

# Medieval History Copybook

*Second Edition*

HWT Cursive

*Recommended for Grades 3-6*

By Julie Shields

## Preface to the Teacher

If you have used my *Ancient Copybook*, you will have noticed that this copybook is a bit thicker than its predecessor. This time period of history has so many wonderful sources for copywork, from early epic poems, such as Beowulf, to the profound thoughts of theologians like Martin Luther, that I had a hard time being selective. I thought that I would give you, the parent and teacher of your child, that prerogative. This means that they may be sections you choose not to use, depending on the age and writing level of your child.

Along with the selections in this book, I would encourage you to choose passages from your read-aloud literature, as well as hymns and poems, and Scripture, to round out your child's copywork curriculum. A simple schedule could be:

Monday: copy a hymn or new Scripture memory verse for the week

Tuesday – Thursday: use the *Middle Ages Copybook*

Friday: Choose a passage from your read-aloud literature OR take a previously copied selection and give it as a dictation exercise to your child.

I hope you will enjoy using this book. May your children grow as did our Lord Jesus: “in wisdom, in stature, and in favor with God and man” (Luke 2:52).

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# Early Christian Church

## The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the  
Father Almighty, maker  
of heaven and earth,

and in Jesus Christ his  
only son our Lord,

who was conceived by  
the Holy Ghost, born  
of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius  
Pilate, was crucified,  
dead, and buried;

He descended into hell;

the third day he rose  
again from the dead;

he ascended into  
heaven, and sitteth on  
the right hand of God  
the Father Almighty;

from thence he shall  
come to judge the quick  
and the dead.

I believe in the Holy  
Ghost; the holy  
catholic church; the  
communion of saints;

the forgiveness of  
sins; the resurrection  
of the body; and the  
life everlasting. Amen.



# The Nicene Creed

Church leaders met at the Council of Nicea in A.D. 325 in order to address false teachings (heresies) about Jesus. This is a portion of the creed they wrote:

...one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only begotten Son  
of God, begotten of his  
Father before all  
worlds,

God of God, Light of  
Light, very God of very  
God, begotten, not made,

being of one substance  
with the Father; by  
whom all things were  
made...

# Sayings of Church Fathers

## Augustine

(Augustine of Hippo lived from 354-430.)

"Lord, make me chaste -  
but not yet."

written before his conversion

"Our hearts are  
restless until they  
rest in You."

from the opening paragraph of his autobiography, *Confessions*

"The true philosopher  
is the lover of God."

Blank lines for a selection of your choice, or for dictation:

## Basil the Great

These are excerpts from his commentary on Psalm 1.

Every Psalm  
anticipates the anguish  
of the night and gives  
rest after the efforts  
of the day.

Every Psalm is the  
voice of the Church.

It is safety for babes,  
beauty for the young,  
comfort for the aged,  
adornment for women.

## More Sayings of Church Fathers

"...in these alone the teaching of godliness is proclaimed. No one may add to them, and nothing may be taken away from them."

Athanasius, in his 39<sup>th</sup> Festal Letter of 367, defending the 27 books of the New Testament

"Ignorance of the  
Scriptures is  
ignorance of Christ."

Jerome (c. 347-420)

They would be "angels"  
instead of "Angles" if  
they were only  
Christians.

Gregory, a monk in Britain, who became Pope in A.D. 590.



"Like a tree planted by streams of water," (Ps. 1:3) the soul is irrigated by the Bible and acquires vigor, produces tasty fruit, namely, true faith, and is beautified with a thousand green leaves, namely, actions that please God.

John Damascene, 8<sup>th</sup> century

(Copy on facing page.)

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins or other markings on the paper.

"In sacred theology,  
all things are treated  
from the standpoint of  
God."

Thomas Aquinas

# Early Church Hymnody

## Shepherd of Tender Youth

In the Eastern Church, the Greek language was used. One type of Greek hymn, called a “kontakion” was a long metrical poem, often in the form of an acrostic. This hymn is a condensed version of a kontakion written by Clement of Alexandria.

