

PREFACE

Anglo-Saxon Manuscripts in Microfiche Facsimile provides students and scholars with a fundamental tool in the field of Anglo-Saxon studies. The project aims to produce complete microfiche facsimiles of the nearly five hundred manuscripts containing Old English. Each issue or volume presents facsimiles and descriptions of about ten manuscripts prepared by one or more scholars. The facsimiles are in most cases produced from existing film stock provided by the holding libraries. New photography is limited to those manuscripts not yet photographed or poorly photographed. The images are up to the standards expected of good microfilm reproduction. Each description provides in brief compass the manuscript's history, codicological features, a collation, a detailed list of contents, and a selected bibliography, as well as notes on special features and problems. The descriptions are intended to be used with the photographic images to maximize their usefulness to scholars who do not have immediate access to originals or who may be unacquainted with the manuscript and its scholarship.

Manuscripts are reproduced *in toto*, even though the post-Anglo-Saxon material that is found as part of many of them may demonstrate no immediate or ultimate relationship with Anglo-Saxon interests. To have edited the facsimiles, presenting only confirmed Anglo-Saxon parts, might have eliminated important material to be noticed or discovered and in any case would remove the Anglo-Saxon vestiges from their actual material contexts. Users must decide for themselves the relevance of the images presented in this series. Several later manuscripts are included in this series even though they were not considered Anglo-Saxon by Neil R. Ker; in our view, these manuscripts have clear connections to undoubted Anglo-Saxon texts.

Each manuscript is assigned a main index number for this series; that number is given before the shelf-mark and always appears bolded and in square brackets after the shelf-mark when a manuscript in this series is mentioned in the body of a description. The index number is concorded

with the catalogue numbers of Ker and Gneuss. An interim cumulative index of volumes 1–10 has been published as a separate volume (2005). An interim cumulative index of volumes 1–25 is planned; a final comprehensive index will follow the completion of the volumes of descriptions, now projected as about 45 in number. The manuscript descriptions, after being revised, will also be published as a separate publication towards the conclusion of this project. Users of these descriptions (and of the indices) are requested to bring any errors, omissions, or relevant new scholarship to the attention of the publishers or the editors.

The editors are grateful to The National Endowment for the Humanities, an independent federal agency, for generous continuing grants in support of the project. Thanks are also due to the Evjue Foundation of Madison, Wisconsin and to the International Society of Anglo-Saxons for generous gifts. Thanks to the British Library for permission to reproduce Additional MS 32246 and for waiving reproduction fees, as well as for its enthusiastic continuing support of the project and helpful advice of its staff. Many libraries cooperated to make this volume possible and we wish to acknowledge their gracious permission and help: Stad Antwerpen/Museum Plantin-Moretus; Brussels, Bibliothèque Royale; Pembroke College Library, Cambridge; Stadsbibliotheek Haarlem; The Hague, Koninklijke Bibliotheek; Leiden Universiteitsbibliotheek; Université Catholique de Louvain; Schlossmuseum Sondershausen. All the manuscript images in this volume remain the property of the respective owners and may not be reproduced in whole or in part without written permission of the owners. Thanks are also due to Prof. Robert Bjork, Director of the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies in Tempe, Arizona, for agreeing to publish the project, and to his excellent staff, particularly Roy Rukkila, Jennifer Michaud, and Leslie MacCoull, who have been of so much assistance with this and previous volumes. We also wish to acknowledge the help of the Project Assistant, Patrick Murphy.

It is my pleasure to introduce the new Associate Editor of this series, Dr. Matthew T. Hussey of Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, B. C. Prof. Hussey was the Project Assistant from 2001 to 2005 and mastered the intricacies of the project while producing his own manuscript-based researches on Isidore's *Synonyma* in Anglo-Saxon England. Future volumes will increasingly reflect the editorial work of Prof. Hussey.

A. N. Doane