

PRELIMS 2: EARLY MEDIEVAL LITERATURE TIMELINE

<i>Historical events</i>	<i>Literary events</i>
<i>from c. 400:</i> Anglo-Saxon settlements	L = Latin F = French O/ME = Old/Middle English
597: St Augustine arrives to convert the English	c. 540: Gildas writes <i>De excidio Britanniae</i> L about the defeat of the British
c. 625: Ship-burial at Sutton Hoo	
642: Death & martyrdom of Oswald, king of Northumbria	c. 670? Cædmon's Hymn OE
687: Death of St Cuthbert	c. 700: 'Lindisfarne Gospels' L decorated manuscript
715: Death of St Guthlac	731: Bede finishes <i>Ecclesiastical History</i> L
757-96: Offa king of Mercia	c. 740: Felix, <i>Life of Saint Guthlac</i> L
793: Viking raid of Lindisfarne	c. 750: composition of <i>Beowulf?</i> OE
869: Vikings defeat & kill Edmund, king of East Anglia	
871-99: Alfred the Great king of Wessex	c. 890s: Anglo-Saxon Chronicles OE are begun
878: Alfred defeats Vikings at the Battle of Edington; Vikings settle in East Anglia	Alfredian OE translations of Bede's <i>Ecclesiastical History</i> , Gregory's <i>Pastoral Care</i> , Orosius, Boethius' <i>Consolation of Philosophy</i> , Augustine's <i>Soliloquys</i>
899-924: Edward the Elder king of Wessex	
924-39: Athelstan king of Wessex and first king of all England	
937: Battle of Brunanburh: Athelstan defeats an alliance of Scots and Scandinavians	c. 970: Exeter Book OE (riddles, elegies, Guthlac)
957-75: Edgar king of England	c. 975: Vercelli Book OE (<i>Rood, Andreas, Elene</i>)
978-1016: Æthelred 'the Unready' king of England	985-7: Abbo of Fleury, <i>Passion of St Edmund</i> L
990-1015: Intermittent Viking raids of increasing ferocity	990s: Ælfric, <i>Catholic Homilies</i> , <i>Lives of Saints</i> OE ; <i>The Battle of Maldon</i> OE ; Æthelweard, L translation of the AS Chronicle
1013: England submits to Swein, king of Denmark	c. 1000: <i>Beowulf</i> manuscript OE
1016: Cnut defeats Edmund Ironside	?1009: Wulfstan, <i>Sermo Lupi ad Anglos</i> OE
1016-35: Cnut king of England and Denmark	c. 1010: Junius manuscript (OE Genesis, Exodus, Christ & Satan)
1036: Alfred (brother of Edward the Confessor) murdered	1020: Cnut's <i>Letter to the English</i> OE
1042-65: Edward the Confessor king of England	c. 1020s: 'London Chronicler' writes the AS Chronicle
1065-66: Harold II Godwinson king of England	OE account of Danish conquest, extant in MSS CDE; Wulfstan, <i>Institutes of Polity</i> (account of English government) OE
14/10/1066: Battle of Hastings	1041-42: <i>Encomium Emmae Reginae</i> L
1066-87: William the Conqueror king of England	1065-66: <i>Life of St Edward the Confessor</i> L
1087-1100: William II 'Rufus' king of England	1086 Domesday Book L
1096-99: First Crusade and conquest of Jerusalem	c. 1080-90s: Goscelin of St-Bertin, Latin saints' lives and the <i>Liber Confortatorius</i> L
1100-1135: Henry I king of England	c. 1100: St Anselm of Canterbury, <i>Cur Deus Homo</i> L ; <i>Chanson de Roland</i> F composed? MS 1125x50

