

GEOFFREY CHAUCER'S *PARLEMENT OF FOULES*: A
NEW CODICOLOGICAL STEMMA OF THE HAMMOND
MANUSCRIPTS

The purpose of this article is to carry out a revision of the stemma for the manuscripts (MSS) of Geoffrey Chaucer's *Parlement of Foules* (*PF*), established by John Koch in 1881 and revised by Eleanor P. Hammond in 1902. Not only is Koch-Hammond's stemma the only one that has been proposed for more than a century but, in addition, it has only been subject to one revision (Koch's 1928 edition of the poem, *Geoffrey Chaucers kleinere Dichtungen*) which, nevertheless, did not alter the substance of the subgroup of MSS which later on became known as the "Hammond group." Stemmas have been proposed for all of Chaucer's works which derive from various authoritative sources, but the task of elaborating or revising a stemma for the witnesses of a particular text is so arduous and complicated that most of the stemmas proposed for the works of Chaucer derive from the studies of one single authority, have been flatly contradicted by another, are incomplete, or have not been revised since their date of publication. For *PF*, the fifteen manuscript (MS) authorities are, in the order proposed by Hammond (1902), the following:¹

A GROUP:

MS Cambridge University Library Gg. IV.27 (Gg), ff. 481^f - 490^v.

MS Cambridge University Library Ff. I.6 (Ff), ff. 29^f - 42^v.

¹ Thanks are due to S. G. Fernández-Corugedo (U. of Oviedo) for his guidance, suggestions, and careful examination of the results reached in this analysis. I am also extremely indebted to Vincent J. DiMarco, editor of *The Parliament of Fowls* for *The Riverside Chaucer* (Benson 1987), for taking so much of his time to revise my analysis and conclusions.

William Caxton's edition² of 1477-78 (Cx), ff. 1^r - 16^v.

MS Harley 7333, British Library (H), ff. 129^v - 132^r.

MS Trinity College, Cambridge R.III.19 (R), ff. 17^r - 24^v.

MS Arch. Selden B.24, Bodleian (S), ff. 142^r - 152^r.

MS Cambridge University Library Hh.IV.12 (Hh), ff. 94^r - 99^v.

MS Pepys 2006, Magdalene College, Cambridge (P), ff. 127^r - 142^r.

MS St. John's College LVII, Oxford (J), ff. 225^r - 237^v.

MS Laud Misc. 416, Bodleian (L), ff. 288^r - 289^v.

B GROUP:

MS Fairfax 16, Bodleian (F), ff. 120^r - 129^v.

MS Bodley 638, Bodleian (B), ff. 96^r - 110^r.

MS Tanner 346, Bodleian (T), ff. 120^r - 131^r.

MS Longleat 258, Longleat House, Warminster (Lt), ff. 85^r - 101^r.

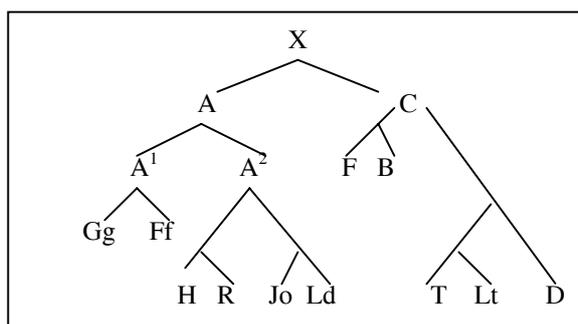
MS Digby 181, Bodleian (D), ff. 44^r - 52^r.

Hammond's 1902 article is taken as the base text for the revision of the stemma carried out in this article, since it is her stemma the one that each and every modern editor of Chaucer adopts for *PF*.³ Her revision, as ours,

² Even though Caxton's early print is not a manuscript witness, its text is still considered authorial due to the fact that it is based on a MS now considered lost.

³ Although the stemma is universally adopted by editors, this does not mean that it is accepted by them. As an example, notice DiMarco's comments on Hammond: "Group A appears almost certainly to be imaginary, for the ten authorities so classified agree in what appear to be correct readings rather than in readings that are clearly wrong . . . The traditional sub-groupings of FB and of TLtD, comprising Hammond's group B, are borne out. As with the readings unique to H R S Hh Cx P J L, those readings unique to F B T Lt D are seldom, if ever, correct" (Benson 1987: 1147).

begins by recalling what had been the canonical stemma until then, the one printed in the Globe edition of Chaucer's works (1898) and edited by A. W. Pollard and M. H. Liddell. About this stemma, Hammond states that "in his brief introduction to the poem Mr. Heath prints the genealogical tree of most of the manuscripts as it was indicated by Koch in *Anglia*, IV, Anz., p. 97, remarking that he agrees with Koch in its construction" (p. 3), and reproduces it as follows:⁴



Hammond continues by stating that a full analysis of the text of *PF* would basically indicate that Koch's genealogy would have to be modified in detail, that some of the readings elected by Heath for his edition are unjustified, and that if the evidence she has obtained is correct, the question of Chaucerian metre must be reopened. The examples she gives to argue for or against the variant readings elected by Heath are not analysed here, nor do we cope with the genealogy of the MSS of group A, since they refer to aspects of the stemma which are not pertinent to this article. The separation of the MSS into groups A (comprising ten authorities) and B (comprising five) seems, however, to be supported with enough evidence—Hammond (1902: 8-9) gives fifty readings—to allow for the study of one group independently from the other.⁵ Regarding the grouping of MSS F, B, T, Lt

⁴ Note that the group of MSS that I refer to—with modern editors—as "B" is referred to as "C" by Hammond so as to not be confused with the "B" representing "MS Bodley 638".

⁵ It is important to note that Hammond has studied all fifteen authorities of the *Parlement* from the Chaucer Society reprints, while we get our data from the full transcription and collation of MS facsimiles. These were obtained from the Bodleian Library for all MSS except Longleat, which is in the possession of the

and D into one subgroup (labelled C or B), this is accounted for with enough data in Hammond 1902, supported first by Koch's analysis in 1881, then in his revision of Hammond in 1928, and also contested by Root in 1903. Although Koch's revision of 1928 dealt exclusively with group A, he did not argue against the affiliation of the MSS of group B, plainly rearranging the MSS inside the first group. Root, on his part, dealt solely with group B, but his arguments claiming that this group was closer to Chaucer's original—perhaps corrected by Chaucer himself—were soon discarded by the scientific community. More importantly to our purposes, he did not tamper with the classification of F, B, T, Lt and D into one independent group.

Before we proceed to the exclusive analysis of group B we must mention one aspect about the MSS of group A, for Hammond has noted that the text of the A archetype is probably nearer to the ultimate original verbally, due to “the marked decrease in group divergences after line 250 [and to] the fact that in several cases the difference of group C [B] from group A is due to an omission by the former archetype” (1902: 9). With these conclusions we do not agree for two reasons: First, Hammond never explains what exactly constitutes a variant reading for her,⁶ arguing that there are forty-one variants between groups A and B before line 250, and only six until the end of the poem. A quick comparison between any two MSS of groups A and B, however, shows that there are obviously more than forty-seven variants and, certainly, they do occur in great frequency after line 250. Regarding Hammond's statement that “the text of the A archetype was probably nearer to the ultimate original verbally,” she contradicts herself by favouring group

Marquis of Bath. A microfilm of the MS was finally obtained from Microform Imaging Ltd (Wakefield, England). Although in this article we do not deal with the MSS of group A, whenever a reading from this group is needed (i.e. as to argue for its influence on a MS of group B) I have quoted exclusively the readings of MS Gg.4.27 (facsimile in Parkes 1979-80).

⁶ Variants that are not considered valid evidence for the postulation of the stemma are those that are the result of the physical deterioration of the MS, the different spelling practices of scribes or the different dialects of English. On the other hand, we consider valid evidences those readings which result from additions, repetitions, dittographies, omissions, homeoteleutons, homeoarchies, haplographies, alterations in order, substitutions and trivialisations (*lectio facillior*). Notice that these variant readings are all product of the scribe's action, be it intentional or not. Variants (lines) marked with an asterisk in the article (following Hammond) are those considered of special interest for the postulation of the stemma.

B at the end of the article when she claims that she does not find herself “in full agreement with the valuation of A as the better group. When the tendency of C [B] to omit has been allowed for . . . it will be recognized that the C [B] group offers a set of readings certainly equal in value to those of A” (1902: 24).

When dealing with group B itself, Hammond begins by differentiating the pair formed by F and B (FB) vs. TLtD. However, it remains to be seen why she puts so much emphasis on differentiating FB from TLtD, while giving so little importance to the much stronger bond of FBT vs. LtD. According to Hammond, the distinction FB can be made on the evidence obtained from seventeen lines [twenty-three for this article],⁷ from the “explicit” in both MSS, and from the presence of the quotation *Qui bien ayme a tarde oublie*, in the place of the roundel present in some of the other MSS. Our evidence agrees with that presented by Hammond, except perhaps for line 303, for which T has the reading of FB *of* superimposed, and thus may not be considered an omission (as D and Lt omit). Although Hammond’s strong postulation of FB/ TLtD seems to be correct, the division of LtD/ FBT is, as we have argued, supported with far more evidences than the other. Hammond herself provides thirty variant readings, while our transcriptions show there are, at least, forty-seven examples.⁸

⁷ Hammond gives lines 56, 106, 108*, 126, 154, 208, 214, 224, 236, 278, 295, 303, 383*, 512*, 612, 623 and 669. Our evidences are lines 3, 5, 28, 56, 59, 96, 106, 108*, 126, 139, 154, 165, 204, 208, 214, 224, 236, 278, 295, 303, 383*, 512*, 569, 612, 623 and 669. Lines that show a variant, but are not considered as valid evidence for FB/ TLtD, are 3, 5 and 165 (for which the text in B is missing) and 569, for which Lt also omits. Although I only render the line in which a certain variant reading occurs—and not the variant reading itself—the curious reader will find the full transcription of the fifteen authorities of *PF* in Tanaka 1981. The evidences resulting from our transcription and collation of the MSS are given next to Hammond’s in square brackets throughout the whole article.

⁸ Lines 8, 66, 75, 91, 98, 100, 104, 114, 119, 127, 142*, 152, 156, 158, 161, 167, 190, 191, 192, 209, 233, 277, 282, 296, 297, 306, 312, 322, 346, 375, 387, 417, 440, 457, 468, 472*, 507, 520, 523, 527, 529, 534, 537, 577, 584, 585, 587, 590, 594, 596*, 619, 642, 644, 650 and 677. The alteration in line 75 is in the reading *To/ The*, but FBD reads *comune* against LtT *comon*, and not as Hammond points out “FBT and A: *To comon profit*, DLt: *The comon*, etc.” (1902: 11). We agree, however, with all the data presented by Hammond, resulting in 30 [47] evidences for the union of LtD. We are not counting as evidence (although Hammond does for some) lines 8, 158, 161, 167, 190, 191, 192, 196 for not having textual evidence for B, although the reading of B is not as important to postulate the union of LtD/

The variant readings exclusive to one MS are also important evidence to consider. They do not help to postulate groupings of MSS horizontally, but they are crucial to build the stemma vertically, that is, to establish whether one MS is the source of another or not. Hammond gives the following evidence for the independence of F from B, namely lines 27, 63, 140, 206, 313—omissions by B alone—and the misreadings and slight insertions of B not appearing in F: lines 37, 72, 231, 263, 335, 364, 394, 395, 504, 556, 585, 637 and 688. The complete list of variant readings exclusive to B that we have obtained is of twenty-six variant readings.⁹ For the opposite, the independence of B from F, I agree with Hammond in that the evidence is scanty. Of the fifteen [twenty-three] evidences she provides, only five should be taken into account,¹⁰ although a certain reading not exclusive to F could very well serve as evidence of B's independence from F. Such a coincidence, however, would be, at least, suspicious. There is one question regarding F and B that deserves special consideration. Hammond places both MSS at the same level based on the evidence given by lines 201*, 476* and 358, since the rest of the examples render no evidence for or against the

FBT than for FB/ TLtD. Line 594 is not taken into account because T also omits, and we do not agree with Hammond's evidence for line 306 (for which she claims an opposition LtD *was/* FBT *nas*, where FBT really read *uas*, or for line 520 (for which only Lt reads *loudenense*, as opposed to *lewdenense*. Hammond also claims that the variant reading which is produced in line 650 belongs to line 652, but this is not so.

