

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. 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. A complete handlist of all manuscripts included in the project has been published in Vol. 15. An interim cumulative index of volumes 1–10 has been published as a separate volume (2006). 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 43 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 grants in support of the project. Thanks are also due to the Evjue Foundation of Madison, Wisconsin and to the International Society of Anglo-Saxonists for generous gifts.

In the 1990s Phillip Pulsiano was gradually compiling materials for an Aldhelm volume. He had already published several Aldhelm manuscripts in ASMMF 4 and at his death he left eleven unfinished descriptions of Aldhelm and related classroom material. At the request of the editors, David W. Porter kindly agreed to revise and finish these descriptions, including another visit to examine the manuscripts, detailed revisions and rethinkings, and bibliographical updating. The editors are grateful to him for his valuable contributions and expeditious work.

The editors and describers wish to thank the following for their help: the British Library for its long-standing cooperation and support of the Project from the beginning; Dr. P. N. R. Zutschi, Keeper of Manuscripts and University Archives, Cambridge University Library; Mary Clapinson, former Keeper of Western Manuscripts of the Bodleian Library, and Chris Fletcher, present Keeper, and Dr. Bruce Barker-Benfield, Curator of Western Manuscripts; Robert Babcock, former curator of the Beinecke Library of Yale University Library, for facilitating publication of the "Yale Fragments"; Karen Lightener of the Free Library of Philadelphia; Dr. Martin Schøyen of Oslo who originally graciously granted permission for us to publish his Aldhelm bifolium, and to R. A. Linenthal of Bernard Quaritch Ltd., London, who made the fragment available for inspection, to Alexander Day, of that firm, who recently informed us that the fragment had gone to France, and to Camilla Privé of Sotheby's, who give us the lead to Cathie Reami, of Astrophil Rare Book Dealers, Paris, who helped us communicate with the present anonymous private owner of the bifolium and arranged new digital photography. Users are reminded that all images in this volume remain the property of their respective owners and that reproduction of images in any form is prohibited without express written permission of the respective owner(s).

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A. N. D., M. T. H.