

British Literary Manuscripts Online, Medieval & Renaissance

The culture and context surrounding centuries of British literary achievement

Quick Facts

- 565,000 pages
- More than 1,000 authors
- More than 500 years of manuscripts dating from roughly 1100 to 1660
- Fully cross-searchable with *British Literary Manuscripts Online, c. 1660-1900*

Related Subjects

- British History
- Religion
- British Literature
- Theatre
- Literature
- Women/Gender
- Paleography

Detailed Overview

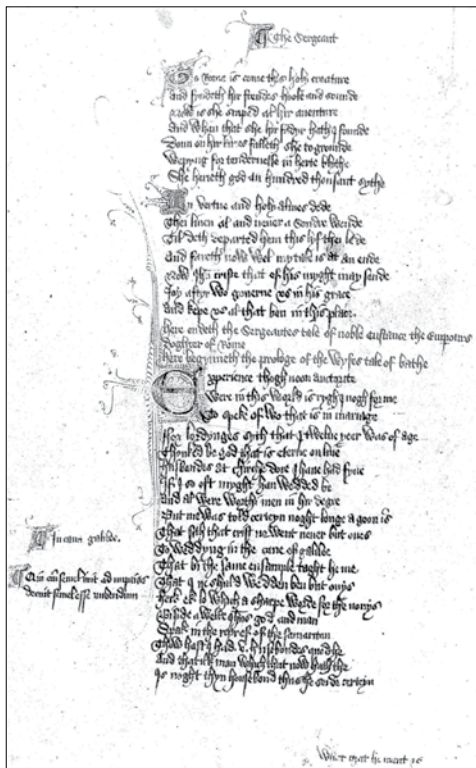
SUMMARY: The second installment of the *British Literary Manuscripts Online* series, *British Literary Manuscripts Online, Medieval & Renaissance* presents an extraordinary view into the culture and history of renowned and lesser-known writers of the period. The collection features works from more than 1,000 authors and more than 500 years of manuscripts dating from roughly 1100 to 1660 – preceding and broadening the scope of the first series. It offers hundreds of thousands of pages of letters, poems, stories, plays, chronicles, religious writings and other materials.

SIGNIFICANCE: This groundbreaking resource brings together priceless manuscript documents – once scattered throughout the world and available only to specialized literary scholars – and makes them accessible to students, instructors and general readers alike. This collection allows for the study of manuscripts to be integrated into literature, humanities and social and cultural history curriculum. It opens up endless possibilities for users studying authors' social networks, their personal beliefs and attitudes, their education and the development of their writings.

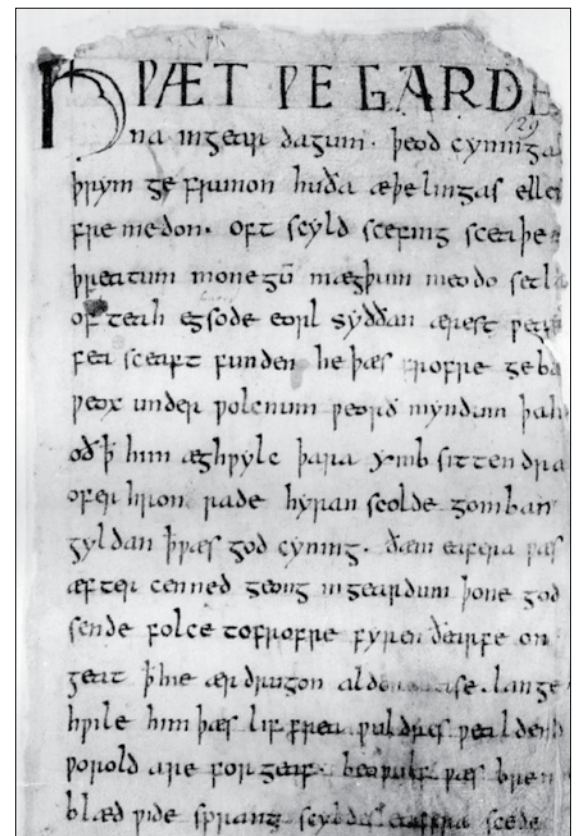
SOURCE: The manuscripts in *British Literary Manuscripts Online, Medieval and Renaissance* were selected from a number of acclaimed institutions, including The British Library, the National Library of Scotland, the Folger Shakespeare Library, and the Forster and Dyce Collection at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London.

