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The Kelmscott Chaucer Facsimile: Dystopia or Utopia

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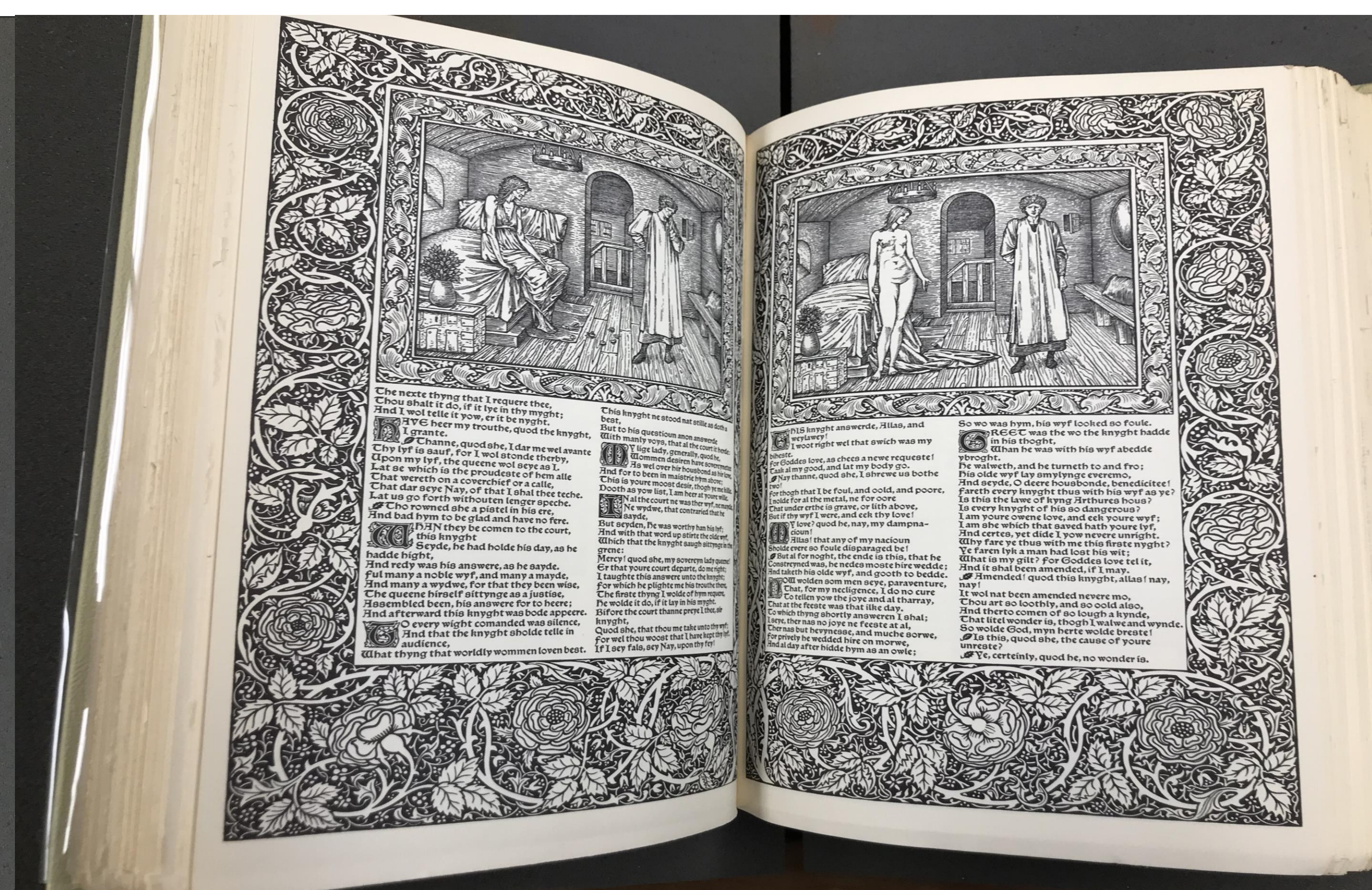# The Kelmscott Chaucer Facsimile: Dystopia or Utopia

Xinyuan Qiu
Mentor: Dr. Marilynn Desmond

Introduction

- At the end of the 19th century, William Morris directed the publication of the Kelmscott Chaucer, a printed edition of Chaucer that took medieval manuscripts as exemplars.