- 1135: Stephen crowned king of England
- 1137-53: Civil war between Stephen and Matilda, Henry I's daughter. Ended by Stephen's adoption of Matilda's son Henry of Anjou as his heir
- 1154-89: Henry II king of England; married to Eleanor of Aquitaine
- 1169: first invasion of Ireland
- 1170: Murder of Archbishop Thomas Becket
- 1172: Henry II claims overlordship of Ireland
- 1173-4: Civil war of Henry II with his sons
- 1189-99: Richard I 'Lionheart' king of England
- 1199-1216: John king of England
- 1215: first issue of Magna Carta
- 1215: Fourth Lateran Council makes annual confession compulsory
- 1216-1272: Henry III king of England
- 1225: Magna Carta reissued in Henry III's name
- 1260s: Barons' Wars led by Simon de Montfort against Henry III
- 1272-1307: Edward I king of England
- 1277-83 Conquest of Wales
- 1296 War with Scotland begins after Edward claims overlordship (using King Arthur as precedent)
- 1307-27: Edward II king of England
- 1314: Robert the Bruce of Scotland defeats Edward II at Bannockburn
- 1327: Edward II resigns the throne and is murdered
- 1327-77: Edward III king of England
- 1337: Hundred Years' War with France begins
- 1346: English defeat the French at Crécy
- 1347-8: Black Death kills millions across Europe
- c. 1137: Geoffrey of Monmouth, *Historia regum Britanniae* L First 'history' of King Arthur
- c. 1137: Geffrei Gaimar, *Estoire des Engleis* F (trans. of Anglo-Saxon Chronicle for a noblewoman patron)
- c. 1150: *Life of Christina of Markyate* L
- 1154: Last entry in Anglo-Saxon (Peterborough) Chronicle OE/ME (language in transition)
- c. 1155: Wace, *Brut* F (trans. of Geoffrey of Monmouth); *Roman d'Eneas* F; *Roman de Thèbes* F
- c. 1160: Benoît de Sainte-Maure, *Roman de Troie* F; *Jeu d'Adam*, liturgical drama F
- c. 1170: Thomas of Britain, *Tristan* F; Thomas, *Romance of Horn* F; Orrm, *Orrmulum*, ME gospel paraphrase
- 1170s: *Lives of Thomas Becket* L, F; Chrétien de Troyes, *Erec & Enide*, *Yvain*, *Lancelot*, *Cligès* F
- 1180s: Marie de France, *Lais* F; Béroul, *Tristan* F
- 1190s: *Poema Morale* ME; various ME and updated OE sermons and homilies
- c. 1200: *Lai of Haveloc* F; *Amis & Amilun* F
- c. 1210: *Gui of Warewic* F
- c. 1220: Lazamon, *Brut* ME (trans. of Wace); the *Katherine Group* of devotional texts ME
- c. 1225: *Ancrene Wisse* ME; *Boeve de Haumtone* F
- c. 1226: *History of William Marshal* F
- 1225x40: continental prose F Vulgate Arthurian Cycle
- c. 1250x70: *King Horn* ME
- c. 1275: *The Owl and the Nightingale* ME
- c. 1270x1300: five major poetic manuscripts of early ME, also containing F and L texts (religious and devotional lyrics, Brut, O&N, etc)
- c. 1290: *Havelok* ME; *Amis & Amiloun* ME; *Sir Tristrem* ME; Peter Langtoft, F verse Chronicle
- c. 1300: The *South English Legendary* ME; the *Cursor Mundi* ME
- 1300x25: Robert Mannyng, ME Chronicle and *Handlyng Synne*; Robert of Gloucester, ME Chronicle; anonymous ME romances: *Richard Coeur de Lion*; *Horn Childe*; *King Alisaunder*; *Bevis of Hampton*; *Guy of Warwick*; *Ywain and Gawain*; *Sir Launfal*; *Sir Orfeo*; *King of Tars*
- c. 1330: Auchinleck manuscript of ME romances made in London
- 1300x50: Harley manuscript of ME and F verse (love lyrics, religious lyrics, fabliaux, etc)
- 1340s: Richard Rolle, mystical writings ME, L