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978-0-521-67975-6 - The Cambridge Companion to Medieval French Literature

Edited by Simon Gaunt and Sarah Kay

Index

[More information](#)

INDEX

Prefatory note

It is difficult to index (and concomitantly to look up or cite) medieval names. Works are not always referred to by a consistent title, authors' names can be spelled in more than one way, and conventions are not fixed as to whether an author is indexed (or catalogued, or cited) by first name or surname. As a general rule, authors up to the end of the thirteenth century are indexed by their first name (e.g. Chrétien de Troyes under 'C'), and referred to by either the full name or the first name alone ('Chrétien' or 'Chrétien de Troyes'; not 'de Troyes' and certainly not 'Troyes'). Authors from the fourteenth century onwards are standardly indexed by surname (e.g. Machaut, Guillaume de; Molinet, Jean) and referred to either by their full name or by the surname alone. However, Christine de Pizan (sometimes spelled Pisan) is here indexed under 'C' because she is usually referred to as 'Christine', and only rarely as 'de Pizan/Pisan' or 'Pizan/Pisan'. Although the form of reference adopted in this index reflects current norms and can be safely followed by readers, when using older books or library catalogues they should be advised that they may need to cast around before successfully locating the name or title they are seeking.

- Abbey of Saint Denis 200
 Adam de la Halle 101, 182,
 190, 192
 Jeu de la feuillée, Le 184–5, 189, 190,
 235–6
 Aeneas 199, 204
 Agincourt 133
 Aix-en-Provence 187
 Aix-la-Chappelle 23
 Alexander 199
 allegory 88, 100, 174, 239
 Roman de la rose 49, 50–1, 53, 55, 56–7
 Amadeus VI, count of Savoy 120
Ami et Amile 12, 142–3, 145, 146
 Andreas Capellanus 86, 212
 Angers 187, 188
 Anglo-Norman 2, 4, 183, 212
 Chanson de Roland 22, 25, 30
 Annunciation 116
 Aristotelianism 16, 56
 Aristotle 134
 Arras 184
 Artaud, Antonin 192
 Arthur 81–2, 84, 87, 199, 208
 Vulgate cycle 35, 36, 37–43, 45
Arts de seconde rhétorique 156, 162
Athis et Prophilias 148
Auberi le Bourguignon 142
 Auberon 144, 145
Aucassin et Nicolette 4, 146–7, 167–74
 Augustine
 City of God 228
ballades 11, 12
 Christine de Pizan 123, 124
 lyric poetry 155, 157–8, 160, 161–2
 Machaut, Guillaume de 115, 116
 Villon, François 65, 68–70, 70–2, 73–4
 Benoît de Sainte-Maure
 Le Roman de Troie 81, 83, 148
 Bernart de Ventadorn 84, 96, 101–2, 103
Beuve de Hantone 172
 Bible
 Bible of Jean of Sy 116
 Exodus 145
 Romans 7, 228

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-67975-6 - The Cambridge Companion to Medieval French Literature

Edited by Simon Gaunt and Sarah Kay

Index

[More information](#)

