THE VOCABULARY OF THE MIDDLE ENGLISH ROMANCES IN TAIL-RHYME STANZA

A. R. DUNLAP *

A number of years ago Professor H. M. Flasdieck, in an article entitled Die sprachgeschichtliche Wert der mittelenglischen Überlieferung, made the suggestion that the metrical romances (with special reference to those in tail-rhyme stanza), the alliterative poems dating from c. 1350, and the works of Chaucer and his school are clearly different lexically.¹ The recent study by J. P. Oakden of the vocabulary of the alliterative poems of the Middle English period² has given us grounds upon which to test in part the worth of Flasdieck’s suggestion. It is the purpose of the present article to set forth data which will permit a further testing, and which will at the same time throw light on other features of the collective vocabulary³ of a group of the metrical romances.

In spite of the fact that less than half of the metrical romances are in tail-rhyme stanza,⁴ it has seemed wise to limit this investiga-

* Department of English.


² See the 2nd vol. of Alliterative Poetry in Middle English, Manchester University Press, 1930-1935.

³ The individual vocabularies of the romances, it should be noted, have been given a certain amount of attention in the past, chiefly (aside from dictionaries) in works of two types: editions of the romances, a number of which contain word-lists or glossaries; and studies of conventional phraseology in the romances, e. g., E. Kölbling’s edition of Amis and Amiloun, p. XLII ff.; J. Zupitza, “Die Romanze von Athelston,” Englische Studien 13.343 ff.; M. Kaluza’s edition of Libeus Desconus, p. LXXXVIII ff.; Oscar Zielke’s edition of Sir Orfeo, p. 6 ff.; C. Schmirgel, Stil und Sprache des mittelenglischen Epos Sir Beves of Hamtoun; J. Fuhrmann, Die alliterierenden Sprachformeln; and Oakden, op. cit., 2.312-343. At no time, however, has a study of the collective vocabulary of these poems been attempted.

⁴ A normal stanza in a tail-rhyme romance has the rhyme scheme aabccbbddbeeB. Lines 3, 6, 9, and 12 (the “b” lines) have three accents each, the others four. Three of the twenty-seven tail-rhyme romances have sixteen-line stanzas instead of twelve: namely, The Avoynge of King Arthor, Sir Degrevant, and Sir Perceval of Galis. The rhyme scheme is aabccbbddbeeB. Lines 4, 8, 12, and 16 (the “b” lines) again have three accents, the others four.
tion to the compact group of twenty-seven tail-rhyme romances, because Flasdieck seems to have formed his judgment largely on his impressions of the vocabulary of such romances. The poems considered in this study are, accordingly, as follows: Amis and Amiloun (AA.), Sir Amadace (Ad.), Athelston (Ath.), The Awowyng of King Arthur (Av.), Le Bone Florence of Rome (BF.), Sir Cleges (Cl.), Sir Degrevant (Dg.), Sir Eglamour (Eg.), The Romance of Emaré (Em.), The Erl of Tolous (ET.), Sir Gowther (Gw.), Guy of Warwick (Gy.), Horn Childe and Maiden Rimmil (HR.), Ipomadon (Ip.), Sir Ysumbras (Is.), Libeaus Desconus (LD.), Launfal (Ln.), Octavian (Oc.), Otuel and Roland (OtR.), Sir Perceval of Gales (Pr.), Reinbrun (Rn.), The Romance of Duke Rowlande and Sir Ottuell of Spayne (RO.), Roland and Vernagu (RV.), The Sege of Melayne (SM.), Torrent of Portyngale (TP.), Syr Tyramoure (Tr.), The King of Tars (Trs.).

The words in the lists below manifestly do not constitute the entire collective vocabulary of the twenty-seven tail-rhyme romances. Little attempt has been made to treat words of extremely frequent occurrence, such as articles, pronouns, prepositions, conjunctions, numerals, and auxiliary verbs. Nor has it seemed necessary to consider the words which Chaucer also used, since they are already familiar, and since they obviously could not be considered part of a distinctive vocabulary of the tail-rhyme romances. The words that were also used by the alliterative poets might well have been set aside for the second of these reasons, but not in some instances for the first; therefore they have been allowed to remain. In other words, the line has been drawn as far as possible to exclude the more familiar and include the less familiar word, and thus to treat that

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5 For information about the editions used see Appendix A. The chronology of the poems is as follows: AA., Gy., HR., Rn., RV., and Trs. may be dated c. 1300; to the first half of the XIV century belong Is. (see Englische Studien 52.72-6), and perhaps Ad. (see Medium Aevum 2.193) and OtR.; Ath. and Pr. (see the Campion and Holthusen edition) were written c. 1350, as in all probability were Eg. (see Englische Studien 7.191), Ip., and Oc.; to the latter half of the XIV century belong Av., Dg., Em., ET. (see Medium Aevum 2.189), L.D. (see Erna Fischer, Der Lautbestand ..., Anglistische Forschungen 63.199), Ln. (see ibid., p. 200), and SM.; BF., Gw., RO., and Tr. (see Bauszus) may be dated c. 1400; and Cl. and TP. are probably from the first half of the XV century.

6 The reader will note occasional words which are listed in the Chaucer Concordance: Northern words in the "Reeve's Tale," words in "Sir Thopas" apparently introduced for the sake of the satire, and words peculiar to fragments B and C of the "Romaunt of the Rose" (probably not written by Chaucer).
portion of the total vocabulary most likely to be of interest to students of Middle English.

Aside from the miscellaneous list in section IV below, consisting largely of words of doubtful origin, the words studied fall readily into three divisions: those of Scandinavian origin (section I), those of Old French origin (section II), and those of Old English origin (section III). Each of these sections is subdivided into two groups: Group A: words which, to judge by the Middle English citations and forms in the NED, may not be classed as rare or unusual; and Group B: words for which the NED has a limited number of Middle English citations and forms (usually three or less).

I. SCANDINAVIAN

GROUP A: agrasyth vb., Ln. 904; ban vb. (curse), Av. 44.15, Gw. 600:Ea,8 Ip. 1300, etc.; baratour, Pr. 263; bayne adj., Ad. 564, Av. 58.16, SM. 186, etc.; beseme, Ath .686, Tr. 720; bigge (build), BF. 295, RO. 275; bigging vb. sb., Em. 709, Is. 77, SM. 467; bigly adj., adv., BF. 220, Gw. 81; blome sb., BF. 686, Is. 174:Ce.T; bolnede ppl. adj., RO. 149; brathe adj., Gw. 108:B, Ip. 4148; brathe sb., Av. 16.4; brathely adv., Dg. 1116, Pr. 2123, SM. 255; breth sb. (rage), BF. 357; brini sb., AA. 1244, HR. 64, Gw. 429, etc.; bryne (eyebrows), Av. 15.6; bryste sb. (want), ET. 826; busk vb., AA. 279, Av. 10.2, SM. 545, etc.; carpynge vb. sb., Ip. 384, Pr. 1654, TP. 2662; carye vb., Ip. 377, RO. 1555; clube sb., Eg. 308, Pr. 2018; cod (pillow), Dg. 1507; coo (jacksaw), RO. 286; croke vb. (bend), Ip. 6259; derg adj., Av. 54.12; derfily, SM. 1030; dinge vb. (strike), LD. 364, SM. 267, TP. 1754, etc.; nderd adj., Ip. 3216; farand (suitable), Is. 322:T, Pr. 848. RO. 921, etc.; fel (hill), Av. 3.14, Dg. 1165, SM. 1490; felawrede, AA. 311, OtR. 1188, Trs. 312; feri adj., BF. 2004, RO. 89, SM. 1436, etc.; fling vb., LD. 362, RO. 830, TP. 378; foe (few), Ad. 832:I; frayst vb., ET. 581,9 Is. 681:T, Pr. 1427; frowardely, Ip. 8714; fune (few), Dg. 195:T, Gw. 276; gade sb., Ip. 6233; gaty sb., BF. 149, Dg. 1692, Ip. 6219, etc.; gaynely, Pr. 1320; gere (prepare), Ath. 251, Dg. 359, Ip. 1228, etc.; gerthe, Gy. 18.4, OtR. 1405; gesten (entertain), Dg. 951:Cb; gestenyng sb., TP. 1364; gete vb., Av. 59.1; graythe adj., Av. 36.8, Ip. 5265; graythely, Av. 62.9, Pr. 491, SM. 105; greme sb., TP. 1929; grithe (protection), Cl. 299, Em. 597, Ip. 234, etc.; gro sb., Ln. 237; hail adj., AA. 2244, Pr. 1477; hail sb., Gw. 164:Ea, hail vb., Dg. 174:Cb, Gw. 267:Ea, Ip. 2532; hailse vb., BF. 193, Dg. 174:T, Tr. 1139, etc.; hailsinge vb. sb., Is. 689:T, Oc. 1363:T, SM. 677;

7 Until the appearance of the dictionary of Middle English now in progress, the NED must remain our most complete source of information about ME. words.
8 This word occurs in MS. Ea of Gw. only. For an explanation of such abbreviations as "Ea," see the list of MSS. in Appendix A.
9 Conjectural reading.
herne sb., TP. 1030;¹⁰ hethen adv., Gw. 216, Oc. 66:T, Pr. 1904, etc.; hething sb., Ad. 17; imelle, Ip. 1657,¹¹ RO. 84; kevel (lot), Pr. 1426; kiste sb., Ad. 526, Pr. 2109; lake (mock), Ip. 7156, OtR. 200; lass, Ip. 2112; late (appearance), Is. 178:T, layke sb. (sport), Pr. 1704; layne (concealment), Ad. 511:Eq, Is. 543; layne vb., Ath. 159, Ip. 44, Tr. 1395, etc.; layte (seek), Pr. 255; lithe (people), BF. 841, Ip. 7554; lithe (listen), AA. 99, Eg. 519:Cc.T, Pr. 1, etc.; loose vb., BF. 1543, ET. 284, Gw. 96, etc.; lowe sb. (flame), Gy. 249.6, Ip. 7836; lowe vb., Dg. 1452:Cb; luff (hoof), Av. 4.13; lynge (heath), Dg. 352; lyte sb. (delay), Dg. 1111:T, menske sb., Dg. 83, Em. 69, Gy. 17.9, etc.; menskfully, Eg. 162:T, Pr. 706; min adj., BF. 549, Em. 915, Pr. 1608; mun vb., Av. 3.11, Eg. 81:T, Oc. 1246:Ca, etc.; mune vb., Eg. 981, Pr. 128, SM. 306; nayte vb. (use), Pr. 185; nefte sb., BF. 1634, Pr. 2087, RO. 149; oftake (overtake), Rn. 14.9; querte (health), Eg. 635:Cc.T, ET. 824, Gw. 224:Eq, etc., rade (afraid), Dg. 598; raike vb., Av. 46.9, BF. 1646; rayne-dere, Ip. 3029; ro sb., BF. 840, ET. 688, Ip. 216; ros sb., HR. 239; rose vb., Ip. 1144, SM. 956; scolde sb., ET. 656; score sb., Dg. 238, Ln. 419, Oc. 1277, etc.; scryke vb. (cry), Eg. 828:Cc; ser adj., Av. 10.4, BF. 331, Eg. 954:T, etc.; sile (go), Av. 16.13, Dg. 359, RO. 401; site sb., Av. 16.13, BF. 1629, Oc. 1505:T; skere adj.,adv., AA. 843, Gy. 68.12, LD. 321, etc.; skere vb., Ln. 795; sket adv., LD. 511, Gy. 291.1, OtR. 1244; skirt sb., RO. 562; skyfte vb., Ad. 644:Eq; slake sb., Dg. 349, Is. 631:Gc.T, RO. 1418; slike adj., Eg. 1014:T, HR. 380, SM. 659; spen(d) vb., RO. 361, Tr. 828; sprente vb., Oc. 473, Pr. 1709, TP. 181; store sb. (stake), Av. 7.14; sum cj., Ad. 819:J, Av. 10.12; swain, Em. 384, Pr. 700, Tr. 546, etc.; swar (speech), BF. 441; tere vb., Dg. 1110; thanne vb., Av. 66.15; thethen adv., Pr. 25, SM. 367; thrivandly, Av. 62.11; thro adj., BF. 1113, Dg. 345, Ip. 2916, etc.; thro sb., Pr. 376; thwert adj., Ip. 5770; tite adj., AA. 559, BF. 656, LD. 889, etc.; tome adj., BF. 292, Ip. 4822; toore adj., Dg. 649:Cb; to-rive, Ad. 572; trast vb., SM. 126, TP. 455; tryne (go), SM. 1246; tyne vb., Av. 28.4, Gw. 54:Eq, LD. 285, etc.; unayne adj., BF. 1419; unsemely adj., Dg. 1654:T, Gy. 125.12, Oc. 799:T, etc.; unskille sb., Ad. 793:J, Ip. 1408, Trs. 735; wale sb., Pr. 1587; wale vb., Dg. 1888:Cb,¹² Oc. 1577:Ca; wande sb., Ip. 2335, Pr. 200, SM. 1213; wandrethe sb., RO. 1410; ware sb., BF. 404, Gw. 494:Eq; wayte vb., ET. 299, Pr. 558, Tr. 101; wayue vb., Is. 642, Tr. 246;¹⁸ wekely, Ip. 6135; wekry (willow twig), Ip. 6242; weeve (go, brandish a sword), HR. 1087, LD. 544, Rn. 110.6, etc.; whethen adv., Av. 20.1, Gw. 271:Eq, Rn. 58.2; wight adj., Oc. 417; wightily adv., Gw. 78:Eq, Is. 186:T, Pr. 2055, etc.; wille adj., adv., Ad. 396:J, Is. 157, Oc. 318; wilsum adj., Eg. 807, Is. 597:Eq, Oc. 294:T, etc.; wothe adj., sb., Av. 13.16, Dg. 204, Gw. 102:Eq, etc.

¹⁰ Conjectural reading.
¹¹ Conjectural reading.
¹² Conjectural reading.
¹³ The MS. reading in Tr. is wayne.
Of these words, the following (about one-fourth of the group) were used by more than three of the poets:  

14 ban, bayne, brathe (adj.) + brathely, brini, busk, dinge, farand, fere, gate, gayne, gere, graythe + graythely, grithe, hailse, hethen, layne (vb.), lithe (vb.), loose, menske, querete, score, ser, skere, swain, thro (adj.), tite, tyne, unsemely, weve, wightely, wilsone, wothe. This list contains but one word, brini (AA., BF., Gw., Gy., HR., Oc., OtR., Rn., RO., SM., Trs.), which seems to have been used more frequently by the writers of metrical romances than by the writers of any other type of ME. literature (alliterative romances, prose, political poems, etc.). The NED. citations show that none of the rest may be so classified.

Six of the words in Group A may be called “poetic” words, i. e., words used chiefly in poetry — rarely, if ever, in prose. They are cayre, layte, querete, sile, sket and wale (sb.).

Of the words which Oakden sets down as “chiefly alliterative,” only two appear in Group A: namely, cayre and thrivandly. The first of these is found in the romances twice; the second but once.

To judge by the citations in the NED., eleven words in this group had disappeared from the current literary language by the end of the ME. period: imelle, lyte, oftake, skere, (adj., adv.), skere (vb.), sket, slike, spen(d), tharn, thrivandly, and weve. The only one of these to drop out before the fifteenth century was oftake (c. 1400).

The number of dialectal words, i. e. words of limited geographical distribution, in Group A is, as one might expect, comparatively large. Rolf Kaiser, in his study entitled Zur Geographie des mittelenglischen Wortschatzes, 15 includes almost one-half of the total. Of this number, only skere (vb.) (Ln.) appears in his list of Southern words; the rest are to be found in his list of Northern words, as follows: bayne (Ad., Av., SM.; add 16 Eg.), bigge (BF., RO.), bigging (Em., Is., SM.), blome (Is.; add BF.), bolnede (RO), brathe (adj.) (Gw.; add Ip.), brathe (sb.) (Av), brathely (Dg., Pr.,

14 In so far, that is, as the texts used represent the original poem. The possibility of scribal alteration of words not fixed by rhyme must always be kept in mind.

15 Palaestra 205, 1937. Kaiser’s lists, the one Northern, the other Southern, consist of words chosen from ME. works about whose geographical provenience there can be little question. Because more Northern sources of this type were available than Southern, the Northern list is several times longer than the Southern. A “Northern word” in Kaiser, be it noted, is a word that is not necessarily limited in its occurrence to works from the Northumbrian and Scottish areas. As he could find no secure basis for such a distinction, Kaiser made no attempt to mark off words used chiefly in these Northern areas from words occurring also in the northern part of the Midland area. A “Southern word” may likewise be a word sometimes found in areas immediately north of the Thames.

