

William Caxton

The beginning of printing

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Outline

- . William Caxton personality
- . Caxton learns to print
- . Bringing printing to England
- . Creating new reading markets
- . Caxton's cultural and historical impact

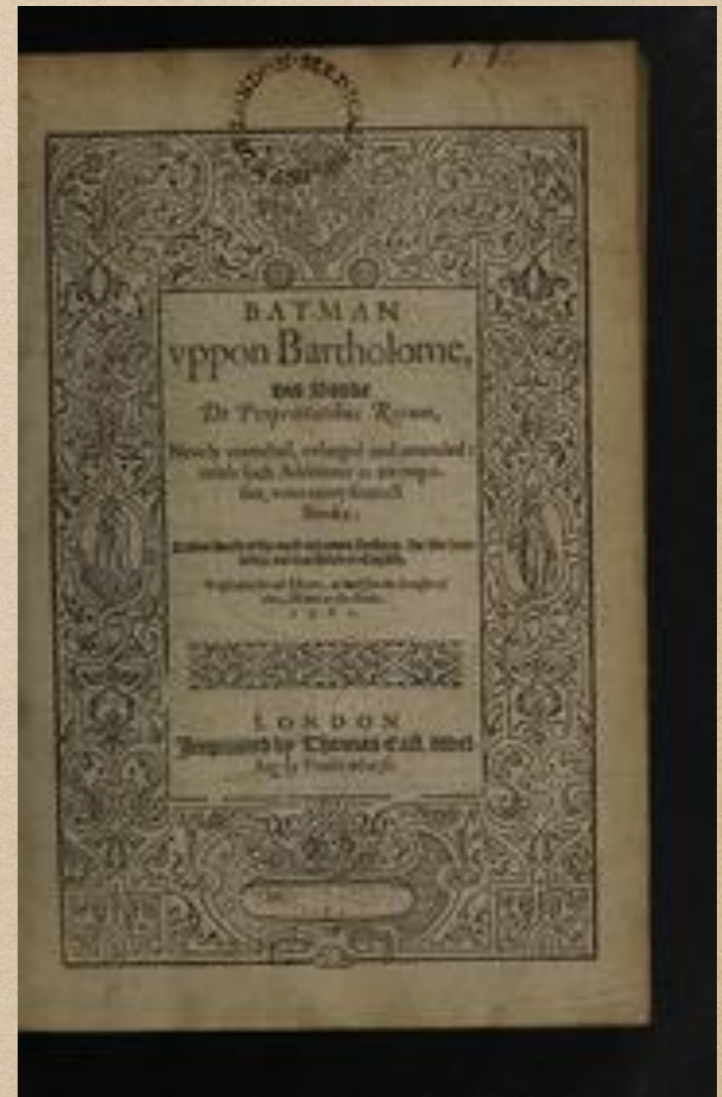
William Caxton

- Born in Kent
- between 1415 and 1425
- English merchant in the Low Countries (Bruges)
- Governor of the resident English merchants



Caxton learns to print

- Cologne (Germany)
- Bartholomaeus Anglicus's "De Proprietatibus Rerum" ("On the Proprieties of Things"); 1472
- Johannes Schilling



“The Recuyell of the Histories of Troy”

1473

But I doubt the tounce of fortune / And that vnder
the shadowe of thys thyng she not letre ne destroye
poure grete seignourye / And that we ne begynne thynge
that we ought to leue for to eschewe more grete mys-
cheyf 2c :

Whan Hector had maady an ende of hys ans-
wer. Paris was no thyng well contente
therwith. He stode vp on hys feet and sayde
in thys wyse. My ryght dere lordes I beseeche you to
here me saye to what ende ye may come yf ye begynne
the warre agaynst the grekes / How be not we gar-
nysshid of so many and noble Chyualrye as they be.
Certes that be we / why che in alle the world is none
that may discomfyte. And therfore begynne ye hardly
that emprise that ye haue thought. And sende of your
shippis and of your peple to renue in grece / And to
take the peple and domage the contre. And yf hys plese
you to sende me / I shall do hit with a good wyll
and herte. For I am certayne that yf ye sende me / that
I shall do grete domage vnto the grekes. And I shall
take some noble lady of grece and bringe her with me
in to this Royame. And by the comutation of her / ye
may recouere your suster erione / And yf ye wyll vnder-
stande and knowe how I am certayn of this thyng
I shall saye hit to you how the goddes haue promysed
hit to me. Vnto hit happend to me late sayde paris in the
tyme that by your comandement I was in the lasse puce
at the begynnyng of the Somer / And that vpon a
fryday. I wente me to hunte in a foreste ryght clyp
And so that mornynge I fonde no thyng that tor-
ned me to any playse / And than after mydday

