

**ON EARLY ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION: WITH  
ESPECIAL REFERENCE TO CHAUCER, IN  
OPPOSITION TO THE VIEWS MAINTAINED BY  
MR.  
A. J. ELLIS, F.R.S., IN HIS WORK "ON EARLY  
ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION, WITH ESPECIAL  
REFERENCE TO SHAKSPERE AND CHAUCER"**

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**RICHARD FRANCIS WEYMOUTH**

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IN HIS WORK

"ON EARLY ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION, WITH ESPECIAL REFERENCE  
TO SHAKSPERE AND CHAUCER."

BY

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*PREFACE.*

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IT is now nearly four years since I first laid lance in rest to tilt at Mr. Ellis's views—expounded in a work of already 996 closely printed pages 8vo., and still growing—by reading before the Philological Society a paper in opposition to them. How I waited year after year, hoping, in the case of a book which cannot but have an exceedingly limited sale, that the expense would be at least partly borne by the Society of which I have been a member for nearly a quarter of a century, and how the hope has proved to be vain, boots not to tell. Suffice to say the delay has enabled me to avail myself of the few and scanty intervals of leisure that relieve an engrossing and harassing profession, to enlarge and to a great extent rewrite the paper, though it still is far from being as complete as I could wish. But I have no time to enlarge yet further, and must therefore console myself with the reflection that at least in some people's estimation a great book is a great evil, and that an argument, if sound, is often none the worse for being condensed.

R. F. W.

MILL HILL SCHOOL, MIDDLESEX, N. W.

*April, 1874.*





TABLE OF CONTENTS.

Section	Page
1. Introductory . . . . .	1
2. Our starting point must be <i>spoken</i> , not written, language . . . . .	1
3. Mr. Ellis's delusive maxim that "the orthography shows the sound" . . . . .	2
4. Orthoepists not to be too much relied on . . . . .	2
5. Their statements how used by Mr. Ellis . . . . .	4
6. Traditional pronunciation our main guide . . . . .	5
7. In dealing with other languages Mr. Ellis unhesitatingly admits the evidence of traditional pronunciation . . . . .	6
8. The separate dialects so many separate witnesses . . . . .	6
9. See for example the permanence of the characteristic peculiarities of the Scottish dialect . . . . .	7
10. No reason to believe that civil war has greatly changed our spoken language . . . . .	9
11. Nor foreign invasion . . . . .	10
12. Other sources of information . . . . .	10
13. As to I (ai) words, Dutch and German confirm the evidence of our own dialects: list of words . . . . .	11
14. By aid of these words others may be determined . . . . .	13
15. This positive evidence not to be flung aside the moment an objection appears . . . . .	13
16. An objection based on Palsgrave's expressions . . . . .	14
17. Further evidence that <i>i</i> final was (ai) in French . . . . .	14
18. Confirmed by many Dutch words of French derivation . . . . .	16
19. Salesbury's statements as to I words . . . . .	16
20. True theory as to these (ai) words . . . . .	16
21. The sound of (ai) sometimes written <i>ei</i> in English as well as in German . . . . .	17
22. The English pronunciation of the Latin <i>i</i> defended by Lipsius . . . . .	18
23. A ray of light from an old inscription in Æolic Greek . . . . .	18
24. Conclusion, for the present, as to I words. (See below, § 109) . . . . .	19
25. Fresh objections brought by Mr. J. A. H. Murray from the Scottish mode of writing Celtic proper names . . . . .	19
26. No such evidence derivable from Welsh . . . . .	20
27. OU words . . . . .	21
28. The vowels in their natural sequence . . . . .	21