16 This word introduces citations which do not appear in Kaiser’s work.
SM.), bryste (ET.), busk (AA., Av., BF., Dg., ET., HR., LD., RO., RV., SM., Tr.), carpynge (add Ip., Pr., TP.), cayre (add Ip., RO.), derrf (Av.), derfly (SM.), farand (Ip., Pr., RO.; add Is.), fel (Dg., SM.; add Av.), foe (Ad.), frayst (Is., Pr.; add ET.), gayne (BF., Dg.; add Ip., RO., SM., TP.), gaynely (add Pr.), gere (Ad., Ath., Av., BF., Dg., Is., Pr., RO., SM.; add Ip.), gete (Av.), graythely (Av., Pr., SM.), heheten (Av., Pr.; add Eg., Gw., Ip., Oc.), hething (Ad.), imelle (RO.; add Ip.), lass (add Ip.), late (add Is.), layke (Pr.), layne (sb.) (Ad., Is.), layte (Pr.), lithe (sb.) (BF.; add Ip.), lyte (Dg.), min (BF., Em., Pr.), mun (Av., Pr., RO., SM., TP.; add Eg., Oc.), nayte (Pr.), nef (Pr., RO.; add BF.), rade (Dg.), raike (Av., BF.), ros (add HR.), rose (SM.; add Ip.), scolde (ET.), ser (Ad., Av., BF., Dg., RO., SM.; add Eg.), sithe (BF.; add Av., Oc.), slake (Dg., RO.; add Is.), slike (HR., SM.; add Eg.), spen(d) (RO.; add Tr.), sprent (Oc., Pr.; add TP.), thane (Av.), thethen (Pr., SM.), thor (adj.) (BF., Dg., Oc., RO., SM., Tr., Trs.; add Ip.), thro (sb.), (Pr.), toore (add Dg.), trast (SM.; add TP.), tryne (add SM.), tyne (AA., Ad., Dg., HR., Pr., RO., SM.; add Av., Gw., LD., Trs), wale (sb.) (Pr.), wale (vb.) (Dg.; add Oc.), wande (SM.; add Ip., Pr.), ware (BF.; add Gw.), wille (add Ad., Is., Oc.), wothe (Av., Dg., RO., SM.; add Gw., Ip.). To this list of Northern words the following might well be added: hail (sb.) (Gw.), kiste (Ad., Pr.), lowe (sb.) (Gy., Ip.), lowe (vb.) (Dg.), luff (Av.).

In a study entitled Anglo-Norse Studies: An Inquiry into the Scandinavian Elements in the Modern English Dialects, Per Thorson lists the following words in Group A as extant: bayne, bigge, bigging, busk, cod, farand, fel, fere, gate, gayne, gaynely, gere, gerthe, gesten, graythely, imelle, kiste, layke, layne (vb.), layte, lithe (vb.), loose, lowe (sb.), lowe (vb.), luff, lynge, lyte, menske, menskfully, mun, nayte, nefe, raike, ros, rose, scryke, ser, skythe, slake, spen(d), sprent, store, tene, thro (adj.), thwert, tite, tome, trast, tyne, un-gayne, wale (sb.), wale (vb.), ware, wight, wightly, wille. Also to be found in The English Dialect Dictionary are ban, cayre, croke, derf, derfly, lake, lass, quert+y, rade, ro, rile, site, skere (adj., adv.), toore, wayue.

17 Amsterdam, 1936.
18 The presence of words like gerthe and loose in this list may be cause for some surprise. Although these words are part of the standard vocabulary today, Thorson includes them because they happen to have dialectal meanings. In the lists from the EDD. to be found below, only words that are primarily dialectal are considered.
19 Some of the entries in the EDD. are of course marked "obsolete"; for example, toore.
GROUP B: bagged (pregnant), Pr. 717; bi (town), ¹⁹a Gy. 1.10, Ip. 7208; bigger sb., BF. 8; clede sb., Is. 105:O.T.; fere sb., Gy. 256.6; flyng [should read slyng?] sb., OtR. 164; force (waterfall), Dg. 1655:T; forflytte, Ad. 381: Ea; gedde sb., Dg. 519:T, gestonye sb., TP. 2374; gylle (ravine), BF. 1417; happily, Gw. 294:B; hathe vb., Dg. 1343:Cb; hayne sb., Dg. 70; intake vb., Ad. 149:Ea; kevel vb. (bridle), Pr. 424; lakkyn vb. sb., Ip. 4740, Is. 698:GC; law (ransom money), Av. 23.7; of-weve, OtR. 1091, Trs. 199:A; rafte sb., Av. 25.3, Rn. 80.1; rake sb. (rush), SM. 1249; rusk (tear up), Av. 12.14; skyre vb., Rn. 98.11; sleng vb., AA. 2073; spildur sb., Av. 13.6; staire (smite), Pr. 1169; talme vb., BF. 769; tarne sb., Av. 10.7; tatyrb, Ip. 6237; tayte sb., Pr. 253; thrust sb., OtR. 1222; tyght (dense), TP. 510; tyke (boor), SM. 1325; unroo sb., Pr. 362; un-weue vb., Trs. 199:V; wansum adj., Pr. 1065; wilsymlly (perversely), Ad. 416:1; wothely, Dg. 336:T.

Of these words, the citations for seven, namely, bigger, clede, flyng, force, intake, kevel, and thrust, are unique in the ME. period; and the citations for five others, namely, forflytte, gestonye, spildur, tyght (=²⁰ dense), and un-weue, are entirely unique. The other words, though not so unmistakably rare, ought at least to be classified as comparatively unusual, if the limited number of ME. citations and forms under each word in the NED. may be taken as a criterion.

The following words from Group B appear in Kaiser’s list of Northernisms: rake (SM.), unroo (Pr.), wansum (Pr.), and wothely Dg.).²¹ Thorson finds eight of the words extant in Modern English dialects: namely, bigger, force, gedde, gylle, rafte, rake, tarne, and tyke. Also listed in the EDD. are clede, happily, and rusk.

II. OLD FRENCH

GROUP A: abyey sb. (barking), Dg. 254; acketon, LD. 1229, Oc. 878, SM. 917, etc.; atine, Em. 913, Gy. 136.8, Ln. 343, etc.; agreve vb., AA. 705, Gy. 59.2, RO. 291, etc.; almaund, Rn. 5.8; alner, Ln. 319; amerayle, Em. 109, Gy. 51.4, Rn. 31.7, etc.; amervalie, Av. 44.1,ametite, Ip. 2655; antient, Ip. 1891; anis, Rn. 5.5; appelie, RO. 343; arbalaste, BF. 861, ET. 65, LD. 1174, etc.; arbalaster, OtR. 1591, RO. 1457; archangel, Dg. 1450; arsoun (saddle), Ip. 3817, LD. 345, Ln. 370, etc.; aseth, Dg. 490, Ip. 6153; assoyne sb., OtR. 697; astray, Dg. 1656; ataint, AA. 849, Ath. 696, Ln. 761; atent, Gw. 676:B; atire

¹⁹a Possibly OE.
²⁰ This sign before a gloss means “in the special sense of.”
²¹ Kaiser adds very little to the information about these words given in the NED. His list of citations for rake is fairly imposing, but these are for the several senses of the word, and not for the single meaning “rush.”
vb., Gy. 296.9, HR. 362; avaunt adv., Dg. 275; aventure, BF. 1939, TP. 1554; baneret, Dg. 474:Cb, SM. 1405; baretti,22 Ath. 294, RO. 1427, SM. 180; barresse, Dg. 391:T, SM. 1159; baselarde, Oc. 157:T, basenent, Gw. 479:Ea, Ip. 4460, LD. 539, etc.; bate (strike), Ip. 8826; baudakin, HR. 331, Rn. 4.11; bay (close quarters), Ip. 585, LD. 1653; bay vb. (bark), Av. 7.6, Eg. 286; becatch, LD. 2078, Trs. 510; berecel, Av. 7.2; bis sb. (bice), LD. 2176, Ln. 284; bloke, Cl. 452; boneire, LD. 1816, bordour, RO. 34; bowel, OtR. 2740; brace vb. (embrace), LD. 554; braundesh, RO. 175; breятиe (parapet), Oc. 710:T; broch sb., Dg. 572, Ln. 70; broch vb., RO. 800, SM. 1084; burgen, Ip. 1268; burneschd ppl. adj., Ip. 2918, SM. 630; buschement, Dg. 1626; buttery, Ip. 446; carnel, kernel, (fort), BF. 808, LD. 759, Rn. 81.4, etc.; cassydone, Em. 128, Ip. 2650; celure, Dg. 1490:Cb; champayn, BF. 148; changere, Oc. 642:Ca; chass, Dg. 378:Cb; chawndeleire, Oc. 645:T; chere vb., Cl. 33:O; chesone, Av. 19.11, Gy. 151.7, Tr. 261; coll vb., LD. 2112; comenere, Cl. 65:O; compaynou, Rn. 103.2; comynete, Eg. 505:Cc, Ip. 1953; conqueste vb., BF. 1199; content, Cl. 395:O; coronal, BF. 181, LD. 976, Ln. 239, etc.; corporas, Gy. 253.4; corset, OtR. 1220, SM. 916; countire sb., OtR. 1654, SM. 238; countrie vb., Av. 14.13, HR. 1083, Ip. 5465; crapowt (precious stone), Em. 94, Ip. 2654; crest, LD. 376, RO. 1201, Tr. 1483, etc.; curlew, Dg. 1422, Gw. 357: Ea; dathe, AA. 1569, HR. 234; dayle (tarry), Gy. 115.6; degrade, Dg. 104:T; dele (grief), ET. 804, Oc. 231, OtR. 2231; deryne, Eg. 18, Ip. 6329; destriere, LD. 132, Rn. 104.12; dyntely, Ip. 689; deynethb sb., Dg. 811:Cb; discrie vb., Ip. 6128, Rn. 50.3, RO. 273, etc.; disour, Gy. 17.5, LD. 151; disparpel, TP. 2010; dobeler, Ip. 6157; dobelett, Ip. 367; dolful, AA. 520, BF. 582, TP. 519, etc.; dolfuly, Ip. 4304, Oc. 552, Tr. 1603, etc.; dolour, AA. 12, OtR. 1886; dolphyne, Dg. 1054; doser (ornamental cloth), Ip. 314; dousepers, Dg. 1870, RO. 16, RV. 280, etc.; draper, Ad. 144:Ea; dubbing, Ath. 233; duchye, TP. 933; dyssees, BF. 618, Ip. 7204; dyuyn (divinity), OtR. 1681; egirly, Gy. 178.3, Ip. 7051; egirnesse, RO. 474, SM. 915; empire, LD. 900; enter (inter), BF. 869; erytuyke, Ath. 481, Ip. 2104, SM. 675; erynye, Dg. 647, Ip. 371, Ln. 329; euerose, Dg. 1407:Cb; ewere, Dg. 1406; extente, LD. 1249; fachon (fachion), AA. 808, Gw. 142, LD. 261, etc.; fagot, Dg. 1395; faintes, Ip. 638; faintly, SM. 1422; faineth, Eg. 874:Cc, Ip. 643; famysch, BF. 875; fantasm, LD. 1522; faute sb., Av. 47.4, Eg. 874:T, Oc. 1430:T; faute vb., Ln. 200; feauete, Gy. 3.8, HR. 141, Ip. 5616, etc.; feltered ppl. adj., Em. 540, Gw. 74:Ea, Ip. 6147; fence (defence), Tr. 551; fende (defend), Gy. 63.8, Ip. 5830, Tr. 982, etc.; festur vb., BF. 1943; fewter sb., Av. 42.7, Dg. 1282:T, Ip. 4568; flome, Gy. 99.1, LD. 236; force vb., Ip. 4273; forjuste, BF. 466, Dg. 1914:Ca, RO. 778; fosse, Dg. 1655:Cb; fownder sb., BF. 11; fray sb., Dg. 1723:Cb, Ip. 4508, TP. 638; fraye vb., Dg. 253; frusche sb., SM. 268; frusche vb., Dg. 1103:Cb, HR. 630, SM. 361; fywance (confidence), Tr. 1023; galaye, Is. 229; garett,22 Cf. ON. baratta.
Tr. 722; garsoun, BF. 118, LD. 1589; gayly, RO. 35; gentryse, Dg. 497, Ip. 539; gerfaucon, LD. 773, Ln. 961; gesserante, Dg. 307, RO. 355, SM. 919; gile vb., Gy. 116.2, Ip. 1404, Tr. 1128; gisarme, Gy. 258.4, LD. 1148; glace vb., Ip. 4579; gleyve, Dg. 295, Gy. 182.3, RV. 334, etc.; gorger, LD. 1708; goules, Dg. 1052:T, Eg. 425:T, LD. 913, etc.; grese (stairway), Dg. 1375; groge (grumble), Ip. 1879; Grype (griffin), Eg. 817, TP. 1870; gysse vb., Tr. 660; hastelet, Dg. 1414; havoque, Ip. 7565; ho (cease), ET. 153, LD. 2040, Ip. 7369; hospitate, Dg. 1833; hostel, Gy. 244.12; hurdas, SM. 1600; hurtelyng vbl. sb., Dg. 1699:T; inde, Ip. 2462, LD. 133, Ln. 232; issue vb., BF. 458, Dg. 1282:Cb, Ip. 5932, etc.; jaspe, Rn. 80.11; juster, TP. 2420; kennet, Av. 6.5; kernel (see carnell); lachette, Ip. 4458; launce, Gy. 98.3, Ip. 2418, SM. 102, etc.; lele, Ad. 508, BF. 988, Ln. 326, etc.; leelie, Dg. 529, Pr. 2139; leute, AA. 1955, Ip. 496, LD. 2042, etc.; lorein, HR. 905, Ln. 888; lyter (stretcher), BF. 1547; mall sb. (club), TP. 322; maungery, Dg. 1159, Em. 469, RO. 1585, etc.; mawnger, Pr. 441; mayne vb. (lead), Pr. 711; maynteyne sb., BF. 883; mellle vb. (mix), Ip. 517, RO. 10, RV. 526, etc.; mellyde ppl. adj., RO. 1254; mend sb. (recompense), Dg. 220:T, mes (portion of food), Dg. 1217, HR. 548, Pr. 455, etc.; messays (miserable), Gy. 191.5; meyr (mayor), Ln. 89; moserd, Ip. 6881; moyneb (mullion), Dg. 1475:Cb; mule, Gy. 292.9, Ln. 886, Rn. 7.2, etc.; nasell, Gy. 107.3, RO. 465; nobiltee, RO. 1500; nobleness, Ln. 401; norserie, AA. 2270, LD. 960; noye sb., Oc. 1567:T; noye vb., Ip. 3684, TP. 153; oryall, ET. 310; paiere (impair), Dg. 1903:Cb, Pr. 306; pane (garment), Eg. 727:T, pane (fur), Eg. 831, Rn. 4.11; panter, Dg. 1665:Cb; pantry, Dg. 1410; parail, Rn. 63.12, RV. 196, Trs. 1075, etc.; paste, Dg. 1418; pavilion, BF. 379, Dg. 243, Ln. 263, etc.; pawtenere, Oc. 711:Ca; payndemayne, Dg. 1291; paynym, OtR. 535, RO. 100, RV. 475; pelured adj., LD. 129, Ln. 237; pend (pertain), Pr. 1936, pendande sb., Ip. 7578, SM. 979; per (be equal to), Dg. 1903:Cb, Ip. 3692; pertely, Eg. 750:Ca, ET. 1082, TP. 1501, etc.; perydote, Em. 155; pisaine, LD. 1708, Pr. 1722; playte vb. (fold), Dg. 342:Cb; plenerly, Ip. 5053, SM. 962; plouer, Dg. 1418; posterne, BF. 463, Dg. 626, Ip. 8187, etc.; pourtenans, Cl. 545:O; pouyne, Dg. 1507:Cb; prechement, Rn. 108.8; prestely, Av. 19.5, Gw. 331:Ec; preubauble, Av. 2.3; pris (valued), AA. 9; pychere (pitcher), Pr. 454; quarella (square bolt), BF. 773; quary (game), Ip. 731; queer (choir), Ath. 430, Ip. 4734; queste vb., Ip. 619; quibibe (cubeb), Rn. 5.4; quiceclaym vb., BF. 1192, Gy. 210.8; quyit, Dg. 1507:Cb; rabyte, Rn. 41.1; race (root out), Oc. 1716; rage adj., AA. 1945; rampand, BF. 845, Gw. 578:Ec, OtR. 300; ransome vb., ET. 79; raundoun sb. (speed), LD. 339, OtR. 420; ray (striped cloth), Em. 415, Ip. 5839, Ln. 546; raymve vb. (control), ET. 434; rehete, Cl. 19:O; reine (control by reins), Ip. 6684, Oc. 1210, TP. 149; reisyn, Rn. 5.7; reles sb. (relish), Cl. 211:Eb; rely vb. (rally), Ip. 3924, RO. 1477; renayed ppl. adj., RO. 1516; retenaunce, Dg. 1163, Ip. 5650; revel vb., Dg. 371, ET. 706, TP. 2467; reward vb., Cl. 364;
Of these words, the following (about one-seventh of the group) were used by more than three of the poets: acketon, afine, agreve, ameryale, arbalaste, arsoun, basenet, carnel, coronal, crest, discrie dolful, dolfully, dousepers, fachon, feaute, fende, gleyve, goules, issue, launce, lele, leute, maungery, melle, mes, mule, parail, pavilion, pertely, posterne, rive, saute (sb.), scomfit, semblé (sb.), semble (vb.), slavyne, somer, spite, stabil (make stable), stonay, stroye, tente (vb.), trayne, trompour, vawarde, ventaille, verrament. Four of the words in this list, namely acketon (LD., Oc., Pr., RO., SM., TP.), basenet (Dg., ET., Gw., Gy., Ip., LD., RV., Trs.), fachon (AA., Gw., LD., Ln., Rn., RV., SM., Trs.), and ventaille (Gy., Ip., LD., Oc., Pr., RV.), seem to have been used more frequently by writers of metrical romances than by writers in any other group. The NED. citations show that none of the others may be so classified.

