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"A work of enormous importance. Of all the poems of the English Middle Ages, “Piers Plowman” is the one that most deserves and needs annotation of the fullest and best possible kind, both because it is a text of unrivaled literary quality and interest, and because it is characteristically knotty and deploying a language of unusual richness, density, and allusiveness. Much of its work of enormous importance. Of all the poems of the English Middle Ages, “Piers Plowman” is the one that most deserves and needs annotation of the fullest and best possible kind, both because it is a text of unrivaled literary quality and interest, and because it is characteristically knotty and deploying a language of unusual richness, density, and allusiveness. Much of this allusiveness is to areas of learning that are not at every modern reader’s fingertips. A particular difficulty is the existence of the poem in three authorial versions of almost desperate complexity. It will be an immense triumph to have a commentary which elucidates their relationships as a matter of policy and not simply as the result of conflating annotation on the different versions."--Derek Pearsall

The first full commentary on “Piers Plowman” since the late nineteenth century is inaugurated with the publication of the first two of its five projected volumes. The detailed and wide-ranging “Penn Commentary” places the allegorical dream-vision of “Piers Plowman” within the literary, historical, social, and intellectual contexts of late medieval England, and within the long history of critical interpretation of the poem, assessing past scholarship while offering original materials and insights throughout. The authors’ line-by-line, section by section, and passus by passus commentary on all three versions of the poem and on the stages of its multiple revisions reveals new aspects of the poem’s meaning while assessing and summarizing a complex and often divisive scholarly tradition. The volumes offer an up-to-date, original, and open-ended guide to a poem whose engagement in its social world is unrivaled in English literature, and whose literary, religious, and intellectual accomplishments are uniquely powerful. “The Penn Commentary” is designed to be equally useful to readers of the A, B, or C texts of the poem. It is geared to readers eager to have detailed experience of “Piers Plowman” and other medieval literature, possessing some basic knowledge of Middle English language and literature, and interested in pondering further the particularly difficult relationships to both that this poem possesses. Others, with interest in poetry of all periods, will find the extended and detailed commentary useful precisely because it does not seek to avoid the poem’s challenges but seeks instead to provoke thought about its intricacy and poetic achievements.

Andrew Galloway’s Volume 1 treats the poem’s first vision, from the Prologue through Passus 4, in all three versions, accepting the C text as the poet’s final word but excavating downward through the earlier B and A texts. Stephen Barney’s volume completes the volumes’ offer an up-to-date, original, and open-ended guide to a poem whose engagement in its social world is unrivaled in English literature, and whose literary, religious, and intellectual accomplishments are uniquely powerful. “The Penn Commentary” is designed to be equally useful to readers of the A, B, or C texts of the poem. It is geared to readers eager to have detailed experience of “Piers Plowman” and other medieval literature, possessing some basic knowledge of Middle English language and literature, and interested in pondering further the particularly difficult relationships to both that this poem possesses. Others, with interest in poetry of all periods, will find the extended and detailed commentary useful precisely because it does not seek to avoid the poem’s challenges but seeks instead to provoke thought about its intricacy and poetic achievements.

Andrew Galloway’s Volume 1 treats the poem’s first vision, from the Prologue through Passus 4, in all three versions, accepting the C text as the poet’s final word but excavating downward through the earlier B and A texts. Stephen Barney’s volume completes the framework for the commentary, dealing with the final three passus of the poem, extant only in the B and C versions. Subsequent volumes will be the work of Ralph Hanna, Traugott Lawler, and Anne Middleton.

Overall, “The Penn Commentary on Piers Plowman” marks a new stage of concentrated yet wide-ranging attention to a text whose repeated revisions and literary and intellectual complexity make it both an elusive object of inquiry and a literary work whose richness has long deserved the capacious and minutely detailed treatment that only a full commentary can allow. Perhaps no poem in English appeals more than “Piers Plowman” to those readers who understand Yeats’s “fascination with things difficult,” yet “The Penn Commentary” will enable generations of readers to share in the pleasures and challenges of experiencing, engaging with, and trying to elucidate the difficulties of one of the towering achievements of English Literature. Andrew Galloway is Professor of English and Medieval Studies at Cornell University.

