Ælfric, 24–25
Ailred of Rievaulx, 78–79
Albina, story of, 147–49, 179
Anglo-Norman: historiography in, 59, 92–93, 125; literature in, 103, 124, 147–48, 183, 186; romance in, 101, 141–42. See also Brut (Anglo-Norman)
Anglo-Saxon. See Old English appropriation. See poaching; texts
Arthur, King, 86
Arundel 58; colophon of, 178–79, 185
Auchinleck Manuscript, 146–57, 178–87; assembly of, 154–55; composition of, 155–57; contents of, 146–47; date of, 148–49; provenance of, 151–52; sources for, 153–54. See also Legend of Pope Gregory; Richard Coeur de Lyon; Short Chronicle
auctor, defined, 71–73. See also authorship
audiences: for medieval literature, 6; scribes as, 6, 119; for the Short Chronicle, 119–21, 133; varieties of, 102
Augustine of Hippo, 57
authority: and antiquity, 67; of Bede, 76–77, 84–85, 87–88, 91, 95, 99; Bede’s creation of, 79; and compilation, 70; and duplicative copying, 41; and historiography, 8, 74, 76–77, 87–88, 91; and portraits, 4, 6; and quotation, 73, 89; royal, 114; and sacred texts, 73; textual, 70, 83, 88, 99; visual depictions of, 42; and visual organization, 69
authors: Bonaventure’s classification of, 71–72; distinguished from scribes, 1–2, 15–16, 20, 58, 71–72, 101–2; editors’ privileging of, 16; as guarantors of stability, 7; intentionality of, 12–13; portraits of, 2–4, 5–6
authorship: and borrowing, 166–67; claims of, 70, 190; and composition, 165; and copying, 117, 121–22, 157–58; definitions of, 1–2, 157, 165–67; Lydgate on, 33–34; and originality, 104–5; and quotation, 72; scribal, 1–2, 7, 9, 12, 15–16, 20, 58, 71–72, 101–2, 116, 132, 139, 150, 158, 177–87, 189–90
Axbridge, Thomas de, 62–68, 73
Barlow, F., 78n
Barney, S., 32n
Barons’ War, 96, 98, 109
barons, as opponents of the King, 62, 96–98, 106, 109, 111, 139. See also kings; politics
Bartlett, R., 78n
Baswell, C., 36n, 171n
Baudri of Bourgueil, 169–70, 171
Beadle, R., 50–52n, 52
Bede, 2, 60–61, 74–77, 79, 81–82; authority of, 84–85, 87–88, 91, 95, 99; descriptions of, 2–4; historiography of, 79–80; influence of, 74–76, 82–84, 89; recontextualization of, 85–86; as source for the Short Chronicle, 117; sources for, 76–77
Bedier, Joseph, 17
Benjamin, Walter, 37
Bible, copying of, 20–21, 37–38, 40–41, 56–57; as stable text, 20–21; translation of, 56–57; transmission of, 29; Wycliffite, 188
Birkholz, D., 101n, 102
Bishop, Nicholas (scribe of CUL MS Dd.xiv.2), 119, 120–21
Boece (Chaucer), 31–32
Bonaventure, Saint, 71–72
books, trade in, 39–40, 44, 190. See also copying; texts; writing
Bordalejo, B., 29n
borrowing: and authorship, 166–67; of texts, 165–66. See also copying; poaching; texts
Boyle, L., 29z
Bremmer, R. H., 55n
Brown, M., 38n, 47, 170
Brut (Anglo-Norman), 28, 124, 130, 147–48, 149, 186
Brut (Laȝamon), 93, 95, 122
Brut (Middle English), 28, 188, 189
Brut tradition, 15, 28, 91
Bryan, E., 122
Burrow, J. A., 72n
Busby, K., 19
Butors, Bauduins, 176–77, 186
Butterfield, A., 105n

