

**THE INFLUENCE OF W- IN  
OLD ENGLISH  
AS SEEN IN THE MIDDLE  
ENGLISH DIALECTS**

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The influence of W- in Old English as seen in the Middle English dialects by Arvid Gabrielson

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**ARVID GABRIELSON**

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THE  
INFLUENCE OF **W-**  
IN OLD ENGLISH  
AS SEEN IN THE MIDDLE ENGLISH DIALECTS

BY  
ARVID GABRIELSON, Ph. D.

GÖTEBORG:  
ERANOS' FÖRLAG

LEIPZIG:  
OTTO HARRASSOWITZ

## PREFACE.

The present work was begun at the end of 1909, during a short course of studies at the University of Vienna. The subject was suggested to me by a remark of Professor LUICK's to the effect that he had felt the want of a work of this kind in preparing his Historical English Grammar.

It was my intention at first — as suggested by Professor LUICK — to investigate also the modern dialect forms, in order to check and further develop the results obtained from the ME forms. But I have had to give up this plan, at any rate for the present. As yet there are only a few works dealing with the historical development of individual modern English dialects; and many of the forms here concerned given by EDD and EDGr. are, as far as I can see, impossible to interpret historically without such special investigations for guides. Under these circumstances I have restricted myself for the present to giving modern dialect forms only on one or two occasions where the correspondence of the ME and the modern forms is quite obvious. — To make up for this curtailment of the original plan I have made my ME material so extensive and my account of it so detailed, that the results obtained may, I trust, be regarded as tolerably reliable.

As to the arrangement of my work (for which see further the Introduction), I give in Chapter I the forms of the indi-

vidual texts, with a short account of what is known about the date and the dialect of each text, and an account of such of its orthographical peculiarities as are especially important for the question in hand. In Chapter II, I present a »Discussion of the ME forms», mainly from the point of view of their connection with corresponding OE forms. Finally in Chapter III follows a »Survey of OE and ME dialect distinctions» in regard to the groups of words here in question.

I take this opportunity of publicly acknowledging my indebtedness to Professor KARI, LUICK for the great kindness, personal as well as official, which he showed me during the short time I had the pleasure of attending his lectures at the University of Vienna.

My thanks are also due to my friend Dr G. E. FUHRKEN for his kind assistance in revising the English of the proof-sheets.

Göteborg, February 1912

ARVID GABRIELSON.

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