⁹ Lines 23, 27, 50, 63, 72, 140, 152, 206, 263, 313, 335, 364, 370, 394, 395, 406, 420, 452, 498, 504, 530, 549, 551, 587, 637 and 644. Hammond gives a total of 18 evidences, of which we only accept 13 as valid. Apart from missing lines 23, 50, 152, 370, 406, 420, 452, 498, 530, 549, 551, 587, 644 of the total of 26 variant readings exclusive to B that we provide, her analysis of lines 37, 231, 556, 585, 688 is dubious. Line 37 reads the same for all five MSS, in line 231 it is F who gives the incorrect reading *temple of glas* for *temple of bras*, line 556 is also an example of F erring, line 585 can not be considered an insertion by B since it agrees with LtD, and in line 688 the error lies in Lt.

¹⁰ Hammond gives lines 152, 201*, 216, 253, 263, 358, 359, 381, 420, 436, 476*, 551, 590, 637, and 652, whereas our transcription gives 3, 5, 35, 89, 165, 169, 198, 201*, 231, 284, 311, 319, 358, 381, 387, 407, 409, 436, 476*, 524, 556, 584, 587. Of these, we do not consider valid evidence lines 3, 5, 165, 169 and 198 due to B missing the text (thus what we consider a variant reading exclusive to F could be evidence of FB), leaving the total number of variants in 18. Of the 15 examples quoted by Hammond, we only consider valid examples those five in lines 201, 358, 381, 436, and 476. For the rest, lines 152, 263, 420, 551 and 637 are errors in B and not in F; lines 590 and 652 are examples of FT; lines 253 and 359 are examples of different spellings of names; and line 216 only shows an error of Lt.

derivation of B from F.¹¹ Although we agree with Hammond that the omissions of F in these lines point to independent transcription of both MSS from a common original, we must also mention that her treatment of the evidence is contradictory. On the one hand, the seventeen [twenty-three] common readings of FB that she presents serve as very strong evidence to support their union, while the thirty [forty-four] examples she gives for LtD do not. We do respect, however, Hammond's assumption that F (ca. 1450) is not the source of B (ca. 1450-1500), although the evidence of three lines in a poem of approximately seven hundred is, indeed, very scarce. It would be necessary to transcribe and collate the contents of both MSS as a whole to see if F is indeed the source of B. According to Seymour (1995: 85-9), all the poems that appear in B can be found in the larger MS F, except for the final *Order of Fools* by Lydgate, so that F could very well be the model from which B was copying. As regards the text of *PF*, we do not find evidence for or against B's derivation from F, but what is clear is the strong textual affiliation—either due to common ancestry or because F is indeed the ancestor of B—of both MSS.

Regarding the three remaining MSS—T, Lt and D—Hammond notes that neither of them can be the source of the other two. This is proved by both her evidences and ours, since she provides thirty-eight [seventy-two] examples of variant readings exclusive to D,¹² twenty-seven [forty-two] examples exclusive to T,¹³ and seventy-eight [one-hundred and nine]

¹¹ Hammond (1902: 10) indicates that Furnivall postulates F as the source of B.

¹² Hammond's evidences are lines 7*, 27, 28, 53, 54, 109, 119, 144, 148, 166, 178*, 202*, 220*, 238*, 244, 245*, 255, 296*, 354*, 375, 377, 389, 391, 426, 438*, 460, 462, 467*, 493, 530, 540, 562, 573, 582*, 587, 644, 659 and 666, of which we do not accept l. 27 (error in B) and l. 109 (for which all MSS read the same). Our exclusive readings of D are lines 7*, 9, 28, 42, 53, 54, 62, 66, 74, 83, 89, 94, 104, 108, 119, 127, 129, 134, 144, 148, 166, 167, 178*, 197, 201, 202*, 217, 220*, 228, 238*, 244, 245*, 255, 269, 296*, 346, 349, 350, 354*, 375, 377, 386, 389, 391, 399, 417, 421, 424, 426, 438*, 460, 462, 467*, 493, 505, 523, 524, 530, 540, 545, 553, 562, 573, 582*, 587, 594, 603, 616, 644, 654, 659 and 666.

¹³ Hammond renders lines 80*, 93, 112, 125*, 169, 170, 177, 187, 189, 274*, 310, 400*, 404, 411, 415, 438, 439*, 448, 454, 461, 511*, 516, 562, 594*, 665*, 672*, 692*, of which we do not consider valid lines 93 (all five MSS read the same), 169 (T has no error and B is missing the text), 439* (evidence for TD because Digby also omits the same word), 562 (it is evidence for D, not for T), and 692* (all 5 MSS read the same). Our full list of variant readings are lines 7, 10, 47, 54, 80*, 99, 101, 112, 125*, 170, 17, 187, 189, 274*, 310, 318, 335, 400*, 404, 411, 415,

variants only found in Lt.¹⁴ Of these examples (see note), one deserves to be analysed in detail, for it illustrates Hammond's treatment of her data. The different readings *remedys* and *remedye* in line 140, which Hammond counts as variant readings, can not be accepted as valid evidence for different readings among the MSS since this reading was motivated by the alteration in the order of words in line 139 of MS Lt (which, indeed, is a variant reading), provoking the change of the final "-e" to a final "-s" in line 140 to suit the preceding line:

There as this fisse in prison al drye is	There as this fysse in prison is all drie
The shouyng is onoly the remedys	The shewyng is onoly the remedie
(MS Longleat 258, ll. 139-40).	(MS Digby 181 (and rest), ll. 139-40).

The analysis of the variant readings in the MSS being complete, it only remains to deduce the position of T in the tree. However, we must first look at another issue on which Hammond casts light, and which could be important for the accuracy of the final stemma. On the light of the evidences she presents in her article, there seems to be a supposed influence of one or more MSS from group A on MS Digby 181. According to Hammond, "Digby's omissions are some twelve in number [sixteen], its insertions two [six], and of its some nineteen scribal errors [forty-eight] only one or two can be considered deliberate" (1902: 11). The evidences we have obtained,

424, 438, 448, 454, 461, 471, 494, 511*, 516, 523, 524, 571, 573, 579, 587, 594*, 665*, 672*, 675, 691 and 693.

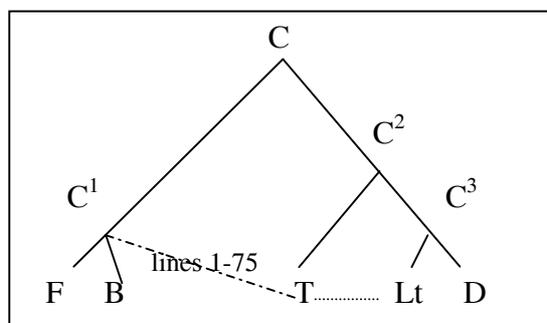
¹⁴ Hammond gives lines 1, 5, 17, 25*, 27, 29, 40*, 42, 79, 81, 82, 117, 136, 139*, 140, 156, 158, 175, 183, 203, 225, 228*, 234*, 256, 262*, 286*, 294, 307*, 312, 329, 332, 335*, 336, 348, 351, 352*, 366, 372, 379*, 384, 385, 390, 414*, 417, 422, 428, 431, 436, 449, 462*, 493*, 494*, 504*, 514, 519*, 525*, 533*, 537*, 539, 557-558, 560*, 570, 592, 601, 605, 606, 616, 634, 635, 640, 658*, 669, 670, 676*, 677, 679, 689 and 691, of which we do not accept as valid lines 27 (spelling, *dillite* vs. *delite*), 592 (illegible in Lt), 634 (spelling, *tarsellet* vs. *tercelet*), 689 (all five MSS read the same), 691 (error in T) and 140 (discussed in text). Our list of variant readings consists of lines 1, 5, 7, 8, 10, 17, 25*, 29, 40*, 42*, 47, 57, 71, 79, 81, 82, 105, 117, 123, 130, 133, 136, 137, 139*, 145, 152, 156, 158, 172, 175, 183, 190, 192, 195, 199, 203, 204, 205, 216, 225, 228*, 234*, 256, 262*, 263, 286*, 287, 290, 294, 307*, 312, 329, 332, 335*, 336, 341, 348, 351, 352*, 362, 366, 372, 379*, 384, 385, 390, 404, 414*, 417, 422, 426, 428, 431, 436, 449, 462*, 493*, 494*, 497, 504*, 514, 519*, 520, 524, 525*, 527, 533*, 537*, 539*, 555, 557, 560*, 570, 601, 605, 606, 608, 616, 635, 637, 640, 658*, 669, 670, 676*, 677, 679, 679, 688 and 693.

however, show that there are many more variant readings in D than what Hammond has stated. Nevertheless, she points out that there are a series of A group readings present in D which have apparently been blurred by omission in the rest of the B group MSS, namely lines 7*, 53, 62, 244 and 467*, and also points of agreement between D and the A group in lines 28 and 148. This was also Koch's opinion when he postulated his stemma in 1881, stating that this is proved in lines 7, 62, 148, 387, 417, and 460. Of all these examples, we can only consider A readings present in D lines 7*, 244 and 467*, the rest having no A reading present in D but rather—if any—on the rest of the MSS of group B. I agree with Hammond when she states that Koch's evidence to support the influence of A on D is not strong, but when she says that "if these readings prove anything, they prove the possibility of independent but coincident change by various manuscripts . . . I can not find in these examples adequate proof of A influence on D" (1902: 12), I must remark, again, that her treatment of evidence is arbitrary. If we do not admit a direct influence of A on D, then it is impossible to explain how the scribe of D obtained the readings of lines 7* (*flete or synke*), 467* (*eeke nature hir silf*) and, less importantly, 244 (*and eke with out*) when the rest of the MSS of group B and, therefore, D's ancestor, omitted them or read otherwise.

Nevertheless, since three examples are not enough evidence to support the influence of A on D, and since every affiliation between MSS always has a number of evidences which may point towards a different stemma, we will accept that D has not been influenced by A, and that the common readings are, as Hammond argues, coincidental. Regarding her conclusion that Lt and T are affiliated with a MS of the FB group for the first seventy-five lines of the poem, however, we can not agree. What she argues is "an alliance DLtT versus FB [which] is now sufficiently probable after line 75; anterior to that point the affiliation of TLt is partly also with FB; cf. ll. 7, 53, 62. From about line 75 on, Lt adheres to D, while T perhaps had access to an FB codex; cf. ll. 387-90 and colophon" (1902: 14). On the one hand, there is not enough evidence to prove this affiliation and, on the other, Hammond does not seem to be aware that she has postulated Lt and T as coming from different ancestors, which would make this sudden change in the affiliation of both MSS a coincidence too elaborate to be accepted. As Root observes, "unless the scribes of Tanner and Longleat were working from a common

original, which according to the author's [Hammond] genealogy is not the case, it would be hard to explain why each scribe should have abandoned one exemplar, and taken up another, precisely at line seventy-five" (Root 1903: 190).