commentators: Bonaventure on, 71–72; and derivative texts, 73. See also glosses compilation, 18, 69–70, 72–73; and authority, 70; Bonaventure on, 71–72; and derivative texts, 69–70, 73; by scribes, 102, 149. See also composition; copying; manuscripts; texts; writing
composition: and authorship, 165; of the Auchinleck Manuscript, 160–62; and copying, 18, 23, 157–58, 165, 176, 183; and historiography, 28, 59; media for, 168–75, 177; and quotation, 7; by scribes, 157–58; scribes excluded from, 6; and translation, 7, 162–63. See also compilation; copying; manuscripts; texts; writing
Confessio Amantis (Gower), 38–39, 41–42
Constitutions of Clarendon, 97
contrafacta, in lyrics, 104–8
Cooper, H., 148, 149n
copying: Ælfric on, 24–25; of the Auchinleck Manuscript, 160–62; by authors, 12, 18, 167–68; and authorship, 117, 121–22, 157–58, 165; and composition, 23, 157–58, 165, 176, 183; consequences of, 59; and correction, 26; definitions and types of, 14–16, 22, 37, 99, 117, 122, 139, 190; duplicative, 18, 37–38, 39–44, 52, 63, 66–68, 73; and historiography, 2, 28; mechanical, 6, 102, 123; moral language associated with, 18–19, 22–23, 122; non-replicative, 117; and originals, 14–17, 46, 65; politics of, 59–60, 144–45; replicative, 37–38,

enactment of, 98–99; forgery of, 47; as texts, 62
Chaucer, Geoffrey, 28–29, 30–31, 190; Canterbury Tales, 28–29, 106; copying of, 12–13; printing of, 28–29; Retractions, 190; translation by, 31–32; unstable texts of, 33; and wax tablets, 170–71
Chronicle (Arundel 58), 179–80, 184–87
Chronicle (Mannyng), 7, 10–11, 96n, 160
Chronicle (Piers Langtoft), 8–11, 43, 45, 96n
civil strife, historical writing on, 95–96
codicology, 19–20
Coleman, J., 42n
Coleridge, Samuel T., 74
Colgrave, B., 75n
canonization: and historiography, 77–79; and royal power, 106–7; and Thomas of Lancaster, 106–7, 113–14, 115
Carly, J., 47n
Carruthers, M., 25n
cartularies, 63, 66
Caxton, William, 28–29
Cerquiglini, B., 17, 19
50–51, 123, 157, 167; transformative, 31, 48, 157; and translation, 37, 55, 162; and transparency, 7, 55, 59. See also compilation; composition; manuscripts; poaching; scribes; texts; writing corrections: and copying, 26; mechanical, 31, 33–34; by scribes, 4–5, 11, 16–17, 20, 22, 26, 29, 35, 58
corruption, as textual metaphor, 22, 29–30. See also morality
Coss, P., 156
D’Aronco, M., 46n
de Certeau, M., 60–61
De Hamel, C., 39, 68n
derivative textuality, 7, 10–11, 60–62, 69–73, 80, 93–96, 147, 157, 167, 180, 183–85, 188. See also texts
*Des Grantz Geanz*, 130, 140, 147–48, 149–51, 154, 158, 165, 187
Despensers, 106, 109, 111
dialect: in the Auchinleck Manuscript, 155; copying of, 32, 53, 55–56, 190; and manuscript identification, 55–56
Doyle, A. I., 50
Dryden, John, 32n
Dutton, P. F., 172n
Eadmer, 169, 172–74
Echerd, A. R., 115n
Edward I, 99
Edward III, 115, 144, 153–54
Edward the Confessor, 78–79
Ekwall, E., 123n
emendations. See corrections
England, history of, 81–82
Eriugena, John Scottus, 171–72
errors: by authors, 18, 177, 186; mechanical, 31, 177; scribal, 4–5, 16–17, 18–20, 23–26, 29, 34–35, 137, 177, 180
*Estoire de Seint Aedward le Rei* (Matthew Paris), 152–54, 158, 167
exemplars, 18, 21–22, 27, 39, 48, 58, 122–23, 149–51, 157–58, 160, 163–65, 167; absence of, 91; access to, 150; for the Auchinleck Manuscript, 155–56; Harley Scribe’s use of, 132, 136–37; quality of, 28; source texts as, 60; and truth, 25; used by Scribe C (Pepys 2125), 50, 52–53; variation in, 27–28. See also copying; manuscripts; scribes; texts
Faletta, M., 88
*Fasciculus morum*, 21–22
Fein, S., 101n, 102n
florilegia, 60, 69; citations in, 70; and derivative texts, 69
forgery, 45, 47–48
*Fouke le Fitz Waryn*, 103, 141–44; date of, 144; political significance of, 144–45
Gaimar, 92
Gamble, H., 20n, 30n
Geoffrey of Monmouth, 8, 10–11, 61, 79, 84–91, 95, 99, 124, 135–38, 186; and historiography, 117; reappropriation of Bede by, 85–87
Gerald of Wales, 89–90, 92
*Gesta regum* (William of Malmesbury), 95, 124–25
Gillespie, V., 40, 73n
Gillingham, J., 88
Given-Wilson, C., 77
glosses, and texts, 41–43, 68, 71. See also commentators
Goetz, S. K., 124n
government, nature of, 97–99
Gower, John, 38–39, 41–43; copying of, 12–13
Gransden, A., 75n
Green, F., 104
Greenway, D., 75n, 80–81
Greetham, D. C., 30
Greg, W., 17
Griffiths, J., 101n
Grosseteste, Robert, 175
Guibert de Nogent, 176
Guido della Colonna, 34, 36
Hailes, Abbey of, 127–30
hands. See scripts
Hanna, R., 6n, 16n, 19n, 30n, 37n, 44n, 123n, 141n, 155n, 156n