Shepherd of tender  
youth,

Guiding in love and  
truth

Through devious ways,

Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple sets of three horizontal lines (top, middle, bottom) for tracing and independent writing.

Christ, our triumphant

King,

We come thy Name to

sing;

Hither thy children

bring

Tributes of praise.

Ever be near our side,  
Our Shepherd and our  
Guide,  
Our staff and song;

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# Of the Father's Love Begotten

Here are a couple of stanzas from a Latin hymn written by Prudentius (348-413). He was a lawyer who became a monk at the age of 57. Latin was the language of the Western Church.

Of the Father's love  
begotten

Ere the worlds began to  
be,

He is Alpha and Omega,  
He the Source, the Ending  
he.



Of the things that are,  
that have been,

And that future years  
shall see,

Evermore and evermore!

O that birth forever  
blessed,

When the Virgin, full  
of grace,

By the Holy Ghost  
conceiving,

Bore the Savior of our  
race;

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# All Creatures of Our God and King

This is a portion of a hymn written by Francis of Assisi (1182-1226). It is based  
on Psalm 145.

All creatures of our  
God and King,  
Lift up your voice and  
with us sing,  
Alleluia!

Handwriting practice lines consisting of three sets of three horizontal lines each, providing space for tracing and independent writing.

I hou burning sun with  
golden beam,

I hou silver moon with  
softer gleam,

O praise him, alleluia!

Let all things their  
Creator bless,

And worship him in  
humbleness,

O praise him, alleluia!

Praise, praise the  
Father, praise the Son,  
And praise the Spirit,  
three in one,

O praise him, alleluia!

# The Mass

The mass was the pattern of liturgy used by the church. Some of the sections were sung by priests or monks. During the Renaissance, these parts of the church service were used as the basis for choral compositions with beautiful floating melodies and harmonies. This new musical genre also was called a “mass,” and became the most important vocal genre of the Renaissance.

Here are some of the sections, written in both Latin (or Greek for the “Kyrie”) and English.  
(Baroque, Classical, and Modern composers have written masses, too!)

## Kyrie

Kyrie eleison

(Lord have mercy.)

Christe eleison

(Christ have mercy.)

Kyrie eleison.

Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple sets of three horizontal lines (top, middle, bottom) for cursive writing practice.

## Gloria

Gloria in excelsis Deo

Et in terra pax

hominibus bonae

voluntatis

Gloria to God in the  
highest

And on earth peace to  
men of good will.

Credo

(Opening line only)

Credo in unum Deum.

I believe in one God.

Extra blank lines for dictation:



# The Rule of St. Benedict

Benedict lived in 6<sup>th</sup> century Italy during the time of the crumbling of the Roman Empire. His "Rule" was written to give directions for all aspects of monastic life, from administration, to discipline, to food and clothing.

This message of mine is  
for you, then, if you are  
ready to give up your  
own will, once and for  
all, and armed with the  
strong and noble  
weapons of obedience to  
do battle for the true  
King, Christ the Lord.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

--From the Prologue

Your way of acting  
should be different  
from the world's way;  
the love of Christ must  
come before all else.

You are not to act in  
anger or nurse a grudge.

Never give a hollow  
greeting of peace, or  
turn away when someone  
needs your love.

From Chapter 4: The Tools for Good Works

Let us consider, then,  
how we ought to behave  
in the presence of God  
and his angels, and let  
us stand to sing the  
psalms in such a way  
that our minds are in  
harmony with our voices.

From Chapter 19: The Discipline of Psalmody

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

# The Code of Justinian

Justinian, Emperor from 527-565, employed scribes to collect the laws that had been written throughout the Roman Empire. This collection was called "The Code of Justinian." Here are just a handful of the shorter laws from the extensive collection.

The maxims of law are  
these: to live honestly, to  
hurt no one, to give  
every one his due.

Blank lines for you to use as you choose:

Marriage, or matrimony,  
is a binding together of  
a man and woman to live  
in an indivisible union.

Our children, begotten in  
lawful marriage, are in  
our power.



All rivers and ports are public; hence the right of fishing in a port, or in rivers, is common to all men.