The positioning of T in the tree is, by far, the most problematic one. We have already seen that this MS seems to stand in an intermediate position between the two sub-groups of FB and LtD. Hammond's evidence for placing T in a specific position in the stemma concerns the order in which the three Chaucerian poems *Legend of Good Women (LGW)*, *PF*, and the *Book of the Duchess (BD)* are copied in MSS F, B and T (1902: 12), although she later places T with Lt and D. We shall not examine these evidences now, which, although important, are less relevant than the variant readings in the MSS. If the readings in the MSS prove a certain position of T in the tree, the order in which the poems are copied can not prove otherwise. The evidence presented by Hammond in order to deduce the position of T, namely lines 3*, 8, 56, 59, 78, 119, 149, 154, 437, 466, 512* and 569 is often contradictory and points towards a different positioning of the MS. Lines 3*, 56, 59, 154, 512* and 569 indicate TLtD kinship, Hammond argues. However, B is wanting in line 3* and in line 569 Lt goes with FB. Of the rest, lines 78, 149, 437 and 466 are proof of LtT; and lines 8 and 119 are examples of LtD, T going here with FB. Her evidence of T's variant readings is, then, scarce, and it does not point towards a positioning of T anywhere in the tree. Her conclusion, which we shall examine below, leaves her final stemma for the MSS of group B—the "Hammond group"—as follows (1902: 14):



After a thorough analysis of this stemma, which—we should remember—has been undisputed for over one-hundred years, we notice that there are a number of questions that need to be taken under consideration, and that the stemma Hammond has postulated often lacks the necessary evidence to justify its conclusions. On the one hand, the number of evidences presented to support the stemma is very inferior to the actual variant readings that can be found. One could argue that Hammond pays attention only to those variants she considers “important,” the rest being of no value to support a specific position of a MS in the tree. However, Hammond never specifies the criteria on which a certain variant is considered significant and another one is not, and often includes examples of “variant spellings” as valuable data (contrary to our evidence) and disregards variants which are due to scribal miscopy, insertion or omission. This indicates two things: that the deduction of her stemma is not the result of a personal transcription and examination of the MSS, and also that the criteria on which a specific reading is considered a variant is not clear. Comparing her evidences with the examples we have obtained from the transcription of the five MSS of group B, the following table can be postulated:

	<i>Hammond 1902</i>	<i>Arbesú 2003</i>	<i>Difference</i>
FB	17 (0 dubious) = 17	27 (4 dubious) = 23	+ 6
LtD	30 (7 dubious) = 23	56 (12 dubious) = 44	+ 21
F	15 (10 dubious) = 5	23 (5 dubious) = 18	+ 13
B	18 (5 dubious) = 13	26 (0 dubious) = 26	+ 13
Lt	78 (5 dubious) = 73	109 (0 dubious) = 109	+ 36
D	38 (2 dubious) = 36	72 (0 dubious) = 72	+ 36
T	27 (5 dubious) = 22	42 (0 dubious) = 42	+ 20
Total	223 (34 dubious) = 189	355 (21 dubious) = 334	+ 145

The only aspect we need to discuss now is the problematic position of T in the tree. We have already altered the substance of Koch-Hammond’s stemma considerably by eliminating the affiliation of T and Lt with a MS of the FB group for the first 75 lines of the poem and by concluding, with Hammond, that D has not been influenced by A. Regarding the affiliation of F with B, I find that the important question is their close textual affinity, and

not whether F is the ancestor or the brother of B, so that, as long as their strong bond is accounted for, the palaeographic stemma will be correct. The main problem that we find to postulate a stemma for the MSS of *PF* comes with the position of T. As we have seen, this MS seems to stand in an intermediate position between the two subgroups of FB and LtD, and this is always the case of T no matter the kind of evidence we examine. If we look at the data obtained from the collation of the MSS, we see that T agrees with FB (FBT/ LtD) in forty-four readings and with LtD (LtDT/ FB) in twenty-three. This evidence is not enough to postulate the position of T in any of the two main branches of the stemma. Nevertheless, if one takes a look at other kinds of evidence, such as the general spelling of the MSS (*gates/ gatys; birdes/ briddis*), spelling of proper names (*Cupidel/ Cipride; Semiramus/ Semyramus; Achilles/ Hachilles*), etc., the result is the same: T agrees with one group for approximately half of the cases, and with the other for the remaining examples.

The uncertainty about T's affiliation comes, however, as no surprise, for it is echoed in every study on *PF*'s authorities, or even in Hammond's sudden positioning of T with LtD in the tree. Editorial conventions go a step further, for modern Chaucer editions reproduce what they claim to be Hammond's stemma in a way that makes T's positioning on the tree even more obscure, i.e. "B: δ:FB; ε:TLtD" (Benson 1987: 1147). However, the affiliation of the MSS given by Seymour is the best example to show how the treatment of T in relation to the rest of the MSS of group B is contradictory. According to Seymour, Fairfax 16 is closely affiliated to Bodley 638 and vice-versa, but he also mentions that "Tanner 346 is affiliated to Fairfax 16 and Bodley 638; Digby 181 is closely affiliated to Longleat 258; and Longleat 258 is affiliated to Digby 181 and Tanner 346" (1995: 29-32). What is one to infer from this classification? The two subgroups of FB and LtD are, again, well differentiated, but the actual relationship of T with the rest of the MSS is impossible to see. On the one hand, T is affiliated with FB, and on the other, with Lt which, in turn, is affiliated with D (D not being directly affiliated with T). Why does Hammond, then, postulate T in the branch of LtD, and above these two MSS? As we have argued, the evidence in her article for T's positioning is contradictory and can not prove any affiliation whatsoever. Furthermore, she

often disregards her own evidences which, in the absence of opposing data, point to a positioning of T with FB. Her explanation for T's affiliation with LtD is given in these lines:

It is to be noted that elsewhere in the T codex the *Anelida* and Lydgate's *Black Knight* are copied in close conjunction; that Krausser, in his edition of the latter poem (*Anglia*, XIX), finds D and T connected in a group opposed to F and B, and that the Koch-Heath genealogy of the *Anelida* text places T on the same stem with DLt, above them and opposed with them to FB. Assuming these conclusions to be well grounded, we have the possibility that in the *Parlement of Foules* T (and Lt) worked partly with FB in the first few stanzas as in the poem preceding, but then for some reason deviated to use the copy which they had followed in transcribing the *Black Knight*. Further it might be remarked that the undetailed genealogy which so far lies before the student for the *Legend of Good Women* does not preclude the possibility that the difference of T from B may there be one of difference in stem, as here indicated. The freedom of T from FB errors in the former poem, alluded to by Mr. Pollard, may be because of a difference in stem. (1902: 14)

Basically, the reasons for the postulation of T with LtD are four: Koch's initial placement of T in that branch, the textual relationships of Chaucerian poems other than *PF*, Hammond's conclusion that "these conclusions [are] well grounded," and probably, her insistence on the strong—and, it seems, exclusive—bond between F and B. What seems to be the case, however, is that there are many more evidences that point towards a positioning of T with FB than for the opposite, and that neither Koch nor Hammond have taken them into account. Only to be fair, and before we discuss our positioning of T in the tree, we must shed light on a very interesting fact which renders a bi-fold conclusion: That Hammond's positioning of T in the tree in 1902 was not supported with actual evidences, and that critical editions of Chaucer in the twentieth century have reproduced, for over a hundred years, a stemma that is incorrect and was later modified by

Hammond herself, although the scientific community has yet to make room for it.¹⁵

In 1908, six years after establishing the stemma of the MSS for *PF*, Hammond published a book, *Chaucer: A Bibliographical Manual*, which is still today unsurpassed by any other manual on Geoffrey Chaucer, and refereed in almost every scholar publication about the author. The interesting fact is that, while the book reproduces the MS affiliations for all Chaucerian works, only one of Chaucer's poems deserves the privilege of a stemma. This, of course, could be no other than *PF*, but on a closer examination of the stemma (which is virtually impossible to find on the pages of the book), one notices that this is not the same Hammond has reproduced in 1902. Hammond only deals—between the years 1902 and 1908—with the MSS of *PF* in three brief articles, namely “Omissions from the Editions of Chaucer” (1904), “MS Longleat 258—A Chaucerian Codex” (1905) and finally, “On the Editing of Chaucer's Minor Poems” (1908). None of these propose a new stemma for *PF* or explain a change in the previous one, nor do we find any explanation in the book about Tanner's sudden change of branch. Regarding Koch, and leaving aside his 1881 article and his edition of the poem in 1928 already mentioned, he has dealt with the matter again in “Das Handschriftenverhältnis in Chaucers *Parlement of Foules*” (1903 and 1904), and in *Versuch einer kritischen Textausgabe von Chaucer's Parlement of Foules* (1904), but his analyses do not alter the substance of our stemma. As it has been argued, Chaucerian criticism has never noticed the change made by Hammond, for her article in 1902 is taken—for, indeed, it is—as the last piece of scholarship that discusses, proves and renders a valid stemma for the witnesses of Chaucer's poem. To anticipate our conclusion, Hammond's 1908 stemma positions T with us, although she gives no explanation of the change whatsoever or proves it with any evidence at all. In our case, and in

¹⁵ As an example of critical editions of *PF* in the twentieth century we could cite Skeat 1900*, Capone 1900, Lounsbury 1900, Koch 1904*, Rogers 1904*, Skeat 1910*, Emerson 1911, Tatlock & MacKaye 1912, MacCracken 1913, Drennan 1914*, Koch 1928*, Robinson 1957 [1933]*, Donaldson 1958*, Brewer 1972 [1960]*, Baugh 1963, Fisher 1977, Ruggiers 1979, Stone 1983 and Benson 1987*. Editions marked with an asterisk are those of special importance for the establishment of *PF*'s text, those that have edited the poem on its own, or the ones that have been considered canonical. Non-academic editions, as that of Penguin, for example, are not listed.

order to deduce the position of T in the tree, we have considered seven different aspects:

-That there are forty-four examples in which T agrees in readings with FB, and only twenty-three in which it does so with LtD.

-That the heading of the poem, in which T coincides with Lt (*The assemble of Foules*) is not important evidence, since neither FB nor LtD—being so strongly affiliated with each other—agree in this aspect.

-That the treatment of the final roundel in *PF*,¹⁶ in which T coincides with Lt, can also be disregarded as valid evidence, since D (which is affiliated with Lt) includes a version of the roundel, and the inclusion of its title in MSS F and B, and not in T, could be an insertion of their immediate ancestor.

-That only in the final colophon do the MSS agree consistently, being it equal for Lt and D (*Here endith the parlement of fowlis*) and for FB and T (*Explicit tractatus de congregacione Volucru(m) die Sancti Valentini*).

-That for the text of *LGW*, and contrary to what Hammond claims, T uniquely omits lines 249 and 1378b-9a, and lacks lines 249, 487, 846, 960, 961, 1490, 1643, 1998, 2150b-3a, 2193, 2338 and 2475, also missing in F and B.

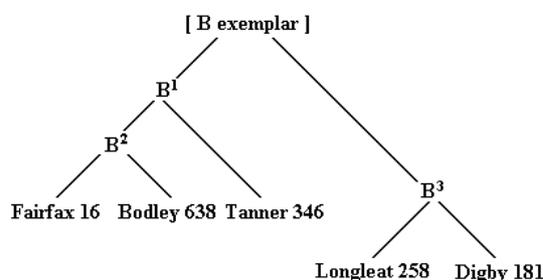
-That if we examine the Chaucerian contents of the MSS, T stands again in an intermediate position between FB and LtD but, without a doubt, it seems to be closer to FB:¹⁷ Fairfax and Bodley (*Anelida and Arcite* (AA)/ *LGW*/ *PF*/ *BD*/ *House of Fame* (HF)/ *ABC*/ *Fortune*); Digby and Longleat (AA/ *PF*); Tanner (*LGW*/ AA/ *BD*/ *PF*).

¹⁶ There are three variants for the roundel in the MSS. Either they include a version of it (MSS J, D and Gg (inserted by a later hand)), they leave a blank space in which the roundel should be inserted (MS H), they do not include it but refer to it with its supposed title, *Qui bien ayme a tarde oublie* (MSS R, F, B and Cx) or they make no reference to it at all (MSS Ff, S, T and Lt). There are three MSS—Hh, P and L—for which the final part of the text of *PF* is lost.

¹⁷ The major poems by Chaucer, in the order in which they were copied in the MSS, have been taken from Seymour 1995: 31-32, 83-88.

-That if we take into account the A readings present in the MSS of group B we will see that, whenever an A reading is present in T, it is usually also present in FB.¹⁸

For all these reasons, we must first agree with Hammond and place T in an intermediate position between the two strong subgroups of FB and LtD. However, we must disagree with her when she postulates the position of T closer to LtD than to FB. Therefore, we must position T in the tree in a way that it is not bonded inside neither of the two subgroups and, at the same time, show that it has characteristics of both FB and LtD, but with a much closer bond with the first subgroup.¹⁹ The new stemma for the B group MSS of *PF* would be, then, as follows:



As colophon to this article, we believe it has been proven with enough evidence that the conclusions of both Koch and Hammond about the textual relations of *PF*'s authorities were reached after an incomplete analysis of the

¹⁸ For FBTA (vs. LtD) there are thirty-five examples, lines 42, 66, 75, 91, 98, 100, 104, 114, 119, 127, 152, 209, 233, 277, 282, 297, 312, 322, 346, 387, 417, 440, 457, 468, 472, 507, 527, 534, 537, 577, 596, 619, 642, 650 and 677, although we could also consider lines 8, 158, 161, 167, 190, 191 and 192 for which B is missing the text. In the case of TLtDA (vs. FB) there are only ten examples, lines 106, 108, 126, 208, 236, 278, 295, 383, 612 and 623.

