

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

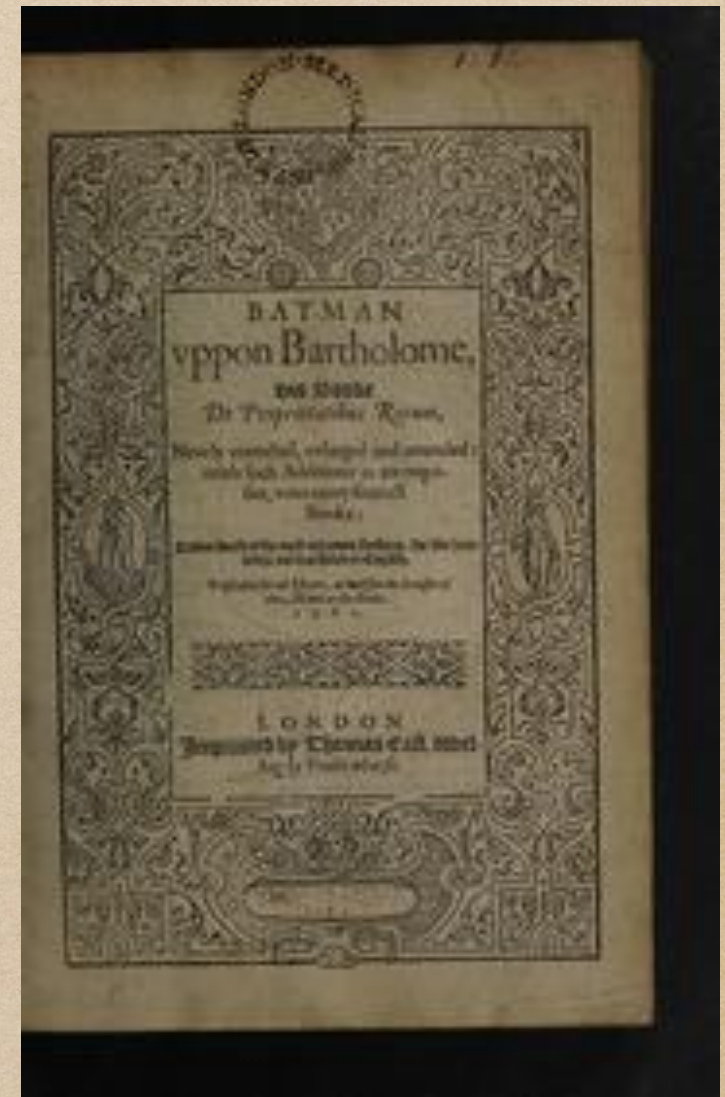
William Caxton

- 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 this thyng she not letre ne destroye
your grete seignourye / And that we ne begynne thyng
that we ought to leue for to eschewe more grete mys-
chance 24 :

Whan Hector had made an ende of his an-
swer. Paris was no thyng well contente
therwith. He stode vp on his feet and sayde
in this wyse. My right dere lord I beseeche you to
here me saye to what ende ye may come if ye begynne
the warre agaynst the grekes / How be not we gar-
ryshide of so many and noble Chyualrye as they be.
Certes that be we / whiche in alle the world is none
that may discomfite. And therefore 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 contree. And if hit please
you to sende me. I shall do hit with a good wyll
and herte. For I am certayne that if 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 crione / And if ye wyll vnder-
stande and knowe how I am certayne 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 gide
at the begynnyng of the Somer / And that vpon a
fryday. I wente me to hunte in a foreste right ely
And so that moreynge I fonde no thyng that tor-
ned me to any playse / And than after mydday

The thyrd chappitre of the first tractate treteth Wherfore
the playe Was founden and maad? Capitulo iij