The thyrd chapitre of the first tractate treteth Wherfore
the playe Was founden and maady Capitulo iij



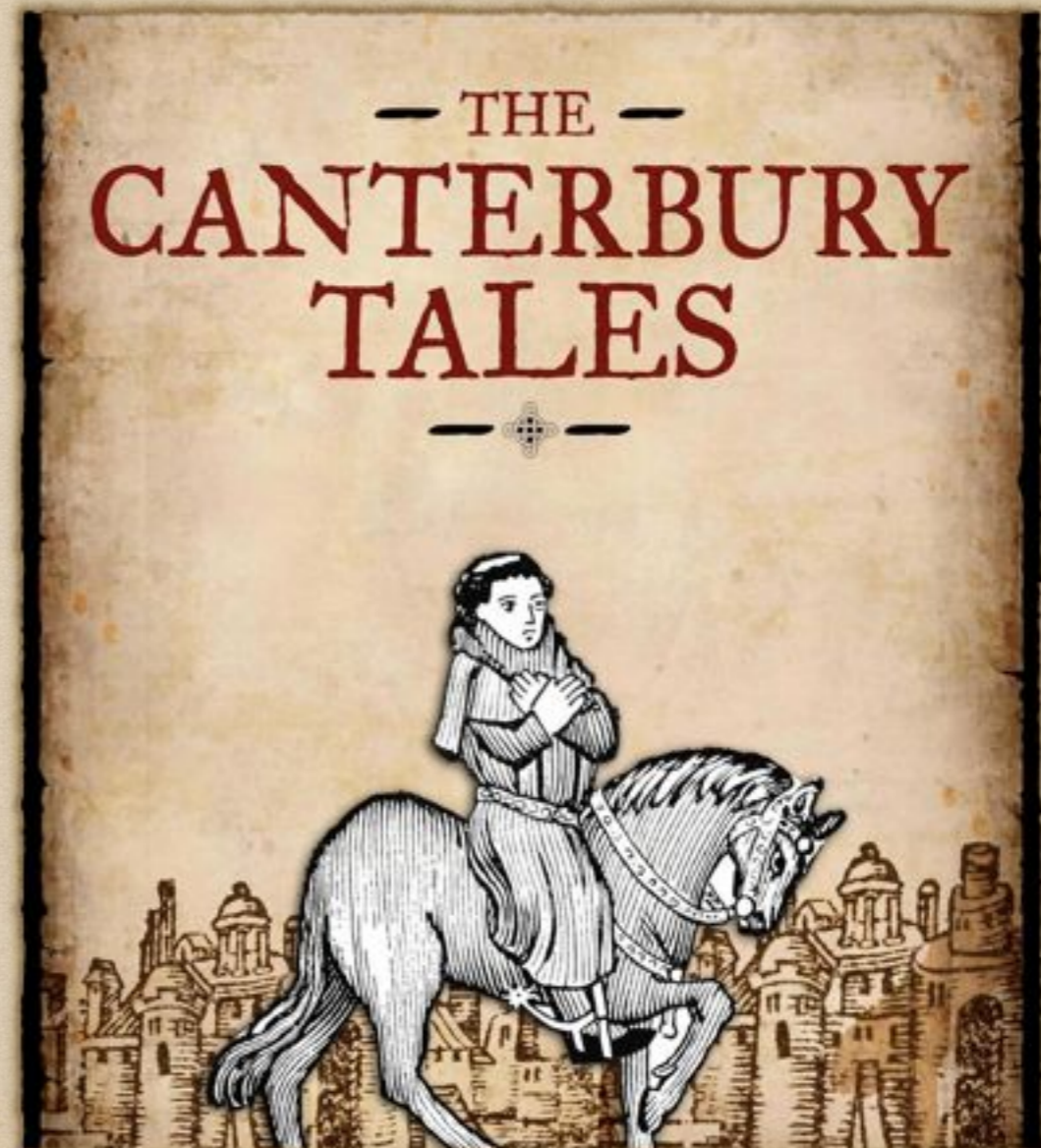
He causes Wherfore this playe Was founden ten iij
t. The first Was for to correcte and repreue the kyng
for Whan this kyng enylnedach sawe this playe / And
the lawns · knyghtes and gentilmen of his court playe
Wyth the phylosopher / he merueylled greatly of the heaulte
and noueltie of the playe . And desired to playe agaynst
the phylosopher / The phylosopher answered and sayd to hym
that hit myght not be doon / but yf he first lernyd the playe
The kyng sayd hit Was reson and that he Wold put hym
to the payn to lerne hit / Than the phylosopher began to

