

Britain's Literary Heritage

**British Literary  
Manuscripts  
from Cambridge  
University Library**

**Series One:  
The Medieval Age,  
c. 1150-1500**

An Inventory to Parts One,  
Two and Three of the  
Harvester Microfilm Collection

**Primary Source Media**



## **BRITISH LITERARY MANUSCRIPTS FROM CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY**

### **Series One: The Medieval Age, c, 1150-1500**

This Listing and Guide is issued with Parts One, Two and Three of the Harvester Microform edition of Britain's Literary Heritage: British Literary Manuscripts from Cambridge University Library Series One: The Medieval Age, c1150-c1500

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## PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Britain's Literary Heritage is making available to scholars a comprehensive selection of British literary manuscripts from the Cambridge University Library. As the first series of this far-reaching programme Harvester Microform is offering generous coverage of the medieval literary manuscripts (c1150-c1500) from the Library's principal "Two-Letter" series and also from the separate Additional manuscript series.

We have attempted to employ the broadest possible criteria for selection. Our principal focus has been on creative literary forms, be they poetry, drama or prose. Chronicles have not been included here since they will appear in a subsequent programme offering the principle historical manuscripts from the Cambridge University Library collections. Most of the manuscripts are in English, but a number of works in Latin and French are also included. These languages were available as well as English as a medium for literary composition, therefore the vernacular cannot be used as the sole criterion for selection.

The selected volumes have all been reproduced in their entirety. They include saints' lives, homilies, scriptural paraphrases, romances and legends. Among the authors in this series are Geoffrey Chaucer, Thomas Occleve, John Lydgate, John Wycliffe and many minor and anonymous authors.

Series One is divided into three parts. Part One comprises the most important manuscripts from Dd. i. 1 - Ff. vi. 55 of the "Two-Letter" series; Part Two contains Gg. i. 1 - Ii. vi. 55; while Part Three consists of Kk. i. 3 - Oo. vi. 110 and Additional manuscripts 443-6864. Full descriptive entries of the manuscripts selected from the "Two-Letter" series are provided at the beginning of the first reel of Part One. These are taken from the Cambridge University Library's own Catalogue of Manuscripts (1856-67). For ease of reference the appropriate catalogue entries are also reproduced at the beginning of each reel.

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This Guide gives the manuscript contents of each reel and includes an Appendix with descriptive details of the Additional manuscripts specially written for Harvester Microform by Mrs Jayne Cook, Assistant Under-Librarian at the Manuscripts Department, Cambridge University Library.

Harvester Microform would like to thank the Cambridge University Library for their permission to make available this splendid collection of medieval literary manuscripts.

Anne Clark

A Note on the Cambridge University Library  
Catalogue of Manuscripts (1856-67)

The short descriptions of the MSS. in the 'two-letter' classes (e. g. Dd. i. 1 Ff. i. 6) are taken from A Catalogue of the Manuscripts Preserved in the Library of the University of Cambridge (Cambridge, 1856-67), 5 vols + index, reprinted in 1980 by Kraus-Thomson Organisation GmbH, München, and Georg Olms Verlag, Hildesheim. This catalogue, a major achievement when first published, has not been replaced. It should be borne in mind therefore, when using it with the microfilm, that many MSS. have been rebound during the past hundred years, and in the some instances the foliation has been changed. Much subsequent work has been done on the contents of the MSS. by various scholars, particularly in the case of the Middle English MSS., and the nineteenth century descriptions should be used in conjunction with modern works of reference.

A catalogue of the Additional MSS. is in preparation: the short descriptions given here are abbreviated from the draft descriptions prepared for this catalogue. Scholars are particularly urged to notify the Library of any publications making use of the Additional and other MSS., so that the catalogue descriptions retained in the Library may be kept as up to date as possible.

Attention is drawn to the following published facsimiles with scholarly introductions.

La Estoire de Seint Aedward le Rei: the Life of St. Edward the Confessor, reproduced in facsimile from the unique manuscript (Cambridge University Library Ee. 3. 59) together with some pages of the manuscript of the Life of St. Alban at Trinity College, Dublin, with an introduction by M. R. James (Oxford, Roxburghe Club, 1920).

