Harleian Manuscripts in the British Museum. With Indexes of Persons, Places, and Matters*. 3 vols. London, 1808. Vol. II, pp. 582-85.
  - 3) Robinson, P. R. *A Study*, pp. 169-176. *The Diary of Humphrey Wanley* ed. C. E. and R. C. Wright, The Bibliographical Society, Vol. II. London, 1966, p. 306, no. 21. Wright, C. E. *Fontes Harleiani. A Study of the Sources of the Harleian Collection of Manuscripts Preserved in the Department of Manuscripts in the British Museum*. London, 1972, pp. 253-55.
  - 4) Guddat-Figge, Gisela. ed. *Catalogue of Manuscripts Containing Middle English Romances*. München, 1976, pp. 188-94.
  - 5) Robinson, P. R. 'The 'Booklet': A Self-Contained Unit in Composite Manuscripts.' *Codicologica 3: Essais typologiques*. Leiden, 1980, pp. 46-48.
  - 6) This has been suggested by Mr T. Takamiya of Keio University.

Scribe B (ff. 102–133<sup>v</sup>). Another booklet is *Le Morte Arthur* (ff. 86–133<sup>v</sup>). Both of them were incorporated by Colyn into his collection. Colyn has added material on ff. 84<sup>v</sup>–85 which were originally blank pages at the end of the *Ipomadon B* booklet. F. 85<sup>v</sup> remains blank. One leaf has been lost from the section (after f. 102) and only three catchwords survive (on ff. 69<sup>v</sup>, 101<sup>v</sup>, 115<sup>v</sup>).

The poem is written in single columns, with 33 to 44 lines to the page, especially closely written on ff. 65<sup>v</sup>–81. The written space, unruled, measures 193–210×100–110 mm. The title of the text appears at the top of f. 54 and also in the colophon ('Ipomydon') on f. 84. There is just one catchword 'The Whiche' in the bottom margin of f. 69<sup>v</sup> with many pen-trials of 'a,' but no quire signatures. The mark 'u' appears to the left of the margin centre of f. 66<sup>v</sup> (just in front of l. 931), and the abbreviation 'JHS' occurs in the top of margin above the text on f. 68. A space three lines wide has been left for a large initial letter on each of the following nine folios: 54, 57, 60, 61, 64, 68<sup>v</sup>, 73, 74, and 79; besides each of these spaces contains only a small guide letter written in the top left-head corner.

We should note that the text has been checked or corrected by a different or later hand (*LH*) in darker or black ink, in particular between f. 54<sup>v</sup> and f. 74<sup>v</sup>.

The paper of ff. 54–84 was derived from at least two stocks, both of which bear the watermarks of a bull's head '*tête de bœuf à yeux et à narines*.'<sup>1)</sup> The first (Plate 2) of these, which

1) Briquet, C. M. *Les filigranes*. 4 vols. Geneva, 1907, 2nd ed. Leipzig, 1923, rpt. New York: Hacker Art Books, 1966 and 1968.

is found on f. 59, measures 63 mm from top to bottom and resembles Briquet's No. 15098, and the second (Plate 3), which occurs on f. 80, is 62.5 mm in height and resembles Briquet's No. 15077. According to Briquet's explanations, the paper bearing the former mark was milled at Basel in 1478 and the paper bearing the latter one at Chiny in 1467.

P. F. Hissiger points out in his edition that the section containing *Le Morte Arthur* bears two distinct watermarks: most of the paper was milled at Palermo in 1465 (Briquet's No. 3537, '*char à deux roues*') and the rest is similar to paper milled in France, and to a lesser extent in Germany and the Low Countries, between 1470 and 1524 (Briquet's Nos. 1741, and 1748, '*trois fleurs de lis*').<sup>1)</sup> His investigation is pertinent to the consideration of our manuscript.

These two romances in the manuscript were, therefore, probably copied from an exemplar in a London bookshop in the second half of the fifteenth century, and they were both bought by John Colyn, most probably the first owner of the present collection, who assembled this composite manuscript for his own reading.

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1) Cf. Hissiger, P. F. ed. *Le Morte Arthur*. The Hague & Paris: Mouton, 1975, pp. 1-3.

## II Language

### A. Sounds and Spellings

The phonological features of the text will be discussed in this chapter. The original author's type of speech, which is indicated by rhymes, will be described under [Sounds], and the spellings adopted in other than rhyme words will be presented under [Spellings].

#### [Sounds]

(1) Phonological features for localization of the original text.

1.1 The following features indicate that the author's type of speech was not Northern:

1.1.1 The change of earlier ME /a:/ to /ɔ:/ is indicated in the following: (cf. [Spellings] 1.)

1.1.1.1 There is no conclusive evidence for ME /a:/ for OE or ON  $\bar{a}$ . Rounded forms are attested by rhymes in which OE or ON  $\bar{a}$  rhymes with OE  $o$  in open syllables (see 2.1.1.2 below), OE  $\bar{o}$  (1.8.1.2), OE  $o$  and the ending of the proper names *Ipomydon*, *Jason* (2.2.1.2). OE or ON  $\bar{a}$  in rhymes is regularly written <o> or <oo>. The spelling <a> is used in *thare* (adv.) "there" 1327 and *are* (adv.) "before" 1412, and in fact *a*-forms are attested elsewhere in these words: *there*, *thare* 1189, 1327, *are* 464, 1023 rhyming with OE  $a$  in open syllables in *care* (inf.), *bare* (pt. sg.), *fare* (inf.), *forfare* (pp.). These *a*-forms, however, are not derived from OE or ON long  $\bar{a}$  (OE  $p\bar{a}r(a)$ ; ON  $\bar{a}r$ ) but from unstressed short  $a$  by open syllable lengthening (OE  $p\bar{a}r(\bar{a}^1)$  or  $p\bar{a}r(a) > p\bar{a}re > /θa:r(ə)/$ ; OE  $\bar{a}r(\bar{a}^2)$  or ON  $\bar{a}r > \bar{a}re > /a:r(ə)/$ ).

For other forms of "there" and "ere", see D. (1) 3.1 and 3.2 below.

It may be noted that ME /a:/ in *tane* (pp.) "taken" 459, 2323 rhymes with *Ipomydon* (proper n.); this suggests that the /a:/ due to analogy of *mā(n)* "to make" was also rounded to /ɔ:/<sup>1)</sup> and later shortened to /o/ (for the shortening, see 2.2.1.2 below).

1.1.1.2 OE (Angl) *a+ld* rhymes with OE *o+ld*: *bolde* (adj.) 1685: *wolde* (pt.sg.); *bold* (pt.sg.) 84: *wold* (pt.sg.); *bolde* (pp.) 548: *golde* (sb.); *manyfolde* (adj.) 1937: *golde* (sb.). These rhymes must have depended on late ME /ou/ < /o/ < /ɔ:/ < OE (Angl) *ā* (by lengthening of *a+ld*).

There are no traces of retention of Saxon *ea* (by breaking of *æ*) > *ēa* > ME /ɛ:/. .

1.1.1.3 OE *a/o* (<Gmc *a*) before the nasal lengthening group *-ng* is written <ɔ> and appears in twelve self-rhymes such as *stronge* (adj.) 9: *wronge* (sb.). This type of rhyme probably depended on /o/, which is very likely to have come from ME /ɔ:/ < late OE *ā* (by lengthening of *a* for Gmc *a+ng*). (cf. [Spellings] 2.2 (b))

For OE *a/o+nd*, see 1.2.2 below.

1.1.1.4 ME /ɔ:/ < OE *ā+w* appears as ME /u:/, instead of the commoner /ou/ (cf. Dobson, II, §172). This is attested by *kenowe* (pres. sg.) 1816 rhyming with *nowe* (adv.).

1.1.2 OE *ō* appears as ME /o:/. There are no traces of /y:/ for OE *ō*. The spelling <u> in *tuke* (pt.sg.) 1552 must suggest

1) The rounded form *toiz* (pres. 3 sg.) is attested in the fourteenth century West Midland text *Pearl* (ed. E. V. Gordon (Oxford, 1952)) 513, where the word is rhymed with OF *o* (*porpos* (sb.), *clos* (adj.)) as well as OE *ā*. Also the <ɔ>-form *tone* (pp.) appears in *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* (ed. J. R. R. Tolkien and E. V. Gordon, 2nd edn., rev. Norman Davis (Oxford, 1967)) 2159 rhyming with *grone* (inf.) with OE *ā*.

shortened /u/ (cf. 2.2.1.3 below). Except for this, OE  $\bar{o}$  in rhymes is regularly written <o> or <oo>. (cf. [Spellings] 3)

1.1.3 Open syllable lengthening of earlier ME /i/ to /e:/ and /u/ to /o:/ occurred particularly in the North or in the North-East Midlands. There are no attesting rhymes for the lengthening in the text.

OE *i* in open syllables occurs in two rhymes only. It is written <e>, but *wetee* (inf.) "know" 1374 rhyming with *sytte* (imp. pl.) attests /i/. For *leve* (inf.) "live": *yeve* (inf.) "give" 953/54, see 1.4.3.2 (b) below.

OE *u* in open syllables does not occur in rhymes. (Cf. the spellings suggesting the absence of the lengthening cited in [Spellings] 4 below.)

1.2 The following features are Northern or North Midland:

1.2.1 Late OE  $\bar{e}+/j/$  or [ç] (+vowel) occurs in three rhymes. Two are self-rhymes *eye* (sb.): *syē* (pt. sg.) "saw" (from OE (Angl) *sēgon* (pt. pl.)) 427/28; *hye* (adj.) "high": *see* (pt. sg.) (probably with ME /i:/ from the pt. pl. OE (Angl) *sēgon*, despite the spelling; but cf. *OED*'s 4-6 *se*, 3- (now vulgar) *see*, under the ind. pt. sg. of "to see") 1101/02. The remaining one is *nye* (adv.): *see* (inf.) 2005/06. This rhyme suggests that *nye*, though spelt with <y>, was pronounced with Northern ME /e:/, which arose owing to the loss of final *-e* and /j/ (<g>). Otherwise we must assume that the inf. of "to see" retains the Kentish type of pronunciation /i:/ <io <ēo (*OED*: 4 *sy*, *si*, Kent *zɣ*, *zɣi*), which is very unlikely. See further [Spellings] 5.

1.2.2 OE *a/o* (<Gmc *a*) + *nd* occurs in forty-six rhymes in all. It almost always rhymes with itself; the following are the excep-

tions: there are two rhymes in which OE *a/o+nd* rhymes with the suffix of the present participle *-and(e)*: *bande* (sb.): *lyvande* (pres. part.) 129/30, *lond* (sb.): *farand* (pres. part.) 281/82. These rhymes attest ME short /a/ derived from unlengthened late OE *a+nd* (or possibly from ME /a:/ < late OE  $\bar{a}$  < OE *a+nd* by shortening). Once OE *a/o+nd* rhymes with ON  $\acute{o}$ : *husband* (sb.) (late OE *būsbanda* < ON *búsþóndi*): *land* (sb.) 553/54. But this is not conclusive evidence for rounding of OE  $\bar{a}$  (< *a+nd*) to /ɔ:/ (> /o/), since the second component of *husband* had ME /a/, beside /o/ (or /o:/) or /u:/ (< late OE *-bunda* < ON *-búandi*), due to association with ME *band* < ON *band*. OED gives <a>-forms from the thirteenth century (3 *busebande*, 4-5 *housband(e)*, 4-*husband*).

An extensive use of the spelling <a> in rhyme words may be noted; <o> is used most frequently in "land", still <a> is slightly preferred to <o> even in this word. In other words with OE *a/o+nd*, <o> is much more limited: "hand", "stand" and "understand" mostly appear with <a>. <sup>1)</sup> But the words which are much less frequently used appear with <o>: *sond* "sand, shore" 2154, 2283, *sond* "message" 2203, *fonde* (pt.sg.) 1922; once with <ou> in *founde* (pp.) 1352, which may have ME /a/ or /o/ from the pt. sg. OE *fand*, *fond*, despite the scribal spelling, rhyming with *band* 1351.

These facts indicate that ME short /a/ for OE *a/o+nd* was usual in the author's speech as well as in the scribe's (cf. the distribution of <a> and <o> in other than rhyme words cited

1) The frequency of occurrence of <o> and <a> in these rhyme words is as follows: *lond(e)* 15 times (89, 273, etc.), *land(e)* 20 times (8, 45, etc.); *bond(e)* 5 times (1111, 1965, etc.), *band(e)* 24 times (7, 129, etc.); *stond* once (2042), *stande* 3 times (1917, 2034, etc.); *undir-*, *vnderstond* 3 times (863, 2278, etc.), *undyr-*, *undirstand* 11 times (417, 1301, etc.).

under [Spellings] 2.2 (a)). The /a/-form was originally a northern form (Jordan, § 31), which gradually spread into the East Midlands, the South and London during the course of the fifteenth century (Mossé, § 25) and finally made its way into standard English. The /a/-forms in our text, therefore, may be better taken as a sign of replacement of a local form with /o/ or /ɔ:/ (<OE *ā* < OE *a* + *nd*) with the new form which is destined to become a standard.

1.2.3 OF /y/ appears as ME /u:/: *porture* (sb.) "bearing" (<OF *port(e)ure*) 121 rhyming with ME /u:/ in *honoure* (sb.). ME /u:/ for OF /y/ was found especially in the North and North Midlands but sometimes also in the South (Jordan, § 230; Dobson, II, § 178 (2)).

1.3. A typically Saxon form (ME Southern) survives only in ME /ɛ:/ for OE *ǣ*<sup>1</sup> < WGmc *ā* (Saxon *ǣ*, non-Saxon *ē*). Out of a total of fifty-one rhymes involving OE *ǣ*<sup>1</sup>, six rhymes attest ME /ɛ:/, rhyming with earlier ME /e/ in open syllables: *ferd* (pp. adj.) "afraid" (with an unstressed vowel -e- in the suffix, though not expressed in the spelling) 1419: *bleryd* (pp.) "dimmed with tears" < early ME *bleri* < OE *\*blerian*; *were* (pt. pl., pt. sg. subj. of 'to be') 1145, 1359, 1654: *spere* (sb.) "spear", *gere* (sb.); *rese* (inf.) "to make an attack" 1831: *nese* (sb.) "nose" < early ME *neose*, *nese* (perhaps from MDu and MLG *nese*); *ete* (pt. sg.) < OE *ǣt* 898: *mete* (sb.) "meal". ME /ɛ:/-forms are, however, much more frequent: twenty-seven rhymes in which OE *ǣ*<sup>1</sup> rhymes with OE *ē*, OE *ēo* or AN *e* (OF *iē*) attest ME /ɛ:/. The words with ME /ɛ:/ are *dede* (sb.) 66, 310, 737, 1701, 1769; *in dede* (adv.) 487; *drede* (sb.) 1343, 2080; *rede* (pres. pl. subj.) 1076; *wede*, *wedys*, *-is* (sb. sg., pl.) "garment(s)" 644, 650, 660, 938, 1029, 1322, 1368,

1378, 1781, 1804; *there* (adv.) 319, 1385, 1399, 1907; *were* (pt. pl., pt. sg. subj. of 'to be') 48, 653, 780, 2190.

ME /ɛ:/ for OE  $\bar{e}^1$  is found outside the Saxon area. Late ME East Midland texts usually have /ɛ:/ for OE  $\bar{e}^1$ , beside commoner /e:/ (cf. Ikegami, 14, 1.2).

1.4. Non-Saxon forms are shown in the following:

1.4.1 The result of *i*-mutation of  $\bar{e}a$  regularly appears as ME /e:/: *nede* (sb.) (from a mutated form) 1744; *zeme* (inf.) "look after" 27; *sene* (pp.) "seen" 2062; *shene* (adj.) 17, 751, 1442, 2126; *berde* (pt. sg.) (with shortening to /e/ before *-rd*) 1629, 2175; *here* (inf.) "hear" 515, 673, 1638, 1651, 1873, 1999, 2308.

1.4.2 *I*-mutation did not affect  $\bar{i}o > \bar{e}o$ ; *dere* (adj.) in the following lines is proved to have ME /e:/: 44, 156, 579, 677, 734, 837, 1046, 1185, 1332, 1424, 1543, 1757, 1784, 1788, 1949, 2210, 2335.

1.4.3 After palatal consonant there are no traces of diphthongization of front vowels.

1.4.3.1 Non-Saxon  $\bar{e}$ , Saxon  $\bar{e}a$  by diphthongization of  $\bar{e}^1$ : ME /e:/ after /j/ is attested in *yere* (sb.) "year" 529, 850, 2336 (pl.).

1.4.3.2 Non-Saxon *e*, Saxon *ie* by diphthongization of *e*:

(a) ME /e:/ (by lengthening of OE (non-Saxon) *e+ld*) after /j/ is attested in *foryelde* (pres. sg. subj.) 841, 991. ME /e:/ (by lengthening of OE (non-Saxon) *e+ld*) after /j/ is attested in *shelde* (sb.) "shield" 536, 910, 1168, 2113.

(b) The rhyme *leve* (inf.) "live": *yeve* (inf.) "give" 953/54 was probably dependent on /i/, despite the spelling. The /i/ in *yeve* may go back to Saxon *ie* after /j/, but it is more likely that the /i/ was due to OSw *giva*, ODa *give* (cf. Björkman, pp. 154-56).<sup>1)</sup>

1) Jordan (§ 79, remark 1) agrees with Luick in explaining /i/ in "give" outside the area of palatal diphthongization from the analogy of OE *niman* "to take".

1.5 In addition to ME /ou/</o/</ɔ:/ from the unbroken OE (Angl) *a* (<*æ*) + *ld* given in 1.1.1.2 above, another Anglian form, smoothing of diphthongs, is attested in the following:

1.5.1 ME /e:/<OE (Angl)  $\bar{e}$  < \* $\bar{e}o$  + [x] in *nere* (adv.) “near” <OE (Angl) *nēr* < \**nēobur* (WS *nēar* < \**nēabur*) 621, 2307 is attested rhyming with *here* (adv.), *here* (inf.). In addition, *nere* 231, 691 rhyming on OF *e* in *ryuere* (sb.), *bachelere* (sb.) may be added as having ME /e:/. For *nere* 1585, 1600 rhyming on OF *ai* in *powere*, see 8.1.1 (c) below.

1.5.2 ME /e:/<OE (Angl)  $\bar{e}$  <  $\bar{a}$  <  $\bar{e}a$  + /k/ in *eke* (adv.) <OE  $\bar{e}ac$  126 is attested rhyming with *seke* (inf.).

1.5.3 *Sawe* (pt. sg.) “saw” 973 rhyming with *felawe* (sb.) (<late OE *fēolaga* <ON *fēlagi*) attests ME /au/, which was due to the pt. pl. *sazzen* > *sawen*; this pt. pl. had been formed on Anglian *sab* (pt. sg.) with OE *æ* by smoothing of *ea* + [x] (Saxon *ea* > *e*) (Jordan, § 63, remark 1). See [Spellings] 7.

1.6 The following features are West Midland:

1.6.1 OE *a/o* (<Gmc  $\bar{a}$ ) + nasal in closed syllables occurs in twenty-five rhymes. It is invariably written <*a*> in and outside rhymes (cf. [Spellings] 2.1), but the following rhymes suggest OE *o*. For OE *a/o* in open syllables, there are no traces of OE *o* (>/ɔ:/), see 1.7.2.1 below.

(a) The following *a/o*-words rhyme with the ending of the proper names *Ipomydon* and *Jason*: *man* (sb.) 192, 919, 1634, 2306; *gentilman* (sb.) 280; *lemman* (sb.) 728; *pan*, *panne* (adv.) “then” 23, 942, 1055.

(b) *Man* (sb.) 1562 rhymes with OE *o* in *vppon* (prep.).

(c) *Man* (sb.) 306 rhyming with OE  $\bar{a}$  in *anone* (adv.) (with

shortening of /ɔ:/ < OE *ā* to /o/, see 2.2.1.2 below) probably indicates OE *o*.

1.6.2 OE *æ* is represented by ME /a/ (see 1.7.1 below), but exceptionally, the following rhymes indicate ME /e/, which was typical of the West-Midlands and Kentish; *faste* (adj., adv.) 1715, 1810 rhyming with *reste* (sb.), *ryste* (inf.).<sup>1)</sup>

1.7 The following features are non-West Midland:

1.7.1 OE *æ* is regularly written ⟨a⟩ both in and outside rhymes. ME /a/ for OE *æ* is attested in the following: (For /e/, see 1.6.2 immediately above.)

(a) OE *æ* rhymes with OE *a*; *faste* (adv.) 1711, 2161: *last* (adj.).

(b) OE *æ* rhymes with ON *a* or MDu, MLG *a*; *satte* (pt. sg.) 1315: *gatte* (pt. sg.) < ON *gat*; *blakke* (adj.) 1062 (from an uninflected form with OE *æ*): *lakke* (sb.) < early ME *lac* < MLG *lak*, MDu *lac*.

(c) OE *æ* rhymes with OF *a+s* (cf. note 1 for 2.1.1.3 below); *was* (pt. sg.) 356, 509: *case* (sb.), *Allas* (int.).

(d) OE *æ* rhymes with OF *a* in open syllables (cf. 2.1.1.3, note 1); *was* (pt. sg.) 671, 800, 1311, 2116, 2205: *chase* (sb.), *place* (sb.).

In addition to these, the case of the OE *æ*-words *faste* (adv.) 1267, 2053 and *tobraste* (pt. sg.) 1160 < OE *tobærst* (pt. sg. of *tobærstan*) with metathesis rhyming with *caste* (pt. sg.) < ON *kasta* probably also show ME /a/ for OE *æ*. But this is inconclusive, since “cast” appeared with /e/, beside /a/ in late ME. *OED* gives ⟨e⟩-forms such as the following: inf. 3–5 *keste(n)*; pt. 3–7

1) It is unlikely that “rest” (sb., vb.) had ME /a/ from a non-mutated variant with *æ* (OE *ræst* (sb.), *ræstan* (vb.), beside mutated *rest*, *restan*). The spelling ⟨y⟩ in *ryste* may suggest the raising of ME /e/ to /i/ after /r/ in the scribe’s language; *ryste* (inf.) with ⟨y⟩ occurs again in 1744 (not in rhyme).

*kest(e)*; pp. 4-6 *keste(e)*. Cf. *kest* (pt. sg.) 427 with ⟨e⟩ (not in rhyme).<sup>1)</sup>

1.7.2 OE *a/o* (<Gmc *a*) + nasal

1.7.2.1 OE *a/o* + nasal in open syllables, regularly appears as ME /a:/. The following are the attesting rhymes: See [Spellings] 2.1.

(a) *Shame* (sb.) 1724, 1747 rhymes with OF *a* in an open syllable in *blame* (sb.).

(b) *Game* (sb.) 61, 709, 896, 1520, 1556, 2216, 2332 rhymes with ON *a* in an open syllable in *same* (adj.), *insame* (adv.).

(c) *Game* (sb.) 364 rhymes with *tane* (inf.) "take" (MS *tame*) with ME long /a:/ due to analogy of *mā(n)* "to make".

1.7.2.2 OE *a/o* + nasal + consonant constituting lengthening groups appears as ⟨o⟩ before *-ng* (see 1.1.1.3 above) and as /a/ before *-nd* (see 1.2.2 above). The latter attests OE *a*.

1.7.3 OE long and short *ēo* appear as ME /e:/ and /e/. There are no traces of the rounded vowels /ø:/ and /ø/. ME /e:/ for OE *ēo* is attested frequently in such rhymes as *fre* (adj.) 1: *me* (pron.); *dere* (sb.) "deer" 64: *ryuere* (sb.). ME /e/ for OE *eo* is attested in *kerve* (inf.) 59: *serve*; *sterve* (inf.) 168: *serve* (inf.).

1.7.4 OE long and short *ȳ* regularly appear as ME /i:/ and /i/ in rhymes. See further [Spellings] 8.

1.7.4.1 OE long *ȳ* occurs only in four rhymes. ME /i:/ for OE *ȳ* is attested in *pryde* (sb.) 1598, 1861, 2049, 2259: *besyde* (adv.), *ryde* (inf.), *syde* (sb.), *tyde* (sb.).

1.7.4.2 OE short *y* occurs in thirty-seven rhymes, all of which

1) The infinitives *br̄est* 1722 and *tobrest̄e* 970 rhyming with *caste* (inf.) may suggest /e/ in *caste*. But this is again inconclusive, since the forms of the verb "burst" were greatly mixed in the 14-15th centuries and /a/ appeared also in infinitives (see OED: 5-6 *barst*; 5-6 *br̄ast*).

attest ME /i/. The OE *y*-words with ME /i/ are *kyng* (sb.) 3, 111, etc. (in thirty-three rhymes): *-yng* (the ending of the verbal substantives); *synne* (sb.) 449: *blynye* (inf.); *fille* (sb.) 184: *wille* (sb.); *kyss* (inf.) 2137: *blisse* (sb.).

OE *y*+*nd* also appears as ME /i:/ (<OE *ȳ* by lengthening of OE *y* before *-nd*); *mankynde* (sb.) 503: *fynde* (inf.).

OE *y*+*g* in *lye* (sb.) “untruth” <OE *lye* 1893 is also shown to have ME /i:/, rhyming with *bye* (inf.) “hasten”.

1.8 The following features are Eastern:

1.8.1 The raising of the ME long open vowels /ɛ:/ to /e:/ and /ɔ:/ to /o:/ is characteristic of the Northern and Eastern dialects (Dobson, II, § 121).

1.8.1.1 The raising of ME /ɛ:/ to /e:/.

(a) Out of a total of thirty rhymes involving OE  $\bar{a}^2$  <WGmc *ai*+*i/j* (Kentish  $\bar{e}$ , non-Kentish  $\bar{a}$ ), nineteen rhymes attest ME /e:/, and two rhymes attest ME /ɛ:/. This indicates that ME /ɛ:/ from OE  $\bar{a}^2$  was commonly raised to ME /e:/ in the author's language. Although ME /e:/ might have come from Old Kentish  $\bar{e}$ , the occurrence of /e:/ is so frequent that it seems unlikely that /e:/ was merely due to Kentish influence. The following OE  $\bar{a}^2$ -words are shown to have ME /e:/, rhyming with OE  $\bar{e}$  or OE  $\bar{e}o$ : *lede* (inf., pres. sg., imp. sg.) 703, 1120, 1336, 1338, 1476, 1494: *mede* (sb.) “reward”, *stede* (sb.) “horse”; *ledis* (pres. 3 sg.) 1297: *stedis* (sb. pl.) “horses”; *euerydel(le)* (adv.) 352, 434, 453, 636, 867, 1038, 1410: *wel* (adv.) “well” <OE *wel*; *bydene* (adv.) <*bid*+OE  $\bar{a}ne$  439, 746: *bytwe*ne (prep.), *quene* (sb.); *lere* (inf.) “learn” 278, 294, 688: *here* (adv.). The OE  $\bar{a}^2$ -words that are rhymed on OE  $\bar{e}a$  or OE *e* in an open syllable and proved to have ME /ɛ:/ are

*bydene* (adv.) 1405: *eme* (sb.) "uncle"; *ere* (adv.) "before" 1584: *bere* (inf.).

