



PIERS PLOWMAN

and its



MANUSCRIPT TRADITION



SARAH WOOD



Piers Plowman Tradition

William Langland



Piers Plowman Tradition:

William Langland's Piers Plowman William Langland, George Economou, 1996 A gifted poet has given us an astute adroit vigorous inviting eminently readable translation The challenging gamut of Langland's language has here been rendered with blessed energy and precision Economou has indeed Done Best Allen Mandelbaum

Piers Plowman and the Reinvention of Church Law Arvind Thomas, 2019-03-07 It is a medieval truism that the poet meddles with words the lawyer with the world But are the poet's words and the lawyer's world really so far apart To what extent does the art of making poems share in the craft of making laws and vice versa Framed by such questions *Piers Plowman and the Reinvention of Church Law* in the Late Middle Ages examines the mutually productive interaction between literary and legal makyns in England's great Middle English poem by William Langland Focusing on *Piers Plowman*'s preoccupation with wrongdoing in the B and C versions Arvind Thomas examines the versions representations of trials confessions restitutions penalties and pardons Thomas explores how the literary informs and transforms the legal until they finally cannot be separated Thomas shows how the poem's narrative voice metaphor syntax and style not only reflect but also act upon properties of canon law such as penitential procedures and authoritative maxims Langland's mobilization of juridical concepts Thomas insists not only engenders a poetics informed by canonist thought but also expresses an alternative vision of canon law from that proposed by medieval jurists and today's medievalists

The Piers Plowman Tradition Helen Barr, 1993 *Piers Plowman* inspired a tradition of medieval poems as vehicles for popular criticism The four full length works collected here cover vital issues of their day

Signes and Sothe Helen Barr, 1994 An exploration through language of the literary historical and social tradition of poetry inspired by *Piers Plowman*

Piers Plowman and the Poetics of Enigma Curtis A. Gruenler, 2017-04-30 In this book Curtis Gruenler proposes that the concept of the enigmatic latent in a wide range of medieval thinking about literature can help us better understand in medieval terms much of the era's most enduring literature from the riddles of the Anglo Saxon bishop Aldhelm to the great vernacular works of Dante Chaucer Julian of Norwich and above all Langland's *Piers Plowman* Riddles rhetoric and theology the three fields of meaning of aenigma in medieval Latin map a way of thinking about reading and writing obscure literature that was widely shared across the Middle Ages The poetics of enigma links inquiry about language by theologians with theologically ambitious literature Each sense of enigma brings out an aspect of this poetics The playfulness of riddling both oral and literate was joined to a Christian vision of literature by Aldhelm and the Old English riddles of the Exeter Book Defined in rhetoric as an obscure allegory enigma was condemned by classical authorities but resurrected under the influence of Augustine as an aid to contemplation Its theological significance follows from a favorite biblical verse among medieval theologians We see now through a mirror in an enigma then face to face 1 Cor 13 12 Along with other examples of the poetics of enigma *Piers Plowman* can be seen as a culmination of centuries of reflection on the importance of obscure language for knowing and participating in endless mysteries of divinity and humanity

and a bridge to the importance of the enigmatic in modern literature This book will be especially useful for scholars and undergraduate students interested in medieval European literature literary theory and contemplative theology **Piers Plowman** William Langland,2018-09-07 Piers Plowman By William Langland Written by a fourteenth century cleric this spiritual allegory explores man in relation to his ultimate destiny against the background of teeming colorful medieval life

The Cambridge Companion to Piers Plowman Andrew Cole,Andrew Galloway,2014-02-13 Piers Plowman has long been considered one of the greatest poems of medieval England Current scholarship on this alliterative masterpiece looks very different from that available even a decade ago New information about the manuscripts of the poem new historical discoveries and new investigations of its literary cultural and theoretical scope have fundamentally altered the very meaning of Langland s art This Companion thus critically surveys traditional scholarship with the aim of recuperating its best insights and it ventures forth into newer areas of inquiry attuned to questions of social setting institutional context intellectual and literary history theory and the revitalized fields of codicology and paleography By proceeding through chapters that offer cumulatively wider views as well as stand alone analyses of topics most crucial to understanding Piers Plowman this Companion gives serious students and seasoned scholars alike up to date knowledge of this intricate and beautiful poem