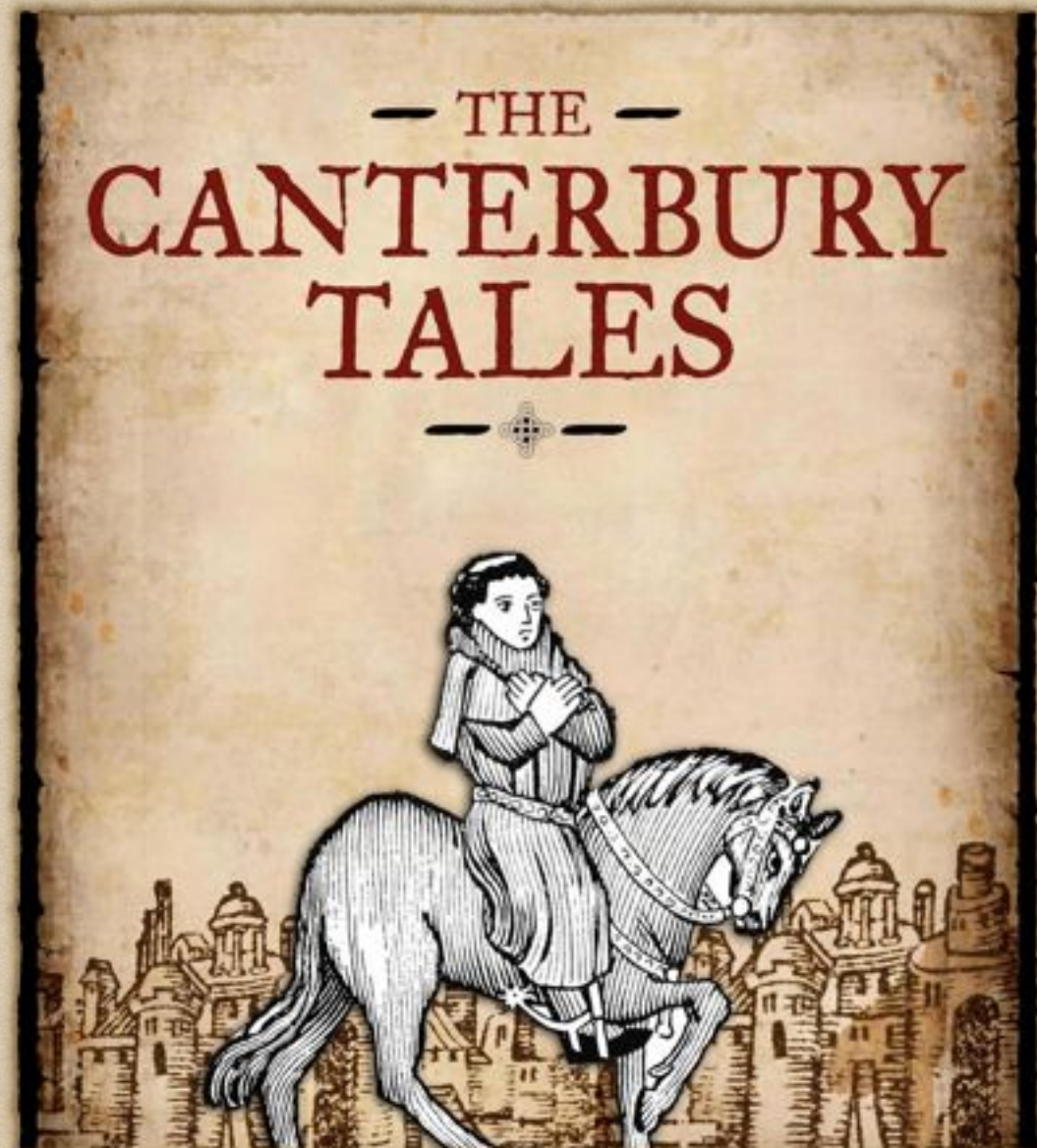
He causes Wherfore this playe Was founden ten iij
t. The first Was for to correcte and repreue the kyng
for Whan this kyng enylnedach sawe this playe / And
the lawns • knyghtes and gentilmen of his court playe
Wyth the phylosopher / he merueylled greatly of the heaulke
and noueltie of the playe . And desired to playe agaynst
the phylosopher / The phylosopher answered and sayd to hym
that hit myght not be don / but yf he first lernyd the play
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

