

The Vernon Manuscript Project



The Vernon Manuscript is the biggest and most important surviving late medieval English manuscript.

Written in the dialect spoken in the English West Midlands around 1400 AD, and lavishly decorated and illustrated, it is an extensive collection of poetry and prose for pious readers. Over its 600-year history, few have had the opportunity to interact with it, and this treasure of English literature and the arts of book-making is little known to specialists or the wider public. The Vernon Manuscript Project is dedicated to expanding knowledge and understanding of the manuscript and offering opportunities for specialist and non-specialist audiences to engage with it and enjoy it.

Online exhibition with Bodleian Libraries

This online exhibition celebrates a landmark in the history of the Vernon manuscript: the publication of the first full colour facsimile and transcription and the unprecedented access this now gives to every page of this extraordinary book. The exhibition uses images made for the edition and draws on research carried out in conjunction with this project.

<http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/about/exhibitions/online/vernon> (<http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/about/exhibitions/online/vernon>)

Events

- 15 May 2012, [Discovering the Vernon Manuscript \(/schools/edacs/departments/english/events/2012/discovering-vernon.aspx\)](#) [including video recordings of the talks]
- 6 June 2012, [The Vernon Manuscript - An E-Reader on Parchment \(/schools/edacs/news/2012/hay-festival.aspx\)](#), Hay Festival
- 10 June 2012 [Readings of the Vernon Manuscript \(/schools/edacs/departments/english/news/2012/vernon-manuscripts-readings-at-community-day.aspx\)](#), Community Day

West Midlanders join in!

Would medieval people have understood your English? Our latest project asks how far people in the English West Midlands today share the language of the Vernon manuscript. [Learn more... \(/schools/edacs/departments/english/research/projects/vernon/joinin.aspx\)](#)

The Vernon project in the news

- David Gregory has profiled the project on his [BBC blog \(http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/davidgregory/2011/09/the_vernon_manuscript.html\)](#)
- [Midland's Today news feature \(http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8OvkfG4woPY\)](#) (YouTube)
- [BBC Birmingham News Online feature \(http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-birmingham-14862385\)](#)
- ['Accent is on origin of regional dialect' \(/Documents/college-artslaw/english/vernon/VMPExpandStar2.pdf\)](#) *Express and Star* (Wolverhampton)
- ['You can help boffins in bid to unlock Brummie accent' \(/Documents/college-artslaw/english/vernon/VMPBhamMail.pdf\)](#) *Birmingham Mail*
- ['Accent placed on tracing our regional dialect' \(/Documents/college-artslaw/english/vernon/VMSStourbridgeChron.pdf\)](#) *Stourbridge Chronicle*
- 'Translating Ancient Worcestershire', [Worcestershire Life \(http://edition.pagesuite-professional.co.uk/launch.aspx?referral=other&pnum=5&refresh=8Ef1Mj0750Zm&EID=570b09b5-c187-4cac-aa1b-8e15aec3d3e5&skip=&p=5\)](#) April 2011, page 62.
- 'The Mystery of the Ancient Manuscript', [Warwickshire Life \(http://edition.pagesuite-professional.co.uk/launch.aspx?referral=other&pnum=5&refresh=5Fj01q4Py6D1&EID=a92d01f2-f30b-4c29-b913-538e2a3b3411&skip=&p=5\)](#) April 2011, page 60.
- [The Bangor Linguist \(http://bls.phpws.org/home/images/stories/1112/bangor-linguist/bangor-linguist-november11.pdf\)](#), November 2011
- [My Science \(http://www.myscience.me.uk/wire/event_uncovers_the_secrets_of_the_west_midlands_most_fascinating_medieval_manuscript-2012-Birmingham\)](#), May 2012
- Interview with Project Director Wendy Scase on Black Country Radio's programme [Shoot from the Lip \(https://soundcloud.com/unibirmingham/professor-wendy-scase-interview/\)](#), Sunday 6 July 2014

Learn more

- [Project aims and partners \(/schools/edacs/departments/english/research/projects/vernon/aims.aspx\)](#)
- [Project team \(/schools/edacs/departments/english/research/projects/vernon/team.aspx\)](#)
- [Publications \(/schools/edacs/departments/english/research/projects/vernon/publications.aspx\)](#)
- [West Midlanders join in! \(/schools/edacs/departments/english/research/projects/vernon/joinin.aspx\)](#)
- [The Simeon Manuscript Project \(/schools/edacs/departments/english/research/projects/simeon-manuscript.aspx\)](#)

