

LANDSCAPE IN MIDDLE ENGLISH ROMANCE

Our current ecological crises compel us not only to understand how contemporary media shapes our conceptions of human relationships with the environment, but also to examine the historical genealogies of such perspectives. Written during the onset of the Little Ice Age in Britain, Middle English romances provide a fascinating window into the worldviews of popular vernacular literature (and its audiences) at the close of the Middle Ages. Andrew M. Richmond shows how literary conventions of romances shaped and were in turn influenced by contemporary perspectives on the natural world. These popular texts also reveal widespread concern regarding the damaging effects of human actions and climate change. The natural world was a constant presence in the writing, thoughts, and lives of the audiences and authors of medieval English romance – and these close readings reveal that our environmental concerns go back further in our history and culture than we think.

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LANDSCAPE IN MIDDLE ENGLISH ROMANCE

The Medieval Imagination and the Natural World

ANDREW M. RICHMOND

Southern Connecticut State University



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The responsibility for any errors that remain is entirely my own.

Note on Copyright

The second section of Chapter 2 originally appeared, with the same sole author as the current project but some differences in content, as “The broken schippus he ther fonde’: Shipwrecks and the Human Costs of Investment Capital in Middle English Romance,” *Neophilologus* 99.2 (2015): 315–33. The final publication is copyrighted and available through Springer at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s11061-014-9423-3>.

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Abbreviations

<i>DSL</i>	<i>Dictionary of the Scots Language</i>
<i>EETS</i>	Early English Text Society
(o.s.)	Original Series
(e.s.)	Extra Series
(s.s.)	Supplementary Series
<i>JEGP</i>	<i>Journal of English and Germanic Philology</i>
<i>MED</i>	<i>Middle English Dictionary</i>
<i>OED</i>	<i>Oxford English Dictionary</i>
<i>PMLA</i>	<i>Publications of the Modern Language Association of America</i>

All Bible citations refer to the Vulgate, and are quoted from the Douay-Rheims translation.