

Early English Poetry, Ballads, and Popular Literature of the Middle Ages: The cytezen and uplondyshman, - Percy Society, 1848 - Percy Society - 1848

The term Middle English literature refers to the literature written in the form of the English language known as Middle English, from the late 12th century until the 1470s. During this time the Chancery Standard, a form of London-based English became widespread and the printing press regularized the language. Between the 1470s and the middle of the following century there was a transition to early Modern English. In literary terms, the characteristics of the literary works written did not change history – Old English and the actual Middle Ages – and in this respect the reader of the present book learns the characteristics, literary conventions and genres, main writers and major works, and the literary interaction and continuity of the given periods. Literature on the whole and the particular elements of the literary system represent the main concern of the history of literature as well, in particular in the light of Paul Ricoeur's (From Text to Action: Essays in Lyric poetry, ballads, and hymns were poetry, of course, but the great chivalric romances of courtly love and the high medieval dream vision genres were also written in verse as were epics, and the French and Breton lais (short-story poems). Initially, medieval writers were anonymous scribes setting down stories they had heard. Originality in writing in the Middle Ages (as in the ancient world) was not high on the list of cultural values and early writers did not bother to sign their works. The actual names of many of the most famous writers of the Middle Ages are still unknown. Although poetry continued as a popular medium in the Late Middle Ages, more writers began working in prose and among these were a number of notable women. II. Middle English Literature Geoffrey Chaucer Canterbury Tales. III. Renaissance in English Literature Thomas More – the first humanist in English Literature Edmund Spenser Christopher Marlowe. IV. William Shakespeare The Taming of the Shrew Romeo and Juliet The Tragedy of Othello the Moor of Venice The Tragedy of Hamlet – Prince of Denmark. V. English Literature of the Period Revolution and Restoration John Donne Ben Jonson John Milton. VI. Plan 1. Introduction 2. Classification of English literary history 3. English literature of Middle Ages 4. Anglo – Saxon Literature (7th-11th centuries): Caedmon, Venerable Bede, Alfred the Great. 5. Beowulf – the first national epic of English Literature 6. Middle English literature.