The Findern MS.: Cambridge University Library MS. Ff. i. 6. Introduction by Richard Beadle and A. E. B. Owen (London, Scolar Press, 1977).

Cambridge University Library MS. Ff. 2. 38, with an introduction by Frances McSparran and P. R. Robinson (London, Scolar Press, 1979).

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Geoffrey Chaucer, Poetical Works: A Facsimile of Cambridge University Library MS. Gg. 4. 27, with introductions by M. B. Parkes and Richard Beadle (Cambridge, D. S. Brewer, 1979-80) 3 vols.

Jayne Cook  
Assistant Under-Librarian  
Manuscripts Department  
Cambridge University Library

BRITISH LITERARY MANUSCRIPTS  
FROM CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY  
Series One: The Medieval Age, c1150-c1500

PART ONE: Dd. I. 1 - Ff. VI. 55 (Reels 1-17)

CONTENTS OF REELS

REEL ONE

Complete catalogue entries for the "Two-Letter" series of manuscripts, taken from the 1856-67 Catalogue of Manuscripts.

Complete descriptive entries for the Additional Manuscripts, specially prepared for this edition.

Dd. I. 1

Dd. I. 17

REEL TWO

Dd. II. 33

Dd. III. 13

Dd. III. 45

Dd. III. 53 Section II

REEL THREE

Dd. IV. 24

Dd. IV. 26

Dd. IV. 54

REEL FOUR

Dd. IV. 64

Dd. V. 53

Dd. V. 55

Dd. V. 64

REEL FIVE

Dd. VIII. 19

Dd. X. 17

Dd. XI. 78

Dd. XI 82

REEL SIX

Dd. XI. 89

Dd. XII. 39

Dd. XII. 69

Dd. XIV. 26 Part 3

Dd. XV. 21

REEL SEVEN

Ee. I. 12

Ee. I. 20

Ee. I. 25

Ee. II. 15

REEL EIGHT

Ee. III. 59

Ee. IV. 26

Ee. IV. 31

Ee. IV. 35

REEL NINE

Ee. IV. 37

Ee. V. 11

Ee. VI. 6

Ee. VI. 11

Ee. VI. 29

Ee. VI. 38

REEL TEN

Ff. I. 6

Ff. I. 14

Ff. II. 20

REEL ELEVEN

Ff. II. 38

Ff. III. 11

REEL TWELVE

Ff. III. 24

Ff. IV. 9

Ff. V. 30

REEL THIRTEEN

Ff. V. 35

Ff. V. 36

Ff. V. 40

REEL FOURTEEN

Ff. V. 45  
Ff. V. 48  
Ff. VI. 2  
Ff. VI. 12  
Ff. VI. 13

REEL FIFTEEN

Ff. VI. 15  
Ff. VI. 17  
Ff. VI. 31

REEL SIXTEEN

Ff. VI. 33  
Ff. VI. 34  
Ff. VI. 50

REEL SEVENTEEN

Ff. VI. 53  
Ff. VI. 55

BRITISH LITERARY MANUSCRIPTS  
FROM CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY  
Series One: The Medieval Age, c1150-c1500

PART TWO: Gg. I. 1 - Ii. VI. 55 (Reels 18-34)

