

BATELY, Janet 1993: *Anonymous Old English Homilies. A Preliminary Bibliography of Source Studies*. Center for Medieval and Early Renaissance Studies, State University of New York (SUNY) at Binghamton. VI + 76 pp. (Free to *Old English Newsletter* subscribers).

This document of 5.5 x 8.5 inches was also handed out free of all charge to those attending the Tenth Open Meeting of the Project *Fontes Anglo-Saxonici. A Register of Sources Used by Authors in Anglo-Saxon England*, which was held at King's College, London, March 22nd 1994.

Though simply bound, this little book is a most useful tool of research, an excellent example of scholarly integrity, and an encouraging path into new light for its providing readers with a fertile quarry of information only limited by the notion that source work is never definitive, but a process carried out *festina lente* by the gathering of many hands.

Thus, Professor Jane Bately's compilation has been issued and given out thanks to the combined efforts of several people on both sides of the Atlantic: *Fontes Anglo-Saxonici* and King's College, London (UK), and *Sources of Anglo-Saxon Literary Culture*, the CEMERS at SUNY-Binghamton as mentioned above, and *Old English Newsletter* (USA).

This precious document will undoubtedly be welcomed by the profession not only for its own excellent merits but also as the first sample of a series of monographs to be published as part of the *Fontes Anglo-Saxonici* Project. The aim of the series is "to aid the compilers of the 'Register of Written Sources used by Authors in Anglo-Saxon England', by providing details of potentially relevant publications already in the public domain (...) a second aim is to provide a snap-shot of scholarship since source-studies first began, commemorating those early scholars who first blazed the trail for us in uncharted territories." (p. ii) Actually, the oldest reference here dates back to 1705.

Material has been conceptually organized as an inverted pyramid. Thus, Section A is a broad base of primeval information under the title of *Manuscript Collections*, within which details of and references to the *Blickling Homilies*, *Bodley 343*, *Vercelli Homilies*, and *Vespasian Homilies* are handsomely shown. Eight outstanding titles set up Section B, *Major Modern Collections*. Section C *General*, contains the references to one hundred and sixteen “studies relating to two or more homilies”. (p.4) Section D, *Individual Homilies*, “Editions and Studies relating to Sources and Analogues” (p. 14), falls into a threefold division: 1) Homilies for Specified Occasions (fifty homilies considered), 2) Homilies for Unspecified Occasions I (fifty eight homilies), and 3) Homilies for Unspecified Occasions II (sixteen homilies). Section D also contains a considerable number of internal cross references, so that it is very easy to learn the existence and physical entity of manuscripts, facsimiles, and editions. In addition, further scholarly references to articles already published, plus the reference to several unpublished dissertations are included.

Appendix I fixes the relationship between Cameron (1973, 1975, 1979) and the anonymous Old English homilies here considered. Appendix II gives details mainly from Ker (1957), and Cameron (1973, 1975, 1979).

One hundred and fourteen scholars set up the final Index of authors, which is the top of this “inverted pyramid”.

The Projects *Fontes Anglo-Saxonici* (Scragg, 1994) and *Sources of Anglo-Saxon Literary Culture* (Biggs, Hill, Szarmach, with the assistance of Karen Hammond, eds, 1990) are invitations to highly selective research, a path and a compass into “uncharted territories”, highly refined tools that the profession can use with meticulous care, precise implements to feel proud of.

So, Professor Janet Y. Bately and the institutions behind her are to be warmly congratulated for this particular achievement.

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REFERENCES

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- CAMERON, Angus 1973: A List of Old English Texts, in Roberta Frank and Angus Cameron, eds., *A Plan for the Dictionary of Old English*, Toronto, pp 29-267
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- CAMERON, Angus 1979: Addenda and Corrigenda, *Anglo-Saxon Studies* 8: 331-3.
- KER, Neil R. 1957: *Catalogue of Manuscripts containing Anglo-Saxon*, Oxford.
- SCRAGG, Donald G. 1994: *An Introduction to 'Fontes Anglo-Saxonici'*, an eight-page pamphlet given out in the Tenth Open Meeting at King's College in March 1994. The pamphlet was printed as an appendix to *Old English Newsletter*, and a similar article also by Dr Scragg was published in *Medieval English Studies Newsletter* (Tokyo).

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