Hanning, R., 79

Harley Lyrics, 103–5

Harley Scribe, 100–45, 150, 185; as author, 101, 103, 104–6, 116, 123, 132–33, 139; contrafacta by, 104–6; and the cult of Thomas of Lancaster, 111–15; deletions by, 131; historical accuracy of, 131–33; identification of, 100–101; as local historian, 116; politics of, 140–42; translation by, 103, 142; use of exemplars and sources by, 133, 136–37; writing of the Short Chronicle by, 116–26, 131–32, 139–40, 159, 185

Harrison, M., 153n

Hathaway, N., 72n

Henry II, 97

Henry III, 98, 115, 139

Henry of Huntingdon, 7, 74–75, 79–80, 81–82, 85, 87, 88, 91, 95, 124, 186; as source for the Short Chronicle, 117

Hiatt, A., 28n

Higden, Ranulf. See Polychronicon (Ranulf Higden)

Hill, Richard, 38–39

Historia Anglorum (Henry of Huntingdon), 81–8, 95

Historia Eclesiastica (Bede) 2, 4–5, 10–11, 60–61, 74–77, 79–80

Historia regum Britanniae (Geoffrey of Monmouth), 8, 10–11, 61, 84–91, 95, 117, 137–38, 186; criticism of, 89–91; as source for the Short Chronicle, 135

historiography, 1–2, 73–74, 188; and authority, 8, 74, 76–77, 91; of Bede, 79–80; and canonization, 79; and composition, 28, 59; and copying, 28; and derivative texts, 7; and documents, 65–67, 91–92, 96–98; English, 15, 79–82; of the Harley Scribe, 136–37; of Henry of Huntingdon, 82–83; and history, 88–89, 141; and intertextuality, 6–7, 10, 59–60, 68–69; and law, 91–92; and literature, 117, 121; local, 55–56, 107–8, 116, 127–28, 141, 151–52, 155, 188; and miracles, 77–79; and nationalism, 101; and poetry, 74; and politics, 10; and quotation, 59–60; and rewriting, 123; and romance, 129–30, 133–36, 149, 158; selection in, 74; sources and exemplars in, 2, 60, 76–77, 96; and texts, 62, 93, 95–96; and translation, 60; and truth, 77; vernacular, 7, 15, 124. See also sources

