

located bodies – seven
the sovereign body



feudal monarchy and after

the absolute monarch

by divine right, anointment, by grace of God (3.2.50ff)

the king's two bodies

majesty embodied

coronation – crown and king

the body of England

the king's own body

NB also the many body metaphors (- body politic)

challenges to the absolute monarch

the English revolution (17th century) and after
parliament and republicanism – the *res publica*
the commons and the commonwealth - who represents them?



the issue of representation

a question of political philosophy and more -

who is speaking when the King speaks?

who is speaking when the political representative speaks?

what is the relation of language to action?

to what degree is language merely ceremonial in Richard II?

issues

- representation and language

- representation and the symbol (2.4 and the Welsh captain)

digression

representation and the political economy of science

the power of witnessing speech

reason, science and its consequences



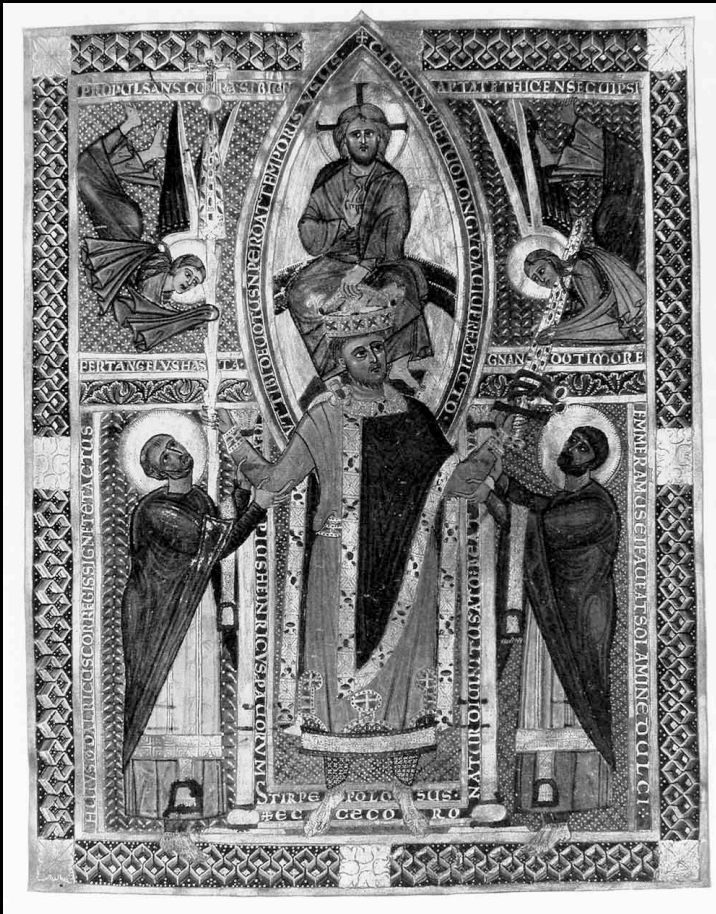
located bodies – seven the sovereign body

what is its location?

the body politic – the prince, the representative, the commons

NB the question of speech, writing and representation
relationships with power, effect and action

located bodies – eight
the body politic



body metaphors for the state

John of Salisbury 1159

The state (*res publica*) is a body ... within that state, the prince occupies the place of the head; he is subject to the unique God and to those who are his lieutenants on earth, for in the human body the head is also governed by the soul. The senate occupies the place of the heart, which gives good and bad deeds their impulses. The function of the eyes, the ears and the tongue is assured by the judges and the provincial governors ... the feet that always touch the soil are the peasants. Being governed by the head is especially necessary for them, because they are faced by numerous detours as they walk upon the earth in the service of the body, and because they need the firmest support in order to keep the mass of the entire body erect, to support it and to move about. Deprive the most robust body of the support given by its feet and it will not advance under its own strength but will either crawl shamefully, painfully and unsuccessfully on its hands, or will move about like brute beasts.

the body of England

the body of England, in sickness and health, is a character in Richard II

it encompasses (then and later)