- This study focuses on a facsimile located in the special collections at Bartle Library (PR 1850 1896a).
- Existing studies pay little attention to:
- ❑ The paper and the palette, as well as their interaction with other decorative elements;
- ❑ The audience;
- ❑ Facsimiles
- My study, analyzing the interaction between the palette, the paper, and other decorations, examines what various audience get from the codex. I will also explore how the facsimile maximizes its efficiency in conveying messages from the original codex.
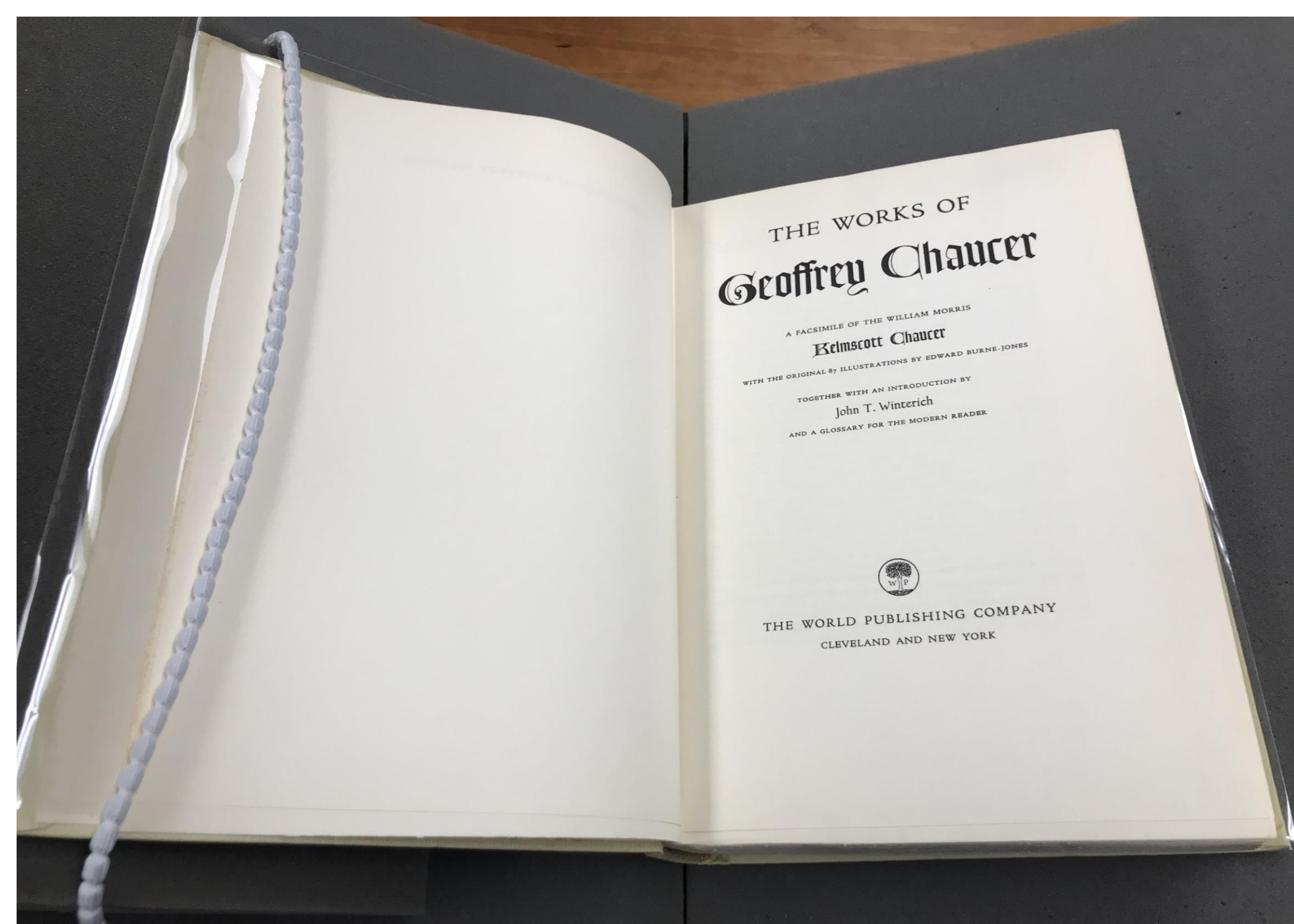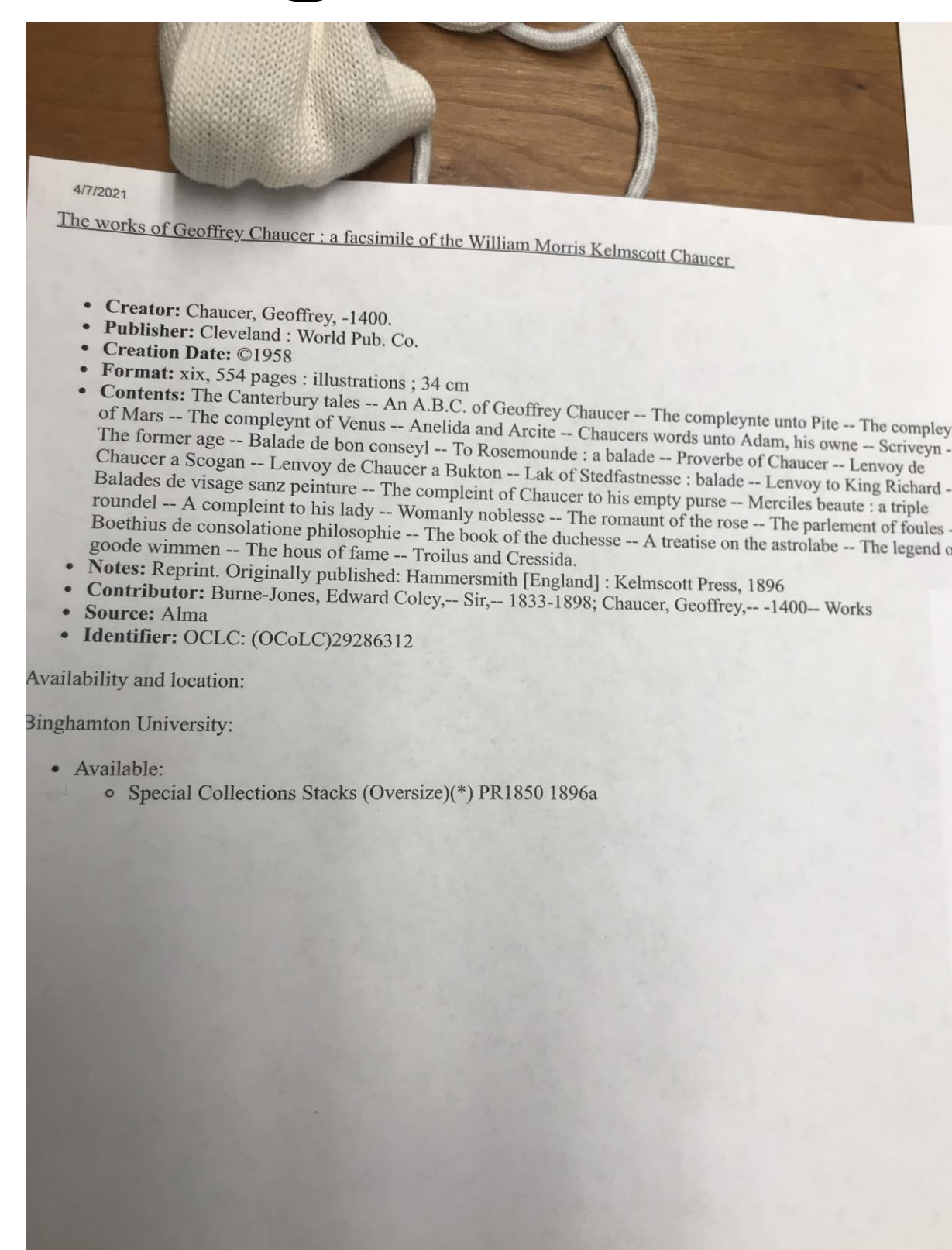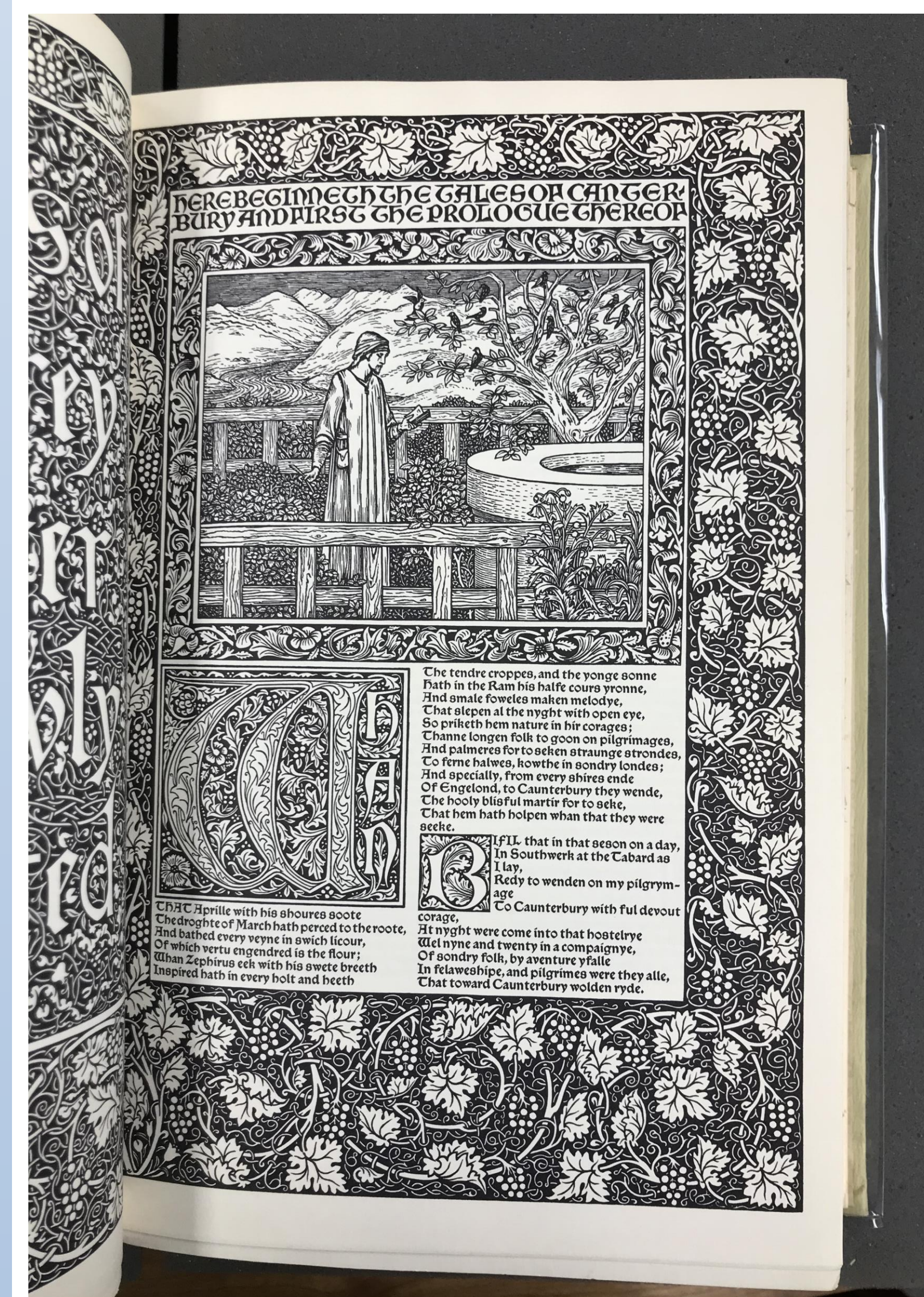