A museum curator has been offered the chance to buy what looks to be the first search engine ever. Given this startling document and its quite early dating, she has come to you for corroborative evidence before laying down the dough. You will find a picture of the document she is thinking to purchase on the course website.

Using your knowledge of meaning change and early orthographic practices, analyze ten of these phrases for authenticity. Are the words spelled as they would have been during this time period? Does the intended meaning of the word match a possible sense available during the period? On a scale 0–5, how willing should she be to buy the document?

ye webbe – The noun here is spelled accurately. The cobweb sense of web arises circa 1220. On the other hand, we don’t see any figurative uses of ‘web’ until much later (say, the Industrial Revolution). The ‘y’ was frequently used to represent the interdental fricative but not until the EME period.

paintings –
towne crier –
mappes –
ye post –
‘tis BETA –
advauc’d searche –
ye settynges –
for ye divers tongues –
goole searche –
methinks fortune smileth vpon me –
goole earth flat –
patronage programmes –
mercantile affayres –
aboutte google –