(b) OE *ēa* occurs in eight rhymes. ME /e:/ for OE *ēa* is shown in the following: *dede* (sb.) "death" (see *OED*: *dead* sb.<sup>2</sup>)<sup>1</sup> 1005 rhyming with *nede* (inf.) <OE *nēodian*; *bad* (pt. sg.) "commanded" 1729 rhyming with *yede* (pt. sg.). This *bad*, though spelt with <a>, must have come from the pt. sg of OE *bēodan*, *bēad* and had ME /e:/ < /ε:/. In addition to these, *leve*, *leffe* (sb.) "leave, permission" <OE *lēaf*, *lēafe* (acc.) 198, 2131 rhyming with *greffe* (sb.) "grief, hardship" and *preue* (inf.) may also imply the raising, though ME /e:/ in "leave" is generally attributed to an analogical influence of the related verb OE (Angl) *lēfan*.

(c) Rhymes between OF *ai*, *ei* (AN *e*) and OF *ie* (AN *e*) may suggest the raising: *eyre* (sb.) "heir" (with a monophthong /ɛ:/ (<OF *ei*) > /e:/) 1596: *matere* (sb.); *powere* (sb.) 1678: *mystere* (sb.) "occupation". *Powere* (sb.) 1586, 1599 rhyming with *nere* (adv.) <OE (Angl) *ē* (WS *ēa*) (cf. 1.5.1 above) probably also indicates ME /e:/ < /ε:/ < OF *ai*.

#### 1.8.1.2 The raising of ME /ɔ:/ to /o:/.

Out of a total of eighty-one rhymes involving OE *ā*, ten rhymes attest ME /o:/, rhyming with OE *ō*. The OE *ā*-words with ME /o:/ are the following: *also* (adv.) 786: *do* (inf.); *wo* (adj.) 1531: *do* (inf.); *so* (adv.) 1785: *too* (adv.); *rode* (pt. sg., pt. pl.) 1110, 1973: *stode* (pt. sg.), *flode* (sb.) "flood, river"; *anon* (adv.) 261, 886, 1691: *vndone* (pp.), *camme* (pt. sg.) (with ME /o:/ <OE *cōm*, *cwōm*, despite the spelling), *sone* (adv.) "soon"; *none* (pron.) 1620, 1807: *ryght-sone* (adv.), *done* (pp.).

1) The final /d/ for /θ/ in *dede* (sb.) is due to ON. Jordan §207, remark 3 suggests that the /d/ can be from East Norse.

1.8.2 Unrounding of /o/ to /a/ is indicated by *cord* (sb.) 1496 rhyming with the suffix *-ward* in *backwarde* (adv.). The unrounded form /a/ for /o/, found very early in Western and South-Western texts, appears not uncommonly in fifteenth-century London English, which shows the unrounded form exists in its surrounding dialects (Dobson, II, § 87).

1.8.3 It may be noted that there are no attesting rhymes for the loss of [ç] and [x] in final position or before /t/. It is considered that the loss of these consonants was characteristic of the fifteenth-century Eastern dialects and that in educated London speech these were commonly retained still in the sixteenth century (Dobson, II, §§ 140, 424). The absence of evidence for the loss in our text may suggest that the author was familiar with the older type of speech in which [ç] and [x] were pronounced, although in his everyday speech these may have already been eliminated.

In our rhymes [ç] or [x] is always expressed in spellings as <gh> and rhymed only on itself, e.g. *drough* (pt. sg.) "drew": *inoughe* (adv.) 407/08; *tboght* (sb.): *broght* (pp.) 145/46; *caught* (pp.): *bytaught* (pt. sg.) 887/88; *knyght* (sb.): *myght* (sb.) 201/02.

It is not unusual that East Midland texts written later than 1400 do not have any sign of the loss of these consonants (cf. Ikegami, 14, 9.1). See further [Spellings] 11.

(2) Phonological features for dating of the original text.

2.1 The following features began to appear in late ME (roughly between 1300 and 1400):

2.1.1 Open syllable lengthening of earlier ME /e/, /o/ and /a/.

Although the short vowels /e/, /o/ and /a/ in open syllables

began to be lengthened from the first half of the thirteenth century (still earlier in the North), rhymes between these vowels and corresponding long vowels do not frequently appear in late fourteenth- and early fifteenth-century East Midland texts (cf. Ikegami, 14, 3.1 (a)). In our text, however, there are many examples of such rhymes. Note especially frequent occurrences and varieties of rhymes between the earlier ME /e/ in open syllables and the originally long /ɛ:/.

2.1.1.1 Earlier ME /e/ in open syllables has been lengthened to /ɛ:/. Out of a total of twenty-seven rhymes involving earlier ME /e/ (other than of OF origin) in open syllables, eleven rhymes attest the lengthening. The following words with earlier ME /e/ in open syllables are proved to have /ɛ:/, rhyming with OE  $\bar{a}^1$ , OE  $\bar{a}^2$ , OE  $\bar{e}a$  or ON  $a$ : *stede* (sb.) "place" 1535: *dede* (adj.) "dead"; *bere* (inf.) "bear" 1583: *ere* (adv.) "before"; *gere* (sb.) "gear" 1360: *were* (pt. pl. of 'to be'); *spere* (sb.) "spear" 1146, 1653: *were* (pt. pl., pt. sg. subj.); *bleryd* (pp.) 1420: *ferd* (pp. adj.); *nese* (sb.) 1832: *rese* (inf.); *mete* (sb.) "meat, food" 301, 753, 897, 2255: *sete* (sb.) "seat", *ete* (pt. sg.) (<OE  $\bar{a}t$ ). (Earlier ME /e/ in open syllables rhyming on OE  $\bar{a}^1$  has already been cited in 1.3 above.)

2.1.1.2 Earlier ME /o/ < OE *o* in open syllables has been lengthened to /ɔ:/. Out of a total of seven rhymes involving earlier ME /o/ in open syllables, three rhymes attest the lengthening, rhyming on OE  $\bar{a}$ : *byfore* (adv.) 1293, 1640, 2231: *pore* (adv.), *more* (adj. as sb.). *Befforne* (adv.) 2300 rhyming on OE  $\bar{a}$  in *on* (pron.) "one" probably depended on short /o/; this presupposes the failure of open syllable lengthening in *befforne* (and possibly with the loss of /r/, see 2.1.7.3 below) and the shortening of /ɔ:/ < OE

$\bar{a}$  in *on* (cf. 2.2.1.2 below). Elsewhere, *be-*, *byforne* (adv.) 1220, 1227 with short /o/ is attested, rhyming with OE *o* in closed syllables in *horn* (sb.) and *corvyn* (pp.) "carved" < OE *corven* (pp. of *ceorfan*). Such rhymes show that open syllable lengthening was inhibited when there was a syllabic consonant in the following syllable (cf. Dobson, II, § 13 (2) (a)).

2.1.1.3 Earlier ME /a/ < OE *a* in open syllables has been lengthened to ME /a:/.<sup>1)</sup> Out of a total of twenty-five rhymes involving earlier ME /a/ in open syllables, five rhymes attest the lengthening: *glad* (adj.) (from an inflected form like *glade* (nom. masc. pl.)) 599: *made* (pt. sg.) (with ME /a:/ through the loss of the following /k/ in the antecedent form *makede* < OE *macode*); *haue* (inf., pres. sg.) 258, 1622, 1733: *sawe*, *saffe* (inf., pres. sg. subj.) (with ME /a:/ through the monophthongization of AN *au* (AN *sauver*, OF *salver*)); *game* (sb.) 364: *tane* (inf.) "take" (MS *tame*) (mentioned in 1.7.2.1 (c) above).

2.1.2 The loss of final *-e*.

2.1.2.1 The loss of final *-e* after ME long /i:/ is attested in the following:

(a) OF nouns etymologically ending in *-ie* rhymes with ME final /i:/: *company(e)* (sb.) 200, 2108: *redy* (adj.), *I* (pron.); *curtessy*, *cortessye* (sb.) 328, 334: *bertely* (adv.), *by* (adv.); *mastrye* (sb.) 1876: *crye* (sb.); *vilanye* (sb.) 1153: *I* (pron.).

(b) There are no signs of retention of the inflectional ending *-e*: *bye* (inf.) "buy" 1795: *I* (pron.); *bye(e)* (inf.) "hasten" 934, 1930, 1952: the suffix *-ly*, *I* (pron.), *crye* (sb.); *bye* (sb.) (in the

1) OF *a* in open syllables is sometimes identified with short /a/: *chase* (sb.) 672: *was* (pt. sg.); *place* (sb.) 799, 1312, 2115, 2206: *was* (pt. sg.). Similarly, OF *a* + *s* appears as short /a/: *case* (sb.) 355: *was* (pt. sg.); *Allas* (int.) 510: *was* (pt. sg.). (These rhymes have been cited in 1.7.1 (c), (d) above.)

phrase, *in hys, on hys* "in haste") 423, 629, 1036, 1127, 1460, 1667, 1985, 2159: *by(e)* (prep., adv.), *crye* (sb.), the suffixes *-y* (<OE *iġ*), *-ly*.

2.1.2.2 Unvoicing of /v/ to /f/ due to the loss of final *-e* is indicated in *on lyve* (adj.) "alive" <OE *on+līfe* (dat. sg. of *līf*) 2093: *wyffe* (sb.).

2.1.3 *Were* (pt. sg. subj. of 'to be') 2012: *atyre* (sb.) "attire" indicates the late ME shortening of /e:/ <OE  $\bar{e}^1$  to /i/ in a weakly stressed form (cf. the form *thyr* "there (with OE  $\bar{e}^1$ ) in a London document of the early 15th century cited by Kihlbom, p. 75). The OE  $\bar{e}$ -word *lete* (pt. sg.) "let, lost one's life" 2201 rhyming with *scomfyte* (pp.) "defeated" <OF *desconfit* (pp. of *desconfire*) probably also implies the same type of shortening; but possibly *lete* had shortened /e/ (<sup>1</sup>) (3-5 *lett* (pt. of "to let" (vb.<sup>1</sup>)) adopted from an unstressed form or from a weak pt. (cf. 5 *lettid*). Such forms as 4-5 *scumfet*, 5 *sckonfet* cited by OED under pt. and pp. of *scomfit* may suggest that the word had /e/, beside the more usual /i/ (or ME /i:/, cf. 4 *scumfyghte*), in the

- 1) Late OE or early ME shortening of /e:/ resulted in /e/. Shortened /e/ before consonant groups is attested in *spedde* (pp.) 1791: *bedde*; *felle* (pt. pl.) "happened" 1456: *telle* (inf.). The shortening of OE  $\bar{e}$  resulted in /a/ when it occurred in OE, and /e/ when it occurred in ME; our rhymes attest /a/ and /e/ by shortening of OE  $\bar{a}^2$  before consonant groups: /a/ is shown in *lasse* (adj.) 1954: *paste* (pt. pl.); /e/ is shown in [m]ente (pt. sg.) 758: *wente* (pt. sg.); *lesse* (adj.) 37, 71, 369, 2268: *goodnesse* (sb.), *gesse* (pres. sg.), *gresse* (sb.) "grease" (<OF *graise, greise, gresse, chesse* (sb.); *lest* (adj.) "least" 2236: *feste* (sb.) "feast"; *laste* (inf.) (despite the spelling) 615: *best* (adj.). *Flesche* (sb.) 959 rhyming with *lessbe* (sb.) "leash" (OF *lesse, laisse*, with the final consonant /ʃ/ from North French /ʃ(i)ʃ/, instead of /ʃ(i)s/ in common French. Jordan, § 260) may suggest short /e/ from the homiletically frequent "fleshly" <OE *flāst+lit* in which the reflex of OE  $\bar{a}^2$  was duly shortened before the consonant group /-ʃl-/ (Jordan, § 23, remark 1). The second component *-dele* in *euerydele* (adv.) 2252 rhyming with *castelle* (sb.) is likely to have had short /e/, by shortening under reduced stress.

final syllable when secondary stress was given to it.

2.1.4 The raising of ME /e/ to /i/ before *-ng* is indicated in *lynge* (inf.) "linger" <ON *lengja* 1013 rhyming with *beuyn-kyngē* (sb.). This type of raising began in the thirteenth century in the South-East and became general before 1500 (Dobson, II, §§76, 77 (a)).

2.1.5 The lowering of ME /e/ before /r/ to /a/ is indicated in *berd* (pt. pl.) "heard" (with shortening of OE (Angl) *ē* to /e/ before the consonant group *-rd* in the antecedent form) 2229 rhyming with the suffix *-ward* in *thbedyrward* (adv.). /a/ for /e/ before /r/, found in the early fourteenth century in the North, began to appear in the South by the end of the century and became common in the fifteenth century (Dobson, II, §64). See further [Spellings] 9.

2.1.6 The merger of ME /iu/ </eu/ <OE *ēo+w* with L *ū* (=OF /y/) is shown in *trew* (adj.) 225 rhyming with *Jesu* (proper n.) <L *Iēsū*. *Tholomen(e)* (proper n.) 34, 149, 237, 639 rhyming with *trew(e)* or *new* (adj.) may be added as indicating the merger. Note the spelling <ew> in the proper name. (Cf. [Spellings] 10 below.) As the French pronunciation /y:/ was not replaced by /iu/ but retained in very cultivated speech, late ME poets sometimes show reluctance to rhyme OE *ēo+w* with OF /y/. It is from late fifteenth-century texts onwards that these two began to be rhymed together, as far as the East Midland texts I have elsewhere examined are concerned (cf. Ikegami, 14, 8 (a)). Cf. [Spellings] 10.

2.1.7 Assimilatory loss of consonants is shown in the following:

2.1.7.1 The loss of final /d/ after /n/ is attested in *greybound* (sb.) 1027 rhyming with *towne* (sb.). *Ground* (sb.) 1740 rhyming with *crowne* (sb.) possibly also show the loss, but this is not conclu-

sive, since *crowne* had a variant with the excrescent *-d* (OED: 6 *crownde*).

2.1.7.2 The loss of final /t/ after /s/ is attested in *paste* (pt. pl.) 1953 rhyming with *lasse* (adj.).

2.1.7.3 The loss of /r/ before /s/ is attested in *cours* (sb.) <OF *cours* 540 (see OED: *course* I. 5.) rhyming with *victoryus* (adj.). A long vowel may have been retained even after the loss of /r/ (ME /ku:s/, see Jordan, § 251). The rhymes *on* (pron.) "one": *befforne* (adv.) 2299/30 cited in 2.1.1.2 above and *bord* (sb.): *wode* (adj.) "mad" 1655/56 may possibly suggest the loss of /r/ in *befforne* and *bord* before the dentals /n/ and /d/ (cf. Jordan, § 166).

2.2 The following features are characteristic of early ModE (after 1400):

2.2.1 The shortening of long vowels before single final consonants is shown in the following:

2.2.1.1 The shortening of ME /e:/ to /i/ before /v/ is indicated in *leve* (sb.) "permission" (with late ME /e:/ < /ɛ:/; see 1.8.1.1 (b) above) 2319 rhyming with *discryve* (inf.) "write down, describe" <OF *descriv-re* (cf. the form *lyue* in Wyclif's works (c. 1380), cited by OED under *leave* (sb.)).

2.2.1.2 The shortening of ME /ɔ:/ to /o/ before /n/ is indicated in *anone* (adv.) 305 rhyming with *man* (sb.) (with OE *o*; see 1.6.1 (c)). *Anon(e)* (adv.) 316, 451, 1341, *gone* (pp.) 929 and *goone* (inf.) 1244 rhyming with the proper names *Ipomydon* and *Jason* probably also imply the shortening. Cf. also *on* (pron.) "one" with probably short /o/ 2299 rhyming with *befforne* (adv.) cited in 2.1.1.2 above. In addition, the rhymes between the preposition *on*, *vppon* and the OE *ā*-words *none* (pron.) 98 and *stone* (sb.) 241

may also indicate shortened /o/ in the OE *ā*-words; alternatively, this type of rhyme can be explained from the open syllable lengthening in an extended adverbial form of *on*, *vppon*, like *one*, *vppone* (see Dobson, I, p. 108).

2.2.1.3 The shortening of ME /o:/ to /u/ before /k/ and /n/ is attested in *tuke* (pt. sg.) "took" 1552 rhyming with *vp* (adv.) and *some* (adv.) "soon" 1631 rhyming with *somme* (pron.) "some".

2.2.2 The raising of ME /e:/ to early ModE /i:/ is shown in *thre* (num.) 395 and *see* (inf.) 1365 rhyming with *compaigne*, *companye* (sb.) <OF *compaignie*, AN *compainie*. Early ModE long /i:/ in the final syllable of this French word can be explained from re-stressing of short /i<sup>1</sup>/ after the diphthongization of ME /i:/. Otherwise, we must assume that *thre* and *see* had ME /i:/ from Old Kentish *io* < *ēo*, which is very unlikely. It may be noted that in East Midland texts this type of rhyme (i.e. rhymes between ME /e:/ and /i:/ in final position) is found in texts of the second half of the fifteenth century (cf. Ikegami, 14, 3.2 (a) and 5.1 (d)).

### [Spellings]

The following spellings which are used in other than rhyme words may be noted:

1. OE *ā* and ON *á* (cf. [Sounds] 1.1.1)

OE or ON *ā* is consistently written <o> or <oo> as in *home* (adv.) 596, *roos* (pt. sg.) 875, which suggests the rounding to /ɔ:/.  


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1) ME long /i:/ <OF *-ie* (with the loss of final *-e*; see 2.1.2.1 (a) above) in final position was reduced in ME to short /i/ under weak stress (see Dobson, II, § 275).

2. OE *a/o* (<Gmc *a*) + nasal

2.1 OE *a/o* before nasal (+consonant other than constituting a lengthening group) (cf. [Sounds] 1.6.1 and 1.7.2.1)

OE *a/o* + nasal in closed syllables is regularly written <a>: *can*, *kanne* (pres. sg.) 735, etc.; *gann*, *ganne*, *bygan* (pt. sg., pt. pl.) 1261, etc.; *man*, *woman*, *gentillman*, *lem(m)an* 72, etc.; *than*, *pan* (adv., conj.) 149, etc.;<sup>1)</sup> *wan*, *wanne* (pt. sg.) 978, etc.; *whan* (conj.) 365, etc. 25 times, beside *when* <OE *hwenne* twice in 2005, 2141.

OE *a/o* + nasal in open syllables is consistently written with <a>: *game*, *-ys* 372, etc., *shame* 1156, etc., *name* 1601, etc.

OE *a/o* + *nc* (/ŋk/) is written <a>: *dranke* (pt. pl.) 1719; *thanke*, *-id*, *-yd* (vb. pres., pt.) 217, etc., once *thangkyd* (pt. pl.) 22 with <g> after <n>.

2.2 OE *a/o* before nasal + consonant (constituting a lengthening group)

(a) OE *a/o* + *nd* (cf. [Sounds] 1.2.2 and 1.7.2.2)

One of the striking features of the text is a frequent occurrence of the spelling <a> for OE *a/o* + *nd*. We have already seen this in rhyme words ([Sounds] 1.2.2). In other than rhyme words, <o> co-exists with <a> only in "land". Other OE *a/o*-words which appear outside rhymes "hand" and "stand" are written always with <a>.<sup>2)</sup> Also "husband" is always with <a>.<sup>3)</sup>

(b) OE *a/o* + *ng* (cf. [Sounds] 1.1.1.3 and 1.7.2.2)

1) There is no distinction in spellings between the adverb "then" and the conjunction "than". The conjunction also occurs with <a> (*than*, *pan*) 174, 432, 948, 1246, 2326.

2) *lond*, *londis*, *-es* 17 times (11, 67, etc.); *land*, *landis* 17 times (521, 526, etc.); *band*, *bandis*, *bare-bandyd* (pp.) 3 times (876, 2057, 2174); *stand*, *standis* (pres. 3 sg.) twice (2016, 2063).

3) *husband* 8 times (566, 573, etc.)

In other than rhymes, OE *a/o+ng* occurs fourteen times. Once it is spelt with <a> (*sprang* (pt. sg.) 131); the rest are spelt with <o>.<sup>1)</sup>

### 3. OE *ō* (cf. [Sounds] 1.1.2)

For OE *ō*, <o> and <oo> are regular; <u> only appears in *muste* (pt. sg.) 1284, 1461, 2195, in which the shortening of /o:/ to /u/ is expected under weak stress or before the consonant group *-st*. Jordan in § 35 remark 2 suggests the analogy of *schulde* and *wulde*. *Furth(e)* (adv.) with <u> appears twice 575, 784, which suggests short /u/. The /u/ may also be explained from the shortening of ME /o:/ (<OE *ō* by lengthening of OE *o+rð*/).

### 4. OE *i* and *u* in open syllables (cf. [Sounds] 1.1.3)

OE *i* in open syllables is spelt <y> or <e>; <y> occurs in *lyve*, *lyffe*, *lyveth* (inf., pres. sg.) 862, 1286, 1588 and *wrytte* (pp.) 2222; <e> occurs in *prekid*, *prekyd* (pt. sg.) 975, 1267, 1711, *wete* (inf.) 928, *sekir* (adj.) 1878, *bedyr* (adv.) 775, *thedyr*, *-ir* (adv.) 721, 930, 1538, 2175, 2193, 2239; also the OF *i*-word *preuyest* (adj., super.) 1964 has <e>. The spelling <e> may indicate a lowering of /i/ to /e/, rather than the open syllable lengthening of /i/ to /e:/.

For OE *u* in open syllables, the spelling <-dd> after OE *u* in *wodde* (sb.) "wood" 64, 375, 1216 (beside *wode* 363) suggests that the lengthening was inhibited and that OE *u* in open syllables remained as short /u/.

1) *among* (prep.) 811, etc.; *longe* (adj.) 243, etc.; *honge* (imp. sg.) 2000; *ronge* (pt. sg.) 788; *wronge* (sb.) 16.

5. Late OE  $\bar{e}+/j/$  or  $[ç]$  (+vowel) (cf. [Sounds] 1.2.1)

For late OE  $\bar{e}+/j/$  or  $[ç]$  (+vowel),  $\langle y \rangle$  appears in *hye* (adj.) "high" 60, 106, 1569, 1897; *dye* (pres. sg.) 178, *dyed* (pt. sg.) 2346; *nye* (adv.) 139, 1917, 1927;  $\langle ey \rangle$  in *eye* (sb.) 969, *eyne* (pl.) "eyes" 1420. There are no forms indicating Northern ME /e:/.

## 6. OE Saxon (ME Southern) and non-Saxon forms

6.1 Saxon *ie*, non-Saxon *e* after /j/ (cf. [Sounds] 1.4.3.2 (b))

Both  $\langle e \rangle$  and  $\langle i \rangle$  are employed in this class of words: "give" appears with  $\langle e \rangle$  and  $\langle i \rangle$ : *yeve* (inf., pres. sg., imp. sg.), *yewen* (pp.) 485, 1344, 2082, 2300, beside *yif(f)* (inf., pres. sg. subj., imp. sg.), *foryiffe* (pres. sg.) 488, 1153, 1517, 1724, 1747; "gift" appears with  $\langle e \rangle$  and  $\langle i \rangle$ : *yefftes* (pl.) (formed on ME *yive*, *yeve*, on the model of ON *gipt*) 2287, 2299, beside *yiftes* (pl.) 547, 2271, 2311, and /i/ in *gifte* 1388 is attested rhyming with *swyfte* (adj.); "forget" appears with  $\langle e \rangle$ : *foryete* (inf.) 938; "yet" always appears with  $\langle i \rangle$ : *yit* 148, 510, 881, 1209, 1661, 2048 (the pronunciation /i/ was due to the raising of /e/ (OE (non-Saxon) *gēt* (Saxon *gīet*) with shortening of  $\bar{e}$  to *e* under weak stress)).

6.2 Saxon *sil-*, non-Saxon *sel-*

The group *sel-* does not occur in rhymes. Outside rhymes, *sel-* appears and is always spelt  $\langle sel- \rangle$ : *myself(fe)* 216, 371; *hyrself(e)* 478, 496, 884, etc.; *hymselfe* 1742; *yourselfe* 170.

7. The Anglian type of smoothed form  $\alpha$  (Saxon *ea*)+[x] (cf. [Sounds] 1.5.3)

The pt. sg. and pt. pl. of "see" in other than rhymes appear regularly as *saw(e)* 306, 404, etc., with one exception of *sawghe* (pt. sg.) 1467 with final  $\langle -gh \rangle$  ( $\langle$ OE (Angl) *sæb*). The same type of smoothing is shown in *faught* (pt. sg., pt. pl.) 1903, 2046,

2050, 2057 (all not in rhymes).

8. OE short *y̆* (long *y̅* occurs only in rhymes.) (cf. [Sounds] 1.7.4)

OE short *y* is mostly spelt with ⟨y⟩ or ⟨i⟩. The occurrences of other forms are limited to the following: ⟨e⟩ occurs in *beryed* (pt. sg.) 1543, in which the lowering of /i/ < OE *y* to /e/ before intervocalic *r* is normally expected (see Dobson, II, §§75, 80). Also *stert(e)* (pt. sg.) 1488, 1691, 1703, 1737, 1830 has ⟨e⟩, but probably from OE \**steortian*. ⟨u⟩, indicating /y/ or /u/, occurs in *luste* (pt. pl.) 1136 and *hurt* (pp.) 1915 (with OE *y* from OF /y/). Before /tʃ/, /u/ < /y/ is suggested in the following: *suche* with ⟨u⟩ occurs in twenty-nine times (102, 130, etc.), once with ⟨ou⟩ *souche* 2290; *moche* with ⟨o⟩ occurs in ten times (14, 18, etc.), beside *myche* with ⟨y⟩ seven times (40, 442, etc.). Other words of this class, *whiche* 1528, etc. and *iche*, *ycbe* “each” 398, etc. are always spelt with ⟨i⟩ or ⟨y⟩. *Kusse*, *cusse* (sb.) /kus(ə)/ “kiss” 704, 756 is from OE *coss* (sb.), not from OE *cyssan* (vb.). (See OED: *kiss* (sb.).)