¹⁹ Of course, one can find some lines that do not fit well into this stemma, namely 56, 59, 139, 154, 214, 224 and 512, which show an A reading present in FB not present in T or LtD. However, there is also evidence against the opposite position, T above LtD, which would be A readings present in LtD not present in T or FB, cf. ll. 71, 156, 158, 196, 296, 375, 523. Notice that all these evidences have to do with the transmission of a reading from group A down the MSS of group B.

variant readings present in the MSS.²⁰ The mere existence of Hammond's 1908 stemma is, however, enough evidence to invalidate the first, which has been the canonical one for more than one hundred years and is, still today, considered the correct genealogical tree for *PF*. It has now been argued that, sometime between 1902 and 1908, Hammond must have realized the erroneous affiliation of T and inserted a revised version of the stemma in *Chaucer: A Bibliographical Manual* which, nevertheless, passed unnoticed to the virtual totality of Chaucerian criticism. A more important conclusion to this article is, however, that we believe it has proven the necessity to carry out a systematic revision of Chaucerian codicology. We hope that our modest analysis of the "Hammond subgroup" will serve as basis to the study of *PF*'s complete stemma, and open the way to the reconsideration of all codicological stemmas of Chaucer's works.

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APPENDIX: VARIANT READINGS

Line	Bodley 638	Fairfax 16	Tanner 346	Longleat 258	Digby 181
1	The lyf so short, the crafte so longe to lerne	The lif so short the craft so long to lerne	The lif so short the craft so long to lere	The life so short, the crafte so longe to lerne
3	The slyder Ioy, that alwey slyd so yerne	The blyful ioy a wey that fleth so yerne	The blisful Ioy that alwey fleeth so yerne	The blisfull ioy awey that fleth so yerne
5	Astonyeth soo, with a drededeful worchyng	Astonyeth so with his dredfull	Astonyeth so with Ø drededefull	Astonyth so with his dredfull worchyng

²⁰ Although our conclusions were drawn from the transcription of facsimile prints, the transcriptions of the Chaucer Society (Furnivall 1868-1880) from which Hammond draws her data present a very reliable text of the poem, so that the fault lies in the analysis rather than in the source itself. It could be argued that technological improvements have played a part in the modification of the stemma, but the texts of MSS F, B, T, Lt and D analysed here were manually transcribed and collated.

			worchyng	worchyng	
7	.....	Nat wote I wel wher that I wake or wynke	That wote I wele wher \emptyset I wake or wynke	Ne wote I wele whether \emptyset I wake or wynke	Not wote I well wher þat I flete or synke
8	.....	For al be that, I knowe not love in dede	For all be that I knowe not loue in dede	\emptyset by al that I knowe not loue in dede	For by all that I knowe not loue in dede
9	.....	Ne wote how he, quytheth folke her hire	Ne wote how he quytheth folke hire hire	Ne wote howe he quytheth folke thaire hire	Ne wote howe she quytheth folke here hyre
10	.....	Yet hapeth me in bookes, ofte to rede	Yit happeth me in bokis oft \emptyset rede	Yet happith me oft in bokis for to rede	Yit happeth me in bokes ofte to rede
17	.....	But why that I speke, al this not yore	But why þat I speke all þis not yoore	But why that I speke of this not yore	but why þat I speke all þis, not yore
23	Cometh al the new corne fro yere to yere	Cometh al this new corne, fro yere to yere	Comyth al this new corn fro yere to yere	Cometh al this newe corne from yere to yere	Comyth all this new corn fro yere to yere
25	Comyth all this new scyence that men lere	Cometh al thys new science, that men lere	Comyth al þis new science þat men lere	Cometh al this newe sentence that me lere	Comyth all þis newe stiens that men lere
27	To rede forth \emptyset gan me so delyte	To rede forth hit gan me so delyte	To rede forth it gan me so delite	To rede forth it gane me so dilite	To rede forth it ganne me so delite
28	that all the day thought me but a lyte	That al the day, thought me but a lyte	That al day thought me but a lyte	That al day thought me but a lite	That all day it thought me but a lite
29	This booke of which I make mensyon	This booke of which, I make mension	This boke of which I make mencion	This boke whereas I make mencion	This book of which I make mencion
35	Of his sentence I wull you tell the grete	Of his sentence, I nul yow tel the grete	Of his sentence I wol you tell the grete	Of his sentence I wol you telle the grete	Of his sentens I woll you tell the grete
40	That was bitwext hem til	That was betwixt hem, til the day gan mysse	That was betwixt hem ty! the day	That was bitwix them till the day	Þat was bitwix hem, till the day gan

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	the day gan mysse		gan mysse	Ø mysse	mysse
42	Gan on his slepe that nyght to him appere	Gan on his slepe that nyght to hym appere	Gan on his slepe that nyght to hym appere	Gan in his slepe that might Ø appere	Gan on his slepe · that nyght till hym appere ·
47	That louyth comune profyete well I thewyd ·	That loveth comvne profyt, wel y thewede	Þat louyth comon profit well I thewed	That loueth come proffit well I thewede	That louyth comune profite well I thewyde
50	Tha askyd he if the folke that here be ded	Than asked he, yf the folke that here be dede	Than askid he yif the folke þat here be dede	Than asked he if the folke that here be dede	Than asked he if þe folke þat here be dede
53	and oure present worldis lyues space ·	And oure present worldes, lyves space	And oure present worldis lyuus space	And our present worlds lyues space	And howe oure present worldis lifis space
54	Meneth but a maner deth what wey we trace	Meneth but a maner dethe, what wey we trace	Menith but a man deth what wey we trace	Meneth but a manere dethe what wey we trace	Mernyth but a maner deth what wey we trace
56	To heuen and shewid him the Galoxye	To hevene and shewed hym, the Galoxye	To heuyn and shewed hem the Galoye	To heuen and shewed him the galey	To heuen and shewed hem the Galoye
57	Then shewid he him the litell erth that here is	Than shewede he hym, the lytel erthe that here is	Than shewed he hym the litel erth þat here is	Than shewed he him a litest erthe that here is	Than shewed he hym the litle erthe þat here is
59	And aftir shewid he him the nyne sperys	And aftir shewed he hym, the nyne speris	And after shewid he hy the ix speris	And after shewed he him the ix speres	And after shewed he hym the ix · speres
62	That welle ys of musyke and melodye	That welle ys of musyke, and melodye	That wel is of musyk and melodye	That well is of musik and melodye	That wellis been of musik and melodie
63	In this worlde Ø and cause of Armony ·	In this worlde here, and cause of Armony	In þis world here and cause of Armony	In this worlde here and cause of armony	In this wordle here, and cause of Armony
66	That he ne shulde him in the world delyte	That he ne shuld hym, in the worlde delyte	That he ne sholde hy in the worlde delite	That he ne shuld him in this worlde delite	That he ne sholde hym in þis wordle delite

71	Than pried he Scipion tell him all	Than prayed he Scipion, tel hym alle	Pan prayed he Scipion tell hym alle	Than praied he Cipion to telle him all	Than praid he Cipion tell hym all
72	They wey to come to heuen blysse	The wey to come, to hevene blysse	The wey to come to heuen blysse	The wey to come to heuen blisse	The wey to come to heuen blisse
74	and loke ay besilye thou werke and wysse	And loke ay besely, thou werke and wysse	And loke ay bisily thou werk and wisse	And loke ay besily thou werke and wisse	And loke ay bisily thowe werke and wisse
75	To comvne profyte and		and thu shalt	proffit and thou	and þou shalt neuer
	Lines 81-82 in order	Lines 81-82 in order	Lines 81-82 in order	Lines 81-82 reversed	Lines 81-82 in order
82	And then foryeuyn hem all her wikkyd dede ·	And than for yeven hem, al hir wikked dede	And þan foryeve hem al here wicked dede	And than for yeuen them Ø thair wikked dede	And then for yeue hem all here wicked dede
83	Then shall thei come vn to that blisfull place	Than shul they come, vnto that blysfyl place	Than shul they come vn to that blisful place	Than shal they come vnto that blisful place	Than shall þei come into that blisfull place
89	Fulfilled of thought and besy heynesse	Fulfilled of thought, and Ø hevenesse	Fulfilled of thought and besy heynesse	Fulfilled of thought and besy heynesse	Fulfilled of thought and of besy heynesse
91	And eke I ne had thinge that	And eke I ne had thyng, that I wolde	And ek I ne had thing that I wolde	And Ø I ne hade thing that I wolde	And Ø I ne hadde thyng · that I wolde ·

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	I wolde ·				
94	Tooke reste that made me to slepe faste	Tooke reste, that made me to slepe faste	Toke rest, that made me to slepe fast	Toke rest that made me to slepe fast	To rest that made me to slepe fast
96	How Anfrikan right in that self aray	How Anfrikan, ryght in that selfe Aray	How Affrican right in that seluen Aray	Howe Anfrikan right in that seluen array	Howe Anfrikan right in þat seluen aray
98	Was comen and stode right at my beddis syde	Was comen and stode ryght, at my beddis side	Was comen and stode right at my beddes side	Was comen and stode right at the beddes side	Was comyn and stood right at þe beddis side
99	The wery hunter slepyng in his bed ·	The wery hunter, slepyng in hys bed	The verry hunter sleping in his bedde	The wery hunter sleping in his bedde	The wery hunter slepyng in his bedde
100	to woode a yein his mynde goth anon	To wode ayeine, hys mynde gooth anoon	To wode ayen his mynde goth a non	To the wode ayein his mynde gooth anoon	To the wode a yen, his mynde goth anoon
101	The luge dremyth how his pleis ben sped ·	The luge dremeth, how hys plees ben sped	The luge demeth hou his plees ben spede	The lugge dremyth howe is plees ben spede	The luge dremyth howe his plees been spedde
104	the seke metith he drinketh of the tonne	The seke meteth, he drynketh of the tonne	The seke meteth he drynketh of the tonne	The seke dremeth he drinketh of the tonne	The seke dremyth howe he drynketh of þe ton
105	The louer metith he hath his ladi wonne	The lover meteth, he hath hys lady wonne	The louer metith he hath his lady wonne	The trewe louer metyth he hath his lady wonne	The lover metith he hath his lady won
106	Can not I seyn if that the cause were ·	Can not I seyne, yf that the cause were	Can I not seyn yif that the cause were	Can I not saien if that the cause were	Can I not sayn if that the cause were
108	That me to mete that he stode there	That me to mete, that he stood there	That made me to mete þat he stood there	That made me to mete that he stode there	That made me to mete Ø he stode there
112	That somdell of thi labour wolde I the	That somedel of thy labour, wolde I the quyte	That somdele of thy labour wolde I Ø quyte	That sumdell of thy labour wol I the quyte	Þat somdele of thy labour wold I the quyte

	quyte				
114	That with thi firy bronde dauntest whom the leste	That with thy firy bronde, dauntest who the lest	þat with þy firy bronde dantest who the liste	That with thy fire brande dauntest who þou list	þat with thy firebrond daunist whom þou list
117	As wislye as I saw the north north weste ·	As wisly as I sawe the, northe northe west	As wisely as I saw the north north west	And wissely as I sawe thee north north west	As wisly as I sawe the North NorthWest
119	So yeue me myght to ryme and to endyte ·	So yeve me myght, to ryme and to endyte	So yeue me myght to ryme and to endyte	So yeue me myght to ryme and Ø endite	so yeue me myght to write it and Ø endite
123	And ouyr the gate with lettris large I wrought	And ouer the gate, with letres large y wrought	And ouer the gate with letters large I wrought	And ouer the gate with leres large I wrought	And ouer the gate with letters large I wrought
125	On eythir halfe of full grete difference ·	On eyther halfe, of ful grete difference	On either half of ful grete reuerence	On either half of ful gret difference	On eyther half, of full grete differens
126	Of which I shall you sey the pleyn sentence ·	Of which I shal yow sey, the pleyn sentence	Of which I shal now sey the pleyn sentence	Of whiche I shal nowe say þe plain sentence	Of which I shall nowe say the playn sentens
127	Thorough me men gon in to that blisfull place ·	Thorgh me men goon, in to that blysful place	Thorough me men gon in to that blisfull place	Thorough me men come into that blisful place	Through me men come into þat blisfull place
129	Thorgh me men gon vn to the welle of grace	Thorgh me men goon, vnto the welle of grace	Thorough me men gon vn to the wel of grace	Thorough me men goon vnto the well of grace	Through me men goon vnto þe well of grace
130	there grene and lusty may shall euyr endure	There grene and lusty May, shal euer endure	There grene and lusty may shal euer endure	The grene and lusty may shal euer endure	Ther grene and lusty may · shall euer endure
133	all opyn am I passe in and hye the faste ·	Al open am I passe in, and hye the faste	Al open am I · passe in and hye the faste	Alle open am I passed in and high the fast	All open am I passe in and hie the fast

