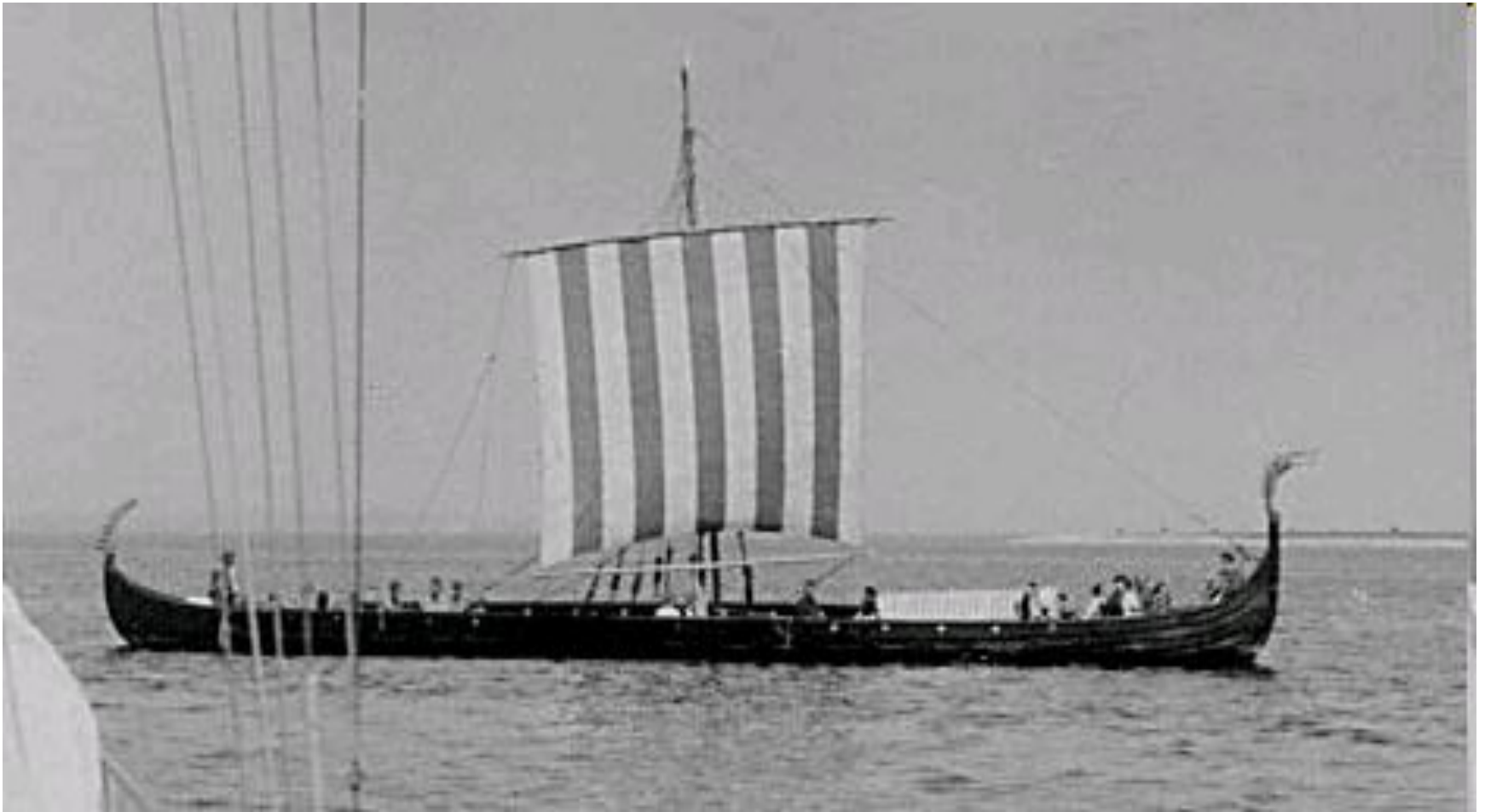




Petroglyphs from Scandinavia (Häljesta, Västmanland in Sweden). Composite image. Nordic Bronze Age. The glyphs are painted to make them more visible. It is unknown whether they were painted originally.



