

**SPRACHE UND DICHTUNG,  
FORSCHUNGEN ZUR LINGUISTIK  
UND LITERATURWISSENSCHAFT,  
HEFT 4: THE SOURCE OF  
WOLFRAM'S WILLEHALM**

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**SUSAN ALMIRA BACON**

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# SPRACHE UND DICHTUNG

FORSCHUNGEN

ZUR

LINGUISTIK UND LITERATURWISSENSCHAFT

HERAUSGEGEBEN

VON

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HEFT 4

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TÜBINGEN

VERLAG VON J. C. B. MOHR (PAUL SIEBECK)

1910

# THE SOURCE OF WOLFRAM'S WILLEHALM

BY

**SUSAN ALMIRA BACON**  
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WITH ONE PLATE



TÜBINGEN  
VERLAG VON J. C. B. MOHR (PAUL SIEBECK)  
1910

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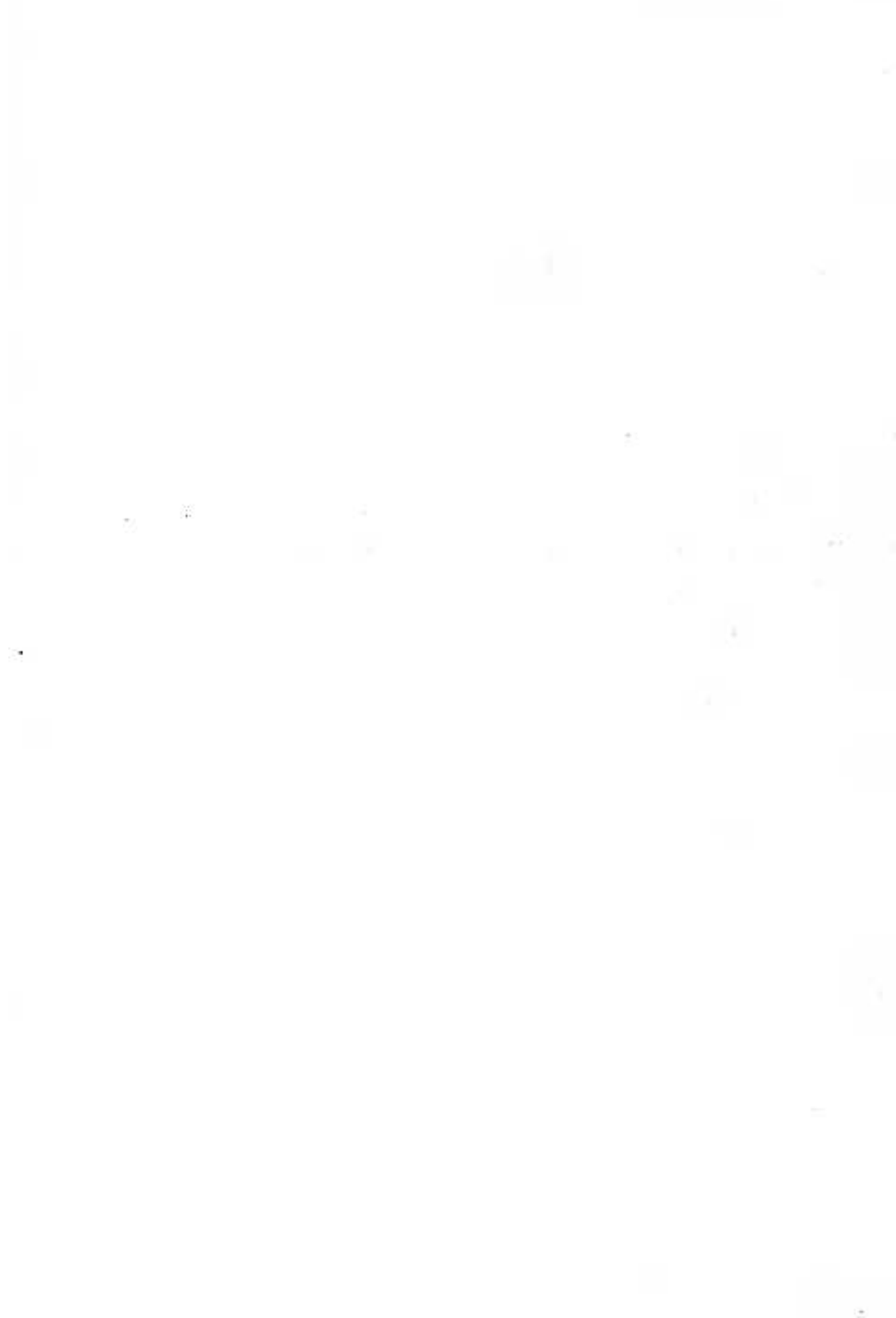
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### **Dedication**

to those of my friends who, after the fire at Deephaven  
Camp in August, 1907, by their gifts made it possible for me to  
return to Berne and do this work.

240509





### Preface.

The subject of the following study was suggested to the writer by Professor Samuel Singer of the University of Berne, Switzerland. The publication of an edition of *Aliscans* with an approximately complete set of variant readings (Wienbeck, Hartnacke, Rasch, Halle 1903) seemed to warrant a fresh comparison of Wolfram's version of the story of the battle of *Aliscans* with the Old French versions, notwithstanding the fine work on the subject published by Fräulein Nassau Noordewier in her thesis entitled *Bijdrage tot de Beoordeeling van den Willehalm*. Delft, 1901.

The discovery and publication (Chiswick Press, 1903) of the *Chançon de Willame* gave a new interest to a search for further sources of the material still unaccounted for in *Willehalm*.

A plan was made for a study to be divided into four chapters; the first to contain a comparison of *Willehalm* with its Old French sources; the second, parallel summaries of *Willehalm* and *Aliscans*; the third, a detailed analysis of all differences between *Willehalm* and *Aliscans*; and the fourth, a critical comparison of the literary value of the two poems, based on the preceding work.

It is the first chapter alone, which is offered here to those interested in the subject.

My thanks are due and are gratefully offered to Professor Symons of Groningen for kindly lending a copy of Fr. Nassau-Noordewier's thesis, without which my work would have been

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quite incomplete, to Professor Louis Gauchat of the University of Zürich for generous expenditure of time in explaining difficulties in the Old French, to Professor G. Gruener, Professor F. M. Warren, and Professor F. Luquiens of Yale University, to Professor Mary G. Cushing and Professor E. R. Laird of Mt. Holyoke College and to Rev. T. D. Bacon of Salem, Mass. for a careful perusal and criticism of the manuscript, to Fräulein Mary Müller of the Girl's High School of Berne for reading the proof.

It is difficult to express what I owe to Professor Samuel Singer of the University of Berne for suggestion, direction and criticism. Professor Singer has been the inspiration of the work from beginning to end, and his kindness has extended to finding a publisher and reading the proof. My heartiest thanks seem a poor return for the care and patience given to guiding my work by Professor Singer.

Mount Holyoke College, June 16<sup>th</sup>. 1910.

**S. A. Bacon.**