9. /a/ for /e/ before /r/ (cf. [Sounds] 2.1.5 above)

The inverted spelling ⟨er⟩ for /ar/ appears in *sterke-dede* (adj.) 1740. This shows the lowering of /e/ to /a/ before /r/. Apart from this instance, /er/ is written ⟨er⟩, e.g. *clerke* 53, and /ar/ is written ⟨ar⟩, e.g. *harme* 1269.

10. AN /iu/ or /y:/ and OE *ēo+w* (cf. [Sounds] 2.1.6)

AN /iu/ (<iw>) or /y:/ (<u>) is written ⟨ew⟩ in *purseyd* (pt. pl.) “pursued” (<AN *pursiwer*, -*suer*) 2053, just as OE *ēo+w* in *new* (adj.) 1529, etc. is written ⟨ew⟩. Also the proper name *Tholomew* is written with ⟨ew⟩ 2292, 2297 as when in rhymes.

This shows that there was no distinction between French /y/ and ME /iu/ of OE origin.

11. [ç] and [x] (cf. [Sounds] 1.8.3 above)

[ç] and [x] are almost always written <gh> and once <ȝ> (*thowȝ* (conj.) 1382). Exceptions occur when [x] stands in final position; <f> or <ff> appears in *dwerfe*, *dwerffe* (sb.) (<OE *dweorb*) 1674, 1714, 1723, 1770, 1810, which show the late ME change of [x] to /f/. This change occurred in Eastern and dialectal speech (Dobson, II, § 371). *Throw*, *prow* (prep.) "through" <OE *prub* 387, 812, 1148, 1270, 2119 occurs, beside *thrughe*, *throughe* *throghe* 630, 993, 1533, 1537, 1768, 1769, 1931. This suggests that the final [x] in this word was lost under weak stress (Jordan, § 294, remark). The unstressed forms *not* 792, etc., and once *nat* 1403 (<OE *nō(wi)ht*, *nā(wi)ht*) are used throughout when not in rhymes. *Noght* appears only in rhymes (164, 175, 735, etc.).

12. "Any" appears in two forms: *any* <OE *āniȝ* (with late OE shortening of *ā* to *ǣ*) > ME /a/ 378, 518, 1454, 1567, 2026, beside *ony* <OE *āniȝ* (with ME shortening of /ɔ:/ < *ā* to /o/) 360, 437.

13. "Either" appears in two forms: *eyther* (<OE *ǣȝðer*) 1113, 1137, 1798, 2210; *neyther* 1902, beside *outher* (<OE *āwðer*, *āuðer* < *ābwæðer*) 910.

14. Variation between <y> and <g> is shown in initial consonants; <g> was due to ON. *Yaff(e)* (pt. sg.) 76, etc. beside *gaff(e)* (pt. sg., pt. pl.) 226, etc. (12 times each); *foryate* (pt. sg.) 379 beside *forgate*, *forgatte* (pt. sg.) 756, 1067; *yiftes*, *yeffttes* beside *gifte* (cited under [Spellings] 6.1 above); *yate*, *yates* (sb.) 781, 1947,

1990 beside *gate* 1876; *ayeyne* 1984 beside *agayne* 1990, 1995, 2042, 2191, *ageynst*, *gaynste* 2028, 2106.

15. The change of /v/ to /w/ is suggested in the following: Jordan says (§ 300) that this change occurred chiefly in the Southeast Midlands northwards to Norfolk, but that the evidence of the present dialects suggests that it spread also through Kent and east Sussex and the older vulgar speech. The spelling <w> is used for /v/ in initial position in *wouchesaffe* (inf.) "vouchsafe" 1329, *wouche...saffe* (inf.) 1381, *wouchep saffe* (pres. 3 sg.) 1389. Intervocalic /v/ is spelt with <w> in line 2300: *hawe* (pres. sg.) "have", *yewen* (pp.) "given". It should be noted that this line is in folio 83<sup>v</sup> (containing lines 2277–2309), where the general appearance and the scripts of some letters (e.g. *g*) are different from those of the other folios of the text. This leads us to suppose that the folio was copied by some other scribe. (This has earlier been mentioned under *The Manuscript* 6.)

16. The most striking spelling practice of this folio (83<sup>v</sup>) is a very frequent use of <ff> for /f/ in initial, medial and final position: *ffayre* 2287; *ffelaw* 2305; *ffere* 2286; *fferre* 2307; *fforthe* 2283, 2301; *ffre* 2293; *afftyr* 2280; *befforne* 2300; *offspryng* 2280; *yefftes* 2287, 2299; *gaff* 2307; *leff* (sb.) "dear one" 2294; *wyff* 2309; *yaff* 2277, 2293. In other folios, except for a traditional <ff> for the capital letter *F*, <ff> is only written for the final /f/, e.g. *off* (prep.) 9, etc., *gaff* (pt. sg.) 2269, etc. Sometimes <ff> is followed by <-e> as in *styffe* (adj.) (after a short vowel) 9, *lyffe* (sb.) "life" (after a long vowel) 2040.

17. Again, only in folio 83<sup>v</sup>, the name of the hero is written *Ipomadon* 2291, 2303 (MS *Iponadon*) with <a> in the third syllable.

Elsewhere it is written *Ipomydon* throughout.

18. Another minor peculiarity of folio 83<sup>v</sup> is the use of ⟨ow⟩ in *bethowght* 2304. Elsewhere late ME /ou/ before /xt/ in "thought" is almost always written simply with ⟨o⟩ (*thoght* 382, etc.), with a few examples of ⟨ou⟩ 1023, 1772, 2150. In other ME /ouxt/-words like *brought* 388, ⟨ou⟩ is commoner, but ⟨ow⟩ is never used.

19. Metathesis occurs in the following: *fryst(e)* (num.) "first" 783, 813, 1039, 1306, 1327, 1379, 1663, 1701, 2167, 2260, with the metathesis of /r/; but *thryd*, *prydde* 819, 1313 without metathesis. *Axe* (inf.) /aks/ 1406, beside *asked* 917, *askyd* 670, 1511, 1976, 2064 with metathesis of /sk/.

20. /ʃ/ in medial and final position is written ⟨sh⟩, ⟨ssh⟩ and ⟨sch⟩: ⟨sh⟩ occurs in *ishape* (pp.) 78; *worshyp*, *worship* (sb.) 121, 612. ⟨ssh⟩ in *ershe-*, *archebissbopp* 2223, 2247; *flesshe* 21, 799, 887, 890, 1027, 1031; *lesshe* (sb.) "leash" 785; *wasshe* (pt. pl.) 2255. ⟨sch⟩ in *byschoppis* 1540; *ersbyschope* 1543. In initial position, /ʃ/ is regularly written ⟨sh⟩. No other forms occur (e.g. *sball* 45, etc., *shuld* 215, etc., *shew* 312, *shippis* 1937, etc.).

21. OF words with /s/ in medial and final position are sometimes written ⟨ss⟩, although they were not written with a double ⟨ss⟩ originally in French: *cur-*, *cortessy(e)* 328, 334, *curtessely*, *cortessly* 74, 253 beside *cortesly* 344, *curteyse* 525, 1445, *curteyseste* 1392; *harnesse* 220, 1062 beside *barneyse* 888; *resseyueth* 52 beside *reseyved* 1446 (*perseyued* 433, 437, 454); *wandlessours* (<AN *wanelace* + *our*) 387.

22. /θ/ is written ⟨gh⟩ in *streghe* (sb.) "strength" 1586, 1614 (cf. OED: 3-7 *strenth*); *troughe* (sb.) "troth" 1374.

B. *Morphology*(1) *Nouns*

The nouns have the following endings:

- Sg. Nom. \_\_\_\_\_(e)  
 Poss. -s, -es, -is, -ys  
 Dat. Acc. \_\_\_\_\_(e)

- Pl. 1) with *s* (-es, -is, -ys)  
 2) with *n*  
 3) with *i*-mutation  
 4) without inflexion

Poss. Sg.: *Ipomydons* 633, *mannys* 508, *mastres* 380, *quenys* 384.

Pl.: 1) *bertis* 101, *justes* 533, *knees* 187, *pagis* 265, *squyers* 397, *stedis*<sup>R</sup> 643, *townes*<sup>R</sup> 86, *wordis* 175, *yiftys* 338.

2) *eyne* 1420, *fone*<sup>R</sup> 2200, *shone*<sup>R</sup> 978.

3) *men* 110, 792, 1885, 2123, etc., *gentillmen*<sup>R</sup> 410, *shippemen* 1977.

4) *dere*<sup>R</sup> 397, *dere* 924; *bors* 265, 888, 2238, *horse* 220; *pound* 546, *pound*<sup>R</sup> 2270; *yere*<sup>R</sup> 529, 2336.

As for the endings in pl., there is random variation in the same word: *dukis* 85, *dukes* 125; *greybondes* 762, *greyboundis* 764; *kyngis* 125, *kynges* 171; *knyghtis* usually but *knyghtys* 988, *knyghtes* 1115, etc.; *ladyes* 27, *Ladies* 97; *maydens* usually but *maydenys* 789; *Messyngeris* 2139, *messengers* 2145; *speres* 827, *sperys* 831; *yiftys* 338, *yiftes* 2311.

Plural form *tidyngis*<sup>R</sup> 1529 or *tythyngis* 2229, etc.; *tithyngis* is sometimes used as sg. in 854, 1283, 1630, 1960.

Possessive without inflexional endings: *beuyn* (in the phrases *beuyn-blysse* 2342, *beuyn-kyng* 1013, 2072).

The following words may be considered to be pl. without inflexion: *barowne*<sup>R</sup> 1540, *dede*<sup>R</sup> 56, *squyere*<sup>R</sup> 342, and *thynges*<sup>R</sup> 1224.

## (2) *Adjectives*

1. The adjective in the text ends in — or —-e.

It has no other inflexions than comparative and superlative: compar. -er(e), superl. -est(e). Examples: *derrere* 1796, *feyrer* 32, 504, *godelyer* 70, *gretter* 1901, *queynter* 1416, *richer* 174; *curteyseste* 1392, *doughtiest* 1178, *doughtyeste* 129, 617, etc., *feyreste* 118, *grettest* 1254, *manliest* 834, *preuyest* 1964, *rychest* 239, *wortheiest* 832.

2. Of the irregular forms, the following are in use: *better* 330, 986, 2031, *bettir* 1044; *best(e)* 385, 586, 588, 652, 1053, 1384; *lytell(e)* 311, 329, and *lasse*<sup>R</sup> 1954, *less*<sup>R</sup> 37, 71, *lest* 2236; *wors* 1494. (Cf. comparison of adverbs: *better* 94, *fayrer* 1833, *ferther* 1774, *fouler* 1834, *lenger* 480, 853; *no lenger* 458, 1188, 1797; and adverb of "near": *nye* 139, 1917, and *ner*<sup>R</sup> (<OE (Angl) *nēr*, ON *nær*) 231, 621, 691, 1585, etc.)

3. *mo* 1240, 2254, 2326, *moo*<sup>R</sup> 390, 2312 (originally an adv. <OE *mā*) beside *more* 37, 924, 993, is the comparative, and *most* 2174 is the superlative, of *myche* or *moche*.

## (3) *Pronouns*

1. The nominative form of the 1st sg. is usually *I*, but the form *y* 1716, 2080 also appears.

2. The 2nd sg. nom. *thou*, *pou*, *pow*, poss. *thy*, *pi*, *thyne*, dat. acc. *the*, *pe*; pl. nom. *ye*, poss. *your(e)*, dat. acc. *you*. The contracted forms of the 2nd sg. are *Wylthow* 1486, *nyllthow* 1486.

3. The 3rd fem. sg. is regularly *she*. The dat. or acc. form is *hir*, *hyr*, *hyrr*; poss. is *hir*, *hyr*, too.
4. The nom. form of the 3rd pl. is usually *they*, *pey*, and *thay* 2244. The poss. form is usually *there*, or *theyre* 596, 800; besides *hyr* 93, 397, 601, 889, *here* 567, 580, 664 and *hir* 227 are also used. As for dat. or acc. form, *theym* is used eleven times (20, 99, 219, etc.), *theyme* twelve times (247, 554, 559, etc.), *them* seven times (664, 1074, 1745, etc.), and *pem* twice (2339, 2340); *bem* is also used twenty-three times (108, 377, 382, 438, etc.) and *hem* twice (*t* is added to this *hem* by LH. 720, 785).
5. The personal pronoun is used for the reflexive pronoun: *armyd hym* 1804; *bare hym* 74; *busked me* 2189, *busked hem* 2314, *busked hyr* 1946, *busked theyme* 2244, *buskid hym* 1967; *Dight you* (imp.) 731, *hym dight* 1638; *hye the* 1928, *Hye you* (imp.) 777, *hyed hem* 1932, 2230; *layde hem* 1809; *purveyd hym* 643; *hym sette* 187.
6. The form of the demonstrative pl. 'these' is *these* 1371, 2229 and *pese* 1187, 2194.
7. The commonest form of the relative pronoun is *that*, *pat*, which is used for persons as well as things. *The whiche* also appears seven times (605, 840, 1003, 1043, 1196, 1528, 1636), and all of them are always used at the beginning of the line. In the poss. *of which* 1531 appears once. (The forms of the relative adverbs are *where pat* 347, 717, *there* 1293, *there pat* 800, *there as* 1298, 2343.)
8. Interrogative pronouns appear as *what* 108, 233, etc., *who* 111, 734, *who pat* (*that*) 616, 671, 2095, and *whose* 1371.

(4) *Verbs*

## 1. Infinitive

The verbs with suffix *-e* or without ending are common, and the following examples occur in rhyming position: *blame* 445, *calle* 230, *devyse* 94, *fayle* 292, *fare* 216, *fynde* 504, *kerve* 59, *lere* 272, *leve* 953, *make* 26, *nome* 329, *ryde* 537, *see* 32, *seke* 125, *serve* 60, *speke* 141, *take* 25, *teche* 50, *the* 918. The forms without *-e* ending are: *breſt* 1722, *dight* 1766, *draw* 1173, *fight* 1616, *forgo* 180, *ley* 495, *pley* 103, *prey* 251, *sey* 120, *slo* 1012, *stand* 2034, *vndo* 400, *wend* 208.

Verbs whose stems end in a vowel sometimes show an ending in *-n(e)*: *ſayne*<sup>R</sup> 1485, 1623, 1864, *ſeyne*<sup>R</sup> 448; and after other than a vowel: *dwellyn* 694.

## 2. Present, Indicative

Sg.: 1. *-e* or —; 2. *-ſt*, *-eſt*, *-iſt*, *-yſt* (usual), and *-eſ*, *-iſ*; 3. *-th(e)*, *-eth*, *-ith*, *-yth* (usual), and *-eſ*, *-iſ*, *-yſ*.

Pl.: *-e* or — or *-n(e)* (usual), and *-th*, *-iſ*.

## Examples:

1 sg.: *geſſe*<sup>R</sup> 72, *ſey*<sup>R</sup> 104, *rede* 450.

2 sg.: The usual forms are *comyſt* 1249, *geteſt* 160, *getteſt* 1794, *getiſt* 2021, *makeyſt* 153, *ſeeſt* 1787, but the form with ending *-eſ*, *-iſ* is found twice: *coueyteſ* 2071, *ſtandiſ* 2016.

3 sg.: The usual forms are *byddythe* 1232, *comethe* 125, *getteth* 1752, *louythe* 476, *reſſeyueth* 52, *thynkiſth* 192, *wendith* 471, but the forms with ending *-eſ*, *-iſ*, *-yſ* are found four times: *fellyſ* 2045, *gretiſ* 1675, *lediſ*<sup>R</sup> 1297, *prayeſ* 1397.

Pl.: The usual forms are *thynke* 732, *ſayne* 117, but a few examples of the forms with ending *-th(e)*, *-iſ* are found:

*awaylethe* 175, *knoweth* 846, *knowis* 1184.

The -i- suffix of weak verbs of Class II does not appear: *aske* (pres. pl.) 260, *awake<sup>R</sup>* (inf.) 944, *loke* (inf.) 430, *make<sup>R</sup>* (inf.) 26, *pley<sup>R</sup>* (inf.) 103, *play<sup>R</sup>* (inf.) 931, *playe<sup>R</sup>* (inf.) 1081, *thanke* (inf.) 334.

3. Present and Preterite, Subjunctive, Sg. and Pl.: -e or \_\_\_\_.  
Present Sg.: *blynne* 450, *bryng* 2345, *plese* 251, *saue<sup>R</sup>* 257, *spede<sup>R</sup>* 769, 1237, *speke* 1762, *vndirstand<sup>R</sup>* 1301, *yeld* 461, *yif* 488.

Pl.: *come* 1516, *passé* 1011, *rede* 1076, *torne* 1995, *wante* 210.

Examples of the Preterite Sg. are *tobrakke* 823, *were* 144, 847, 915, 1518, 1654, 1754, 1934, 2190, *wan* 1940. The Pt. Pl. does not appear in the text.

#### 4. Preterite, Indicative

The Preterite Indicative is without inflexions to distinguish number or person: -e or \_\_\_\_.

The 2nd sg. usually has the ending -ist: *brakkist* 1474, besides *herd* 1309, 1313, *yede<sup>R</sup>* 1730.

##### 4.1 Strong verbs:

Class I. *aroos* 315, *rode<sup>R</sup>* 1973 (pl.), *smote* 1739.

II. *bad<sup>R</sup>* 1729 (: *yede*) (<OE *bēodan*, *bēad*).

III. *dranke* 1719 (pl.), *faught* 1903 (pl.); *fonde<sup>R</sup>* 1922, *found<sup>R</sup>* 577 (pl.), *fownde<sup>R</sup>* 1384; *ranne* (<ON *renna*, *rann*) 762 (pl.); *ronge* 788; *sprange* 131; *wanne* 978.

IV. *bare* 74, *brake* 898; *come<sup>R</sup>* 1931 (pl.), 2239, *cam<sup>R</sup>* 234, *came* 804, *camme<sup>R</sup>* 885; *nome<sup>R</sup>* 657 (pl.).

V. *bad* 411; *ete<sup>R</sup>* 898, 1719 (pl.); *forgatte* 1067, *gaff* 226, 429, 540, etc., *gaffe* 1429, *yaff* 76, 574, 1350, etc., *yaffe* 1593, 1741; *gatte* 2162; *lay* 349; *quod* 49; *satte* 901

- (pl.); *saw(e)* 283, 306 (pl.), 964, 973, etc., *sawghe* 1467, *syē<sup>R</sup>* 428, *see<sup>R</sup>* 1102; *spake* 108 (pl.), 136 (pl.), 336 (pl.).
- VI. *drew* 139, *droughe<sup>R</sup>* 407, 1802, *drowghe* 1896 (pl.); *loughe* 896 (pl.), 1033 (pl.), 1519 (pl.) (beside *laughyd* 1273 (pl.)); *shoke* 787; *shove* 1642; *stode* 743 (pl.); *toke* (<ON *taka*, *tók*) 265 (pl.), 1645, *tuke<sup>R</sup>* 1552, *woke* 1469.
- VII. *blew* 786; *byheld* 402 (pl.); *felle* 514, 1455 (pl.); *hight* 345, *knew* 281; *lette* 2275; *wasshe* 2255 (pl.); *wexe* 988 (pl.).

#### 4.2 Weak verbs:

- i) *-d, -de*: *ferde<sup>R</sup>* 1630, *berd* 141, *ladde<sup>R</sup>* 377, *made* 524 (pl.), *playd* 30, *prayd* 224, *sayd* 43, *told* 2165, *wende* 1103.
- ii) *-t, -te*: *bente<sup>R</sup>* 836, *broght* 380, *cast* 285 and *kest* 427, *grette<sup>R</sup>* 256, *hent<sup>R</sup>* 956, *kepte* 2200, *lepte* 810, *mette<sup>R</sup>* 541, *sent* 1963, *sette<sup>R</sup>* 267, *slept* 349, *taught* 62, *thoght* 409 and *thought* 363, *went* 236 (pl.).
- iii) *-ed, -id, -yd*: *answered* 112 and *answeryd* 947, *asked* 917 and *askyd* 670, *beryed* 1543, *blamyd* 452, *callyd* 771, *comforted* 513, *dyed* 2346, *dwellyd* 339, *folowyd* 38, *grantyd* 2002 (pl.), *hopid* 1104, *justyd* 966 (pl.), *kyssyd* 770, *lokyd* 403, *louyd* 346, *passyd* 2301, *prekyd* 975, *servyd* 716, *thankid* 300, *trowyd* 1807, *turnyd* 2003, *wantid* 221 (pl.), *worthyd* 1489.

#### 5. Imperative, Sg. and Pl.: -e or \_\_\_\_

Sg.: *bryng* 263, *chese* 465, *lett* 479, *leve* 474, *say* 249, *telle* 152, *yewe* 485.

Pl.: *berken* 2, *hye* 777, *lette* 663, *loke* 210, 368, *lystene* 2, *take* 209, 661.

#### 6. Present Participle: -yng, -ynge or and(e)

*besechyng* 190, *comyng<sup>R</sup>* 1467 *hovynge* 1216, *praying* 837, 927,

*prechyng* 1544, *wakyng* 1811, *rennyng*<sup>R</sup> 764, *rydyng*<sup>R</sup> 1468, 1533, 1674, 1870, *talkyng*<sup>R</sup> 1869. There are three instances of *-and(e)*: *farand*<sup>R</sup> 282, *lyvande*<sup>R</sup> 130, *passand* 916.

## 7. Past Participle

7.1 Strong verbs show *-en*, *-yn* or *-n(e)*, less frequently *-e* or no ending, after a vowel or *r*:

I. *wrytte* 2222; III. *corvyn*<sup>R</sup> 1228, *ronne* 381, *wonne* 1236; IV. *bore* 1252, *borne*<sup>R</sup> 1987, *brokyn* 1551, *come* 410, 522, *comyn* 290, 1993, 2313, *nome*<sup>R</sup> 243, 521, *stokyn* 1863; V. *ete* 313, *etyn* 757, *gotyn* 2094, *sene* 98, 2062; VI. *forfare*<sup>R</sup> 1024, *shavyn* 1914, *slayne* 1890, 1996, 2130, *sleyne* 924, *take* 416, 601, 1965, *tane* 459, 1786, 2323, *waxen* 75; VII. *falle*<sup>R</sup> 14, 1242, *hight*<sup>R</sup> 1407, *bold*<sup>R</sup> 2274, *holden* 1636, *holdyn* 1849, *know* 621, *knowen* 631.

There is one instance of the participial prefix: *ishape* 78 beside *shape* 351.

7.2 Weak verbs: *-ed*, *-yd*, *-d*, *-de*, *-t*, *-te*: *caught*<sup>R</sup> 887, *cryed* 2231, *dight*<sup>R</sup> 998, 1096, *distroyed* 1679, *dyned* 2265, *herd* 685, *lernyd* 194, *lost* 1500, *louyd* 2310, *made* 2233, *pight*<sup>R</sup> 384, *prayd* 90, *sauyd* 1748, *seruyd* 2259, *sette* 2257, *sought*<sup>R</sup> 2148.

## 8. Verbal Substantive: *-ynge* or *-yng*

Almost all of them occur in rhyming position: *askyng* 112, 214, 708, 1666, *blissyng* 224, *chalengyng* 1280, 1320, *desyryng* 204, *fyghtyng* 1970, *herbowryng* 1354, *joyng* 482, *justyng* 749, 894, 906, 1050, 1223, 1279, 1303, *lesyng* 4, 520, 1361, 1574, 2002, 2078, *lettyng(e)* 182, 575, 791, 819, *lykyng* 840, ; within the line: *chydyng* 1794, *deservyng* 453, *huntaryng* 408, *lykyng* 900, *lokyng* 450, etc.

## 9. Impersonal Verbs

Some instances are found in *you gretith* 1386, *vs list* 1696 (beside *pey luste* 1136), *them lyked* 2330, *hym semeth* 512, *hym semyd* 280, *hym thoght* 690, 1160, *hym thought* 142.

## 10. The Verb 'to have'

The infinitive is *haue*. Pres. ind. 1 sg. *haue*, 2 sg. *bast*, *baste*, 3 sg. *hathe*, pl. *haue*. Pt. ind. *had*, 2g. *baddist* 1888. Pres. subj. *haue*; Pt. subj. *had*.

## 11. Preterite-Present Verbs

<i>Present</i>	<i>Preterite</i>
Sg. and Pl.	
wote	wist, wiste (Inf.: wete 144, 355, etc., wetee <sup>R</sup> 1374)
can, canne, kan, kanne, konne	coude, cowde, couthe, cowthe
dare, darre	durst
shal, shall, shalle (2 sg: shalt, shalte)	shold, shuld, shulde
may, maye	myght
mot, most, must, muste	moste, muste aught (pt. 3 sg.) 1422 (<OE <i>āhte</i> , pt. of <i>āgan</i> "own")

The negative form is *note* (pres. 1 sg.) 1564. *The ought* 446 (<OE *āhte*, pt. of *āgan*. OED: *ought* v. III. 5.) occurs as an impersonal (auxiliary) verb.

## 12. Anomalous Verbs

## 12.1 The Verb 'to be'

The infinitive is *be<sup>R</sup>* 270, *bee<sup>R</sup>* 118, and *by* 781.

	<i>Present</i>	<i>Preterite</i>
Sg. 1.	am	was
2.	art, arte	were
3.	is, ys	was
Pl.	ar, are, be	were
Subj. Sg. Pl.	be, bee	were
Past Participle	be, bene	

The negative form appears in *nas* (pt. 3 sg.) 983.

### 12.2 'will'

Pres. ind. Sg. and Pl. *will, wille* (2 sg. *wilt*); Preterite ind. Sg. and Pl. *wold, wolde, wald* (2 sg. *woldist* 2018).

The contracted forms are *wiltow* 1486, *nylltow* 1486, and the negative forms are *nylle*<sup>R</sup> 1481, *nold* (pt. 3 pl.) 1721, *molde* (pt. 3 sg.) 1836.

### 12.3 The Verb 'to do'

The infinitive is *do*<sup>R</sup> 288, *doo*<sup>R</sup> 611, *done*<sup>R</sup> 977. Pres. ind. Sg. and Pl. *do* and *done* 126; Pres. ind. 2 sg. *doste* 2081. Preterite ind. Sg. and Pl. *did, dyd*; Preterite ind. 2 sg. *dydist* 1473. Pres. subj. *do*. Past participle *done*.

