

DENB 2413

SECOND PUBLIC EXAMINATION

HONOUR SCHOOL OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE 2005

COURSE II

Paper B2 Middle English Dialectology

Friday, 27 May 2005, 9.30 am - 12.30 pm

Time allowed – Three hours

Answer Question 1 and *two* others. You should pay attention in your answers to the precise terms of the questions.

Trinity Term 2005

Do not turn over until told that you may do so.

1. Discuss in detail the language of ONE of the following passages:

- (a)
- “Whi neltu flon into þe bare
& sewi ware unker bo
Of briȝter howe, of uairur blo ?”
“No ! þu hauest wel scharpe clawe,
5 Ne kep ich noȝt þat þu me clawe.
þu hauest cliuers suþe stronge,
þu tuengst þarmid so doþ a tonge.
þu þoȝtest—so doþ þine ilike—
Mid faire worde me bisvike.
10 Ich nolde don þat þu me raddest,
Ich wiste wel þat þu me misraddest.
Schamie þe vor þin unrede !
Vnwroȝen is þi svikelhede:
Schild þine svikeldom vram þe liȝte,
15 & hud þat woȝe amon þe riȝte !
þane þu wilt þin unriȝt spene
Loke þat hit ne bo isene !
Vor svikedom haued schome & hete
Ȝif hit is ope & underȝete.
20 Ne speddestu noȝt mid þine unwrenche,
For ich am war & can wel blenche.
Ne helpþ noȝt þat þu bo to þriste:
Ich wolde viȝte bet mid liste
þan þu mid al þine strengþe.
25 Ich habbe on brede & eck on lengþe,
Castel god on mine rise:
“ Wel fiȝt þat wel flyȝt,” seiþ þe wise.

(b)

þi luue, he seið, oðer hit is forte 3eouen allunge, oðer hit is to
sullen, oðer hit is to reauin & to neomen wið strengðe. 3ef hit is
forte 3eouen, hwer maht tu biteon hit betere þen up o me ? Nam ich
þinge feherest, nam ich kinge richest, nam ich hest icunnet, nam ich
5 weolie wisest, nam ich monne hendest, nam ich þinge freoest ? For
swa me seið bi large mon þe ne con nawt edhalden, þet he haueð þe
honden, as mine beoð, ipurlet. Nam ich alre þinge swotest &
swetest ? Þus alle þe reisuns hwi me ah to 3eoue luue þu maht ifinden
in me; nomeliche, 3ef þu luuest chaste cleanness; for nan ne mei
10 luue me bute ha hire halde; ah ha is þreouald, i widewehad, i
spushad, i meidenhad—þe heste. 3ef þi luue nis nawt to 3eouene, ah
wult þet me bugge hire—buggen hire ? Oðer wið oðer luue, oðer wið
sumhwæt elles, me suleð wel luue—& swa me ah to sulle luue & for
na þing elles. 3ef þin is swa to sullen, ich habbe iboht hire wið luue
15 ouer alle oþre; for of þe fowr measte luuen ich habbe icud toward te
þe measte of ham alle. 3ef þu seist þu nult nawt leote þron se liht
chap, ah wult zette mare, nempne hwæt hit schule beon, sette feor o
þi luue. Þu ne schalt seggen se muchel þet ich nule 3eoue mare. Wult
tu castles, kinedomes, wult tu wealden al þe world ? Ich chulle do þe
20 betere—makie þe wið al þis cwen of heoueriche. Þu schalt te seolf
beo seouuald brihtre þen þe sunne, nan uuel ne scahl nahhi þe, na
wunne ne schal wonti þe; al þi wil schal beon iwraht in heouene & ec
in eorðe, 3e & 3et in helle.