INDEX

- Blondel de Nesle 96, 100, 102, 103, 106
 Boccaccio 176
 Bodel, Jean 184
 author of *fabliaux* 149, 184
 Jeu de Saint Nicolas 183
 Les Saisons 140, 144, 184, 199
 Boethius, *Consolatio* 112, 127, 132
 Bonne of Luxembourg 119
 book production 1, 5, 9, 13
 Christine de Pizan 123, 134–5
 Machaut, Guillaume de 109, 116–18, 121
 narrative genres 147
 Bouchet, Jean 190, 191
 Boucicaud 159
 Brunetto Latini 1
 Brutus 199
 Burgundy 3, 119, 132, 133, 164, 176, 188
- Caesar Augustus 199, 203
 Calendre
 Les Empereurs de Rome 148
 Cambrésis, le 202
 Capetian dynasty 199, 200
 Carthage 203
Cent Nouvelles nouvelles 176–7
chanson de geste 5, 6, 10, 11
 Chanson de Roland 22, 23, 24, 25, 29,
 30, 31
 Chrétien de Troyes 83
 feudalism 197
 narrative genres 140, 141, 142–3, 144–5
 parody 170, 173, 174
Chanson de Roland 1, 4, 6–7, 13, 14, 21–32
 Cambridge version 22, 31
 Châteauroux version 22, 28–9, 30–1
 Lyon version 22, 31
 Oxford version 6, 21, 22–3, 24–5, 26–7, 30,
 31–2, 142, 200–1
 Paris version 22, 31, 142
 Venice 4 version 22, 25, 26–7, 30
 Venice 7 version 22, 28–9, 30–1
 Charlemagne 197, 199, 200–1
 Chanson de Roland 23–5, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31
 Charles V, king of France 119, 123, 134
 Charles VI, king of France 187
 Charles VII, king of France 133
 Charles X, king of Navarre 112–13,
 114, 119
 Charles d'Orléans; Charles, duke of Orléans
 1, 6, 158–9, 160–1
 Charles Martel 199, 201
Charroi de Nîmes 206
 Chartier, Alain 70, 74
- Châtelain de Couci 9, 13, 95–107
 ‘A vous, amant’ 103, 104–6
 ‘La douce voix’ 97–100, 101–3, 105, 106
Châtelaine de Vergy 104
 Chaucer, Geoffrey 1, 10, 48
 chivalry, 13–14
 Vulgate cycle 35–6, 39, 43–4
 Chrétien de Troyes 4, 8, 13, 14, 79–93, 141,
 144, 146, 212
 ‘Amors tençon et bataille’ 85
 Chevalier au lion (Yvain) 87–8, 89, 93, 145,
 148, 171, 175, 208, 231, 236
 Chevalier de la charrette (Lancelot) 36, 79,
 85–7, 89, 93, 148, 171
 Cligès 83–4, 89, 231
 Conte du graal (Perceval) 8, 36, 88–93,
 208, 212, 226, 236
 ‘D’amors qui m’a tolu a moi’ 84, 85
 Erec et Enide 79, 80, 81–3, 89, 145, 148,
 198, 208, 231
 Guillaume d’Angleterre 81, 88
 Philomena 84
 Christina of Markyate 16, 219–23
 Christine de Pizan 1, 4, 6, 9, 10, 60,
 123–35, 156
Cent Ballades 124, 236
Cent Ballades d’amant et de dame 161
Ditié de Jehanne d’Arc 133–4
Epistre au dieu d’amours 124, 125
Epistre de la prison de vie humaine 133
Epistre Othea 123, 124–5
Lamentacion sur les maux de la guerre
 civile 133
Livre de la cité des dames 129–31,
 132, 134
Livre de l’advison Cristine 124, 131–2, 134
Livre de la mutacion de Fortune 128–9,
 130, 131
Livre de la paix 133
Livre des fais d’armes et de chevalerie 133
Livre des trois vertus 130–1
Livre du chemin de long estude 127–8, 131
Livre du corps de policie 132–3
rondeaux 157–8
 see also Querelle du Roman de la rose
- church 10, 15
 clerks and laity 210, 211, 212, 215, 218
 marriage and sexuality 225, 227, 232
 Clemence of Barking 212, 214–15
 Vie de Sainte Catherine 212–13, 214–15
 clerks/clergy/clergie 10, 16, 61, 81,
 210–23
 Clovis 199

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-67975-6 - The Cambridge Companion to Medieval French Literature

Edited by Simon Gaunt and Sarah Kay

Index

[More information](#)