'Do' is frequently used as auxiliary verb at the end of the line: pres. 2 sg. *doste enquire* 2081, pres. pl. *do see* 117; pt. sg. *did fight* 1899, *dyd fight* 908, 2106, *dyd dwelle* 2167, 2214, *dyd preue* 2132, *dyd...abyde* 990, *dyd...calle* 718, *dyd...do* 785, *dyd...see* 2180, *dyd...take* 25, *dyd...vplyfte* 1911; imperative sg. *do make* 614.

### 12.4 The Verb 'to go'

The infinitive is *go*<sup>R</sup> 2226, *goo*<sup>R</sup> 211, *goon*<sup>R</sup> 2004, *gone*<sup>R</sup> 634. Pres. ind. 3 sg. *gothe* 790; Pres. subj. 1 sg. *go*<sup>R</sup> 158, *gone*<sup>R</sup> 1879; Preterite ind. sg. and pl.: generally *went*<sup>R</sup> 571 (pl.), *wente*<sup>R</sup> 757

(<OE *wendan*) and also *yede*<sup>R</sup> 309, 1730, etc. (<OE *ēode*), which is frequently used and also appears eight times as rhyme words: 390, etc. The past participle is usually *gone*<sup>R</sup> 493, etc., besides *goon*<sup>R</sup> 1020 and *goone*<sup>R</sup> 1213.

The forms 'gone' (inf., pp., pres. 1 sg.) and 'go' (inf., pres. 1 sg., pres. subj. sg.) are frequently used as rhyme words: *gone* (*goon*, *goone*) eighteen times and *go* (*goo*) eight times.

### 13. The Verb 'gan' ("did")

The verb 'gan, ganne, gon, gone' is frequently used in the text and most probably required for the sake of metre. The usual form has three types: (i) *gan*+bare infinitive, (ii) *gan*...bare infinitive, and (iii) *gan*+*to* infinitive.

- (i) *gan bede* 2208; *gan brynge* 1509; *gan calle* 247; *gan dighte* 1089; *ganne fare* 1199; *gan goo* 185, *gan goon* 2004, *gan gone* 414; *gan ryde* 676, etc.; *gan say(e)* 789, etc., *gan sayne* 1623; *gan shake* 943; *gan stand* 2055.
- (ii) *gan...bere* 332, *ganne...bere* 891; *gan...bye* 1894; *gan...gone* 634, *gon...gone* 569; *gan...kysse* 2137; *gan...say* 496, etc.
- (iii) *gan to dight* 401, *gan to ryde* 813, *gan to wend* 2328.

The form *began*+*to* infinitive also occurs in the text: *bygan to gryse* 1470, *bygan for to rese* 1831, *bygan to tene* 1760; *bygan...to ryde* 537.

## C. Vocabulary

1. Some Northern colouring appears. The following occur in rhyming position: *bydene* (adv.) 439, *dede* (sb.) "death" 1005, *glee* (sb.) 2245, 2344, *gryse* (inf.) 1470, *pouste* (sb.) 35, *werre* (sb.) 1626 (originally *were*); and also within the line: *afore* 2139, *endyr* 1565, *ilk* 1573, *sekir* 1878, *went* (pt. 3 pl.) 2012, *wrawled* (pt. sg.) 1835.

2. There are many adoptions from ON, but they are made up of everyday words. The following occur as rhyme words: *agayne* 1444, *allgate* 778, *are* (adv.) 464, *bone* 1059, *bowne* 697, *calle* 247, *caste* 1161, *fro* 140, *gate* 1855, *gete* 1436, *gifte* 1388, *husband* 553, *ylle* 298, *lynge* 1013, *may* (sb.) 114, *nay* 1156, *skille* 206, *slo* 1012, *take* 25, *theretille* 1698, *tylle* (prep.) 583, *tyte* 985, *tythyngis* 638, *vplyfte* 1911, *wone* 2051, *wronge* 10; and also within the line: *agayn* 1527, *ageynst* 2028, *busked* 1946, *gaff* 226, *hundreth* 2236, *kest* 427, *latte* 1076, *rennetbe* 1937, *scantly* 1228, *tithyngis* 1454, *wante* 210.

3. *nese* (sb.) 1832, *tryse* (sb.) 392, and *panne* 1647 are probably adoptions from MDu.

4. Some OF phrases are directly employed as in *grantmercy* 299, 488 and *san3 faile*<sup>R</sup> 419.

5. At the beginning of the fourteenth century, many hundreds of French words are already in use. Adoptions from OF or AN appear in great numbers, and some of them are now obsolete words. The following words are in rhyming position: *baronage* 1579, *botelere* 325, *chesse* 2267, *Crystente* 173, *deuere* 802, *discryve* 2320, *empryse* 276, *entyrement* 1541, *ermytage* 804, *gree* 545, *grese* 370, *mystere* 1677, *nobley* 2222, *norture* 193, *pavyloun* 403, *porture* 121, *quartere* 762, *queyntyse* 359, *ryuere* 232, *rouncy* 1646, *scomfyte* (pp.) 2202, *sopere* 901, *tronchoune* 1737, *valure* 284, *venyson* 404, *vytayle* 1941; and also within the line: *burgeyse* 1351, *encheson* 454, *herbegage* 1349, *noryce* 25, *trappure* 646, *venery* 415, *wandlessours* 387, *werre* 1626.

D. *Rhyme and Metre*(1) *Rhyme*

The rhymes of the text are generally exact.

1. The following rhymes look inexact in appearance because of spellings, but these must have been exact.

1.1 The rhyme *hyrre* (pron.) "her": *answere* (sb.) 573/74 probably depended on /ɛ:/ by open syllable lengthening of earlier ME /e/ in both words; ME /e/ could be lengthened in *hyrre* when given stress (cf. *OED*: 3 *heore*, 3-5 *here*, 5 *beer* cited under *ber* pres. pron., 3 sg. fem., dat., acc.).

1.2 In the rhyme *Caymys* (proper n.): *daynous* (adj.) "disdainful" 1121/22, the second syllable of both words may have been reduced to /əs/ under weak stress. The proper name appears as *Caymes* in 1240, 2128.

1.3 The rhyme *justynge* (sb.): *yonge* (adj.) 1303/04 indicates that *yonge* had /ɪŋg/, instead of /uŋg/. This form is derived from OE (Northumbrian) *ging* or from OE comparative *gingra* (Brunner<sup>2</sup>, §10, n. 1. 5 (A); Jordan, §43).

1.4 The rhymes *counselle* (sb.): *fayle* (sb.) 1559/60 and *fayle* (sb.): *conce[y]lle* 589/90 must have depended on /ai/. The second syllable of "counsel" varied between the monophthong /e/ (or /ɛ:/) and the diphthong /ai/ (cf. *OED*: 3-6 *con-*, *counseil*, *-sail*, etc., beside 5-7 *counsell*, 4- *counsel*).

1.5 The rhyme *answere* (sb.): *werre* (sb.) 1625/26 indicates that the second word was originally *were* probably with ME /ɛ:/; ME *were* is a variant of *werre* and is derived from AN, ONF *were* (see *OED* under *were* (sb. 3), 3-5 *were*, 5 *weere*).

1.6 In the rhyme *borne* (pp.): *therebefore* (adv.) 1987/88, the second word had probably /n/ in the ending (*therebeforne*), as in

lines 1220 and 1227.

1.7 *Swyre* (sb.) "neck" 2000: *here* (inf.) "hear" must have had ME /e:/ from OE *swēora* (OED: 3-5 *swere*, 4-6 *sweere*); otherwise we must assume ME /i:/ from mutated *īe* in *here*, which is unlikely.

1.8 *Chambyr* (sb.) "chamber" (<OF *chambre*) 2285: *on ffere* (adv.) "together" (<OE *ġefēre*) must have had ME /e:/ (cf. OED: 4 *chambir*, *-bere*, 5 *chambyr(e)*, *chaunber*).

2. Inexact rhymes are limited to the following:

2.1 Assonances

2.1.1 /m/: /n/

*ta[n]e* (inf.) "take" (MS *tame*): *game* (sb.) 363/64; *inne* (sb.): *hym* (pron.) 889/90; *bydene* (adv.): *eme* (sb.) 1405/06; *sone* (adv.): *somme* (pron.) 1631/32; *come* (pt. pl.): *sone* (adv.) 1931/32.

2.1.2 /t/: /d/

*stoute* (adj.): *proude* (adj.) 1471/72.

2.1.3 /orn/: /orvn/

*byfforne* (adv.): *corvyn* (pp.) "carved" 1227/28.

2.1.4 /ai/: /aiəs/, /est/: /estəs/, /iŋg/: /iŋgəs/

*dayes* (pl.): *maye* (pres. sg.) 1187/88, *bestis* (pl.): *foreste* (sb.) 1253/54, *tidyngis* (pl.): *kynges* (sb.) 1529/30.

2.2 Corrupted rhymes due to MS tradition

2.2.1 *slandre* (sb.) (Kölbing, *deshonoure*): *honoure* (sb.) 441/42.

2.2.2 *travailed* (pp.): *had* (pt. sg.) (Kölbing, *travailed sore*: *had pore*) 1259/60.

2.2.3 *glad* (adj.): *berd* (pp.) (Kölbing, *had*) 637/38.

3. The following words vary in rhymes.

3.1 *There, thore, pore, thare* (adv.) (<OE *p̄ær* ( $\bar{a}^1$ ), *p̄ār(a)*, and *p̄ær*, *p̄ār(a)* in reduced stress) shows the following variation: ME /e:/ is attested in 319, 1339, 1385, 1907 (see [Sounds] 1.3). ME /ɔ:/ is attested in 1294 rhyming with *before* (adv.); *thore* 485 rhyming with OE *ā* in *more* (adv.) probably also indicates /ɔ:/. ME /a:/ is attested in 1189, 1327 (see [Sounds] 1.1.1.1). For ME /ɛ:/-forms, see immediately below.

3.2 *Ere, are* (adv.) "before" (<OE *ær* ( $\bar{a}^2$ ), ON *ár* and *ær*, *är* in reduced stress) varies: ME /a:/ is attested in 464, 1023 (see [Sounds] 1.1.1.1); in 381, 939, 947, 1078, 1165, this word rhymes with the OE  $\bar{a}^1$ -words *there*, *pere* (adv.) and *were* (pt. pl. of 'to be'), which probably suggests ME /ɛ:/.

3.3 The adverb *than, pan, then*, etc. (temporal) (<OE *panne*, *ponne*, *pænne*, *penne*) varies. In addition to the /o/-forms in lines 23, 924, 1055 cited [Sounds] 1.6.1 (a) above, /e/-forms are attested in 409 (though spelt with <a>), 1886, 2124 rhyming with OE *e* (by *i*-mutation of OE *a*+nasal) in *gentillmen*, *men* (pl.). Apart from these, *than, pan, panne* 76, 91, 689, 771, 963, 1357, 1417, 1647 rhymes on OE *a/o*+nasal, which may suggest /a/.

3.4 The preterite singular of "come" varies: ME /ɔ:/ is indicated in *camme* 885: *anone* (adv.) (with raising of ME /ɔ:/ to /o:/, see 1.8.1.2 above). ME /a:/ is indicated in *come* 2239: *fame* (sb.).<sup>1)</sup> ME short /a/ is indicated in *cam* 234: *am* (pres. 1 sg. of 'to be'). The preterite plural *come* 1931 had ME /o:/ rhyming with *sone* (adv.).

1) The pt. sg. of Classes IV and V of OE strong verbs *bare* 2239 and *spake* 1833 is shown to have had ME long /a:/, rhyming on earlier ME /a/ in open syllables in *thare* (adv.) 1327 and *make* (inf.) 1834. Similarly, ME long /a:/ is suggested in the subj. pt. sg. *tobrakke* 823 rhyming with *shake* (inf.) with earlier ME /a/ in an open syllable.

3.5 The preterite singular of "find" appears in two forms: /a/ or /o/ is suggested in *fonde* 1922: *lande*; ME /u:/ from OE pt. pl. *fundon* is attested in *fownde* 1384: *sounde* (sb.). The past participle *founde* 1352 rhymes with *band* (sb.), which suggests /a/ or /o/ in the past participle due to the OE pt. sg. with *a/o*.<sup>1)</sup>

3.6 *Yate* (sb.) "gate" (<OE *ġat*, *ġeat* (pl. *gatu*, *ġeatu*); ON *gat*) varies between ME /a/ and /a:/. ME short /a/ is shown in *yate*, *gate* 245, 1507, 1855: *thereat*, *-atte*, *-ate* (adv.). ME long /a:/ is shown in *yate* 777: *allgate* (adv.) (<*all*+ON *gate*).

3.7 The agent suffix *-ere* of French origin (OF or AN *-er*, *-ier*) is normally represented by ME /e:/: *bachelere* (sb.) 692; *messengere*, *messyngere* (sb.) 516, 902, 1045, 1229, 1617; *portere* (sb.) 779; *squeer*, *squyere* (sb.) 320, 849, 1103, 1186. Exceptionally, *botelere* (sb.) 331 has ME /ɛ:/ rhyming with *bere* (inf.) with OE *e* in an open syllable. The OE agent suffix *-ere* in *lyere* (sb.) "liar" 928 is represented by ME /ɛ:/ rhyming with *bere* (inf.). The ending of *sopere* (sb.) "supper" (<OF *soper*, *super*) varies: ME /ɛ:/ is shown in 892 by rhyming with *bere* (inf.); ME /e:/ is shown in 901 and 1034 by rhyming with *messyngere* (sb.) and *chere* (sb.).

3.8 The ending *-on*, *-oun* varies: *pavillon* (sb.) 1933 has /on/ when rhyming with *Geron* (proper n.), while *pavilloun* 1927, 1944 has ME /u:n/ rhyming with *town(e)* (sb.). In addition, *pavylloun*, *pavilloun* 403, 1738 rhymes with *venyson* (sb.) and *tronchoune* (sb.), which probably indicates ME /u:n/. Similarly, *baron* (sb.) 1602

1) It may be noted that in *Le Morte Arthur* (ed. P. F. Hissiger (The Hague & Paris, 1975)) the pp. *found* 999 also rhymes on OE *afo+nd* in *lond* (sb.) and *band* (sb.), beside *found* (pt. pl.). This rhyme is served as a *b*-rhyme of an eight-line stanza.

has /on/ when rhyming with *Geron* (proper n.), while *barons* 86, *barowne* 1540 has ME /u:n/ rhyming with *townes*, *towne* (sb.).

(2) *Metre*

The metre of the text is regular four-stressed (octosyllabic) rhymed couplets, which is the most popular verse form of narratives since the thirteenth century, particularly among ME metrical romances.

The text displays some of the more usual licences and irregularities of traditional English accentual verse. Thus, the number of syllables in the line varies between six and ten, whether the verse ending is masculine or feminine.

(3) *Phrases and Tags Used for Rhyme*

Especially noticeable in the text is a marked tendency to use many conventional phrases and tags in a rhyming position. The frequent presence of those words and phrases indicates the continued popularity of this traditional feature of English verse among the writers of metrical rhyming romances throughout the country.

1. A few metaphorical phrases appear in the text: *white as any milke* 645, *al blak as any panne* 1647.
2. Some alliterative words and phrases occur in the text: *down droughe* 407, *fayre and free* 2325, *from byr fone* 2200, *game and glee* 2245, 2344, *myld of mode* 68, *of myld mode* 2304, *with mild mode* 564, *socoure sende* 2195, *stand stille* 2063, *styffe and stoure* 647, *styffe (stiff(e)) and stronge* 9, 1115, 1587, 1904, *wrawled and wroth* 1835.

3. It has already been mentioned that the form *gan*+inf. or its variations is often used in the text. Besides, *as I you (yow) sey* (*say, saye*) is used nine times (104, 177, 979, etc.), *euerydele* seven times (434, 453, 636, etc.), and *I vnderstand (vndirstond)* eight times (1591, 2128, 2185, etc.) beside *as I vndirstande* 2059.

4. We often find many words and phrases meaning "in haste", recurring in rhyming position. It would be the author's habitual way of storytelling: *anon(e)* (adv.) is used twelve times (316, 451, 598, etc.); *anone-ryght(e), -ryghtes* (adv.) eleven times (471, 670, 682, etc.); *sone* 1631, 1857; *sone anon(e)* 261, 305, 413; *full sone* 1692, 1932, 1958; *sone and anone* 935; *forthe-ryght* 1090, 2156; *ryght-sone* 1619; *bydene* 746, 1405; *gode-spede* 1775; *with good spede* 1490, 2207.

5. The author (or the scribe) very frequently makes use of conventional, familiar set phrases; this shows one of the characteristic styles of the text.

#### 5.1 Pairs of words:

*all and same* 62, *all and somme* 362, 1632, *byhynd and byfore* 1640, *byhold and see* 372, *both vp and downe* 698, *bryght and shene* 17, *curteyse and fre* 69, *curteyse and gente* 1445, *day and nyght* 1285, 1920, *fayre and hende* 2327, *fayre and well* 550, *feyre and good* 610, *ferre and nere* 621, 691, 1585, 1600, 2307, *ferre or nere* 231, *gent and fre* 249, *gentill (gentyll) and fre* 1, 87, 1151, *glad ne fayne* 1443, *gode (good) and feyre* 20, 172, 2089, *good and trewe* 150, 640, 1391, *grete and smalle* 42, 96, 303, 412, 468, 632, 1516, 1612, 2346, *grete and plente* 1364, *hye or lowe* 1569, *hole and sounde* 1383, *in or oute* 347, *in boure or halle* 717, *in chambre and in halle* 132, *joy and blysse* 1376, *joye and blisse* 2344, *leffe ne dere* 1108, *longe and feyre* 1936, *more*

*and lesse (lasse)* 71, 369, 1954, 2268, *nyght and day* 147, 624, *nyght ne day* 663, *of flesshe and blode* 22, *oute and in* 1641, *syluer and golde* 1330, 1382, *syluer and gold fyne* 1391, *so doughty and so bolde* 626, *sonne and anone* 935, *stoute and bolde* 525, *to and fro* 140, *to grete and to smalle* 58, *wroth or glad* 1699.

5.2 A set of three words:

*myrthe, game and play* 714, *myrthe, joye and game* 2216, 2332.

6. Adj.+of *hand(e)*, which mostly rhymes with *land (lande)* or *lond(e)*:

*doughty of hand* 354, *doughty of his hand* 498, (*pe*) *doughtyeste ...of hande (band)* 129, 617, 1164, 1178, *doughty...of pat land* 2241, *pe doughtyest vndyr shelde* 1168 (: *felde (sb.)*).

Other cases are: *manly...of hande* 984, *stalworth of hand* 1415, *worthiest of dede* 832 (: *nede (sb.)*).

7. *Without*+sb., with emphatic effect:

*Withoute deley (delay, delaye)* 178, 619, 1703, 2211, 2250, *withoute doute* 1825, *withoute drede* 1343, *withoute fayle* 1211, 1461, *withoutyn fayle* 589, 1003, 1560, 2165, *withoute lakke* 1061, *withoute lesynge* 213, 1361, 1574, 2002, 2078, 2096, 2315, *withoute lettynge* 182, 520, 575, 791, 819, *withoute lye* 1893, *withoute mo* 2238, *withoute more* 2232, *withouten stryffe* 1608.

### III Provenance and Date

#### (A) *Provenance*

The following features indicate that the author's type of speech was basically North-East Midland:

#### 1. *Sounds* (References are to the sections under [Sounds])

1.1 A Northern provenance must be excluded because of the features cited in 1.1, although the author uses some Northern forms. Note especially ME /e:/ for late OE  $\bar{e}+/j/$  or [ç] (+vowel) in 1.2.1.

1.2 The Saxon type of speech (ME Southern) is limited to 1. 3, while there is sufficient evidence for non-Saxon forms in 1. 4 and 1.5.

1.3 A West Midland provenance can also be excluded, in view of the existence of strong evidence for the non-West Midlands in 1.7. At the same time, it must be remembered that some typically West Midland types of pronunciation, especially ME /o/ (<OE  $o$ <Gmc  $a$ )>nasal (other than lengthening groups) shown in 1.6.1, is known to the author. This may suggest that the author came from a region bordering on the West Midlands.

1.4 Typically Eastern forms are found in 1.8.

#### 2. *Spellings* (References are to the sections under [Spellings])

The spellings adopted in other than rhyme words on the whole indicate the same type of speech as shown by rhymes. The following may be noted:

2.1 It may be supported by the regular use of <y> or <ey> for late OE  $\bar{e}+/j/$  or [ç] (+vowel) (5) that the author's usual form was the ME non-Northern /i:/ or /ai/ (cf. 1.1 immediately above).

2.2 It may be supported by the consistent use of ⟨a⟩ for OE *a/o*+nasal (other than lengthening groups) (2.1) that the author's usual form was the non-West Midland type /a/ (cf. 1.3 above).

2.3 Although rhymes do not indicate the existence of other forms than ME /i:/ or /i/ for OE long and short *ȳ*, the sporadical spellings ⟨e⟩ and ⟨u⟩, ⟨ou⟩ or ⟨o⟩ for OE short *y* (8) may suggest that there were /e/ (before intervocalic *r*; *berȳed*) and /y/ or /u/ (before /tʃ/; *suche, soucb; moche*) as well. Such /y/ or /u/ may be ascribed to the West Midland type.

2.4 Although rhymes do not attest the loss of [ç] and [x], the spelling ⟨f⟩ or ⟨ff⟩ for the final [x] (*dwerfe, dwerffe*) (11) may suggest that there was Eastern or vulgar pronunciation /f/ for [x].

2.5 The spelling ⟨w⟩ for /v/ (15) may indicate that there was South-Eastern or vulgar pronunciation /w/ for /v/.

### 3. *Morphology* (Details are given under B. *Morphology*)

3.1 The nom. case of the fem. 3 sg. is *sbe*.

3.2 The forms of the 3 pl. pronoun have mixed types: nom. *they, pey, thay*; poss. *there, theyre* beside *hyr, hir, here*; dat. & acc. *theym, theyme, pem* beside *hem*.

3.3 Unstressed *e* before a consonant is usually written ⟨i⟩ or ⟨y⟩: *-is, -ys, -ith, -id, -yd*, etc.

3.4 The pres. ind. and subj. of the weak verbs of Class II generalizes the endings without *-i-*, and the endings *-ie, -ieþ, -ien* are not preserved.

3.5 The pres. ind. 2 sg. ends in *-st, -est, -ist, -yst* beside *-es, -is*.

3.6 The pres. ind. 3 sg. ends in *-th(e), -eth, -ith, -yth* beside *-es, -is, -ys*. The ending *-is* is attested once by a rhyme (*ledis* 1297:

*stedis* (sb. pl.)).

3.7 The pres. ind. pl. ends in 0 form or *-ne* beside *-th*, *-is*.

3.8 The pres. participle ends in *-ynge*, *-yng* beside *-and(e)*. Both endings are attested by rhymes (*rydyng(e)* 1533, 1674: *kyng(e)* (sb.); *lyvande* 130: *bande* (sb.); *farand* 282: *lond* (sb.)).

3.9 The pt. ind. sg. and pl. of 'to see' is *saw(e)*, *sawghe* beside *sey*, *see*. The pp. is *sene*. The pt. sg. *sawe* 973 (: *felawe* (sb.)) and the pp. *sene* 2062 (: *quene* (sb.)) are both attested by rhymes.

3.10 The pp. of strong verbs ends in *-en*, *-yn* beside 0 form or *-e*. The forms with or without *-n* are attested by rhymes.

*-N* forms: *slayne* 1989, 1996, 2130: *agayne* (adv.); *tane* 459, 2323: *Ipomydon* (proper n.).

0 or *-e* forms: III. *found* 1352: *band* (sb. sg.); VI. *forfare* 884, 1024: *care* (sb.) and *are* (adv.); VII. *bolde* 548, 625: *golde* (sb.) and *bolde* (adj.); *tolde* 1960: *bolde* (adj.); *of-tolde* 6, 526: *bolde* (adj.).

3.11 The participial prefix *y-* or *i-* (<OE *ge-*) is lacking except for one instance: *ishape* (pp.) 78.

3.12 The forms of the verb 'to be.' Pres. ind. 3 sg. *is*, *ys*; pl. *ar*, *are*, *be*; inf. *be*, *bee*, *by*; pp. *be*, *bene*.

3.13 The forms of the verb 'to go.' Pres. ind. 3 sg. *gothe*; inf. *go*, *goo*, *goon*, *gone*; pt. sg. & pl. *went*, *wente*, *yede*; pp. *gone*, *goon*, *goone*. Both preterites are attested by rhymes (*wente* (sg.) 757: [*m*]ente (pt. sg.); *went* (pl.) 571: *extent* (sb.); *yede* (sg.) 309, 1730: *dede* (sb.) and *bad* (pt. sg.) <OE *bēad*).

The Southern and the West Midlands may be excluded by 3.1, the Southern by 3.4, 3.5, 3.7, 3.11, and the North and the Southern by 3.13. 3.6, 3.10, and 3.13 may point to the Midlands. 3.2, 3.3, and 3.9 may point to the East Midlands, and 3.8 and 3.12 to the North-East Midlands. Mixed forms of the endings

of verbs and of the 3 pl. pronoun became common in the fifteenth century. There seems to be no significant discrepancy between the language (dialectal form) of the author and that of the scribe.

Professor Angus McIntosh suggests in his letter that the scribal text originates in the NE Midlands with a probability of coming from N Rutland *or* NE Leicester or the part of SW Lincolnshire adjacent thereto.

(B) *Date*

The following features indicate that the poem was composed after 1400, probably in the second half of the fifteenth century, at the earliest around the middle of the century:

1. *Sounds* (References are to the sections under. [Sounds])

1.1 That the poem must have been composed in or after the late ME period is shown by 2.1. 2.2 indicates that it was composed after 1400.

1.2 Some resemblances of rhyming practice to the East Midland texts of the second half of the fifteenth century shown in 2. 1.1, 2.1.6 and 2.2.2 make us infer that the text was probably composed around that period. The strong preference of /a/ for OE *a/o+nd* cited 1.2.2 may also suggest this.

2. *Vocabulary*

The following words and phrases are of the fifteenth century.

*at a tryse* 392 OED: *trice* (sb.<sup>2</sup>) 1. a. (obs.) <MDu *trise*, *trijs*.  
“in an instant; instantly, forthwith; without delay.”

*endentyd* (pt. sg.) 1641 OED *indent* (vb.<sup>2</sup>) I. 1. <F. *enderter*, L.

