

**History, Contents, and  
Guide to the Dictionary**

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### History of the *Middle English Dictionary* Project

The idea for a dictionary of Middle English on historical principles goes back to 1919, when, in a paper on the future of English lexicography read to the Philological Society of London, William A. Craigie, the third editor of the *Oxford English Dictionary* (*OED*), proposed a series of period dictionaries of English to extend and supplement the treatment in the *OED*.<sup>1</sup> As he put it: “. . . each definite period of the language has its own characteristics, which can only be appreciated when it is studied by itself, and which are necessarily obscured when it merely comes in as one link in the long chain of the language as a whole. To deal adequately with each period it is necessary to take it by itself and compile for it a special dictionary, as full and complete as may be” (Craigie 1919 [1931]: 7). By 1925, when Craigie wrote an addendum to his 1919 paper, the dictionaries he envisaged were for Old English (before 1175), Middle English (1175-1500), the Tudor and Stuart period (1500-1675), Modern English (1675 to the present), Older Scottish (circa 1375 to circa 1700), Modern Scottish (circa 1700 to the present), and American English.

The fullest treatment of the Middle English vocabulary at the time Craigie gave his paper was to be found in the *OED*, which devotes in its completed first edition (1928) approximately 1,250 of its 15,490 large pages to this period, but the *OED* was intended primarily as a dictionary of Modern English, and Middle English usage, though systematically and quite adequately presented as background for later usage, is not treated from the point of view of the Middle Ages.<sup>2</sup> Hence the culture of a great age of the English-speaking people as reflected in an extensive and varied written record does not come into its own. Before the completion of the *OED*, the available dictionaries of Middle English were either highly selective (Coleridge 1859, Mayhew and Skeat 1888) or incomplete (Mätzner 1878-1900, ending in the middle of the letter M, though quite full as far as it goes) or (in the case of the latest comprehensive one, Bradley-Stratmann 1891) containing only brief glosses and either just references to illustrative examples or a selection of (usually fragmentary) quotations.

In the United States, systematic work in Middle English lexicography began with a projected dictionary of the works of Geoffrey Chaucer, undertaken by Ewald Flügel of Stanford University in the last decade of the nineteenth century and the first decade and a half of the twentieth, but only a few specimens of his dictionary were published before he died in 1914.<sup>3</sup> In 1922 the Middle English Language Group of the Modern Language Association of America began to take an interest in the project of a Middle English dictionary, and by 1925 the Association had assumed responsibility for promoting the compilation of such a dictionary. In that year a two-year grant was received from the Heckscher Foundation at Cornell University, and work was begun there, with Clark S. Northup of Cornell as Editor in Charge. Flügel's Chaucer and other Middle English materials were turned over to the project by his heirs, and Northup began negotiations with Craigie to obtain from Oxford University Press the Middle English slips collected for the *OED*, eventually securing them, with the result that the A through G slips

(amounting to approximately 130,000) were sent to Cornell for his use. All of these materials remained at Cornell until 1930 and were supplemented there during this period under Northup's supervision. The supplementation involved primarily the excerpting of various Middle English texts: from the approximately 20,000 pages read, about 175,000 quotations (many, however, too short) were copied out on 3" x 5" cards.<sup>4</sup>

By 1928 work on the dictionary was in serious jeopardy, the funds from the Heckscher Foundation having been exhausted, and during the next two years the Modern Language Association tried to secure both funding and one or more university sponsors for the project. Then, in early 1930, the University of Michigan invited the Modern Language Association to move the dictionary to Ann Arbor. The reason for the invitation was that it was thought that the presence of the dictionary would benefit the *Early Modern English Dictionary* (1475-1700), which was in progress at the University under the direction of Charles C. Fries and to which the *OED* had already donated its entire stock of quotations for the Early Modern period.<sup>5</sup> The invitation was accepted, the Cornell materials (including Flügel's materials and the *OED* slips from A to G) were transferred to the University of Michigan, and Samuel Moore of the Department of English was chosen editor by joint agreement between the Modern Language Association and the University. The *OED*'s Middle English slips from H to Z were already in Ann Arbor when Moore began his work, the total donation (A through Z) amounting to approximately 430,000 slips, including both those used in the printed dictionary and those rejected; and in the next few years the slips prepared for the 1933 *OED* Supplement were also transferred to the University of Michigan. The American Council of Learned Societies, which the Modern Language Association had first approached in 1928, agreed to help support the project beginning in 1931.<sup>6</sup>

During Moore's editorship (1930-34) the main activities of his small staff were to test the stock of available quotations for inclusiveness and accuracy and to carry out an extensive and systematic reading program in order to supplement the original collection of citations. The nucleus of the *MED*'s collection was the *OED* donation, which provided “an excellent ready-made collection, [but] it did not fully solve the collecting problem” (Kuhn 1982: 19; bracketed insertions and alterations in quotations, both here and following, have been supplied by me). For one thing, the *OED* reading program showed a bias towards imaginative literature, and also, as editor Moore observed, “some of the works read and excerpted for the *O[E]J[D]* had been inadequately dealt with by nineteenth-century readers and . . . a few significant works had been missed altogether. Moreover, untrained readers . . . showed a tendency to fix upon the unusual in language, the ‘quaint’ word or the ‘bizarre’ turn of speech, to the neglect of common words used in ordinary senses and in everyday constructions. To a lexicographer, both the unusual and the commonplace are important . . . . In short, there were gaps in the *O[E]J[D]* collection which could be remedied only by further collecting” (Kuhn 1982: 19). Moore did this by enlisting nearly all the outstanding Middle English scholars of the time, as well as others, not to mention members of his own staff (well over 100 people were involved), and they read as many of the

published Middle English texts as they could, along with a number of texts still in manuscript. At the same time, Moore evaluated the usability of Flügel's materials for the special purposes of the *MED* and decided to set them aside, preferring to rely instead upon Tatlock and Kennedy's Chaucer concordance (1927) and his own reading program to round out the *OED* materials,<sup>7</sup> a decision that Hans Kurath later concurred with. By the time of Moore's premature death in 1934, some 66,000 additional pages of Middle English texts had been read or reread, and 280,000 additional quotations taken out, with the result that the collection had grown to nearly 900,000 slips.

