

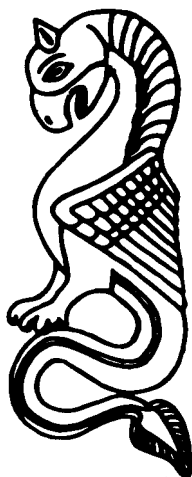
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THE RECIPES OF MS. HARLEY 2253.

MS. Harley 2253 contains on f. 52 *b* a number of recipes which have been printed by T. Wright under the title *Early English Receipts for Painting, Gilding, &c.*¹ Apart from the interest of their subject matter, the recipes are of interest from a lexicographical point of view, since several of the words used are not recorded elsewhere earlier than the late fourteenth or fifteenth centuries, whereas the recipes seem to have been written in the MS. about the middle of the fourteenth century. Wright dates the recipes 'in, or soon after, 1307' on the grounds that one of the poems in the same MS. is a lament on the death of Edward I. But since the recipes are probably not in the same hand as the rest of the MS. and were probably added rather later than the other pieces, such evidence is of little value; we have to rely mainly on palaeographical evidence, from which it appears that the recipes are not much later than the rest of the MS. (which was probably written between 1314 and about 1325).² The palaeographers of the Department of Manuscripts of the British Museum date them before the end of the fourteenth century, and Dr. Tyson, of the John Rylands Library, considers the hand to belong to the middle of the fourteenth century. Such a view accords well with the linguistic evidence; the frequency of *eo* as a spelling for the sound developed from OE. *ēo*, and of *-en* in the infinitive of verbs is against a late date. Two leaves of the MS. have been removed after f. 52, and these may have contained recipes too.³

Wright's transcription seems to be fairly accurate; only the following errors have been noted (line references throughout are to the transcription contained in Wright's article):—l. 7 W.

¹ *Archaeological Journal*, I (1845), 64-66.

² See the publications of *The New Palaeographical Society*, II, 241.

³ An examination of the MS. does not confirm the views expressed by the editors of *The New Palaeographical Society's* publications that the MS. consists of two MSS. bound together, the second MS. beginning at f. 49, or that only one leaf has been removed after f. 52, since ff. 47 to 52 and the stubs of the two leaves that have been removed belong to the same gathering, which must originally have had eight leaves.

tak/MS. *tac*; l. 9 W. *thereof*/MS. *þerof*; l. 21 W. *verdigris*/MS. *verdegres*; l. 22 W. *wolte*/MS. *wolt*; l. 24 W. *selverfoyle*/MS. *seluerfoyl*; l. 24 W. *it*/MS. *hit*; l. 59 W. *seththe*/MS. *seþþen*; & is sometimes expanded to *and* (e.g. ll. 1, 39) but usually to *ant* (e.g. ll. 2, 3, 18); the alinement, punctuation, and use of capitals of the MS. are not preserved; the MS. has *þ* corresponding to Wright's *th*, and *u* for his medial *v*, and *v* for his initial *u*.

Wright notes that here is the first English instance he has met of *brasyl*, but this is only one of many words of which this is the first recorded occurrence. For the following words no quotations earlier than c. 1380 are given by NED. The arrangement is: (a) line-number in Wright, (b) form in text, (c) headword in NED., (d) date of earliest occurrence recorded by NED. The forms marked by an asterisk are not given by NED.

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
1	*Cynople	Sinople	? c. 1450
1	*brasyl	Brazil ⁴	c. 1386
1	dich watur	Ditch-water	c. 1394
7	*gumme arabuk	Gum, <i>sb.</i> ² , sense 3 a Arabic, <i>a.</i> , sense 2	c. 1400 a. 1500
8	*standys	Standish	a. 1474-5
9	bobeles	Bubble, <i>sb</i>	1481
10	ere wax	Ear-wax	1398
16	*gummet	Gummed, <i>ppl. a.</i>	c. 1450
22	gaude grene	Gaudy, <i>a.</i> ¹	c. 1386 ⁴
22	peniwort	Pennywort	c. 1400
24	seluerfoyl	Silver-foil	1439-40
33	sise	Size, <i>sb.</i> ⁵	c. 1440
35	goldfoyl	Gold-foil	1398
35	radel	Raddle, <i>sb.</i> ²	1523
44	Blankplum	Blank, <i>a.</i> , sense 1	c. 1440

⁴ This is the date of the earliest exact parallel quoted by NED.; the quotation 'gay gaudi of grene' from *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, v. 167, shows a somewhat different construction.

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
45	a-cros ⁵	Across	1480
64	*horse dunge	Horse-dung	1460-70
66	vndefizet	Undefined, <i>ppl. a.</i> ¹	1398

For two words the recipes give forms later than any quoted by NED: *eþe*, line 29, and *gled red*, line 43. The latest quotation given by NED. *s.v.* *Ethe v.*¹ is *a.* 1225 from *Seinte Marherete*, and the only quotations given for *gled-red* (*s.v.* *Glead, sb.*, sense 5) are two *a.* 1240 from *Sawles warde*.⁶

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⁵ The sense in the recipes is the same as that in the first quotation in NED, from Caxton's *The cronicles of england*, viz. 'in the form of a cross.'

⁶ The two texts last mentioned, like the recipes, are from the West Midland area.