

**THE LAYMAN'S INTRODUCTION
TO THE BOOK OF COMMON
PRAYER BEING A SHORT
HISTORY OF ITS DEVELOPMENT**

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The layman's introduction to the book of common prayer being a short history of its development by Edvin H. Eland

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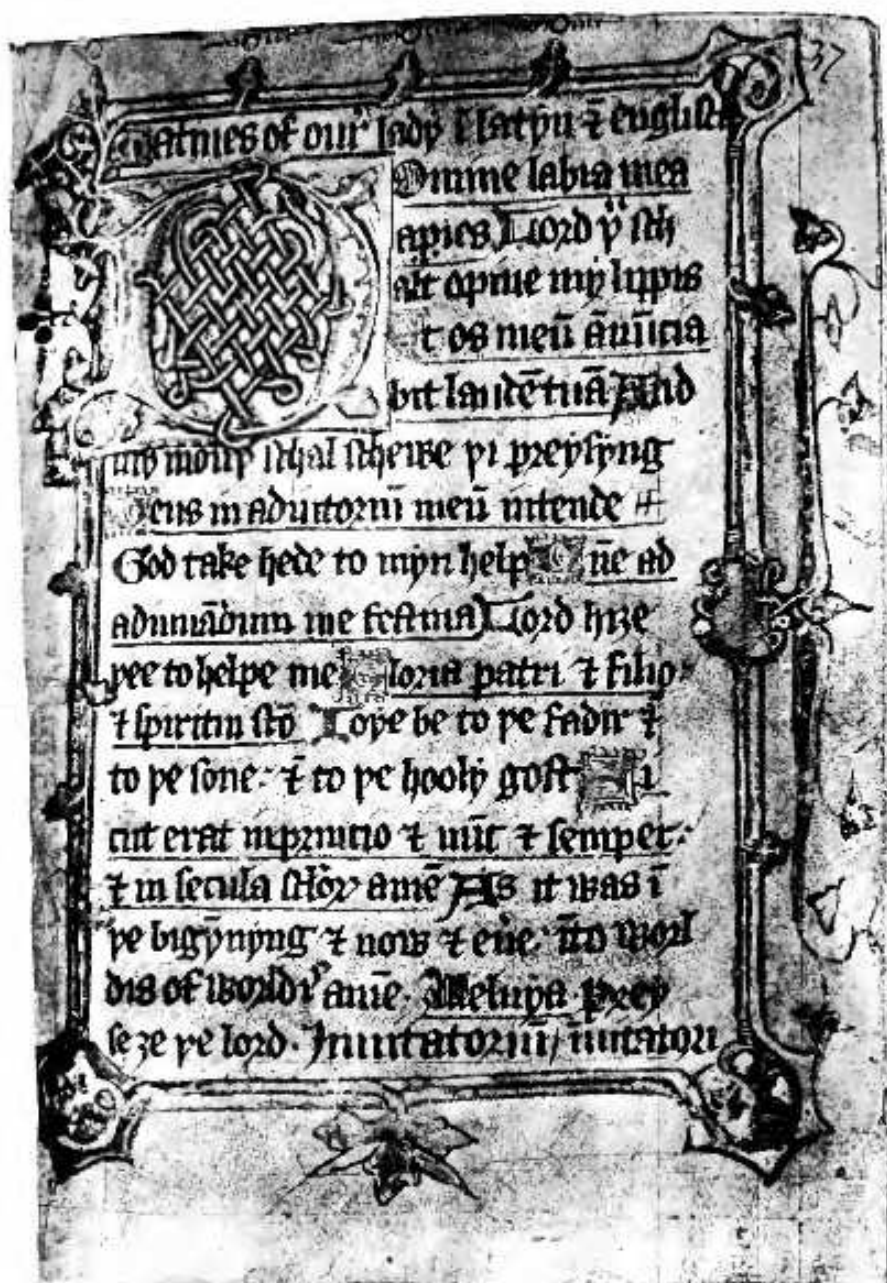
EDVIN H. ELAND

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Facsimile of a Page in a Lay-Folks
Prayer Book of the 14th century
From a M.S. Primer in Latin and English
in the Hunterian Library Glasgow. Date about 1390

THE
LAYMAN'S INTRODUCTION
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BEING A
SHORT HISTORY OF ITS DEVELOPMENT

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WITH FACSIMILE

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PREFACE

It has been my aim, in writing the following pages, to produce a book at once reliable, short, and clear, which should help to a sound understanding of the Book of Common Prayer.

My experience of the requirements of the public schools, and indeed of the educated laity generally, seems to show that nothing is so much needed in order to complete and justify the general appreciation of the beautiful Services of the Church of England, as some knowledge of the history of those Services, and of the principles and causes which have guided their development. In my attempt to supply this need, I have tried to put the assured results of the most recent criticism in as brief and clear a form as possible.

Although the title of this Introduction would appropriate its use to lay people, it is hoped that the clergy also may find it useful in their teaching, and that it will be found sufficiently complete and accurate for use in the ordinary curriculum of theological colleges and elsewhere.

I have, wherever possible, gone to original authorities for information; but I have also availed myself of the latest modern research which seemed

to bear upon the subject, especially of the recent works, in French or German, by M. Batiffol and M. Duchesne, and by Professors Bickell, Thalhofer, and Harnack; as well as of the well-known standard works of English authors. In this connection I have to thank two friends for most kindly reading the manuscript before it went into the printer's hands, and for making many valuable suggestions—the Rev. Dr. Barmby, Vicar of Northallerton, late Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, and Principal of Hatfield Hall, Durham; and the Rev. W. H. Frere, of Radley.

I can scarcely venture to hope, in dealing with a subject so wide and so full of many different kinds of difficulties—historical, theological, liturgical, and antiquarian—that I have altogether succeeded in avoiding mistakes. But if this Introduction should stimulate further interest, and lead to a greater appreciation of a Book already dear to so many thousands of Englishmen and Englishwomen in all parts of the world, its end will have been in a great measure fulfilled, and the pleasant labour of its composition well repaid.

E. H. E.

DORKING,
April, 1896.

CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. THE CONTENTS OF THE PRAYER-BOOK	1
II. THE FORMS OF EARLY CHRISTIAN WORSHIP	4
III. THE CANONICAL HOURS	13
IV. HOW CHRISTIANITY IN OUR ISLAND FELL UNDER ROMAN INFLUENCE	20
V. ENGLISH USES AND SERVICE-BOOKS BEFORE THE REFORMATION	28
VI. THE ENGLISH PRIMER	37
VII. TENDENCIES TO REFORM IN THE REIGN OF HENRY VIII.	45
VIII. THE "ORDER OF THE COMMUNION"	52
IX. THE FIRST PRAYER-BOOK OF EDWARD VI.	55
X. THE FIRST PRAYER-BOOK OF EDWARD VI.— <i>Continued</i>	65
XI. THE PRAYER-BOOK OF 1552	70
XII. THE CROWN AND THE PURITANS	80
XIII. THE PURITAN ASCENDENCY, AND THE DIREC- TORY FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP	91

CHAPTER	PAGE
XIV. THE SAVOY CONFERENCE	98
XV. THE PSALMS AND CANTICLES	116
XVI. THE COLLECTS AND OTHER PRAYERS	126
XVII. THE CREEDS	136
XVIII. THE CALENDAR AND LESSONS—EMBER DAYS— ROGATION DAYS AND LITANY	151
XIX. THE COMMUNION OFFICE	162
XX. A FEW PRAYER-BOOK TERMS NOT EXPLAINED IN THE PRECEDING PAGES	174
INDEX	185