Hobbins, D., 30n

holographs. See manuscripts, holographic

Holy Trinity, Priory of, 63–67

Hudson, A., 40–41, 180n

Huws, D., 46n

illumination. See manuscripts

Inge, in the Short Chronicle, 133–37

intentionality, of scribes, 12–13, 15, 39, 47, 57, 190

intertextuality: in the Auchinleck Manuscript, 155, 157; and historiography, 6–7, 10, 59–60, 68–69, 97; in lyrics, 104–5; in vernacular history, 93

Isabella and Mortimer, 115, 116, 144

Jacobs, N., 163n

James, M. R., 112n

Jean de Meun, depictions of, 4

Jerome, Saint, 56, 57n

Justice, S., 77

Kato, T., 16n

Kelly, A., 65n, 75n

Ker, N., 142

King John, 142–44

King, P., 179n

kings: lists of, 131; power of, 62, 97–98, 109–11. See also barons; politics

Kings of England (Anonymous), 178, 179, 186

Lachmann, Karl, 17

Laing, M., 63n, 67n

Lambeth Scribe, 11

Langtoft, Piers. See Chronicle (Piers Langtoft)

Lapidge, M., 128–29

Larsdatter, K., 170n

Lass, R., 67n

Latin: commentaries in, 41–43; historiography in, 59, 92–93, 125; use of, 62, 136

law: and historiography, 91–92, 94–95; and textuality, 61–62, 121
Laȝamon. See Brut (Laȝamon)
Le Saux, F., 16n
Legend of Pope Gregory, 166, 168–69. See also Auchinleck Manuscript
Li Rei de Engletere, 124–25
Libbon, M., 153n, 159n
Lindisfarne Gospels, 38–39
literacy, 171
localization: of manuscripts, 55–56, 151–52, 155; of texts, 133. See also historiography, local
Loomis, L. H., 156
Lydgate, John: and Chaucer, 33–37; translation by, 34; Troy Book, 34–36
lyrics: mutability of, 124; religious and secular, 103–5
Maddicott, J. R., 110–11, 139n
Magna Carta, 61–62, 91, 93–94, 97–99, 114
Mannyng, Robert. See Chronicle (Mannyng)
manuscripts: defined, 15; as historical artifacts, 63; holographic, 11–12, 18; illumination of, 2, 5, 15, 36, 66; monastic production of, 44; standardized production of, 44; and texts, 43; variety of, 14–15. See also compilation; copying; parchment; scribes; texts; writing
Marches, Welsh, and MS Royal 12.c.xii, 101, 107–8, 111, 116, 126–28, 133, 141
Matthew Paris, 7, 93, 152–54, 167, 187
McQuillen, J. T., 112n
Meilyr, 89–91
Michel, Dan, 18
Middle English: historiography in, 59, 125; lyrics in, 103; manuscripts in, 48; poetry and literature in, 103, 121, 149, 183, 188; translation into, 162
Miller, J., 79n, 128n
Millet, B., 6n, 105n
Mills, M., 160
Minkova, D., 67n
miracles, and historical texts, 77–79
mise-en-page, 39–44, 52, 68–69, 81, 180–81, 190. See also manuscripts
Moll, R., 183
morality, metaphorically associated with copying, 18–19, 22–23, 122
Mordkoff, J., 158n
Morgan, H., 178n
Morgan, N., 36n
Mynors, R. A. B., 75n
nationalism, and historiography, 88–89, 92–93, 96, 101, 136–37
Norman Conquest, historical treatments of, 91–93
O’Farrell-Tate, U., 120n, 131n, 133n, 137n
Office of Saint Thomas of Lancaster, 105–6; changing meanings of, 115–16; date of, 108; political implications of, 145
Old English, use of, 62, 67, 136
Ordinances of 1311, 114, 139
originality: and authorship, 104–5; and copying, 14–15, 16–17, 46, 65, 122; of lyrics, 104–5. See also copying; exemplars; texts
Orme, N., 73n
Page, C., 116n
Page, R. L., 44n
paleography. See scripts, analysis of
parchment: availability of, 171; composition on, 169, 171, 174–77. See also manuscripts; wax tablets; writing
Parkes, M. B., 39, 45, 46n, 47, 68n
Pearsall, D., 16n, 42n
Perloff, M., 7n
Peter Lombard, 71
Philobiblon (Richard de Bury), 25–26
Piers Gaveston, 109, 110, 111, 116, 141
Pilkington, Gilbert (scribe of CUL MS Ff.v.48), 119–20
Pinnockshire, 126–30, 133
poaching, of texts, 61, 80, 83–84, 91, 99. See also copying
poetry: and duplicative copying, 41–42; and history, 74
politics: and the arrangement of texts, 102; of copying, 59–60; and the Harley Scribe, 140–42, 144–45; and historiography, 88, 101; in the Short Chronicle, 140; and Thomas of Lancaster, 114–15
Polychronicon (Ranulf Higden), 12, 70, 168, 170–71n, 190
punctuation in manuscripts, 68–69
Purdie, R., 156, 157n
quotation: and argument, 91; and authority, 73, 89; and authorship, 72; of Bede and Geoffrey of Monmouth, 89; and composition, 7; in derivative texts, 70–71; in Henry of Huntingdon, 83–84; and historiography, 59–60, 80; and translation, 7; varieties of, 73, 80–81, 83; visual organization of, 69