- type \**identā-re*. "To make a tooth-like incision or incisions in the edge or border of; to notch or jag."
- fryst(e)* (num.) 783, etc. A fifteenth-century form of "first" (Brunner<sup>2</sup>, § 50). It is used ten times in the text. (See [Spellings] 19.)
- scantly* (adv.) 1228 OED (<ON *skamt*, neut of *skamm-r* 'short, brief'+*ly*<sup>2</sup>). "Scarcely, hardly, barely." Exceedingly common from the 15th to the middle of the 17th c.
- troughe* 1374 OED: *troth* (sb. arch.) α. 5-6 *trough*. <Early ME *troupe*, *troupe* <OE *trēowp*.
- valure* 284 OED: *valure* (sb. obs.) 3. b. <OF *valor* or *valeur*.
- wandlessours* (sb. pl.) 387 OED: *wanlasour* (sb. obs.) <probably AF *wanelace*+*-our*. "A hunting servant whose duty is to intercept and turn back the game; a driver."
- wanne his shone* (pt. sg.) 978 OED: *shoe* (sb.), 2. 1. (ob.) "to achieve renown by a victory." Common in the fifteenth century.
- wrawled* (pt. sg.) 1835 OED: *wrawl* (vb. exc. *north. dial.*) 1. <Imitative. Cf. Norw *vraula*, *raula*. Da *vraale*, *vrale*, etc. "To utter an inarticulate noise or sound; to bawl, squall."

The result of our examination of the manuscript and the language of the text described above will lead us to suppose that the present text is probably a more or less contemporary copy of the authorial text of *The Lyfe of Ipomydon*, which was presumably written in the second half of the fifteenth century.

## IV The Presentation of the Text

The text is conservative and is reproduced as it stands in the manuscript, with the minimum of emendation.

In general, I have emended only in order to make sense of the text or to remove certain obvious errors. I have not emended the text on metrical grounds. The manuscript spellings in rhyme, therefore, are retained except for a few instances even when imperfect rhymes can be emended with certainty and E. Kölbing has done it.

In this edition, the spelling of the manuscript is retained, except for a few corrections of obvious scribal errors. Square brackets indicate editorial insertion or alteration, except for the case of the nine large initial letters; angle brackets indicate editorial restoration or possible missing portions of the text. The footnotes give the manuscript forms as well as items of palaeographical interest, in particular many corrections to the text made by a later or different hand (a corrector?) in darker or black ink. Where they involve deletion or addition within the line, it has usually been rejected in favour of the reading of the original scribe according to my own judgement; where they are clearly right, it has been incorporated into the body of the text. In addition, substantial points on which Kölbing's edition takes a different view from mine are recorded in the footnotes. H. Weber's readings are also recorded there.

Normal abbreviations and common contractions have been silently expanded throughout the text. 'Jhu' and 'Jhc' appear. *And* is often abbreviated to the Tironian nota resembling  $\alpha$

enclosed by two arcs; *pat*, *pou*, *pe*, *with* much less often. The words 'tak<sup>t</sup>' (*takith*) 472, 'know<sup>t</sup>' (*knowith*) 846, and 'p<sup>l</sup>se' (*prise*) 391 also occur. A curl with the value of a final *-er* is frequently used. A long *s* with a diagonal crossing of the tail to represent *ser* or *syr* appears. Other abbreviations involving *-er* (a superior loop or partial loop), *-ur* (a superior loop ending in a curl to the right) are also used. A terminal clockwise loop descending into a curled tail (*-us*) appears. A short horizontal line with a dot over a letter is the mark of contraction to indicate omitted *m* or *n*, except for two instances of *conce[y]lle* 590 and *archebisshopp* 2247. A flourish turned downward after a letter is used to indicate terminal *es* or *is*. A *p* with a dash through the downstroke is the sign for *par* or *per*. *Ff* is printed as *F* at the beginning of the line but otherwise it is retained.

All Roman numerals are expanded.

Word-division, capitalization, and punctuation are all editorial according to modern usage. The manuscript employs capitals elsewhere but with inconsistencies and uncertainties. It has no punctuation.

## THE LYFE OF IPOMYDON

F. 54<sup>r</sup>

**M** Ekely, lordyngis gentyll and fre,  
Lystene a while and herken to me.  
I shall you telle of a kynge,  
A dowghty man withoute lesynge.  
In his tyme he was full bolde, 5  
A worthy man and wele of-tolde.  
Feyre he was on fote and hand  
And wel belouyd in all that lande.  
Off body he was styffe and stronge,  
And to no man he wold do wronge. 10  
Of Poyle-lond lord was he,  
Gold and syluer he had plente,  
Hye and low louyd hym alle,  
Moche honoure to hym was falle.  
Hys name was kynge Ermones, 15  
He hated wronge and louyd pees.  
His quene was bothe bryght and shene,  
Moche goodnesse was hem bytwene.  
To God they preyd after an eyre:  
He sent theym one, bothe good and feyre. 20  
Feyre he was of flesshe and blode,  
They thangkyd God with myld mode.  
To chyrche they bare the chyld thanne  
And Crystenyd hym Ipomydon.

Till a noryce they dyd hym take 25  
 And for pat chyld grete joy they make.  
 Many ladyes <toke they> hym to zeme,  
 That serued all pat chyld to queme.  
 The childe was feyre and waxe withall  
 And playd in chamber and in halle. 30  
 The kynge of hym had joy plente,  
 A feyrer child myght no man see.  
 He lette calle a knyght full trew,  
 F. 54<sup>v</sup> That namyd was syr Tholomew.  
 He was a knyght of grete pouste 35  
 And well bylouyd in that contre  
 Bothe of more and of lesse,  
 For hym folowyd all goodnesse.  
 Curteyse he was and hende of mouthe,  
 Of norture, iwys, myche he couthe, 40  
 That lordys vsyd in there halle  
 And ladyes in chamber grete and smalle.  
 Hermones sayd in his manere:  
 ‘I have a sonne pat me ys dere,  
 That shall be eyre of all my lande. 45  
 I wille ye haue hym to vndyrstand  
 And to teche hym in all manere,  
 Lyke as he thyne owne were.’  
 ‘Sir,’ quod pis knyght myld of speche,  
 ‘Wold God I cowthe your sonne teche 50

27 <toke they> *K, om. MS.*

37 eke *added in front of of lesse by LH.*

43 kynge *added in front of Hermones by LH.*

Thyng that myght torne hym to prow.<sup>7</sup>

Ipomydon resseyueth he now.

Tholomew, a clerke he toke,

That taught the child vpon þe boke

Bothe to synge and to rede,

55

And after he taught hym other dede,

Aftirward to serve in halle

Bothe to grete and to smalle,

Before the kyng mete to kerve,

Hye and low feyre to serve,

60

Bothe of howndis and haukis game.

Aftir he taught hym all and same

In se, in feld and eke in ryuere,

In wodde to chase the wild dere

And in the feld to ryde a stede,

65

That all men had joy of his dede.

All pat lond of hym spake good,

For he was so myld of mode;

Hende he was, curteyse and fre,

F. 55<sup>r</sup> A godelyer man myght no man see.

70

They preysed hym, bothe more and lesse,

Bothe man and woman, as I gesse.

All lovyd hym pat were hym by,

For he bare hym so curtessely.

Now is he waxen a goodly man,

75

To all godnesse he yaff hym than.

He ys a myghty man for the nonys

And wele ishape with grete bonys.

In all that contre was there none,  
 To hym myght cast pe tre ne stone. 80  
 The kyng of hym grete joy had,  
 For all folke of hym were glad.  
 Every yere the kyng wold  
 At Whytsontyde a fest hold.  
 Off dukis, erlis and barons, 85  
 Many there come frome dyuers townes;  
 Ladyes, maydens, gentill and fre,  
 Come thedyr frome ferre contre,  
 And grete lordis of ferre lond  
 Thedyr were prayd byfore the hand. 90  
 When all were come togedyr than,  
 There was joy of many a man,  
 Full riche I wote were hyr service,  
 For better myght no man devyse.  
 Ipomydon pat day servyd in halle, 95  
 All spake of hym, bothe grete and smalle,  
 Ladies and maydens byheld hym on,  
 So godely a man they had sene none.  
 His feyre chere in halle theym smert,  
 That many a lady smote throw the hert, 100  
 And in there hertis they made mone,  
 That there lordis ne were suche one.  
 Aftyр mete they went to pley,  
 All the peple, as I you sey,  
 F. 55<sup>v</sup> Somme to chambre and som to boure 105  
 And somme to the hye towre,

And somme in the halle stode,  
 And spake what hem thought gode.  
 Men that were of that cyte  
 Enquered of men of other contre, 110  
 Of Calabre-lond who was kynge,  
 And som answerd to [t]his askynge:  
 ‘ He ys dede sythe many a day,  
 And byhynde he lefte a feyre may,  
 That ys his doughter and his eyre. 115  
 In all pat lond is non so feyre,  
 And so sayne all, pat hyr do see,  
 She is pe feyreste pat may bee.  
 For, thoughe a man wold all pis day  
 Hyr beaute discryve, he coude not sey 120  
 All hyr worshyp ne hyr porture;  
 She is a lady of grete honoure.  
 In all pis world is non so wyse  
 That hir goodnesse kan devyse.  
 Kyngis and dukes comethe hyr to seke, 125  
 And so done emperoures eke  
 And wold haue pat mayde to wyfe,  
 But she will non pat is on lyffe,  
 But he doughtyeste be of hande,  
 That suche on is non lyvande.’ 130  
 This word sprange wyde withall  
 Bothe in chambre and in halle  
 Of the eyre of Calabre, pat feyre may.  
 Ipomydon he herkenyd ay;

Bothe in chambre and in boure 135  
 Men spake pat lady grete honowre.  
 There was none pat speke couthe,  
 But they the lady had in mouthe.

**I** Pomydon drew hym nye tho  
 And ofte herkenyd to and fro; 140  
 When he herd of hir so speke,

F. 56<sup>r</sup> Hym thought his herte wold tobreke,  
 But if he myght se pat mayde,  
 To wete if she were as they seyde;  
 Off hyr he had suche a thoght 145

That in mornyng he was broght,  
 And so he mornythe nyght and day,  
 But yit to no man wold he sey.  
 By than come forthe syr Tholomew,  
 That was hys master good and trewe. 150

‘Gode syr,’ he sayd, ‘for charyte,  
 Telle me who hathe grevyd the,  
 And why thou makyst pis mornynge.

I swere by Jesu, heuyn-kynge,  
 He shall aby on somme manere, 155  
 But if it be thy fader dere.’

‘Nay, master,’ he sayd, ‘not soo.  
 I shalle you telle or that I go.  
 But if I haue the helpe of the,  
 Joye thou getest neuyr of me, 160

For now to you, syr, I will sey:  
 Myne hert ys sette vppon a may,  
 That she may nevir oute of my thoght,

But I hyr se I worthe to nocht.  
 The eyre of Calabre, forsothe, it is, 165  
 That men speke of so myche blysse;  
 But if I may pat lady serve,  
 For care and sorow my hert wille sterve!  
 Tholomew sayd, 'Lette be this wille!  
 Thynke ye now youreselfe to spille? 170  
 Ye ar the kynges son and hys eyre,  
 And may haue maryages gode and feyre;  
 There ys no man in Crystente,  
 Pat richer maryages may haue pan ye!  
 'Master, these wordis avaylethe nocht; 175  
 But if I do, as I haue thoght,  
 And to hyr go, as I you saye,  
 I dye for hyr withoute deley!'

F. 56<sup>v</sup>

Sir Tholomew sayd, 'Sythe it is so  
 That ye may not hyr forgo, 180  
 I shall go vnto the kyng  
 And gete you leve, withoute lettynge,  
 That ye may go, sir, at your wille  
 And se the mayden all your fille.'  
 Sir Tholomew forthe gan goo, 185  
 And to pe kyng he went tho;  
 Vppon his knees he hym sette  
 And the kyng full feyre he grette:  
 'Sir, of one thyng I you prey,  
 Besechyng you to sey not nay, 190  
 Off your sonne Ipomydon,  
 For he thynkith to be a man:

Off youre courte and your norture  
 He hathe wele lernyd, I you ensure;  
 He wold wend into strange contre 195  
 More in service for to bee;  
 So that ye take it not at greffe,  
 Full feyne he wolde prey you of leffe,  
 And I shall make me redy  
 To wend with hym in companye 200  
 And serve hym as his owne knyght  
 And honoure hym with all my myght.  
 Than seyde Hermones the kyng,  
 'Iff this be his owne desyrynge,  
 I am well payed of his wille, 205  
 For his askyng I hold skille,  
 And now I wote thou arte my frend,  
 Sithe pat thou wilt with hym wend;  
 Take you inough of all thyng  
 And loke ye wante no spendyng!' 210  
 Sir Tholomew forthe gan goo,  
 And to Ipomydon come he tho  
 And sayd, 'Syr, withoute lesyng,  
 Your fadir hathe grantid youre askyng;  
 He bad pat ye nothyng shuld spare, 215  
 And myself shall with you fare.'  
 F. 57<sup>r</sup> 'I pray God thanke you, master dere.  
 That ye me love I may so here.'  
 Than they busked theym to goo,  
 Horse they toke and harnesse also; 220  
 Off all thyng they wantid none.

Now to his fader the child is gone;  
 On knees he felle byfore the kyng  
 And prayd hym of his dere blissyng:  
 'That blissyng haue pou, my sonne trew,  
 That Marye gaff hyr sonne Jesu.'

225

**N**ow they go forthe on hir way;  
 Ipomydon to hys men gan sey,  
 That ther be none of hem alle  
 So hardy, by hys name hym calle,  
 Whereso they wend ferre or nere  
 Or ouer the strange ryuere.

230

'Ne no man telle what I am,  
 Where I shall go ne whens I cam.'  
 All they granted his comandement,  
 And forthe they went with one assent.

235

Ipomydon and Tholomew  
 Robys had on and mantillis new  
 Off the rychest pat myght bee;  
 There was <none> suche in that contre,  
 For many was the ryche stone  
 That the mantillis were vppon.

240

So longe there weys they haue nome,  
 That to Calabre they ar come;  
 They come to the castelle yate,  
 De porter was redy thereat;

245

233 no *added above the line by L.H.*

234 Where *What deleted and written above the line.*  
 go *be deleted and altered to.*

240 <none> *W, K, om. MS.*

The porter to theyme they gan calle  
 And prayd hym go into þe halle:  
 ‘And say thy lady gent and fre,  
 That comen ar men of ferre contre,  
 And if it plese hyr we wold hyr prey,  
 That we myght ete with hyr to-day.’

250

F. 57<sup>v</sup> The porter sayd full cortessly:  
 ‘Your erand to do I am redy.’  
 The lady to hyr mete was sette,  
 The porter come and feyre hyr grette:  
 ‘Madame,’ he sayd, ‘God you saue.

255

Atte your gate gestis ye haue,  
 Strange men as for to see;  
 They aske mete for charyte.’

260

The lady comaundith sone anon,  
 Þat the gates were vndone:  
 ‘And bryng theym all byfore me,  
 For wele at ese shall they bee.’  
 They toke hyr pagis, hors and alle.

265

Þese two men went into þe halle;  
 Ipomydon on knees hym sette  
 And the lady feyre he grette:  
 ‘I am a man of strange contre  
 And pray you yff your wille to be,  
 That I myght dwelle with you to-yere,  
 Of your norture for to lere.

270

I am come frome ferre lond,  
 For speche I here byfore the hand,  
 That your norture and your servise

275

Ys holden of so grete empryse.  
 I pray you pat I may dwelle here,  
 Somme of your seruyse for to lere.  
 The lady byheld Ipomydon,  
 Hym semyd wele a gentilman; 280  
 She knew non suche in hyr lond,  
 So goodly a man and wele farand;  
 She saw also by his norture,  
 He was a man of grete valure.  
 She cast full sone in hyr thocht, 285  
 That for no seruyce come he noght,  
 But it was worship hyr vnto,  
 In feyre seruyce hym to do;  
 She sayd, 'Syr, welcome ye be  
 And all pat comyn be with the, 290  
 Sithe ye haue had so grete travayle,  
 Of a service ye shall not fayle.  
 In thys contre ye may dwelle here  
 And at youre wyll for to lere,  
 Of pe cuppe ye shall serue me, 295  
 And all your men with you shal be;  
 Ye may dwelle here at youre wille,  
 But your beryng be full ylle.'  
 'Madame,' he sayd, 'grantmercy!  
 He thankid the lady cortesly; 300  
 She comandyth hym to pe mete,  
 But, or he satte in any sete,  
 He saluted theym, grete and smalle,  
 As a gentillman shuld in halle;

F. 58<sup>r</sup>

All they sayd sone anone, 305  
 They saw neuyr so goodly a man  
 Ne so light ne so glad  
 Ne none, pat so ryche atyre had.  
 There was non pat sat nor yede,  
 But they had mervelle of hys dede 310  
 And sayd he was no lytell syre,  
 That myght shew suche atyre.  
 Whan they had ete and grace sayd  
 And þe tabyll away was leyd,  
 Vpp þan aroos Ipomydon, 315  
 And to þe botery he went anon  
 And his mantille hym aboute;  
 On hym lokyd all the route  
 And euery man sayd to other there:  
 'Will ye se þe proude squeer, 320  
 Shall serue my lady of þe wyne  
 In his mantell pat is so fyne!'

That they hym scornyd wist he noght,  
 On othyr thyng he had his thoght;  
 He toke þe cuppe of þe botelere 325  
 And drew a lace of sylke full clere,  
 Adowne than felle hys mantyll by;  
 He prayd hym for his curtesy  
 That lytelle yifte pat he wold nome,  
 Tille eftesone a better come. 330  
 Vp it toke the botelere  
 Byfore the lady he gan it bere  
 And prayd the lady hertely,

To thanke hym of his cortessye.  
 All that was tho in the halle, 335  
 Grete honowre they spake hym alle  
 And sayd he was no lytelle man,  
 That suche yiftys yiffe kan.  
 There he dwellyd many a day  
 And servid the lady wele to pay; 340  
 He bare hym on so feyre manere  
 To knyghtis, ladyes and squyere,  
 All louyd hym pat were hym by,  
 For he bare hym so cortesly.  
 The lady had a cosyne pat hight Jason, 345  
 Full wele he louyd Ipomydon;  
 Where pat he yede in or oute,  
 Jason went with hym aboute.  
 The lady lay but she slept noght,  
 For of the squyere she had grete thoght, 350  
 How he was feyre and shape wele,  
 Body and armes and euerydele;  
 Ther was non in all hir land  
 So wele besemyd, doughty of hand;  
 But she kowde wete for no case, 355  
 Whens he come ne what he was,  
 Ne of no man cowde enquere  
 Other than the strange squyere.  
 She hyr bythoght on a queyntyse,  
 If she myght know in ony wyse, 360  
 To wete whereof he were come;

358 <he het> before the *supplied by K.*

Thys was hyr thocht all and somme ;  
 F. 59<sup>r</sup> She thought to wode hyr men to ta[n]e,  
 That she myght know hym by his game.  
 On the morow whan it was day, 365  
 To hyr men than gan she say :  
 ‘ To-morow whan it is day-lyght,  
 Loke ye be all redy dight  
 With youre h[ou]ndis more and lesse,  
 In the forest to take my grese, 370  
 And there I will myselfe be,  
 Youre game to byhold and see.’  
 Ipomydon had houndis thre,  
 That he broght frome his contre ;  
 When they were to pe wodde gone, 375  
 This lady and hyr men ichone,  
 And with hem hyr howndis ladde,  
 All that cuyr any howndis had,  
 Sir Tholomew, foryate he noght,  
 His mastres howndis thedyr he broght, 380  
 That many a day ne had ronne ere ;  
 Full wele he thocht to note hem there.  
 Whan they come to pe laund on hight,  
 The quenys pavylon there was pight,  
 That she myght se of the best 385  
 All pe game of pe forest.  
 The wandlessours went prow pe forest  
 And to pe lady broght many a best,

---

363 ta[n]e tame *MS.*

369 h[ou]ndis *K*, handis *MS.*

Herte and hynde, buk and doo  
 And othir bestis many moo. 390  
 The howndis pat were of grete prise,  
 Pluckid downe dere all at a tryse,  
 Ipomydon with his houndis thoo  
 Drew downe bothe buk and doo ;  
 More he toke with howndis thre 395  
 Than all pat othyr compaigne.  
 There squyers vndyd hyr dere,  
 F. 59<sup>v</sup> Iche man on his owne manere ;  
 Ipomydon a dere yede vnto,  
 Full konnyngly gan he it vndo, 400  
 So feyre pat veneson he gan to dight,  
 That bothe hym byheld squyere and knyght ;  
 The lady lokyd oute of hyr pavyloun  
 And saw hym dight the venyson.  
 There she had grete deynte, 405  
 And so had all pat dyd hym see.  
 She sawe all pat he downe droughe,  
 Of huntyng, she wist, he cowde inoughe,  
 And thought in hyr herte than,  
 That he was come of gentillmen. 410  
 She bad Jason hyr men to calle ;  
 Home pay passyd, grete and smalle,  
 Home they come sone anone.  
 This lady to hyr mete gan gone  
 And of venery had hyr fille, 415  
 For they had take game at wille.  
 Ipomydon serued, as I vndirstand,

As he was wonte done byforehand.

‘Sir,’ she sayd, ‘sanʒ fayle,

Ye haue bene in grete travayle. 420

Anothyr man, as I you say,

Shall serue me at mete pis day ;

Go to youre mete sone on hye,

My cosyn Jason shall sytte you by.’

The ladyes hert was on hym cast 425

And she byheld hym wondir fast,

Euer on hym she kest hyr eye.

Ipomydon full wele it sye,

Anone it gaff hym in his thoght,

To loke ageyne, lette wold he noght, 430

Nor no more coward thoght he to be

F. 60<sup>r</sup> Off his lokyng than was she.

The lady perseyued it full wele,

Of all his lokyng euerydele,

And therewith bygan to shame, 435

For she myght lightly falle in blame ;

If men perseyued it ony thyng,

Bytwyxe hem two suche lokyng,

Than wold they sey all bydene,

That somme loue were hem bytwene, 440

Dan shuld she falle in slandre

And lese myche of hyr honoure.

She thoght to werne hym preuely

By hyr cosyn pat sat hym by.

**J** Ason,' she sayd, 'pou art to blame,  
 And therwith the ought to shame,  
 To byhold my mayd in vayne.

Euery man to othyr wille seyne,  
 That bytwyxx you ys somme synne;  
 Of thy lokyng I rede pou blynne.'

Ipomydon hym bythoght anone,  
 How pat she blamyd Jason  
 Withoute deservyng euerydele,

But the encheson he perseyued wele;  
 Downe he lokyd and thoght grete shame,  
 That Jason bare for hym pat blame;  
 Stille he satte and sayd no more,  
 He thoght to dwelle no lenger there.

As the lady hyr chambre had tane,  
 Byfore hyr come Ipomydon

And sayd, 'Madame, God yeld it the,  
 The grete honoure pou haste done me.  
 Haue good day, now wille I fare  
 Into pe contre pat I was are.'

'Felaw,' she sayd, 'chese at pi wille,  
 Whether pou wilt wend or abyde stille.'

F. 60<sup>v</sup> He went anone into the halle

And toke his leue of grete and smalle,  
 Bothe at lesse and at more,

And they thoght thereof ryght sore.  
 To Jason he wendith anone ryght

And takith hys leve with hert vnlyght ;

Than sayd Jason on hye :

‘ Leue syr, leve this folye

And with my lady pou dwelle here,

475

She louythe the in all manere.

Iff thow wende forth in this wille,

For sorow she wille hyrself spyll.’

‘ Jason, felow, lett be thy thoght.

Lenger dwelle here ne wille I nocht,

480

For I shall wende home to my kynge

And leve you here with all joyinge.’

‘ My dere frend, sythe it is so

That thou wilt algatis goo,

Yeve me leve with the to wend,

485

Into what contre pat pou wilt lend,

I wold full fayne do it in dede.’

‘ Grantmercy, syr, God yif the mede.

With me hedyr come ye nocht.

Ne shall with me but that I broght.’

490

He toke hys leve at Jason there

And went forthe ellywhere.

Whan the lady wist pat he was gone,

A sory woman pan was she oon ;

Vppon hyr bedde she gan hyr ley

495

And to hyrself than gan she say :

‘ There is not suche a man in lande,

If he be doughty of his hand,

As he is of body to see,  
 Of what lond that euyr he bee.' 500  
 'Allas,' she sayd, 'and welleaway,  
 That for a word he went away!  
 Had men sought all mankynde,  
 F. 61<sup>r</sup> A feyrer body shuld no man fynde.'  
 This lady, pat was of ryche blode, 505  
 That nyght she cowde but lytell gode,  
 That she shuld suche mone make  
 For a strange mannys sake,  
 That no man wist what he was,  
 But yit she sayd ofte, 'Allas, 510  
 For suche is none in Crystente,  
 Full wele hym semeth a knyght to be!'  
 Thus she comforted hyr amonge  
 And ofte she felle in mornyng stronge.  
 Ipomydon went, as ye may here, 515  
 Byhynde he lefte a messyngere,  
 For to brynge hym tythyngis newe,  
 Iff there were any that he knewe;  
 What they were he shuld hym brynge,  
 And that anon, withoute lettyng, 520  
 The land of Poyle he hathe nome  
 And to pe kyng, his fader, ys come  
 And to pe quene, his modyr dere,  
 For hym they made ryght glad chere.  
 Curteyse he was, bothe stoute and bolde, 525  
 And myche in land he was of-tolde;  
 All men hym louyd, suche was his grace.

Of chyld Ipomydon here is a space.

**T** Hey were togedyr many yere  
 With myche myrth and game in fere; 530  
 The kyng his sonne knyght gan make

And many another for his sake.

Justes were cryed, ladyes to see,  
 Thedyr come lordys grete plente,  
 Turnementis atyred in the felde, 535

A thousand armed with spere and shelde.

Knyghtis bygan togedir to ryde,  
 Somme were vnhorsyd on euery syde.

Ipomydon pat day was victoryus  
 And there he gaff many a cours, 540

F. 61<sup>v</sup> For there was non that he mette  
 And his spere on hym wold sette,  
 That aftir within a lytell stounde  
 Hors and man bothe went to ground.

The heraudes gaff pe child pe gree, 545  
 A thousand pownd he had to fee.

Mynstrellys had yiftes of golde,  
 And fourty dayes pys fest was holde.

Off the eyre of Calabre here will I telle  
 And of hyr b̄aronage fayre and well, 550

How that they had at counselle bene  
 And of assent was theym bytwene,

Pat here lady shuld take an husband  
 To gouerne theyme and all there land,

536 thousand M. MS.

546 thousand M. MS.

