

‘WHERE OF IS MAD AL MANKYNDE’
An Edition of and Introduction to the Twenty-Four Poems
in Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS Digby 102

PROEFSCHRIFT

ter verkrijging van
de graad van Doctor aan de Universiteit Leiden,
op gezag van Rector Magnificus prof. mr. P.F. van der Heijden,
volgens besluit van het College voor Promoties
te verdedigen op woensdag 21 oktober 2009
klokke 16.15 uur

door

LOUIS JOHAN PHILIP VERHEIJ

geboren te Pernis
in 1931

Promotiecommissie:

promotor: Prof. dr. R.H. Bremmer

overige leden: Prof. dr. W. van Anrooij
Prof. dr. I.M. Tiekens-Boon van Ostade
Dr. E.S. Kooper

Cover: detail from Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale de France, MS fr. 126, fol. 7r (Alain Chartier, *Le quadrilogue invectif*); from J. Huizinga (1919), *Herfsttij der middeleeuwen*, Amsterdam (repr. 1997), p. 56. Cover design: Femke Prinsen

90
The man be wyl that be eth affate done god
of counseil of double entendement (and) here
of rymitye and pzeney late And coryngly
fit by fals affent fims zong to gyno iugement
In enen here talke ze lede Marche bo good amfement
Agan knowe thy self lone god & here of here god
and knowe thy selme of that oney puple haft con
namme/ nocht for the lone of ten or the cime of yinge
not a comone in gpendance/withe vnto they was
Distamced here. o. talke in enen here of fithen ffamoy
& benge ammed man knowe thy self lone god & here of
The manne comone of hane or lordshipe or
rite/ the puple is gode & not compe/ thold they be
seget to compe seget Somepe the puple in vnto
In the vntamments that go here and ze hole
lone in chapted knowe thy self lone god & here of here
man hot that hath vnto these weles gode both
not ho falle is gode be olectly hnt and land & ood
& pme & blis/ God hole hane yetemng p vnto of
men and rloth the leste chere/ p by geting thy
holdng thy spending myo/ Agan knowe thy self
lone god & here of here of here of here of here of here
man is gode and al god vnto/ God hole hane yetemng
of wylt & byong hold it is vnto/ man not vnto thyn
alle god lent and bothes thng not hane ful need
and vnto thy soule is gode yetemng vnto that hole
in lone & here of here of here of here of here of here
Some of al vnto fims ze lone god for henev mee/ gyno
hym thyn hert fyo fleschly delis/ for worldly vnto
ze softly myo/ and foole vnto may not exed/ In
begynnyng to be vnto/ knowe thy self lone god & here of
And ze hole vnto thyn molde ze ley/ what man
myfnech hys soule to cancel out hym be let of god
to be/ the abletly hym self may to hane/ fychesse

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	ix
Abbreviations	xi
1 Introduction	1
2 Description and Contents of MS Digby 102	5
2.1 Physical Description of the Manuscript	5
2.2 Execution of the Text	8
2.3 The Dating of the Poems	10
2.4 The Dialect of the Poems	12
2.5 Editorial Policy	17
2.5.1 The Guiding Principle	17
2.5.2 Punctuation	19
2.5.3 Spelling	20
2.5.4 Emendations and Additions	21
2.5.5 Glossarial Definitions	21
3 Literary and Cultural Backgrounds	23
3.1 Authorship	23
3.1.1 One Author?	23
3.1.2 Identity of the Author	25
3.2 Audience	32
3.3 The Style	36
3.3.1 Versification	36
3.3.2 Imagery	41
3.4 Cultural Background	44
3.4.1 The Body Politic	45
3.4.1.1 The Concept	45
3.4.1.2 The Flawed Reality	51
3.4.2 Man	58
3.4.2.1 Man's Flawed Nature	58
3.4.2.2 Jeopardizing Social Harmony	60
3.4.2.3 In Need of Spiritual Reform	62
3.4.2.4 In Search of God	66

The Poems (title and <i>first line</i>)	71
I Loue God and drede (<i>Eche man be war, that bereth astate</i>)	71
II Mede and muche thank (<i>In blossemed buske I bode boote</i>)	79
III Treuth, reste and pes (<i>For drede ofte my lippes y steke</i>)	83
IV Lerne say wele, say litel, or say no3t (<i>As þe see doþ ebbe and flowe</i>)	92
V Wyt and wille (<i>Man, be war of wikkid counsaile</i>)	102
VI To lyf bodyly is perylous (<i>Lerne bodyly to lyue</i>)	106
VII Man, know thy self, and lerne to dye (<i>Mannys soule is sotyl and queynt</i>)	110
VIII A good makynge of iour delaye (<i>Man, haue hit in þy þou3t</i>)	115
IX With God of loue and pes 3e trete (<i>This holy tyme make 3ow clene</i>)	121
X A good steryng to heuenwarde (<i>Many man is loþ to here</i>)	129
XI God and man ben made atte on (<i>Glade in God, þis solempne fest</i>)	137
XII God kepe oure Kyng and saue the Croune (<i>Glade in God, calle hom 3oure herte</i>)	142
XIII Dede is worchyng (<i>Whanne alle a kyngdom gadrid ysse</i>)	149
XIV Man, be warre er the be woo (<i>The herrere degre, þe more wys</i>)	156
XV The descryuyng of mannes membres (<i>Where of is mad al mankynde</i>)	161
XVI A remembraunce of lij folyes (<i>Loke how Flaundres doþ fare wiþ his folyhede</i>)	167
XVII Loue that God loueth (<i>That ilke man wole lerne wel</i>)	173
XVIII The declaryng of Religioun (<i>Who þat wole knowe condicion</i>)	181
XIX [title lacking in MS] (<i>In my conscience I fynde</i>)	189
XX [title lacking in MS] (<i>The tixt of holy writ, men sayn</i>)	194
XXI A lernyng to good leuyng (<i>Pore of spirit blessed be</i>)	202
XXII Knowe thy self and thy God (<i>Thenke hertely in þy þou3t</i>)	209
XXIII Of the sacrament of the Altere (<i>I wole be mendid 3if y say mys</i>)	213
XXIV The Lessouns of the Dirige (<i>Almy3ty God, Lord, me spare</i>)	220
 Bibliography	 235
 Appendices	 241
1 Table of Dates	241
2 LALME LP 7770 (<i>Piers Plowman</i>) Compared with the Corresponding LP of the Poems	243
3 The Poems in <i>A Manual of the Writings in Middle English</i>	249
 Glossary	 251
 Index to Biblical and Apocryphal Quotations	 293
 Index to Introduction and Commentary	 295
 Samenvatting	 299
 Curriculum Vitae	 303