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134	Thorgh me men gon then spake þat othir syde ·	Thorgh me men goon, than spake that other side	Thorough me men gon than spake þat oþer side	Thorough me men goon þan spake þat oþer side	Through me men goon þan spake þat oþir side
136	Of which disdayne and daunger ys the gyde ·	Of which disdayne, and daunger is the gyde	Of which dysdayne and daunger is the gide	Of whiche disdayne Ø daungier is the gide	Of which disdayn and daungere is the gide
137	There tre shall neuyr frute ne leuys bere ·	there tree shal neuer frute, ne leues bere	Pere tre shal neuer frewte ne leues bere	The tree shal neuer frute ne leuys bere	There tree shall neuer frute ne leues bere
139	There as the fyssh in pryson ys all drye	There as the fyssh in prison, is al drye	Pere as this fissh in prison is all drye	There as this fisshe in prison al drye is	There as this fysshe in prison is all drie
140	the schewynge ys Ø the remedye ·	The savynge ys only, the remedye	The shewing is only the remedye	The shouyng is oonly the remedys	The shewyng is only the remedie
142	Of which I gan a stounde to biholde ·	Of which I gan a stounde, to be holde	Of which I gan a stounde to be holde	Of whiche I gan Ø stonde to beholde	Of which I gan Ø stonde to beholde
144	And with that othir gan myne herte to bolde ·	And with that other, gan myn hert to bolde	And with þat other gan my hert to bolde	And with that other gan myn hert to bolde	And with þat othir gan myn hert Ø bolde
145	That oon me hette that othir did me colde ·	That oon me hette, that other did me colde	That on me hette that other did me colde	That oon me hette that other and me colde	That oon me hette, þat othir did me colde
148	Ryght as betwix Adamaunts twoo	Ryght as betwix Adamauntes twoo	Right as be twix addemandis two	Right as bitwix Ademauntes twoo	For right as bitwix adamauntis two ·
149	Of euyng myght a pece of Iron I sette ·	Of evene myght, a pece of Iren y sette	Of evyn myght apece of Iryn is sett	Of euen might a pece of Iron is sette	Of evyn myght a pece of yron I sette
152	So ferd I that I ne wiste wher that me was bette ·	Ferde I that I ne wiste, wher that me was bette	Ferd I that I ne wist wher þat me was bette	Thus fored I that I ne wist where Ø me was bette	Thus ferde I þat I ne wiste, whedir Ø me was bette

154	Me hente and shoofe Ø in at the gatys wyde	Me hente and shoofe Ø in, at the gates wyde	Me hente and shoof me in at the gate wide	Me hent and shoif me in at the gate wide	Me hent · and shoof me in at þe gate wide
156	Thin erreoure though thou tell it not me ·	Thyn errour, though thou tel hyt not me	Thy erreoure though thu tel it not me	Thyn errour though to telle it not to me	Thyn errour though þou tell it not to me
158	.....	For this wrytyng, ys no thing ment be the	For this wrytyng is no thing ment be the	For this writte is noo thing ment by the	For this wrytyng is no thyng ment by the
161	.....	As seke man hath of swete, and bitternesse	As seek man hath of swete and bitternesse	As a seke man hath of swete and bitternesse	As a seke man · hath of swete and bittirnesse
165	.....	Yet lyketh hym, at the wrastelynge to be	It liketh hym at the wrastlyng to be	It liketh him at the wresteling to bee	It likith hym att the wrastlyng to bee
166	.....	And demeth yit, whethir he do bet or he	And demyth yit wheþer he do bet or he	And demyth yet whether he doo bet or he	And demyth it , whethir he do bette or hee
167	.....	And yf thou haddest kunnyng, for to endite	And yif þou haddest kunnyng for to endite	And if thou haddest cunyng Ø to endite	And if þou haddist comyng Ø to endite
169	.....	And with that my honde in hys, he toke anon	With that myn honde in his he took a non	With that my hande in his he toke anoon	With that myn honde in his he toke anon
170	.....	Of which I comfort kaught, and went in faste	Of which I comfort taught and went in fast	Of whiche I comfort caught and went in fast	Of whiche I comfote caught and went in fast
172	.....	For ouer al where, I myn eyn caste	For ouer all where I myn eyen cast	But ouer al where I myn yen cast	For ouer all, where I myn eyen cast
175	.....	As Emerawde, that Ioy was to sene	As Emeawde þat ioy was to sene	As any Emeraude that Ioy was to sene	As Emeraude that ioye was to seyn
177	The peler elme, the cofre vn to careyne	The pelere elm the cofre vn to the tareyn	The piler Elme the cofre vnto carayne	The peler Elme, the cofre vnto careyn

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178	The box pipe tre, holme to whipes lasshe	The box pype tre holme to whippes lassh	The box pipe tree holme to whippis lasshe	The box pipe, the holme to whippes lasshe
183	.....	A gardyn sawh I, ful of blossomed bowis	A gardyn saw I ful of blossomed bowis	A garden sawe I ful Ø blosumed bowes	A gardyn sawe I full of blossomyd bowes
187	.....	And colde well stremes, no thinge dede	A colde wel stremes nothing dede	And colde well stremes noo thing dede	And colde well stremys no thyng dede
189	.....	With fynnes rede, and stales syluer bryght	With fynys rede and stalis of syluer bryght	With fynnes rede and stales syluer bryght	With fynnes rede · and stales siluer bryght
190	.....	On euery bowgh, the briddes herde I syng	On euery bough the briddes herde I singe	In euery bowe the birdes harde I singe	In euery bough the briddes herde I syng
191	.....	With voys of aungel , in her armony	With voys of aungel in here armony	With voys of Angelles in thair armony	With voys of Aungelis · in here Armony
192	.....	That besyed hem, her briddes forthe to bryng	Pat besied hym her briddes forth to bryng	That be side them thair birdes forth to bringe	That beside hem hir briddis forth to bryng
195	.....	The dredful Roo, the buk the hert and hynde	The dredful Roo the buk the hert and hinde	The dredeful roo the buk the hert the hinde	The dredfull Roo the buk the hert and hynde
196	.....	Squerel and bestis smale, of gentil kynde	Squerele and bestes smale of gentyl kynde	Squerells and bestes small of gentil kinde	Squerellis and bestis smale, of gentill kynde
197	.....	On instrumentes of stryng, in a corde	On instruments of stringe in a corde	On Instruments of streng in accorde	On instrumentis of strength in A corde
198	.....	Herde I Ø pley, and ravysshinge swetnesse	Herde I so pley and rauysshinge swetnesse	Harde I so playe and rauisshing swetnesse	Herde I so pleie, and raueshyng swetnesse
199	.....	That god that maker ys of al, and lorde	That god þat makere is of al and lorde	That god that the maker is of al and lorde	That god þat maker is of all, and lorde

201	Therwith a wynde vnneth it myght be lesse ·	There with a wynde, vnnethe hyt myght Ø lesse	There with a wynde vnneth it myght be lesse	There with awynde vnneth it might be lesse	Pere with A wyndes vnneth it myght be lesse
202	Made in the leuys grene a noyse softe ·	Made in the leues grene, a noyse softe	Made in þe leuys grene a noyse softe	Made in the leuys grene a noise soft	Made in the leues grene a noise full softe·
203	Acordant to the foulys songe on lofte ·	Accordant to the foulys, songe on lofte	Acordant to the foules songe on lofte	According to the foules songe on loft	Accordaunt to the fowlis songe on lofte
204	The ayre of that place so attempre was	The aire of that place, so attempre was	The eire of þat place so atempre was	The eyre of that place so attempered was	The eire of þat place so attempre was ·
205	That neuyr was grevance there of hote ne colde ·	That neuer was grevance therof, hoot ne colde	That neuer was greuance þere of hote ne colde	That neuer was greunce thereof of hote ne colde	Pat neuer was greuance there, of hote ne colde
206	There growyn Ø euery holsom spice and gras	Ther growen eke, euery holsome spice and gras	Ther growen ek euery holsom spice and gras	There growen eke euery holsom spice and gras	There growen eke, euery holsome spice and gras
208	Yet was there more ioy a thousande folde	Yet was there more Ioy , a thousande folde	Yit was ther Ioy more a thousand fold	Yet was there Ioye more a thousand folde	Yhit was þere ioy more a thousand fold
209	No man kan tell neuyr wolde it nyght	No man kan telle, neuere wolde hyt nyght	No man can tell neuere wold it nyght	Noo man can telle neuere wold it be night	No man can tell, neuere wold it be nyght
214	And wylle his doughtre temperyd al the while	And wille hys doghtre, tempred al the while	And while his doughter tempred all þe while	And while his doughter tempered al the while	And while his doughter temprid all þe while
216	She towchid hem aftir as thei shuld serue	She toched hem, after as they shul serve	She touched hem after as they shull serue	She couched them after as they shulde serue	She touched hem · aftir as þei shold serue
217	Som to fle and som to wounde and kerue	Some to flee, and some to wounde and kerve	Som to fle and som to wounde and kerue	Sume to flee and sume to wounde and karue	Some to slee and some to wounde and kerue

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220	And of the crafte that kan and hath þe myght	And of the crafte that kan, and hath the myght	And of the craft þat can and hath the myght	And of the craft that can and hath the might	And of þe crafte þat came and hath þe myght
224	Saugh I Delyte that stode with gentillesse	Sawgh I delyte, that stode with gentillesse	Saugh I delite that stood with gentillesse	Sawe I dilite that stode with gentillesse	Saugh I delite that stood with gentillesse
225	I saugh beaute without eny atyre	I sawgh beaute, withoute any atire	I sawgh bewtee with oute any atire	I sawe beaute withoute any tyre	I saugh beaute without any atire
228	Massagery mede and othir thre ·	Messagery mede, and other thre	Messagery mede and other thre	Massagerye mede and other tree	Messenger mede and other thre
231	I saugh a temple of bras foundid stronge	I sawgh a temple of glas founded stronge	I saugh a temple of brasse founded stronge	I sawe a Temple of bras founded strong	I saugh a temple of bras foundid stronge
233	Women I nowe of which som were ·	Women y now, of which some were	Women I nowe of which some were	Women ynough of whiche sume were	Wymen I nowgh of which some were
234	Faire of hem self and som of hem gay	Faire of hem self, and some of hem gay	Faire of hem self and som of hem gay	Faire of them self and sune Ø gaye	Faire of hem silf, and some of hem gay ·
236	That was hir offyce · alwey fro yere to yere ·	That was hir office alwey, fro yere to yere	þat was here office alwey yere by yere	That was thair office alwey yere by yere	That was here office alwey yere by yere
238	Of dowuys white many a hundryd peyre	Of dowves white, many a hundred paire	Of dowues white meny an hundrid peire	Of doues white many a hundred paire	Of dowfes Ø many an hundred paire
244	And aldrixt within and withoute ·	And alder next within, and with oute	And alther next with in and with oute	And alther next within and withoute	And alder next within and eke with out
245	Beheste and Arte and of hir folke a Route	Behest and arte, and of her folke a rowte	By hest and art and of here folke a route	Behest and Arte and of thair folke a route	Bihest and art and Ø here folke about