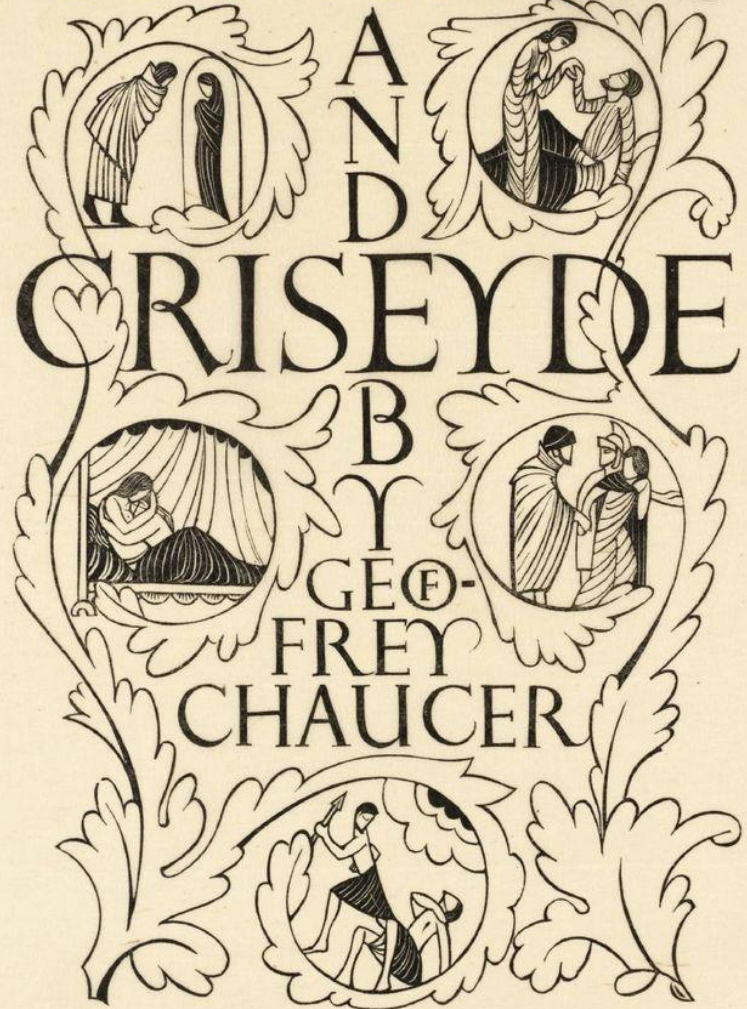
The Parliament of Birds



TROILUS

AND CRISEYDE

B
Y
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)