INDEX

- Col, Pierre and Gontier 60, 125
confréries 184, 185, 186, 187
 Conon de Béthune 96, 106
 Constantinople 201
conte (short story) 139, 167
 continuation
 Continuations of Chrétien's Conte du graal
 89–91, 226, 227
 Godefroi de Leigni 86
 Roman de la rose 54, 58
 Coudrette, *Mélusine* 74, 239
Couronnement de Louis 201
 Crusade cycle 144, 145
 crusades 13, 95, 105, 106, 183
 cyclicity 7, 37–8, 145–6
- Daniel 112–13
 Dante 1, 10
 David 116, 118, 199
 Deschamps, Eustache 109, 153–4, 155, 162
 Art de dictier 153, 156, 162
 Dido 203, 204
dits 11, 12, 109, 139, 140
 see also Christine de Pizan; Froissart, Jean;
 Machaut, Guillaume de
Donnei des amants 150
 drama 5, 181–93
- Eleanor of Aquitaine 84
Estoire del saint graal 35, 37, 38, 39, 44
Estoire de Merlin 35, 37–8, 39
 Etienne de Fougères
 Livre des manières 232–3
 Eustache le Peintre 103, 104
- fabliaux* 10, 11, 139, 140, 141, 143, 146, 149,
 167, 174–6, 177
Berengier au lonc cul 174–5, 177, 206
Chevalier qui fist parler les cons 206
Estula 179
 feudalism 206
Male Honte 179
 marriage and sexuality 233
Prestre qui abevete 179
Quatre Prestres 179
Sacristain 179
Trois Boçus 179
Trubert 206
Farce de Maître Pathelin 189, 190
 feudalism 14, 197–208
fine amour 13, 85, 95
 Fo, Dario 182, 192–3
formes fixes 12, 155
- Franco-Italian 25
 Franks 2, 23, 24, 201
 Froissart, Jean 155, 156, 161
 Espinette amoureuse 155, 156
 Joli Buisson de Jonece 10
 Meliador 159, 162
- Gace Brulé 96, 100, 102, 106, 107
 Galahad 37, 41, 44
 Galehaut 42–3, 247–8
 Ganelon 23–4, 27, 31, 200, 207, 208
 Gautier d'Arras
 Eracle 146
 Ille et Galeron 146
 Gautier de Coinci
 Miracles de Nostre Dame 147, 214
 Vie de Sainte Cristine 214
 Gauvain 37, 45, 81, 85, 88–9, 249
Gaydon 142
 gender 9, 14
 Aucassin et Nicolette 171–3
 Christine de Pizan 123–35
 clerks and laity 212, 219–23
 marriage and sexuality 225–6, 229, 230
 Roman de la rose 52–3
 Vulgate cycle 39
 genre 10–12
 lyric poetry 162–4
 narrative genres 139–51
 parody and spectacle 167, 170, 171, 172,
 173, 175, 176, 177–9
 Geoffrey of Monmouth 36, 81
 Gerald of Barri 212
 Gerbert de Montreuil
 Roman de la violette 104
 Gerson, Jean 48, 60
 Gilles de Viés-Maisons 102
 Girart de Vienne 29
 Godefroi de Leigni 79, 86–7
 Gorion, Jean 187
Gormont et Isembart 1
 Gower, John 1
 grail 36–8, 39, 41, 43–5, 79,
 88, 89
grand chant courtois 11, 12, 95–108
grands rhétoriciens, see rhétoriciens
 Gratian, *Decretum* 227
 Gréban, Arnoul 187
 Gregory VII (pope) (and Gregorian reforms)
 211, 227
 Guenivere 35, 36–7, 41–5, 83, 85
Gui de Bourgogne 29, 197
 Guillaume de Lorris 7, 8, 48, 49–53, 54–5, 58

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-67975-6 - The Cambridge Companion to Medieval French Literature

Edited by Simon Gaunt and Sarah Kay

Index

[More information](#)