None of the words in Group A may be put down either as poetic (to judge by the NED.) or as chiefly alliterative (to judge by Oakden’s lists).

The citations in the NED. seem to indicate that forty-one words in this group had disappeared from the current literary language, or were on the verge of disappearing, by the end of the ME. period: afine, alner, asethe, assoyne, aventure, becatch, bretage (=parapet), dathet, destrere, dyuyn (= divinity), euerose, faintes, fewter (sb.), forjuste, glace, gorer, ho, hostel, hurdas, lorein, messays, moserd, nasell, pelured, pend, perydote, poyne, rabyte, rayme, rehet, retenaunce, salere, sanappe, siclaton, simplithe, slavyne, soyn, trompour, trust (adj.), trustly, vis. Of these, only six words had disappeared before the opening of the fifteenth century: dathet in the first half of the fourteenth century; assoyne in the second; and dyuyn (= divinity), siclaton, simplithe, and vis about the year 1400.

Kaiser’s list of Northern words includes the following from the present group: feltered (Em.; add Gw., Ip.), lele (Ad., BF., Ln., Sm.; add Ip.), lelely (Dg., Pr.), pend (Pr.), rehet (add Cl.), stonay (Av.; add Dg., Ip., Pr.), trayne (Ath., BF., Dg., TP., Tr.; add Ip.), vuer (add Dg.), and vis (Em.; add HR., LD.).

Group A words appearing in the EDD. are as follows: appelle, asethe-ment, avaunt (adv.), barresse, bate, broch, (sb.), broch
(vb.), coll, comyte, conquest (vb.), dathet, dele, deynteth, dobler, dolour, feltered, fraye (vb.), frusche (sb.), frusche (vb.), garsoun, gentryse, gile (vb.), gleyve, grese, groge, hastelet, hostel (vb.), ile, ilely, melle, noye (sb.), noye (vb.), pane (garment), pere, prechement, quarell, saute (vb.), say (sb.), say (vb.), sewrance, spalde, spense, stonay, stroye, sot (= fool), sygne, tente (sb.), tente (vb.), tire, tise, veuer, warme store.

GROUP B. acontre, Gy. 50.10; acontering vbl. sb., Av. 35.15; adouted ppl. adj., Gy. 61.5; afflyght (distressed), OtR. 880; aget adv., Dg. 1197:Cb; agye, LD. 2157, Ln. 623; amall sb. (enamel), LD. 936, Ln. 270; a party, Ip. 8479; aprise sb., Av. 59.14, LD. 639; archede ppl. adj., Dg. 1048:T, ascorn adv., Rn. 111.4; assayle sb., OtR. 1084; astelle, RO. 1547; auere (horse), Dg. 150:T; auaunt vb., RO. 358, SM. 1575; avenant sb., Dg. 386, RO. 359; aventurel, TP. 1229; avowing vbl. sb., Av. 37.5; balayne (whalebone), Eg. 774:Cc; bale (package), Rn. 5.6; baptise sb., LD. 1450, Trs. 918; barbel (part of a helmet), LD. 376; bard (horse-armor), Gw. 512:B, baronette, Ln. 56; barony, BF. 1268; batayling vbl. sb., Rn. 40.12; batte23 sb. (blow), Ip. 5492; bawndonly, Dg. 392:T; bay (body of water), Gw. 28:B; baynge vbl. sb. (barking), Ip. 583; *beaufrener24 sb., LD. 315; beauteous, Av. 52.6; be crown vb., BF. 1200; bettant, RO. 356; blunner (fur), LD. 129; bordure vb., Ln. 236, Ip. 313; bouche, Dg. 1014; bountenes, Ip. 5018; bourding vbl. sb., SM. 1419; brace (coat of armor), Ip. 3263; brach, Ip. 609; brachet, Ip. 618; buffe, Av. 4.15; certe adv., LD. 141, Ln. 297; charmure, LD. 2163; chasour (horse for the chase), Ip. 2429; chastening vbl. sb., Ip. 1551; chaumentment, LD. 2003; *chekir-seloure, Dg. 1490:T; citoler, Ln. 668; cline vb., BF. 1128; commant sb., TP. 804; confortyng vbl. sb., OtR. 2540; congrece, Ad. 491:I; convenence sb., Ip. 428; coresur (runner), ET. 983; corner25 (battlement), Oc. 1364:Ca; couped ppl. adj., TP. 1193; covenant adj., BF. 945; cowpe vb. (tilt), Ip. 6745, RO. 453; crochett (roll of hair), Ip. 7077; chronycle vb., Eg. 1333:Ca.Cc, ET. 1219; discomforthynge ppl. adj., SM. 240; discrie (outcry), RO. 1476; dukdom, LD. 1813; dur, Dg. 649:T; *dysharnes vb., Gw. 439: Ea; engrelyd ppl. adj., Dg. 1046; ensemble vb., Rn. 18.4; ensent, Dg. 869:Cb; ensoun vb., Dg. 290:Cb; enterment, Gw. 654:Ea; famacioun, Rn. 23.3; faunsere, LD. 1919; faunt, Trs. 596; fasoned ppl. adj., Dg. 543:T; *tavelard sb., Ip. 1966; faylard (offender), Ip. 2102; fer adj., LD. 613, OtR. 55; feraunt adj., Dg. 387; fewter vb., SM. 1474; *flatour (dash to the ground), Gw. 428:B; flemy (river), Ip. 3215, Tr. 142; fole sage, AA. 1946; fortravelled ppl. adj., RO. 751; foul (trample), Dg. 1106:Cb; frontelle, Dg. 655:T; gablet, Dg.

23 Possibly OE.
24 Words not entered in the NED. are indicated by an asterisk.
25 Cf. carnel (kernel) in Group A.
1478; gambassowne, Dg. 318, Gy. 93.7; garnet, Em. 156; gipell, LD. 248; glace sb., SM. 1347; goteret, Ip. 6158; graumaungere, RO. 1052; grate sb., LD. 1675; helmet, Gw. 583:Ea; heue vb. (shout), Dg. 252: T; hob (clown), Gw. 371; iambler, Gy. 118.4; issuing vbl. sb., Ip. 6082; jelsunes, Av. 64.1; kell (hair-net), Em. 303, Gw. 33:Ea, Trs. 359:V; lengell, LD. 310; lent sb. (delay), TP. 2461; lewting vbl. sb., Dg. 38:Cb; *lyuerlye (nimbly), Ip. 5382; masly, Av. 3.13; mayne (domain), Dg. 69:T; molette (rowel), Oc. 720:Ca; mouse vb. (grimace), OtR. 1483; nakerner, Cl. 100:O, Dg. 1101:T; organizer, Gy. 17.4; *overchowche (overlay), Dg. 1487:T; pane vb. (inlay), Dg. 1485:Cb; pane (line with fur), Ip. 2457; pantelere. Dg. 1665:T; parpon, Dg. 1446:Cb; pays (country), Ip. 2700; peche (accuse), Ip. 5401; pencie sb. (care), Cl. 180:Eb; perceiving vbl. sb., Ip. 893; pount tournis, LD. 1385; *powunce (power), RO. 628; proffing vbl. sb., Ln. 805, Tr. 702; quite-claym adj., Gy. 88.5; raye (king), Em. 430, Pr. 179, TP. 1103; reubund, Dg. 250:T; rebuyte vb., SM. 743; reles vb. (relish), Cl. 211:O; reversed (ppl. adj., Ln. 947; reynyng vbl. sb., OtR. 2433; ronne adj., Dg. 534:Cb; rywayne (revay), Dg. 50; sautour (saltire), Dg. 1046:Cb; savagely, Ln. 130; sayment, TP. 50; scornful, Oc. 831:T; scornfully, Ip. 8022; scrye vb., BF. 333, Dg. 1875:Cb; sent sb., Ath. 265, Dg. 1118:T; sent vb., BF. 241, Dg. 1551:Cb; servelle vb., Eg. 414:T; seryd ppl. adj., Dg. 1882:Cb; simarr, TP. 1338; solance, SM. 359; sore (reddish-brown), Dg. 76, Ip. 2398;overe (leave unattacked), Ip. 574; speire sb. (despair), LD. 1817; squid (heavy fall), Ip. 4352; stiour, Gy. 17.4; stote (salter), Dg. 242:Cb and 1331:T; strade sb., RO. 476; syngnance, RO. 1074; tainte sb. (blemish), SM. 1387; taste (trial), BF. 852; testymoyne vb., Em. 1029; *testymoye vb., Em. 162; to rushe, BF. 637; trap sb., LD. 310; travellande ppl. adj., Pr. 965; traversyd ppl. adj., Ip. 1277; traynne (retinue), Dg. 1155; trayne (instruct), Ath. 165; trenchepayne, Pr. 514; tyche (＝brow, stroke), OtR. 161; unharnes, TP. 302; unspoyle, Pr. 742; uschere, Av. 64.13. Dg. 1078:Cb; valete, Ip. 431; vaunplate, LD. 1614; venturus, Ip. 3764, TP. 1566; vesnamy (face), Ip. 6161; werly adv., RO. 813; wyntener, OtR. 1600.

The citations for twenty-seven of these words are unique in the ME. period: baynge, be crown, bountenes, chastening, commant, congree, convenience, discie, fausoned, grate, pane (inlay), pays, quite-claym (adj.), reles (vb.), roonne, savagely, seryd, simarr, syngnance, traversyd, trayne (＝retinue), trayne (＝instruct), unharnes, valete, vaunplate, venturus, vesnamy; and the citations for seventeen others, namely, aoutersing, aget, agye,28 archede, aventurely, avow-

26 The NED marks a nineteenth-century use of this word "pseudo-archaic."
27 Conjectural reading.
28 There are two NED citations for this word, it is true, but they are both from romances: LD. and Ln.
ing, covenaut, discomforthyngae, faunsere, gipell, gramaungere, lent, molette (= rowel), sayment, strade, trenchepayne, and unspoyle are entirely unique. The other unasterisked words in Group B, though not so unmistakably rare, may at least be classified as comparatively unusual.

None of the words in this group appear in Kaiser’s lists of dialectal words. The following appear in the EDD: astelle, auere, balayne, batte, bourding, brach, buffe, cowpe, faunt, for-travelede, hob, kell, mowe, parpon, squate, usche.