A reconstructed Viking ship



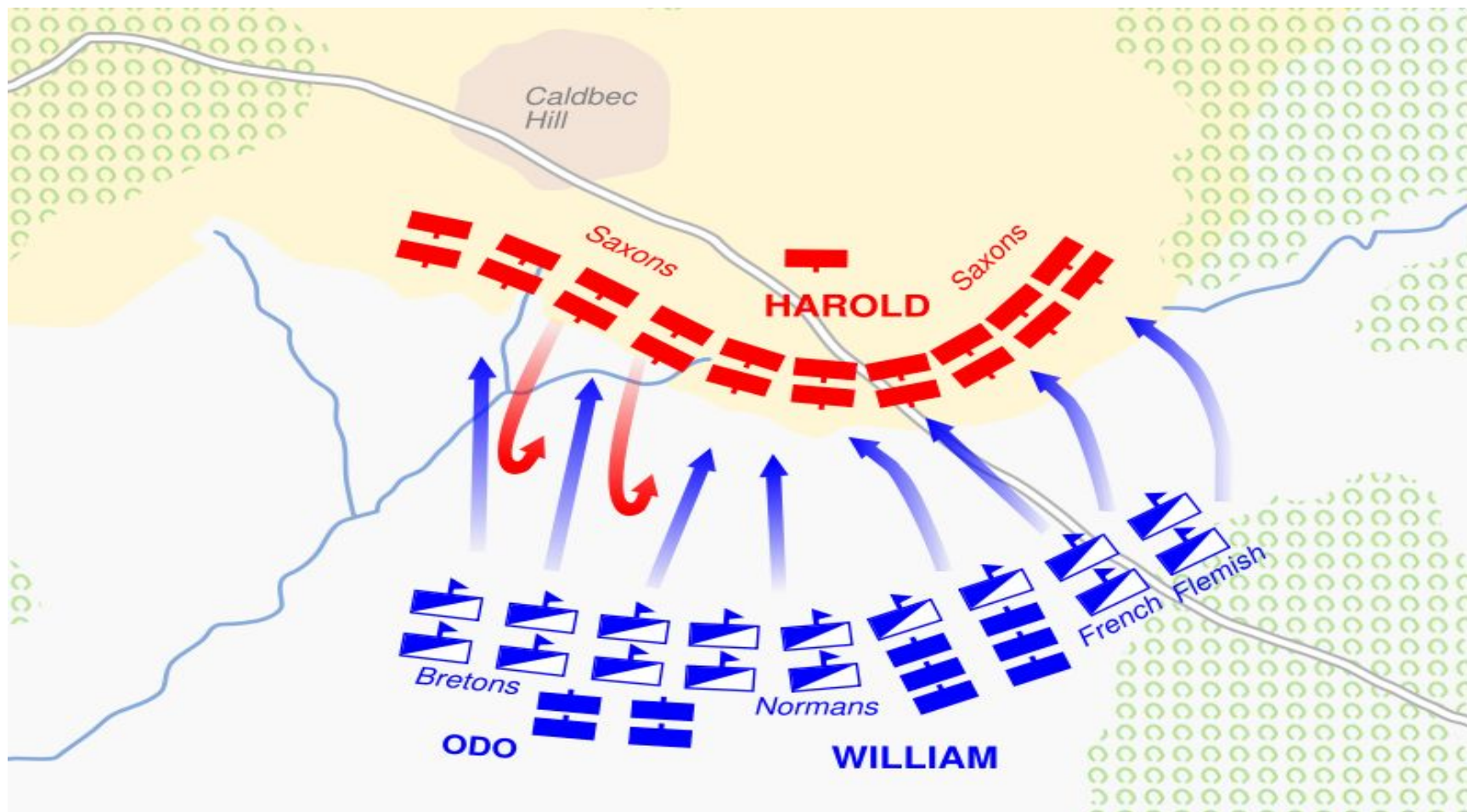
Scandinavian settlements and voyages



The Bayeux Tapestry depicts the Battle of Hastings and the events leading to it.