INDEX

- Guillaume d'Orange (cycle de) 7, 34, 145, 201, 230
- Guillaume le Clerc
Vie de sainte Marie-Madeleine 214
- hagiography 4, 214, 217, 229, 233–4
- Hauteville, Pierre de 66, 68, 74
- Henri d'Andeli
Lai d'Aristote 150
- Henry I, king of England 198
- Henry II, king of England 8, 13, 79, 84, 212
- Histoire ancienne jusqu'à César* 134
- historiography 4, 11
- Hugh Capet, king of France 199
- Hugh of St Victor 181
- Hundred Years' War 113, 130
- Huon de Bordeaux* 12, 143–5, 146
- Instructif, L'* 157
- intertextuality 7
Châtelain de Couci 101–3, 105–6
Chrétien de Troyes 93
parody 167, 170–4, 177
narrative genres 140, 143
Villon, François 68–70, 75
- Jakemes
Castelain de Couci 104–6, 107
- Jaufre Rudel 96, 103
- Jean II, king of France 113, 119
- Jean, duke of Berry 113, 119, 120
- Jean, duke of Luxembourg and king of Bohemia 118–19
- Jean Bodel, *see* Bodel, Jean
- Jean d'Arras
Melusine 239–43, 249
- Jean de Meun 7, 48, 50, 53–61, 124, 125–7
Testament 70
- Jean Renart
Escoufle 206
Lai de l'ombre 150, 151
Roman de la rose 104
- Jeanne d'Arc 133–4
- Jesse 199
- Jeu d'Adam* 181, 183, 193
- Jeu de la feuillée* *see* Adam de la Halle
- Jeu de Saint Nicolas* *see* Bodel, Jean
- John of Salisbury 212
- jongleurs* 5, 22, 168, 172, 184
- Joshua 199
- Jourdain de Blaye* 142
- Julius Caesar 144, 199, 203
- lai breton* 140, 149–51
Lai d'Aristote, *see* Henri d'Andeli
- Lai de désiré* 151
- Lai de Haveloc* 150, 151
- Lai de l'oiselet* 150
- Lai de l'ombre*, *see* Jean Renart
- Lai de Nabaret* 151
- Lai de Narcisse* 150
- Lai d'Ignauré* 150
- Lai du lecheor* 150
- lai lyrique* 140, 151
- laissés* 5, 22–3, 143
similaires and parallèles 27–8, 30
- Lancelot 35–8, 40, 41–5, 79, 85–7, 143
- Lancelot en prose* 1, 35, 37–43, 247
- langue d'oïl and langue d'oc* 2
- Lavine (Lavinia) 203, 205, 230
- Le Fèvre, Jean
Lamentations 129
Livre de leescs 129
- Le Franc, Martin 70
- Le Mote, Jean de 160
- Parfait du Paon* 160
- literacy 5–6, 13, 211, 212
- Livre de conduite du régisseur* 188
- Loherain cycle 145, 201
- Louis, duke of Orléans 153
- Louis IV, king of France 199
- Louis de Mâle, count of Flanders 155
- lyric poetry 5, 10, 12, 84–5, 95–107, 153–64
- Machaut, Guillaume de 1, 6, 9, 10, 109–21, 154–6
Confort d'amy 112, 114, 119
Dit de l'alerion 119
Dit dou lyon 112, 119
Dit dou vergier 110–11
Fonteinne amoureuse 112, 113, 115, 119, 156
Jugement dou roy de Navarre 114, 119
Jugement dou roy de Behaigne 111, 114
Loange des dames 110, 155
Prise d'Alixandre 119
Prologue 115–16, 120
Remede de Fortune 111, 112–13, 118, 119
Voir dit 114–15, 119–20, 121, 154, 155, 161
- manuscripts 5, 6, 7, 9, 73–4, 96, 116–21, 134–5, 147–51
- Arras, Bibliothèque Municipale 307
- Bibliothèque nationale de France, fr. 60 148

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-67975-6 - The Cambridge Companion to Medieval French Literature

Edited by Simon Gaunt and Sarah Kay

Index

[More information](#)