Reading Piers Plowman and The Pilgrim's Progress Barbara A. Johnson,1992 Centering her discussion on two historical ways of reading Which she calls the Protestant and the lettered Barbara A Johnson traces the development of a Protestant readership as it is reflected in the reception of Langland s Piers Plowman and Bunyan s Pilgrim s Progress Informed by reader response and reception theory and literacy and cultural studies Johnson s ambitious examination of these two ostensibly literary texts charts the cultural roles they played in the centuries following their composition roles far more important than their modern critical reputations can explain The reception of these two works revealing as it does changing ideas concerning the nature and status of books as well as the stature of authors documents the means by which a culture shapes and is shaped by texts Johnson argues that much more evidence exists about how earlier readers read than has hitherto been acknowledged The reception of Piers Plowman for example can be inferred from references to the work the apparatus its Renaissance printer inserted in his editions the marginal comments readers inscribed both in printed editions and in manuscripts and the apocryphal plowman texts that constitute interpretations of Langland s poem Conditioned more by religious historical and economic forces than literary concerns Langland s poem became a part of the reformist tradition that culminated in Bunyan s Pilgrim s Progress By understanding this tradition Bunyan s place in it and the way the reception of The Pilgrim s Progress illustrates the beginning of a new more realistic fictional tradition Johnson concludes we can begin to delineate a more accurate history of the ways literature and society intersect a history of readers reading **English Alliterative Verse** Eric Weiskott,2016-10-27 English Alliterative Verse tells the story of the medieval poetic tradition that includes Beowulf Piers Plowman and Sir Gawain and the Green Knight stretching from the eighth century when English

poetry first appeared in manuscripts to the sixteenth century when alliterative poetry ceased to be composed Eric Weiskott draws on the study of meter to challenge the traditional division of medieval English literary history into Old English and Middle English periods The two halves of the alliterative tradition divided by the Norman Conquest of 1066 have been studied separately since the nineteenth century this book uses the history of metrical form and its cultural meanings to bring the two halves back together In combining literary history and metrical description into a new kind of history he calls verse history Weiskott reimagines the historical study of poetics **Langland's Vision of Piers the Plowman** William

Langland,1899 **Piers Plowman** William Langland,J. A. Burrow,2001 The magnificent heritage of English poetry before Chaucer is often neglected because of difficulties with unfamiliar dialect These translations reveal what we are missing if we ignore it Piers Plowman belongs to the tradition of medieval allegory but without any of the stuffiness that label suggests It paints a vivid picture of everyday life in the 14th century with a vigour and detail which anticipates The Canterbury Tales However the jewel in the crown of Middle English verse is Sir Gawain and the Green Knight here presented in the classic version by JRR Tolkien author of The Lord of the Rings currently being filmed A wonderfully told story which combines suspense fantasy exquisite domestic detail and sensuality **An Introduction to Piers Plowman** Michael A.

Calabrese,Tison Pugh,R. Barton Palmer,2016 William Langland s allegorical poem Piers Plowman is becoming ever more popular in medieval English literature courses But most current introductions focus primarily on the B text leaving a gap in available resources for the poem s study As Piers Plowman continues to gain academic attention in all its three versions the A B and C texts teachers and students need a new perspective and new approach to the poem as an evolving whole This first comprehensive introduction to Langland s masterful work covers all three iterations and outlines the various changes that occurred between each Useful for individuals reading any version of Piers Plowman this engaging guide offers a much needed navigational summary a chronology of historic events relevant to the poem biographical notes about Langland and keys to characters and proper pronunciation Calabrese s definitive and refreshingly lively volume allows readers to navigate this daunting poem and to contextualize it within the literary history of Western culture *Chaucer and Langland* John M.

