

**THE MIDDLE ENGLISH IDEAL OF  
PERSONAL BEAUTY: AS FOUND  
IN THE METRICAL ROMANCES,  
CHRONICLES, AND LEGENDS OF  
THE XIII, XIV, AND XV CENTURIES**

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The Middle English Ideal of Personal Beauty: As Found in the Metrical Romances, Chronicles, and Legends of the XIII, XIV, and XV Centuries by Walter Clyde Curry

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**WALTER CLYDE CURRY**

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The Middle English Ideal of Personal Beauty;  
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XIII, XIV, and XV Centuries.

BY

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## PREFACE

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In May of 1915 this study was presented to the Faculty of Arts and Sciences of Leland Stanford Junior University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. It is now being published in the hope that it may throw some light on the customs and manners of the English people of the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth centuries, on the entirely conventional habits of thought and expression as found in the literature of the time, and on the debt of Middle English literature to other literatures of medieval times. Within the restricted limits of the field of research, my prime object, both in the collection and in the presentation of material, has been thoroughness and accuracy; so that those who may be interested in this particular subject may find here a reasonably trustworthy work of reference.

I gratefully acknowledge my indebtedness to the authorities of the University, and my specific obligations to Professors H. D. Gray, O. M. Johnston, and Dr. A. G. Kennedy, and especially to Professor R. M. Alden, under whose direction this dissertation was completed, for his sympathetic advice and invaluable suggestions. I wish also to pay high tribute to the inspiring example of sound scholarship and patient and penetrating criticism of my master, the late Doctor Ewald Flügel, under whose guidance this work was begun and almost finished.

WALTER CLYDE CURRY.

Vanderbilt University, October, 1916.

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### ROMANCES.

Adler.	Kinge Adler, ed. J. W. Hales and F. J. Furnivall, <i>Percy Folio MS.</i> Lon. 1867-8, Vol. II, 269 ff.
Alis A.	Alisaunder, ed. W. W. Skeat, EETS. I, 1890.
Alis B.	Alexander and Dindemus, ed. W. W. Skeat, EETS. E. S. 31, 1878.
Alis C.	The Wars of Alexander, ed. W. W. Skeat, EETS. E. S. 47.
Alis L.	Alisaunder, ed. Weber, <i>Metrical Romances</i> , Edin. 1810, Vol. I.
Amad.	Sir Amadace, ed. J. Robson, <i>Three Early English Metrical Romances</i> , Camden Society, 1842.
Am & Am.	Amis and Amiloun, ed. E. Koelbing, <i>Alteng. Bibliothek</i> , Heil. 1884, Vol. II.
Arth.	Arthur, ed. Furnivall, EETS. 2, 1868-9.
Arth. & Merl.	Arthur and Merlin, ed. E. Koelbing, <i>Alteng. Bibl.</i> Vol. IV. 1890.
Chev. Assig.	Cheulere Assigne, ed. H. G. Gibbs, EETS. E. S. 6, 1868.
Athel.	Athelstan, ed. Zupitza, <i>Eng. Studien</i> , Vol. XIII. p. 331.
Awn. Arth.	The Awntyrs of Arthure, ed. F. J. Amours, <i>Scottish Alliterative Poems</i> , Scot. Text Soc. 1897.
Avow. Arth.	The Avowing of Arthur, ed. Robson, <i>Three Early Eng. Rom.</i> 1842.
Beryn.	The Tale of Beryn, ed. Furnivall and Stone, EETS. E. S. 105.
Bev.	Sir Bevis of Hamtoun, ed. Koelbing, EETS. E. S. 46, 48, 60, 1885.
Bon. Flor.	Le Bons Florence of Rome, ed. Ritson, <i>Ancient English Metrical Romances</i> , London, 1802, Vol. III. p. 1 ff. Notes, p. 340 ff.
Cleges	Sir Clages, ed. Weber, <i>Met. Rom.</i> Vol. I. 1810.
Degrev.	Sir Degrevant, ed. Halliwell, <i>Thornton Romances</i> , Camden Society, 1844.
Dest. Tr.	The 'Geste Hystoriale' of the Destruction of Troy, ed. G. A. Panton and D. Donaldson, EETS. O. S. 39, 56. 1869, 1874.
Eger & Gr.	Eger and Grine, ed. Hales and Furnivall, <i>Percy Fol. MS.</i> Vol. I. also ed. Laing, <i>Early Popular Poetry of Scotland</i> , Vol. II. 1895.
Eglam.	Sir Aglamour of Artois, ed. G. Schleich, <i>Palæstra</i> , Vol. LIII. 1906.
Erl. Tol.	The Erl of Toulous, ed. G. Luedtke, Berlin, 1881.
Emar.	Emaré, ed. E. Rickart, EETS. E. S. 99, Lon. 1906.



