

**CLARENDON PRESS SERIES.
AN OLD-HIGH-GERMAN
PRIMER; WITH GRAMMAR,
NOTES, AND GLOSSARY**

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Clarendon press series. An Old-High-German primer; with grammar, notes, and glossary by Joseph Wright

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JOSEPH WRIGHT

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WITH

GRAMMAR, NOTES, AND GLOSSARY

BY

JOSEPH WRIGHT, Ph.D.

Oxford

AT THE CLARENDON PRESS

1888

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PREFACE.

IN an elementary book like the present it is, of course, impossible even to state all the phenomena of sound-change peculiar to the Old High-German language as a whole, especially when one attempts to make a discrimination between the Upper German and Upper Franconian dialects. I have, however, endeavoured to bring within a comparatively small compass all the really more important features of the language, and fully believe that the beginner who conscientiously works through the book, will have acquired such a sound elementary knowledge of the language as will enable him to pursue his further study of German with little difficulty, whether from a literary or a purely linguistic point of view. In the MHG. primer many forms were left unexplained which beginners would, no doubt, like to have seen explained. There I mentioned such OHG. forms only as were absolutely necessary for the understanding of the Accidence, intentionally reserving the rest for the present little book. In fact, MHG. grammar will cause little or no difficulty to a student possessing a mere elementary knowledge of OHG.

I trust that these two little books—imperfect and incomplete as they are—will contribute something towards furthering the scientific study of German in England, and fostering among our countrymen a love for that great store of medieval literature of which the German nation is justly proud.

In conclusion I gratefully acknowledge my obligations to Braune's *Althochdeutsche Grammatik*, Halle, 1886, and to the same author's *Althochdeutsches Lesebuch*, Halle, 1881, a new edition of which is to appear shortly.

J. WRIGHT.

OXFORD: *May*, 1888.

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GRAMMAR.

INTRODUCTION.

§ 1. By Old High German (OHG.) we mean the High German language from the beginning of its earliest monuments in the eighth century up to about the end of the eleventh century. This book treats principally the language as it obtained in the ninth century.

§ 2. OHG. forms one member of the West Germanic division of the Germanic (Teutonic) branch of the Indo-Germanic family of languages.

The Germanic branch consists of:—

I. Gothic.

II. Old Norse (Scandinavian), which is sub-divided into two groups:—

East Norse, including Swedish, Gutnish, and Danish.

West Norse, including Norwegian and Icelandic.

III. West Germanic, which is composed of Old English (OE.), Old Frisian, Old Saxon (OS.), sometimes called Old Low German, Old Low Franconian (Old Dutch), and Old High German.

§ 3. In OHG. we have to distinguish three dialect groups:—

I. Upper German (UG.), spoken in the highlands of South Germany, and consisting of the Alemanic and Bavarian dialects.

II. Upper Franconian, consisting of East Franconian (the dialect spoken in the old duchy of Franconia Orientalis) and