III. OLD ENGLISH

GROUP A: abowe vb., Em. 981; acre, Gy. 259.11; adight, LD. 251, Ln. 498; adrede, RV. 484; atalle, Ip. 945; afere, Dg. 710:Cb; afong, Gy. 102.8, LD. 1491, Trs. 990:V; afot, Gy. 53.10; agramed, AA. 793, Gy. 102.2, LD. 2018, etc.; alond adv., Rn. 9.10; alle weldyng ppl. adj., OtrR. 1388; aloute, LD. 1332; alssone, Ad. 674:Ea, Ip. 338, Pr. 1011; amidward, LD. 871; aplitight, AA. 79, Gy. 230.9, RV. 140, etc.; aquell, Gy. 59.8, RV. 835, Trs. 1181:A; areche, AA. 2467, LD. 1183, Trs. 1153; arere, Rn. 27.11, RV. 351, Trs. 251, etc.; arewe, Oc. 1350:Ca; arghe vb., Pr. 69; aslay, Ip. 4591, Rn. 46.3; asleped, RV. 612; astrote adv., BF. 2027, Is. 629:T; aswowe, LD. 1225, Ln. 755; atholde, Gy. 220.10, Rn. 88.5, RV. 395; atwite, Gy. 61.8; aughth (possessions), Dg. 842:Cb; awede (go mad), LD. 419, Rn. 42.6, Trs. 196:V, etc.; awonderd, Ip. 243; aywhere, Eg. 72, TP. 2412; bale adj., SM. 488; baleful, Av. 3.1, HR. 75; bare (lay bare), TP. 688; bareteme, BF. 10; be-hang, OtrR. 1731; beld sb. (comfort), BF. 762, Gw. 366, SM. 324, etc.; beled vb., Gw. 81, Eg. 3, SM. 911; belie (deceive), Dg. 1744:Ca, Rn. 73.12; belouke, Rn. 81.1; bere (beer), Gy. 281.7; bere (uprar), BF. 659, RO. 183; bere vb. (roar), Oc. 1449; bern (warrior), AA. 102, Av. 5.14, BF. 884, etc.; bespeak, Ath. 393, ET. 883, Pr. 245; beswyke, SM. 663; betelle, Ip. 144; bewrie (covered), Rn. 115.11; bey sb. (ring), Dg. 572, Oc. 1009; bielepe, Gy. 151.4; biforhand, Ip. 6529, Ln. 579; bihede, Gy. 155.5; bilappe, AA. 1014, Gy. 52.11; biligge, RV. 188; bimene vb. (mean), Oc. 222:T; bimene (bemoan), AA. 1569, HR. 234, Trs. 1145; bire (be proper), Gw. 600, RO. 1253; bire (pour), Av. 46.14, Ip. 791, TP. 292; bischopryk, Ath. 349, ET. 1150; bistande, Ip. 7568, OtrR. 127; bistride, AA. 1790, Gy. 1.5, TP. 502, etc.; bitokening vbl. sb., HR. 996; biweve, Gy. 75.6, RO. 1202; ble, Em. 270, LD. 305, SM. 1359, etc.; blank, Av. 25.11, SM. 254; blowe vb. (bloom), Gy. 45.10, Rn. 58.4; blyschere (give a look), Oc. 178:T; bo (both), Ip. 8069; bode vb. (command), Ad. 682:Ea; bodword, Ad. 70:Ea, Oc. 94:T; bote (make better), AA. 2352, Eg. 187; brand (sword), AA. 1115, Av. 16.5, RO. 141, etc.; brante adj., Dg. 1114:T, Is. 248:O; bree (eyebrow), Av. 27.11; britten (hew), Av. 7.2, Dg. 322, RO. 891, etc.; bryssse, vb. (bruise),
BF. 103, Dg. 1636:T, Tr. 237; barely adj., Dg. 468, Pr. 269; buse (behooves), Gw. 293, Ip. 45, Is. 46:'T, etc.; cheping vbl. sb., AA. 1700, LD. 950; childbed, Oc. 128; chine vb. (split), Dg. 1030:Cb, Rn. 111.8; cleke, RO. 565; cling (stiffen), ET. 497; clowgh (ravine), Ip. 5833, TP. 542; cole vb. (cool), Ip. 8196, TP. 581; comyn, Rn. 5.5; coped (peaked), LD. 143, TP. 1193; coren, AA. 1431, Gy. 164.3, RO. 1193, etc.; coss, LD. 2164; crake sb. (crack), LD. 1019, SM. 466; crenstyn, AA. 45; crucche, Gy. 741:B; dentyd, BF. 326; dere (injury), Dg. 356, Ip. 2542, SM. 700; derely adv., Dg. 664, Gy. 55.9; din sb., Ip. 7626; din vb., Pr. 2050; dinnyng vbl. sb., TP. 1487; doughtily, BF. 517, Ip. 6013, SM. 1201, etc.; doughtiness, Gy. 139.11, Oc. 1582:Ca; drede adj., SM. 278; dreghe adj., BF. 1886, RO. 696; drerily, Av. 69.4; drihten, Ad. 759.1, Rn. 107.3, RO. 1283, etc.; drove sb., OtR. 2254; dwergh, Ip. 6598, LD. 119; endent, Dg. 665, TP. 227; erd (land), RV. 215; erldom, Ath. 309, Ln. 959, TP. 29, etc.; ern (eagle), Ln. 268; est sb. (favor), Eg. 876:Ca, Tr. 1416; evensong, Ath. 302, LD. 1424, Trs. 1204:A, faderles, BF. 1220; fairly, Dg. 1690:T; fellow vb., Eg. 681:T, Gw. 62:B; faste vb., Av. 7.8, Tr. 645; fax (hair), BF. 1543, LD. 140, Rn. 34.11; fele (faithful), Pr. 729, RO. 89; ferde (army), Rn. 27.1; ferke (draw hastily), SM. 484; ferli adj., sb., BF. 431, LD. 988, TP. 44, etc.; ferli adv., AA. 241, Ip. 2075, LD. 303; ferli vb., SM. 552; ferred, Gy. 53.3, OtR. 1167, Trs. 1014:A; fey adj., Av. 4.6, Dg. 771:Cb and 1107:T, RO. 18, etc.; fikel, BF. 2182, HR. 35, Tr. 20; file (defile), Ip. 1403; fischynge vbl. sb., Gy. 205.8, RO. 272; flaey vb., Av. 7.15; flaming ppl. adj., RO. 94; flett (floor), Ln. 979; flite vb., Ip. 3873, SM. 563, Tr. 1227; fode (creature), AA. 57, Ad. 580:Ea, Em. 507, etc.; folde (earth), Av. 1.2, BF. 342, RO. 418, etc.; fole (foal), Pr. 717, TP. 459; fondynge (trial), Tr. 111; font,29 RO. 609, TP. 1993; forbled, HR. 521, Tr. 1243; fordrede, Gy. 1521, Oc. 1042:Ca; forfare, AA. 1128, BF. 1255, LD. 1182, etc.; forfoughten, Eg. 399:T, Gy. 119.11, Tr. 1243; forhele, Rn. 68.10; forhight vb., OtR. 1547; forlie, AA. 749, Dg. 1744:T, Tr. 174; forsette (obstruct), Av. 38.6; forthan conj., HR. 832; foster sb., TP. 574; fouly, Dg. 144:T; foundelynge, Ath. 186; fous, LD. 312; framward, OtR. 2240; frek adj., adv., Dg. 1381:Cb; Ip. 6315; frek sb., Av. 40.6, Dg. 1381:T, Ip. 722, etc.; frely (noble), AA. 57, Ad. 580:Ea, Dg. 528, etc.; freste vb. (delay), Eg. 666; frithe (forest), Dg. 313, Em. 29, Gw. 468, etc.; frome, Rn. 87.12; gale30 (gay sound), LD. 1059; galowtre, BF. 2090, ET. 660, Tr. 580; gange vb., Ad. 516: Ea, Ath. 743, HR. 954, etc.; gare (spear), AA. 1353, Gy. 103.6, Oc. 1527:Ca, etc.; geld (cover with gold), LD. 1366; ginge sb., RV. 49; glede (kite), Oc. 680:Ca, RO. 285; gleme vb., BF. 381, Gy. 249.12; glewe (make merry), Tr. 108; glewman, HR. 964, Is. 19:Ea:T; glise vb., HR. 173; glisten vb., RO. 1365; glister vb., Is. 210:T; gnede adj., 29 Certain words in this list, like font, derive ultimately from Latin. 30 Possibly OF.
Gy. 18.6, HR. 105, Pr. 607, etc.; gome, AA. 1309, Dg. 318, LD. 1145, etc.; gore (filth), LD. 1561; gospellor, Dg. 1457; grame (fierce), AA. 214; grame vb. (fret), Gy. 57.5, OtR. 203; grede (cry out), LD. 771, Rn. 94.5, Trs. 643, etc.; gret (sorrow), Dg. 1785:Cb; gret (grief), AA. 1530, Gy. 288.9, Ip. 5802, etc.; grette (weep), Em. 556, Ip. 4370, Oc. 314, etc.; grette vb. (increase), Gw. 103; grille (vexation), ET. 279, SM. 224; grille (be fearful), ET. 165; grin vb. RO. 1322, TP. 1126; hafte sb., BF. 1634; hale (nook), LD. 1875; halidom, Gy. 253.5; handefull, SM. 117; hathel adj. (noble), Ip. 3476; hedles (headless), TP. 702, Trs. 1097; hedyngne, Cl. 360; heghe (raise), Ip. 3653; heghte (high), Dg. 406:T; helde (bend down), Av. 21.14, BF. 1713, Dg. 300:Cb, etc.; heling vbl. sb., Rn. 79.11; henendliche, AA. 195, HR. 373, Pr. 581, etc.; hendi, AA. 290, Gy. 19.1; herdem man, Av. 41.7, Is. 86; here (lord), Gw. 254:Et; here (army), Dg. 583, HR. 49, Oc. 1209, etc.; herye (harass), Dg. 140; heteliche, Gy. 106.2, Trs. 103:A; hevenwarde, SM. 135; hevily, Ip. 1539; hide (skin), OtR. 775, RO. 65, Trs. 727; highing (haste), Em. 511, LD. 2179, OtR. 334; highte (haste), Rn. 18.6; high-way, Gy. 182:B; hitl, Gy. 164.4, Ip. 4475, SM. 116, etc.; hold (faithful), Gw. 730:Et; RO. 415; holynge (holly), Ip. 7596; horcop, Tr. 224; hore (whore), ET. 656, Pr. 1901; horedome, ET. 800; hors-bak, TP. 2466; horse vb., Av. 38.9 Ip. 4585, RO. 1091, etc.; horsesman, Dg. 1235; houser sb., TP. 1272; hungre vb., BF. 1451; hyppe vb. (hop), BF. 1991; icore, AA. 579, Rn. 16.1, RV. 448, etc.; innermar, Pr. 1233; i(n) same, AA. 1089, Ath. 769, Gy. 56.6, etc.; kele vb. (cool), ET. 870, Gy. 128.6, Ip. 3995, etc.; kempe sb., Pr. 47; kepe vb. (meet), Gw. 401:Et; Ip. 145; kith (native land), Dg. 315, Em. 594, Ip. 616, etc.; knyle, Dg. 1472, Pr. 1347; kyndome, Ad. 635:I; kynsman, Pr. 1354; lacche (seize), Gy. 94.1, Oc. 976, Pr. 1490, etc.; lame vbl., Dg. 308, LD. 2026; lawe, lowe (hill), Cl. 527:Eb, Is. 436, LD. 1057, etc.; lay (lake), Dg. 255; lay (lea), BF. 1356, TP. 165; le (calmness), Em. 348; lechynge vbl. sb. (healing), Eg. 778:T; led (lid), Cl. 278; lede (people), AA. 2445, TP. 36, Tr. 1269, etc.; lede (language), BF. 249; lefely (dear), Ln. 858; leme vb. (flame), Av. 65.4, Ip. 7836, Ln. 288, etc.; lende (arrive), Ath. 178, BF. 1056, HR. 850, etc.; leng (tarry), Ath 535, Av. 62.8, Eg. 606:Cc, etc.; ler (check), Cl. 153, Em. 294, RO. 621, etc.; lese (release), Ip. 2618; lethir (worthless), ET. 1092, OtR. 1486, Pr. 700; letting (hindrance), Dg. 903:Cb, Ln. 1016, Tr. 708, etc.; leuelich adv., Rn. 66.8; ley (fallow), RO. 924; lift (upper air), RV. 411; lire (flesh), LD. 1415; list (attention), OtR. 1; liste vb., AA. 1240, LD. 1830, TP. 7; listne, AA. 99, Ath. 7, Cl. 1, etc.; lome (implement), Pr. 2032; lore (loss), Cl. 34:O; lothely adv., Dg. 144:Cb; love vb. (praise), Av. 65.15, Oc. 727:Ca, RO. 602, etc.; love vb. (bellow), RV. 637; lyr-day, OtR. 169; lyke vb. (lick), Tr. 384; lyne (linen), Em. 864, RO. 846; lyne (cease), Cl. 133:O, Ip. 6179; mache (opponent), RO. 809; main sb., BF. 291, Ip. 2950, TP. 1619, etc.; maisterles, RO. 1424; make sb. (style), Ip. 2413; mane sb., Ip. 6258; mar vb., Av. 41.8, BF. 863, ET.
1116, etc.; maslyn (brass), Rn. 5.1; masse-book, Ath. 150; melch, Gw. 110:Ea; mende (mindful), Gy. 281.6; mene vb. (moan), Ip. 5560; menge vb., AA. 1173, Ip. 994, LD. 1337, etc.; middelerd, ET. 662; middel-maste, Ip. 1929, Is. 184; midsomer, Dg. 1569, LD. 1077, Trs. 763; midwyrf, Trs. 536:V; midwinter, AA. 1887; mightful, RV. 854, SM. 1331; mildly, adv., Gy. 180.7, Ln. 252; minde (remind), BF. 2166, Ip. 5242; mirk adj., Oc. 329:T; mirke vb., HR. 81; misdo, Ip. 1295; misfare, Ad. 246:I, OtR. 2360; misse (loss), Dg. 207, ET. 1062, Rn. 96.10; miswirke, Em. 281, Ip. 204; mithe (conceal), Gy. 17.9, HR. 825; modi (brave), Oc. 771:Ca, Rn. 105.1; molde (earth), AA. 101, BF. 158, Dg. 659, etc.; molde (top of head), Dg. 1055, LD. 898, Ln. 940; more (moor), Gw. 417:Ea, Pr. 1127; moregheue, Ath. 315; mos sb., Ath. 344, Tr. 392; mote vb. (say), Tr. 1439; mynge (relate, remind), Em. 926, Oc. 7:Ca; naie (neigh), LD. 1923, Ln. 1025; nebe sb. (face), Gy. 75.7, Ip. 6162; nedelongs, Ad. 133:I; nehond, Cl. 70:O, Ip. 1233; nerehand, Cl. 70:Eb, Pr. 496, Tr. 1137, etc.; nesche (soft), LD. 1573; nithe sb. (envy), AA. 208; noman sb., AA. 548, Gy. 7.8; nykke (deny), AA. 2188, Ath. 503, Pr. 1024; of-drede, Rn. 75.5; ofhungered adj., AA. 1908; ofsende, Ln. 190, Trs. 150; orchard, AA. 543, Dg. 631, Ln. 124; over-gange, Ip. 1510; over-meckel adv., Ip. 1478; overryn, Pr. 342; palle (rich cloth), Dg. 87, ET. 705, LD. 413, etc.; plaié-fere, Pr. 1902, Rn. 13.12; pole sb. (pool), BF. 148, Ip. 6652, Pr. 682; prior, Gy. 234.2, RV. 356; pyke (pilgrim's staff), Is. 505; quickly adv., Rn. 83.3; rache (dog), Av. 6.7, Gw. 444, LD. 1070, etc., rad adj., adv., Eg. 1138:Ca, Gy. 225.4; radly, Gw. 256; ragyd (jagged), TP. 194; rainy, Ln. 169; ratthely, RO. 292; raxel vb. (stretch), Gw. 658:Ea; reding vbl. sb., Em. 550, Rn. 12.12; renke (warior), Dg. 1105; rerde sb. (cry), BF. 1427; rere vb. (raise), Ad. 5, ET. 85, HR. 66, etc.; rerewere sb., BF. 605, SM. 346; rese vb. (assault), AA. 2065, SM. 1305; resteyne vb. (right), SM. 121; rever (robbery), Dg. 498:T, rife, Eg. 1011, ET. 84, LD. 1213, etc.; rigge sb. (back), AA. 1832, BF. 746, Gy. 129.9, etc.; rigge-bone, Eg. 494; rike (kingdom), BF. 1807, Rn. 77.5, SM. 666; ritte vb. (rip), Gy. 104.9, Rn. 44.2; ronne sb. (running), BF. 1902; rother (rudder), Eg. 856:Cc.T; rotyng vbl. sb., OtR. 2543; roun sb. (cry), AA. 1814, LD. 1029; rowght (heavy blow), TP. 645; sadil vb., Ad. 326:1, Ath. 369, BF. 1924, etc.; sale (room), AA. 444, Ath. 668, LD. 249, etc.; sambu (saddle-cloth), Ln. 950; samen adv., AA. 1426, Av. 25.5, Tr. 1127, etc.; samne (assemble), AA. 76, Gy. 253.1, Trs. 530:A, etc.; saught adj., Dg. 841:Cb, Ip. 8691,31 LD. 1084; saught sb., Gy. 144.3; saughtyl vb., Dg. 1173:Cb, RO. 1154; saughtylinge vbl., sb., Dg. 1822, RO. 588; saw (cut with a saw), SM. 60; sayne (make sign of cross), BF. 297, Is. 447:GC.T, Pr. 287; schattemonde, SM. 1307; schamefully, Ip. 4692; schamely, AA. 1794, Dg. 1114:Cb, LD. 1140; schide (plank), RO. 1547; schille adj., adv., Eg. 300:Ca.T, LD. 826, Ln.

31 Conjectural reading.
534, etc.; schillynge sb., AA. 1821, Em. 524, RV. 387; schipe vb., Ln. 556, RO. 742, TP. 1318; schire adj., Dg. 309:Cb, Ln. 247; schire adv., BF. 98; schone (shun), Ath. 35; schottynge vbl. sb., Pr. 689; schreward, Gy. 172.12; schride (clothe), AA. 934, Gy. 52.8, Ln. 416, etc.; see sonde, Ad. 553:1; sege (man), Dg. 291:Cb; sel (good fortune), Ad. 367:1, Av. 63.2, Ip. 131; selcouth adj., sb., Av. 56.16, Oc. 1422, Trs. 444, etc.; serke (sark), Em. 501, Ip. 7074; sesyde sb., Ip. 7549; sibered, Gy. 179.6; slade (valley), Gw. 575: Ea, RO. 1418, SM. 1208, etc.; smek sb. (smell), Av. 15.12; smerty, Ath. 467, BF. 1143, Gy. 265.5, etc., smytt (heavy blow), Tr. 1565; snell adj., adv., Em. 309, LD. 784, Pr. 2170, etc.; sorely, SM. 256; sortily, RO. 459; spare adj., Ip. 2376; spending vbl. sb., Ip. 294, Ln. 81, Tr. 220; spere (ask), Ad. 202:Ea, BF. 149, Ip. 45, etc.; spereman, OtR. 1591; spite (meat-spit), LD. 627; sprit sb. (spear), Oc. 469, TP. 181; stalworth adj., Dg. 1061, Gw. 414:Ea, Ip. 2042, etc.; stawlworthely, RO. 1162; stede (beset), BF. 1311, Dg. 1647, Ip. 1042, etc.; stike (fasten), AA. 2318, BF. 1472, LD. 989, etc.; stepull, BF. 1885; stubley adv., Dg. 242:1; stith (brave), AA. 1303, HR. 255, Pr. 367, etc.; stone-stille, Ip. 1603, Pr. 841; streamer, Eg. 1296, Is. 210:T; strek vb., BF. 1153; strynde (lineage), BF. 2172, Gw. 208; sty (path), Em. 196, HR. 172, Ip. 3088, etc.; sunder sb., Av. 16.15, Ip. 7991; sundly, SM. 1524; swike (traitor), Rn. 73.4; swime (dizziness), BF. 770, Dg. 1227, Ip. 5906; swing vb., Ip. 7831; swithely, Ip. 8124; swouge (forceful movement), Eg. 317, TP. 54; syne adv., Ad. 214:1, Ip. 3287, Sm. 577, etc.; te (proceed), LD. 1480; teld (pavilion), Gw. 369, Oc. 1442:T, Pr. 1920; teld vb., Ln. 263, OtR. 694; tene (family), TP. 1922; tene (vexed), Ip. 8384, SM. 710; tene (vex), Ip. 7457, SM. 753; terre (tar), SM.458; thas adv. (after that), Rn. 79.1; thede (people), BF. 246, HR. 168, SM. 12. etc.; thee (thigh), Ip. 6908, LD. 503, SM. 1108; therate, Ath. 79; therk adj., Rn. 32.5; therkenys, Gy. 102.5; thesternesse, Rn. 78.7; thikke vb., Rn. 10.2; thikke folde, BF. 873, RO. 1108; thiknes, Oc. 164:T; thonge sb., BF. 962; thonwange, RO. 82; thrust sb. (press), HR. 952; thret sb., Av. 46.12; thriddenel, Gy. 65.11; thringe vb. (press), BF. 1368, Em. 304, Ln. 203, etc.; through (coffin), Gy. 296.7; tobrenn, AA. 1211; tocarf, LD. 2015; todreve (scatter), Gy. 133.3, Rn. 126.3, RO. 573, etc.; to-gnaue, Ad. 264:T; tome adj. (empty), BF. 144; toislyt, Dg. 1698:Cb; to-spring, Gy. 113.10; traeic (grief), AA. 1572, LD. 1506, RO. 1290, etc.; trap (ensnare), Ip. 2021; tredd (path), BF. 1880; trome sb. (following), Gy. 51.5; trouthe- plygth adj., Dg. 971:Cb; tuggel vb., BF. 1936; twohonde-swerde, Dg. 1659; tye (case for valuables), Dg. 568:Cb; tymbre vb. (cause), BF. 560; tynde (prong), Ip. 3909, Tr. 1085; umbrayde sb., Ip. 872; umbythynk, Eg. 73:Ca:T; umwhile adv., Oc. 445:T; unbleschesyvd, Ath. 588; unblithe, Gy. 237.6, Ip. 707, Trs. 352; unbrydle, TP. 1552; uncomely adj., Dg. 1653:Cb, Oc. 884:Ca, Ip.

