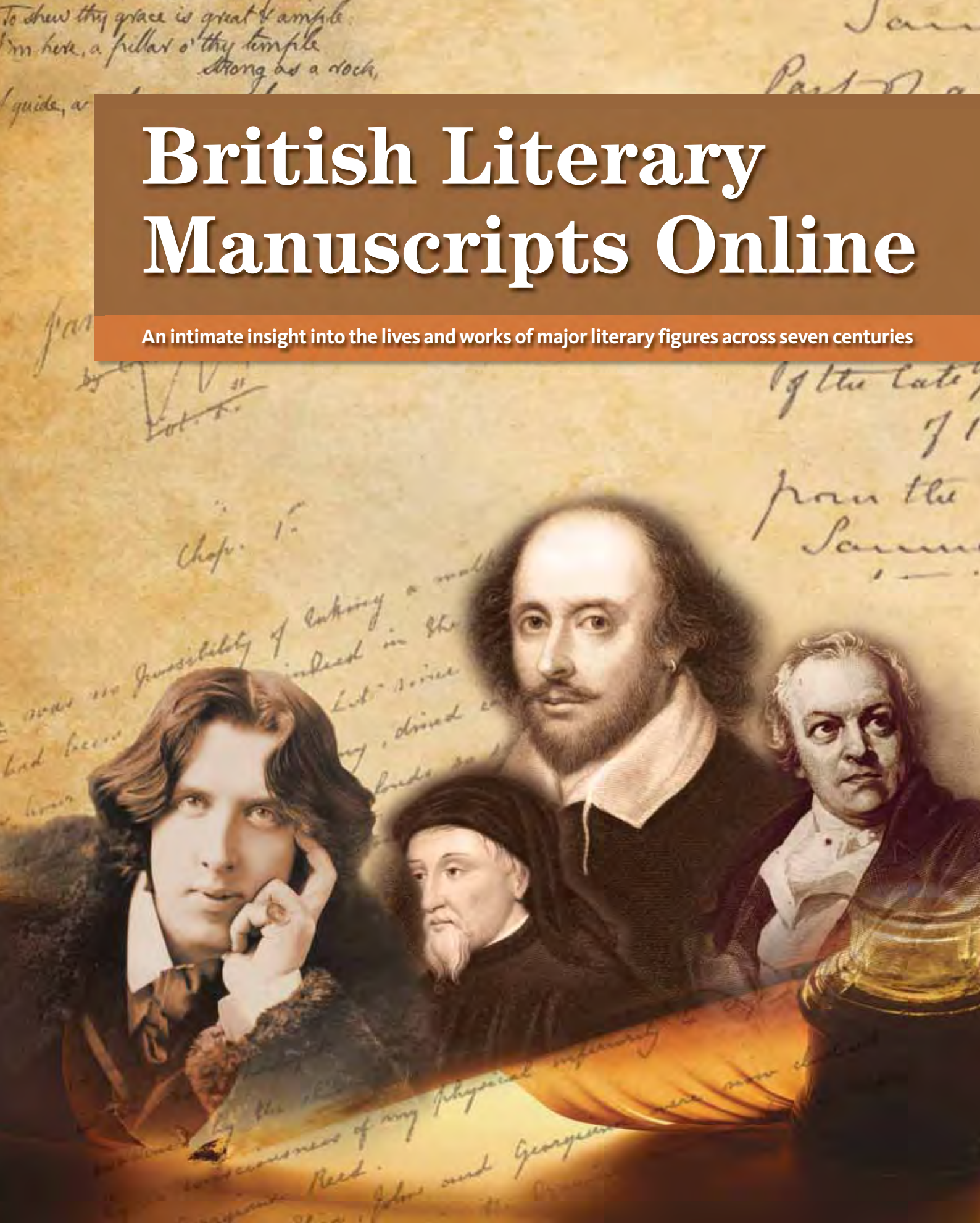


# British Literary Manuscripts Online

An intimate insight into the lives and works of major literary figures across seven centuries



# British Literary Manuscripts Online

A published work is the culmination of a long journey for the writer with repeated drafts and revisions hidden from the reader's view.

This is never more so than with writers of the past whose original manuscripts lie buried and dispersed in collections around the world or stored on microfilm for only the most experienced researchers to access.