Section	Page
29. Nature of diphthongs, which are not simply two vowels combined	22
30. Definition of diphthong	23
31. Applied to English <i>ou</i> , German <i>au</i> , Dutch <i>ui</i> , &c.	23
32. Traditional evidence as to OU words	24
33. Confirmed by German and Dutch, just as that about (ai) words: list	25
34. <i>Roun, downe, donst, ſp, ſs</i>	25
35. Objection from Palsgrave	26
36. Words in <i>ou</i> of French derivation were sounded with (aun)	26
37. Second objection from Chaucer, and the Cuckoo Song	27
38. <i>Cuckow</i> and <i>proow</i> imperfect imitations of the French originals	28
39. Negative arguments: first, other words contain (au), and will not rhyme with <i>ou</i> words	28
40. Second, orthoepists do not make our <i>ou</i> = Italian <i>u</i>	29
41. Third, Cheke and Smith's account of <i>ou</i>	29
42. Fourth, Smith's (uu) words not written <i>ou</i>	29
43. Fifth, other grammarians always distinguish (uu) and (au) words precisely as in modern English	30
44. In a few exceptional words <i>ou</i> was = (u) or (uu)	30
45. Disuse of Anglo-Saxon accents: the spoken words still distinguished	31
46. The Anglo-Saxon <i>ð</i> became O	32
47. Apparent exceptions really Old Norse words, not Anglo-Saxon; only observe	33
48. Mr. Murray's view of the Scandinavian element in the Northern dialects	33
49. The (o) sound confirmed by French and Italian	34
50. (Chaucer's <i>gat-toothed</i> )	34
51. Anglo-Saxon words in <i>ð</i> had the sound of (uu) modern English OO	35
52. Their Dutch and German congeners confirm this	36
53. ( <i>Did</i> not a reduplicate preterit)	37
54. Words in <i>ð</i> in Anglo-Saxon, and those with <i>ð</i> , written alike in Chaucer's time, but demonstrably not pronounced alike	38
55. Occasional exceptions mistaken by Mr. Ellis for the rule	40
56. Recapitulation on O words	41
57. <i>Could, would, should</i>	41
58. The symbols AI and EI sounded as in modern French	42
59. As proved from the Old Norse and Old French originals of certain of these words	43
60. Whence others in ( <i>æd</i> ), ( <i>æth</i> ), and ( <i>æn</i> ) may be determined, many of them with distinct and separate evidence from Old Norse, Old French, Old Dutch, &c.	44
61. In like manner, the authority of Meigret and the assonances of the <i>Chanson de Roland</i> , &c., fix <i>eis</i> and <i>eit</i>	44
62. Three exceptions in French: Palsgrave on <i>ai</i>	45
63. No exceptions in Chaucer, where <i>ai</i> words rhyme with one another without distinction	46

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

ix

Section	Page
64. And etymology, assonances, &c., show the sound to have been ( <i>æ</i> )	46
65. Palsgrave again on <i>ai</i>	47
66. Many of these <i>ai</i> words may have had an older sound ( <i>ai</i> )	47
67. Summary of arguments as to <i>ai</i> words	48
68. A words: Chaucer's <i>a</i> certainly not ( <i>æ</i> ), but some ( <i>a</i> ) sound	49
69. The change of <i>a</i> from ( <i>a</i> ) to ( <i>æ</i> ) earlier in Scotland than in England, and undoubtedly aided by Old Norse	49
70. Yet it is not through Stuart influence that the change took place in England	50
71. <i>A</i> had in many words even in Queen Elizabeth's time a sound intermediate between ( <i>a</i> ) and ( <i>æ</i> )	51
72. Classes of <i>a</i> words in Chaucer: some had ( <i>a</i> );	52
73. Others ( <i>ʌ</i> )	52
74. A third class short ( <i>æ</i> )	53
75. A fourth a longer ( <i>æ</i> ) or ( <i>ææ</i> ) Ormin's <i>d</i>	54
76. A <i>w</i> preceding did not give the sound of ( <i>ʌ</i> )	56
77. Mr. Ellis supposes Chaucer's <i>a</i> to have been always ( <i>a</i> )	56
78. Tradition fixed the sound in a large number of E words as ( <i>ii</i> ); Anglo-Saxon mode of writing, <i>ē</i>	57
79. Pronunciation of <i>æ</i> and <i>æ</i> in Anglo-Saxon. (See also §§ 107, 108.)	58
80. Derivation of <i>she</i>	58
81. The broad sound of <i>e</i> as ( <i>æ</i> ) in the Western dialects only partial: the line drawn	59
82. Dutch and German congeners of many of our <i>e</i> words also have ( <i>ii</i> )	60
83. Or a sound near ( <i>ii</i> ), as had also certain of these words in other languages	60
84. Words spelt at a later time with EA had some ( <i>e</i> ) sound: they never rhymed with EE words	61
85. Nor did these classes of words rhyme in Chaucer, although not distinguished in spelling	63
86. Final <i>e</i> in Chaucer was ( <i>ii</i> )	63
87. <i>Parde</i>	64
88. Tendency to Anglicize foreign words	64
89. Latin no exception: a traditional pronunciation of ecclesiastical Latin has no existence	65
90. French words in final ( <i>ai</i> ), ( <i>ææ</i> ), and ( <i>e</i> ) adopted into English, and Anglicized, the third becoming ( <i>ii</i> ) or ( <i>i</i> ), as all three classes are sounded now	66
91. Words ending in <i>-ere</i> not all pronounced alike; some had ( <i>ii</i> ) like modern <i>here</i> , some ( <i>æ</i> ), like <i>there</i> : the two classes quite distinct	66
92. French words in <i>-ier</i> or <i>-iere</i> belong to the ( <i>ii</i> ) class. (Footnote on the genuineness of two lines bracketed by Mr. Wright in his edition of the Cant. Ta.)	68
93. Pronunciation and meaning of Chaucer's name	69
94. Influence of final <i>e</i> in words that in French ended in <i>-iere</i>	70
95. Words in <i>-ere</i> also in two distinct classes	70