reading, by scribes, 6, 8–9, 53–55, 101–2, 139, 151, 189

Revard, C., 108, 140, 142

rhyme, use of, 163, 165–66

Richard Coeur de Lyon, 158–60, 178, 187; translation of, 160–65. See also Auchinleck Manuscript

Richard de Bury, 25–26

Richard I, 158–60

Robert of Gloucester. See Chronicle (Robert of Gloucester)

Roman de fils du roi Constant (Butors), 176–77

romance: Anglo-Norman, 101; in the Auchinleck Manuscript, 146, 165–66; and history writing, 117, 129–30, 133–36, 149, 158; in the Short Chronicle, 133–36

Rouse, M., 39, 69n, 169, 175

Rouse, R., 39, 69n, 169, 175

Runde, E., 28n, 118n

Saint Alban, in the Short Chronicle, 137

Salter, H. E., 47

scansion: Lydgate on, 34; transmission of, 32–33

Scotland, historical writing about, 96


Scribe 1 (Auchinleck Manuscript), 100, 151, 157–58, 160, 163–65, 187; as author, 157–58

Scribe 2 (Arundel 58), 180, 186

Scribe C (Pepys 2125), 48–56; duplicative copying by, 52; reading by, 52; use of exemplars by, 50, 52–53

scribes: as audience, 6, 119; authorship of, 1–2, 7, 9, 12, 15–16, 20, 58, 71–72, 101–2, 116, 132, 139, 150, 158, 177–87, 189–90; avarice of, 18; Bonaventure on, 71–72; cheating by, 21–23, 27; competence of, 4–5, 18, 24–25, 27–30, 58; as compilers, 102, 149; complaints about, 30–31; composition by, 157–58; and the copying of sacred texts, 25; corrections by, 4–5, 11, 16–17, 20, 22, 26, 29, 35, 58; erasure of, 57; errors by, 4–5, 17, 18–20, 22–26, 29, 34–35, 137, 177, 180; erudition of, 22, 179; intentionality of, 12–13, 15, 39, 47, 57, 190; reading by, 6, 8–9, 53–55, 101–2, 139, 151, 189; translation by, 43, 142, 186–87. See also copying; manuscripts; writing

script: analysis of, 19–20, 45–50, 52, 55–56, 141–42, 160; archaizing, 44–47; copying of, 44–45, 63, 66–67. See also manuscripts; mise-en-page