255	In suche Aray as when the Asse him shente·	In suche array, as whan the asse hym shente	In swich array as whan þe asse hym shente	In suche array as whan the asse him shend	In suche array· as when the asse hym hent
256	With crye be nyght and with his ceptre in honde ·	With crie be nyght, and with his ceptre in honde	With cry by nyght and with his cepter in honde	With crye by nyght and Ø his ceptre in honde	With crie be nyght, and with his septer in honde
262	That was full noble and hawteyn of hir porte ·	That was ful noble, and hawteyn of hir porte	That was ful noble and hauteyn of hir port	That was ful Ø and haulteyne of hir port	Pat was full noble, and haunten of here porte
263	Derk was that place and aftirward lyghtnesse ·	Derke was that place, but afterward lyghtnesse	Derk was that place but afterward lyghtnesse	Derke was the place but afterward lyghtnesse	Derke was þat place, but aftirward lyghtnesse
269	And nakid fro the breste vnto the hed	And naked fro the brest, vn to the hede	And naked fro the brest vn to the hede	And naked fro the brest vnto the hede	And naked from the breste Ø to the hede
274	The place yafe a thousande sauowrys swote ·	The place yafe a thousande, sauours swoote	The place Ø a thousand sauores swoote	The place yaue a thousande sauours sote	The place yaf a thowsand savours sote
277	and as I seide amyddes lay Cipride	and as I seide, amyddes lay Cipride	And as I seide amyddes lay Cipride	And as I saide amyddis lay Cupide	And as I said amyddes lay Cupide
278	To whom on kneis the yonge folkis cryde	to whom on knes, the yonge folkes criede	To whom on knees two yonge folkes cryde	To whom on knees two yonge folke cryde	To whom on knees two yong folke cride ·
282	Full many a bowe I broke henge on the wall	Ful many a bowe y broke, henge on the walle	Ful many a bowe I broke henge on the wall	Ful many a bowe broke hyng on the walle	Ful many a bowe broke, hyng on the wall
284	In hir seruyse and peynted ouyr all	In hir seruise, and peyted ouer alle	In hir seruice and peynted ouer all	In hir seruice and paynted ouer alle	In here seruise, and paynted ouer all

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286	A few · as of Calixte and Athalante ·	A few, as of Calixte, and Athalante	A few as of Calixte and Athalant	A felde as of Calixte and Athelante	A few, as of Calixte, and Athalante
287	And many a maide of which the name I wante	And many a Mayde, of which the name I wante	And many a mayde of which þe name I want	And of many a mayden of whiche þe name I wante	And many a maide of which the name I wante
290	Trystam Isoude Parys and Achylles	Tristram, Isoude, Paris, and Achilles	Tristram Isoude Parys and Achilles	Tristram I founde Parys and achilles	Tristram Isaud Paris and Achilles
294	And all her loue and in what plyte · they dyde	And al her loue, and in what plite they dide	And al hire loue and in what plyte they dide	Ø alle there loue and in what plight þey dide	And all here love, and in what plite they dide
295	When I was come a yen in to that place ·	Whan I was comen ayen, in to that place	Whan I was comen ayein in to the place	Whan I was come ayein into the place	When I was comen a yen in to the place
296	That I of spake that was so swote and grene ·	That I of spake, that was so swoote and grene	That I of spak þat was so swote and grene	That I of spake that was so sote and grene	That I of spake, that Ø so soot and grene
297	Forth welke I tho my selfe to solace ·	Forth welke I thoo, my selven to solace	Forth welke I tho my siluen to solace	Forth walked I thoo my seluen to solace	Forth walkid I thoo my seluen to solace
303	Was sette this noble goddesse of Nature ·	Was sette this noble goddesse, of nature	Was sette þis noble goddes (of) nature	Was sette this noble goddes Ø nature	Was sette this noble goddes Ø nature
306	Ne ther uas foule þat comyth of engendure	Ne ther uas foule, that cometh of engendrure	Ne there uas foule that cometh of engendure	Ne there was foule that comyth of engendure	Ne ther was fowle that comyth of engendrure
307	That ther ne were preste in hir presence ·	That there ne were prest, in hir presence	That there ne were preest in hir presence	That there ne were Ø in hir presence	That there ne were preste in here presence
310	When euery foule comyth there to chese	Whan euery foule cometh there, to chese his make	Whan euery foule comth þere to chese hir make	Whan euery foule comyth there to chese his make	When euery fowle comyth þere to chese his make

	his make				
311	Of euery kynde that men thynke maye	On euery kynde, that men thynke may	Of euery kynde that men thynke may	Of euery kynde that men thinke may	Of euery kynde that men thynke may ·
312	And that so huge a noyse gan thei make ·	And that so huge anoyse, gan they make	And þat so huge a noyse gan they make	And that so huge Ø voice gan they make	And þat so huge Ø noise gan þei make ·
313	That erth Ø se and tre and euery lake ·	That erthe and see and tree, and euery lake	That erth and se and tre and euery lake	That erthe and see and tree and euery lake	That erthe and see, and tree and euery lake
318	In such araye men myght hir there fynde ·	In suche array, men myght hir there fynde	In swich array men myght hire there y finde	In suche array men might hir there finde	In suche aray men myght hir ther fynde
319	This noble Emperesse full of grace	This noble emperesse, ful of gace	This noble Empiresse ful of grace	This noble emperesse ful of grace	This noble Emperesse, full of grace
322	Seynt Valentynes day to stondyn there ·	Seynt Valentynes day, to stonden there	Seint Valentynes day to stonden there	On Seint Valentyne is day to standen there	On Seynt Valentynes day to stond there
329	And that so fele that wondir was to sene	And that so fele, that wonder was to sene	And that so fele that wonder was to sene	And that so felle that wondre it was to seen	And that so fele, that wonder was to sene
332	And othir Eglys of a loware kynde ·	And other Egles, of a lower kynde	And other Egles of a lower kynde	And other egles of Ø lower kynde	And othir Egles of a lower kynde
335	And grene · I mene the goshauke that doth pyne ·	And grey, I mene the goshauke that doth pyne	And greyne · I mene the goshauke þat doth pyne	The gray goshauke that doth gret pyne	And gray, I mene the Gooshauke þat doth pyne
336	To briddes · for his outrageouse Ravyne	To briddes, for his outrageouse ravyne	To briddes for his outrageus rauyne	To the birds for his outeragious rauyne	To briddis · for his owtragis ravyne

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341	There was the Dowue with hir yen meke ·	There was the dowve, with hir eyen meke	There was the dowue with here eyghen meke	The was the dove with his yen meke	Ther was the dowfe with here eyen meek
346	the scornynge ·lay· the Eglys foo herowne·	The scornynge lay, the Egles foo heroune	The scornynge lay the Egles foo heroun	The scornynge lay the egles foo the heroune	The Scornynge lay the Egles foo the hairon
348	The stare that the counsell can bewrye ·	The stare, that the counseylle kan bewrye	The staare that þe conseil kan by wrye	The stare Ø the counseille can bewreye	The stare that the Councell can biwrie
349	The tame Ruddock and the cowarde kyte	The tame Ruddok, and the cowarde kyte	The tame Ruddok and the coward kyte	The Tame ruddok and the coward kite	The tame Puttok and the coward kite
350	The cok that orlogge is of thropes lyte ·	The cok, that Orlogge ys, of thropes lyte	The cok that Orlogge is of thropes lyte	The Cok that orllage is of Thropys lite	The Cok that orloger is of thropis lite
351	The Sparow Venus sone the Nyghtyngale ·	The sparow, Venus sone, the nyghtyngale	The sparwe venus sone the nyghtyngale	The Sparehauke Venus soon the nightingale	The Sparowe venus son the Nyghtyngale
352	That clepith forth the fressh leuys newe ·	That clepeth forth, the fressh leues newe	That clepeth forth the fressh leues newe	That clepith Ø the fresshe leuys newe	That clepith forth the fressh leues newe
354	That makyn hony of flowrys fressh of hewe ·	That maken hony of floures, fressh of hewe	That maken hony of floures fressh of hewe	That maken hony of floures fresshe of hewe	That makyn Ø of the floures fresshe and newe
358	The waker gos the Cukkow euyr vnkynde	The waker goos, Ø cukkow euer vnkynde	The waker goos the cokkow euer vnkynde	The waker goos the Cokkowe euer vnkynde	The wakir Goos the Cokkowe euer vnkynde
362	The hote cormeraunte of glotonye	The hoote Cormeraunte, of glotonye	The hote Carmerant of glotonye	The hote Cormeraunt ful of glotonye	The hote Cormeraunt of Glotonye
364	The throstill olde and the frosty Feldfare ·	The throstel olde, the frosty felde fare	The throstel oolde the frosty felde fare	The Thristell olde the frosty felde fare	The Thrustyll olde the frosty feldfare

366	That in this world han fethris and stature ·	That in this worlde, han fetheres and stature	That in this worlde han fetheres and stature	That is in this worlde han federes or stature	That in this worlde haue fethris and stature
370	Benyglye to chese or for to take ·	Benyngly to chese, or for to take	Benignely to chese or for to take	Benyngly to chese or for to take	Benyngly to chese, or for to take ·
372	But to the poynte Natur hild on hir honde	But to the poynte nature helde on hir honde	But to the point nature held on hir honde	But to the point Nature helde vp hir hande	But to the poynt Nature helde on hir honde
375	The moste benigne and goodlyeste ·	The moste benigne, and goodlyeste	The moost benigne and goodlieste	The moost benigne and the goodliest	The most benyngne, and the most goodliest
377	So ferforth that Nature hir self had blisse ·	So ferforthe, that nature hir selfe had blysse	So ferforth þat nature hire self hadde blysse	So ferforth that nature hir self had blisse	So ferforth þat nature here silf had lisse
379	Nature the vikyr of thalmyghty lorde ·	Nature the vyker, of thalmyghty lorde	Nature the vikere of the almyghty lorde	Nature the viker of Ø almighty god	Nature the viker of the all myghty lorde
381	Hath knytee bi euyn novmbre of acorde ·	halfe knyt be evene novmbre, of accorde	Hath knyt by euayne nombre of a corde	[] knyt by euen nombre of accorde	Hath knytte by euene nombre of A coord
383	Foules take Ø of my sentence I prey ·	Foules, take Ø of my sentence I prey	Fowles take hede of my sentence I prey	Foules take hede of my sentence I praye	Fowlis take heede of my sentens I praie
384	And for youre ease in furtheryng of youre nede ·	And for youre ease, in furtheryng of youre nede	And for youre ese in fortheryng of youre nede	And for your ease in furthering of your mede	And for youre ease in forthryng of youre nede
385	As faste as I may speke I wull me spede ·	As faste as I may speke, I wol me spede	As fast as I may speke I wole me spede	As fast as I may speke I wol you spede	As fast as I may speke I woll me spede

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386	Ye know wel how that Seynt Valentyns day	Ye knowe wel, how that Seynt Valentynes day	Ye know well how þat Seint Valentynes day	Ye knowe well howe that Seint Valentyne is day	Ye knowen Ø how that on Seynt Valentynes day
387	Bi my statute and thorgh my gouernaunce	Be my statute, and thorgh my gouernaunce	By my statut and thorow my gouernaunce	By my statute and thorough myn ordenaunce	By my statute and through myn ordenaunce
389	With youre makis as I prike you with plesaunce ·	With youre makes, as I prik yow with plesaunce	Wip youre makes as I pryke you with plesance	With your makes as I prike you with plesauce	With youre makis as I pryk Ø with plesaunce
390	But natheles my rightfull gouernaunce ·	But natheles, my ryght ful gouernaunce	But natheles my rightful gouernaunce	But natheles by my rightful gouernaunce	But natheles my rightfull gouernaunce
391	May I not lette for al this world to wynne ·	May I not let, for al this worlde to wynne	May I naught lete for All this worlde to wyn	May I not lete for al this worlde to wynne	May Ø not let, for all þis worlde to wynne
394	The foule Roial a boue you all in degre ·	The foule Royal, aboven yow in degre	The foule royal a bouen you in degre	The foule roial abouen you in degre	The fowle riall · aboven you in degre ·
395	The wise and worthi the secre trew as stele·	The wyse and worthy, secre trewe as stele	The wise and worthy secree trew as steel	The wise and worthy secree trewe as stele	The wise and worthy secre true as stele ·
399	He shal firste chese and speke in his gyse ·	He shal first chese, and speken in his gyse	He shal first chese and speken in his gise	He shal first chese and speken in his gise	He shall first chese and speken on his gise·
400	And aftir him bi ordre shul ye chese ·	And aftir hym by order, shul ye chese	And after hym Ø ordre shul ye chese	And after him by ordre shul ye chese	And aftir hym by ordre shull ye chese
404	God sende him hir that soryste for hym siketh	God sende hym hyr, that sorest for hym syketh	God sende hym hir that sorest of hym siketh	God sende him hir that sorest for him sigheth	God sende hym hire þat sorest for hy siketh
406	And seid my sone the choys is to the I falle ·	And seyde my sone, the choys is to the falle	And seid my sone the choys is to the fall	And saide my sone the choice is to the falle	And said my son, the choice is to the fall