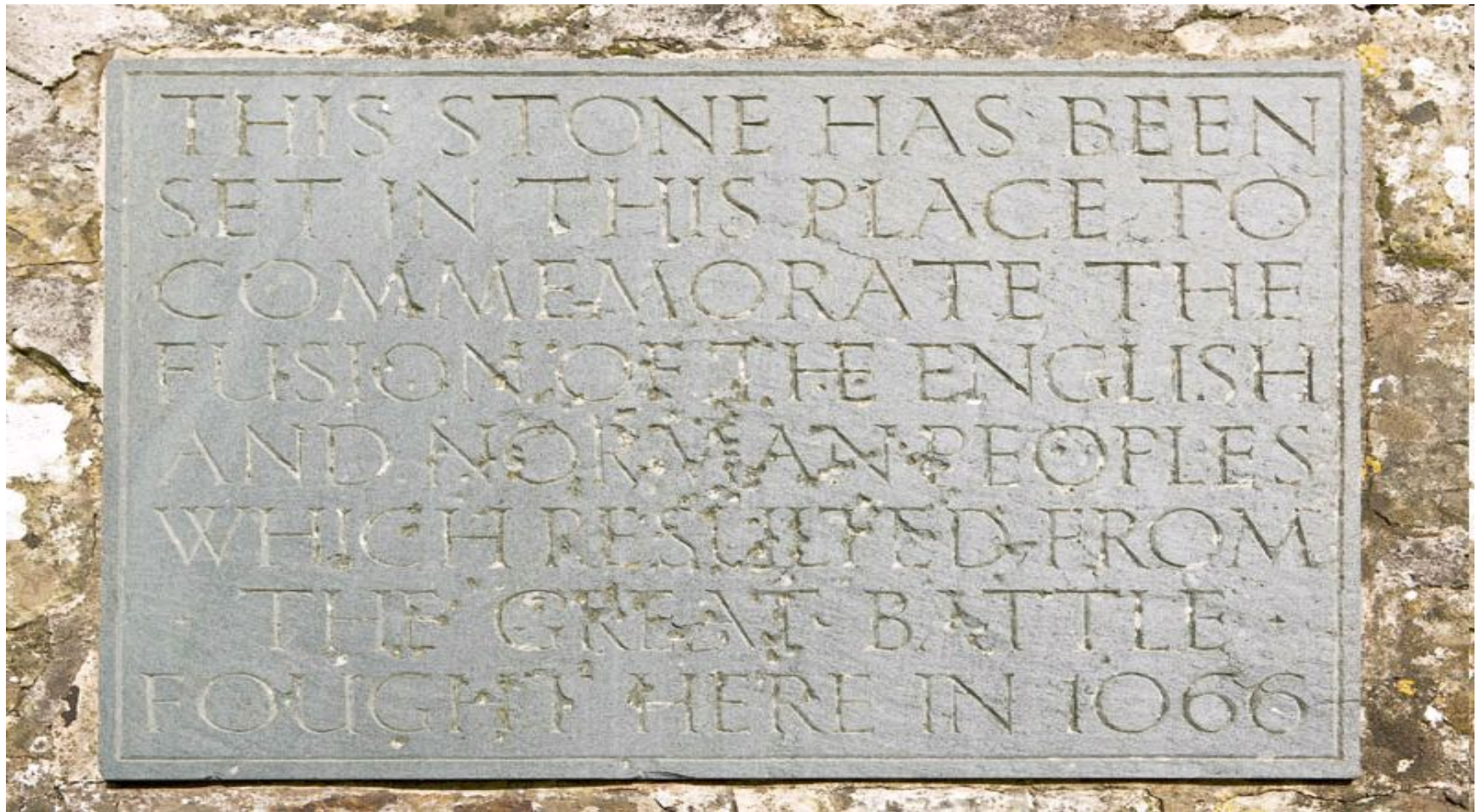
Death of Harold in the Battle of Hastings, as shown on the Bayeux Tapestry



The Battle of Hastings



Harold's plaque (2006)



Plaque at Battle Abbey commemorating the fusing of the Anglo-Saxon and Norman peoples



England, 1066: Events in the Norman Conquest.