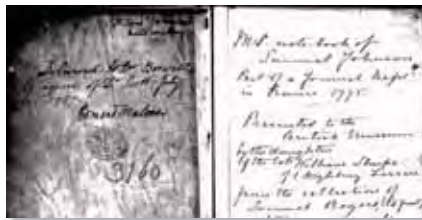
Now the writer's journey and creative process is revealed in the *British Literary Manuscripts Online* series. Representing the largest digitisation project of its kind, *British Literary Manuscripts Online* series consists of two digital collections, *British Literary Manuscripts Online, c.1660-1900* and *British Literary Manuscripts Online: Renaissance and Medieval*. Both parts are available as stand alone collections. Alternatively, institutions can purchase both parts together enabling users to cross-search the collections on the one intuitive and user-friendly interface.

Both collections in the series are destined to transform the way researchers and students work, enabling them to view manuscripts page-by-page or preview and apprehend the entire work via the thumbnail view in a way that would never have been possible with the physical copy. They can compare manuscripts, search and review a number of manuscripts quickly to identify those for closer study, and browse authors and library and microfilm collections with one-click ease. Researchers no longer have to travel long distances to view the material in the source library or even search through their library's microfilm holdings – now they can access original manuscripts from Geoffrey Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales* to Charles Dickens' *Nicholas Nickleby* 24/7 from wherever they are with an internet connection.



Above: *Beowulf*  
Sourced from the Cotton  
Collection at the British  
Library.

Middle Right: *Samuel  
Johnson's journal*  
while travelling in France,  
1775. Sourced from the  
British Library.



Bottom Right: *Robert Burns,*  
c 1791. Sourced from  
the National Library  
of Scotland.



Left: *The Canterbury Tales*. Sourced  
from the British Library.



Above: *Timon of Athens* by Shakespeare. Sourced  
from the National Art Library at the Victoria  
and Albert Museum.



Above: "*The Chimes*," by  
Charles Dickens, c. 1845.  
Sourced from the Victoria  
& Albert Museum.



Left: *Jane Eyre*.  
Sourced from the  
British Library.



# British Literary Manuscripts Online, c.1660-1900

The collection provides an intimate look into the lives and works of Britain's major writers across two hundred years. From the rise of Charles II to the death of Queen Victoria *BLMO*, c. 1660 - 1900 contains complete facsimile copies of author manuscripts including poems, plays, and novels; private correspondence, diaries and journals; as well as drawings and handwritten notes. The collection traces the development of literary movements from the classicism of Pope and Johnson to the Romanticism of Wordsworth and the gothic novels of the Brontës. Users can search across 220,000 pages by metadata which includes author, named person and title of the work.

**Researchers and students will discover the manuscripts of major authors in the British literary canon from 1660-1900 including:**

Aphra Behn  
 William Blake  
 Charlotte Brontë  
 Emily Brontë  
 Elizabeth Barrett Browning  
 Robert Burns  
 Thomas Carlyle  
 William Cowper  
 Charles Dickens  
 Samuel Johnson  
 John Locke  
 William Morris  
 Alexander Pope  
 Sir Walter Scott  
 Laurence Sterne  
 Jonathan Swift  
 Alfred Lord Tennyson  
 Oscar Wilde  
 William Wordsworth

“British Literary Manuscripts Online, c.1660-1900 shows what rich resources exist for the study of literary works in manuscript from the Restoration to the late nineteenth century. What makes this project unique is the way in which collections from libraries in different part of the world can be brought together to create an essential archive of primary materials. The possibilities such a resource has for research and teaching are enormous and have yet to be explored fully. As a new direction in manuscript studies of all periods, Gale's project is truly innovative.”

Professor Henry Woudhuysen,  
 University College London



Geoffrey Chaucer



Edmund Spenser



William Shakespeare

**The manuscripts are sourced from major libraries and collections from around the world including:**

- ◆ The British Library
- ◆ The Folger Shakespeare Library
- ◆ The National Library of Scotland
- ◆ The European Romantic Tradition: The Sir Walter Scott Manuscripts from the National Library of Scotland
- ◆ The William Cowper Papers and Other Manuscripts from Princeton University Library
- ◆ Brontë Manuscripts from the Brontë Parsonage Museum and The British Library
- ◆ Forster and Dyce Collections from the National Art Library at the Victoria and Albert Museum
- ◆ The Oscar Wilde Collection from University of California
- ◆ Huntington Library, San Marino, California