Blank lines for your use:

Things sacred, religious,  
and holy belong to no  
one; for that which is  
subject to divine law is  
not the property of any  
one.

Theft is the fraudulent dealing with a thing itself, with its use, or its possession; an act which is prohibited by natural law.

A man may even commit a theft of his own property, as, if a debtor takes from a creditor a thing he has pledged to him.

# The Gods of the Teutons

All of the barbarians except the Huns belonged to the race known as the Teutons. Like the ancient Greeks and Romans, they worshipped many gods.

## Woden

Woden, also called Odin,  
was the greatest of all.

His name means

"mighty warrior," and he  
was king of all the  
gods.

He rode through the  
air mounted on  
Sleipnir, an eight-  
footed horse who was  
faster than eagles.

Extra blank lines:

Thor

Thor, a son of Woden,  
ranked next to him  
among the gods.

He rode through the  
air in a chariot drawn  
by goats.

The Germans called him  
Donar and Thunar,  
words which are like  
our word, thunder.

Jiew

Another great god of  
our ancestors was Jiew.



He was a son of Woden  
and was the god of  
battle.

He was armed with a  
sword which flashed  
like lightning when he  
brandished it.

Fríja

Fríja was the wife of  
Woden and the queen of  
the gods.

She ruled the bright  
clouds that gleam in  
the summer sky,

and caused them to  
pour their showers on  
meadow and forest and  
mountain.

## Baldur

Fríja's son was Baldur;  
who was the favorite of  
all the gods.

Baldur's face was as  
bright as sunshine.  
His hair gleamed like  
burnished gold.

Wherever he went night  
was turned into day.

## The Valkyries

The Valkyries, a type of angel, were beautiful female warriors. They had some of Woden's own strength and were armed with helmet, shield, and spear.

Like Woden, they rode  
unseen through the air  
on swift horses.

# The Barbarians Invade!

"To be master of the Roman Empire, that is indeed worth trying for; and why should I not try? With my brave soldiers I can conquer Rome, and I shall make the attempt."

"Never shall I go back  
to Spain until I am  
master of Africa!"

Genseric the Vandal

"My desire is that the  
4 ranks shall have  
possession of every  
part of this fair land.

(continued on the following page)



I shall drive the  
Romans and their  
friends away and make  
Gaul the empire of the  
Franks."

Clovis, King of the Franks

"Never will I bend my  
knee before any man,

(continued on next page)

and no man's foot will  
I kiss."

Rollo the Viking, when told to kiss the foot of king Charles "The Simple"

"I shall never be  
defeated in battle, as  
long as I fight with the  
sword of Ijew."

Attila the Hun

# King Arthur

Little is known about King Arthur, who lived in the 6<sup>th</sup> century, but many great stories have been written about him. Here is an excerpt from a book based on the famous poem, "Le Morte d'Arthur." It tells the story of his famous sword, Excalibur.

...So, though his wounds pained him sore, the King followed Merlin by many a forest path and glade, until they came upon a mere, bosomed deep in the forest;

and as he looked thereon, the King beheld an arm, clothed in white samite, shoot above the surface of the lake, and in the hand was a fair sword that gleamed in the level rays of the setting sun.

"This is a great marvel," said the King, "what may it mean?" And Merlin made answer:

"Deep is this mere, so deep indeed that no man may fathom it; but in its depths, and built upon the roots of the mountains, is the palace of the Lady of the Lake. Powerful is she with a power that works ever for good, and she shall help thee in thine hour of need. For thee has she wrought yonder sword. Go now, and take it."

Then was Arthur aware of a little skiff, half hidden among the bulrushes that fringed the lake; and leaping into the boat, without aid of oar, he was wafted out into the middle of the lake, to the place where, out of the water, rose the arm and sword. And leaning from the skiff, he took the sword from the hand, which forthwith vanished, and immediately thereafter the skiff bore him back to land.

Copywork begins on  
the next page...

Arthur drew from its  
scabbard the mighty  
sword, wondering the  
while at the marvel of  
its workmanship,

for the hilt shone with  
the light of many  
twinkling gems—

(cont. from previous page)

diamond and topaz and  
emerald, and many  
another whose names  
none know.