CONTENTS OF REELS

REEL EIGHTEEN

Gg. I. 1

REEL NINETEEN

Gg. I. 7

Gg. I. 14

REEL TWENTY

Gg. I. 32

Gg. I. 34

REEL TWENTY ONE

Gg. II. 6

Gg. IV. 5

REEL TWENTY TWO

Gg. IV. 6

Gg. IV. 10

Gg. IV. 18

Gg. IV. 25

REEL TWENTY THREE

Gg. IV. 27

Gg. IV. 31

REEL TWENTY FOUR

Gg. IV. 32

Gg. V. 31

Gg. VI. 17

Gg. VI. 26

REEL TWENTY FIVE

Gg. VI. 28

Gg. VI. 42

Hh. I. 7

REEL TWENTY SIX

Hh. I. 8

Hh. I. 11

Hh. I. 12

Hh. I. 13

REEL TWENTY SEVEN

Hh. III. 13

Hh. IV. 3

Hh. IV. 11

Hh. IV. 12

Hh. IV. 13

REEL TWENTY EIGHT

Ii. I. 2  
Ii. I. 22  
Ii. I. 26

REEL TWENTY NINE

Ii. I. 31  
Ii. I. 36  
Ii. I. 38  
Ii. I. 40

REEL THIRTY

Ii. III. 11  
Ii. III. 21  
Ii. III. 24

REEL THIRTY ONE

Ii. III. 26  
Ii. III. 30  
Ii. IV. 9

REEL THIRTY TWO

Ii. V. 41  
Ii. VI. 1

REEL THIRTY THREE

Ii. VI. 11  
Ii. VI. 23  
Ii. VI. 26  
Ii. VI. 39

REEL THIRTY FOUR

Ii. VI. 40

Ii. VI. 43

Ii. VI. 55

BRITISH LITERARY MANUSCRIPTS  
FROM CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY  
Series One: The Medieval Age, c1150-c1500

PART THREE: Kk. I. 3 - Oo. VI. 110; Additional MSS.  
(Reels 35-49)

CONTENTS OF REELS

REEL THIRTY FIVE

Kk. I. 3 (Old Nos. 11, 12, 13, 20, 21, 22, 23)

Kk. I. 5 Part 1

Part 5

Part 6

Part 7

(Old Nos. 1, 10, 11, 19)

Kk. I. 6

REEL THIRTY SIX

Kk. I. 7

Kk. I. 9

Kk. III. 29

Kk. IV. 13

Kk. IV. 20

REEL THIRTY SEVEN

Kk. IV. 25

Kk. IV. 26

Kk. V. 30

REEL THIRTY EIGHT

Kk. VI. 20

Kk. VI. 26

Kk. VI. 41

REEL THIRTY NINE

Ll. I. 8

Ll. I. 15

Ll. II. 5

REEL FORTY

Ll. II. 17

Ll. IV. 3

Ll. IV. 14

Ll. V. 18

REEL FORTY ONE

Mm. II. 5

Mm. II. 21

Mm. IV. 42

Mm. V. 14

REEL FORTY TWO

Mm. V. 15

Mm. V. 37

Mm. VI. 4

REEL FORTY THREE

Mm. VI. 5  
Mm. VI. 15  
Mm. VI. 17  
Mm. VI. 21

REEL FORTY FOUR

Nn. III. 2  
Nn. III. 10  
Nn. IV. 12  
Oo. VI. 110  
Add. 43  
Add. 850  
Add. 2604  
Add. 2823

REEL FORTY FIVE

Add. 2829  
Add. 2830  
Add. 2993

REEL FORTY SIX

Add. 3035  
Add. 3037  
Add. 3039  
Add. 3042

REEL FORTY SEVEN

Add. 3096  
Add. 3137  
Add. 3573  
Add. 4122

REEL FORTY EIGHT

Add. 4325

Add. 5338

Add. 5943

REEL FORTY NINE

Add. 6686

Add. 6693

Add. 6864

APPENDIX

Complete descriptive entries for the  
Additional manuscripts included in  
Part Three of British Literary Manuscripts  
from Cambridge University Library,  
Series One (Reels 44-49)

Prepared for Harvester Microform by  
Mrs Jayne Cook, Assistant Under-Librarian  
at the Manuscripts Department,  
Cambridge University Library.



APPENDIX - COMPLETE DESCRIPTIVE ENTRIES

Add. 43.

REEL 44

Three Kings of Cologne. xv century (second half). English. '3 Kings of Cullen': so a xvii century inscription on the upper cover. An abridged translation of the Latin *Historia Trium Regum* by John of Hildesheim, ending imperfect in Ch. 22. Part of Ch.19 and most of Ch. 20 lost with ff.20-1. Foliation and marginal notes in red said to be in the hand of Richard Amadas (d.circa 1629); this hand is also found in a number of other C.U.L. MSS. and printed books. This MS. was among the papers presented by J.P. Baumgartner of Milton Hall near Cambridge, 1859 and 1861.