the penn commentary on piers

the last three passus of PP consist of the last three dreams with their waking intervals; the sixth through the eighth, or the eighth through tenth if the dreams-within-dreams are counted (see Alford

the penn commentary on piers plowman, volume 5: c passus 20-22; b passus 18-20

It joins a string of piers along Manhattan’s west side that have been redeveloped for recreational use over the last 20 years, but its unusual design sets it apart. Little Island’s flowers

whimsical nyc waterfront park funded by barry diller opens

But the act led to Williams Penn and Betsy Ross at least until they picked up and moved to Washington state. 7. Piers Anthony While agnostic today, best-selling science fiction

what richard nixon and james dean had in common

What is needed is for nonconservatives to push back — liberals like Bill Maher and Piers Morgan, who have been vocal and fearless. But maybe the most fearless foes against the woke warriors to

paul kengor: punking the cancel culture

John Wyclif was the fourteenth-century English thinker responsible for the first English Bible, and for the Lollard movement which was persecuted widely for its attempts to reform the Church through

philosophy and politics in the thought of john wyclif

1 Philadelphia Inquirer opinion commentary about the Sixers targeting Penn’s Landing for a potential new basketball arena. And whether it would really be good for the city. The Sixers Are Targeting

harris steinberg

And for businesses at the Jersey Shore, filling summer jobs is proving to be an even more difficult task. Morey’s Piers and Water Parks in Wildwood began its season Saturday with the opening of

the labor pool is empty at the jersey shore, but why?

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the etymologies of isidore of seville

The city’s medical examiner’s office said Friday that 750 bodies are being kept in long-term storage in refrigerated trailers at a Brooklyn pier while family members sort out plans for their

nyc still storing covid-19 victims in refrigerated trucks

We’re getting a look at a new island oasis off Manhattan’s west coast. Like us on Facebook to see similar stories Please give an overall site rating:

‘little island’ at pier 53 opens friday

Order copies of the April 2021 issue of Architectural Record, which features Record Houses 2021 and spotlights six impressive residences in Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, and the U.S. Learn more

single copy sales

A worker secures a banner on a building on the beach for the upcoming 2017 US Open of Surfing on the beach just south of the Huntington Beach Pier in Huntington Beach on July 21, 2017.

vans co-founder paul van doren dies at age 90

The 2021 tropical storm and hurricane season – which doesn’t officially begin until June 1 – appears to be jumping the gun yet again. The National Hurricane Center is monitoring two separate

first storms of hurricane season 2021 may be forming in the gulf and atlantic; heavy rain coming to texas, louisiana

The star of HGTV’s “Rehab Addict Rescue” has won a dispute with Detroit over ownership of a blighted home Lady Gaga says she got pregnant at 19 after being raped by a music producer early in

entertainment news

The Pennsylvania Ballet will finally meet its audience live and in-person at the Cherry Street Pier. Philadelphia’s premiere classical dance company
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<th>Content</th>
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<td>Pennsylvania ballet spreads its wings at the cherry street pier</td>
<td>I don’t mean sensational in the way that trite commentaries about the entertainment While many hoped for St. Pierre-Penn 2 to somehow play out as a pier-six brawl, despite the fact that</td>
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<tr>
<td>UFC 94 analysis: on prominence and possibility</td>
<td>Some of you may recall that I started our last earnings call on February 19, by pointing out the pre-call commentary on our reach that Barstool gives to Penn, another very important tenant</td>
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<td>Vici Properties Inc.’ (Vici) CEO Ed Pitoniak on Q1 2021 results</td>
<td>Altona Beach foreshore and pier in Melbourne’s southwest where a positive case visited between 1pm and 5pm on October 2 while infectious and without wearing a mask; - Fiesta Market by Circle in</td>
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<td>Politicsnow: ‘delusional’ NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian faces heated question time</td>
<td>Alison Arngrim, who famously played the iconic Nellie Oleson on Little House on the Prairie, talks to Yahoo Entertainment about working alongside Sean Penn, in his first role ever on the hit series.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alison Arngrim talks Sean Penn’s first role ever on ‘Little House on the prairie’</td>
<td>But the fact is, aside from William Penn and Betsy Ross at least until they picked up and moved to Washington state. 7. Piers Anthony While agnostic today, best-selling science fiction</td>
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<td>What Richard Nixon and James Dean had in common</td>
<td>Michael Kutcher, the twin of actor Ashton Kutcher, opened up to “Today” about his journey with cerebral palsy and his relationship with his brother. Chris D’Elia, who just addressed sexual</td>
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<td>Entertainment &amp; Arts</td>
<td>New York City’s new floating park, Little Island, officially opens to the public tomorrow!</td>
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<td>Your ultimate guide to New York City</td>
<td>Letter from Jason Knauf appears to question the Duchess of Sussex’s claim that she was ‘unprotected’ by Kensington Palace staff</td>
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