- (c) Fyrst þay prayen to þe prynce þat prophetes seruen,
 Þat he gef hem þe grace to greuen hym neuer
 Þat þay in baleleȝ blod þer blenden her handeȝ,
 Þaȝ þat hæpel wer his þat þay here quelled.
- 5 Tyd by top and bi to þay token hym synne;
 In-to þat lodlych loȝe þay luche hym sone.
 He watȝ no tytter out-tulde þat tempest ne sessed;
 Þe se saȝtled þer-with as sone as ho moȝt.
- Denne þaȝ her takel were torne þat totered on yþes,
 10 Styffe stremes and streȝt hem strayned a whyle,
 Þat drof hem dryȝlych adoun þe depe to serue,
 Tyl a swetter ful swyþe hem sweȝed to bonk.
- Per watȝ louyng on lofte, when þay þe londe wonnen,
 To oure mercyable God, on Moyses wyse,
 15 With sacrafyse vp-set and solemne vowes,
 And graunted hym on to be God and graythly non oþer.
- Þaȝ þay be jolef for joye, Jonas ȝet dredes;
 Þaȝ he nolde suffer no sore, his seele is on anter;
 For what-so worþed of þat wyȝe fro he in water dipped,
 20 Hit were a wonder to wene, ȝif holy wryt nere.
- Now is Jonas þe jwe jugged to drowne;
 Of þat schended schyp men schowued hym sone.
 A wylde walterande whal, as wyrde þen schaped,
 Þat watȝ beten fro þe abyme, bi þat bot flotte,
- 25 And watȝ war of þat wyȝe þat þe water soȝte,
 And swyftely swenged hym to swepe and his swolȝ opened;
 Þe folk ȝet haldande his fete, þe fysch hym tyd hentes;
 With-outen towche of any tothe he tult in his þrote.

(d)	3 Sold.	Me thynkith þis crosse will noght abide Ne stande stille in þis morteyse 3itt.	
	4 Sold.	Att the firste tyme was it made overe-wyde; þat makis it wave, þou may wele witte.	
	1 Sold.	Itt schall be sette on ilke a side So þat it schall no forther flitte. Goode wegges schall we take þis tyde And feste þe foote, þanne is all fitte.	5
	2 Sold.	Here are wegges arraied For þat, both grete and smale.	10
	3 Sold.	Where are oure hameres laide þat we schulde wirke withall ?	
	4 Sold.	We have þem here even atte oure hande.	
	2 Sold.	Gyffe me þis wegge, I schall it in dryue.	
	4 Sold.	Here is anodir 3itt ordande.	15
	3 Sold.	Do take it me hidir belyve.	
	1 Sold.	Laye on þanne faste.	
	3 Sold.	3is, I warrande. I thryng þame same, so motte I thryve. Nowe will this crosse full stabely stande; All yf he rave, þei will noght ryve.	20
	1 Sold.	Say, sir, howe likis you nowe, þis werke þat we have wrought ?	
	4 Sold.	We praye youe, sais us howe 3e fele, or faynte 3e ought ?	
	Jesus	Al men that walkis by waye or strete, Takes tente 3e schalle no travayle tyne.	25

2. Give an account of difficulties in the interpretation of the orthographic system of any **one** Middle English text or group of texts.
3. **Either** (a) '[A]s we are conditioned in the twentieth century to assume that there is a dominant "correct" variety of written English, an understanding of attitudes to variation in Middle English requires from the modern observer a considerable leap of the imagination...One of the attitudinal differences between medieval and modern times is that in Middle English fluid and variable language states were accepted as appropriate vehicles for *written* use.' (J MILROY). What are the implications for the dialectologist of these "fluid and variable language states" in written Middle English?

Or (b) '[I]t is customary to talk about such things as "the Norfolk dialect". This is in its way unobjectionable, until scholars start agonising about where the boundaries of "the Norfolk dialect" are to be set.' (M. BENSKIN) Do the dialect areas recognized by modern scholarship have much validity or usefulness ?

4. **Either (a)** Describe and discuss the language of Lazamon's *Brut* in respect of **either** phonology **or** morphology.

Or (b) Compare and contrast the language of Lazamon's *Brut* with that of *Ancrene Wisse* and the other "AB" texts.