Add. 850.

*Vita Sancti Edmundi etc.* xiv/xv century. Latin.

1. 1r-25r Metrical version of the Life and Miracles of St. Edmund.

2. 25v-48v *Cronica Buriensis*, A.D. 1020-1346. According to the medieval foliation, a quire of eight leaves is missing from the end and the last words on 48v have been erased to make the text end with a complete sentence.

3. 49r-51v Letter from Edward I to Pope Boniface VIII asserting the prerogative of the King of England in Scotland (T. Rymer, *Foedera*, 2nd ed. (London, 1704-32) II, 883-8; 3rd ed. (The Hague, 1739-45) I. iv, 9-11).

4. 51v-55r *Liber provincialis*. The book constitutes ff.172-221 (187-8 omitted in the numbering), 230-36 of a volume from Bury St. Edmunds, of which ff.106-16 are now in C.U.L. MS. Oo. 7. 48 and ff.238-44 are in MS. Oo. 6. 110. Add. 850 belonged to Thomas Martin, the Suffolk antiquary, and subsequently to Richard Gough (d.1809), Dr Richard Yates (d.1834) and J. Bowyer Nichols (d.1863).

Add. 2604

REEL 44  
continued

Lives of Saints. xv century (second half). English. Twenty-two lives: SS. John Baptist, John Evangelist, Columba of Sens, Agatha (ending imperfect), Cecilia (beginning imperfect), Barbara, Etheldreda, Sexburga, Ermenilda, Werburga, Erkengood, Withburga, Edith of Wilton, Edburga, Enswida (ending imperfect), Hilda (beginning imperfect), Martha, Domitilla, Justina (ending imperfect), Benedicta (beginning imperfect), Modwenna and Leonard. Ff. 14, 33-40, 44, 58, 81-8, 106, 107, 126, 138, 140, 143, 146-51 missing. On lr, each word of the title 'The lyves and dethes of the martyres' (except for 'Th' at the beginning), is separately mounted on a vellum piece, and the decoration was added in a xviii or xix century hand. On the rectos of vi-xxii are mounted leaves from a xvi century writing master's book; cf. Bethold Wolpe, A Newe Booke of Copies, 1574 (London, 1962). Provenance includes the Library of the Duke of Sussex (his Sale, 1844).

Add. 2823.

Speculum Vitae. Late xiv century. English. An imperfect copy of the Middle English Speculum Vitae ascribed in some of the surviving MSS. to William of Nassington. Ff. 11-14 missing; this copy contains only a part of the complete text. According to a note on the flyleaf dated 1781, the book belonged to the 'Monastery of St. Augustine at York', but it cannot be identified in the list printed by M. R. James, 'The Catalogue of the Library of the Austin Friars at York', Fasciculus Joanni Willis Clark Dicatus (Cambridge, 1909), pp 2-96.

## Add. 2829.

REEL 45

Exempla. xv century (after A. D. 1447).  
Latin.

1. 1r-8v A piece on judgement, ascribed St. Augustine.
2. 9r-283r A collection of over 380 religious tales, exempla and lives of the saints, preceded on 9r-20r by tables. Includes the Legend of the Cross before Christ (48r-50v), the Visio Sancti Pauli (53r-54v), extracts from the Navigatio Sancti Brendani (96v-97v), the Seven Sages of Rome (166v-195v) and the Vita Adae (276v-283r).
3. 284r-285v An exhortation to intending communicants, in English. Probably belonged to Thomas Martin. Presented by Samuel Sanders, 1881.

## Add. 2830.

Grammatica. A. D. 1434-5. Latin and English. The teaching book of Master John Drury, schoolmaster of Beccles in Suffolk, containing rules and excersises in Latin, and Drury's treatise De mode confitendi in English (ff.80r-83v) and Latin (ff.84r-86r). The contents are described and discussed by David Thomson, A Descriptive Catalogue of Middle English Grammatical Texts (New York, 1979), pp 169-78. Belonged to Thomas Martin.