And as he looked on the  
blade, Arthur was aware  
of mystic writings on  
one side and the other,

and calling to Merlin, he  
bade him interpret them.

"Sir," said Merlin, "on  
the one side is written  
'Keep me,' and on the  
other 'I throw me away.'"

"Then," said the King, "which does it behove me to do?"

"Keep it," answered Merlin; "the time to cast it away is not yet come. This is the good brand Excalibur, or Cut Steel, and well shall it serve you. But what think ye of the scabbard?"

"A fair cover for so good a sword," answered Arthur.

"Nay, it is more than that," said Merlin,

"for, so long as ye keep  
it, though ye be wounded  
never so sore, yet ye  
shall not bleed to  
death."

And when he heard that,  
the King marvelled the  
more.

# Beowulf

Written sometime between the 600 and 1100 AD, this is the first great narrative poem of the English language. I have chosen excerpts from a fairly modern translation by David Brendon.

Beowulf spoke:

I am Hygelac's kinsman  
and warrior.

I have undertaken many  
glorious deeds.

I learned of Grendel in  
my native land.



.... refuse me not,  
fair friend of the  
people,  
do not refuse those who  
have come so far the  
chance to cleanse Herot.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> "Herot" is the great hall of King Hygelac

The chief of the Geats,  
indeed, trusted his  
strength and God's  
favor.

Came then from the  
moor  
under the misty hills  
Grendel stalking under  
the weight of God's  
anger.

Beowulf grasped his arm  
and sat up.

The criminal knew he had  
not met in this  
middle-earth  
another with such a grip.

The glory of battle went  
to Beowulf,  
and Drendel, mortally  
wounded,  
sought his sad home  
under the fen slope.

The hope of the Danes  
had come to pass--He  
who came from far had  
cleansed Hrothgar's  
hall  
and saved it from  
affliction.

# The Song of Roland

This poem is a legendary account of an actual event: the betrayal and slaughter of Charlemagne's army by the Saracens in 778. Here is a short excerpt.

Looking to Spain, he lies  
on a sharp peak,  
And with one hand upon  
his breast he beats:

"Mea Culpa! God, by Thy  
virtues clean  
Me from my sins, the  
mortal and the mean."<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> From p. 94 of *The Song of Roland*, translated by Glynn Burgess (Penguin Classics, 1990) Copyright Glyn Burgess, 1990. Used by permission.

# The Knight

This is part of a poem from the prologue to Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*.

A knight there was, and he  
a worthy man,  
Who, from the moment that  
he first began  
to ride about the world,  
loved chivalry,  
Truth, honour, freedom  
and all courtesy.



Full worthy was he in his  
sovereign's war,  
And therein had he  
ridden, no man more,  
As well in Christendom as  
heathenesse,  
And honoured everywhere  
for worthiness.

# Robin Hood

Many tales are told about an outlaw who lived in the forest during the reign of King John, younger brother to Richard the Lionhearted. Below is an excerpt from *The Adventures of Robin Hood*, by Howard Pyle.

Nought spake the  
stranger but took his  
place, while all was  
hushed, and no one spoke  
or even seemed to  
breathe, so great was the  
silence for wonder what  
he would do.

Meanwhile, also, quite  
still stood the stranger,  
holding his bow in his  
hand, while one could  
count five;

then he drew his trusty  
yew, holding it drawn  
but a moment, then  
loosed the string.

Straight flew the arrow,  
and so true that it  
smote a gray goose  
feather from off  
Dilbert's shaft, which  
fell fluttering through  
the sunlit air

as the stranger's arrow  
lodged close beside his  
of the Red Cap, and in  
the very center.

No one spoke a word for a  
while and no one shouted,  
but each man looked into  
his neighbor's face  
amazedly.

# Great Men of the Middle Ages

Charles Martel

714-741 A.D. (From *Famous Men of the Middle Ages*.)

The battle of Tours is one of the decisive battles of the world. It decided that Christians, and not Muslims, should be the ruling power in Europe.