407	But natheles in this condycion	But natheles, in thys condicon	But nathelees in this condicion	But natheles in this condicion	But nathelees in this condicion
409	That she agre to his eleccon	That she agree, to hys eleccon	That she agree to his Eleccion	That she aggre to his eleccion	That she agree to his eleccion
411	This is oure vsage alwey fro yer to yere ·	This is oure vsage alwey, fro yere to yere	That is oure vsage alwey fro yere to yere	This is our vsage alwey fro yere to yere	This is oure vsage alwey fro yere to yere ·
414	With hed enclnyed and with full humble chere ·	With hed enclnyed, and with ful humble chere	With heed enclnyed and with ful humble cheere	With hede enclnyed and with Ø humble chere	With heed enclnyed and with full humble chere ·
415	This roial tarcell spake and taried nought	this real tercel spake, and taried noght	Thus roiall tercel spak and taried nought	This roial Tarsell spake and taryed nought	This Royall Tarcell spake, and taried nought
417	I chese and chesse with wille and hert and thought	I chese and chesse, with wille and hert and thought	I chese and chees with wyl and hert and thought	I chese and chese with hert Ø will and thought	I chees and chese, with will Ø hert and thought
420	Do what hir luste to do me leue or sterue ·	Doo what hir lyste, to doo me lyve or sterue	Do what hir lust to do me lyue or sterue	Doo what hir list to doo me lyue or sterue	Do what here liste to do me lyve or sterue ·
421	Beseching hir of mercy and of grace ·	Besechyng hir of mercy, and of grace	Bisechyng hir of mercy and of grace	Beseching hir of mercy and of grace	Besechyng hir · of mercy and Ø grace
422	As she that is my ladi souereigne ·	As she that ys my lady, souereyne	As she that is my lady souereyne	As she that is my lady and soueraine	As she that is my lady soueraign
424	For certis longe may I not leue in peyne ·	For certes longe may I not, lyve in peyne	For cartes long may I nat lyue in peyne	For certis long may I not lyue in payne	For certes longe may I not leue in payn
426	Hauynge rewarde oonly to my trouth	Hauynge rewarde oonly, to my trouthe	Hauynge rewarde oonly to my trouth	Hauyng regarde oonly to my trouthe	Hauyng only reward to my trouthe ·

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428	And if I be founde to hir vntrew	And yf I be founde, to hir vntrewe	And if I be founde to hir vn trewe	And if it be founde to hir vntrewe	And if I be founde to her vntrewe
431	I prey to you this be my Iugement	I pray to yow, thys be my Iugement	I pray to you this be my Iuggement	I pray \emptyset you this be my Iuggement	I prey to you, this be my Iuggement
436	Although she neuyr of loue me behete ·	as thogh she neuer of loue, me be hette	All thow she neuer of loue me bi hette	And though of loue she me neuer behette	All though she neuer of loue me bihete
437	Then ought she be myn thorgh hir mercy	Than oght she be myn, thourgh hir mercy	Than ought she \emptyset myn thourgh hir mercy	Than aught she \emptyset myn thourough hir mercy	Than ought she be myn through her mercy
438	For othir bonde kan I non on hir knette	For other bonde kan I noon, on hir knette	Of other bond kan I noon on hire knette	For other bounde can I noon on hir knytte	For othir bonde can I noon \emptyset knette
439	For neuyr for no woo ne shall I lette	For neuer for no woo, ne shal I lette	For neuer for \emptyset woo ne shall I lette	For neuer for noo woo ne shal I lette	For neuer for \emptyset woo ne shall I lette ·
440	To serue hir how ferre so that she wende ·	To seruen hir, how ferre so that she wende	To seruen hir how fer so that she wende	To seruen hir howe ferre \emptyset that she wende	To seruen here, howe ferre \emptyset pat she wende
448	Seid doughtre drede you nought I you assure ·	Seyde doghter, drede yow nought I yow assure	Seide doughter drede not nought I you assure	Saide doughter drede you nought I you assure	Seid doughter drede you not, I you assure ·
449	An othir tercel Egle spake anon	Another tercel egle, spake anoon	A nother tercel Egle spak anon	And another Tersell egle spake anoon	An other Tarcell Egle spake anoon
452	Or at \emptyset leste I loue hir as well as ye ·	Or atte lest, I love hyr as wel as ye	Or at the leste I loue hir as wel as ye	Or at the lest I loue hir as well as ye	Or at the laste I loue here as well as ye
454	And if she shuld haue louyd for longe louynge	And yf she shulde have loued, for long lovyng	And yif ye sholde haue loued for long louynge	And if she shulde haue loued for long louyng	And if she shold haue loued for long louyng

457	Vnkinde langler or rebell any wyse ·	Vnkynde langler, or rebel any wyse	Vnkynde lanlore or rebel any wise	Vnkind iangler or rebell in any wise	Vnkynde langeloure or rebell in any wise
460	As well as my witte kan me suffyse	as wel as my wytte, kan me suffise	as wel as my wyt kan me suffise	As well as my witte can me suffice	As well as any witt can me suffise ·
461	Fro poynte to poynte hir honoure for to saue·	Fro poynt to poynt, hir honour for to save	Fro point in point hire honore for to saue	Fro point to point hir honnour for to saue	Fro poynt to poynt, hir honours for to saue
462	Take she my life and all the good I haue ·	Take she my lyfe, and al the good I have	Take she my lif and al the good I haue	Take she my lif and Ø the good I haue	Take eke my lif, and all the good I haue
466	Forth with his make or with his ladi dere	Forth with hys make, or with hys lady dere	For with his make or with his lady dere	For with his make or with his lady dere	Forth with his make · or with his lady dere
467	And eke hir self ne wull nought here ·	And eke hir selfe, ne wol nought here	And ek hir self ne wol nought here	And eke hir self ne wolde nought here	And eek nature hir silf ne woll not here
468	For taryenge here nought half that I wold sey	For taryinge here nought half, that I wolde sey	For tarying here nought half þat I wolde say	For tareing here nought half Ø I wold saye	For tareyng here not half Ø I woll seie
471	But as possible is me to dye to day	But as possible ys me, to dye to day	But as possible is me to dey to day	But as possible is me to dye to day	But as possible is me to die to day
472	For woo as he þat hath be languysshynge	For woo, as he that hath ben langwysshyng	For wo as he that hath ben languyssing	For woo as they that Ø ben languisshing	For woo as they that Ø been languysshing
476	Then som man doth that hath seruid full yore	Than some man dooth, that hath serued Ø yore	Than som man dooth that hath serued ful yoore	Than sume man doith that hath serued ful yore	Than som man doth þat hath seruid full yore
493	That wel wende I the wode had alto shyueryd	That wel wende I, the woode had al to shyuered	That wel wende I the wode hadde al to shyuered	That wel wende I the wode had Ø to sheuere	That well wende I the wordle had all to shevered

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494	Come of thei cride allas ye woll vs shende ·	Come of they cride, allas ye wol vs shende	Com of the cryed allas ye wolde vs shende	Come of they cried alas ye wol be shende	Come of they cride allas ye woll vs shende
497	For ye or nay without any prevue ·	For yee or nay, with outen any preve	For ye or nay with outen any preeue	For ye and nay withoute any preue	For ye or nay with outen any preve ·
498	The goos the Duke Ø the cuckow also	The gos the duk, and the cuckowe also	The goos the doke and the cokkow also	The goos the duk and the cokkove also	The goos the doke · and the cokkove also
504	For watyr foule who so be glad or blith	For watir foule, who so be wrothe or blythe	For water foule who so be wroth or blith	For water foule who so be lothe or blithe	For water fowle who so be wroth or blith
505	And I for wormfoule seyde the fole kuckow ·	And I for wormefoule, seyde the foole cuckowe	And I for wormfowle seid the fool kokkow	And I for worme foule saide the fool cokkow	And Ø for wormefowle said the fole cokkove ·
507	For comvne spede take on me the charge now ·	For comvne spede, take on me the charge nowe	For comune speed take on me the charge now	For comen spede take on me the charge nowe	For comen spede take on me the charge nowe
508	For to deliueryn vs is grete charite ·	Fore for to delyueren vs, ys grete charite	For to delyueren vs is grete charite	For to deliueren vs is gret charite	For for to delyuer vs, is grete charite
511	A wight may speke him were as good be styl	A wyght may speke, hym were as good be stille	A Wyght may speke hym were as Ø be still	A wight may speke him were as good be stille	Awight may speke, hy were as good be still
512	I am a sed foule oon the vnworthiest ·	I am A sede foule, oon the vnworthieste	I am a seedfowle oon of the worthiest	I am a sede foule oon the worthyest	I am a seed foule oon of the worthiest
514	But bettre is that a wightes tonge reste ·	But better ys, that a wightys tonge reste	But better is that a wightes tonge rest	But better is that al wightes tonge rest	But bettir is that a wighte tunge rest
516	Of which he neithir rede kan nor synge ·	Of which he neyther rede kan, nor synge	Of swich he neither rede kan nor synge	Of whiche he neither rede can nor syng	Of which he, neider rede can ne synge

519	Nature which that alway had an ere	Nature which that alway, had an ere	Nature which pat alwey hadde an ere	Ø whiche that alwey had an ere	Nature which that allwey had an ere ·
520	To murmoure of the lewdenesse behinde ·	To murmour of the lewdenesse behynde	To []rme of the lewednesse by hynde	To the murmour of the loudnesse byhinde	To mormor of the lewdenesse behynd
523	Yow for to delivern and from this noise vnbynde ·	Yow for to delyueren and from this noyse vnbynde	Yow for to delyueren Ø from pis noyse vnbynde	You Ø to deliueren and from this noise vnbynde	Yowe Ø to delyueren, and fro the noise vnbynde
524	I iugge of euery folke men shall oon calle ·	I iugge of euery folle , men shal one calle	I iugge of euery flok men shall oon calle	I Iugge of euery fole me shal oon calle	A luge of euery folke men sholde oon call
525	To seyn the vordit for you foulis alle	To seyne the veirdit for yow foules alle	To seyn the vordyt for you fowles alle	To say the verdit for you Ø alle	To seyen the verdit for you fowlis all
527	The briddis al and the foulis of Rauyn	The briddes alle, and the foules of ravyne	be briddes al and the foules of rauyne	That birdis al and Ø foules of rauyne	That briddis all and pe fowlis of Raveyne ·
529	The tercelet of the faukon to dyffyne ·	The tercelet of the faukon, to dyffyne	The tercelet of the faukon to defyne	The tarselet of the faukon to deuyne	The tarcelet of the faukon to dyuyne
530	All her sentence and as him lust to termyne ·	All her sentence, and as hym lyst to termyne	All hir sentence and as hym list to termyne	Alle hir sentence and as him list to termyne	All here sentens Ø as hym liste to termyne
533	The tercelet seid then yn this manere	The tercelet seyde thanne, in this manere	The tercelet seid than in this manere	The tarselet saide Ø in this manere	The tarcellet said than in this manere
534	Ful harde were it to preue it bi reson	Ful harde were hyt, to preven hyt by reson	Full harde were it to preuen it by reson	For harde it were to preuen it by raison	Ful harde it were to preven it by reason
537	That bi skilles may non be brought a doun	That by skylles may non, be broght a don	That by skeles may noon be brought a down	That Ø skyllys Ø noon be brought a doon	That Ø skilles may noon be brought a doon