## Add. 2993.

Roman de la Rose. A. D. 1354. French. The Roman de la Rose of Guillaume de Lorris and Jean de Meung, beginning imperfect after the loss of probably eight leaves in an interpolation; cf. E. Langlois, Les MSS. du Roman de la Rose, Travaux et Memoires de l'Université de Lille, N. S. I. vii (1910), pp 148-9. Previous owners included Sir Thomas Tempest (d.1692) and Samuel Tyssen (d.1800).

Add. 3035.

REEL 46

John Gower. xiv century (second half).  
French. John Gower, *Mirour de l'Omme*.  
The only known MS. Printed by G. C. Macaulay  
in The Complete Works of John Gower (Oxford,  
1899-1902) I. Belonged to Edward Hailstone.

Add. 3037.

Thomas Monemutensis etc. Late xii century.  
Latin.

1. 1r-77r The Life of St. William of Norwich  
(the only known MS.)
2. 77v-80v Isaac de Stella, *Epistola de  
Canone Missae*.
3. 80v Extract in another hand, presumably  
from a lapidary.
4. 81r-119v John, Abbot of Ford, Life of  
St. Wulfric of Haselbury.
5. 119v-168r The Life and Miracles of  
St. Godric of Finchale by Reginald of Durham  
(the 'first recension').
6. 168r A poem addressed to Stephen  
Langton on his appointment as Archbishop of  
Canterbury.  
From the Parish Library of the village of  
Brent Eleigh in Suffolk, purchased by Cambridge  
University Library in 1891; previously  
belonged to Fane Edge (d.1727) and before that,  
probably to Lord William Howard of Naworth.

## Add.3039.

REEL 46  
continued

South English Legendary. Early xv century. English. An East Midland version of the text of the South English Legendary. See Manfred Görlach, An East Midland Revision of the South English Legendary (Heidelberg, 1976). For the contents see Carleton Brown, Register of Middle English Religious and Didactic Verse (London, 1916-20) I, pp 199-203. A number of leaves are missing from the text. A Brent Eleigh MS. (see Add. 3037); previously belonged to Fane Edge (d.1727) and earlier to Lord William Howard of Naworth.

## Add. 3042.

Devotiones. Early xv century. Latin and English. A collection of private prayers and devotions including Hours of the Holy Spirit (7r-32r), Memoriae (33r-35v) and meditations on the Passion of Christ ascribed to Richard Rolle (36r-78v). A Brent Eleigh MS. (see Add. 3037).

Add. 3096.

REEL 47

Vitae Sanctorum. xii century (second half). Latin. 9r-23v St. Bernard, Super Missus Est Homiliae, beginning imperfect after the loss of the first quire. 23v-140v Lives of Saints: 23v-46v Life of St. Gudwall (Bibliotheca Hagiographica Latina 3687); 46v-53v Miracles of St. Gudwall (BHL 3688); 53v-86r Eadmer's Life of St. Wilfred (BHL 8893); 86r-92r The Eleven Thousand Virgins (BHL 8428-30); 92r-106v Gilbert Crispin, Vita Herluini, ending imperfect with the loss of several leaves (BHL 3836); 117r-120v Drogo, Life of St. Oswald (BHL 6362); 120v-127v Pseudo-Theotimus, Life of St. Margaret (BHL 5303; ff.123, 124 missing); 127v-140v Life of St. Catherine, ending imperfect (BHL 1663; ff.133-5 and ff.138-9 also missing).. Belonged to D. Laing of Edinburgh in 1849 and subsequently to the Bateman family of Middleton Hall, Derbyshire.

Add. 3137.

John Lydgate. Mid xv century. English. John Lydgate's Siege of Thebes, beginning imperfect. There are a large number of breaks in the text where leaves are missing. Purchased from W. Downing, Birmingham, in 1894.

Add. 3573.

John Walton's Boethius. Mid xv century. English. Boethius, De Consolatione Philosophiae, translated into English verse by John Walton, Canon of Oseney Abbey. The text ends imperfect. Ff. 55-6, 60 also missing. Ff. 75 and 76 have their text transposed, as do 77 and 78. Phillipps MS. 9472

Add. 4122.