32 Conjectural reading.
33 Possibly ON.
6146; uncristen adj., Eg. 912, RO. 218; uncristened, LD. 1448; uncureys, Gy. 175.5; underfong, AA. 1255, Gy. 180.7, RV. 87; undergete (perceive), Gy. 204.2, Rn. 26.8; undergo, AA. 603, Ip. 1225; unfaine adj., BF. 692, Dg. 1732, Ln. 732; unfaire, Oc. 901; unfere (infirm), Pr. 664; unglade adj., Ip. 796; unhende adj., AA. 2107, Em. 445, Pr. 2094, etc.; unmylde adj., Is. 178:T; unride adj., Gy. 50.3, HR. 51, Ip. 5725, etc.; unsaught adj., LD. 676, Pr. 2152; unsele sb., Ip. 189; unslayne ppl. adj., BF. 496; unsounde adj., Oc. 1614:Ca, OtR. 958, Trs. 516:V; unsteke ppl. adj., LD. 1540; unworthschipe, Gy. 114.4; unwrest adj., Gy. 195.9, LD. 2220, OtR. 136; unwynly, Dg. 495:T and 839:Cb; upbreyd sb., Ip. 1076; up drawe, BF. 532; upholde (maintenance), BF. 883; upstonde vb., ET. 1082, Is. 314:O.T, OtR. 2514, etc.; up-sty vb., OtR. 1340; wache sb. (watch), BF. 1356, RO. 1187, SM. 1232; wage vb. (shake), Ip. 5567; warde34 (division of an army), OtR. 1571; wardi vb. (guard), Gy. 149.3; warlocke, Gw. 22:Ea; wave vb., Ip. 3091; waxing (growth), AA. 89; wede (go mad), BF. 660, RO. 936, Trs. 196:A, etc.; wedirwynne, SM. 695; wedsette vb., Ad. 31; welde (strong), RO. 1506; welnere adv., BF. 1055; weyte (defend), Ad. 440:Ea; whate adv., LD. 1638, Ln. 672; whatkyns adj., Dg. 1751:T, Eg. 1310:T, Pr. 242; whelme vb., BF. 683; wheme (friendly), BF. 145; where upon, Ip. 1875; whone sb. (few), Dg. 195:Cb; wiche (bewitch), BF. 1507, RO. 1151; withclepe, OtR. 2684; withsett vb., Dg. 1767:T, RV. 834; withsitte vb., Rn. 42.5; with thi (therefore), Oc. 728:T; witles, Ip. 955, LD. 188; witty, Gw. 659:B, Ip. 2068; wlonk adj., Dg. 592:Cb; wogh sb. (evil), AA. 2102, BF. 2013, Dg. 739:Cb, etc.; woke (lacking courage), Pr. 1373; won (accustomed), AA. 1169, Gy. 38.9; wondyrlyche adj., OtR. 227; wonge (cheek), Dg. 840:Cb; worove (strangle), Ip. 7395; wrake sb., AA. 397, BF. 582, Gw. 260:Ea, etc.; wretche (anger), AA. 718, Dg. 314, SM. 96, etc.; wretche vb., AA. 606, Tr. 620; wrother hele, RV. 532, Trs. 131; wurschipfully, Ad. 267:Ea; wurshipliche, OtR. 2668, Rn. 3.10; wurtlic adj., AA. 1382, Ip. 88, Pr. 1097, etc.; wy (man), Dg. 579; wyke (town), Ath. 54; wynly adv., Dg. 495:Cb; wythe sb., OtR. 2548, Pr. 423; wythy sb., OtR. 2244, Pr. 444; yare (quickly), Av. 5.12, Ip. 466, TP. 1320, etc.; yark vb., Av. 5.12, Em. 329; yelping, Ln. 762; yeme sb. (guard), BF. 146, Ip. 516, Oc. 625: T, etc.; yepe adj. (daring), Gy. 161.3; yernynge vbl. sb., Eg. 104:Ca; yestreven, Av. 37.6, Gy. 200.4, RO. 345; yön, HR. 895, Pr. 330, RO. 304, etc.; yongling, Gy. 228.6, Rn. 12.9; youthede, Is. 59:T; yule sb., Av. 69.16, BF. 1895, Dg. 781, etc.

Of these words, the following (about one-sixth of the group) were used by more than three of the poets: agramed, aplain, arere, awede, beld (sb.), berne, bristride, ble, brand, britten, buse, coren, doughtily, drihten, erldom, ferli (adj., sb.), fey, fode, folde (earth),

34 Possibly OF.
forfare, frek (sb.), frely, frithe, gange, gare, gnede, gome, grede, grete (sb.), grete (weep), helde, hendeliche, here (army), hilt, horse (vb.), icore, i(n) same, kele, kith, lacche, lawe (hill), lede, leme, lende, leng, ler, letting, listne, main, mar, menge, molde (earth), nerehand, palle, rache, rere, rife, rigge, sadil (vb.), sale, samen, samne, schille, schride, selcouth, slade, smertly, snell, spere, stalworthre, stede, steke, stith, sty, syne, thede, thringe, todreve, traie, unhende, unride, wede, wogh, wrake, wrethe, wurthic, yare, yeme, yon, yule. With the exception, perhaps, of gare (AA. Gy. Is., Oc.; infrequently elsewhere), it seems impossible to single out any of these as words used more frequently in the metrical romances than elsewhere; but the following words were very popular: ler, palle, and stith.

Ten of the words in this group may be called poetic words: namely: berne, ble, blonk, blysche (= give a look), brand, frek (sb.), frely, gome, here (lord), and wy.

Of the words which Oakden sets down as chiefly alliterative, the following appear in Group A: blonk, blysche, ferde, ferke, gleme, hathel, lede (people), renke, sege, wlonk, and wy.

During the thirteenth century, to judge by the citations in the NED., three of the words in this group disappeared from the current literary language: namely, biclep, leuelich, and welde; during the fourteenth century, the following: adrede, alle wieldynge, aquell, arghe, aslay, atholde, bale (adj.), bire, biweve, erd, fele, ferred, fordrede, forhight, frome, gare, glise, hendi, list (= attention), meude, mithe, of-drede, ofhungered, ofsende, ronne, schreward, schride, swike, thas, todreve, trome, to-spring, undegrete, unfere, up-sty, whate, and yark; and during the fifteenth century, the following: abowe, afalle, afong, agramed, aloute, aplight, arewe, aslep, aswowe, awede, awedere, belouke, beswyke, bihede, bistaude, bo, buse (= behooves), coren, drede, drihten, est, ferde, fode, folde, fondyng, forhele, forthan, fous, frely, gale, gnede, grede, grille (sb.), grille (vb.), hale, hathel, hendeliche, here, heteliche, highing, highte, hold, icore, keppe (= meet), kyndome, lay (lake), lefle, lore, moregeue, nebe (= face), nithe, raxel, rese (vb.), rever, rike, sambu, saughtyll, saughtyllinge, swime, swoughe, te, teld, teme (= family), thede, therk, therknes, therennesse, thouwange, thrast, tobremm, tocarrf, to-gnaue, toslyt, umbrayde, unhende, unride, unsele, unsteke, unworthschipe, unwynly, wede, wedirwyne, weyte, withsett, withsitte, with thi, woke, won, wonge, wretbe (vb.), wrother hele, wurthic, and wynly.
Group A includes seven words which appear in Kaiser's list of Southernisms: afong (Gy., LD., Trs.), areere (RV., Trs.; add Rn.), atholde (Gy., RV.; add Rn.), atwite (Gy.), chine (add Dg., Rn.), grede (vb.) (Trs.; add Ip., LD., Rn.), of-drede (add Rn.). In his list of Northernisms are the following: barmeteme (add BF.), beld (sb.), (BF., Pr., RO.; add Gw., Ip., SM.), bire (RO.; add Gw.), bodeword (Ad.; add Oc.), brand (Av., BF., Dg., Pr., RO., RV., SM.; add AA., Gy., Ip.), brannte (Dg.; add Is.), britten (Av., Dg., RO. SM.; add Eg.), breluyn (Dg., Pr.), fax (BF.; add LD. Rn.), ferli (vb.), (SM.), gange (Ath., HR., RO.; add Ad., Ip.), gneede (Dg., HR., Pr., RO.; add Gy., Oc.), gret (Dg.), grete (sb.), (AA., SM.; add Gy., Ip.), grete (weep) (Ad., Eg., Em., Is., Pr., Tr.; add Ip. Oc.), helde (RO.; add Av., BF., Dg., HR.), le (Em.). lende (Ath., Dg., Eg., HR., Trs.; add BF.), mirke (adj.) (OC.), mirke (vb.) (HR.), mithe (HR.; add Gy.), nerehand (Cl., Tr.; add Eg., Ip., Is., Pr., TP.), nykke (AA. Ath., Pr.), over-gange (add Ip.), raxel (add Gw.), samen (AA., Ad., Av., Dg., RO., SM.; add OtR., Tr.), saughtyll (Dg., RO.), saughtyllinge (Dg., RO.), sayne (BF., Pr.; add Is.), sperne (BF., Tr.; add Ad., Ip.); stith (AA., Ad., BF., Dg., HR., Pr., RO., Trs.; add Gw., Gy., LD.), strynde (BF.; add Gw.), swime (Dg.; add BF., Ip.), thikke folde (BF., RO.), tuggel (BF.), umbythynk (add Eg.), umwhile (add Oc.), warlocke (add Gw.), whatkyns (add Dg., Eg., Pr.), whone (Dg.), wonge (Dg.), yon (Dg., HR., Is., RO. SM.; add Ad., Oc., Pr.), youthedee (Is.). To these might well be added bree (= eyebrow), bryssse, buse, cleke, and strek; and possibly rowght, tene (adj.), upholde, up-sty35 and wedsette.

Group A words appearing in the EDD. are as follows: afere, arghe, astrote, aughth, barmeteme, beld (sb.), beld (vb.), beswyke, bay, birle, ble, bodeword, brannte, breet, britten, bryssse (s. v. bruzzi), chine, cleke, clogh, cope, dere, dreghe, erd, ern, faste, fax, fele, ferke, ferli (adj., sb.), ferli (vb.), fey, file, flaye, flite, forfoughten, forsette, forthan, framward, frek (adj.), frek (sb.), freste, frithe, gange, glister, gore, gret, grete (grrit), grete (weep), grilte (vb.), hale, heghe, helde (s. v. heald), heling, holyne, hyppe, innermare, kele, kempe, lacche, lawe, lay (lake), lede (language), lene, ler, lether, ley, lift, lire, lothly, lyne (linen), lyne (cease), maslyn, mene, menge, middelerd, minde, mirk, mirke, misdo, misse (= loss), modi (= brave), molde (top of head), mote, mynge, nebe, nehond, nerehand,

nesche, noman, over-gange, rache, rad, radly, rathely, rerde, revery, rigge, rigge-bone, ritte, rowght, samne, sayne, schaftemonde, schide, schille, schire (adj.), schire (adv.), sel, selcouth, slade, smeko, smytt, snell, spere, sprit, stede, steke, stith, strek, swime, swithely, syne, tene (adj.), tene (vb.), therk, thikke, thringe, through, tome, tuggel, umbythynk, umwhile, unfaine, unsteke, upholde, upstonde, wedsette, welnere (s. v. welly), whelme, wheme, wanna, wyke, yare, yark.

GROUP B: abide sb., Ip. 3623; *ablobe adj., Gy. 97.12; abutenward, Eg. 652:Ca, Tr. 66; adays, Dg. 822:Cb, Ln. 501; *aftyrsones, OtR. 1399; *aftyrthan, OtR. 33; alende (come ashore), Rn. 18.7; alie (annoint), AA. 2206; aredy, Ln. 782; are mysdede, Is. 527:T; arethede, Dg. 8, Is. 3:T; *asrowed, Ip. 6511; *aspheff sb., Ip. 6727; *astedd (instead), BF. 409; astere (stir up), Dg. 773:Cb; athree, Ln. 714; atrey, Eg. 1204:T, Trs. 638; atwyn, AA. 286, LD. 1482; *atwighte36 (jerk up), Rn. 34.6; atwinne, Gy. 126.6; awake adj., AA. 1021; ayield, Rn. 57.1; beggynce, Oc. 675:Ca, be have, BF. 1565; beheve (advantage), Rn. 27.5; berydes, TP. 1015; beswette, LD. 120; betwitt, Rn. 22.5; bewitt (protect), Ip. 7138; bidight, Dg. 144; birke (flog), Gw. 498:Eb; *bischride (clothe), Trs. 783:A; *bisibbe adj., Gw. 212:B; bi-southe prep., Av. 47.14, Cl. 485:Eb; bisprend, Trs. 746:V; bleche sb., Ip. 6156; blodeleteing vbl. sb., HR. 485; bloderede, Gw. 467:B, Pr. 606; bow-man, OtR. 1598; braiden, RO. 141; brethel, Ip. 857; brighten, BF. 1155; brust sb., RV. 861; by-hyde (conceal), OtR. 264; carebitted,37 Pr. 1062; chalkwhite, Dg. 1506; *chide (something insignificant), Oc. 779:T; christon (something of little value), Gy. 203.7; corn-fed, Ath. 735; crachyd, BF. 2025; croude-wain, AA. 1858; depe vb., Gy. 128.4; dimmyngge vbl. sb., TP. 512; endrye, Dg. 434:Cb; erne vb., Gy. 96.10, LD. 467; even-light, Dg. 1185; faine sb., BF. 844, Ip. 6085; furanglye, Ip. 6228; fere (consort with), BF. 2084; *ferhede (distance), OtR. 165; *fesomme vb. (fego), TP. 28; fideler, Ln. 668; fideling vbl. sb., Em. 390; fire-iren, Pr. 754; flakur (flutter), Gw. 428:Eb; *flesche-halfe sb., Pr. 274; *flytte (place for a flight, opening), OtR. 796; for adj., BF. 1607; forcursed, Ath. 425; foredede, Ip. 6690; forloke (foresight), Ad. 402; forsitte38 vb. (forth), Ip. 1854; forthe-daye, Pr. 825; forwondryd, Ath. 432; fote-knave, Oc. 1223; foulehed, AA. 2408; *foundynge ppl. adj., Is. 141:T; frekly, Dg. 301:T; fremedy, SM. 1390; fredeles, AA. 1559; fyke (fig), Rn. 5.7; fyrtree, Dg. 1395; *gerder sb. (girdle), Rn. 34.11; gethe (haste), BF. 1605; giffles, TP. 415; gilten, SM. 1098; glemyrynng ppl. adj., Dg. 652:T, TP. 426; glistering vbl. sb., Em. 100; *gold-bi-go adj., Gy. 89.7; grede sb., LD. 771; grise adj., sb., Av. 2.16, LD. 642; grode vb., Dg. 104:Cb; handsom, Ip. 53, TP. 1299; harburage, Ip. 7060; hayle


38 NED: ?Miswritten for forfette.
stone, BF. 641, Pr. 1191; hede sb. (kind), Pr. 1103; helve, Gy. 267.5; hennes-forward, Gy. 126.10; her day (former times), TP. 1774; *hert-thought, HR. 932; hevihed, Gy. 295.12; hider-come, Ath. 728, BF. 515; höglyn, Eg. 545; home come, BF. 1742; horsing vbl. sb., Av. 31.8; RO. 389; hors-taye, OtR. 1081; hyndermaste, SM. 1277; insunder, BF. 1327, Ip. 1458; irenstone, Is. 409; *iren-wrye (iron clad), Rn. 41.8; kerueand (sharp), Gy. 258.1; kylne, Av. 15.7; langare (long since), Ip. 249, Pr. 903; *lemer vb. (glitter), TP. 291; lenging vbl. sb., Ad. 818.1; lete (crossroad), Gy. 142.9; levinge (permission to remain), Av. 8.11; listed (bordered), Gy. 93.8; lovesele, Ip. 8701; made (already formed), Ad. 722.1; madhede, LD. 881; maistershipmon, TP. 1425; manfully, SM. 1240; manlynes, Ip. 7162; mene (moaning), SM. 225; meninge vbl. sb. (moaning), Ath. 396, Pr. 573; met (measured), Ath. 563, Pr. 1708, Ro. 82.11; meteles, Av. 45.14, Eg. 860: Ca. Cc.; metewhyle, Em. 229; mett (table companion), Trs. 390; middelwarde sb., SM. 274; *midshafte sb., Pr. 2062; mightful, Ip. 7622; *miforshapen ppl. adj., Trs. 972; monynge vbl. sb., Pr. 1086; mysiglyt vb., OtR. 91; nappere, RO. 288; newyng (novelty), Cl. 381; nyl conj., Av. 69.6, RO. 297; of-glide, RO. 475; *ofzuye (cut off), Cl. 214; ofzmyght, TP. 691; oldly adv., BF. 248; on-lyghte, Av. 38.12; out-braid, OtR. 779; *out-braiding vbl. sb., Gy. 263.10; *out-draught (withdrawal), Gy. 268.7; out-right, Gy. 221.4; out-welle, OtR. 927; out-wyn, SM. 1582; over drive, RO. 1205; over-drive (drive over), Ad. 571.1; overfret, Dg. 642; over-grettly, Ip. 5411; over-hye adj., adv., Eg. 70, Ip. 3696; overhye vb., Av. 19.7, Ip. 5534; overthrow, ET. 101; over-late, Pr. 1956; over-provide, Ip. 948; over-sore, Ip. 7093; overtrase, Dg. 652:Cb; pillynge (something peeled off), RO. 1265; playlome, Pr. 2013; *plough-lengthe, Ath. 571; pluck sb., TP. 1611; raste (ploughshare), Ip. 6768; rente ppl. adj., Ip. 6236; resin (wall-plate), Rn. 80.4; ride-way, TP. 598; schamesly, Dg. 1115:T; schrewdhed, Gy. 149.1; silke-werk, HR. 1050; silky, Em. 377; sithe vb. (sigh), Cl. 97:Eb, Ip. 6073; slave (cleave), Ip. 8084; sleynch (slink), AA. 2291; smake sb. (= smell), Ip. 663; spredd sb. (experience), BF. 1841; stelde (steeld), LD. 976; stem sb. (= flame), Gy. 18.11; strenghthful, BF. 1583; striye vb. (= bestride), OtR. 1274; swalme vb., BF. 770; swar (= sod), BF. 90; swelle (proud), Oc. 1557:Ca; sweiting sb. (darling), Ln. 303; thennesward, Gy. 172.3; ther-among, Gy. 50.11; thyk (= thicket), OtR. 1742; to-quake, Cl. 359:Eb; toschlive, Rn. 105.12; *to-sighe (wear out), Rn. 115.10; to-spill, Av. 22.2; to-twynche, OtR. 2746; tousel, Dg. 1508:Cb; trapping vbl. sb., Ip. 7011; trod (track), Gw. 570:B; unbkownen, Gy. 124.12; *unblyue (uneager), Ath. 689; unborely adv., Pr. 525; unbryghte, Ip. 6234; Oc. 828:T; uncladde, Av. 54.6, Oc. 135; *underfare vb. (journey), OtR. 159; underfind (perceive), HR. 623; *undern-belle, Ath. 351; undyghte, Av. 54.2; unfre (ignoble), TP. 1499; unfrely (ignoble),

39 Conjectural reading.
Oc. 1443; unfrendely adv., BF. 2087; unknowe sb., LD. 83; *unlaie (clear away), LD. 227; unlede, Gy. 99.6; unlek vb. (open), LD. 1918; unmanly adv., Tr. 360; unright (injure), Av. 4.12; unschene, Dg. 1672:Cb; unsounde adv., Dg. 332, Trs. 543:A; uppe-hend, Ad. 799:1; *up-tye (put under obligation), TP. 2658; wakenyng vbl. sb., BF. 1658; wedde-fee, Av. 10.15; wepenles, LD. 390; weryly, Is. 523:T; we-selue pron., OtR. 1195; whelebarowe, BF. 2029; whit-hore, Gy. 45.10; wife vb., Ip. 4962; *withinne-wys adv., Tr. 531; woderysse, Dg. 188; wodward adv., Ip. 4625; wod-wex, Rn. 5.2; wordynes, Ip. 1975; *wysser vb. (guide), OtR. 1781; wytherlyng, OtR. 2296; yelle sb., Eg. 408, TP. 1487; *yendyrware adv., OtR. 869.