Scriveyn, Adam, 30–31, 35

Septuagint, production of, 56–57

shires, lists of, 124–26, 130

Short Chronicle: in Additional 19677, 117–18, 123, 133–35; in the Auchinleck manuscript, 116–20, 147–54, 163–65, 167, 187; audience for, 119–21, 133; composition of, 140–41, 150; contents of, 131; copying and editing of, 121–25, 158; date of, 140–41; as historiography, 123–24, 131–32; localization of, 126–30, 133; political dimensions of, 136, 140, 145; in Royal 12.c.xii, 116–26, 131–32, 139–40, 159, 185; sources for, 117, 135–36, 149–51, 159–60; structure of, 130–31; translation in, 162–63; versions of, 117–19, 123–26. See also Bishop, Nicholas; Pilkington, Gilbert

Simon de Montfort, 98, 109–11, 115, 116, 139

Skemer, D. C., 175n

Smithers, G. V., 156

sources: for the Arundel Chronicle, 185; for the Auchinleck Short Chronicle, 149–51, 153–54, 159–60; for Bede, 76–77; Geoffrey of Monmouth’s use of, 87–88; Harley Scribe’s use of, 116–17, 133; for the Historia Anglorum, 83; for historiography, 2, 87–88, 96; study of, 77, 147. See also historiography

Spencer, H., 27n

Stanley, E. G., 120n

Stephenson, D., 129n
Sullens, I., 10n

Taylor, A., 165

texts: absent, 91; as authority, 70, 83, 88–89; borrowing of, 165–66; Caxton's assembly of, 28–29; compilation of, 102; digital, 1, 189; editing of, 19, 122, 155; as evidence for canonization, 77; and glosses, 42, 68, 71; history of, 63; and historiography, 62, 95–96; and the law, 121; and manuscripts, 43; mutability of, 17, 19–21, 32–33, 116; New Critical and New Philological readings of, 19; original, 104–5; poaching of, 61, 80, 83–84, 91, 99; and power, 97–99; sacred, 25, 39, 73; as symbols, 99; transmission of, 20–21, 122–23; visual organization and hierarchy of, 68–69.

See also

Bible; copying; exemplars

Thomas Becket, 97, 106–7, 112

Thomas Cantilupe, 106, 107, 113

Thomas of Lancaster, 105–16, 139, 141, 144; cult of, 111–15; death of, 109, 111, 116–17, 141; holiness of, 108; life of, 109–10; as local saint, 116; politics of, 108; as symbol of opposition to the King, 106–7, 109, 114–15

Thompson, J., 103n

Thorpe, L., 177n

translation: by Arundel Scribe 1, 186–87; into the Auchinleck Short Chronicle, 159; of the Bible, 56–57; by Chaucer, 31–32; and composition, 7, 162–63, 183; and copying, 37, 55, 162; definitions and types of, 37, 99; in derivative texts, 70; by the Harley Scribe, 142; and historiography, 10, 60; by Lydgate, 34; into Middle English, 162; and quotation, 7; from Richard Coeur de Lyon, 160–65; by scribes, 43, 142, 186–87

Troilus and Criseyde (Chaucer), 31–32, 35–36

truth: and exemplars, 25; and history, 77

Turville-Petre, T., 169, 172–74

Wace, 8–9, 10–11, 92, 93

Wales, in British historiography, 88–89, 92, 95–96

Waleys, Thomas, 21–22

wax tablets, 168–75; composition on, 174; as corrupt medium, 174; legends concerning, 168–69. See also parchment; writing