5. **Either (a)** Write on the vocabulary of Scandinavian origin in the language of *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* and the other texts in MS Cotton Nero A.x.

Or (b) Examine the phonological **and/or** morphological treatment of words of French origin in any **one or more** Middle English texts.

6. **Either (a)** 'The two manuscripts of Barbour's *Brus*, which though dating from ca 1489 preserve features of the language as it was at the time of the poem's composition, suggest that the phonology and grammar of Scots were still substantially the same as those of northern English; but the vocabulary was already becoming distinctive, and a set of characteristic spelling conventions make the language of Barbour *look* strikingly unlike that of, say, Richard Rolle.' (J. D. McCLURE) Discuss any of the issues raised by this statement.

Or (b) Characterize the language of any author of the period 1100-1500 writing in a Scots or northern English dialect.

7. What is the particular value for the study of Middle English dialectology **either** of local administrative records **or** of place-names?
8. 'Just as words may have distinct associations and therefore function in distinct stylistic roles in different social groupings, so, too, both different significances and different word forms may be found in geographically distinct communities; the dialect areas of Middle English have, to a certain extent, distinct lexical inventories.' (D. BURNLEY) Discuss any part(s) of this statement, with respect **either** to dialect areas in Middle English **or** to the language of a particular Middle English author.

9. Describe and discuss the principal features of any **one** Middle English dialect on which you have not written elsewhere in this paper.
10. What features of the language of the following passage give indications of the date or place of origin of the manuscript text AND/OR the original ?

Þet holi godspel of today us telp þet a bredale was imaked ine þo
 londe of Ierusalem, in ane cite þat was icleped Cane, in þa time þat
 Godes sune yede in erþe flesliche. To þa bredale was ure Leuedi
 Seinte Marie, and ure Louerd Iesus Crist and hise deciples. So iuel
 5 auenture þet wyn failede at þise bredale; þo seide ure Leuedi Seinte
 Marie to here sune: 'Hi ne habbet no wyn.' And ure Louerd answerde
 and sede to hire: 'Wat belongeth hit to me oþer to þe, wyman ?' Nu
 ne dorste hi namore sigge, ure Lauedi; hac hye spac to þo serganz þet
 seruede of þo wyne, and hem seyde: 'Al þat he hot yu do, so doþ.'
 10 And ure Louerd clepede þe serganz and seyde to hem: 'Folvellet',
 ha seyde, 'þos ydres [þet is to sigge þos croos, oþer þos faten] of
 watere.' For þer were vi ydres of stone þet ware iclepede bapieres, wer
 þo Gius hem wesse for clenesse and for religiun, ase þe custome was
 ine þo time. Þo serganz uuluelden þo faten of watere, and hasteliche
 15 was iwent into wyne, bie þo wille of ure Louerde. Þo seide ure Lord
 to þo serganz: 'Moveth togidere and bereth to Architriclin [þat wes se
 þet ferst was iserued].' And also hedde idrunke of þise wyne þet ure
 Louerd hedde imaked of þe watere (ha niste nocht þe miracle, ac þo
 serganz wel hit wiste þet hedde þet water ibrocht), þo seide
 20 Architriclin to þo bredgume: 'Oþer men', seyde he, 'doþ forþ þet beste
 wyn þet hi habbeþ ferst at here bredale; and þu hest ido þe contrarie,
 þet þu hest ihialde þet beste wyn wath nu !' Þis was þe commen-
 cement of þo miracles of ure Louerde þet he made flesliche in erþe;
 and þo beleuede on him his deciples. I ne sigge nacht þet hi ne
 25 hedden þerbefore ine him biliaue; ac fore þe miracle þet hi seghe was
 here beliaue þe more istrengþed.
 Nu ye habbeþ iherd þe miracle; nu ihereþ þe signefiance. Þet water
 bitockned se euele Cristeneman. For also þet water is natureliche
 schald and akelp alle þo þet hit drinkeþ, so is se euele Cristeman chald
 30 of þo luue of Gode, for þo euele werkes þet hi doþ.