The Norman Conquest



The Invasions of England, 1066

Basic Middle English Word List for London Dialect

- al, al be, al be that: although, even if
- als, also: also, as
- anon: at once, immediately
- aventure: chance
- bet: better
- but, but if: unless
- can, kan, conne, con, konne: to be able, to know, to know how; to learn, to understand.
- cas, caas: case, situation, event; chance, accident; fate
- certes: certainly
- clepe(n): call, name, mention
- conseil: council; to counsel or advise; secret(s), confidence(s)
- corage: heart; spirit; courage; desire
- curious: careful, diligent; skillful; eager; skillfully made
- daunger: lordship, power, control; ungraciousness, disdain



Chaucer: Illustration from Cassell's
History of England, circa 1902.

Born c. 1343

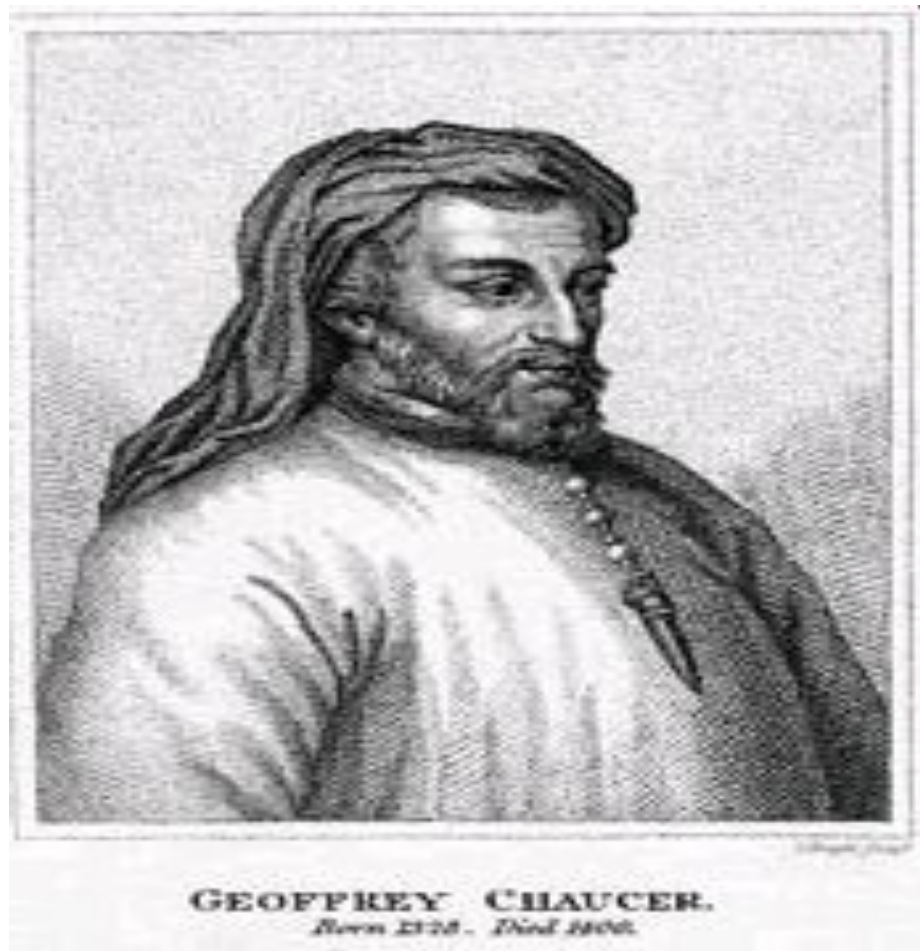
Died October 25, 1400 (Aged c.57)

Occupation Author, poet, philosopher,
bureaucrat, diplomat

Influences Ovid



Chaucer as a pilgrim from the Ellesmere manuscript DB



A 19th century depiction of Chaucer.