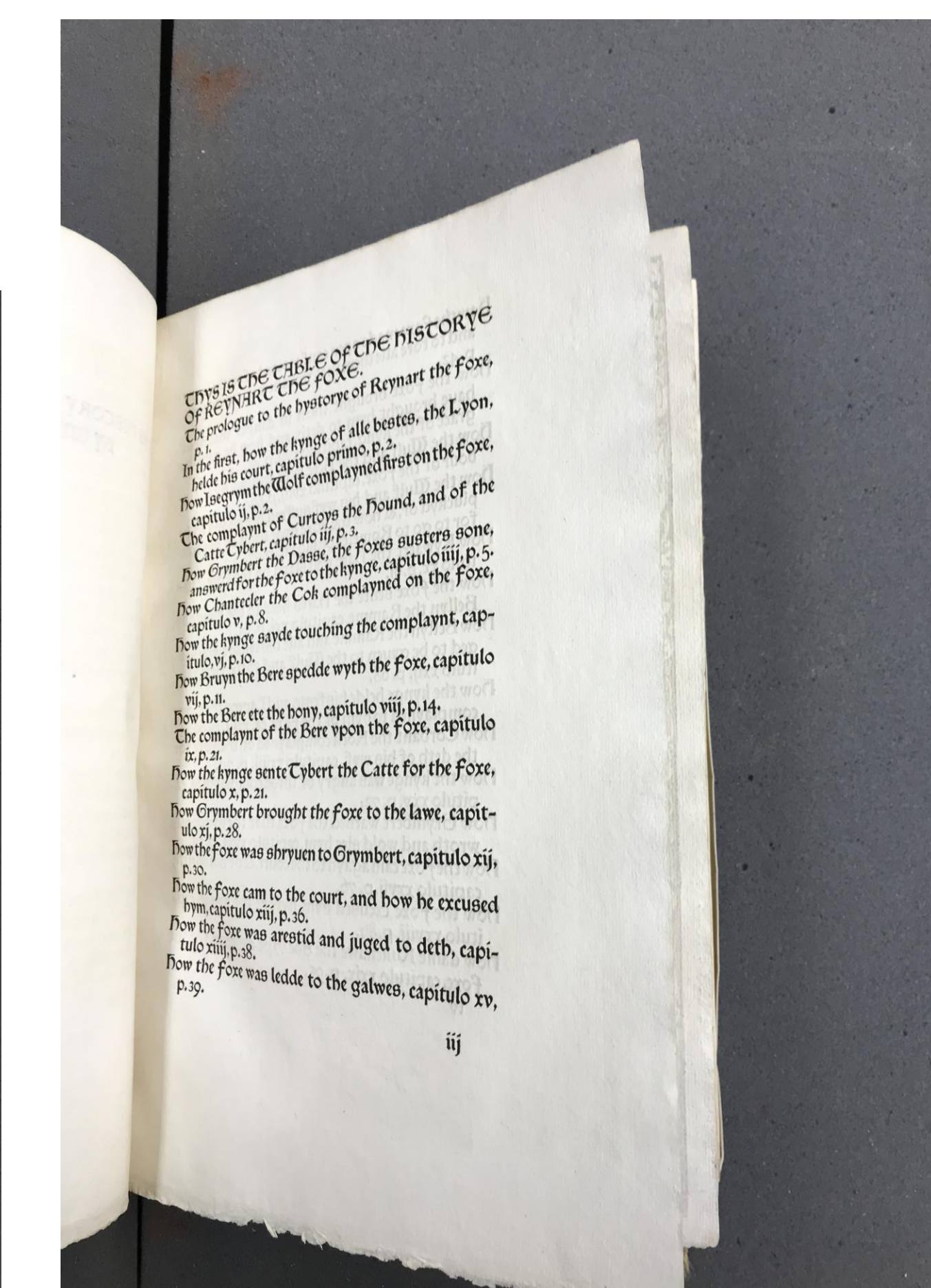
Evidence and Analysis

The Ellesmere Chaucer facsimile

The Kelmscott Chaucer facsimile, "The Tale of the Wife of Bath"

The rough-edged paper in original Kelmscott books
