

# The Medieval Period, Day Twenty-Four

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*Death of the Historian*

# The tale of today's class

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- Postings!

## Medieval Studies/Medievalisms

- Visual and Verbal Imagery in Arthurian Legend

- Film Analysis Exercises—

in-class and take-home

- Second Essay Assignment

# A. Arthur and Excalibur

Sharon, Molly, Winnie, Crystal, Ed, Jenny



Text, 37



# B. The Lady of the Lake

Hillary, Keith, Nell, Nora, Lillian



Text, 37, 43 (name guide 942)

# C. The Grail

John Contrado, David, Daniel, Joy



Text, 582-584

# D. More Grail

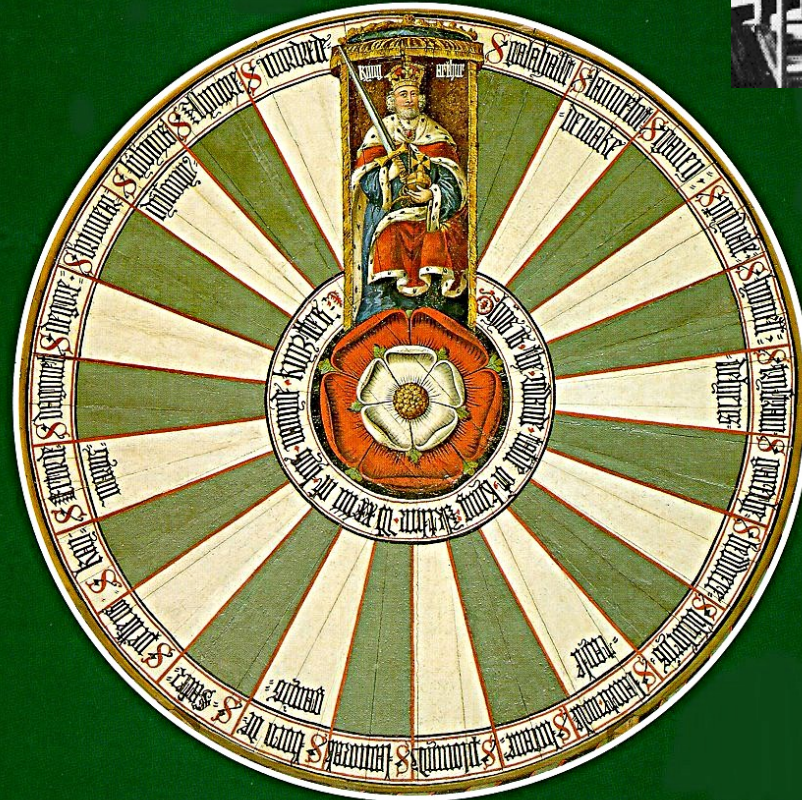
Michelle, Denez, Chris, Jake



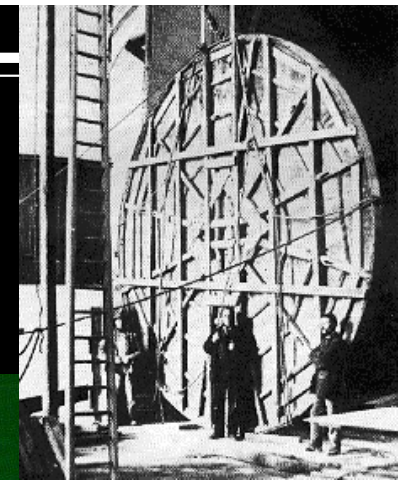
Text, 582-584

# E. The Round Table

Sebastien, Bob, Roger, John Curley



Text, 497-8, 499



“A Famous Historian”  
“Tis a silly place”  
“Of course it’s a good idea!”

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How does the ‘Arthurian’ legend invoked in this film compare to Malory’s version? Is Arthur presented as ‘historical’ or ‘non-historical’?

How do the comic effects of this film compare to forms of medieval comedy seen across the semester? For example, the comedy in the *Tale of Sir Topas* or the *Pardoner’s Tale*, or in medieval drama? How do the comic effects exaggerate features found in other epic, romance, chronicle, exemplum, or hagiographic texts?

Can we list some themes that we have encountered in this semester’s reading that also appear in this film?

- The ethics of rulership and origins of authority
- Communal, linguistic, and hierarchical identities
- The interrelations of gender and ethics
- The relation of the human and the divine, the past and the present
- Apposite and interlaced structures of narration, unreliable narration
- The challenge of the scatological

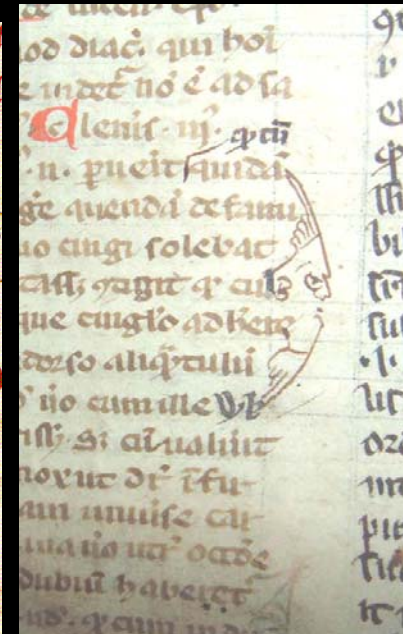
# Medieval Manuscript Grotesques



1. A sciopod in the Breviary of Renaud de Bar, Bishop of Metz. France, c.1302. Yates Thompson MS 8, f.250v.



2. Monsters, birds, and a knife-wielding man make up the letter 'A' in a canon law book. England (Christ Church, Canterbury), c.1120–1130. Cotton MS Claudius EV, f.25v.



Remember the Bayeux Tapestry (c. 1077) depicting the Battle of Hastings?

# Next Class: How Medieval is *Monty*?

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- Pick up a hard copy of the second essay assignment
- Watch *Monty Python's Holy Grail* again, select a scene, complete the film exercise. You can share your exercise with classmates on our website.
- You might want to begin reading *The Name of the Rose*, if you haven't read it before.