Bycause she was of yong age. 555  
 To hyr come all hyr baronage  
 And sayd, 'Madame, we wille you pray  
 That we myght oure will sey.  
 Youre lond thynkyth ye do theyme wronge  
 Withowte kyng to dwelle so longe, 560  
 That myght gouerne pis land so feyre,  
 And bytwyxe you gete an eyre  
 And hold pis land in right blode.'  
 The lady answerd with myld mode:  
 'Your counseyle ys gode euerychone, 565  
 But husband yit will I haue none.'  
 They toke leve and wente here way  
 And bytaught the lady gode day.  
 To counselle new than gon they gone  
 And full sone they were at one, 570  
 To kyng Melliager, hyr eme, they went  
 And told hym of the ladyes entent:  
 For an husband pey had bene at hyrre,  
 And she yaff theym lyght answer.  
 Furthe they went, withoute lettyng, 575  
 To the land there he was kyng.  
 Kyng Melliagere sone they found  
 And anone they knelyd to ground,  
 Praying hym as lord dere,  
 That he wold here prayere here; 580  
 They told hym all togedyr nowe,  
 What pat they had done and howe,  
 And suche answer she yaffe theyme tylle,

Husband to haue she had no wille:  
 'Wherefore, lord, we wold you prey, 585  
 For we wote wele pat ye best may  
 Councelle wele oure lady nowe,  
 As best may be the remes prowē.  
 'Lordyngis,' he sayd, 'withoutyn fayle,  
 I assent vnto your conce[y]lle, 590  
 For to my cosyn will I goo  
 And make hyr, or I wend hyr fro,  
 Me to graunt, husband to take,  
 Or clene my love she shall forsake.'  
 Than they thankyd the kyngē so free 595  
 And went home to theyre contre.  
 Kyng Mellyager to his cosyn ys gone,  
 And she hym welcomyd feyre anon,  
 And of his comyng she was glad,  
 And moche <joye> of hym she made. 600  
 Whan they had take hyr sporte in halle,  
 The kyngē to counselle gan hyr calle  
 And sayd, 'Dere cosyn, here my wille:  
 An husband must ye take you tylle,  
 The whiche may of pis land by kyngē 605  
 And gouerne it in all thyngē;  
 For no woman may take on hand,  
 Wele to gouerne suche a land.'  
 'Sir,' she sayd, 'ye be of my blode,  
 I hold your counselle feyre and good 610

590 conce[y]lle concēlle *MS.*

600 <joye> *K, om. MS.*

And aftir it feyne wold I doo,  
 As most worship may be me to ;  
 But sythe pat I haue husband shalle,  
 Do make crye vndir þis castelle walle  
 Justes there thre dayes to laste, 615  
 And who pat there may bere hym best  
 F. 62<sup>v</sup> And that doughtyest ys of hande,  
 Shall wedde me and all this lande.  
 Syr, loke ye crye withoute delaye  
 By halfe yere afore the day, 620  
 That it be know ferre and nere,  
 On what day it shall be here.'  
 Now thynkith this feyre may  
 On the strange squyere nyght and day :  
 'If he be suche as I hym holde, 625  
 Also doughty and so bolde,  
 For me than he wille be here  
 And wynne me in all manere.'  
 Heraudes were callyd in hye,  
 Thrughe the land to make the crye ; 630  
 This crye was knowen ouerall,  
 In all the land grete and smalle.  
 Ipomydons messyngere anone  
 Home to Poyle gan he gone ;  
 The crye he vndyrstode wele 635  
 And told his maister euerydele.  
 Ipomydon in hert was full glad,  
 Whan that he the tythyngis had herd ;

He callyd his maister Tholomewe,  
 That euer was full gode and trewe, 640  
 And sayd, 'Syr, make vs redy,  
 For into Calabre now will I!'  
 He purveyd hym thre noble stedis  
 And also thre noble wedys;  
 That one was white as any mylke, 645  
 The trappure of hym was white sylke;  
 Pat other was rede, bothe styffe and stoure,  
 The trappure was of þe same coloure;  
 Blake þan was pat othir stede,  
 The same coloure was his wede. 650  
 Thre greyhondis with hym he ladde,  
 The best pat his fader had,  
 F. 63<sup>r</sup> Rede and whyte and blake they were.  
 Whan he was dight in this manere,  
 With hym he toke a feyre may 655  
 And went forthe on his jorney;  
 Into Seseney the wey they nome.  
 Within the lond whan pat he come,  
 He bad Tholomew take his stedys,  
 All his men and all his wedys: 660  
 'And take your inne in the cyte  
 By night pat no man you see.  
 Lette no man se theyme nyght ne day,  
 But them pat shall here mete ley.'

643 thre iij *MS.*

664 here *MS.*, deleted and altered to theyr by LH.

ley *MS.*, deleted and altered to pouruay by LH.

Hys owne wey forthe he nome, 665  
 Vnto a forest tyll þat he come;  
 There huntyd kyng Mellyager in þat forest  
 Atte hert and hynd and wyld beste;  
 Ipomydon mette with a knyght  
 And askyd hym anone-right, 670  
 Who that grete lord was,  
 That in the forest made þe chase.  
 The knyght sayd, 'Yff ye will here,  
 It ys the kynge Mellyagere,  
 That thus huntithe here besyde.' 675  
 Ipomydon vnto þe kynge gan ryde  
 And saluted hym as a king dere,  
 He welcomyd hym on feyre manere.  
 He prayd the kynge if it were his wille,  
 A lytelle stounde to stonde stille 680  
 And here the speche of a knyght;  
 The kynge hym grauntid anone-right.  
 'I am a knyght, as ye may see,  
 And come I am frome ferre contre;  
 For noblely of you I haue herd telle, 685  
 All my desyre ys with you to dwelle,  
 In youre contre to be here,  
 The manere of pis land to lere.'  
 F. 63<sup>v</sup> The kynge byheld þe knyght than,  
 Hym thoght he was a godely man: 690  
 'In all this land, bothe ferre and nere,  
 Ys none so feyre a bachelere.'

'Sir knyght,' he sayd in feyre manere,  
 'Gladly shall ye dwellyn here.'  
 Ipomydon sayd, 'I shall you telle, 695  
 At this couenant wold I dwelle;  
 Full fayne I wold be redy bowne  
 To lede your quene bothe vp and downe,  
 Fro hyr chambre to hyr halle,  
 And my lemman I wold hyr calle; 700  
 My mayden pat is of honoure  
 Shall dwelle in pe quenys boure;  
 At euery terme pat I hyr lede,  
 A kusse of pe quene shall be my mede.  
 I will no more for my servyse.' 705  
 The kyng anone, withoute avyse,  
 Thoght he come for othyr thynges,  
 And grantyd hym his askynges.  
 Anone the kyng lefte his game,  
 Home they rode bothe insame 710  
 And to pe quene pe covenantys seyde.  
 'As ye haue done, I hold me payd.'  
 There he dwellyd many a day  
 With myche myrthe, game and play;  
 Full feyre he dyd his servyse 715  
 And servyd pe quene at hyr devyse;  
 Where pat she went, in boure or halle,  
 The quene his lemman dyd he calle.  
 So it befelle vppon a day,  
 That to pe justes men dyd hem araye; 720

720 hem *MS*, t of them *added by LH*.

Thedyr wold kyng Mellyagere  
 With all the knyghtis pat with hym were:  
 F. 64<sup>r</sup> Sir Campanyus, pat good knyght,  
 In all pat lond was none so wight,  
 And sir Caymys, pe kyngis steward, 725  
 A doughty knyght and no coward.  
 The kyng sayd to sir Ipomydon,  
 That callyd was the quenys lemman,  
 As he mette hym in the halle:  
 ‘The tyme ys come pat juste we shalle; 730  
 Dight you now, go we oure way!  
 I wote ye thynke to wynne pe may.’  
 And he answerd with myld chere:  
 ‘Who shuld pan serve my lady dere?  
 For certis of justes can I nocht, 735  
 To serve my lady is all my thocht.  
 If I hyr lefte for other dede,  
 I were not worthy to haue my mede.’  
 The kyng hym turnyd pan away  
 And to his knyghtis gan he say: 740  
 ‘So a feyre a body as bereth hee,  
 Allas, a coward pat he shuld be!’  
 Campanyus and all pat stode hym by,  
 Bymenyd that knyght curtesly;  
 They toke there leve at pe quene 745  
 And wente forthe all bydene;  
 Vnto Calabre they toke pe way,

729 hym *added above the line* by LH.

730 we K, wele MS.

There they shuld just pat other day.

Leve we theyme at þe justynge

And talke we now of other thyng,

750

**O**ff Ipomydon and þe lady shene,  
That was at home with þe quene.  
What tyme come þey shuld to mete,

Ipomydon brought hir to hyr sete;

Into the halle whan he hyr broght,

755

To take hys cusse forgate he noght.

F. 64<sup>v</sup>

Whan she had etyn, to chambre she wente,

Ipomydon to the quene he [m]ente:

‘To-morow, madame, I wold you pray,

With leve of you, whan yt is day,

760

Go to þe forest to take a dere.

My greyhondes ranne not pis quartere;

Whyle my lord ys at þe justynge,

My greyhoundis I wold feyne se rennyng.

O thyng, madame, I wold you pray:

765

If I come not be tyme of day,

Whan ye se tyme, to mete ye wend,

For I wote neuyr how long I lend.’

‘Sir,’ she sayd, ‘God you spede.’

He kyssyd hyr and forthe he yede.

770

Ipomydon callyd his master than,

Sir Tholomew, that noble man:

‘To my hostage ye go by nyght,

My white stede, loke he be dight,

And with the armure hedyr ye brynge

775

To-morow, or the day sprynge.

Hye you oute at pe castelle yate

And frome all syght kepe you allgate.'

Ipomydon went to pe portere

And prayd hym if his wille were

780

The yate myght by opyn or day;

Pe porter grantyd hym and toke hym pe key,

And at pe fryst cokke roose hee;

Furthe he went with greyhondis thre,

In a lesshe he dyd hem do

785

And blew a grete horne also;

He blew lowde and shoke it wele,

That it ronge all pe castelle.

The maydenys to pe quene gan say:

'Youre lemman gothe to wynne pe may.'

790

F. 65<sup>r</sup>

The quene answerd withoute lettynge:

'All men konne not of justynge.

Thoughe he kanne not of suche dedys,

He may be gode at other nedis.'

Ipomydon is to Tholomew gone

795

And toke hym hys houndis euerychon.

He prayd hym as his maister dere,

To note theyme wele in all manere

And with the flesshe kepe theym in place,

There pat theyre stevyn sette was.

800

He sayd, 'God spede pe lord dere!

Thereto I shall do my deuere.'

Ipomydon went forthe and his page,

Till he came to an ermytage ;  
 He lokyd forthe and byheld, 805  
 Many a knyght he saw in feld.  
 Iche to other fast gan ryde  
 With grete sperys on iche syde.  
 He toke his spere anone-ryght  
 And lepte on his stede so light ; 810  
 In he come amonge hem alle,  
 Throw the clowdis as he had falle ;  
 The fryst knyght he gan to ryde  
 With a spere, þat wold abyde,  
 In-myddis the sheld he sette his spere, 815  
 That hors and man he gan downe bere.  
 Anothir knyght he mette also,  
 That his bakke tobrast in two ;  
 The thryd he sloughe withoute lettynge,  
 The fourthe wente into pe same ryng. 820  
 There was no knyght þat he mette,  
 Ðat wold hys spere on hym sette,  
 But if his spere all tobrakke,  
 He wold hym to pe ground shake.  
 The lady lay ouer pe castelle walle 825  
 And byheld pe justis alle ;  
 She sent speres white and blake  
 F. 65<sup>v</sup> To all men þat wold hem take.  
 Jason she sent vnto pe knyght,  
 That in white harneise was dight, 830  
 To bere hym sperys at his nede ;  
 She thocht hym worthiest of dede,

And every man till othir gan saye,  
 He was þe manliest there pat day.  
 Than all þe peple homeward went 835  
 And Jason to þe knyght hym bente,  
 Praying hym, 'As lord dere,  
 Come home here to thyne owne manere,  
 For wele I wote thou shalt be kynge,  
 The whiche is gretly to my lykyngel' 840  
 'Jason,' he sayd, 'God þe foryelde  
 Thy grete servyce to-day in þe feld,  
 That pou hast done me in þis place.'  
 Jason merveyled of pat case:  
 'Sir,' he sayd, 'for charyte, 845  
 What man be ye pat knoweth me?'  
 'It were merveile but I þe knew.  
 Somme-tyme pou were my felow trewe.  
 I am,' he sayd, 'þe strange squyere,  
 That servyd my lady þis endris yere; 850  
 Grete hyr wele on all manere.  
 This day for hyr I haue bene here,  
 But lenger dwelle here may I noght,  
 Suche tithyngis to me is broght  
 Home frome myne owne contre, 855  
 And forth I most, as I telle the.'  
 'A, sir,' he sayd, 'art thou he?  
 For God pat dyed vppon a tree,  
 Come now and with my lady speke,  
 Or ellis I wote hyr herte will breke, 860

838 here *MS*, dots are placed below the line and altered to now by *LH*.

For and she knew pou went away,  
She lyveth nevir to-morrow day.'

'Thou shalt, Jason, vndirstond

I wold not tarye for all pis land.'

He toke his leve and went his way. 865

Jason to pe quene gan say

Word for word euerydele:

F. 66<sup>r</sup> 'The strange squyer grette you wele.

He was pat ylke whyte knyght,

That in pe feld so richely was dight.' 870

This lady to hyr chambre ys gone;

A sory woman was she one.

Vppon hyr bedde she gan downe falle

On swoune afore hyr maydens alle,

And whan she roos of swounynge, 875

Hir handis fast gan she wrynge:

'Allas,' she sayd, 'what I was wode,

A witteles thyng, and cowde no goode!

My witte myght haue seruyd me,

That suche a man doughty most be.' 880

But yit she trowyd in hyr thoght,

So lightly wold he leve hyr noght;

That was hyr comfort most in care,

And ellis she had hyrself forfare.

Ipomydon to his maister camme, 885

He found hym and his houndes anone;

Plente of flesshe had he caught,

886 houndes sonnys placed by dots below the line and houndes written on the right margin.

Hors and harneyse he hym bytaught,  
 And eyther passyd to hyr inne.  
 Ipomydon the flesshe toke with hym, 890  
 Byfore the quene he ganne it bere,  
 As she was sette at hyr soper.  
 ‘Madame,’ he sayd, ‘my lord, pe kynge,  
 Hathe not pus sped with hy[s] justynge.’  
 All the halle that pere were insame, 895  
 At hym they loughe and had game.  
 Ipomydon went to his mete,  
 Faste he brake and faste he ete,  
 For he had fasted all pat day;  
 Suche a lykynge he had in pley. 900  
 As they satte at there soper,  
 In comythe the kyngis messyngere;  
 Vppon his knee he hym sette  
 And pe quene feyre he grette.  
 To hyr sent word hyr lord, pe kynge, 905  
 How they had done at pe justynge;  
 Tho askyd pe quene anone-right:  
 ‘Was there any with Campanyus dyd fight,  
 F. 66<sup>v</sup> That was so doughty in pe felde,  
 Outher with spere or with shelde?’ 910  
 ‘Ya, madame, so mot I thee,  
 Ther was oone worthe suche thre:  
 In white armure he was dight,  
 In all pe feld was none so wight,

889 hyr *MS*, *deleted and thyr written above the line by LH*.

894 hy[s] *K*, *hyr MS*.

But if it were my lord, þe kynge, 915  
 For he is passand in euery thyng.  
 The quene asked, 'what was hee?'  
 The messyngere sayd, 'So mot I the,  
 At pat tyme knew hym no man.'  
 Than byspake Ipomydon 920  
 And sayd, 'Messyngere, I the pray,  
 Vnto my lorde, þe kyng, þou saye  
 That my good whyte greyhound  
 Hathe sleyne more dere and broght to ground  
 Than wold hys haue done to-daye.' 925  
 Ipomydon to þe quene gan saye,  
 Praying he moste þe kyng somme bere,  
 To wete pat he was no lyere.  
 The quene ys to hyr chambre gone,  
 Thedir ledithe hyr Ipomydon; 930  
 He prayd leue on þe morow to play,  
 As he had done pat othir day.  
 The quene hym grauntyd curtesly;  
 To hys maister he dyd hym hye,  
 And prayd hym sone and anone 935  
 To his ostage pat he shuld gone  
 And brynge hym his rede stede,  
 Foryete noght þe same wede,  
 In the place pat they were ere,  
 And pat he shuld be erly there. 940  
 Ful erly roos Ipomydon,  
 His horne, hys greyhound he toke pan,  
 He blew it lowde and wele gan shake,

That all þe maydens þo gan awake.

Than sayd all þat were þereinne:

945

‘Your lemman gothe þe mayd to wyne.’

The quene answeryd, as she dyd ere:

‘He may more wyne þan he were þere.’

F. 67<sup>r</sup>

The kyngis messengere forthe went

And toke hym hole his present;

950

Euery word þe kyng he tolde,

Than seyde þe knyghtys þat were bolde:

‘Allas, þat suche a knyght shuld leve,

But he to manhode wold hym yeve!’

Ipomydon to his maister wente,

955

His armure and his stede he hent,

Þe rede greyhound he toke hym ryght.

That day he prayde hym do his myght

And in þat place kepe þe fleshe

With þe greyhoundis in þe lesse.

960

Forthe he went in þat stounde

And to þe ermytage he came sound,

Into þe feld he lokyd þanne,

He saw many an armyd man,

Hym he armyd and forthe gan ryde.

965

Faste they justyd on euery syde,

And euyr byheld þe lady bryght,

If she myght se þe whyte knyght;

For she on hym non eye myght caste,

She thocht hyr hert wold tobreste.

970

Jason þat day was made knyght

And richely in þe feld was dight;

Ipomydon, this case he sawe  
 Pat Jason was knyght, his owne felawe ;  
 To hym he prekyd faste in hye ; 975  
 Whan he shulde mete, he rode hym by.  
 That day he taught hym so to done  
 That worthely he wanne his shone.  
 But Ipomydon, as I you saye,  
 Many a knyght he fellyd pat day, 980  
 So many sperys he brakke onsondre,  
 That all folke on hym had wondere.  
 They sayd there nas in all pat lande  
 Noon so manly man of hande,  
 For all they sayd po full tye, 985  
 The rede was better pan pe white,  
 And so he bare hym pat daye,  
 That knyghtys wexe wery of his playe.  
 Whan euery knyght to hys inne gan ryde,  
 Sir Jason dyd with hym abyde 990  
 And sayd, 'Syr knyght, God pe foryelde  
 Thy grete helpe to-day in pe felde!  
 Thrughe the the more loue pat I wanne,  
 That more desyre I ne canne.  
 I wote pou shalt be lord here, 995  
 For I know noon pat is pi pere,  
 Saffe yistryday the whyte knyght,  
 But he is oute of lond dight.'  
 'Nay, Jason, my trew fere,  
 Thou shalt se pat I am here. 1000  
 But grete wele my lady dere,

For hyr to-day haue I bene here,  
 The whiche I say, withouten fayle,  
 Will me torne to grete travaile,  
 And many an hors ryde to ded, 1005  
 Or I come there pat me most nede;  
 For all my lond I lese for ay,  
 But I be there by a certeyne day.  
 Jason sayd, 'Syr, mercy,  
 And thynke vppon my lady, 1010  
 For and ye passe hyr pus froo,  
 For sorow she wille hyrselfe slo!  
 Ipomydon sayd, 'By heuyn-kyнге,  
 At this tyme I will not lynge,  
 But grete hyr wele and haue gode day, 1015  
 And I shall come whan pat I may.'  
 Sir Jason passyd forthe in hyec  
 And this tale tolde to the lady:  
 'The rede knyght and pe whyte ys one,  
 But forsothe now ys he goon!' 1020  
 Than sory was that swete thyng  
 And efte she felle in mornynge;  
 But she bethought hyr, [a]s she dyd are,  
 And ellis she had hyrselfe forfare.  
 Ipomydo[n] to his maister yede 1025  
 And toke his armure and his stede;  
 He toke the flesshe and pe greyhound  
 And gan to go toward the towne;

F. 68<sup>r</sup>1023 [a]s *K*, is *MS*.1025 Ipomydo[n] *W*, *K*, Ipomydo *MS*.

His hors he had and his huntyng-wede,  
 Anone into pe halle he yede, 1030  
 Byfore pe quene the flesshe he leyd:  
 'Here ys my dayes journey,' he sayd.  
 At hym they loughe and made glad chere,  
 The quene went to hyr sopere  
 And hyr leman sat hyr by. 1035  
 The kynges messengere come in hye  
 And sayd, pe kyng grete hyr wele.  
 The justis he told hyr euerydele.  
 The fryst wórd pe quene gan say:  
 'Come pe white knyght there to-day?' 1040  
 'Nay,' he sayd, 'By God allmyght,  
 But there was a noble rede knyght,  
 The whiche all men pat gan hym see,  
 Said pat he was bettir pan hee.'  
 Ipomydon sayd to pe messengere: 1045  
 'Recomand me to my lord so dere  
 And say that Gager, my rede greyhounde,  
 Moche dere hathe broght pis day to ground.  
 I had more joye at hys rynnynge  
 Than to stand and stare, to se pe justyng.  
 'Madame,' he said, 'so God me amend,  
 Of youre game I rede ye hym send.'  
 'Sir,' she said, 'as ye thynke beste.  
 Farewele for now I go to reste.'  
 Vnto hyr chambre she went pan; 1055  
 Byfore hyr come Ipomydon,  
 Ones of leue he wold hyr praye,

He wold not hunte after many a day.

She hym grantyd of his bone,

To his master he went sone;

1060

He yede and fette, withoute lakke,

Stede and harnesse pat was blakke;

He knew pe way at pe beste,

Where they shuld mete in pe foreste.

The messyngere come vnto pe kynge,

1065

Hys present feyre he dyd hym brynge;

What he shuld sey forgatte he nocht.

The kynge of hym wondir thocht

F. 68<sup>v</sup>

And in his hert had grete pyte,

So goodly a man as was hee,

1070

That euyr he was so lytell of prise

And therto full of cowardise.

Whateuyr they thocht in here hert,

Many of them he made to smerte.

Latte hym go, God hym spede,

1075

Till eftesone we of hym rede!

**I** Pomydon rose erly there,

As he was wonte to done ere;

Forthe he rode blowynge his horne,

That all the maydens gan hym scorne

1080

And sayd, 'Your leman gothe to playe,

For he wille wyne vp all to-daye.'

The quene hem blamyd wondir faste,

Hyr hert to hym was somewhat caste.

To hys master he went in hye

1085

And prayd hym full hertely,

To take more dere, yf he myght,  
 Than he dyd þe tother day-light.  
 Anone his hors he gan dighte  
 And rode to þe feld forthe-ryght, 1090  
 Armure blak lyke the stede.  
 To þe ermytage forthe he yede;  
 Anone his stede he bestrode,  
 Amonge hem all in he rode.  
 He was sone warre of a knyght, 1095  
 That in rede atyre was dight —  
 ‘ This rede knyght was here yisterday,  
 He justid for pat feyre may.  
 There was none bore hym so feyre,  
 Of Calabre he wille wynne þe eyre.’ 1100  
 The lady lay on toure on hye,  
 The reed knyght full sone she see;  
 She wende it were þe strange squyere,  
 Þat she hopid shuld be hyr fere.  
 Her purpos was to hym to wende, 1105  
 Whan the justes come to end,  
 And brynge hym with feyre manere,  
 To hyr was none so leffe ne dere.  
 Right as the quene in thocht stode,  
 The rede knyght anone in rode; 1110  
 The blake toke a spere in honde,  
 To just with hym he thocht in londe,

1102 reed ryght by dots below it and reed added above the line by LH.  
 rede on the margin deleted by LH.

1105 Her There deleted and Her written above the line by LH.

1107 <home> before with supplied by K.

F. 69<sup>r</sup> And eyther with othyr sone they mette,  
 In-myd the sheld the stroke they sette.  
 The blak knyghtes spere was stiffe and stronge, 1115  
 And therewith he gan fast thronge  
 The knyght and stede within a stounde,  
 That they lay bothe vppon the ground.  
 Ipomydon toke pe rede stede,  
 To hys men he gan hym lede. 1120  
 Than come forthe syr Caymys,  
 A proude knyght and a daynous;  
 Just he wold with pe blak knyght,  
 But all to lytelle was hys myght;  
 With a spere pat welle wold laste, 1125  
 Knyght and hors downe he caste.  
 Sir Caymys hors he toke in hye,  
 The rede knyghtes he sette hym bye.  
 Sir Campaynus hym faste byhelde,  
 He thocht to just with hym in felde; 1130  
 Hys thocht was to wyne pe maye,  
 But he fayled foule of his praye.  
 Forthe they rode togedyr faste  
 That there sperys asondre braste;  
 Bothe they were stiffe and stronge, 1135  
 Pey luste to ryde, pey taryed not longe,  
 And eyther of theym toke a spere;  
 Campaynus poght hym downe to bere.  
 In-mydde pe place pe knyghtes mette,  
 Ipomydon so Campanus grette, 1140  
 That knyght and stede in pat case

Felle on hepe in-midde pe place.  
 The blake knyght toke hys stede goode,  
 The kynge thereof began to wode,  
 That his knyghtes bore downe were. 1145  
 He folowyd pe knyght with a spere;  
 He had thocht to done hym harme,  
 For he smote hym throw pe arme.  
 Ipomydon with pat stroke abrayde  
 And to pe kynge pus he sayde: 1150  
 ‘As pou arte kynde, gentille and free,  
 Abyde and juste a cours with me,  
 And I foryiffe pis vilanye!’  
 The kynge sayd, ‘Therto grant I!’  
 F. 69<sup>v</sup> Full fayne he wold haue bene away, 1155  
 But for shame he sayd not nay.  
 The kynge and he, in place pey mette,  
 The blake knyght suche a stroke hym sette,  
 That kynge and hors downe he caste,  
 That hym thocht hys nekke tobraste. 1160  
 The kynges stede he ledde away,  
 Dat euery man to other gan saye:  
 ‘He may wele be kynge of londe  
 For the doughtyeste man of hand,  
 That any man sawe euer ere.’ 1165  
 And so sayd all pat there were,  
 They gaffe hym pe gre of felde  
 For pe doughtyest vndyr shelde.  
 Herawdis discryued hys arme blake  
 And sayd, in pe world was not his make, 1170

And they sayd, withoute lettynge,  
 He was worthy to be kynge.  
 Whan euery man homeward gan draw,  
 Jason went to his felawe:  
 'Come home, syr, I you pray, 1175  
 To youre owne, I darre wele say.  
 Ye shal be made kynge of lond  
 For pe doughtiest man of hand.  
 Thou hast no pere, I darre wele say.  
 So sayd all pat were here to-day.' 1180  
 'Jason,' he sayd, 'God yeld it the,  
 The grete honoure pou proferist me.'  
 Jason sayd, 'If your willis bee,  
 What ar ye pat knowis me?'  
 'Somme-tyme I was pi felaw dere, 1185  
 Pat callyd was pe strange squyere;  
 I haue bene pese thre dayes,  
 But now no lenger dwelle I maye.'  
 'For Goddis loue,' sayd Jason there,  
 'Come brynge my lady oute of care 1190  
 And comforte hym in all thyng,  
 And thynke also ye shal be kynge.'  
 He sayd, 'Jason, pi wordis pou spare,  
 That wold me torne to myche care;  
 I haue dwellyd here to longe, 1195  
 F. 70<sup>r</sup> The whiche will cause me travaile stronge.

