Assignment #6

Due: Mar. 2 at the beginning of class.

English spelling is a fabulous repository of historical changes. The writing system often preserves features that no longer show up in the spoken language. Find one. Explain what the feature is. Cite your evidence that this is indeed a reflection of an earlier stage of the language.

Try to avoid arguments of the form. “X is true because Y says so”. You should definitely cite authorities if and when they are appropriate, but the form of your evidence must be a direct reference to data (with accompanying citation of source if appropriate).

Requirements:

1. This can be no longer than a page.
2. This must be typed.
3. This must be double-spaced.
4. The font size and margins must be reasonable!
5. Put your name and section number on your assignment.

Things to keep in mind:

1. Be clear, not deep!
2. Hint: start with some aspect of the spelling that doesn’t seem to make sense to you as a speaker of modern English.
3. It would be really hard to do this without going to the library.
4. This may involve considering a number of possible historical changes before you find one for which you can make a good argument.