FIRST SUPPLEMENT TO A MANUAL OF THE WRITINGS IN MIDDLE ENGLISH, 1050-1400: ADDITIONS AND MODIFICATIONS TO SEPTEMBER, 1918. PP. 953-1037

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JOHN EDWIN WELLS

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Additions and Modifications to September, 1918

By

JOHN EDWIN WELLS, M.L., M.A., Ph.D.

Professor of English in Connecticut College

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PREFACE

The interest shown by the reviewers and by correspondents has encouraged me to inaugurate in the following pages the plan of extension that I announced in the preface to the Manual.

The Manual endeavored to record the known facts and the publications concerning all the writings in English that appear to have been originally composed between 1050 and 1400, and that were in print before September, 1915. For completeness, some later originals of certain types were dealt with. The present work carries on these matters to September, 1918. Few new pieces have been admitted except those whose origin seems to date from before 1400. In the cases of a number of pieces treated in the Manual I have been led to include mention of certain unprinted copies about which I had collected notes, but which were omitted from the Manual from a rather arbitrarily executed effort to keep within the limits set down and in so far to be complete. These entries for most of the unprinted copies of the metrical religious and didactic pieces I have been able to verify from Part I of Professor Carleton Brown's Register of Middle English Religious and Didactic Verse, which appeared shortly after the Manual. In the cases of unprinted copies in some score or more of manuscripts (especially some of those in the Royal, Lambeth, Harley, Pepys, and Oxford college collections, and some in private hands) I have supplemented my notes from the Register. Where I have been originally indebted to that invaluable work, I have referred to it in the Text or the proper Bibliographical Note.

Information regarding publications issued in Germany since the fall of 1914 is incomplete, and few notices of writings published there since the spring of 1917 are available. This inaccessible material will be treated in the next supplement.

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