STRUCTURE: *British Literary Manuscripts Online, Medieval and Renaissance* allows researchers to follow a writer's journey and discover his or her creative process in an intuitive and dynamic online search environment. It offers the following discovery capabilities:

- Search by citation, author, titles of major works, document type, year, century, source library and source microfilm collection
- Link to related resources
- Browse authors, library collections, manuscript catalogs and more
- Create permanent links to materials of interest
- Print, email or download facsimiles
- View manuscript page-by-page or as thumbnails
- Ability to magnify or rotate image for closer analysis



Review and marvel at Geoffrey Chaucer's 15th century manuscript of *The Canterbury Tales*.



Peruse the only copy of *Beowulf* in its original Old English form.

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Related Products

- *British Literary Manuscripts Online, c.1660-1900*
- *State Papers Online, 1509-1714*
- *The Making of the Modern World, 1450-1850*

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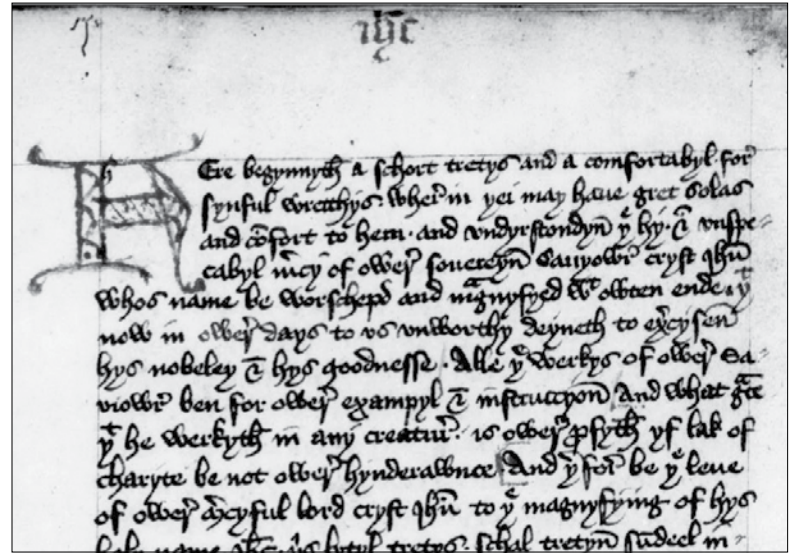
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British Literary Manuscripts Online: Medieval and Renaissance is the only online digital collection that provides one-point access in an easily searchable and browseable format to a broad suite of key literary manuscripts of both well-known and lesser-known Medieval and Renaissance authors.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD INCLUDE:

- Notable works of early English literature – Beowulf, Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, The Vision of Piers the Plowman, and The Canterbury Tales
- Religious works such as The Prick of Conscience, the Coventry Mystery Plays, the writings of John Wycliffe, Julian of Norwich and Margery Kempe



Read Margery Kempe's autobiography which was penned in the 1430s.

- Important cultural and historical sources like the letters of Alcuin and Lanfranc and the 1488 manuscripts of Barbour's *Life and Acts of Robert the Bruce*

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE RENAISSANCE PERIOD INCLUDE:

- Plays by Shakespeare, his predecessors and his contemporaries
- Works by Thomas Campion, John Donne, Sir Walter Raleigh, Sir Philip Sidney, and Thomas Wyatt
- Important historical sources like the correspondence of the Paston family – memoirs, speeches and essays
- Cultural resources like odes and songs, medical treatises, and commonplace books

British Literary Manuscripts Online, Medieval & Renaissance is fully cross-searchable with *British Literary Manuscripts Online, c. 1660-1900* for researchers' convenience, providing access to more than 800 years of manuscript materials.

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