Charles Martel is  
especially celebrated as  
the hero of this battle.

It is said that the  
name Martel was given to  
him because of his  
bravery during the  
fight.

"Marteau" is the French word for hammer, and one of the old French historians says that as a hammer breaks and crushes iron and steel, so Charles broke and crushed the power of his enemies in the battle.



## Sayings of Great Men

"I live! I live! Fight  
on! We shall conquer  
yet!"

William the Conqueror at the Battle of Hastings in 1066.

"Brave and unconquered,  
famous in triumphs of  
war

(continued on the next page)

Enclosed in this tomb  
lies Roderick the  
Great of Bivar."

A Latin inscription near the tomb of El Cid (1040-1099)

"I have not told half of  
what I saw."

Marco Polo (1254-1324)

"Why do you speak to me  
of the stones? It is  
only the arch that  
matters to me."

Kublai Khan, to Marco Polo

"Without stones there  
is no arch."

Marco Polo to Kublai Khan

If God give us victory,  
it will be plain we owe  
it to His grace. If not,  
the fewer we are, the less  
loss for England.

# Robert Bruce and the Spider

King of Scotland from 1306-1329.

This story is from *Famous Men of the Middle Ages*.

It is said that one day, while he was very downhearted, he saw a spider trying to spin a web between two beams of his hut. The little creature tried to throw a thread from one beam to another, but failed. Not discouraged, it tried four times more without success.

"Five times has the spider failed," said Bruce. "That is just the number of times the English have defeated me."

If the spider has  
courage to try again, I  
also will try to free  
Scotland!"

He watched the spider.  
It rested for a while as  
if to gain strength, and  
then threw its slender  
thread toward the beam.

This time it succeeded.

"I thank God!" exclaimed  
Bruce. "The spider has  
taught me a lesson. No  
more will I be  
discouraged."

## Renaissance "Men"

These are quotes and sayings by great thinkers, artists and scientists of the Renaissance period.

"Who has a harder  
struggle than he who  
labors to conquer  
himself?"

Thomas à Kempis (c. 1380 – 1471)



"I would rather die than do something which I know to be a sin, or to be against God's will."

Joan of Arc (1412-1431)

"Iron rusts from disuse, water loses its purity from stagnation..."

(continued on the next page)

even so does inaction  
sap the vigor of the  
mind."

Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519)

"Finally we shall place  
the Sun himself at the  
center of the Universe.

(continued...)

All this is suggested by  
the systematic  
procession of events and  
the harmony of the  
whole Universe, if only  
we face the facts, as they  
say, 'with both eyes  
open'."

"Never stand begging  
for that which you have  
the power to earn."

Miguel de Cervantes (1547-1616), author of *Don Quixote*

"Mathematics is the  
language in which God  
has written the  
universe."

Galileo Galilei (1564-1642)

"I have never met a man  
so ignorant that I  
couldn't learn  
something from him."

Galilei

"Thus God himself was too kind to remain idle and began to play the game of signatures, signing his likeness into the world."

Johannes Kepler (1571-1630), in his book *Cosmic Mystery*

# The Reformation Begins

The following passages are from John Wycliffe's response to his summons to Rome in 1384.

"I suppose over this  
that the gospel of  
Christ be the heart of  
the corpus of God's law;

for I believe that Jesus  
Christ, that gave in His  
own person this gospel,

(cont. on next page)

is very God and very  
man, and by this heart  
passes all other laws."

Some extra lines for a selection of your choice:



"I cannot and will not  
recant anything, for to  
go against conscience is  
neither right nor safe.  
Here I stand, I can do  
no other, so help me God.  
Amen."

Martin Luther's response at the Diet of Worms

These passages are from the Preface to John Calvin's great work, *The Institutes of the Christian Religion*

"My intention was only  
to furnish a kind of  
rudiments, by which  
those who feel some  
interest in religion  
might be trained to true  
godliness..."

"And I toiled at the task chiefly for the sake of my countrymen the French, multitudes of whom I perceived to be hungering and thirsting after Christ,"

"while very few seemed to  
have been duly imbued  
with even a slender  
knowledge of him"

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