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THE MIRROR

A SELECTION FROM
CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE,
CAMBRIDGE MS 282

edited by

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A thesis submitted for the degree
Doctor of Philosophy in English

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Abstract

Title: The Mirror; a Selection from Corpus Christi
College, Cambridge MS 282.

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September 1990.

Corpus Christi College, Cambridge MS 282 dates from the late fourteenth century and contains one of the six copies of the Mirror. The Mirror is an English translation of the Miroir, a series of Anglo-Norman verse sermons for Sundays and other liturgical occasions. The Miroir was written by one Robert of Gretham, probably during the early part of the thirteenth century.

Excerpts from the Miroir and the Mirror have been published; for the Anglo-Norman there are a book length study and an edition of eight sermons, and for the English there is an unpublished edition of the introduction and first twelve sermons (Hunterian MS). We need complete editions of the Anglo-Norman and English works; it is unlikely that a critical edition of the English Mirror would be based upon, or even draw heavily upon, the Corpus Christi MS, and I have thought it worthwhile to examine at least part of that MS because it is one of the texts which preserve an early London-type dialect.

This edition presents a reader's edition of eight sermons. Notes and a glossary accompany the text; the

notes make limited use of one of the MSS of the Miroir. The introduction considers such matters of palaeography etc. as it is possible to discuss when one is working from a microfilm copy; it then covers language (aspects of phonology, morphology, syntax, and vocabulary) and cites some analogues to the Miroir/Mirror. The introduction and the bibliography survey what has been written about the English work and its Anglo-Norman original.

Acknowledgments

I am grateful to the Librarian of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge for permission to work on MS 282, to the University Grants Committee for a Postgraduate Scholarship, and to the interloans staff in the Reference Department of the Auckland University Library for their efficient and always courteous service.

From my first year as an undergraduate I have enjoyed the privilege of Dr de Vries's teaching and inspiring scholarship; in recent years I have benefited from his generous sharing of research materials and time. The chance to continue working under Dr de Vries's patient guidance has been among the greatest rewards of my study.

It is a pleasure to thank my friends Carolyn Anderson and Michael Reddell for their interest and help. Daphne Lalor's friendship has been the source of ready support and good advice, and I must also thank her for skilful and remarkably cheerful proofreading.

My family has coped admirably with the ups and downs of a thesis in progress - its completion means adding yet another debt to the many I owe my parents.

Errata
.....

- p.ix Professor Anne Hudson has pointed out that a copy of the Miroir survives in Bodleian MS Holkham Misc.44.
- p.xii Professor Anne Hudson has pointed out that a separated section of the Rylands MS survives as Norwich Cathedral MS 5 ff.1-8.
- p.lv The sentence 'In many MSS u ...' reads poorly; I mean that a scribe might easily overlook a contraction mark (= n) and make the u in his exemplar into n.
- p.lxxiv L.3: read declension.
- p.lxxxix L.22: read transcription.
- p.xci The examples of the subjunctive in 14/25 and 24/16 should be explained as something like 'the subjunctive of unfulfilled hypothesis'.
- 1/7 Read flesch.
- 14/21 Read skil?
- 16/19 Probably MS a3einseid.
- 27/2 The MS reading may stand, i.e. he wil sein is 'they will say'. This renders unnecessary my note to 27/2ff. on p.95.
- 27/14 I am not now convinced by my emendation and should prefer the alternative offered on p.198: supply 'in' and change mercys to a singular noun.
- 52/10 The scribe probably wrote for3eue and read ue as ne.
- 59/4 The verb founden is probably a form of finde(n); it renders AN peistrum.
- 64/2 Read dominis.
- 64/24 Read nou3t.
- 65/5 Read goode.
- 78/12 Probably MS ech rather than eni.
- p.92 Note to 18/2: read '... there is a cross in the left-hand margin and what looks like an insertion sign after wi@.'
- p.203 Gradon's article in the Festschrift for Eric Dobson: pp.39-48.
- p.204 Haimo of Halberstadt: the title of the volume edited by Migne is Opera Omnia (Patrologiae Corpus Completus).
- pp.206-207 Read Dialectology in Laing's title.

* * * * *

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Pages from the MS are reproduced on p.cxvi and among 'Passages for comparison'.

Preface

This selection of eight sermons has been edited from a microfilm copy of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge MS 282. Quotations from the Miroir are drawn from the Cambridge MS of that work and are not 'edited' - see p.84 for the treatment of these quotations.

This typescript uses the following special forms:

p thorn
p capital thorn
3 yogh
3 capital yogh
@ edh

(Note that MS 3 is printed as z in quotations from the AN.)

Abbreviations

Abbreviations and symbols used here (e.g. * for an un-recorded form or inf. = infinitive) are straightforward.

But note the following:

AB	'language AB'		
AN	Anglo-Norman		
Ang.	Anglian		
CF	Central French		
CGmc	Common Germanic		
e	early ('eME' etc.)		
EETS	Early English Text Society		
EM	East Midland		
ES	Extra Series (of the EETS)		
K	Kentish		
l; L	late ('lOE' etc.); Latin		
<u>LALME</u>	<u>A Linguistic Atlas of Late Medieval English</u>		
lNthmb.	late Northumbrian		
M	Midland		
ME	Middle English	PrimOE	Primitive Old
<u>MED</u>	Middle English Dictionary		English
Merc.	Mercian	S	South(ern)
ML	Mediaeval Latin	SE	South East(ern)
ModE	Modern English	SEM	South East
N	North(ern)		Midland
NM	North Midland	SW	South West(ern)
Nthmb.	Northumbrian	WM	West Midland
NWM	North West Midland	WS	West Saxon
OE	Old English		
<u>OED</u>	<u>Oxford English Dictionary</u>		
OF	Old French		
OK	Old Kentish		
ON	Old Norse		
ONF	Old Northern French		
OS	Original Series (of the EETS)		
PE	Present day English		