Bowers,2007 Examines the political social and religious factors that contributed to the formation of a literary canon in fourteenth century England This book tracks the reputations of Geoffrey Chaucer and William Langland into the fifteenth century when studies of 14th century literature became configured in terms of a double antagonistic dynamic *Public Piers Plowman* C. David Benson,2004-01 The fourteenth century alliterative poem Piers Plowman was widely popular in its own day The number of its surviving manuscripts ranks just below that of Chaucer s Canterbury Tales Although the poem has been the subject of some interesting recent critical scholarship it continues to be marginalized by medievalists and non medievalists alike According to C David Benson this is because the tendency of modern criticism has been to read Piers as an autobiography mired in the singular intellectual obsessions of its author or as a recondite exploration of theological and

political issues In Public Piers Plowman Benson returns the poem to the center of late medieval English culture by treating it as a public rather than a personal or elite work In the process Benson makes this great poem more accessible exciting and necessary to modern readers

Piers Plowman and Scriptural Tradition Durant Waite Robertson (Jr.), Bernard Felix Huppé, 1964

Transforming Work Katherine C. Little, 2013-08-28 Pastoral poetry has long been considered a signature Renaissance mode originating in late sixteenth century England via a rediscovery of classical texts it is concerned with self fashioning and celebrating the court But as Katherine C Little demonstrates in Transforming Work Early Modern Pastoral and Medieval Poetry the pastoral mode is in fact indebted to medieval representations of rural labor Little offers a new literary history for the pastoral arguing that the authors of the first English pastorals used rural laborers familiar from medieval texts plowmen and shepherds to reflect on the social economic and religious disruptions of the sixteenth century In medieval writing these figures were particularly associated with the reform of the individual and the social world their work also stood for the penance and good works required of Christians the care of the flock required of priests and the obligations of all people to work within their social class By the sixteenth century this reformism had taken on a dangerous set of associations with radical Protestantism peasants revolts and complaints about agrarian capitalism Pastoral poetry rewrites and empties out this radical potential making the countryside safe to write about again Moving from William Langland's Piers Plowman and the medieval shepherd plays through the Piers Plowman tradition to Edmund Spenser's pastorals Little's reconstructed literary genealogy discovers the other past of pastoral in the medieval and Reformation traditions of writing rural labor

The Arts of Disruption Nicolette Zeeman, 2020-07-22 The monograph series Oxford Studies in Medieval Literature and Culture showcases the plurilingual and multicultural quality of medieval literature and actively seeks to promote research that not only focuses on the array of subjects medievalists now pursue in literature theology and philosophy in social political jurisprudential and intellectual history the history of art and the history of science but also that combines these subjects productively It offers innovative studies on topics that may include but are not limited to manuscript and book history languages and literatures of the global Middle Ages race and the post colonial the digital humanities media and performance music medicine the history of affect and the emotions the literature and practices of devotion the theory and history of gender and sexuality ecocriticism and the environment theories of aesthetics medievalism The Arts of Disruption Allegory and Piers Plowman offers a series of new readings of the allegorical poem Piers Plowman but it is also a book about allegory It argues not just that there are distinctively disruptive arts that occur in allegory but that allegory because it is interested in the difficulty of making meaning is itself a disruptive art The book approaches this topic via the study of five medieval allegorical narrative structures that exploit diegetic conflict and disruption Although very different they all bring together contrasting descriptions of spiritual process in order to develop new understanding and excite moral or devotional change These five structures are the paradiastolic hypocritical figure such as vices masked by being made to

look like adjacent virtues personification debate violent language and gestures of apophysis narratives of bodily decline and grail romance Each appears in a range of texts which the book explores along with other connected materials in medieval rhetoric logic grammar spiritual thought ethics medicine and romance iconography These allegorical narrative structures appear radically transformed in Piers Plowman where the poem makes further meaning out of the friction between them Much of the allegorical work of the poem occurs at the points of their intersection and within the conceptual gaps that open up between them Ranging across a wide variety of medieval allegorical texts the book shows from many perspectives allegory's juxtaposition of the heterogeneous and its questioning of supposed continuities *Piers Plowman and scriptural tradition* Durant Waite Robertson, 1951 **The Myth of Piers Plowman** Lawrence Warner, 2014-03-06 A revisionary account of the powerful myths that grew up around the production and reception of the great medieval poem Also available as Open Access

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Piers Plowman Tradition Introduction

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