- Erceel. Thomas of Erceeldoune, ed. J. A. H. Murray, EETS. 61, Lon. 1875.
- Ferum. Sir Ferumbras, ed. S. J. Herrtage, EETS. E. S. 34, Lon. 1878.
- FL & Bl. Floris and Blanchefleur, ed. McKnight, EETS. O. S. Lon. 1901, Vol. 14.
- Gaw. & Gr. Kn. Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, ed. R. Morris, EETS. O. S. 4, 1884-9.
- Gam. Gamelyn, ed. W. W. Skeat, Oxford, 1884.
- Gol. & Gaw. Golagrus and Gawain, ed. F. J. Amours for Scot. Text Soc. 1897.
- Gowth. Sir Gowther, ed. Breul, Berlin, 1883.
- Gower. Confessio Amantis, Gower, ed. G. C. Macaulay, 1901.
- Guy A. Guy of Warwick (ms. Auch.), ed. J. Zupitza, EETS. E. S. 42, 49, 59; Guy B. (ms. Cambr.), EETS. E. S. 25, 26; Guy C. (ms. Caius), EETS. E. S. 42, 49, 59.
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- Havel. Havelok, ed. Skeat, EETS. E. S. iv. 1867. (Holthausen, *Alt- und mittelh. Texte* also used.)
- Horn Ch. Horn Child and Maiden Rinnild, ed. J. Caro, *Eng. Stud.* XII. 322.
- Iw. & Gw. Iwain and Gawain, ed. Ritson, *Asc. Eng. Met. Rom.* 1802, Vol. 1.
- Isum. Sir Isumbras, ed. Zupitza and Schleich, *Palaestra*, xv. 1901.
- Ipoma. Ipomedon, ed. Koelbing, Breslau, 1889.
- Joa. Arim. Joseph of Arimathie, ed. W. W. Skeat, EETS. E. S. 44, 1871.
- Kn. of Cour. The Knight of Courtesy, ed. Ritson, *A. E. M. R.* Vol. III. 1802.
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- Le Mort. Arth. Le Morte Arthur, ed. J. D. Bruce, EETS. E. S. 88, 1903.
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- Orf. Sir Orfeo, ed. Zielke (ms. Auch.); ed. Laing, *Early Popular Poetry of Scotland*, Vol. 1.
- Otuel. Otuel, ed. Herrtage, EETS. E. S. 39, 1882.
- Oct S. Octavian (Southern version); Octavian (Northern Version), ed. G. Sarrazin, *Altengl. Bibl.* Vol. III. 1885.

Parton.	Partonope of Blois, ed. Boedtker, EETS. E. S. 109, 1912.
Perc. Gal.	Sir Percival of Galles, ed. Campion and Holthausen, Heidelb. 1913.
Pist. Sus.	The Pistill of Susan, ed. Amours, Scot. Text Soc. 27, 38, 1892-97.
Rich.	Richard Cœur de Lion, ed. Weber, <i>Met. Rom.</i> 1810, Vol. II.
Rol. & Ot.	Roland and Otuel, ed. Herrtage, EETS. E. S. 35, 1881.
Rol. & Vern.	Roland and Vernagu, ed. Herrtage, EETS. E. S. 39, 1882.
Sev. Sag.	Seven Sages, ed. Weber, <i>Met. Rom.</i> 1810, Vol. III.
Sow. Bab.	The Sowdowne of Babylone, ed. E. Hausknecht, EETS. E. S. 38.
Sege Mel.	The Sege of Melayne, ed. Herrtage, EETS. E. S. 35, 1880.
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Tara.	The King of Tars, ed. F. Krause, <i>Engl. Stud.</i> XI.
Torr.	Torrent of Portyngale, ed. E. Adam, EETS. E. S. 51, 1887.
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