

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 40 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 editor is 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.

Grateful acknowledgement is made to the Parker Librarian, Dr. Christopher de Hamel and his predecessors, the late professor Raymond I. Page and Dr. Nigel Wilkins and to the Master and Fellows of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, whose permission and cooperation have made it possible to describe and reproduce the manuscripts in this volume. Special thanks are due to many other persons associated over the years with the Parker Library who gave generously of their time and expertise, especially the late Professor R. I. Page, Dr. Mildred Budny, Dr. Frederick Ratcliffe, Professor Tim Graham, Ms. Gill Cannell and Mr. Steven Archer. All the images of manuscripts in this volume remain the property of the Master and Fellows of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, and may not be reproduced without written permission.

The editor is grateful to Prof. Robert Bjork, Director of the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies at Arizona State University, Tempe, for agreeing to publish the Project, and to its excellent staff, particularly Roy Ruk-kila, Todd Halvorsen, and Leslie MacCoull, who have been of much assistance with this and preceding volumes.

Volume 25 is the last volume to present manuscript images on actual microfiche. For this particular volume attention is drawn to digital images available on *Parker Library on the Web* site for each manuscript. Future volumes will present images of the microfiche masters on DVD(s) bundled with their respective booklets.

M.T.H.