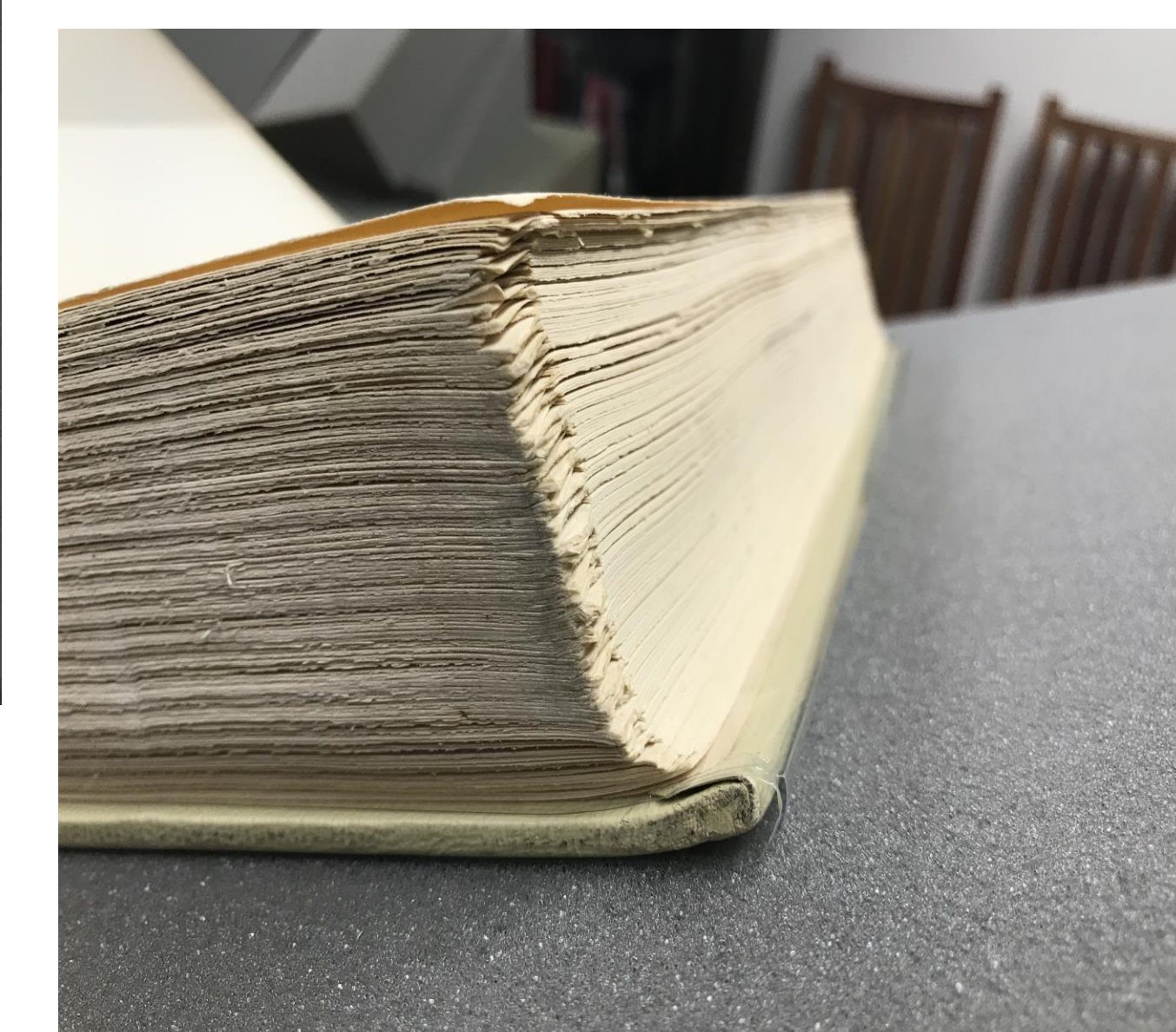
The rough-edged paper imitated by the Kelmscott facsimile

The Kelmscott Chaucer facsimile

Selected Bibliography

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