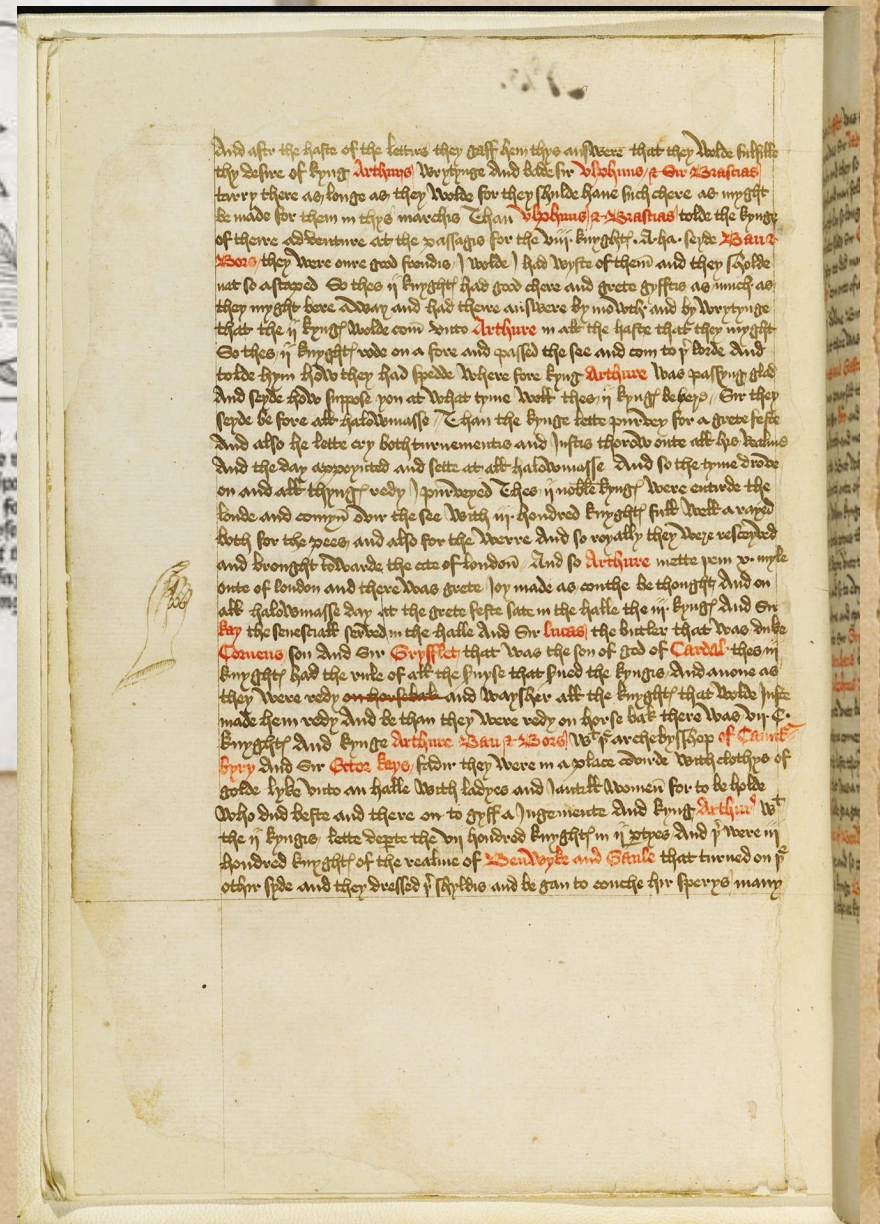
Le Morte Darthur
(1485)

That is the first of the fables of Aesop which is written in the
English language. The first fable is of the man and of the fox
The first fable is of the man and of the fox
The first fable is of the man and of the fox
The first fable is of the man and of the fox

The first fable is of the man and of the fox



They that be glady and Joyefull of the penysenge
flatterers oftyme wende them therof / Wherof Esopo
wrote to be such a fable / A man whiche was
a fox / and he was with his hylde a chere / the whiche chere the
desparyd much to have / wherfore the foxe wente and prayde
hem by such wordes as folowen / O gentyl man / whold art
faynt herby of alle ocher bydes / For thy fethers ben so faynt
so byrghe and so wylful / wherfore / and may also so wel seeme



