

**EARLY ENGLISH TEXT SOCIETY. THE  
LIVES OF WOMEN SAINTS OF OUR  
CONTRIE OF ENGLAND: ALSO  
SOME OTHER LIUES OF HOLIE WOMEN  
WRITTEN BY SOME OF THE AUNCIENT  
FATHERS (C. 1610-1615)**

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Early English Text Society. The Lives of Women Saints of Our Contrie of England: Also Some Other Liues of Holie Women Written by Some of the Auncient Fathers (C. 1610-1615) by C. Horstmann

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**C. HORSTMANN**

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## Early English Text Society.

STATEMENT FOR 1887 and 1888.

WITH this goes out to Members the third Text of the *Original Series* for 1886,

86. *The Prose Lives of Women Saints*, edited from the unique MS. ab. 1610 A.D., by Dr. Carl Horstmann, with a Glossarial and general Index by Mr. W. M. Wood.

The first and main Text of the *Extra Series* for 1886,

XLVII. *The Wars of Alexander*, edited by the Rev. Prof. Skeat, M.A., Litt. Doc.,

is nearly ready, and should be issued in March.

For the two Texts of the *Original Series* for 1887, the whole of the *Early English Lives of Saints* from the Laud MS., the earliest, and the *Life of St. Werburghe*, englisht A.D. 1513, and printed by Pynson in 1531, both edited by Dr. Carl Horstmann, will be in type by the end of March, and the volumes will no doubt be issued by May, if not before.

The *Original Series* Texts for 1888 will probably be two of these :

*Cursor Mundi*, Part VI, with Preface by the Rev. Dr. Richard Morris, and *Essays* by Dr. Haenisch and Dr. Hupe, and a Glossary by Dr. Kaluza.

The *Festiall* by John Mirk, Part I, edited from the MSS. by Dr. Carl Horstmann.

*Lyndesay's Works*, Part VI and last, edited by Mr. W. H. Uiley.

*The Lay Folks' Catechism*, edited by the late Canon Simmons, and Frederic D. Matthew.

In the *Extra Series* the second Text for 1886, and the two for 1887 will be those three of the following Parts, all now at press, which are ready first:—

*Torrent of Portynagle*, re-edited from the unique MS. by Dr. Adam.

*Bp. Fisher's English Works*, Part II, with his *Life and Letters*, edited by the Rev. Ronald Bayne, B.A.

*Charlemagne Romances: Huon of Bordeaux*, by Lord Berners, ab. 1532 A.D., edited by Sidney L. Lee, B.A. Part IV.

*Bullein's Treatise against the Fever Pestilence*, 1573, edited by A. H. Bullen, B.A., and Mark Bullen.

*Sir Beris of Hamtoun*, edited from the Auchinleck and other MSS., by Prof. E. Kölbing, Ph.D., Part II.

*Caxton's Book of the Ordre of Chynalry or Knyghthode* (A.D. 1484), with Loutful's Scotch copy of it, from the Harl. MS. 6149.

The fourth and fifth of the last-named Texts which are first ready will form the issue of the *Extra Series* for 1888, unless Mr. A. J. Ellis's fifth and last Part of his great work on *Early English Pronunciation*, that on our Dialects, is in time to be substituted for one of them. He hopes to send it to press this year.

A try will be made to get out one or two Reprints in 1887. Donations for them will be welcome. Mr. Mortimer Harris has kindly started our *Jubilee Reprint Fund* with a cheque for two guineas. Mr. M. T. Culley of Coupland Castle will send a Letter of Appeal to every Member for support. All gifts should be paid to the Honorary Secretary, Mr. W. A. Dabziel, 67 Victoria Road, Finsbury Park, London, N.

The Subscribers to the Original Series must be prepared for the issue of the whole of the *Early English Lives of Saints*, under the

editorship of Dr. Carl Horstmann. The Society cannot leave out any of them, even though some are dull. In many will be found interesting incidental details of our forefathers' social state, and all are worthful for the history of our language. The Lives may be lookt on as the religious romances or story-books of their period.

The Standard Collection of Saints' Lives in the Corpus and Ashmole MSS, the Harleian MS. 2277, &c. will repeat the Laud set, our No. 86, with additions, and in right order. The differences between the foundation MS., the Laud, and its followers, is so great, that, to prevent quite unwieldy collations, Dr. Horstmann decided that the Laud MS. must be printed alone, as the first of the Series of Saints' Lives. The Supplementary Lives from the Vernon and other MSS. will form one or two separate volumes. The Glossary to the whole set, the discussion of the sources, and of the relation of the MSS. to one another, &c., will be put in a final volume.

When the Saints' Lives are complete, Trevisa's englishing of *Bartholomæus de Proprietatibus Rerum*, the mediæval Cyclopædia of Science, &c., will be the Society's next big undertaking.

F. J. FURNIVALL.

March 11, 1837.

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THE LIVES  
of  
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(c. 1610—1615.)

EDITED FOR THE FIRST TIME FROM MS. STOWE 949

BY

C. HORSTMANN.

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MDCCLXXXVI.

## INTRODUCTION.

WHEN searching for Bokenham's second collection of lives of Saints which he mentions as his work in his *Mappula Angliæ* (lately published in *Eng. Studies*, 1886), I found not it (it seems indeed to be lost), but the present collection which I had not before known of. This set of Female Saints' Lives is in a unique MS., MS. Stowe 949, in which, p. 1, the former owner has written 'Bibl. Thomae Astlei Arm.,' and then added: 'This MS. has not been printed, and the Lives in it are very different from those published in the *Britannia Sancta*: the following Lives abound with wonderful miracles and marvellous relations which are omitted in the printed works.' This MS., 8°, paper, numbering 357 pages, and containing only the present collection, is carefully written and executed, in a fine and legible hand, which has used italics in the titles, quotations, and proper names, and added marginal notes, headlines, and indexes. It is very correct, and might seem to be the author's own MS. but for a few mistakes which only a scribe could have made (f. i. p. 70, 12 'they for' instead of 'therfor') it was no doubt copied directly from the original MS., and is most likely the clean transcript from the author's draft. On account of this correctness, and the care taken in every detail, I have deemed it advisable to reprint the MS. as it is, retaining the same change

of type, the same headings and marginal notes, and even the punctuation, which is correct, though deviating in some respects from the present mode, and which brings out the latinizing style of that period, with its intertwining of sentences by the frequent use of relative conjunctions. I have only removed some inconsistencies, added the quotation commas, used F instead of ff, and employed small capitals, instead of italics, in proper names. I have also added the references in marginal notes (in brackets) and footnotes.

Twice in the earlier English (and no other) literature, was an attempt made to put together the lives of female Saints: by Bokenham in verse, and in the present collection—a peculiar instance of the veneration which the weaker part of mankind, especially in its godlike members, enjoys in this island. But if Bokenham's collection is limited to some (13) of the most common Saints, the present collection takes a far wider range. It consists of two equal parts: (1) 'The lives of the women Saints of our contrie of England,' (2) 'Some other lives of holie women written by some of the auncient Fathers.' The first part is preceded by a long introduction, 'Some Notes before the liues,' on the questions why God has provided Saints, and why the Saints of Scotland and Ireland are numbered amongst the Saints of England in this collection and then treating of virginity by extracts from St. Cyprian and Jerome, and giving some specimens of true widowhood in St. Jerome's time (Marcella and Paula) and from the Bible (Judith and Anna prophetissa).

I give here the list of the English female Saints of the 1st part, in the order of the MS., adding their anniversary, the date given to them by the author, and his source:—