1187 <here> after bene supplied by W.

1195 after the line, catchword The Whiche.

1196 sore before stronge placed by dots below the line.

Recomaund me to hyr anone-ryghte,  
 For I must travaile day and nyght.  
 He toke hys leve and forthe ganne fare;  
 Jason tornyd home full of care, 1200  
 And whan he come into the halle,  
 He tolde pe lady what was byfalle,  
 The blak knyght was pe squyer stronge,  
 That had dwellyd with hyr so longe,  
 And how he wanne hyr with his hand: 1205  
 ‘But he is passid oute of pis lande.’  
 The lady mornyd and was full woo  
 And thought hyr hert wold brest on two,  
 But yit she trowed in hyr thoght,  
 So lightly wold he leve hyr noght, 1210  
 Sithe pat he had, withoute fayle,  
 For hyr loue so grete travaile.  
 Ipomydon forthe is goone  
 With his stedis euerychone;  
 He fonde his master with flesshe inoughe 1215  
 Hovyngge vndir the grene wodde-boughe;  
 He toke hym pe stedis euerychone  
 And to his inne he bad hym gone.  
 He toke his houndis and his horne  
 And leyd the flesshe hym beforene; 1220  
 Byfore the quene he it leyd  
 And in his game pus he sayd:  
 ‘Know ye any at pe justyng  
 Hathe wonne halfe so myche thyng?’  
 The quene, as she was wonnt to done, 1225

To hyr soper she went sone,  
 And hyr leman hyr byforne;  
 Scantly had þey the mete corvyn,  
 Pat in comyth þe kyngis messyngere  
 And grette þe lady in thys manere: 1230  
 ‘Wele you gretipe my lord, þe kyng.  
 He byddythe you for any thyng,  
 That ye be to-morow erely  
 At þe chalenge of þe lady.’  
 The quene than ganne saye: 1235  
 F. 70<sup>v</sup> ‘Hathe the rede knyght wonne hyr to-day?’  
 ‘I say, madame, so God me spede,  
 The rede knyght hathe lost his stede,  
 My lord, þe kyng, hathe his also,  
 Campaynus, Caymes and oth[e]r mo; 1240  
 The blakke knyght hathe wonne hem alle,  
 Moche honoure to hym ys falle.’  
 Than byspake Ipomydon:  
 ‘Bettyr is on huntynge to goone  
 In the forest, so God me spede, 1245  
 Than þus lyghtly to lese a stede.  
 Wherefore, messyngere, I þe pray,  
 In my byhalfe pat þou say,  
 When þou comyst to þe kyng,  
 Grete hym wele in all thyng 1250  
 And say my blak greyhound Gilmyn

1240 oth[e]r K, othr MS.

1244 to *added above the line* by LH.

1246 An *before* Than *placed by dots below the line*.

To-day hathe bore hym welle and fyne,  
 For he hathe take wild bestis,  
 The grettest pat was in pe foreste,  
 And therefore, madame, if youre wil be, 1255  
 Sithe we haue so grete plente,  
 Sent hym somme, while we may.  
 He wille it quyte another day.  
 Ipomydon was sore travailed  
 In the gamys pat he had; 1260  
 Hys arme vnstoppid, pe blode gan falle  
 Vppon the tabylle afore hem alle;  
 Than sayd pe quene, 'My leman dere,  
 How ar ye hurt, on what manere?'  
 'Forsothe, madame, I shall you say: 1265  
 I lette renne at a dere to-daye,  
 My palfrey I prekid aftir so faste  
 That he stumblyd and me downe caste.  
 At pat tyme I toke this harme,  
 A stubbe smote me prow pe arme, 1270  
 And pat was, for I shuld saye,  
 The gree of pe feld I had to-daye.'  
 So they laughyd at hym pat nyght  
 That somme myght not sytte vpryght.  
 The quene sayd, 'My leman hende, 1275  
 To-morow wille we togedyr wende  
 And see who hathe wonne pe may.'  
 Ipomydon answerd and sayd, 'Naye,

1253 wild bestis MS, *deleted and altered to many a best above the line by LH, many a wild best K.*

Sithe I was not at pe justynge,  
 F. 71<sup>r</sup> I wille not be at pe chalengynge; 1280  
 But one thyng, madame, I you pray.  
 Delyuere my mayde to me pis day,  
 For suche tithyngis is comé to me,  
 That I muste home to my contree;  
 And I shall be, bothe day and nyght, 1285  
 While pat I lyffe, your owne knyght.  
 The quene sayd, 'Dwelle here stille!  
 To lette hym go she had no wille.  
 He toke his leve at pe lady  
 And at pe maydens pat stode hyr by; 1290  
 His owne mayde pat was so bryght,  
 To his ostage she went right,  
 There she nyver come byfore,  
 Sithe his stedis herborowed pere.  
 He sette hym downe in pe halle, 1295  
 Hys oste to hym he lette calle.  
 Into pe stable he hym ledis,  
 There as stode his goode stedis,  
 And sayd to hym, 'My frend dere,  
 I wolde pe pray on pis manere, 1300  
 That pou my word vndirstand  
 And this message take on hande:  
 Thou haste herd speke of pe justynge,  
 That hathe be for the lady yonge,  
 And also of pe white knyght, 1305  
 The fryst day pat justyd ryght;  
 I was pat knyght pat stondythe pe by,

And on this white stede rode I.  
 Of þe rede knyght pou herd sey,  
 Þat justed on þat othir daye; 1310  
 That same knyght, forsothe, I was,  
 This rede stede I hæd in place.  
 Vppon the prydde day pou herd telle,  
 Of a blak knyght how it byfelle;  
 On this blak stede þat day I satte 1315  
 And all þese othyr on hym I gatte;  
 Therefore, good syr, I the pray,  
 That pou do, as I the saye:  
 Aryse vp in the mornynge  
 And go to þe maydens chalengynge! 1320  
 F. 71<sup>v</sup> Take this same white stede  
 And a man dight in þe same wede,  
 Vnto my lord, <the> kynge, pou wende  
 And grete hym wele as lorde hend,  
 Sey, þe quenys leman, hys owne knyght, 1325  
 Sent hym þis stede and armour bryght;  
 The fryst day he rode thereon thare,  
 He wote wele how he hym bare;  
 And say þat wele wouchesaffe I wolde,  
 Thoughe euery here were syluer and golde. 1330  
 Take þe rede stede with þe armore clere  
 And grete wele my lady dere;  
 And say hyr leman and hyr knyght  
 Sent hyr þis sted and armour bryght!

1323 <the> *K, om. MS.*

1329 <hym> *before wolde supplied by K.*

Take pe armour and pe blak stede, 1335  
 To sir Campanus pou hym lede!  
 Take here pe kyngis owne stede,  
 To the eyre of Calabre pou hym lede!  
 And all togedyr he gan hym saye  
 How he shuld present pe fayre may: 1340  
 ‘Campanus stede pou take anone  
 And lede hym to sir Jason.  
 This othir rede stede, withoute drede,  
 I to pe yeve for thy mede,  
 On hym pou shalt before ryde, 1345  
 And all these othyr be pi syde.’  
 He taught hym, or he went away,  
 On what wise pat he shuld say,  
 And for the herbegage of his stedys  
 He yaff hym twenty pound to medes. 1350  
 The burgeyse held vp his hand  
 And thankyd God pat he hathe found:  
 ‘Of Calabre I wote who shall be kyng,  
 Now am I glad of my herbowrynge.  
 I shall make youre presente 1355  
 Right gladly with good entente.’  
 The burgeise toke pe stedys panne,  
 On euery stede he sette a man,  
 On the thre pat pe knyghtes were,  
 Men armyd in all hyr gere. 1360  
 Forthe they went, withoute lesyng,

F. 72<sup>r</sup>1350 twenty pound xx<sup>li</sup> MS.

1355 make k altered from d by LH.

Toward þe maydens chalengynge.  
 Sone they come to þe cyte,  
 There lordis were grete and plente.  
 Sone the lordis dyd theyme see, 1365  
 There they satte in companye,  
 They had wondyr of þe stedys  
 And of þe men in dyverse wedis;  
 The kynge knew þe burgeise at alle,  
 Anone to hym he lette hym calle: 1370  
 ‘Whose be these stedis pat be so stronge?  
 Myne I know welle hym amonge.’  
 ‘Sir, with youre leue stille ye sytte,  
 And the troughe ye shall wetee.  
 The quenys leman, syr, iwis, 1375  
 Gretythe þe wele with joy and blysse  
 And sendithe the this whyte stede,  
 And with hym þe same wede  
 That he rode on the fryste day.  
 Hym to take he wolde you praye, 1380  
 Wouche hym saffe on you he wolde,  
 Thow3 euery here were syluer and golde;  
 He prayd God kepe you hole and sounde,  
 For þe beste lord pat euyr he fownde.  
 To þe quene he wendithe there: 1385  
 ‘Wele you gretith youre leman dere.  
 This rede stede pat is so swyfte,  
 He prayeth you take hym of his gifte.  
 On you he woucheþ saff, be seynt Martyn,

1364 grete and plente MS, grete plente K.

Though euery here were syluer and gold fyne, 1390  
 For his lady gode and trewe

And þe curteyseste pat euer he knewe.'

To syr Campanus forthe he went:

'The quenys leman, syr, you sente

This blak stede with þe atyre, I say, 1395

Pat he rode on þe laste day;

He prayes you ye wold hym take

For a doughty knyght, by Goddis sake.'

To þe mayde he wente there

F. 72<sup>v</sup> And grete hyr on this manere: 1400

'The strange squyere hathe you sent

This ilke stede to present;

He stale hym nat he bad me say,

He wanne hym vpon the light-day,

And if ye leve hym not bydene, 1405

He bad yow axe þe kynge, youre eme,

And hold vp that ye haue hight,

To take no man but he were wight.'

The kynge sayd, 'I felt full wele,

How he bare hym euerydele; 1410

Of his dedis I am full sore,

Suche a stroke I bare neuer are.

I darre wele say, by Goddis myght,

That he is a doughty knyght,

Withoute boste, stalworth of hand. 1415

A queynter knyght is not in land.'

Sir Campanus spake wordis þan

And sayd, 'He is a doughty man,

To juste he lette as <he> were ferd,  
 But foule he hathe oure eyne bleryd.' 1420  
 The burgeyse to Jason sayd pus:  
 ' This stede aught sir Campanus.  
 He sent hym the for hys fere,  
 To loke wele to his lady dere.'  
 To sir Caymes gan he say: 1425  
 ' He gretyth pe wele by me to-day.  
 He wold haue sent you stedis mo,  
 But he had none, he myght forgo.  
 This rede stede he gaffe to me,  
 Hys messyngere for to bee, 1430  
 And for the harbegage of his stedis  
 He yaff me twenty pound to medis.'  
 All they sayd there they stode,  
 He was come of gentill blode.  
 Than sayd pe eyre of Calabre bright: 1435  
 ' Help to gete me pat gentill knyght!  
 F. 73<sup>r</sup> But I hym haue pat in feld me wanne,  
 Forsothe, I shall nevir haue man.'  
 Anone gan sir Caymes say:  
 ' His he stol[e] thus away 1440  
 And broke my ladyes boure, pe quene,  
 And ledde away hyr mayden shene?  
 Worthe I nevir glad ne fayne,  
 But I brynge theym bothe agayne.'

1419 <he> *K, om. MS.*

1432 twenty pound *xx<sup>ii</sup> MS.*

1440 stol[e] *stolyn MS.*

The kynge was bothe curteyse and gente, 1445  
 Full goodly he reseved his present;  
 Hertely he thankid þe gentill knyght  
 And sayd in lond was none so wight.  
 He yaff þe burgeyse for his message  
 An hundreth pound to herytage. 1450

**B** Ut Ipomydon forth is gone  
 And his men euerychone.  
 His messyngere he lefte stille there,  
 To brynge hym tithyngis, if any were,  
 In suche manere as they felle; 1455  
 What they were he shuld hym telle.  
 Ipomydon come by a foreste,  
 A while he thocht there to rest,  
 He was forwakyd and all werye;  
 To hys men he sayd on hye: 1460  
 'Slepe I muste, withoute fayle,  
 For I am wery for travayle.'  
 He layd his hede on his mayden barme  
 And felle on slepe, he thocht no harme.  
 He had not slepyd but a while, 1465  
 Not the space of a myle,  
 The mayden sawghe forthe comynge  
 An armyd knyght faste rydynge;  
 She woke hyr lord and bad hym ryse,  
 For hyr hert bygan to gryse. 1470  
 Than come forthe Caymys full stoute,

1450 hundreth pound C<sup>11</sup> MS.

1454 tithyngis K, thithyngis MS.

To hym he spake wordis proude:  
 ‘Traytour, he sayd, ‘pou dydist dishonour,  
 Whan thou brakkist pe quenys boure  
 F. 73<sup>v</sup> And toke hyr mayden and my stede. 1475  
 Agayne to courte I will pe lede.  
 Aryse, traytour, I byd the,  
 To court pou shalt agayne with me!’  
 Ipomydon hym answerd now:  
 ‘To courte I darre as wele as thou, 1480  
 But for the torne I nylle,  
 Not bot at myne owne wille.  
 For His loue pat vs dere bought,  
 Sithe I haue haste, lette me nocht!’  
 Caymys than gan to hym sayne: 1485  
 ‘Wilthow nyllthow, pou shalt agayne,  
 Or right here pou shalte abyde!’  
 Ipomydon sterte vp that tyde,  
 Anone he worthyd vppon his stede,  
 They rode togedyr with good spede. 1490  
 Ipomydon vnhorsyd Caymys tho,  
 That his arme braste in two.  
 He bad hys men take his stede  
 And lette a wors hors hym lede.  
 In his sadille pey sette hym bakwarde 1495  
 And bound hym faste with a cord,  
 To the tayle was turnyd his visage,  
 They bad hym lerne a new vsage.  
 Thus Caymys rode toward pe towne,  
 Whan he had lost all his renowne. 1500

His hors hyeth hym homeward to fare,  
The master also with moche care.

His hors to pe courte hym broght.  
The kynge euyr on Caymys thoght  
And sayd he wold not go to bedde,  
Tille he wiste how pe knyght spedde.

1505

The hors broght Caymys to pe yate,  
The porter lette hym in thereatte.  
Jason the horse in gan brynge  
And ledde the knyght byfore pe kynge.

1510

The kynge askyd, by Goddis payne,  
Iff he had broght the knyght agayne.

F. 74<sup>r</sup>

Anone he answerd to the kynge  
And tolde hym hys myslykynge:  
'Thoughe all pe knyghtis in the halle  
Come to hym, bothe grete and smalle,  
He wold of theyme yiff nothyng,  
But if it were of you, syr kynge.'

1515

Than they loughe all insame  
And at his harme had good game.

1520

There was none in that place,  
But they were glad of pat case.  
Thus Caymys hathe his seruyce quytte,  
And of Ipo[m]ydon here is a fyttē.

**I** Pomydon held forthe his way,  
Full glad he was of his jorney.  
He saw grete folke agayn hym ryde,

1525

1522 But h after t stopped writing halfway.

1524 Ipo[m]ydon W, K, Iponydon MS.

The whiche had sought hym wondir wyde,  
 For to brynge hym new tidyngis  
 That dede was his fadir, the kynge, 1530  
 Of whiche tithyngis he was wo,  
 But he may not agayne God do.  
 Throughe his lond he went rydyng;  
 All they honoryd hym as kynge,  
 And whan he come into pat stede, 1535  
 That the kynge, his fadyr, was dede,  
 Throghe that land he lette crye,  
 That all men shuld thedir hye,  
 Prestis and klerkis of euery towne,  
 Byschoppis, erlys and barowne. 1540  
 There he made an entyrement  
 With many messes with good entent.  
 An ersbyschope beryed his fadir dere,  
 Prechyng there was of many a frere.  
 Pore men pat sat vppon pe ground, 1545  
 We[r]e delyd of many a pownde.  
 A grete feste there was dight  
 For erlys and for many a knyght;  
 All men pat wold thereof take,  
 Had mete there for Goddis sake. 1550  
 F. 74<sup>v</sup> Whan this feste was brokyn vp,  
 Euery man his leve take  
 And went hyr way, as I you telle;  
 Ipomydon thoght at home to dwelle.

1536 was dede dede was *inverted with reference mark.*

1546 We[r]e W, K, Wele MS.

His modir and he dwellyd insame 1555  
 With moche myrthe, joye and game,  
 Tille it befelle vppon a day,  
 The quene to hyr sonne gan saye  
 In pryuyte and in counselle:  
 'Thou hast a brother, withouten fayle, 1560  
 Preuely goten was me vppon,  
 Or I was weddyd to any man.  
 But hastely he was done fro me;  
 I note yf he alyffe bee,  
 But he me sent pis endyr yere 1565  
 A riche rynge of gold full clere.  
 And euyr he any brother had,  
 I shuld yeffe it hym he bad,  
 Dat where he come among hye or lowe,  
 By that rynge he shuld hym knowe. 1570  
 Th[en] take thys rynge, my sonne, of me.  
 In what contre that he bee,  
 Who that knowith this ylk rynge,  
 He ys thy brothyr withoute lesynge!' 1575  
 The rynge he toke of his modyr  
 And trustid wele to know his brothir.  
 Thus they partid in pat place,  
 But aftir within a shorte space  
 To hym come his baronage,  
 That were men of grete parage; 1580  
 There entente is to crowne hym kynge,

1571 Th[en] W, That MS, om. K.

1573 Who What, t deleted and o written on a.

But his thoght was on other thyng,  
 For crowne wold he none bere.  
 He wold be more assayed ere  
 In othir londis, ferre and nere, 1585  
 Of his strenghe and his powere.  
 He had an eme was stiffe and stronge,  
 Of mydille age to lyve longe.  
 Sir Pers of Poyle was his name,  
 F. 75<sup>r</sup> Men he distroyed that dyd shame. 1590  
 Byfore his baronage, I vndirstand,  
 Ipomydon sesyd hym in his lande  
 And yaffe hym the profyte for his sake,  
 Tylle pat he the crowne wold take.  
 Turne we now all the matere 1595  
 And speke we of Calabre the eyre.  
 A duke dwellythe Calabre besyde,  
 A stoute man and of grete pryde.  
 He was myghty and of grete powere,  
 Men dred h[y]m bothe ferre and nere. 1600  
 His name was duke Geron,  
 Of Sesseny-lond he was baron.  
 This doughty duke herd saye  
 The eyre of Calabre was suche a may,  
 Messengeris he sent anon 1605  
 Vnto Calabre for to gone.  
 He sayd he wold haue hyr to wyffe,  
 If she wold, withouten stryffe.  
 ‘ And in case she wold not soo,

I shall make hyr moche woo; 1610  
 For I shall distroye hyr landis alle,  
 Hyr men sle, bothe grete and smalle,  
 Hyr castelle breke and hyr toure,  
 With strenghe take hyr in hyr boure,  
 Lesse than she may fynde a knyght, 1615  
 That for hyr loue with me darre fight.  
 Forthe went the messyngere  
 And told pe lady this matere;  
 The lady answerd ryght-sonne  
 And sayd she wold neuyr haue none, 1620  
 'But hym pat me wanne, so God me saffe,  
 Othyr husband wille I none haue.'  
 This messyngere his erand gan sayne  
 And homeward he went agayne.  
 He told the duke of his answer  
 And anone he bygan grete werre, 1625  
 For grete power gadryd he,  
 To wyne pis mayde pat was so free.  
 Ipomydon his messyngere herde  
 Of this tithyngis how it ferde; 1630  
 To his master he went sone  
 And told hym bothe all and somme.  
 F. 75<sup>v</sup> Whan he that herd, Ipomydon,  
 Than was he a sory man,  
 That he ne myght with that duke fight, 1635  
 The whiche was holden so noble a knyght.  
 Right vnsemely on queynte manere  
 He hym dight, as ye shalle here.

A barbor he callyd, withouten more,  
 And shove hym bothe byhynd and byfore, 1640  
 Queyntly endentyd oute and in,  
 And also he shove halfe his chynne.  
 He semyd a fole, pat queynt syre,  
 Bothe by hede and by atyre.  
 Armure he toke pat was rusty, 1645  
 And horsyd hym on an old rouncy;  
 An helme as blak as any panne,  
 A crokyd spere he toke hym than.  
 Whan pat he was thus dight,  
 He semyd yelle a doughty knyght. 1650  
 To Sesseyn he went, as ye may here,  
 Vnto the kynge Mellyagere  
 And in his halle brak his spere,  
 Ryght as he wode were,  
 The tronchoune felle vppon pe bord; 1655  
 He faryd as he had bene wode.  
 The kynge and quene laughid light  
 And sayd he was a fole welle dight.  
 'Fole, go to mete!' pe kyng gan say;  
 The fole answerd and sayd, 'Nay! 1660  
 For yit I wille not ete with the,  
 But thou a bone will grant mee:  
 The fryste dede of armys I wille haue,  
 Pat any man of pe wille craue.'  
 'Fole, go to mete!' sayd pe kynge, 1665  
 'I grant the thyne askynge.'

1664 haue *before* craue *placed by dots below the line.*

The fole yede to mete in hye  
 And tyed his hors fast hym bye,  
 But or he rose fro þe borde,  
 Many men laughyd at his word. 1670  
 Into þe halle come rydyng a may,  
 Oute of Calabre, sothe to say,  
 On a white mule byfore þe kyng,  
 A dwerffe with hyr come rydyng.  
 ‘Sir kyng, my lady gretis wele the 1675  
 And prayeth the for charyte,  
 F. 76<sup>r</sup> To helpe hyr in this mystere  
 Agayne the dukis powere;  
 He hathe distroyed hyr landis alle  
 Right vnto hyr castelle walle, 1680  
 And bot if she haue helpe of the,  
 She wille leue hyr landis and flee.’  
 The kyng answered anone  
 And sayd, ‘Alle my knyghtes ar gone,  
 Campanus and other full bolde. 1685  
 Helpe my cosyn fayne I wolde,  
 But they be all at a dede,  
 To helpe a lady oute of drede.  
 In this world wote I no knyght,  
 That durst his one with hym fyght.’ 1690  
 Vp sterte the fole anone,  
 To the kyng he sayd full sone:  
 ‘Loo, I am here all redy dight,  
 That darre with hym allone fighte.’  
 ‘Sitte downe, fole!’ the mayd gan saye, 1695

'Vs list to speke of no pleye.  
 Dryve thy folye where thow wille,  
 For no joye haue I theretille!  
 The fole sayd, 'Be pou wrothe or glad,  
 Suche promyse of the kyng I had 1700  
 That I shuld haue pe fryst dede.'  
 The mayde turnyd and forthe yede.  
 The fole stert vp withoute delaye  
 And sayd, 'Syr kyng, haue good day!'  
 He lepyd on his hors there 1705  
 And sayd, 'Farewelle and haue gode yere!'  
 Somme sayd he was a fole welle dight,  
 Somme sayd he semyd a knyght,  
 That is come fro ferre contre,  
 Bycause he wald not knowyn be. 1710  
 He prekyd his hors wondir faste,  
 The mayde he saw at the laste.  
 As they rode by the way,  
 The mayde to the dwerfe gan saye:  
 'Vndo my tente and sette it faste, 1715  
 For here a while y wille me ryste!'  
 Mete and drynke bothe they had,  
 That was fro home with them lad.  
 Bothe they dranke therof and ete,  
 F. 76<sup>v</sup> But euyr the fole withoute sete. 1720  
 One morselle they nold hym caste,  
 Thoughe he shuld for hungre brest.  
 De dwerfe sayd, 'We ar to blame.  
 Yiff pe fole somme mete for shame!'