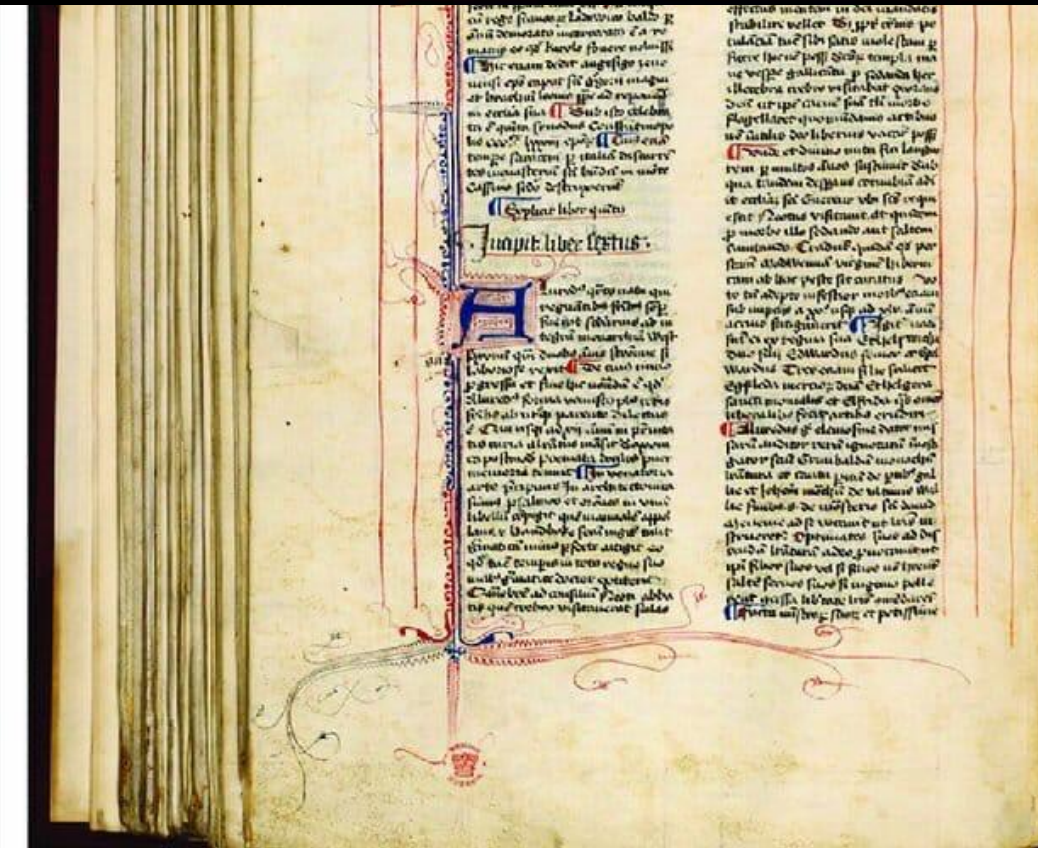
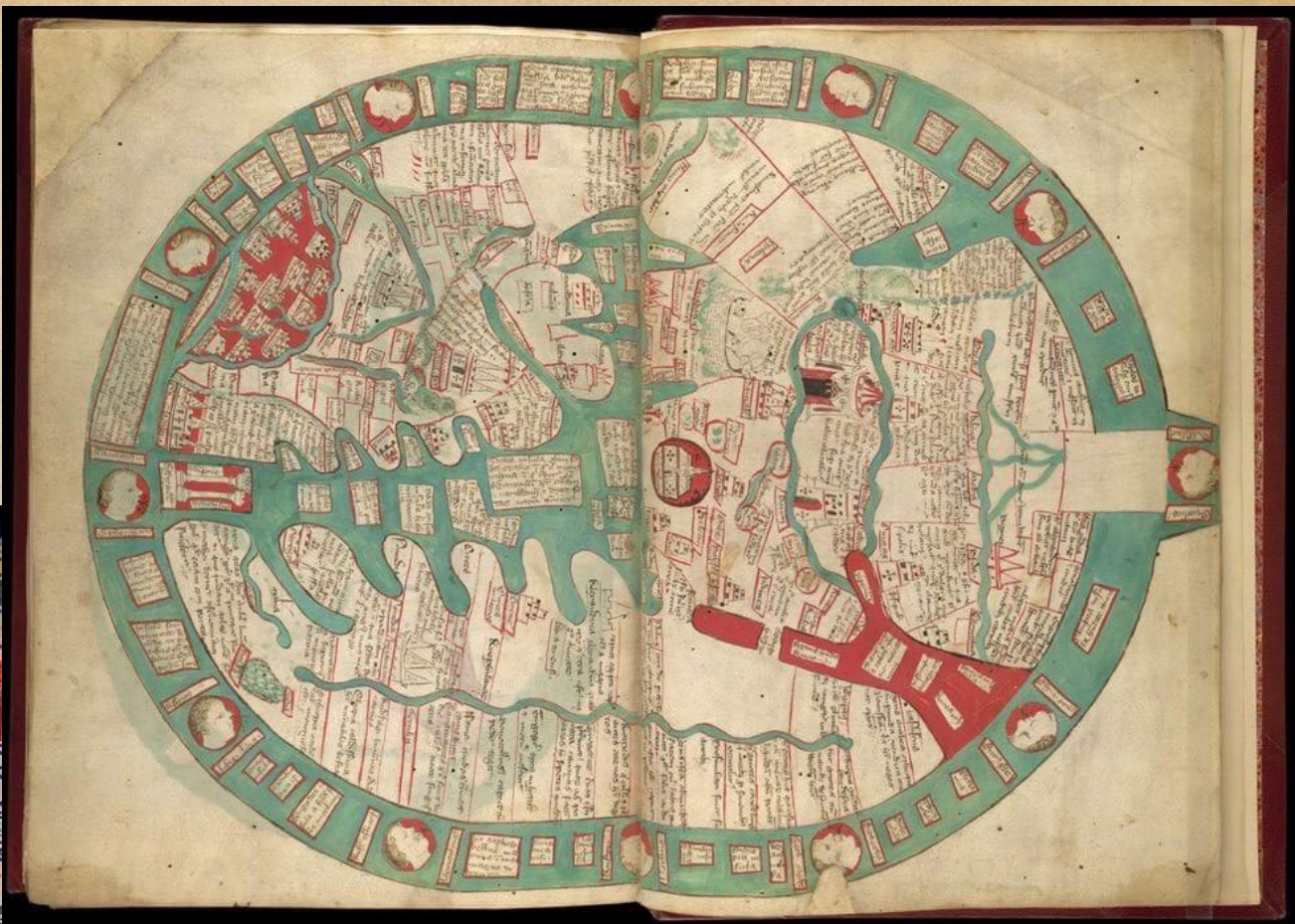
Adapting for his audience: Caxton as editor and publicist