The citations for thirty-seven of these words are unique in the ME. period: abide, abutenward,40 alende, begylte, betwit, birke, bi-southe,40 brust, carebedo, chirston (= something of little value), corn-fed, crachyd, fiedeling, gethe, glistening, harburage, houghlyn, insunder,40 ierenstone, lete, monyng, nappere, newynge (=novelty), out-welle, overfret, overtrase, silky, slave, unbiknowen, unbyrghte, un-cladde,40 undyghte, unknowe, wedde-fee, wodward, wod-wex, and wordynes; the citations for seventeen others, namely, alie, are mysdede, arethede,40 croude-wain, endreye, forsitte, levinge (= permission to remain), of-glide, onlyghte, over dreve, over-drive (= drive over), playlome, ride-way, sperdd (= experience), swelle, unfrely (= ignoble), and unschene, are entirely unique. The other unasterisked words in Group B, though not so unmistakably rare, should at least be classified as comparatively unusual.

None of the words in this group are found in Kaiser's lists of dialectal words. The EDD. includes the following: adays, aredy *astedd, betwit, bidight, birke, bi-southie, bleche, carebedo, *chide (s. v. chit), erne, flakur, gilt en (s. v. gilt-cup), hider-come, home come, lete, mene, meninge, met, mightful,41 overfret, overhye (vb.), pillynge, raste, resin, sithe, slave, sleynch, sweting, thyk, trud, unbiknown, underfind, undyghte, unlede, we-selue, *yendyrware.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS42

GROUP A: ado sb. (ON. + OE.), Ip. 7746; astite (OE. + ON.), AA. 1046, Gy. 126.5, TP. 640, etc.; beyke (bask), BF. 99;

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40 This word is included, notwithstanding the fact that it appears in two different romances.
41 Entered in EDD. as mightful, but the pronunciation given there clearly indicates mightyful.
42 In addition to words of doubtful origin, this division includes words of Latin and Celtic origin, and interlingual compounds. All words whose origin is not specifically indicated are words about whose derivation there is some degree of uncertainty. Whenever the NED. suggests a derivation for one of these words, the suggestion is introduced by the sign "?".
beyn (kindly), Gw. 287:Ea; bidene (at once), Ad. 33, Dg. 191, LD. 653, etc.; biker vb., AA. 1298, LD. 1113, SM. 186; blow sb. (stroke), Ip. 7888; bostful, BF. 270; bowght sb. (fold:—Gmc.), TP. 556; brag sb., Av. 28.2, BF. 958, Dg. 247, etc.; bremli (fiercely), SM. 545; brount sb. (attack) Dg. 172:T; burd (lady), Ad. 236:I, Dg. 624:Cb, Oc. 998, etc.; chopp sb. (blow), Tr. 763; chymbe sb. (chime:—L.), OtR. 879; cracche vb., OtR. 2518; crayon sb. (craven), SM. 680; crouthe sb. (Welsh), Gy. 17.2, LD. 150, Trs. 506; dasche vb., LD. 1408, SM. 245; dedur (tremble), Av. 25.8; dosche sb.43 (blow), SM. 470; fade (brave), Pr. 616, RO. 1420; fonde (mad), Is. 222:O; fonne (act like a fool), Ip. 7279; gaynesey (ON. + OE.), Dg. 720, Ip. 5223; happe (cover over), BF. 112, Pr. 2244; hille vb. (cover), AA. 2314, Dg. 657:T, Gw. 369, etc.; hone sb. (delay), RO. 341; hone vb., SM. 819; how-gates (OE. + ON.), Pr. 1438; irke adj., BF. 1517, Is. 116, Tr. 463; irke vb., HR. 78, Ip. 1934; kant (bold:—Gmc.), Dg. 248:T; levenyng vbl. sb. (flashing), SM. 815; mounde (strength), Gy. 49.2, Ln. 597, RV. 853, etc.; nangates (OE. + ON.), Pr. 2226; nöke (corner), Dg. 181, Ip. 4861; onyx (L.), Em. 128; othergates (OE. + ON.), Ad. 718:I, Pr. 658; pappe (teat), Em. 657, Gw. 128, Ip. 3899, etc.; pontifical (L.), Dg. 1846; puddyng, Ip. 6152; pyll (stronghold), TP. 573; rappe sb. (blow:—echoic), Em. 660, LD. 311, RV. 605; rewelle-bon (OF. + OE.), Dg. 1445, Ip. 6456; romy vb. (roar), Av. 12.3; schounte vb., RO. 1334; sogates (OE. + ON.), Pr. 877, Is. 236:T; splatt vb., Eg. 487:Ca; splent (splint:—Gmc.), Gy. 256.4; spray sb., OtR. 675; stompe sb., Eg. 736, Tr. 1561; strande (channel), Is. 206:GCT; tepet (piece of armor), SM. 960; tere (difficult), Dg. 1425; thertil (OE. + ON.), Ad. 777:Ea, Av. 33.10, Dg. 1551, etc.; thir dem. prn., BF. 575, SM. 411; thusgates (OE. + ON.), Ad. 147:I, Pr. 1839, SM. 252; tighte (intend, set up), AA. 1697, BF. 379, LD. 585, etc.; top castell (OE. + OF.), Eg. 1042, Is. 208; trist (trusty), Rn. 83.2: tryll vb. (flow), Oc. 269:Ca; walt (overturn), HR. 10, SM. 1145; walter (roll to and fro), Ip. 3135; wan (misery), Trs. 66:V; wane (dwelling:—Gmc.), Dg. 449, Eg. 840, Pr. 1347; wap (flap in the wind), Is. 642:T; we interj., Ip. 1118; wylyly (deceitfully), Tr. 1548.

Of the words in this group, the following were used by more than three of the poets: astite, bidene, brag (sb.), burd, hille (vb.), mounde, pappe, thertil, and tighte. None of these, with the possible exception of mounde (Gy., Ln., Rn., RV., Trs.), may be set apart as words used more frequently in the romances than elsewhere.

Three of the words in Group A are poetic words, namely, bidene, burd, and mounde. The second of these is the only word in the group to be classed by Oakden as chiefly alliterative.

43 Under dusche vb. (origin uncertain), Kaiser cites SM. and BF. For these citations see dasche above and to dusche in Group B below.
To judge by the citations in the NED, ten of these words seem to have disappeared from the current literary language by the end of the ME. period: astite, fade, mounde, nangates, rewelle-bon, romy, sogates, tighte, wan, and we. Five of the ten disappeared before the opening of the fifteenth century: wan in the second half of the fourteenth century, and fade, mounde, nangates, and sogates about the year 1400.

Kaiser’s list of Northern words includes the following from the present group: biker (SM.; add AA., LD.), blow (add Ip.), crayon (SM.), dosche (sb.) (SM.), fade (Pr. RO.), happe, (BF., Pr.), hone (sb.) (RO.), hone (vb.) (SM.), howgates (Pr.), irke (adj.) (BF., Is., Tr.), irke (vb.) (HR.; add Ip.), levenyng (SM.), nangates (Pr.), othergates (Pr.), sogates (Is., Pr.), thertil (Av., BF., Dg., RV., SM., Tr.; add Ad.), thir (SM.; add BF.), thusgates (Ad., Pr., SM.), wap (add Is.). Also to be considered Northern in the narrow sense is the word ado (if, as in Ip., it follows have), and Northern in the wider sense in which Kaiser uses the term, the word burd.

Group A words appearing in the EDD. are as follows: astite, beyke, beyn, bidene, bowght, burd, crouthe, dedur (s. v. dither), dosche, fonde, happe, hille, hone (sb.), hone (vb.), how-gates, kant, othergates, strande, thir, thusgates, walt, walter, wane, and wap.

GROUP B:  
*anerl vb. (border), Dg. 647:Cb; *aunche, RO. 952; barneych, Dg. 391:Cb; bekeryng, vbl. sb., OrR. 1132; *beuoyc vb., Ip. 2091; burl vb. (bubble), BF. 1637, ET. 99; cante sb. (slope), SM. 1495; *cardynere sb. (cardinal:—L. cardinalis?), SM. 757; champed (embossed), Dg. 1510:T; *chynour (musical instrument), OrR. 879; claraner (musical instrument), Cl. 100:Eb; close-lome (ON. + OE.), Pr. 2053; cobbled (rounded), TP. 1298; *concien sb., Ad. 441:I; coward-cheddyd (OF. + OE.), Ip. 3072; crank (in high spirits), Is. 192:O; *cret sb. (a kind of wine:—L. Creta?), Dg. 1292; crompyld (crooked), BF. 1977; crounkil vb. (wrinkle), RO. 1252; crow vb. (rumble:&ech.), BF. 844; cumbering (distress), Gv. 197:4; *dalen sb., Ip. 6845; doter (totter), Av. 16.11, Dg. 1125:Cb; *dred vb. (tread), AA. 2096; *drewe (friend:—OF. dru), Ip. 2739; *dreylerveyne (friend of the queen:—OF. dru + OF. reine), Ip. 2800; *drouke vb., OrR. 495; *egir sb., Dg. 1446:T;

Under asterisked words, i. e., words not entered in the NED., the sign “*” introduces derivations suggested either by an editor or by the present writer; if by the former, due credit is given.

Perhaps a mistake for anence, anent (OE. on efen), as regards.

cf. Luick’s ed., p. 128.

Perhaps a variant of OF. dolent(ez).

A mistake for trad (OE. tredan)? Leach, in his edition of AA. for the EETS. (o. s., no. 203, 1937), gives trad as the Douce MS. reading.
*ermyght sb., TP. 1007; *eye (round opening),\(^{49}\) BF. 845; *faimel sb.,\(^{50}\) Rn. 114.2; *fale sb.,\(^{51}\) Eg. 1172:Cc; fande vb. (caress), BF. 1656; fylre vb. (laugh), BF. 1767; *fois sb.,\(^{52}\) Ip. 1940; foteballe (OE. + ON.), Oc. 1244:T; *fowre sb., BF. 1298; freyght sb., Ip. 4588; gayte-skin (OE. + ON.), Pr. 314; gesture sb. (med. L.), Cl. 495:Eb; glen (Gaelic), TP. 661; *glise vb. (start suddenly:—OF. glicer), BF. 1657; *gowere, SM. 979; *grest (musical instrument), Trs. 554:A; *haughtel, HR. 549; herne-pan (ON. + OE.), Ip. 8082; hes (exalt), Ip. 3687; hodur (wrap up:—Gmc.), BF. 112; *holde sb., Dg. 657; how-symeurr (OE. + ON. + OE.), Av. 24:16; jagge sb. (cut:—ech.), Ip. 6572; *jorpe vb. (jolt:—ech?), Av. 42:10; knagge (short spur:—Gmc.), BF. 1793, Gw. 200; *lart vb., Gw. 354:B; loud vb. (L.), BF. 1881; lye (cut off), Av. 65:12; *messaner adj.,\(^{53}\) AA. 1711; mete-forme (OE. + OF.), Oc. 1246:T; *miche sb., Dg. 646:Cb; nakette (precious stone), Em. 94; *newyne (precious stone), Dg. 646; *over-syb-maryage (OE. + OF.), Eg. 1139:T (Ca and Cc omit over:—), *pande, Ip. 6363; patt (light blow:—ech.), Eg. 1226:Ca.Cc; pele vb. (strike), RO. 503; *pourt (term of disrespect), Gy. 151:2; *powyse sb., Ip. 6780; *pul, Ip. 6363; rapok (Irish, Gaelic\(^{54}\)), Ip. 7006; *raste vb., Av. 7:4; *rayne sb. (battle:—aphetic form of OF. deraigne\(^{55}\)), Ip. 6208; *receue vb.,\(^{56}\) Dg. 653:Cb; renis (strange), Gy. 91:4; repe (deprive), Eg. 288:Cc.T; roche (a kind of wine), Dg. 1430; *rome sb., TP. 516; rone sb., Eg. 609; ryne (Rhine wine:—Gmc.), Dg. 1430; *sayntour sb.,\(^{57}\) Dg. 1046:T; schygge vb. (trot), Dg. 362:Cb; *senatowre sb., Em. 151; *sersolitte sb. (—OF. cercelet, small ring), Ip. 2654; shrylle adv., OTr. 410; *skill vb. (mount), LD. 1946; slynger, OTr. 1598; smithyman (ON. + OE.), Is. 398; *smothirly adv., RO. 259; *snaufful vb., Gw. 129:Ea; sometour-mon (OF. + OE.), Ad. 194:Ea; *sorn (mockery:—F. sorne\(^{58}\)), AA. 1077; sowe sb. (blow), Eg. 317:Ca; *spret vb. (dant:—ON. spretta\(^{59}\)), Ln. 273; *stedd sb. (—ON. stedda, mare), BF. 409; *strade vb. (—OF. estrader), Dg. 1646:T; strype (move swiftly:—Gmc.), RO. 560; stuff (dust:—Gmc.), Av. 4:14; stuppe vb. (L.), Ip. 4726; stylle sb. (frame), BF. 1185; swathing band (OE. + ON.), TP. 1917; *syne adj. (—OF. sene, wise), SM. 577; *telerer sb., Dg.

\(^{49}\) Apparently OE. éage. Cf. EDD.

\(^{50}\) Error for fauvel (OF. fauvel), deceitful person?

\(^{51}\) Probably an error for sale (OE. segl).

\(^{52}\) Short for foison (OF. foison)? Cf. Köbling’s ed., p. 393.

\(^{53}\) Cf. Leach, op. cit., p. 127.


\(^{55}\) Cf. Le Morte Arthur 1980 and 3223. The NED is uncertain about the meaning of rayne in the citations from Le Morte Arthur. OF. deraigne appears much more likely to be the source than OF. reigne, the suggestion of J. D. Bruce, in his edition of Le Morte Arthur for the EETS.

\(^{56}\) Perhaps a mistake for recene (OE. (ge)recenian).


\(^{58}\) Cf. Leach, op. cit., p. 123.

\(^{59}\) Cf. the NED’s derivation of sprent.
1198:T; *terepsy sb., Dg. 651:T; *thethy adj.,60 RO. 1032; *thonge vb.,61 Em. 659; *to dusche (dash to pieces),62 BF. 638; *tolly adj., Dg. 1187:Cb; *topteler sb., Dg. 1198:Cb; *toschilder (break to pieces),63 Av. 21.13; *tosour sb., Ln. 140; *touage sb., Dg. 1014:T; *tredoure sb., Dg. 651:T; twake vb. (thwackːː—ech.), Cl. 358:O; *unerte adj., Eg. 1247:T; *un-semand adv.,64 Ad. 324:1; *unsete (unpleasantness), Ip. 892;65 *unskere vb.,66 AA. 780; *urbane sb., Dg. 1446:T; *vassell sb.,67 Ip. 5491; *venture sb.,68 Ip. 3754; *vey adj., Is. 82:T; wandreme sb. (distress), ET. 995; *wanke adj., Is. 192:T; *waternthe, HR. 582; *worlyke adj., (:—ON. varligr), Av. 54.8; wrong-heyred (OE. + OF.), Oc. 107; *yonge sb., Av. 17.7.