'Not one morselle!' she gan say, 1725  
'For hungre shall dryue hym away.'  
With that there come rydyng a knyght  
To hyr tente anone-ryght.  
'Come forthe with me!' to hyr he bad,  
'I haue the spyed sythe pou oute yede. 1730  
Thou arte my lemman as I haue thoght.'  
The fole sayd, 'Pat leve I noghte.  
She ys myne, I wille hyr haue,  
Fro the I hope hyr wele to saue!'  
The knyght sayd, 'Fole, leve thy folye, 1735  
Or ellis pou shalt dere abyel'  
The fole sterte to a tronchoune,  
Pat bare vp the maydens pavilloun,  
And smote the knyght on the crowne,  
That sterke-dede he felle to ground. 1740  
He yaffe the dwerffe þe knyghtes gere,  
To hymselfe he toke the spere.  
Vp they rose and forthe yede,  
Till efte to ryste they had nede.  
They toke mete and made them glad, 1745  
To þe mayd the dwerf bad:  
'Yif the fole somme mete for shame,  
He hathe sauyd you fro blame,  
And thynke ye shuld haue be shent,  
Had he be oute of youre present!' 1750  
The mayde answeyrd hym anone:  
'Byfore God mete getteth he none.  
It was but foly, I prayse it noght,

I wold he were fro vs broght.<sup>7</sup>  
 With that there come another knyght, 1755  
 The mayd he chalengid anone-ryght  
 And sayd, 'Come forth, my leman dere!'  
 The fole sayd, 'Þou haste none here.  
 She is myne and longe hathe bene.'  
 With that þe knyght bygan to tene 1760  
 And sayd, 'Fole, thou shalt abyge,  
 Yff þou speke more of þis folye!'  
 F. 77<sup>r</sup> The fole sayd, 'I will not blynne.  
 If thou hyr haue, þou shalt hyr wynne!'  
 With that he lepte on his hors lyght, 1765  
 And eyther to other ganne hem dight;  
 The fole hym metithe with a spere,  
 That throughe the body he ganne hym bere.  
 The knyght was dede throughe pat dede,  
 To the dwerffe he yaff his stede. 1770  
 Forthe they buskyd hem anone  
 To a place they thought to gone,  
 There they wold haue bene al nyght;  
 Þey myght no ferther for lak of light.  
 They toke them mete and drynke gode-spede, 1775  
 Vnnethe they wold þe fole any bede.  
 Right as they satte and made hem glad,  
 There come a knyght as þe deville hym bad;  
 He was the dukis brother Geron,  
 All was blak pat he had on, 1780  
 Bothe his hors and his wede.  
 To þe mayde he gan hym spede

And sayd, 'Sythe I fynd you here,  
 Ye shall be my leman dere!  
 The fole sayd, 'Nay, not so. 1785  
 Anothir she hathe tane hyr too:  
 That am I that pou seest here.  
 If thou hyr bye, she is to dere.'  
 'Fole,' he sayd, 'pou bourdist grete.  
 With my spere I shall the bete! 1790  
 Hyr tyme foule had she spedde,  
 If she shold lye with pe in bedde.'  
 The fole sayd, 'Twyse I hir bought.  
 With thy chydyngge pou gettest hyr noght.  
 Iff thou hyr haue, pou shalt hyr bye 1795  
 A peny derrere pan euer dyd I.'  
 There was no lenger to abyde,  
 But eyther of them to othyr gan ryde;  
 The fole mette pe knyght soo,  
 That his bak braste on twoo. 1800  
 With that stroke he hym sloughe  
 And his armure of he droughe.  
 Anone he toke pe knyghtis stede  
 And armyd hym in his wede.  
 F. 77v Whan the fole was wele dight, 1805  
 The mayde hym [d]emyd a godely knyght,  
 And trowyd wele fole was he none,  
 By the dedis pat he had done.  
 They layde hem downe to take hyr reste.  
 The dwerf fulle sone slepyd faste, 1810

But the mayde wakyng laye  
 And on the fole thynkith ay ;  
 She demyd he was a doughty knyght,  
 Wherefore to hym she gan hyr dight.  
 ' Sir knyght,' she sayd, ' slepe ye nowe? 1815  
 Ye ar no fole pat wele I knowe.  
 Ye be a knyght doughty of hand,  
 I know none suche in all þis land,  
 And þe same knyght, so trow I,  
 Pat somme-tyme wanne my lady, 1820  
 I trow full wele pat thou be he.  
 Wilt thou hyr leve and wed me?  
 Thou shalt be of grete powere:  
 I am as ryche as is the eyre  
 Off Calabre-lond, withoute doute.' 1825  
 The knyght lokyd fast aboute  
 And eyr more stille he lay  
 And herde hyr speke, as I you say,  
 And whan pat she had all sayd,  
 He sterte vp in a brayde 1830  
 And bygan for to rese,  
 As he wold take hyr by the nese.  
 Euyr the fayrer pat she spake,  
 The fouler braydes gan he make.  
 Thus he wrawled and wroth away, 1835  
 One word to hyr he nolde not say.  
 Whan she saw it wold not be,  
 ' Sir knyght,' she sayd, ' for charyte,  
 Trowest thou pou shalt not fayle,

To helpe my lady in pis batayle 1840  
 And with the duke Geron to fyght,  
 As pou kynge Melliager hight?  
 What shall I to my lady say,  
 Whethyr will ye come or nay?'  
 'To-morow whan I pe duke see, 1845  
 Parauntur in suche plyte I may bee,  
 F. 78<sup>r</sup> That I wille the bataille take,  
 And so it may falle I wille it forsake,  
 For I am holdyn nothyngge you tille,  
 Noght but at myne owne wille.' 1850  
 The mayden turnyd homeward and thoght,  
 To his answeere she coude sey noght.  
 She bad pe knyght haue good day,  
 And he bad, 'Farewele, fayre maye.'  
 In at a preuy posterne gate 1855  
 By nyght she stale in thereate,  
 And to pe lady she told sone,  
 What the fole had for hyr done,  
 And that he comythe for hyr to fight.  
 This lady was a sorowfull wight, 1860  
 For on the morow pe duke with pryde  
 Vnto the castelle gate gan ryde,  
 But they were stokyn hym agayne.  
 With lowde voyse he gan to sayne:  
 'Come owte, leman, on feyre manere. 1865  
 I wille no lenger tarye here,  
 Or ellys a knyght ye oute sende,  
 With me to fight you to deffende!'

And as he stode pus talkynge,  
 He saw a knyght come rydynge; 1870  
 A glad man tho was he,  
 His brothir he wende it had be.  
 It was not he, as ye shall here,  
 He answerid pe duke on this manere:  
 'What art thou that makist pis crye 1875  
 And at this gate so grete mastrye?'  
 'I am,' he sayd, 'lord of here inne,'  
 For I am sekir pis mayde to wynne,  
 And will so do or I hens gone,  
 That othir husband gettyth she none.' 1880  
 Ipomydon saide, 'Dat thou shalt mysse,  
 For all myne owne that lady ys,  
 And full longe she hathe be soo,  
 Therefore I rede the hens goo.  
 I wille hyr deffend frome all men!' 1885  
 The duke answerd bitterly then:  
 'Traytour,' he sayd, 'pou art anothir.  
 I wende thou haddist bene my brothir.  
 His stede thou hast, his armour, loo,  
 Thow hast hym slayne I trow also!' 1890  
 'That I hym slow I gaynesay noght.  
 The so to serue haue I thoght.'  
 With that word, withoute lye,  
 Fast togedir gan they hye,  
 That there sperys all tobrast; 1895  
 They drowghe swerdis and faught faste.  
 The lady lay in an hye toure

And saw bytwene theym all þe stoure,  
 But she ne wist whiche for hyr did fight,  
 For they in lyke wede were dight. 1900  
 Gretter bataille myght none be,  
 For neyther wold for othyr flee;  
 They faught togedyr wondir longe,  
 Þe bataille was bothe stiff and stronge,  
 That of there lyves neyther rought. 1905  
 Ipomydon than hym bythoght,  
 He was in poynte to lese there,  
 That he had bought wondir dere;  
 Hys swerd in bothe handis he toke,  
 It was sharpe, as saythe þe boke, 1910  
 And hertely he dyd it vplyfte,  
 Amyd the crowne he yaff hym swifte,  
 Thrughe helme and bassenet it raught,  
 Hys crowne was shavyn at one draught.  
 The duke felt hym hurt full sore, 1915  
 He prayed þe knyght to smyte no more:  
 'I am nye dede, I may not stande,  
 I yelde me here vnto thyn hande  
 And shall be thyne owne knyght,  
 At thy wille bothe day and nyght. 1920  
 I shall restore into this lande  
 More good þan euyr I here fonde,  
 And euyrmore while þat I lyve,  
 A thousand pownd I wille þe yiffe.'  
 Ipomydon sayd, 'I grant þe here,  
 So þat thou do on this manere, 1925

- Thow come not nye this pavilloun,  
 But hye the faste oute of pis town!'
- F. 79<sup>r</sup> The duke hym grantyd hastely,  
 Oute of the towne for to hye. 1930  
 He and all pat with hym come,  
 Homeward they hyed hem full sone.  
 Ipomydon rode to þe pavillon,  
 Right as it were duke Geron.  
 Besyde þe castelle wherein was þe eyre, 1935  
 Rennethe a ryuer longe and feyre  
 With shippis and sayles manyfolde;  
 There stremes were of fyne golde.  
 This lady sayd she wold flee,  
 Iff that the duke wan þe gre. 1940  
 These shippis were stuffyd with vytayle,  
 Pat with this lady sholde sayle.  
 She lokyd oute into the towne  
 And saw one come to þe pavilloun.  
 She wende þe duke had wonne þe gre, 1945  
 Wherefore she busked hyr to flee.  
 Ipomydo[n] to þe yates wente,  
 Than the lady helde hyrself shent.  
 'Come forthe,' he sayd, 'my leman dere,  
 For I haue wonne þe now here!' 1950  
 The lady herde hym make suche crye,  
 To hyr shyppe she gan hyr hyee;  
 They plukkyd vp sayles and forthe þey paste,

1940 þe *written above the line.*

1947 Ipomydo[n] *W, K, Ipomydo MS.*

She and hyr men, bothe more and lasse.

**T** Urne we now anone-ryghtes 1955  
 And speke of kyng Melliagere knyghtes,  
 That whan hyr jorney was done,  
 They hem buskyd home full sone,  
 Campanus and his felows full bolde.  
 But the tydynges were hem tolde 1960  
 Off þe eyre of Calabre, þe fayre may,  
 And of þe duke, as I you say,  
 And how she sent affir sokoure  
 The preuyest mayden in hyr boure,  
 And how a fole hathe take on hond, 1965  
 To fight with hym in þat londe.  
 F. 79<sup>v</sup> Sir Campanus buskid hym to fare,  
 To bryng this lady oute of care,  
 And all the power pat had þe kynge  
 Buskyd theyme to þat fyghtyng 1970  
 In all the hast pat they myght,  
 With the duke for to fight.  
 Toward Calabre as they rode,  
 Dey saw shippis in þe flode ;  
 Anoon they callyd to theyme there 1975  
 And askyd hem of whens they were.  
 The shippemen sayd, ' Of Calabre-londe.  
 A duke hathe wonne it with his hand.  
 Here ys þe lady, as ye may see,  
 She hathe forsake hyr owne contre.' 1980  
 Campanus prayed þe lady to dwelle  
 And somewhat of hyr greffe to telle.

She herd they were hyr eme knyghtes  
 And tornyd ayeyne anon-ryghtes  
 And tolde the knyghtes all in hye 1985  
 Off þe duke þat was so doughty,  
 And how the fole had hym borne  
 Off good poyntis therebefore,  
 And how þe duke hathe hym slayne,  
 ‘And comyn ys to my yates agayne.’ 1990  
 Campanus sayd anone-ryght:  
 ‘I darre ley it was þe same knyght  
 Was comyn oute of hys owne londe,  
 For he was doughty of his hand.  
 Madame, I rede we torne agayne, 1995  
 And we shall see who is slayne,  
 And than we shall pis dede awreke,  
 Iff we haue grace with hym to speke,  
 That all pis land shall thereof here,  
 And ellys honge me be the swyre, 2000  
 But I his hede vnto you brynge!’  
 All they grantyd, withoute lesynge.  
 This lady turnyd hyr shippe anon  
 And with sir Campanus forthe gan goon.  
 When she come þe castelle nye, 2005  
 As ferre as euyr she myght see,  
 In that place she wold abyde,  
 Tille she wist how it wold tyde.  
 Campanus all his men lette calle,  
 And to þe castelle they went alle; 2010  
 They saw a knyght in blak atyre,

They went full wele þe duke it were,  
 Þat had distroyed þe land aboute.  
 To hym they hyed all þe route.  
 Campanus sayd in þis manere: 2015  
 ‘What art pou that standis here?  
 Tell me why pou makist þis dynne  
 And what pou woldist haue herein.’  
 He sayd, ‘My leman þat I wanne,  
 I wille not leve hyr for no man!’ 2020  
 Sir Campanus sayd, ‘Þou getist hyr noght!  
 I rede frome hyr thou change þi thoght  
 And go home to thy contre,  
 Or ellis, forsothe, pou shalt dede be.  
 Wherefore hens fast thou hye 2025  
 Withowte any more vylany,  
 And ellis I swere, by God almyght,  
 We shall all ageynst þe fight.’  
 Ipomydon sayd, ‘What may this bee?  
 Is this the maner of this contre? 2030  
 Yif any of yow haue better right  
 Than I haue to þis lady bryght,  
 Come forthe and prove yt with your hand,  
 One for one, while I may stand!’  
 Campanus answerd to þe knyght: 2035  
 ‘Chese whether pou wilt go or ellys fight!’  
 Ipomydon sayd, ‘Sythe it is soo,  
 That I shall hyr thus forgoo,

2012 went *MS*, wend *K*.

2026 Withowte owte *written in the end of the line, with reference mark.*

Rather I wille þe bataille take  
 And lese my lyffe for hyr sake 2040  
 And put it all in Goddis hond!  
 Agayne hem all he thoght to stond;  
 All at ons at hym they layd,  
 Ipomydon hys swerd outebrayd  
 And many a man he fellys downe ryght. 2045  
 He faught with many a doughty knyght,  
 That many a stroke vpon hym layd.  
 F. 80v 'Yeld the, traytour!' 'Not yit!' he sayd.  
 The knyghtes that were of grete pryde,  
 Faste they faught on yche syde. 2050  
 Ipomydon saw non othyr wone  
 But socouryd hym at a walle of stone,  
 And they pursewyd aftir faste,  
 Þat many vnto þe dethe he caste.  
 So longe ageynste them he gan stand, 2055  
 They hewyd the gloves of his hand;  
 All bare-handyd faught pis knyght,  
 They saw neuyr are non so wight.  
 Sir Campanus, as I vndirstande,  
 Saw the ryng on his hand, 2060  
 That he yaffe his modyr, þe quene;  
 Many a yere are he me had it sene.  
 Campanus prayd hym stand stille,  
 While he askyd hym a skyle.  
 The knyght answerd and bad hym sey, 2065  
 For all they were wery of there play.  
 'Sir knyght,' he sayd, 'telle me this thyngel

Where had ye that ilke rynge?’

Ipomydon answerd as he thought,

And sayd, ‘Forsothe, I stale it nocht.

2070

For pou coueytes to haue pis rynge,

I swere by Jesus, heuyn-kyng,

Or pou it haue with mystrye,

With sore strokis pou shalt it bye!’

Sir Campanus prayd hym with feyre chere,

2075

To telle hym on feyre manere,

Where he had pat ylke rynge,

And say the sothe, withoute lesynge.

Ipomydon sayd, ‘So God me spede,

Y wille not telle pe for no drede.

2080

But telle me why pou doste enquere,

And I shalle yeve the an answe.’

‘This rynge,’ he sayd, ‘pat is so fyne,

Forsothe, somme-tyme it was myne.

Now, as ye are a gentill man,

2085

Telle me where ye pat rynge wanne.’

‘The quene,’ he sayd, ‘of Poyle-land

Yaff me this rynge, ye shall vndirstand.

F. 81<sup>r</sup>

She ys my modyr good and fayre,

Off all pat land I am pe eyre.’

2090

‘Sir knyght,’ he sayd, ‘yit abyde.

What sayd she more to you pat tyde?’

‘She sayd, I had a brother on lyve,

Was gotyn or pat she was wyffe,

And sayd who pat knew this rynge

2095

Was my brother, withoute lesynge.  
 Sir Campanus sayd, 'By God allmyght,  
 I am thy brother, pou gentill knyght.'  
 They felle downe bothe in pat stound,  
 At onys fallynge to þe ground. 2100  
 Men caught hem vp and wakyd hem bothe,  
 They were full glad and nothyng lothe.  
 Ipomydon enqueryd of his brothyr,  
 What was his name, for none knew othyr.  
 He sayd, 'Syr Campanus I hight, 2105  
 That gaynste þe dyd fyght,  
 With kynge Melleager dwelle I.'  
 'Som-tyme we were in company.  
 Knew ye nevyr the quenys lemman,  
 That somtyme this mayd wan?' 2110  
 'A, brother,' he sayd, 'be ye he?'  
 There was joye grete plente.  
 Ipomydon sayd, 'I bare þe shelde,  
 That wanne þe lady in þe felde.  
 Stedis I had þere pat day in place, 2115  
 Þe sothe ye know pat it so was,  
 Whyte and rede and blak also;  
 Wele ye wote pat it was so.  
 And there I wanne throw Goddis grace  
 The beste stedis pat day in place, 2120  
 Þe kynges stede and thyne also,  
 And of myne owne I sent you two,  
 And youres I sent to other men;  
 Ye wote wele it was so then.

I toke my leve of þe quene, 2125  
 With me went my mayden shene  
 Home toward myne owne lond.  
 Sir Caymes sayd, I vndirstand,  
 F. 81<sup>v</sup> That he wold feche vs bothe agayne,  
 Or ellis þat he wold be slayne. 2130  
 He sayd, I went withoute leve.  
 All ye wist how it dyd preue,  
 And therefore, brother, as I haue sayd,  
 I am best worthy to haue þe mayd.<sup>?</sup>  
 They saw it was þe same knyght, 2135  
 Ðan all there hertes began to light.  
 Euere as they went, they gan hym kysse,  
 There was joye and moche blisse.  
 Messyngers afore gan thrynge,  
 To bryng þe lady good tythynges. 2140  
 When she saw þey come so fast,  
 Than þe lady was agast,  
 She wende þey had scomfyted be.  
 Ðis lady bad draw sayle and flee.  
 The messyngers cryed as þey were wode, 2145  
 Whan they saw hyr go with þe flode,  
 They sayd, ‘Madame, drede you noght.  
 The strange squyere hathe you sought.’  
 Whan she herd of hym speke,  
 She thought hyr hert wold tobreke, 2150  
 But she myght se hym with syght,  
 That hyr wanne in grete fight.  
 They tornyd þe shippis to þe land,

Togedyr they mette at þe sond.  
 Whan þe lady of hym had syght, 2155  
 She comaundyd a bote forthe-ryght,  
 For at þe lond fayne wold she bee,  
 That she myght þe knyght see.  
 She lepyd oute of þe bote in hye  
 Into þe water, þe knyght stode bye, 2160  
 And he in aftir also faste,  
 Þat vp he gatte hyr at þe last.  
 Whan þey come vnto þe lond,  
 Ipomydon toke hyr by þe hond  
 And told hyr pere, withouten fayle, 2165  
 Hyr loue had causyd hym grete travaille:  
 F. 82<sup>r</sup> ‘ Sythe fryst þat I with you dyd dwelle,  
 Half my sorow can I not telle,  
 And how ye blamyd your cosyn Jason  
 For þat I loked you vppon, 2170  
 And þo toke my leve and went,  
 Tille I herd of youre entente,  
 How þat ye wold haue a knyght  
 That of his hand was most wight.  
 Thedyr I drew when I it herde, 2175  
 All ye wote how þat it ferd.  
 I seruyd your eme longe withalle,  
 The quenys lemman þey dyd me calle;  
 And aftir I justed dayes thre,  
 Many men ther dyd I see, 2180  
 And there I wan stedis good,  
 Somme were rede as any blode,

And also wisely God me amend,  
 The kyngis stede to you I send ;  
 But sone after, I vndirstand, 2185  
 I went into myn owne lond,  
 Tille I herd vppon a day  
 Of þe duke þat made outray ;  
 I busked me in queynt manere,  
 Right as I a fole were, 2190  
 And went agayne to þe kyng.  
 He knew me not for nothyng ;  
 And thedyr come frome you a mayd,  
 And to þe kyng þese wordis she sayd,  
 That he muste you socoure sende, 2195  
 Fro þe duke you to deffend.  
 But þe kyng you of help forsok  
 And I the bataile to me toke ;  
 Forthe with þe mayd gan I gone  
 And there I kepte hyr frome hyr fone. 2200  
 Thre knyghtes of hyr lyffes I lete,  
 And now þe duke I haue scomfyte.  
 I darre wele say, by Goddis sond,  
 I haue you wonne with my hond.  
 F. 82<sup>v</sup> Whan þe lady herd how it was, 2205  
 She felle on swounyng in þe place.  
 He toke hyr vp with good spede,  
 His mouthe to hyrs he gan bede,  
 They kyssyd togedyr with good chere,  
 For eyther was to othyr dere. 2210  
 I lette you wete, withoute delay,

Halfe there joye I can not say.  
 Forthe they went to pe castelle,  
 There this lady byfore dyd dwelle.  
 All that nyght they were insame 2215  
 With moche myrthe, joy and game.  
 On the morow the clerkis were bowne,  
 To wryte lettres of grete renowne  
 To the kynge of Seseny-lond,  
 That was hyr eme, I vndyrstand; 2220  
 To pe emperoure, I dare wele say,  
 Were wrytte lettres of grete nobley,  
 To ershebisshoppes and bysshopis of pe land,  
 Prestes and clerkis pat were at hand,  
 Dukis, erlys and barons also; 2225  
 Knyghtis and squyers shuld thedyr go.  
 Messyngeris were sent euerywhere,  
 For pore and ryche, all shold be there.  
 And whan these lordis tythyngis herd,  
 They hyed hem fast thedyrward. 2230  
 Dis fest was cryed longe byfore,  
 Fourty dayes withoute more.  
 Metis were made grete plente,  
 For many a man pere shuld bee.  
 With the emperoure come to pe feste 2235  
 An hundreth knyghtes at pe lest,  
 And with the kynge, hyr eme, also  
 Two hundreth hors withoute mo.  
 Sir Piers of Poyle thedyr come  
 And with hym knyghtes of grete fame, 2240

F. 83<sup>r</sup> That doughty were of þat land,  
 In bataile preuyd, I vndirstand.  
 On the morow when it was day,  
 Thay busked theyme, as I you say,  
 Toward þe chirche with game and glee, 2245  
 To make þat grete solempnyte.  
 The archebisshopp of þat land  
 Weddyd theyme, I vndirstand.  
 Whan it was done, as I you say,  
 Home they went withoute delay. 2250  
 By þat they come to þe castelle,  
 There mete was redy euerydele.  
 Trumpes to mete gan blow tho,  
 Claryons and other menstrellis mo.  
 Do they wasshe and yede to mete, 2255  
 And euery lord toke his sete.  
 Whan they were sette, all þe route,  
 Menstrellis blew than all aboute,  
 Tille they were seruyd with pryde  
 Of the fryst cours þat tyde. 2260  
 The seruyce was of grete aray,  
 That they were seruyd with þat day.  
 Þus they ete and made hem glad  
 With suche seruyce as they had.  
 Whan they had dyned, as I you say, 2265  
 Lordis and ladyes yede to play,  
 Somme to tablis and somme to chesse,  
 With othir gammys, more and lesse.

2247 archebisshopp archebisshopp̄ *MS*, archebisshoppe *K*.

Ipomydon gaff in pat stound  
 To mynstrellis fyue hundreth pound, 2270  
 And othyr yiftes of grete nobley  
 He yaff to other men pat day.  
 Thus this fest, as it was told,  
 Fourty dayes it was hold.  
 Ipomydon his brother lette calle, 2275  
 There he stode in the halle,  
 F. 83<sup>v</sup> And yaff hym all Poyle-land,  
 But on erledom, I vnderstond,  
 And of that land made hym kyng,  
 And afftyr hym hys offspr yng. 2280  
 He thankyd God and hym with mode,  
 And euery man spak of hym good.  
 Syr Camppanus fforthe ys gon on sond  
 To the kyng of Sesanay-lond,  
 There he was in hys chambyr, 2285  
 Talkyng with the ladyes on ffere.  
 He told of the yefftes ffayre,  
 Off Poyle-lond how he was eyre.  
 The ladyes answerd all on one:  
 ‘Souche a man in the world ys none!’ 2290  
 Ipomadon, there he stod in hall,  
 Tholomew he lette to hym call  
 And yaff hym an erledom ffre  
 And a mayde, hys leff to bee,  
 That was with hym in Pole-lond, 2295

2270 fyue hundreth VC. MS.

2285 chambyr a *written over another letter.*

With the quene, I vnderstond.  
 Syr Tholomew tho gan say:  
 'I thanke yow, lord, for thys may  
 And for youre yefftes many on,  
 That ye hawe yewen me here befforne.' 2300  
 Tho passyd he fforthe, as I yow say,  
 There he lyked best to play.  
 Ipo[m]adon, in hall there he stod,  
 Bethowght hym of myld mode,  
 Of hys ffelaw syr Jason, 2305  
 How he was a worthy man.  
 To hym he gaff bothe fferre and nere  
 Grete londes, as ye may here,  
 To hys wyff a fayre may,  
 F. 84<sup>r</sup> That he had louyd many a day, 2310  
 And other yiftes he yaff also  
 Tille other men many moo.  
 Whan this feste was comyn to pe end,  
 Euery man busked hem home to wend.  
 On the morow, withoute lesynge, 2315  
 The emperoure went vnto pe kyng,  
 His leue to take gan he gone,  
 And with hym lordis many on.  
 At pe takynge of his leue  
 Halfe pe joye I can not discryve, 2320  
 That there was hem amonge  
 Off ladies and of knyghtis stronge.

2300 yewen w *written over another letter.*

2303 Ipo[m]adon W, K, Iponadon MS.

The emperoure his leve hathe tane  
 At þe kynge Ipomydon  
 And at þe quene fayre and free, 2325  
 So dyd many mo thæn hee.  
 Thus the lordes fayre and hend,  
 Homeward all þey gan to wend,  
 Euery lord to his contre  
 Or where them lyked best to be, 2330  
 And lefte them there bothe insame  
 With myche myrthe, joye and game,  
 There to dwelle for euyrmore,  
 Tille theyme departyd dethe sore.  
 Ipomydon and his lady dere 2335  
 Togedyr were many yere  
 With all joye þat men myght see.  
 In world so moche non myght be,  
 As was euere þem amonge,  
 Till dethe þem departid þat was stronge. 2340  
 And whan they dyed, I trow iwis,  
 Bothe they yede to heuyn-blysse,  
 There as non other thyng may bee,  
 But joye and blisse, game and glee.  
 To þat blysse God bryng vs alle, 2345  
 That dyed on rode for grete and smalle. Amen.

Explic[i]t Ipomydon.

## APPENDIX

A leaf of the text (C 40 M 9 (18)) printed by Wynkyn de Worde, preserved in London, British Library.  
(Punctuation and word-division are editorial.)

Recto	The lady commaunded anone soone	261
	That the gates were vndone:	
	'And brynge them all before me,	
	For well at ease shall they be.'	
	They toke theyr pages, horse and all.	265
	Dese two men wente into the hall;	
	Ipomydon on knees hym set	
	And the lady fayre he gret:	
	'I am a man of straunge countre	
	And praye you yf it your wyll be	270
	That I myght dwell with you this yere,	
	Of your nurture for to lere.	
	I am come out of ferre lande	
	For I herde tell beforehande	
	Of your nurture and your seruyse	275
	Is holden of so grete empryse.	
	I praye you that I may dwell here,	
	Some of your seruyce for to lere.'	
	The lady behelde Ipomydan,	
	And semed well a geyllman;	280

She knewe none suche in all her lande,  
So goodly a man and well farande ;  
She sawe also by his nurture,  
He was a man of grete valure.  
She cast full soone in her thought  
That for no seruyse came he nought,  
But it was worshyp her vnto,  
In her seruyse hym to do.

285

288

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