Lives of Saints in verse. Mid xv century. English.

1. 6r-38v Life of St. Margaret.
2. 39v-145r Life of the Virgin.
3. 145v-166v Life of St. Dorothy.

From the Library of Richard Heber. Bequeathed to the Library by Samuel Sanders in 1894.

Add. 4325.

REEL 48

Piers Plowman. xiv/xv century. English.  
A copy of the C text of Piers Plowman.  
Probably belonged to Thomas Tyrwhitt, 1730-86,  
Clerk to the Commons and editor of Chaucer.

Add. 5338.

Sunday Sermons. Early xv century.  
English. Two sequences of English sermons,  
derived from the Wycliffite Sermon Cycle.  
See English Wycliffite Sermons, ed. A. Hudson  
(Oxford, 1983) I, Ch.3.

1. 1r-67r Sermons on the Sunday Gospels  
after Trinity, each preceded by a paraphrase  
of the Gospel in English. The first few  
leaves are missing or fragmentary; the  
sermon for Trinity vii begins on 9r. The  
same series is found in Cambridge, St. John's  
College G. 22 Part I and Dublin, Trinity  
College C. 1. 22 (241).

2. 67v-102v A series of 12 sermons for  
the Sundays of Advent and the Sundays after  
Epiphany. These overlap with a series in  
Lambeth Palace MS. 392. Formerly Phillipps  
MS. 11071. Subsequently in the Library of  
Lord Amherst of Hackney.

Add. 5943.

Miscellanea. Early xv century. Latin  
with some French and English. Miscellaneous  
sermons for Sundays and feast days, including  
several by Jacobus de Voragine, arranged  
irregularly with other material. On 161r-172v  
are a set of songs in English, French and  
Latin, mostly with music, reproduced in  
facsimile by R. Rastall, A Fifteenth Century  
Songbook (Leeds, 1973) and discussed by E. J.  
Dobson and F. L. Harrison, Medieval English  
Songs (London, 1979); but see also I. Fenlon,  
Cambridge Music Manuscripts, 900-1700 (Cambridge,  
1982). Early owners included Thomas Turke,  
an inaugural fellow of Winchester College in  
1395, who gave it to John Morton in 1418.  
Subsequently in the possession of Lord Howard  
de Walden. Bought from Quaritch, 1915.

Add. 6686.

REEL 49

Nicholas Love etc. xv century (first half). English.

1. Pp. 1-216. The Myrroure of the Blessed Lyf of Jesu Christ, being the English translation of the Meditationes Vitae Christi formerly attributed to St. Bonaventura, made by Nicholas Love, Prior of Mount Grace.

2. Pp. 216-233. The treatise on the Sacrament which usually follows the Myrroure.

3. Pp. 235-269. The Pistyl of Love, also known as Contemplations of the Dread and Love of God, or Fervor Amoris.

4. Pp. 269-270. On the Five Sorrows of Our Lady.

5. Pp. 270-271. Three linked poems, beginning with the so-called Short Charter of Christ.

6. Pp. 272-273. John Lydgate, The Kings of England Sithen William Conqueror.

7. Pp. 275-361. Walter Hilton, The Scale of Perfection, Book 1.

8. Pp. 362-364. John Gaytryge, Lay Folks' Catechism.

Belonged to C. W. Williams Wynn and afterwards in the Library of Lord Ashburnham. Presented by A. W. Young in 1933.

Add. 6693.

Pricke of Conscience. Late xiv century. English. Stimulus Consciencie, the anonymous Pricke of Conscience. Some of the text is lost with probably one leaf after 16 and a further portion is missing after 175. From the Library of Lord Ashburnham; presented by A. W. Young, 1933.

Add. 6864.

John Lydgate. Mid. xv century. English. John Lydgate, The Siege of Thebes. Belonged to James Cobbes of Bury St. Edmunds (d.1685). Subsequently in the collection of Dr. Cox Macre of Bury St. Edmunds (d.1767) and of Hudson Gurney.

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