88
Hoo he þ̄ d̄naut was mayden marie
And hit his loue floure and frutifis

All yowh his lyfe be querit ye resemblaunce
Of him hay in me so fressh lyfhyneſſe
pat to putte othir men in remembraunce
Of his p̄ſone & hane heere his b̄neſſe
Do make to us ende in sothfaſtneſſe
pat yei ȳt hane of him left yought & mynde
By his p̄ynture may ageyn him fynde

The ymages ȳt in ȳ churche been
waken folk penke on god & on his ſeruites
Whan ye ymages yei be holden & ſeen
Were oft conſyte of hem canſith reſtrepntes
Of youghtes gode Whan a ying depeynt is
Or entailes if men take of it heede
Thoght of ye b̄neſſe it wil in hym brede



Portrait of Chaucer from Thomas Hoccleve, who personally knew Chaucer, so it is probably an accurate depiction



John Gower shooting the world, a sphere of earth, air, and water (from an edition of his works c.1400)



The tomb of John Gower in Southwark Cathedral.



William Langland



The printer's device of William Caxton, 1478.

Here begynne the booke intituled Eracles, and also of Gode-
 frey of Boloyne, the which speaketh of the Conquest of the holy
 land of Iherusalem. containing diuers wars and noble sayes.
 of Aones made in the same tyme, and in the contree adiacent.
 And also many marvellous doctres inward; and; further as wel
 on this side as on the parties this tyme occupied. And both the
 volens and doctres of Boloyne conquest with the Iherusalem
 sayd tyme. And also the same.

The first chapitre teacheth how Eracles conquered Pers; and
 the Caspian, and brought in to Iherusalem the very cross; as
 ymo.

¶

The Nuncient histories saye that Eracles
 was a good crysten man and gouernour of
 the empire of Rome. But in his tyme macho-
 met had say which was messenger of the deuil
 And made the peple to vnderstande, that he
 was a prophete sent from our lord. In the
 tyme of Eracles was the false lawe of ma-

chomet sowed and spread abroad in many parties of the world, and
 namely in Arabye, in so moche that the prynces of the landes yet
 wold not geue faith to his secte that he preached and taught which
 is cursed and euill, but he constrained them by force and by sword
 to ge all their subgetts to obey to his commandemens, and to helpe
 in his lawe. When Eracles had conquered Persie and slayn co-
 dzoe which was a puissant king he brought agayn to Iheru-
 salum the very crosse, which they had hadde in to persie. And also
 and dwelled in the lande of Syria. And dide do othepe and chose
 a palatour a moche wise man named Modeste. By whose counseil
 he dyde to make agayn the church, and habyled the holy places,
 and; he asid; them that the tprauil; of Persie had; smeten
 down and despoyle; Eracles; set; great; entent; a; made; grete; costes;
 for; to; repaire; them. And; whiler; he; contyned; his; labour; to; make; the
 same; of; agayn; the; church; the; prynces; of; Arabie; the; thre; adiacent;
 thre; men; in; the; contree; named; Modeste; which; so; geue; them;
 his; of; peple; the; alle; the; land; was; ouer; with; them, and; had;
 thence; taken; by; force; a; moche; rewenge; of; the; land; named;
 Jadda, from; thence; he; drave; him; toward; damaske, and; assiged;

Facsimile of page 1 of
 Godefrey of Boloyne,
 printed by Caxton,
 London, 1481.