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539	Then semyth it ther moste be bataile ·	Than semeth hit, ther moste be bataylle	Then semeth it there moste be bataille	Than semeth it were most by bataille	Than semyth it there moste be bataile ·
540	Al redi quoth this Egles tercellis tho	Al redy quod these Egles, tercelis thoo	All redy quod thise Egeles tercelis tho	Alle redy quod these egles tarsellys thoo	All redy quod thise Egles tarcelles two ·
545	Owrys is the vois that han the charge in honde·	Oures is the voys, that han the charge in honde	Oures is the voys þat han the charge in hande	Oures is the voix that haue the charge in honde	Oures is the voice, that haue þe charge on honde
549	Of knyghthode Ø lengist had vsid hitte ·	Of kyngthode, and lengest had vsed hitte	Of knyghthode and lengest had vsed it	Of knighthode and longest hade vsed it	Of knyghthode, and longest had vsed itte
551	Were sittyng to hir if that hir lest	Were syttyng for hir, yf that hir leste	Were sittyng for hir if that hir lest	Were sitting for hir if that hir list	Were sityng for here, if that here liste ·
553	Which that he be for it is light to know	Which that he be, for hyt is lyght to knowe	Which þat he be for it is lyght to knowe	Whiche that he be for it is light to knowe	Which that he be, for that is light to knowe ·
555	To gedir and of shorte auisement	to gedir, and of shorte auyusement	To gider and of short auyusement	To gedre and of a short auisement	To gedir, and of shorte auisement
556	When euerich had his large golee seyde ·	Whan euerych had hys large, goler seyde	Whan euerych had his large golee seide	Whan eueriche hade his large gole saide	When euerych hadde his large golee said
557	Lines 557-558 in order	Lines 557-558 in order	Lines 557-558 in order	Lines 557-558 reversed	Lines 557-558 in order
560	Shal telloure tale and preid to god hir spede·	Shal telleoure tale, and preyde to god hir spede	Shal telloure tale and preide to god hire spede	Shal oure tale telle and pray to god hir spede	Shall telloure tale and preid to god here spede ·
562	The goos to speke and in hir cakelynge ·	The goos to speke, and in hir cakelynge	The goos to speke and in hir caklyng	The goos to speke and in hir cakeling	The goos to speke · and in Ø kakelyng
569	Quoth the Sperhauke neuyr mote she the ·	Quod the Sperhauke, neuer mote she thee	Quod tho the Sperhauke neuer mote she thee	Quod the spearehauke neuer mutte she thee	Quod tho the Sperhauke neuer mote she the

570	Lo such it is to haue a tonge loos	Loo suche hyt ys, to haue a tonge loos	Loo swich it is to haue a tonge loos	Loo suche \emptyset is to haue a tonge lose	Loo suche it is to haue A tonge loos
571	Now parde fole yet were it bet for the ·	Now parde foole, yet were hit bet for the	Now pardee fool yit were it best for the	Now parde fole yet were it bet for the	Nowe parde fooll · yit were it bett for the
573	hit lith not in his witte nor in his wyll ·	Hyt lyth not in hys wytte, nor in hys wille	It lithe naught in his wit nor in his wyll	It lieth not in his witte ner in his wille	It lieth nought in thy witte not in thy will
577	The turtyll trew and gan hir to hem calle ·	the turtel trewe, and gan hir to hem calle	be turtyl trew and gan hire to hem call	The turtyll trewe and gan \emptyset to him calle	The turtill true and ganne \emptyset to hem call
579	Of this matere and askid what she rad ·	Of thys matere, and asked what she radde	On this matere and asked what she radde	Of this matere and asked what she radde	Of this mater and asked what she radde
582	Nay god forbede a louer shuld chaunge ·	Nay god forbede, a lover shulde chaunge	Nay god forbede a louer shold chaunge	Nay god forbede a louer shulde chaunge	Nay god forbede A louer \emptyset chaunge ·
584	Theigh that his ladi euyrmore be straunge ·	thought that hys lady, euer more be straunge	Theigh that his lady euermore be straunge	Though that his lady euermore be straunge	Though þat his lady · euermore be straunge ·
585	Yet lete him serue hir euermore till he be ded ·	Yet let hym serue hir, euer \emptyset tyl he be dede	Yet lat hym serue hir euer \emptyset tyl he be dede	Yet lete him serue hir euermore till he be dede	Yit lete hym serue hir euermore, till he be dede
587	For theigh she deid I wolde non othir make	For thoygh she deyed, I wolde noon other make	For they she deide I wolde noon oother make	For though she died I wold noon othir make	For þough she died I wold noon othir take
590	That men shuldin louen alwey causeles	That men shulden alwey, louen causeles	That men sholde alwey louen causeles	That men shulde loue alwey causeless	That men shold loue alwey causeles
592	Dauncyth he mery that is merthles	Daunceth he murye , that ys murtheles	Daunceth he murye þat is murtheles	Daunceth he []	Dauncith he mery that is myrthlees
594	Ye quek quoth the duk ful wel and faire ·	Ye quek quod the duk, ful wel and faire	Ye quek \emptyset the dok ful wel and faire	Ye quake said the duk ful wel and faire	Ye queke queke said þe doke, full wele and faire

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596	Now fye cherle quoth the gentill tercelette	Now fye cherle, quod the gentil tercelet	Now fy cherl quod the gentyl turcelete	Nowe fye churle quod the Ø tarselet	Nowe fye chorle quod the Ø Tarcellet
601	Thi kynde is of so lowe a wrechidnesse ·	Thy kynde ys of so lowe, a wretchednesse	Thi kinde is of so lowe a wrecchednesse	The kinde is of so lowe a wrechidnesse	Thy kynde is of so lowe A wrecchidnesse
603	Tho gan the cukkow put him forth in pres	Thoo gan the cukkow, put hym forth in pres	Tho gan the cokkow put hym forth in prees	Tho ganne the cokkowe put him forth in prees	Thoo gan the Cokkowe put hym forth in pees
605	So I quoth he may haue my make in pes	So I quod he, may haue my make in pes	So I quod he may haue my make in pees	So I may haue quod he my make in pees	So I quod he may haue, my make in pees
606	I rech not how longe that ye stryue ·	I reche not how longe, that ye stryve	I recch naught how longe þat ye stryue	I recche not howe longe Ø ye stryue	I recche not howe longe that ye stryve ·
608	This is my rede syn thei may not acorde	This ys my rede, syn they may not acorde	This is my rede syn they may nat acorde	This is my rede sith they may not accorde	This is my rede, syn þei may not accord
612	Thou mordre of Ø hay sogge on the braunche	Thou mordre of Ø haysogge, on the braunche	Þu morthere of þe heysugge on the braunch	Thou murtherer of the haisuke on the braunche	Thowe morthere of the heisugge, on the braunche
616	Goo lewde be thow while the worlde may dure	Goo lewde be thou, while the worlde may dure	Go lewde be þou while the worlde may dure	Goo lewde be thou while the world may endure	Go lewde be þou, while þe wordle may dure
619	And in effecte yet be we neuyr the nere ·	And in effecte yet, be we neuer the nere	And in effect yet be we neuer the nere	For in effect yet be we neuer the nere	For in effect yit be we neuer the nere
623	hym that she cheest he shall han hir as swith	Hym that she cheest, he shal han hir as swithe	Hym þat she cheest he shal hire han as swith	Him that she chesith he shal hir haue as swythe	Hy þat she chest, he shall here han as swith
635	As for the gentillest and moste worthy ·	As for the gentilest, and moste worthy	As for the gentylest and moost worthie	And for the gentillest and moost worthy	As for the gentilest and most worthy ·

637	That it ought to be to you a suffisaunce ·	That to yow hyt ought, to ben a suffisaunce	That to you it ought to ben a suffisaunce	That to you it might to ben a suffisance	That to you it ought to ben a suffisaunce ·
640	Soth is that I am euyr vndir youre yerde ·	Sooth ys that I am euer, vnder youre yerde	Sooth is þat I am euer vnder youre yerde	Sith it is that I am euer vndre your yerde	Soth is þat I am euer, vnder youre yerde
642	And moste be yourys while my life may dure ·	And moste be youres, while my lyf may dure	And moste be youres while my lif may dure	And must be youres while my lif may endure	And must be yor while my lif may endure
644	And myn entente I shall you seyn right sone ·	And myn entent, yow wol I sey ryght soone	And myn entent þou wol y sey right soone	And myn entent I will you say right sone	And myn intent I woll you shewe right sone
650	This all and som that I wolde speke and seye	Thys al and some, that I wolde speke and seye	This al and som þat I wolde speke and seye	This is al and sume that I wold speke and saye	This is all and some, þat I wold speke and saie
652	I wull not serue Venus ne Cupide ·	I wolle nocht seruen Venus ne Cipride	I wol nought seruen venus ne Cipride	I wol not serue Venus nor Cupide	I woll not seruen Venus nor Cupide
654	Now syn it may non othir weyes betyde ·	Now syn hyt may, noon other weyes betide	Now syn it may noon other weies betyde	Nowe syn it may noon other weye betide	Nowe syn it may noon othir wise be tyde
658	And seide hem thus as ye shall aftir here ·	And seyde hem thus, as ye shal after here	And seide hem thus as ye shal after here	And saied them thus as ye shal Ø here	And said hem thus as ye shall aftir here ·
659	To you speke I ye terceletys quoth Nature ·	To yow speke I, yee terceletys quod nature	To you spek I ye terceletts quod nature	To you speke I ye tarcelletts quod nature	To you speke I the Tarcelletis quod nature
664	Fro you this yere what aftir so bifall	Fro yow thys yere, what after so be falle	For you this yhere what after so by fall	Fro you this yere what after so be falle	For you þis yere, what aftir so befall
665	This entremesse is dressid fro you all	This entremesse ys dressed fro yow alle	This entremees Ø dressed fro you all	This entremesse is dressed fro you alle	This entir mese is dressid fro you all

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666	And when this werke al wrought was to an ende ·	And whan thys werke, al wrought was to an ende	And whan pis werke al wrought was to an ende	And whan this woorked al wrought was to an ende	And when Ø werk all wrought was to an ende ·
669	A lorde the blisse and ioye that thei make ·	A lorde the blysse and Ioy, that they make	And lord the blysse and ioy that they make	And lord the blisse and Ioy that they made	And lorde the blisse and ioye, that they make
670	For ech of hem gan othir in wynges take ·	For eche of hem gan other, in wynges take	For ych of hem gan oother in wynges take	for eche of them goon other in his wynges take	For eche of hem gan othir in whyngis take
672	Thonkyng alwey the noble goddesse of kynde ·	Thonkyng alwey, the noble goddesse of kynde	Touching alwey the noble goddess of kynde	Thanking alwey the noble goddesse of kynde	Thankyng allwey the noubel goddess of kynde ·
675	To syng a Roundel at her departyng ·	To syng a Roundel, at her departyng	To syng a rounde at hir departyng	To syng a roundell at hir departing	To syng a roundell at hir departyng
676	To do Nature honoure and plesaunce ·	To do nature honour, and plesaunce	To do nature honoure and plesance	To danne nature honour and plesaunce	To do nature honoure and plesaunce
677	The note I trow makyd was yn Fraunce	The note I trowe, maked was in Fraunce	The note I trowe makid was in france	The note I trowe was made in Fraunce	The note I trowe, made was in Fraunce ·
679	he nexte vers as I now haue in mynde ·	The nexte vers, as I now haue in mynde	The next vers as I now haue in mynde	The next vers as ye haue nowe in mynde	The next vers · as I nowe haue in mynde ·
688	hat foulis made at her flight a way	That foules made, at her flyght a way	That foules made at her flight a way	The foules made at thair flight away	That fowlis made, at here flight away ·
691	I hope I wis to rede so som day	I hope ywyse, to rede so somday	I hope I wis to rede Ø som day	I hope ywisse to rede so sume day	I hope I wis to rede so some day
693	he bet and thus to rede I wull not spare ·	The bet and thus to rede, I wol not spare	The bette and thus to rede I nyl not spare	The bette and this to rede I wol not spare	The bettir and thus to rede I woll not spare ·

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