INDEX

- Bibliothèque nationale de France,
fr. 606 124
- Bibliothèque nationale de France, fr. 794
79, 148
- Bibliothèque nationale de France,
fr. 837 149
- Bibliothèque nationale de France,
fr. 860 22, 31, 142
- Bibliothèque nationale de France,
fr. 1450 148
- Bibliothèque nationale de France,
fr. 1584 116, 117 (fig.)
- Bibliothèque nationale de France,
fr. 1586 118, 119
- Bibliothèque nationale de France,
fr. 1719 160
- Bibliothèque nationale de France,
fr. 2168 148, 150, 179
- Bibliothèque nationale de France,
fr. 9221 120, 121 (fig.)
- Bibliothèque nationale de France,
fr. 9223 160
- Bibliothèque nationale de France,
fr. 12490 73
- Bibliothèque nationale de France,
fr. 12576 90 (fig.), 91
- Bibliothèque nationale de France,
fr. 12577 91, 92 (fig.)
- Bibliothèque nationale de France,
fr. 19152 148, 149
- Bibliothèque nationale de France,
fr. 19525 149
- Bibliothèque nationale de France,
fr. 19531 149
- Bibliothèque nationale de France,
fr. 20041 74
- Bibliothèque nationale de France,
fr. 22545–6 118, 120
- Bibliothèque nationale de France,
fr. 25458 158
- Bibliothèque nationale de France, n.a.f.
1104 150–1
- Bibliothèque nationale de France, n.a.f.
15771 160
- British Library, Additional 70713 149
- British Library, Harley 978 147, 150
- British Library, Harley 4431 124–5,
126 (fig.)
- Brussels, Bibliothèque royale Albert Ier, IV,
541 73
- Cambridge, University Library Ee.6.11 147
- Chantilly, Musée Condé 472 148
- Glasgow, Hunter 252 (fig.) 126
- Hildesheim Dombibliothek, St Godehard
(= St Albans Psalter) 7, 215, 217, 219,
220 (fig.), 222
- Lille, Bibliothèque Municipale MS 402 160
- lost manuscripts 120
- New York, Pierpoint Morgan Library
M396 121
- New York, Pierpoint Morgan Library
M948 58, 59 (fig.)
- Oxford, Bodleian Library, Canon
Misc. 74 149
- Oxford, Bodleian Library, Douce 132 147
- Oxford, Bodleian Library, Douce 308 164
- Paris, Bibliothèque de l' Arsenal, 3523 74
- Shrewsbury School, MS 7 151
- Stockholm, Royal Library V.u.22 73, 74
- York, Minister Library, XVI K. 12 147
- Marco Polo 1
- Margaret, queen of Scotland 159
- Marie de Champagne 79, 212
- Marie de France 4, 8, 147, 212, 231
Eliduc 233
Espurgatoire Saint Patrice 214
Fresne 227, 231, 232
Guigemar 81, 227, 231–2
Lais 4, 147, 149–50
Lanval 208, 238–9, 242
Milon 227
Yonec 227, 239
Ysopet 147
- marriage 225–36
- Matheolus, *Lamentations* 129–30, 131
- matière de France* 140, 144, 199,
200, 202
- Merveilles de Rigomer* 148
- Metz 187
- Michel, Jean 187
- Miracles de Notre Dame par
personnages* 186
- Molinet, Jean 65, 162–3
- monarchy 13, 197–209
- Montreuil, Jean de, provost of Lille 60, 125
- Mordred 37, 45
- Morgan le Fey 144, 145
- Mort le roi Artu, La* 8, 35, 38, 39, 44,
45, 207
- mouvance* 6
- music 109, 121, 153–5
- Mystère de la Passion* 187, 188, 191
- Mystère de Saint Martin* 190
- Mystère du siège d'Orléans* 188
- Neoplatonism 16