“Game of Chess”

1475
Bruges

Caxton brings printing to England

- 1476 - first printing shop near Westminster Abbey
- 1477 - Geoffrey Chaucer's "The Canterbury Tales"



GEOFFREY CHAUCER

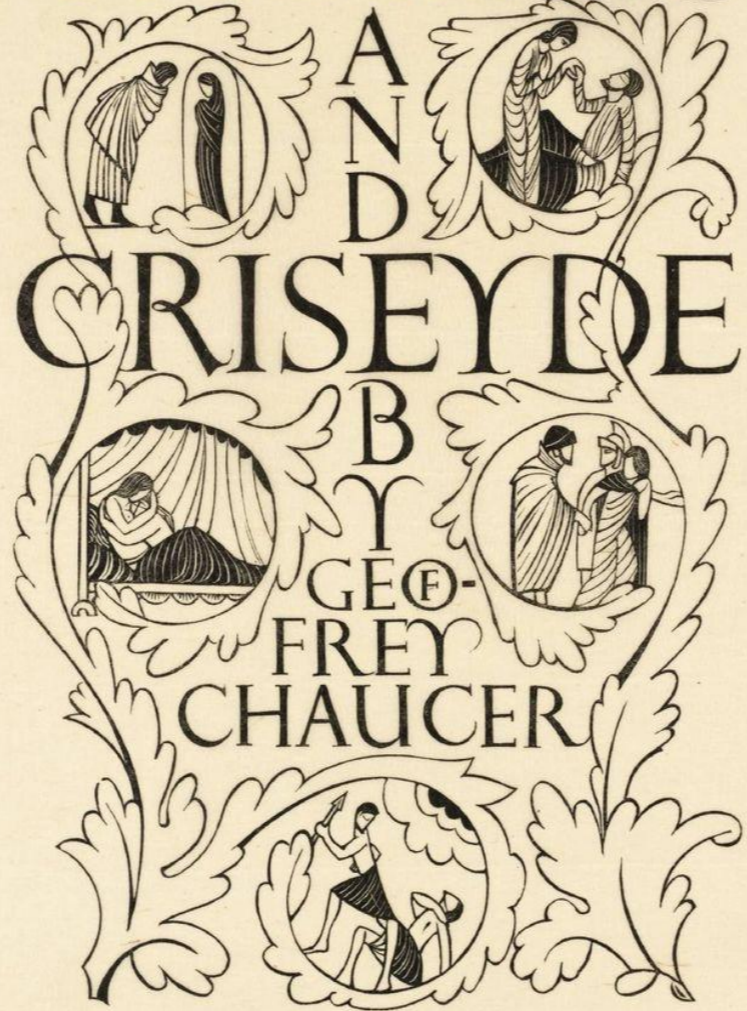
The Parliament of Birds



TROILUS

