A presentation of the 15cILLUSTRATION database and website, a searchable database of 15th-century printed illustrations developed by the 15cBOOKTRADE Project in collaboration with the Visual Geometry Group (VGG) at the Department of Engineering Science of the University of Oxford, is the first comprehensive and systematic tool to track and investigate the production, use, circulation, and copying of woodblocks, iconographic subjects, artistic styles, within 15th-century printed illustrated ed...

Class structures of England during the 14th and 15th century were divided into the upper class and lower class with several layers in between. The upper class was made up of kings and nobility, lords and barons came next, followed by church leaders. The lower class was made up of peasants and serfs. Kings were believed to have been born with divine right, right given by God passed on by heredity (Think Quest, n.d.). The king owned the land. Barons were given parts of the land, known as manors or fiefs. The barons managed the lands, maintained allegiance to the king, and provided troops for pro Editions of Boccaccio, Aesop, Ptolemy, and Terrence, flowed from these presses and the images that were created in Ulm define the illustrated book in Northern Europe. Late in the 1480’s financial difficulties hit the industry and Ulm lost much of the investment which fueled its printing trade. Zainer and Dinckmut stayed in business, but they were never again able to produce illustrated books of a similar caliber. The first and only separately issued fifteenth-century edition of Albumasar’s book of conjunctions, a thesis on the creation of the universe, was printed by Erhard Ratdolt in 1489. It was illustrated with 268 woodcuts, most of which appeared in earlier books printed by Ratdolt. The 15th century was an age of violent contrasts. This age is marked with two parallel processes going in full swing. While feudal relations and the feudal mode of production were decaying, bourgeois relations and the bourgeois mode of production were developing rapidly. These changes were fully characteristic of all spheres of life. Thus the decline of the feudal estate (or manor) created favourable conditions and made it possible for internal wars to rage all over the country. The Wars of the Roses were a vivid expression of the anarchy of the period. The bourgeoisie, though becoming more nu Illustration of the pilgrims from Caxton’s second edition of The Canterbury Tales. View images from this item (39). Usage terms Public Domain. Chaucer’s works had had a wide manuscript circulation and Caxton used the medium of print to maintain and extend their appeal as the new print technology began to displace copying by hand. He also printed English religious works that had enjoyed a similar earlier manuscript appeal, including editions of Nicholas Love’s early 15th-century Speculum vitae Christi [‘Mirror of the Life of Christ’] in 1484 and 1490, the Pilgrimage of the Soul (in 1483) and editions of various sermon collections, including two of the Festial of John Mirk (in 1483 and 1491). He also used print to create new markets for novel and different kinds of writing.

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