Westminster Abbey, 151, 153–54

Wiggins, A., 155n, 156

Wikipedia, 189

William of Malmesbury, 74–75, 79–80, 87–88, 89, 91, 95, 124, 186

William of Newburgh, 85n, 89

Wilshere, A. D., 103n

Wormald, F., 66n

writing: by authors, 12; compositional, 15; as creative, 1, 31; durability of, 168–69, 171; physical aspects of, 1, 15, 31–32, 35, 189, 168–75, 176–77. See also authors; authorship; copying; historiography; parchment; scribes; wax tablets

Zettl, E., 123n, 126, 158

Zumthor, P., 7n
INTERVENTIONS: NEW STUDIES IN MEDIEVAL CULTURE
Ethan Knapp, Series Editor

Interventions: New Studies in Medieval Culture publishes theoretically informed work in medieval literary and cultural studies. We are interested both in studies of medieval culture and in work on the continuing importance of medieval tropes and topics in contemporary intellectual life.

*Fashioning Change: The Trope of Clothing in High- and Late-Medieval England*
  ANDREA DENNY-BROWN

*Form and Reform: Reading across the Fifteenth Century*
  EDITED BY SHANNON GAYK AND KATHLEEN TONRY

*How to Make a Human: Animals and Violence in the Middle Ages*
  KARL STEEL

*Revivalist Fantasy: Alliterative Verse and Nationalist Literary History*
  RANDY P. SCHIFF

*Inventing Womanhood: Gender and Language in Later Middle English Writing*
  TARA WILLIAMS

*Body Against Soul: Gender and Sowlehele in Middle English Allegory*
  MASHA RASKOLNIKOVA
“This is an innovative and learned study, important for our thinking about medieval cultures of the book, and more broadly for our thinking about the nature of authorship and textuality in any period. Fisher’s arguments persistently perforate our still-under-examined, overly rigid categories of author, exemplar, copyist, text, and reader. Instead, Fisher works within a new array of categories of scribal activism, which will become important tools in the critical vocabulary medievalists are building as they focus increasingly on the physical culture of their texts. Equally, critics at work on the labile textuality and the destabilizing of the author/reader distinction in current web culture will have a great deal to learn from this book. Fisher’s superb book is also an important piece of medieval scholarship, in its attention to a body of history writing whose manuscript sites (among other things) marked it as a fully literary genre in the Middle Ages. Fisher brings a unique critical eye to this material, as well as frequent forays into scribal activity where historiography overlaps with poetry, liturgy, and other forms. This enriches our sense of the role of history writing in the emergence of medieval vernacular culture.”

— Christopher Basan, Barnard College and Columbia University

Based on new readings of some of the least-read texts by some of the best-known scribes of later medieval England, *Scribal Authorship and the Writing of History in Medieval England* reconceptualizes medieval scribes as authors, and the texts surviving in medieval manuscripts as authored. Culling evidence from history writing in later medieval England, Matthew Fisher concludes that we must reject the axiomatic division between scribe and author. Using the peculiarities of authority and intertextuality unique to medieval historiography, Fisher exposes the rich ambiguities of what it means for medieval scribes to “write” books. He thus frames the composition, transmission, and reception—indeed, the authorship—of some medieval texts as scribal phenomena.

History writing is an inherently intertextual genre: in order to write about the past, texts must draw upon other texts. *Scribal Authorship* demonstrates that medieval historiography relies upon quotation, translation, and adaptation in such a way that the very idea that there is some line that divides author from scribe is an unsustainable and modern critical imposition. Given the reality that a scribe’s work was far more nuanced than the simplistic binary of error and accuracy would suggest, Fisher completely overturns many of our assumptions about the processes through which manuscripts were assembled and texts (both canonical literature and the less obviously literary) were composed.

Matthew Fisher is assistant professor of English at the University of California, Los Angeles.

The Ohio State University Press
Columbus

www.ohiostatepress.org

ISBN 978-0-8142-1198-4