The citations for fifteen of the unasterisked words are unique in the ME. period: champed, cobled, crounkill, crowl, fande, flyre, gesture, lype, rone, smithyman, strype, stuppe, stylle, swathing band, and twake; the citations for nine others, namely, clobe-lome, mete-forme, nakette, rapok, roche, skill, sowe, wandreme, and wrong-heyred, are entirely unique. The other unasterisked words, though not so unmistakably rare, ought at least to be classified as comparatively unusual.

The only word from Group B to appear in Kaiser’s list of Northernisms (with but two citations) is how-sumeuyr. The following words are found in the EDD.: barnekynch, cante, crank, crounkill, doter, *eye (= round opening), flyre *fowre, *glise (s. v. glease), herne-pan, hes, how-sumeuyr, knagge, pele (s. v. pail), rapok, renis, schygge, sowe, *spret, and stylle.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS
ON THE COLLECTIVE VOCABULARY

The analysis of the vocabulary of the tail-ryhme romances presented above makes possible the following general observations:

(1) Relative Importance of the Four Major Divisions.—The words of Scandinavian origin constitute about 11% of the collective vocabulary; those of OF. origin about 31%; those of OE. origin about 46%; and those classified as Miscellaneous about 12%.

(2) Words of Comparatively Frequent Occurrence in the Romances.—Only a small proportion of the words considered appear

60 A variant of teething, touchy, rash?
62 Cf. footnote 43.
63 Cf. shaldor.
64 Probably a mistake for in se mand (OE. + ON.), “to all appearances.”
65 Conjectural reading.
66 Cf. Leach, op. cit., p. 121.
with any degree of frequency in the work of the tail-rhyme poets. Of such words, only five seem to have been used more frequently in the metrical romances than in any other type of ME. literature; namely, acketon, basenet, brini, fachon, and ventaile. It is incorrect, therefore, to suppose that the vocabulary of the tail-rhyme romances contains a core of words to be found but rarely, if at all, in other ME. works. That so few of the traditional words of romance—words like arbalaste, arsoun, destreere, dousepers, launce, quarell, and siclaton, to mention other examples—did more than maintain a foothold in this vocabulary should not, however, be too readily put down as evidence of changing style in the diction of the ME. writers of metrical romance. It is attributable in part to the needs and tastes of the individual poets; in part to the refusal of words to be confined to rigid compartments.

Since Sir Thopas parodies in thorough fashion the work of the ME. writers of non-alliterative metrical romance, some reference to the vocabulary of Chaucer’s tale may not be out of order here. The words in the collective vocabulary that appear in Sir Thopas are as follows: acketon, bistride, brand, comyn, crest, destreere, lire, liste, panydemayne, rewelle-bon, siclaton, spray, swayn, trie, verrament. Of these, comyn, lire, payndemayne, and spray each appear in one of the twenty-seven tail-rhyme romances; destreere, rewelle-bon and trie each appear in two; liste and siclaton each appear in three; and the six other words each appear in more than three. In the final group, acketon is the only word of special interest. The correspondence, therefore, between the words in the tail-rhyme romances that occur at all frequently, and the words in Chaucer’s parody, is not striking.

(3) Poetic Words.—The poets of the tail-rhyme romances used nineteen words which belong almost exclusively to the language of poetry, but only ten of these appear with any degree of frequency: namely, berne, bidene, ble, brand, burd, frek, frely, gome, mounde, and querte. Since this is an infinitesimal portion of the total vocabulary, one cannot say that these poets went out of their way to employ poetic words.

69 Because of their occurrence in the vocabulary proper of Chaucer (see footnote 6 et supra), some of the words in Sir Thopas have not been considered in this study: notably, charboele, baubergeoun, and bawberk.
70 For proof of the special relationship between the vocabulary of a single romance and the vocabulary of Sir Thopas, see the recent study by Laura Hibbard Loomis entitled "Chaucer and the Auchinleck MS.: 'Thopas' and 'Guy of Warwick,'" Essays and Studies in Honor of Carleton Brown, 1940, pp. 111-128.
(4) Alliterative Words.—Fourteen words appear among those listed by Oakden as "chiefly alliterative": blonk (Av., SM), blyscche (Oc.:T'), burd (Ad.:I, Dg.:Cb, Oc., OtR.), cayre (Ip., RO.), ferde (Rn.), ferke (SM.), gleme (BF., Gy.), hathel (Ip.), lede (AA., BF., Cl.:O, Is., Oc.:Ca, TP., Tr., Trs.), renke (Dg.), sege (Dg.:Cb), thrivandy (Av.), wlonk (Dg.:Cb), wy (Dg.).\textsuperscript{71} Thirteen of these, it will be observed, appear only infrequently. The vocabulary of the tail-rhyme romances was therefore influenced very little by that of the alliterative poems.\textsuperscript{72} Among the individual romances, Dg. seems to have been influenced more than the others.

The mere appearance of these words, however, in popular poems like the tail-rhyme romances\textsuperscript{73} deserves attention, in view of Professor J. R. Hulbert’s remarks in his article entitled “A Hypothesis Concerning the Alliterative Revival”: “The vocabulary [of the ME. poems in the unrhymed alliterative long line] is unsuited to a bourgeois public; apparently many of the words were no longer in

\textsuperscript{71} The distinction between words that are "chiefly alliterative," and words that merely appear in the alliterative phrases found everywhere in ME. poetry, must always be kept in mind. Thanks to the thorough treatment, by Oakden and others (see footnote 3), of the alliterative phrases in the metrical romances, it is unnecessary to dwell at length here upon the words in the collective vocabulary that go to make up such phrases. For convenience of reference a list of these words follows (the page references are to the second volume of Oakden’s work): bayne (p. 315), berne (p. 318), ble (p. 316), blome (p. 318), crachyd (p. 321), crest (p. 321), dousephers (p. 323), fantasum (p. 324), fey (p. 324), folde (p. 325), frek sb. (p. 325), gleme (p. 326), gro (p. 327), boudur (p. 328), kell (p. 321), kempe (p. 321), kiste (p. 320), kith (p. 320), lede (people) (p. 330), lende (p. 329), listne (p. 330), lithe sb. (p. 330), lythe vb. (p. 330), lyne sb. (p. 331), main (p. 331), menske (p. 333), min (p. 333), molde (earth) (pp. 331 and 332), mos (p. 333), nyskhe (p. 333), palle (p. 333), yerde (p. 334), ro (p. 334), romy (p. 334), roun (p. 334), sale (p. 333), site (p. 337), sลาดe (p. 336), slake (p. 336), stabul (make stable) (p. 338), staldworth (p. 338), stith (p. 338), stone-stille (p. 338), sty (p. 339), trae (p. 340), woghe (p. 343), wreke (p. 343), wurthlic (p. 343).

\textsuperscript{72} It is well to note that, of the romances in which the alliterative words appear, AA., Gy., Is., Rn., and Trs. were all composed before the second half of the fourteenth century, and perhaps As. as well; the bulk of ME. alliterative poetry is dated after the year 1350.

\textsuperscript{73} Cf. Erich Witter, Das bürgerliche Leben im mittelenglischen Versroman, Kiel, 1912; and A. McI. Trounce, “The English Tail-Rhyme Romances,” Medium Aevum 1 (1932). 102. The scarcity of MSS. (cf. A Register of Middle English Religious and Didactic Verse, Oxford, 1920, part 2, p. xiii, where Carleton Brown shows how few MSS. there are of the romances as compared with the MSS. of religious poems) seems to testify against a wide popular circulation of the romances, but the weight of this point is offset by the fact that there were many more versions than the ones that have come down to us, as the editors have carefully known; and still more by the fact that these poems were prevailing secular in tone, which meant that little pains would be taken to preserve them. Monastic scribes and librarians no doubt thought they were pleasing God in neglecting vernacular poetry (cf. Kenneth Sisam, Fourteenth Century Verse and Prose, Oxford, 1921, p. xxxi ff.; and R. W. Chambers, “The Lost Literature of Medieval England,” The Library, 4th series, 5 (1925). 319).
ordinary usage but were archaic parts of a purely poetic vocabu-
lary." It is perhaps worth noting here, in this connection, that three
of these "chiefly alliterative" words, namely burd, cayre, and ferke,
have actually descended to modern dialects.

(5) Archaic Words.—Three of the words in the collective
vocabulary of the tail-rhyme romances disappeared from the current
literary language, to judge by the NED. citations, during the thir-
teenth century: namely, biclepe, leuelich, and welde. The first and
second of these turn up in romances written about 1300, the third
in a romance written about 1400. The third is, therefore, the only
one that may safely be considered an archaism—unless, of course, its
occurrence in RO., unnoted by the NED., may be taken as proof
that the word maintained its position in the literary language
throughout the fourteenth century. Forty-nine words disappeared
during the fourteenth century; and 141 during the fifteenth century.
How many of these 190 words had an archaic ring to them at the
time they were used by the tail-rhyme poets it is impossible even to
surmise. But few, if any, could be termed "archaisms" in the strict
sense in which welde is probably an archaism, or in which biclepe
and leuelich would have been archaisms had they been used by some
of the romance poets who wrote, let us say, in the latter part of the
fourteenth century. It would thus appear that there was much less
use of archaisms among the writers of tail-rhyme romance than
among the writers of ME. alliterative poetry.75

(6) Words of Limited Geographical Distribution.—The ques-
tion of the extent to which vocabulary may be used in the localiza-
tion of texts is a difficult one. It seems inadvisable to put as much
emphasis upon dialectal words as Trounce has done in his recent
study of the tail-rhyme romances.76 Trounce, for instance, insists
on locating AA. in Norfolk because it contains two expressions,
croudewain (1858), and stiked in "stiked up his lappes" (988), which
"were proved to be exclusively Norfolk, by an examination of the
NED., the Promptorium Parvulorum, and the English Dialect Dic-
tionary."77 As for the former of the two expressions, he is justified

75 Cf. Oakden, op. cit., 2. 187-8; and see also ibid., 2. 173-4 (in spite of Oakden's
statement to the contrary, some of the words listed here by Oakden do appear in non-
alliterative fourteenth-century works, as the collective vocabulary shows; the following
even appear in the EDD.: boy, fax, fribe).
77 Modern Philology 2:44.
in asserting that this compound was known in Norfolk in ME. times, and that it—or rather, its first element—is still current in Norfolk and—as he should have added—in East Anglia generally. As for the latter, he is within his rights when he states that this use of stiked, now obsolete, is recorded elsewhere in ME. only in the Promptorium. There is no way of proving, however, that these expressions were once known “exclusively” in Norfolk. The information in the NED. is insufficient to admit of any such conclusion; the Promptorium certainly did not limit itself to words known only in Norfolk (where it was compiled); and the EDD. shows only the currency of a word in the dialects of the present day and, to some extent, of the recent past. It is not, of course, to be denied that positive evidence is more valuable than negative evidence—but only when it is interpreted with discrimination, and in the light of general experience.

On the other hand, a reasonably accurate knowledge of the geographical distribution of some of the words in a given text is unquestionably of value as confirmatory evidence in localization.

The most recent contribution to our knowledge of the geographical distribution of ME. words is the study by Rolf Kaiser already referred to, entitled Zur Geographie des mittelenglischen Wortschatzes. Kaiser has made a valiant attempt, the textual record of our early literature being what it is, to find satisfactory criteria for the singling out of Northern and Southern words. Proper allowances having been made for the difficulties of his task, it is still worth while, in the interests of localization, to check the vocabulary of each of the romances against the lists set up by Kaiser.

Disregarding, for the moment, the appearance of chine in Dg., and setting aside the conjectural reading grede in Ip., seven of the romances, namely Gy., LD., Ln., OtR., Rn., RV., and Trs., contain words to be found in Kaiser’s list of Southernisms as well as words to be found in his list of Northerisms. Rn. has the largest number of Southernisms; OtR. the smallest. In Wells’s Manual of the Writ-

78 In the sense of tuck; see item 34g in the NED.
80 Cf. the final paragraph in this division.
81 Cf. footnote 15 above.
82 For the words of limited geographical distribution in each romance, see Appendix B. The possibility of the scribal insertion of some of these words must not be overlooked; cf. footnote 14.
tings in Middle English, six of the seven are assigned to the following areas: Gy. to a region just north of South Warwickshire; L.D. and Ln. to the South-East Midlands, "probably" North Essex; Rn. "probably" to the East Midland (but Möller argued in favor of placing Rn. south of Gy.); RV. to the North Midlands (Wächter favored the northern part of the East Midlands); and Trs. "probably" to the Midlands (but certainly East Midland, because of the constant appearance of OE. a before nasals as a). In his discussion of OtR., Wells makes no mention of locality; the editor assigns the poem to the East Midlands. The lexical evidence, slight though it sometimes is, accords well enough with the assignments of Gy., L.D., Ln., OtR., and Trs. just mentioned, and favors Möller's localization of Rn., but seems to indicate (if one may judge by the other romances containing Southernisms) a locality for RV. not too far toward the north of the East Midlands.

Another group, including AA., Ath., Cl., Em., ET., and TP., contains no Southernisms and but few Northernisms. Wells's Manual places these poems as follows: AA. in the northern border area of the East Midlands; Ath. in the North Midlands (Zupitza rightly favored the North-East Midlands); Cl. "apparently" in the North Midlands; Em. and ET. in the North-East Midlands; and TP. in the North-East Midlands or the North (but it is more correctly assigned by its editor, Adam, to the border between the eastern and western parts of the Midlands, and is probably to be considered

83 Trounce, in the article already referred to, attempts to revise the generally accepted picture of the geographical distribution of twenty-three of the tail-rhyme romances (he does not consider Av., Dg., and Pr., the romances in sixteen-line stanza; and OtR. had not been edited at the time his work appeared). Trounce's work is neither impartial nor convincing. He asks students of Middle English to accept the evidence of dialectal words — the limited usefulness of which has been considered above — and the evidence of similarities of style and subject matter — in poems at once popular in their appeal and notably imitative — as proof of a "school" of tail-rhyme poets in East Anglia, when the much more trustworthy phonetic evidence to be found in rhyme constantly stands in the way. Note his frequent resort to devious explanations of such evidence — in his treatment of Ath., for example. Since his method is at fault, his views about the exact localization of the romances can hardly be accepted.

84 Fourth Supplement, p. 1261.

85 W. Möller, Untersuchungen über ... Guy of Warwick, 1917, p. 46.

86 W. Wächter, Untersuchungen über ... Roland und Vernagu, 1883. An argument for Wächter's assignment is the appearance in rhyme of wore, pret. pl. (l. 577), which Björkman (Scandinavian Loan-Words in Middle English, 1900, p. 83) attributes especially to the North East Midlands.

87 The value of this point in distinguishing between the dialects of the East and West Midlands was not recognized at the time Trs. was edited by Krause. Wells is evidently following Krause.

88 Seventh Supplement, p. 1563.

West Midland). The lexical evidence fits in with these assignments for AA., Ath., Em., ET., and TP. As for Cl., a poem of less than 600 lines and without sufficient phonetic evidence in its rhyme to make accurate localization possible, the lexical evidence is entirely too meagre to be of any value.

The residuary group is also free from Southernisms, but contains a fair proportion of Northernisms. Wells assigns thirteen of the fourteen romances in the following manner: Ad. to the North-West of England; BF. to the Northern border of the Midland (Wells is following Knobbe here; Wilda, however, assigned the poem to the southern part of the North); Dg. to the North; Eg. "probably" to the North; Gw. to the North-East Midlands or the North (Breul, the editor, favored the first of these areas, but Kaluza—in reviewing Breul's edition—the second); HR. "perhaps" to the North Midlands; Ip. to the north of Lancashire; Is. "probably" to the Northern border of the East Midland; Oc., Pr., and RO. to the North; SM. "probably" to the North; and Tr. to the North Midlands. Av., the locality of which is not given by Wells, is Northern, according to Brandl. The lexical evidence supports the assignments just mentioned for Ad., Av., Dg., HR., Ip., Is., Pr., RO., SM., and Tr., and perhaps for Eg. and Oc., and favors Wilda's assignment of BF. and (in view of the brevity of the poem) Kaluza's assignment of Gw. It is interesting to note, incidentally, the considerable proportion of Group I (Scandinavian) words among the Northernisms in such romances as Ad., Av., Ip., Oc., Pr., RO., and SM., especially in Av. and SM.