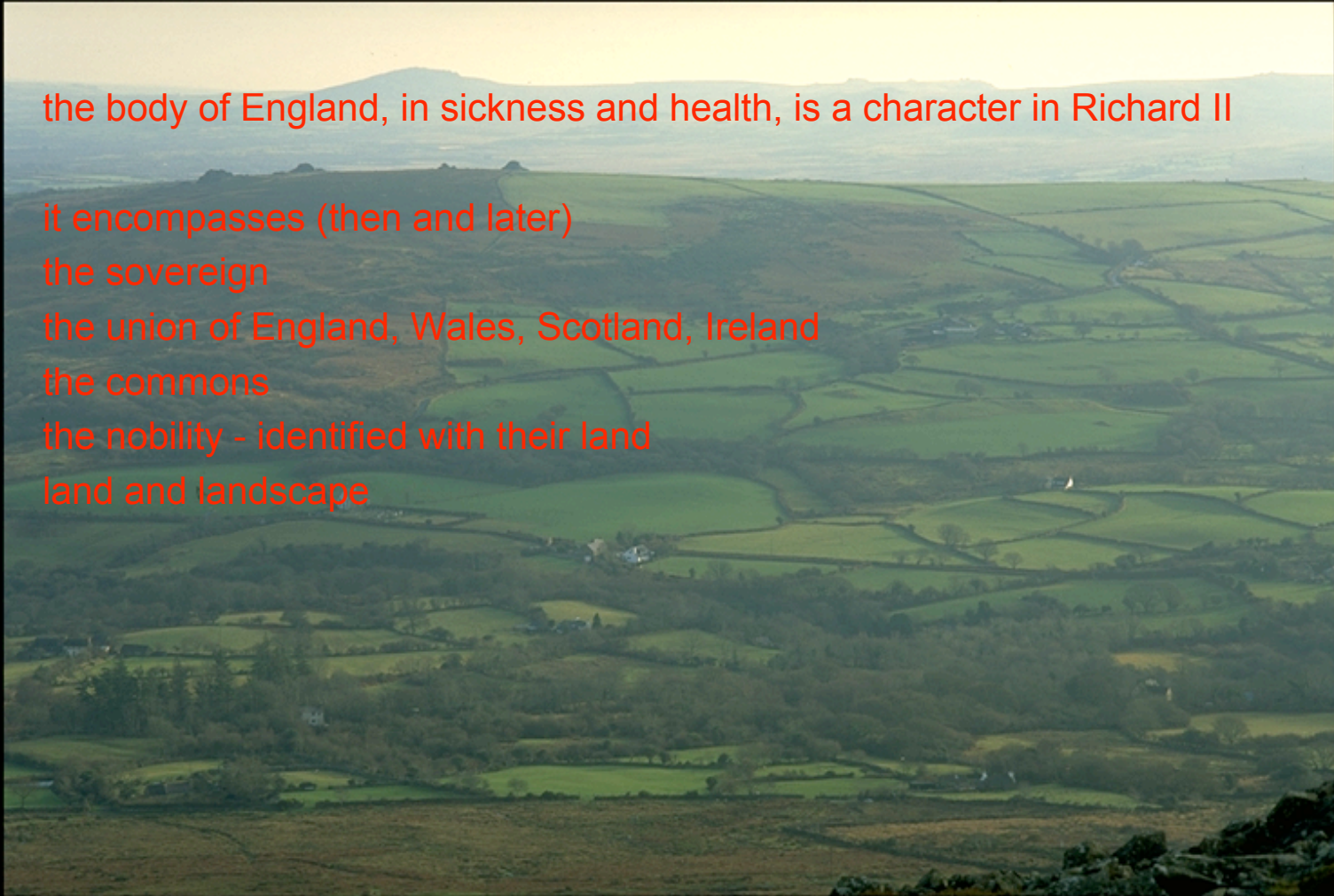
the sovereign

the union of England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland

the commons

the nobility - identified with their land

land and landscape



land, earth, rank and identity

Bolingbroke IS Hereford and Lancaster

theme - lineage and succession

hereditary rights

John of Gaunt (2.1) - this England - this other Eden - this sceptred isle

issues of the identity of land, monarch, birthplace - a divine utopia
celebrated by an old, sick and dying man

who decries the mortgaging of England
sold off
- England sick with rotten parchment bonds

themes

- identity
- ownership
- heritage (that which we inherit as our own, as our identity)

Gaunt and property - the nobility's holdings





the body politic

incorporated persons

in the way of

the nation

the state

the commonwealth

social contract revisited ...

Hobbes (seventeenth century philosopher) and the Leviathan

'The multitude so united in one person, is called a commonwealth. This is the generation of that great Leviathan, or rather, to speak more reverently, of that mortal god, to which we owe under the immortal God, our peace and defence'

The social contract of Hobbes - based upon an axiom of rational humanity - 'people led by 'a perpetuall and restlesse desire of Power after power' - agree to empower a third party - the Sovereign

located bodies – here (again) a matter of identity