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Dr. Margaret Laing recently confessed that the founding father of the *Linguistic Atlas of Late Medieval English*, the renowned Angus McIntosh, at the prospect of that truly daunting project coined the phrase ‘hopeful hubris’. This was my sentiment exactly when I started out on my own enterprise of re-editing the twenty-four anonymous late-medieval poems in Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS Digby 102, more than a hundred years after Dr. Joseph Kail published his, the first edition.

As an incurable – and old-fashioned – romanticist, I have built my analysis of the Digby Poems around the figure of a medieval monk-cum-clerk whom over the years I have learned to appreciate as a man of many parts, and in some respects as a kindred spirit, in whom exultation and gloom, high beliefs and hard pragmatism had an equal share. I took on the project also in the hope of producing a study that would not only give satisfaction to myself, from whatever ambition, but would also open another attractive window for the interested reader upon the thinking, practices and conditions in late-medieval English society.

If these ambitions have in some measure been realized, it is only fitting that I acknowledge the debt of gratitude that I owe to my supervisor, Professor Rolf Bremmer of Leiden University. As long ago as 1998 he gave me the first scent of the Digby Poems as the subject for a graduation paper that in subsequent years developed into the present study.

An equal share of grateful thanks are due to my wife for sacrificing so much time otherwise enjoyed in relaxed retirement. I hope I will be given time to catch up on hours lost in past years.

I further want to thank Professor Michael Benskin, who took special time out to examine, and pronounce an opinion on, the scribal hand of the manuscript text *in situ* in the Bodleian Library. I also wish to express my appreciation for Dr. Margaret Laing’s advice on how best to tackle the problem of identifying the scribal dialect. Deep-felt thanks, finally, are due to Dr. Sándor Chardonens, who helped me organize the glossary, and formatted the lay-out of the text, to Femke Prinsen for an inspired cover design, and to Rosanne Hebing for her contribution to the glossarial format.

Sometimes the unthinkable becomes reality. At about the same time when I wrote my edition of the Digby Poems, Dr. Helen Barr of the University of Oxford prepared her own study. When my text had to go into print, Dr. Barr’s edition was not yet available, so regrettably I can merely acknowledge its announced existence. I have no doubt that in due course a comparison of the two editions will produce profitable new insights, certainly on my part, and hopefully on the part of the interested reader.

ABBREVIATIONS

<i>adj.</i>	adjective
<i>adv.</i>	adverb
<i>art.</i>	article
beg.	beginning
<i>comp.</i>	comparative
<i>conj.</i>	conjunction
<i>def.</i>	definite
<i>dem.</i>	demonstrative
ed(s).	editor(s)
EETS	Early English Text Society
es	extra series
fol(s).	folio(s)
<i>gen.</i>	genitive
<i>ger.</i>	gerund
<i>IMEV</i>	Brown & Robbins, <i>The Index of Middle English Verse</i>
<i>imp.</i>	imperative
<i>impers.</i>	impersonal
<i>indef.</i>	indefinite
<i>inf.</i>	infinitive
<i>interj.</i>	interjection
Kail	Kail, <i>Twenty-Six Political and other Poems</i>
<i>LALME</i>	McIntosh <i>et al.</i> , <i>A Linguistic Atlas of Late Mediaeval English</i>
l(l).	line(s)
LP	Linguistic Profile
ME	Middle English
<i>MED</i>	Kurath <i>et al.</i> , <i>Middle English Dictionary</i>
MnE	Modern English
MS	manuscript
<i>MWME</i>	Hartung <i>et al.</i> , <i>A Manual of the Writings in Middle English, 1050-1500</i>
<i>n.</i>	noun
<i>NIMEV</i>	Boffey & Edwards, <i>A New Index of Middle English Verse</i>
<i>num.</i>	numeral
<i>OED</i>	Murray <i>et al.</i> , <i>Oxford English Dictionary</i>
os	original series
p(p).	page(s)
<i>pers.</i>	personal
<i>pl.</i>	plural

<i>poss.</i>	possessive
<i>ppl.</i>	participle
<i>prep.</i>	preposition
<i>pres.</i>	present
<i>pron.</i>	pronoun
<i>pt.</i>	past
<i>refl.</i>	reflexive
<i>repr.</i>	reprinted
<i>sg.</i>	singular
<i>St.</i>	Stanza
<i>sup.</i>	superlative
<i>transl.</i>	translator
<i>v.</i>	verb

Whiting Whiting, *Proverbs, Sentences and Proverbial Phrases from English Writings mainly before 1500*

wk. weak

For full bibliographic details see the bibliography

All biblical quotations have been taken from the Authorized King James Version