

# Gwendolyn, Rowena, Rhiannon, and Morgana: 'Medieval' Names vs. Medieval Names

Dr. Sara L. Uckelman  
s.l.uckelman@durham.ac.uk  
@SaraLUckelman

The Middle Ages in the Modern World  
01 July 2015

# Our Central Questions

- What names do people think are medieval, but are in fact modern?
- What names do people think are modern, but are in fact medieval?
- Where does the mismatch come from?

# Medieval or Modern? (1)

# Medieval or Modern? (1)

- Gwendolyn
- Rowena
- Rhiannon
- Morgana

## Medieval or Modern? (2)

- **Wendy:**
- **Cedric:**
- **Miranda:**
- **Amanda:**
- **Dorian:**
- **Cora:**
- **Stella:**
- **Imogenis:**

## Medieval or Modern? (2)

- **Wendy:** Wendy Oxford, christened in 1615 in Harston, Cambridge, England.
- **Cedric:**
- **Miranda:**
- **Amanda:**
- **Dorian:**
- **Cora:**
- **Stella:**
- **Imogenis:**

## Medieval or Modern? (2)

- **Wendy:** Wendy Oxford, christened in 1615 in Harston, Cambridge, England.
- **Cedric:** Cedric Holle, christened in 1613 in Plymouth, Devon, England; Cedric Jorye, christened in 1626 in the same city.
- **Miranda:**
- **Amanda:**
- **Dorian:**
- **Cora:**
  
- **Stella:**
- **Imogenis:**

## Medieval or Modern? (2)

- **Wendy:** Wendy Oxford, christened in 1615 in Harston, Cambridge, England.
- **Cedric:** Cedric Holle, christened in 1613 in Plymouth, Devon, England; Cedric Jorye, christened in 1626 in the same city.
- **Miranda:** Périgueux, France, in 1366–1367.
- **Amanda:**
- **Dorian:**
- **Cora:**
  
- **Stella:**
- **Imogenis:**



## Medieval or Modern? (2)

- **Wendy:** Wendy Oxford, christened in 1615 in Harston, Cambridge, England.
- **Cedric:** Cedric Holle, christened in 1613 in Plymouth, Devon, England; Cedric Jorye, christened in 1626 in the same city.
- **Miranda:** Périgueux, France, in 1366–1367.
- **Amanda:** England, 1221.
- **Dorian:**
- **Cora:**
  
- **Stella:**
- **Imogenis:**

## Medieval or Modern? (2)

- **Wendy:** Wendy Oxford, christened in 1615 in Harston, Cambridge, England.
- **Cedric:** Cedric Holle, christened in 1613 in Plymouth, Devon, England; Cedric Jorye, christened in 1626 in the same city.
- **Miranda:** Périgueux, France, in 1366–1367.
- **Amanda:** England, 1221.
- **Dorian:** Paris, France, 1421
- **Cora:**
  
- **Stella:**
- **Imogenis:**

## Medieval or Modern? (2)

- **Wendy:** Wendy Oxford, christened in 1615 in Harston, Cambridge, England.
- **Cedric:** Cedric Holle, christened in 1613 in Plymouth, Devon, England; Cedric Jorye, christened in 1626 in the same city.
- **Miranda:** Périgueux, France, in 1366–1367.
- **Amanda:** England, 1221.
- **Dorian:** Paris, France, 1421
- **Cora:** Cora and the diminutive Corina are both found in Imola, Italy, in 1312.
- **Stella:** .
- **Imogenis:** .

## Medieval or Modern? (2)

- **Wendy**: Wendy Oxford, christened in 1615 in Harston, Cambridge, England.
- **Cedric**: Cedric Holle, christened in 1613 in Plymouth, Devon, England; Cedric Jorye, christened in 1626 in the same city.
- **Miranda**: Périgueux, France, in 1366–1367.
- **Amanda**: England, 1221.
- **Dorian**: Paris, France, 1421
- **Cora**: Cora and the diminutive Corina are both found in Imola, Italy, in 1312.
- **Stella**: Rome, 1527.
- **Imogenis**: .

## Medieval or Modern? (2)

- **Wendy**: Wendy Oxford, christened in 1615 in Harston, Cambridge, England.
- **Cedric**: Cedric Holle, christened in 1613 in Plymouth, Devon, England; Cedric Jorye, christened in 1626 in the same city.
- **Miranda**: Périgueux, France, in 1366–1367.
- **Amanda**: England, 1221.
- **Dorian**: Paris, France, 1421
- **Cora**: Cora and the diminutive Corina are both found in Imola, Italy, in 1312.
- **Stella**: Rome, 1527.
- **Imogenis**: Germany, 1258.

# Wherefore the mismatch?

- Literature
- Shifting standards of personal/cultural identity

# Literature

Arthur, Hector, Isolde, Lancelot, Percival, Tristram, Guinevere, Digory,  
Crescentia, Hercules, Reynard, Roland, Lavinia, Gavin, Griselda

## A crass commercial announcement

# DICTIONARY OF MEDIEVAL NAMES FROM EUROPEAN SOURCES

<http://dmnes.org/>



@theDMNES



<http://www.facebook.com/thedmnes>



<http://dmnes.wordpress.com>