AND CRISEYDE

BY GEOFFREY CHAUCER



ANELIDA AND ARCITE

Geoffrey Chaucer

Confessio Amantis
OR
Tales of the Seven Deadly Sins



John Gower

Theophania Publishing

The Life Of Our Lady, Part 1

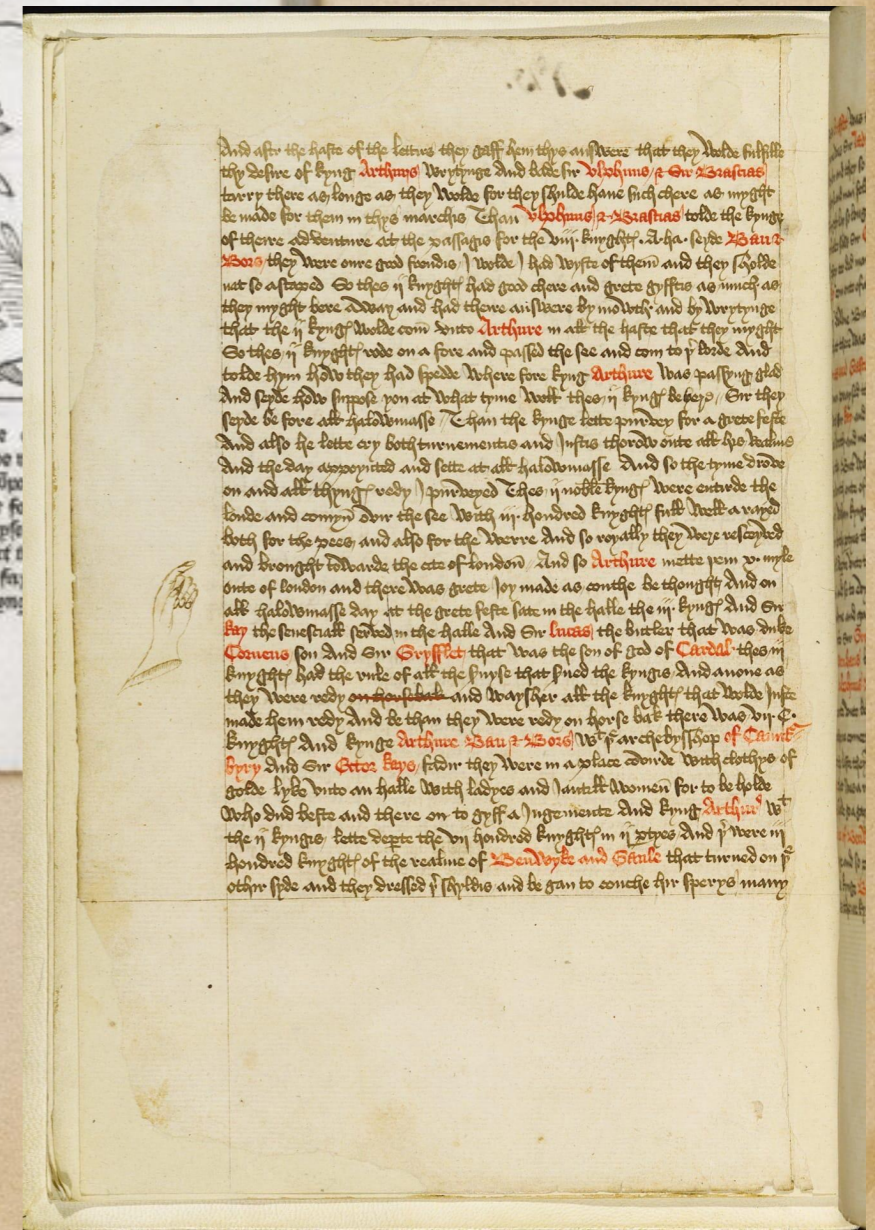
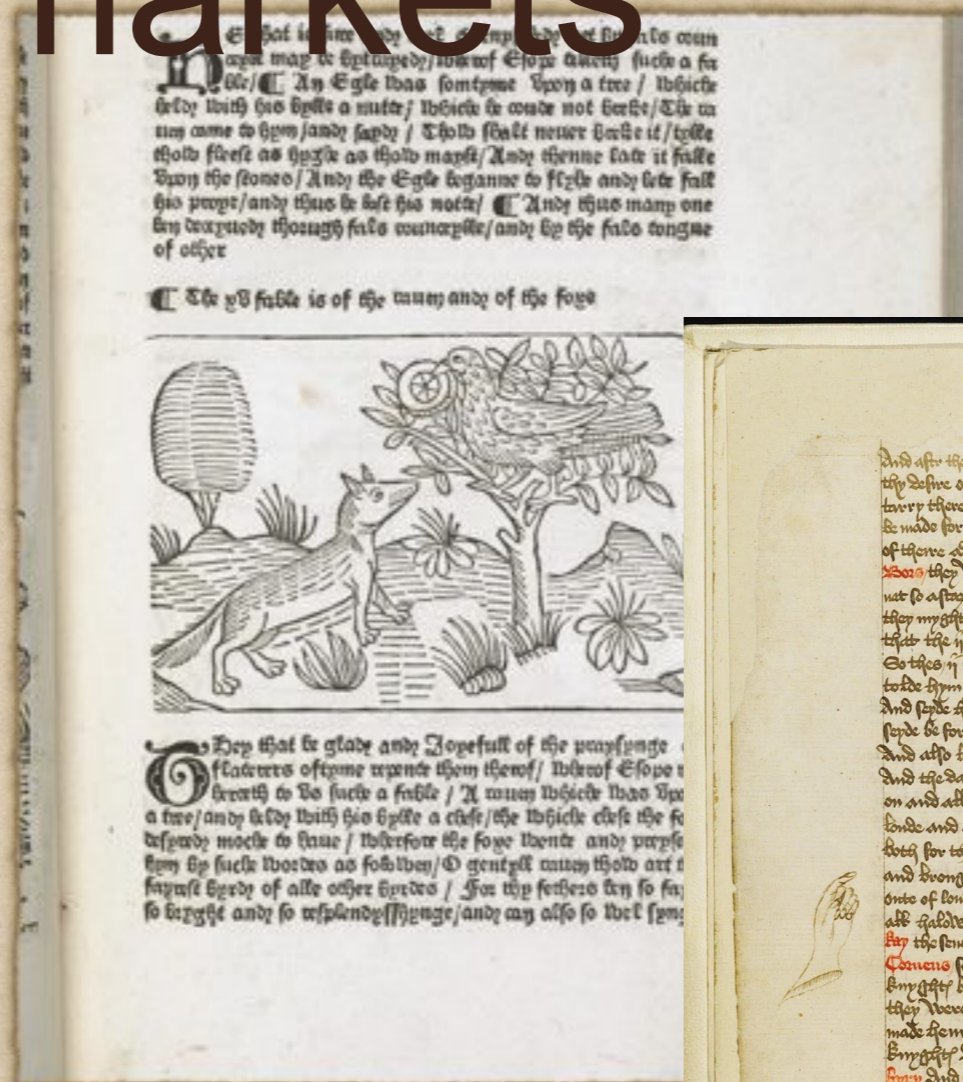