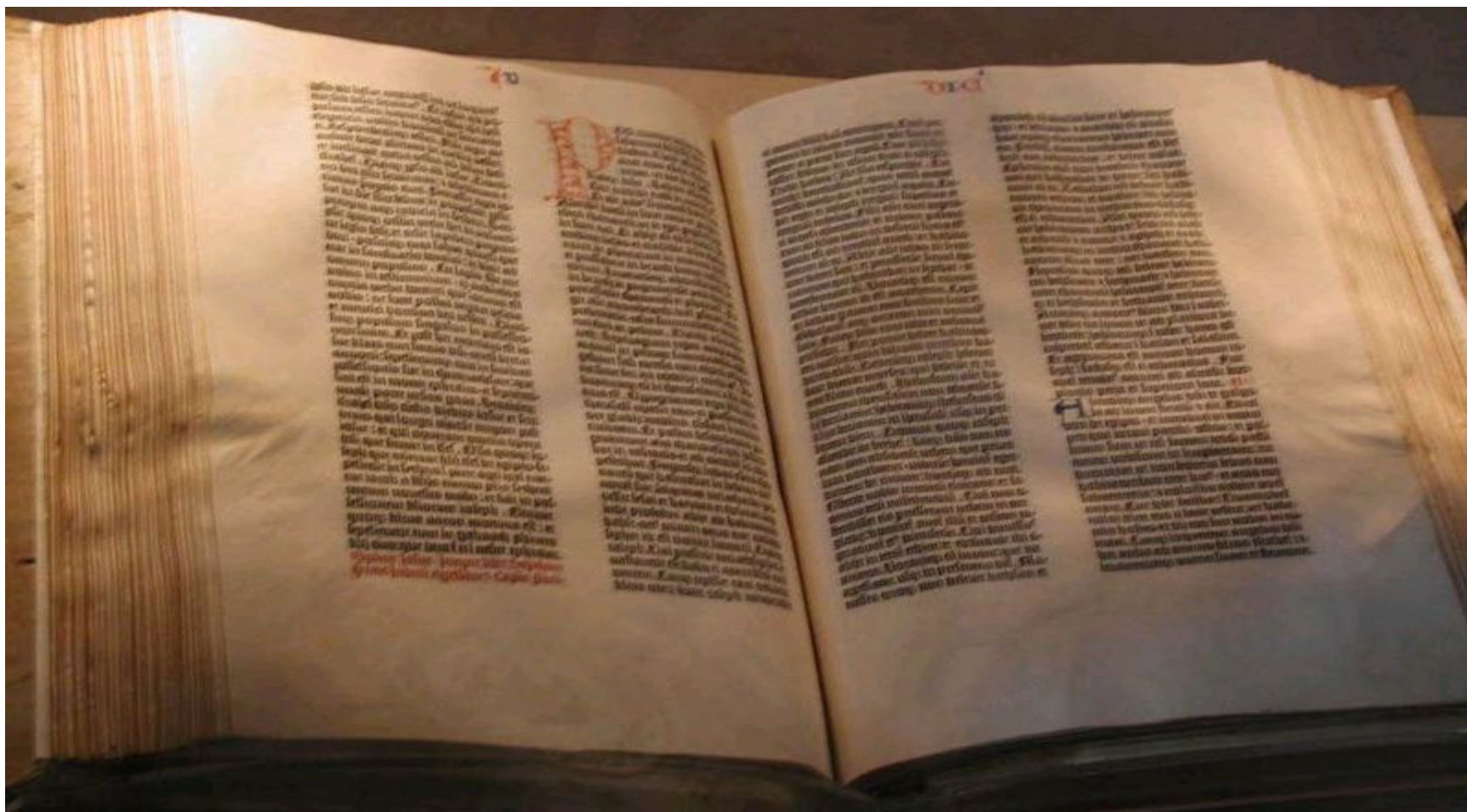
Johannes Gensfleisch zur Laden zum Gutenberg