Home Page

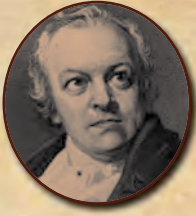


Manuscript view of *The Chimes* by Charles Dickens





Alexander  
Pope



William  
Blake



Sir Walter  
Scott



Elizabeth  
Browning



Charles  
Dickens



Oscar  
Wilde

## British Literary Manuscripts Online: Medieval and Renaissance

The second part of *British Literary Manuscripts Online* series, *British Literary Manuscripts Online: Medieval And Renaissance* offers students and researchers unprecedented online access to 565,000 pages of rare manuscripts from the Medieval and Early Modern periods, c.1100 to 1660. Researchers and students can explore online a rich tapestry of letters, poems, stories, plays, chronicles, religious writings and commonplace books through searchable catalogue records.

Consisting primarily of works in Middle and Early Modern English, *BLMO: Medieval and Renaissance* is an essential resource for any scholar of the Medieval and Renaissance periods. Scholars can access online the original manuscripts of seminal literary, religious and philosophical texts and trace the prevailing social and cultural attitudes of the times through important historical documents like the letters of Alcuin and Lanfranc and the Chronicles of Waverly, Glastonbury, St Martin's and Lichfield.

***Numerous manuscripts of classic works add to the richness of this collection.***

### **Medieval period:**

*Major works of Medieval English literature include:*

- ◆ *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle: The Abingdon Chronicle II*
- ◆ *Beowulf and Judith*
- ◆ *The Book of Margery Kempe*
- ◆ *The Canterbury Tales*
- ◆ *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*
- ◆ *The Pearl*
- ◆ *The Vision of Piers the Plowman*

### **Renaissance period:**

- ◆ *Plays by Shakespeare, his predecessors and contemporaries*
- ◆ *Poetry by the great Renaissance poets including Thomas Campion, John Dryden, John Donne, Ben Jonson, Philip Sidney, Edmund Spenser and Thomas Wyatt*
- ◆ *Cultural resources such as odes and songs, medical treatises and commonplace books*

### **Source libraries and collections:**

- ◆ British Literary Manuscripts from the British Library, London: Series One: The English Renaissance, c.1500-1700
- ◆ British Literary Manuscripts from the Folger Shakespeare Library Washington D.C.: The English Renaissance: Literature from the Tudor Period to the Restoration c.1500-c.1700
- ◆ The Forster and Dyce Collections from the National Art Library at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London: Part One: 16th & 17th Century Manuscripts; Part Two: 18th Century Manuscripts
- ◆ British Literary Manuscripts from the National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh: Part One: Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts c.1300-1700
- ◆ British Literary Manuscripts from the British Library, London: Series Three: The Medieval Age, c.1150-c.1500
- ◆ Medieval Literary and Historical Manuscripts in the Cotton Collection, from the British Library, London

To view title lists for both  
collections visit  
**[www.gale.cengage.co.uk/  
manuscripts](http://www.gale.cengage.co.uk/manuscripts)**



The writer who possesses the creative gift owns something of which he is not always master – something that at time strangely wills and works for itself.