INDEX

- Occitan 2, 95, 103
orality and performance 6, 10
Aucassin et Nicolette 168
Chanson de Roland 22, 29–30
Châtelain de Couci 100–1
Chrétien de Troyes 81
theatre 181–93
Oresme, Nicole 134
Orpheus 116, 118
Ovid 83, 84, 109, 112, 124, 128, 134
Ovide moralisé 84, 134
- Palamedes 245–9
parataxis (and hypotaxis) 3, 22, 29, 143
Paris
Christine de Pizan 132, 133, 134
university 13
theatre 184, 185, 186, 188, 190
Villon, François 63, 72
Paris, Gaston 21, 24, 191
Paris, Paulin 121
parody 167, 170, 171–2, 173–4, 175,
176, 177–8
Pastoralet 159
patronage 10, 87, 88, 118–20, 134–5
Peckham, Pierre de 214
Péguy, Charles 191
Pépin ‘the Short’ 199
Perceforest, Le Roman de 4, 243–5
Peter Lombard, *Sentences* 227
Philippe Auguste 13, 202
Philippe d’Alsace 79, 212
Philippe le Bon, duke of Burgundy 176
Philippe le Hardi, duke of Burgundy 119, 120
Pichette, Henri 192
Pinabel (character in the *Roland*) 200
Piramus et Thisbe 171
Prise de Narbonne 34
Prise d’Orange 230
Pseudo-Turpin Chronicle 197, 238
Puys d’amour 153
- Querelle du Roman de la rose* 60, 125–7
Queste del saint graal 35, 38, 39, 44
Quinze Joies de mariage 234
- Raimbaut d’Aurenga 84
Raoul de Cambrai 201, 202
Raoul de Houdenc
Meraugis de Portlesgues 141
Roman des eles 150
remaniement 6–7, 8, 23, 28
Renaut de Montauban 141, 201
- René d’Anjou 109
Rhetoric 49, 50, 123, 124, 125–7, 134
rhétoriciens 65, 164
Richard II, king of England 161
Robert d’Alençon, count of Perche 120
Robert de Boron 36
roman, romance 11, 12, 145–6
narrative genres 139, 140, 141–3, 148
parody 175, 177
Villon, François 74
Vulgate cycle 36, 38
Roman d’Alexandre 144, 147, 160, 212
Roman de Dolopathos 148
Roman d’Eneas 83, 148, 202–6, 230, 232, 236
Roman de la rose 1, 4, 7, 13, 48–61
Christine de Pizan 124, 125
clerks and laity 212
Machaut, Guillaume de 110, 112
marriage and sexuality 232, 234
Villon, François 68, 69, 70
Roman de Renart 4, 7, 11, 147, 148, 227
Roman de Thèbes 81, 148
Rome 198, 199, 202
Roncevaux 22, 23, 24, 26, 31
rondeaux 11, 12
lyric poetry 155, 157–63
Villon, François 68, 70–1, 72
Rothschild, Baron James de 191
Rutebeuf 8, 10, 149, 182, 185, 192, 233–4
Complainte Rutebeuf 234–5
fabliaux 149
Miracle de Théophile 185, 214
Vie de Sainte Marie l’Egyptienne 233–4
- Sala, Pierre 93
Saracens
Chanson de Roland 23–4, 27, 31
feudalism 200, 201
others and alterity 238, 241, 245–6, 247,
248, 249
theatre 184
Séquence de Sainte Eulalie 1
Serments de Strasbourg 1
sexuality 52–3, 54, 60–1, 169, 172–3, 175,
176, 225–36
sodomy 227, 229–30, 231, 232
Solomon 112–13, 199
sotties 189, 191
St Albans Psalter *see* manuscripts, Hildesheim
St Martial de Limoges 182
- Taillevent, Michault 74
Thibaut, count of Blois 146

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-67975-6 - The Cambridge Companion to Medieval French Literature

Edited by Simon Gaunt and Sarah Kay

Index

[More information](#)

INDEX

- Thibaut de Champagne 100
 Thierry (character in the *Roland*) 23, 200
translatio studii et imperii 83, 148, 199
 translations or adaptations from French into
 French Latin 2, 5, 81, 129, 134
 clerks and laity 210–11, 212, 214, 215
 theatre 182, 183
Tristan romances 1, 143
 Béroul 141, 207, 227
 Châtelain de Couci 99, 103, 104
 Chrétien de Troyes 81, 83–4
 feudalism 207
 Gottfried von Strasburg 207
 marriage and sexuality 227, 231, 236
 narrative genres 143
 Prose *Tristan* 171, 172, 245
 Thomas 83–4
 troubadours 9
 Châtelain de Couci 95, 96, 98, 99, 101,
 103, 106
 Chrétien de Troyes 84, 85
trouvères 5, 7, 9
 Châtelain de Couci 95, 96, 98, 99, 101–2,
 103–4, 106, 107
 Chrétien de Troyes 84
 lyric poetry 155, 163
 Troy 199, 202

 Vêrard, Antoine
 Jardin de Plaisance 160

 versification 5, 11, 71, 73, 156–7
 Chanson de Roland 22–3, 29
 Châtelain de Couci 98, 99–100
 narrative genres 147, 149
vers orphelin 143
Vie de Saint Alexis 16, 215–23, 229
Vie de Sainte Catherine see Clemence of Barking
 Vienne 187
 Villehardouin 95
 Villon, François 10, 63–75, 161, 162
 Lais 7, 65, 67, 69, 74
 Testament 4, 7, 8, 63–75
 Viollet le Duc 191
 Virgil *Aeneid* 134, 204
 virginity 229, 234
 Vitry, Philippe de 68, 69, 70
voies de l'au-delà 140
Voyage de Charlemagne 201
 Vulgate cycle 7–8, 13, 35–47, 93, 146

 Wace 149, 214
 Conception de Nostre Dame 214
 Roman de Brut 81, 148
 Vie de Sainte Marguerite 214
 Vie de saint Nicolas 170, 214
 Waddington, William 214
 Walter Map 8, 46, 212
 Wenceslas, king of Bohemia 162

 Ysopet 140