Movable metal type, and composing stick, descended from Gutenberg's invention

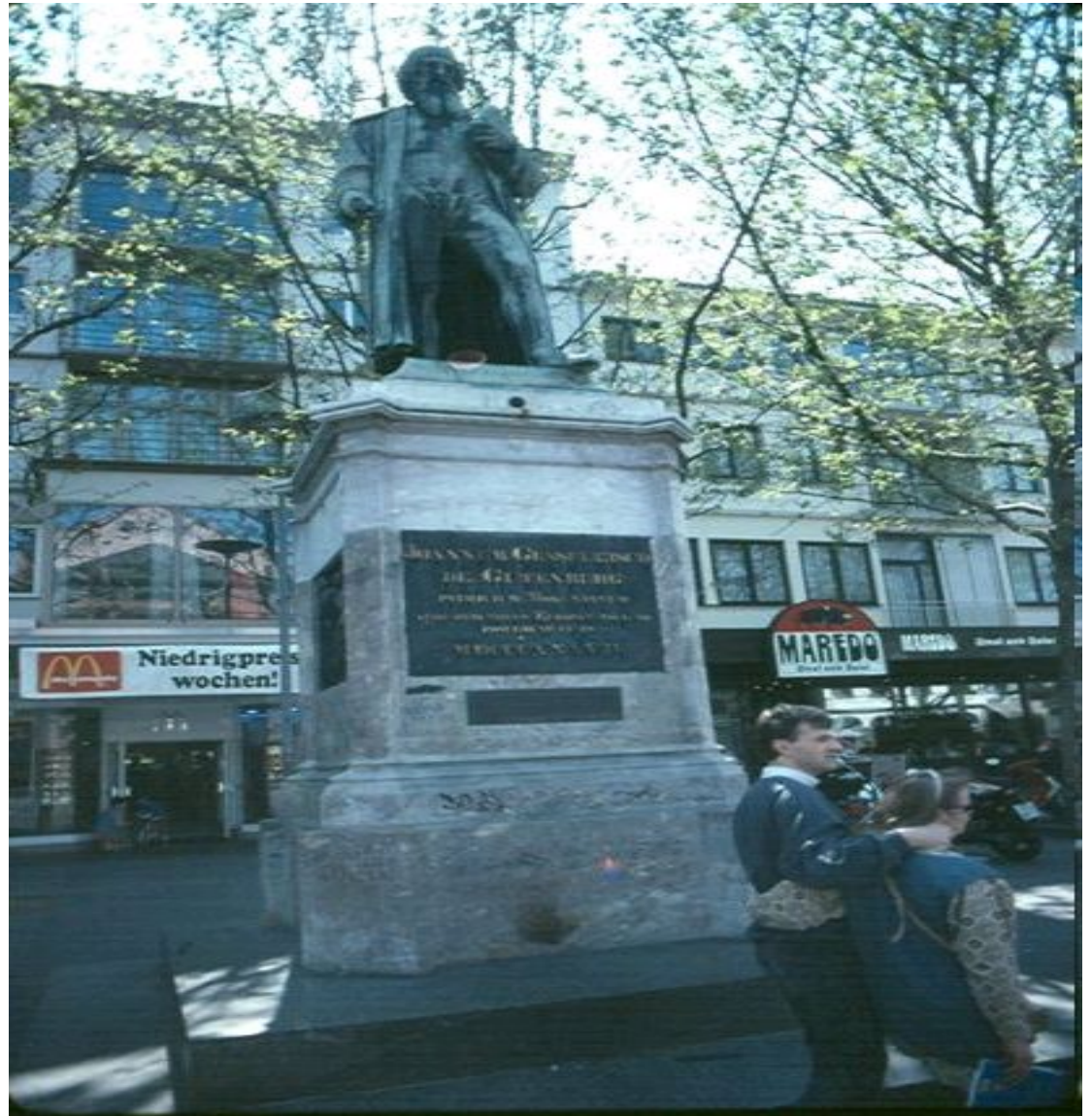


Sculpture commemorating Gutenberg as the inventor of modern printing on the occasion of 2006 World Cup in Germany



