Malory's relationship to the Duke of Warwick's successor, Sir Richard Neville, the legendary 'Kingmaker' and Earl of Warwick (portrayed above left, behind his father, Sir Ralph, with other members of the immensely influential Neville clan, including his formidable sisters), seems to have been less close than his links to the Beauchamp earls. But in all likelihood he remained intensely loyal to Neville's wife Anne Beauchamp, Sir Harry's sister and the source of his right to the title of Earl of Warwick. She may be portrayed as 'Lady Imagination' in one of the few books known to have been owned by her husband, Enseignement de la vraie Noblesse (above right).

Phrases in the explicit to the Morte Darthur make it seem likely that Malory was writing it for a patron, perhaps in the hope of influencing his release from prison, perhaps to inspire a future monarch of England. The illustration below shows just such a labour of love being presented in 1448 by Jean Wauquelin to Duke Philip of Burgundy.