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

Wise man and gylful ycle and conetouse glorgous and luedy
 Wel gret doo saye spker with goddes seruantes and sterne to
 hym that wold him withstonde / In the pryncer of hampton in
 the nesse forst in the space of thyrty myle he thre we down chur
 ches & townes and dyde there wylde bestes / Soe that who toke
 there a wylde beeste shold lese his one eye / & who that toke a wo
 man he strengthe shold lese his genetyres. W/dere / li / 3 / Kyng
 William was of skylful stature to gret & fat of bodye sterne of
 face / bar of forthe / gret of strengthe in brastne and armes / soo
 that vnnethe ony man myghte bende his to we / but he wold on
 his hors stretch forth his sene wys and bende it easly ynough
 vpon his one foot / he had skylful strengthe and poue hym self
 to moche to huntynge / soo that he thre we downe churche & towne
 to make wodes / he made gret feestes and reuelles in the high fe
 tes of the yere / he holde his myddwynter tye at gloucestre / his res
 tre at Wyndesore / Whitfontye at Westmynster / When he was in
 Englonde / but he

people / other
 a grette name / o
 When this Wyl
 Archbisshop of
 goddes seruante
 more bealy / for
 Wyl and his af
 But for that to
 mold another o
 abbayes in eng
 at bataylle in
 this William W
 englyshman / b
 shame and des
 to destrope eng
 fe of such kynd
 into than they

William the
 first and d



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-
 ayle may be betrayed; wherof Esop telleth such a fa-
 ble. ¶ An Eagle was somtyme upon a tree / whiche
 held with his bylle a nutte; whiche he coude not berke / The wa-
 ren came to hym / and sayde / Thow shalt neuer berke it / telle
 thow fleest as hyge as thow mayst / And thenne late it falle
 upon the stones / And the Eagle beganne to flye and lette fall
 his prey / and thus he lost his nutte. ¶ And thus many one
 ben decyved; thorough fals counaile; and by the fals tongue
 of other

¶ The yf fable is of the wren and of the fow



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

Thank you for attention!