JOHN LYDGATE

Creating new reading markets

Aesop's Fables
(1484)

Le Morte Darthur
(1485)



Adapting for his audience: Caxton as editor and publicist

- Publishing his own translations
- Adopting various methods to make the books more accessible and attractive
- Taking in active role in editing a work

Caxton's cultural and historical impact

- . Important contributions to the English language
- . Introduction of a large number of new words into the lexicon: “concussion”, “fortification”, “servitude”, “voyager”
- . The first usage of over 1,300 words
- . A limited number of technical changes: different type fonts and illustrations

Woodcut illustration depicting the Wife of Bath, one of the 31 pilgrims from The Canterbury Tales

He that is sure and wel garnysshed; yet by fals coun-
ayll may be betraped; wherof Esop telleth such a fa-
ble. ¶ An Eagle was somtyme vpon a tree / whiche
held; with his bylle a nutte; whiche he coude not bere. The wa-
ren came to hym / and sayd; / Thow shalt neuer bere it / telle
thow fleest as hyge as thow mayst / And thenne late it falle
vpon the stones / And the Eagle beganne to flye and lette fall
his prey; and thus he lost his nutte. ¶ And thus many one
ben deceyued; thorough fals counayll; and by the fals tongue
of other

¶ The y^e fable is of the man and of the fowe



Hey that be glady and Joyefull of the prayse of
flatterers oftyme repente them therof / wherof Esop tel-
leth to vs such a fable / A man whiche was vpon
a tree / and held; with his bylle a cheese / the whiche cheese the fow
despyde moche to haue / wherfor the fowe wente and preyed
hym by such wordes as folowen / O gentyl man thow art the
fynest byrd; of alle other byrdes / For thy feathers ben so fayre
so byght and so resplendysshynge / and; can also so wel synge

Thank you for attention!