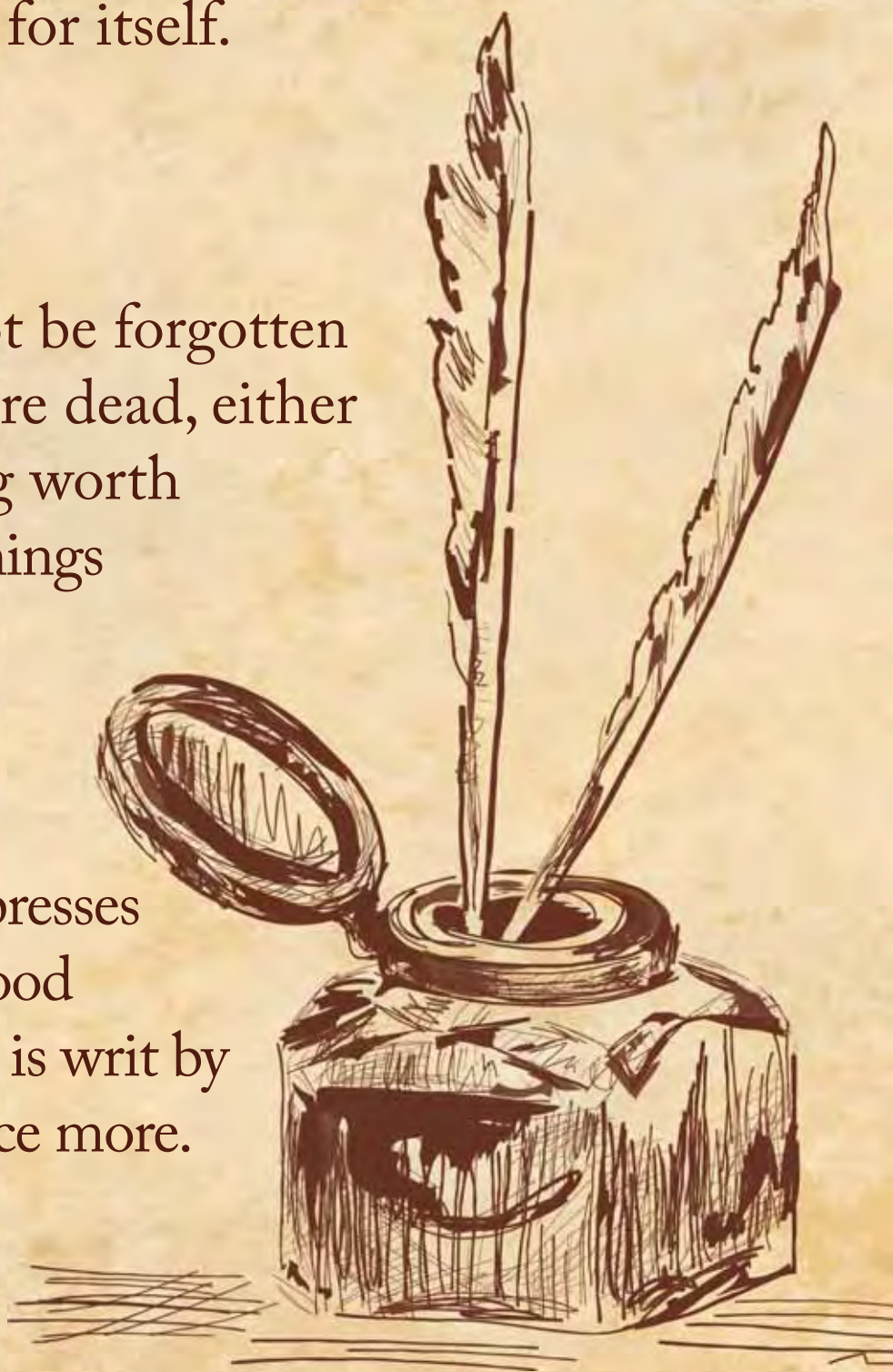
**Charlotte Brontë**

If you would not be forgotten as soon as you are dead, either write something worth reading or do things worth writing.

**Benjamin Franklin**

What printing-presses yield we think good store – But what is writ by hand we reverence more.

**John Donne**



## Features:

- ◆ Searchable by full citation, author, titles of major works, genre and document type, date, century, source library, source microfilm collection
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- ◆ View manuscript page-by-page or as thumbnails
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- ◆ Compare manuscripts
- ◆ MARC Records available

## An Advisory Board of scholars contributed their significant expertise to the collection, defining its metadata, searchability, and display requirements:

**Charlotte Cabbage**, Northwestern University Library, Illinois; **James L. Harner**, Texas A & M University; **Susan Schreibman**, University College Dublin, Ireland; **Ray Siemens**, University of Victoria, British Columbia; **Henry Woudhuysen**, University College London, England.

Contact [emea.marketing@cengage.com](mailto:emea.marketing@cengage.com) for a free trial or more information or call +44 (0) 1264 332 424 fax +44 (0) 1264 343 000

Coming Soon – British Literary Manuscripts Online will be cross-searchable within the Literature Resources from Gale environment allowing users to cross-search BLMO with other literature resources:

- ◆ **Literature Resource Center** – online access to more than 130,000 author biographies, 250,000 full-text critical essays and reviews and thousands of articles from 360 periodical titles
- ◆ **LitFinder** – online access to more than more than 150,000 full-text poems, 6,100 full text short stories, 3,300 full-text essays and 2,000 full text speeches
- ◆ **MLA International Bibliography** – online access to more than 2 million bibliographic citations to journal articles, books, and dissertations from 1926 to the present
- ◆ **Gale Virtual Reference Library** – Gale's eBook platform which hosts close to 3,000 e-reference titles from Gale and third party publishers in the area of humanities and social sciences

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