Of the words which appear in Kaiser's lists, none of the Southernisms are found in the EDD. The Northernisms which carry over

90 Adam would no doubt have so located this poem if the appearance of OE. a before nasals as o had in 1887 been recognized as a distinguishing feature of the West Midland dialect. Cf. p. xv of his edition.
91 The appearance of the word chine, a Southernism, in MS. Cb. of Dg. is anomalous. Cf. the appearance of fax, a Northernism, in Rn., a poem composed a long way, apparently, from the Northern area. The second word, of course, may not have become dialectal until after Rn., an Auchinleck poem, was written, but a similar explanation could hardly be offered for the first. Here are well exemplified some of the difficulties that confront the student of lexical geography.
93 O. Wilda, Uber die örtliche Verbreitung der zwolfzeiligen Schweifreimstrophe in England, 1887.
94 Engische Studien 12. 80.
97 Cf. ibid., p. 171.
98 Cf. ibid., pp. 169-170.
into modern dialect are as follows: I. bayne, bigge, bigging, busk, cayre, derf, derfly, farand, fel, gayne, gaynely, gere, graythely, lass, layke, layte, mun, nayte, nefe, rade, raike, rake, ros, rose, scolde, ser, site, slake, spen(d), sprente, thro adj., toore, trast, tyne, wale sb., wale vb., ware, will; II. feltered, lele, leley, stonay, veuer; III. barmeteme, beled sb., bodeword, brante, britten, fax, ferli vb., gange, gret, grete sb., grete (weep), helde, mirk, mirke, nerehand, over-gange, sayne, spere, stith, swine, tuggel, umbythynk, umwhile, wonge; IV. dosche sb., happe, hone sb., hone vb., howgates, how-sumeuyr, othergates, thir, thusgates, wap. Close scrutiny of the geographical information about these words in the EDD. soon reveals that there is sometimes little correspondence between the dialect area of a ME. word and that of the same word in the modern period. For example, feltered turns up in modern dialect not only in the north, but in Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire as well; stonay (unless the modern form is a back-formation from stonish, stun(n)is) appears in Berkshire and Oxfordshire as well as in Cheshire; and veuer is found in Sussex, but not elsewhere. Due caution must therefore be exercised in dealing with words whose modern dialect area is known but whose ME. dialect area is uncertain.

(7) Rare Words.—So far these observations have all concerned Group A words, i.e., words which occur with some degree of frequency in ME. literature. The rarer, or Group B, words divide readily into two classes: (1) those which are merely infrequent in their occurrence as compared with Group A words; and (2) those about whose rarity in the ME. period there can hardly be the shadow of a doubt. When the ME. dictionary now being prepared at the University of Michigan is complete, it will certainly be possible to place some of the words from the first of these classes among the words in Group A, and the rarity of the others will be unquestionably established. With our present facilities, however, it is quite impossible to treat such words satisfactorily. As for the words in the second of these classes, part of the list, it is safe to say, is made up of widely used words in spoken ME. which, by chance, were almost excluded from the literary language of the period. Some, of course, were nonce words. The others were dialectal words; and of these, the following have a place in the EDD.: I. bigger, clede, force; III. *astedd, betwit, birke, carebedd, *chide, lete, overtret, slave, unbiknowen, undyghte,

99 Cf. ibid., pp. 176-7.

The romance with the greatest number of unmistakably rare words (35) is Ip.,100 but this, it should be noted, is the longest of the twenty-seven romances considered. Dg. has 29; BF., 17; TP., 17; Av., 15; RO., 13; and OtR., 12. The others all have less than 10. The majority of the romances contain more words from Kaiser's lists of Northernisms and Southernisms than rare words, notably HR. (14:2), Pr. (45:9), and SM. (38:4). This trend, however, is reversed in a few instances; for example, Ip. (32:35), OtR. (7:12), and TP. (7:17). Do these figures indicate that the writer of SM., for instance, made more of an effort to avoid rare words than the writer, say, of TP.? Or that the writer of Ip. had a more special audience in mind than the writer of Pr.? Or does the comparatively high proportion of rare words in poems like Ip. and TP. justify the assumption that local elements in the literary vocabulary were of less frequent record in the West than in other parts of the country?

(8) The Collective Vocabulary in Prespective.—A few of the words in the tail-rhyme romances were poetic, a few archaic; but the collective vocabulary is not strongly characterized by words of either type. Apparently there was little or no conscious effort on the part of any one of the poets to be "literary." Nor does there seem to have been a conscious effort to use the traditional words of romance; or (except perhaps in Dg.) to imitate the words so characteristic of the alliterative poets; or to avoid the use of words in literary dialects other than the East Midland—which, it must be remembered, did not succeed in establishing itself as the leading literary dialect until after the great majority of these poems had been written.

On the whole, the collective vocabulary of the tail-rhyme romances, aside from rare words, consists largely of words more or less widely used by various classes of writers in the ME. period. Any suggestion, therefore, that such poems are lexically different from other types of ME. literature can hardly be considered as sound.

100 For a list of the unmistakably rare words in each romance, see Appendix C.
APPENDIX A

1. List of Editions

AA.=Amis and Amilou, ed. Kößling, 1884; MSS.:—A, etc.  
Ad.=Sir Amadace, or Ghost Thanks, ed. George Stephens, 1860;  
MSS.:—Ea and I.  
Ath.=Athelston, ed. Trounce, 1933; MS. (unique):—GC.  
Av.=The Avowyng of King Arthur, ed. Robson, 1842; MS.  
(unique):—I.  
BF.=Le Bone Florence of Rome, ed. Vietor, 1893; MS. (unique):—  
Ca.  
Cl.=Sir Cleges, ed. Treichel in Englische Studien 22, 1896; MSS.:—  
Eb and O.  
Dg.=Sir Degrevant, ed. Luick, 1917; MSS.:—Cb and T.  
Eg.=Sir Eglamour, ed. Schleich, 1906; MSS.:—Ca (Schleich’s F),  
Cc, T (Schleich’s L), etc.  
Em.=The Romance of Emaré, ed. Rickert, 1906; MS. (unique):—  
Cc.  
ET.=The Erl of Toulous, ed. Lüdtke, 1881; MSS.:—Ca, etc.  
Gw.=Sir Gowther, ed. Bruel, 1886; MSS.:—Ea and B.  
Cy.=Guy of Warwick, ed. Zupitza, 1883-91; MS (unique):—A.  
HR.=Horn Childe and Maiden Rinnild, ed. Caro in Englische  
Studien 12, 1889; MS. (unique):—A.  
Ip.=Ipomadon, ed. Kößling, 1889; MS. (unique):—M.  
Is.=Sir Ysumbras, ed. Schleich, 1901; MSS.:—Cc (Schleich’s L), Ea,  
GC (Schleich’s C), GI, O, T, etc.  
LD.=Libeaus Desconus, ed. Kaluza, 1890; MSS.:—Cc, etc.  
Ln.=Launfal, ed. Kaluza in Englische Studien 18, 1893; MS.  
(unique):—Cc.  
Oc.=Octavian, 102 ed. Sarrazin, 1885; MSS.:—Ca and T (Sarrazin’s  
L).  
Otr.=Otuel and Roland, ed. O’Sullivan, 1935; MS. (unique):—F.  
Pr.=Sir Perceval of Gales, ed. Campion and Holthausen, 1913; MS.  
(unique):—T.  
Rn.=Reinbrun, ed. Zupitza, 1883-91; MS. (unique):—A.  
RO.=The Romance of Duke Rowlande and Sit Ottuevell of Spayne,  
ed. Herztage, 1880; MS. (unique):—Add.  
RV.=Roland and Vernagu, ed. Herztage, 1882; MS. (unique):—A.  
SM.=The Sege of Melayne, ed. Herztage, 1880; MS. (unique):—  
Add.  
TP.=Torrent of Portyngale, ed. Adam, 1887; MS. (unique):—M.  
Tr.=Syr Tryamoure, ed. Halliwell, 1846; MSS.:—Ca, etc.  

101 Unless there is some doubt about which MS. best represents the original, or unless  
an editor prints parallel versions of his MSS., only the most important MS. is mentioned.  
102 The six-line stanza version of Octavian is not considered in this study.
Trs. = The King of Tars, ed. Krause in Englische Studien 11, 1888; MSS. = A, V, etc.

2. List of Manuscripts
A = Auchinleck (c. 1330) in the Nat. Lib. of Scot., Edinburgh:—AA. and Trs., and unique copies of Gy., HR., Rn., and RV. Add. = 31,042 (early XV) in the British Museum:—unique copies of RO. and SM.
B = Royal 17B XLIII (second half of XV) in the British Museum:—Gw.
Ca = Ff. II. 38 (first half of XV) in the Univ. Lib., Cambridge:—BF., Eg., ET., Oc., and Tr.
Cb = Ff. 1. 6 (XV) in the Univ. Lib., Cambridge:—Dg.
Cc = Cotton Caligula A II (middle of XV) in the British Museum:—Eg., Is., and LD., and unique copies of Em. and Ln.
Ea = 19.3.1 (second half of XV) in the Nat. Lib. of Scot., Edinburgh:—Ad., Gw., and Is.
Eb = 19.1.12 (end of XV) in the Nat. Lib. of Scot., Edinburgh:—Cl.
F = Fillingham, now Addit. 37492 (second half of XV) in the British Museum:—a unique copy of OtR.
GC = MS. 175 (early XV, according to Trounce, Athelston, p. 1, but dated in the second half of XIV by Zupitza, Englische Studien 14.337) in Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge:—a unique copy of Ath., and part of Is.
GI = MS. 20 (before 1350; cf. Englische Studien 52.76) in Gray’s Inn, London:—a few lines of Is.
I = Ireland (middle of XV; see B. Dickins, Leeds Studies in English, no. 2, 1933, p. 62 ff.) at Hale Hall, Liverpool:—Ad., as a unique copy of Av.
O = Ashmole 61 (end of XV) in the Bodleian Lib., Oxford:—Cl. and Is.
M = Chetham 8009 (XV) in the Chetham Library, Manchester:—unique copies of Ip. and TP.
T = Thornton (c. 1440) in the Cathedral Library, Lincoln:—Dg., Eg., Is., and Oc., and a unique copy of Pr.

APPENDIX B

Words of Limited Geographical Distribution

in

Individual Romances

AA. (2508 lines). N. (= Northern): I. busk, tyne; III. brand, grete sb., nykke, samen, stith; IV. biker.
Ad. (778 lines in E; 864 lines in I). N.: I. bayne, foe (MS.I), gere, hething, layne (MS.Ea), ser, tyne, wille (MS.I); II. lele; III.
bodeword (MS.Ea), gange (MS.Ea), grete (weep), samen (MS.I), spere (MS.Ea); IV. thertil (MS.Ea), thusgates (MS.I). Add: I. kiste; IV. burd (MS.I).

Ath. (812 lines). N.: I. gere; II. trayne; III. gange, lende, nykke.

Av. (1152 lines). N.: I. bayne, brathe sb., bush, derf, fel, gere, gete, graythely, hethen, mun, raike, ser, site, tharn, tyne, wothe; II. stonay; III. brand, britten, helde, samen; IV. how-sumeuyr, thertil. Add: I. luff; III. brec.

BF. (2187 lines). N.: I. bigge, blome, bukh, gayne, gere, lithe sb., min, nefey, raike, ser, site, thro adj., ware; II. lele, trayne; III. barmeteme, beld sb., brand, fax, helde, lende, sayne, spere, stith, strynde, swime, thikke folde, tuggel; IV. happe, irke adj., thertil, thir. Add: III. bryssse, strek.

Cl. (544 lines in Eb; 575 lines in O). N.: II. rehte (MS.O); III. nerehand (MS.Eb).

Dg. (1920 lines). S. (= Southern): III. chine (MS.Cb). N.: I. brathely, busk (MS.T), fel, gayne, gere, lyte (MS.T), rade, ser (MS.T), slake, thro adj., toore (MS.Cb), tyne (MS.T), wale vb. (MS.Cb—conjectural reading), wothe; II. lelely, stonay, trayne, veuer (MS.T); III. brand, brante (MS.T), britten, barely, gned, gret (MS.Cb), helde (MS.Cb), lende, samen (MS.Cb), saughtyll (MS.Cb), saughtyllinge, stith (MS.Cb), swyme, whatkyns (MS.T), whone (MS.Cb), wonge (MS.Cb), yon (MS.T); IV. thertil. Add: I. lowe vb. (MS.Cb); III. bryssse (MS.T); IV. burd (MS.Cb).

Eg. (1335 lines). N.: I. bayne (MSS.Ca,T), hethen (MS.T), mun (MS.T), ser (MS.T), slake (MS.T); III. britten (MSS.Cc,T), grete (weep) (MSS.Ca,Cc), lende, nerehand (MS.T), umby-thynk (MSS.Ca,T), whatkyns (MS.T).

Em. (1035 lines). N.: I. bigging, min; II. feltered, vis; III. grete (weep), le.

ET. (1224 lines). N.: I. bryste, busk, frayst (conjectural reading), scolde.

Gw. (756 lines). N.: I. brathe adj. (MS.B), hethen (MS.Ea), tyne (MS.Ea), ware (MS.Ea), wothe (MS.Ea); II. feltered (MS.Ea); III. beld sb., bire, raxel (MS.Ea), stith (MS.Ea), strynde, warlocke (MS.Ea). Add: I. hail sb. (MS.Ea); III. buse.


HR. (1136 lines). N.: I. busk, ros, slike, tyne; II. vis; III. gange, gned, helde, lende, mirke vb., mithe, stith, yon; IV. irke vb.

Is. (804 lines). N.: I. bigging, blome (MSS.Cc,T), farand (MS.T), frayst (MS.T), gere (MS.T), late (MS.T), layne sb. (MSS.Cc, O), slake (MSS.GC,T), wille (MSS.Cc,O,T); III. brante (MS.O), grete (weep) (MSS.Cc,O,T), nerehand, (MSS.Ea,T), sayne (MSS.GC,T), yon (MS.T), youthede (MS.T); IV. irke adj., sogates (MS.T), wap (MS.T). Add: III. buse (MS.T).

LD. (2232 lines). S.: III. afong, grede vb. N.: I. busk, tyne; II. vis; III. fax, stith; IV. biker.


Pr. (2288 lines). N.: I. brathely, carpynge, farand, frayst, gaynely, gere, graythely, hethen, layke, layte, min, mun, nayte, nefe, sprente, thethen, thro sb., tyne, unroo, wale sb., wande, wansum, wothely; II. lelely, pend, stonay; III. beld sb., brand, beryly, gnedede, grete (weep), nerehand, nykke, sayne, stith, whatkyns, yon; IV. fade, happe, howgates, nangates, othergates, sogates, thusgates. Add: I. kiste.


RO. (1596 lines). N.: I. bigge, bolnede, busk, cayre, farand, gayne, gere, imelle, mun, nefe, ser, slake, spen(d), thro adj., tyne, wothe; III. beld sb., bire, brand, britten, gange, gnedede, helde, samén, saughtylyl, saughtyllinge, thikke folde, yon; IV. fade, hone sb. Add: III. cleke.


SM. (1602 lines). N.: I. bayne, bigging, brathely, busk, derfly, fel, gayne, gere, graythely, mun, rake, rose, ser, slike, thethen, thro adj., trast, tryne, tyne, wande, wothe; II. lele; III. beld sb., brand, britten, ferli vb., grete sb., samén, yon; IV. biker, crayon, doche sb., hone vb., levenyng, thertil, thir, thusgates. Add: III. buse.

TP. (2669 lines). N.: I. carpynge, gayne, mun, sprente, trast; II. trayne; III. nerehand.

Tr. (1719 lines). N.: I. busk, spen(d), thro adj.; II. trayne; III. grete (weep), nerehand, samén, spere; IV. irke adj., thertil. Add: III. brysse.

APPENDIX C

Unmistakably Rare Words
in
Individual Romances

Ad. I. forflytte (MS.Ea), intake (MS.Ea); II. congrece (MS.I); III. over-drive (MS.I); IV. *conciens (MS.I), *un-semend (MS.I).
Cl. II. reles vb. (MS.O); III. bi-south, newyng, *ofclyve; IV. gesture (MS.Cb), twake (MS.O).
Eg. III. abutenward, hoglyn; IV. *fale (MS.Cc), rone, sowe (MS.Ca), *unerte (MS.T).
Em. II. *testymoye; III. fidelinge, glistering, silky; IV. nakette, *senatowre, *thonge.
ET. IV. wandremere.
Gw. II. *dysharnes (MS.Ea), *flatour (MS.B); III. birke (MS.Ea), *sibisce (MS.B); IV. *lart (MS.B), *saunfeul (MS.Ea).
HR. IV. *haughtel, *waterthe.
Is. I. cled (MSS.O,T); III. aremysde (MS.T), arethedde (MS.T), *foundynge (MS.T), irestone (conjectural reading); IV. smithyman, *vey (MS.T), *wanke (MS.T).
L.D. II. agye, *beafrere, faunsere, gipell, grate, vaunplate; III. unknowe, *unlaie; IV. skill.

L.n. II. agye, savagely; IV. *spret, *tosour.

Oc. II. molette (MS.Ca); III. begytte (MS.Ca), *chide (MS.T'), swelle (MS.Ca), uncladde, unfrely; IV. mete-forme (MS.T), wrong-heyrred.


RV. III. brust.

SM. II.discomfortynge; IV. *cardynere, *gowere, *syne.


Tr. III. abutenward, *withinne-wys.

Trs. I. un-weue (MS.V); III. *bischride (MS.A), *misforshapen; IV. *grest (MS.A).