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.

Andrew M. Richmond is Assistant Professor in the Department of English at Southern Connecticut State University. A member of the Medieval Academy of America, New Chaucer Society, and Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, his research focuses on medieval conceptions of the natural world. His articles on landscapes, waterscapes, and Middle English romance may be found in Neophilologus and other journals.
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LANDSCAPE IN MIDDLE ENGLISH ROMANCE

The Medieval Imagination and the Natural World

ANDREW M. RICHMOND

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Acknowledgments

A decade-long project ultimately benefits from the support of personal and professional relationships alike. This brief note cannot do justice to everyone who helped me bring this book to fruition, but I hope that the following pages go some small way toward rewarding their support.

First and foremost, I wish to thank my doctoral advisor, Lisa J. Kiser, for the model provided by her intellectual acuity. Her patient feedback on the earlier stages of this project was always insightful, and her enthusiasm for the source material forever encouraging. I cannot imagine this project existing without the motivating context of our discussions regarding medieval and modern human relationships with the natural world. I also wish to express my gratitude to Richard Firth Green, Ethan Knapp, and Karen Winstead for their regular feedback on early drafts of chapters and related projects. Our conversations always introduced me to new sources and interpretations, and kept me regularly aware of the diverse array of perspectives that composes any medieval text.

My thanks go out as well to the editorial staff at Cambridge University Press, especially Emily Hockley and Daniel Wakelin, for their patience in working with me on amending and finalizing the manuscript. I am indebted to Alastair Minnis for his kind feedback on the book proposal, and to former editor Linda Bree for her help in beginning the review process. The reports by the Press’s anonymous reviewers were also instrumental in helping the book achieve its final shape; my thanks to those readers for their thorough and constructive commentary.

I also appreciate the support provided by the institutions I have worked at over the course of completing this project. Awards from The Ohio State University allowed me to complete my dissertation and to begin transforming it into a book manuscript, while similar aid from Southern Connecticut State University allowed me to expand and complete the project. I also thank my colleagues across these institutions for creating
Acknowledgments

and maintaining such an atmosphere of genuine camaraderie across boundaries of discipline and department.

From my family, I thank especially my parents, Connie and Jim, for their limitless, unquestioning reserves of confidence, and my sister, Jamie, for providing a scientist’s measured opinion of my readings. Finally, I cannot begin to acknowledge the magnitude of my debt and gratitude to Erin Wagner, who has been a great source of support, in every sense, throughout my years of research and writing. She has never failed to provide insightful commentary on my work, often many times over – and both the arguments and the prose of this book have benefited immeasurably as a result.

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.

The final section of Chapter 2 originally appeared, along with parts of the first section in Chapter 1, and with the same sole author as the current project but some differences in content, as “Fluid Boundaries in *The Awntyrs off Arthure* and *Sir Isumbras*.” *Open Library of Humanities*, 4:1:24 (2018): 1–30. DOI: http://doi.org/10.16995/olh.225.

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Abbreviations

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

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