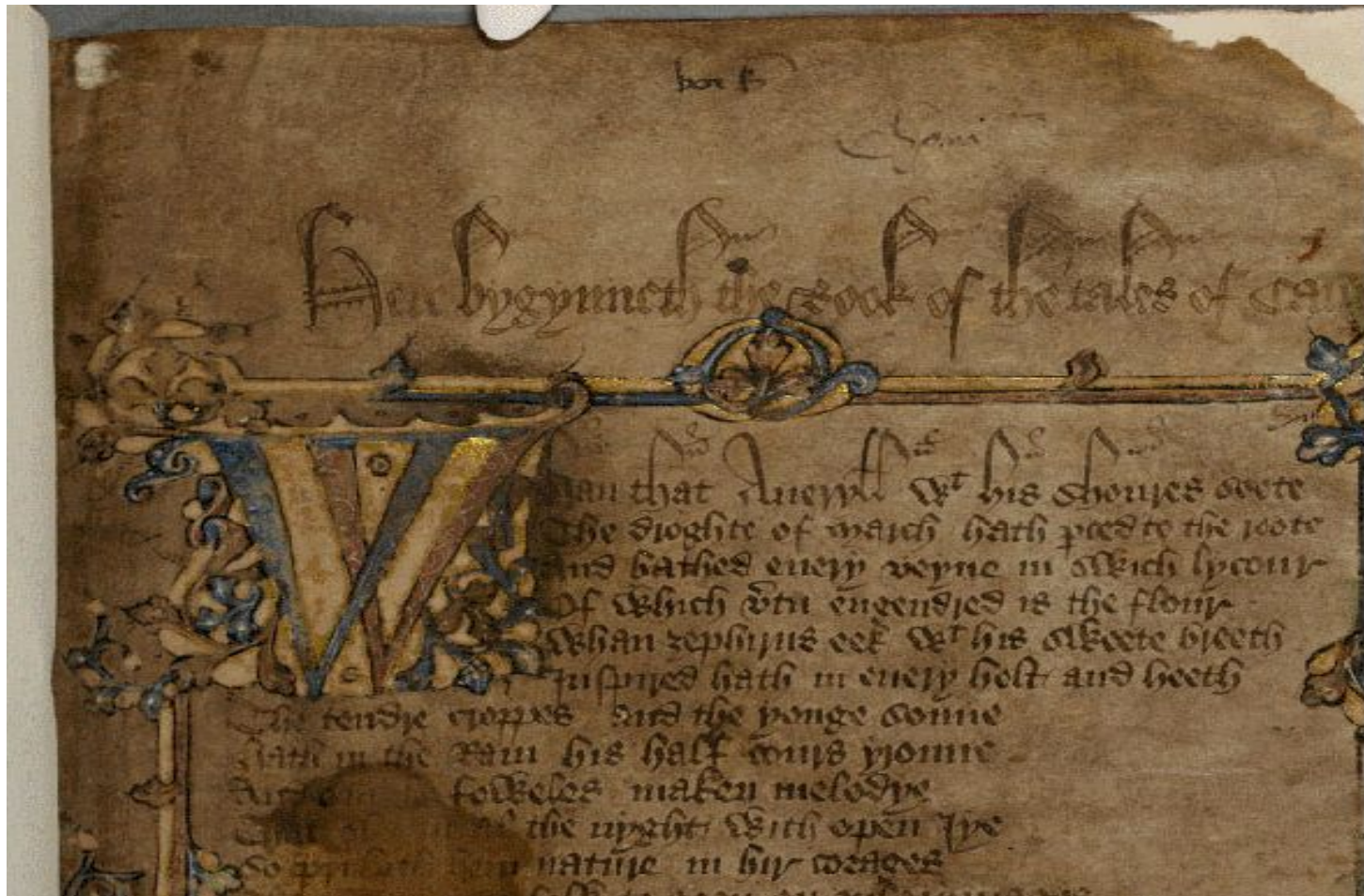
Gutenberg Bible, Library of Congress, Washington D.C.

Gutenberg statue by
Bertel Thorvaldsen in
Mainz, Germany





Canterbury Tales Woodcut 1484



The opening folio of the Hengwrt manuscript contains the beginning of the General Prologue.



THE DIALECTS OF MIDDLE ENGLISH

Canterbury Tales by G. Chaucer (late 14-th c.)

The Opening Lines of the Prologue

Whan that Aprille with his shoures soote
/xwan 'Tat ap'rillq 'wiT his 'Su:rqs 'so:tq/
the droghte of March hath perced to the roote,
/Tq 'druxt of 'martS haT 'persqd 'to: Tq 'ro:tq/
And bathed every veyne in swich licour,
/and 'ba:ðqd 'evri 'vein in 'switS li'ku:r/
Of which vertu engendred is the flour;
/of 'witS ver'tju: en'dZendrqd 'is Tq 'flu:r/

When April with his sweet showers
The draught of March has pierced to the root,
And bathed every vein in such liquor,
Of which (whose) virtue (power) engendered is the
flower;