



Saturday  
morning  
manuscript  
reading  
sessions

-Surviving Middle English handwriting  
in Salisbury, Cathedral Library, MS 103-

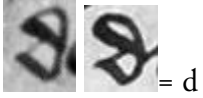
◆ Difficult letter forms



= a



= b



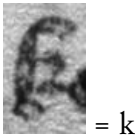
= d



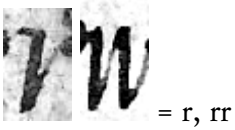
= e



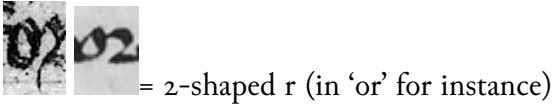
= h



= k



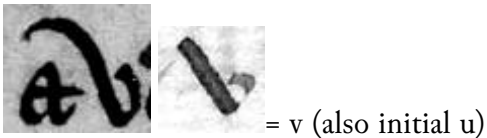
= r, rr



= 2-shaped r (in 'or' for instance)



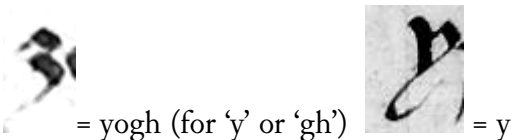
= s



= v (also initial u)



= '113' w



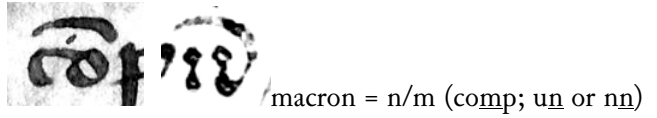
= yogh (for 'y' or 'gh')

= y

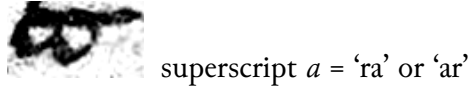
◆ Abbreviations



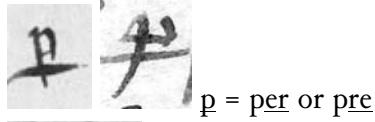
= Tironian *nota*  
for 'et' = 'and'



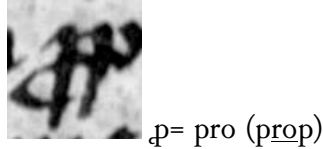
macron = n/m (comp; un or nn)



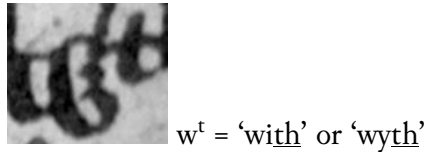
superscript a = 'ra' or 'ar'



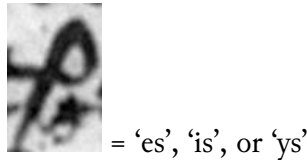
p = per or pre



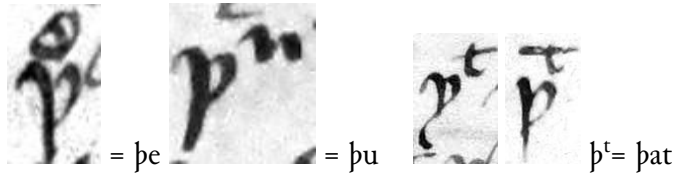
p = pro (prop)



w<sup>t</sup> = 'with' or 'wyth'



= 'es', 'is', or 'ys'



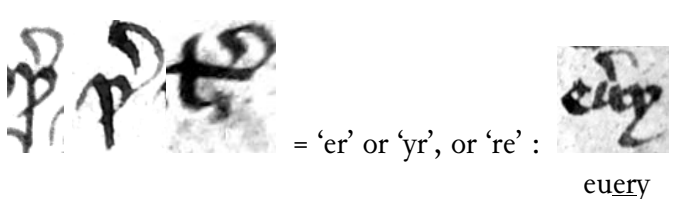
= pe

= pu

p<sup>t</sup> = pat



= ur



= 'er' or 'yr', or 're' :

euery

☞ A useful website for beginners' practice at the University of Nottingham:

*Medieval Handwriting* – Interactive exercises  
[http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/toolkits/play\\_2887](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/toolkits/play_2887)

☞ Further reading online:

The *Late Medieval English Scribes* project  
<http://www.medievalscribes.com/>

📖 CAPELLI, Adriano. *Dizionario delle abbreviazioni latine ed italiane*. 6th edition. Milan: Ulrico Hoepli, 1912.

📖 ROBERTS, Jane. *Guide to Scripts used in English Writings up to 1500*. London: British Library, 2005.