Also during Moore's editorship a dialect survey, based on 310 localized documents from 208 localities, was completed, by Moore himself along with his colleagues Sanford Meech and Harold Whitehall; it was published in 1935, shortly after Moore's death.<sup>8</sup> Though Moore had not worked out his editing procedures in detail before he died, he was in the process of formulating an editing plan, the principal features of which can readily be gathered from his voluminous correspondence with scholars in the United States and Europe. As Kurath summarized them in an unpublished report late in 1946, "The main entries . . . were to be in the Southeast Midland form; forms and spellings from other dialects were to be systematically treated . . . preference was to be given to 'illustrative quotations for word meaning' from 'passages which are the clearest and least ambiguous evidence of the meaning' . . . for early and late quotations and for forms 'only the more definitely dated texts' were to be used [and] cruces were not to be quoted in the Dictionary . . ."<sup>9</sup> No regular editing was done during Moore's editorship,<sup>10</sup> although some pre-editing and sub-editing were done on certain letters.<sup>11</sup>

After Moore's death, Thomas A. Knott, who had been the general editor of *Webster's New International Dictionary of the English Language* (1934), was chosen as his successor. His editorship (1935-45) was beset by difficulties arising in part from the Depression and the depletion of the staff during World War II and in part from changes in editorial policy. The cessation of support from the American Council of Learned Societies just a year after he arrived in Ann Arbor was a bitter blow. It meant that beginning in February of 1936 the University of Michigan had to bear the entire financial burden of the project. Confronted with an uncertain future, Knott decided to limit the dictionary to approximately 4,000 pages (later raised to 4,500) and to change radically the editing plan that Moore had in mind. It was now to include full and exact definitions, considerable encyclopedic knowledge about the Middle Ages, limited treatment of forms and spellings (including dialectal spellings), and very few illustrative quotations.<sup>12</sup> As Kurath characterized it in his unpublished 1946 report, "Knott's editing plan was ill-conceived and unfortunate. It attempted to do what cannot be done satisfactorily and failed to do what can be done well. It did not square with our resources and failed to take into account the extent of our knowledge in the linguistic field; on the other hand, it did not recognize the as yet insuperable limitations in our knowledge of semantics . . . and of Medieval science and technology" (p. 8).

During his editorship, Knott and his staff prepared entries for the letters A, B, C, L, and parts of D and M in accordance with his editing plan. In 1937 a thirteen-page specimen of L was printed and circulated to a number of scholars (medievalists,

historical linguists, etc.); this specimen caused disappointment and produced serious criticism from some reviewers, and the Executive Council of the Modern Language Association decided against printing it in the form in which it had circulated.<sup>13</sup> Then, primarily as a result of a recommendation from Kenneth Sisam of Oxford University Press, in April of 1938 work on the *MED* was suspended and the staffs of the *MED* and the *Early Modern English Dictionary* were combined and set to editing A for the latter dictionary. After a year of experimentation with this arrangement, the University's Committee on Dictionaries, on the recommendation of Fries, decided in March of 1939 that work on the *Early Modern English Dictionary* be postponed indefinitely and all of the University's resources put into producing the *MED*.<sup>14</sup> In the next year, 1940, a forty-eight-page typed specimen of letter A of the *MED* was circulated to a smaller group than the previous specimen (primarily the Modern Language Association's Advisory Committee for the *MED* and Oxford University Press, the intended publisher); based on shortcomings in it as determined by the Advisory Committee, the Executive Council of the Modern Language Association decided that it could not "give a blanket endorsement to the standards . . . prevailing" at that time at the *MED*.<sup>15</sup> Editing continued into B and then C, though with a depleted staff because of World War II, and no further specimens were circulated during Knott's editorship.

Knott and his staff did, however, make substantial additions to the collection of quotations: in addition to arranging for cut-ups of the *OED*, Mätzner's *Wörterbuch* (1878-1900), the Bradley-Stratmann *Dictionary* (1891), the Tatlock and Kennedy *Concordance* (1927), the blueprints of John Trevisa's translation of Bartholomaeus Anglicus's *De Proprietatibus Rerum*, and other texts (which were then pasted on slips by WPA and NYA workers and filed with the quotations for the convenience of the editors), new reading was done in areas which had been either slighted or ignored before, e.g., (1) English words in Latin and Old French documents, which are a rich source of "the names of household utensils, tools of trade or agriculture, articles of food, local taxes, folk customs, etc." (Kuhn 1982: 19), and (2) place and personal names, which often provide the first occurrences of words remaining from Old English and Old Norse and, for personal names, from Anglo-French. It has been estimated that by 1944, the year before Knott's death, the collection of slips had grown to 1,360,400 (Jost 1985: 209).

In the fall of 1945, shortly after the end of World War II, the University of Michigan reaffirmed its intention to see the *MED* through to completion, and Hans Kurath, who was chairman of the Division of Modern Languages at Brown University and director of the Linguistic Atlas of the United States and Canada, was chosen as the new editor.<sup>16</sup> Kurath began his editorship in March of 1946 and by the end of the year had drawn up a formal editing plan. This plan, which is closer to the one envisioned by Moore, had three main components and was based on what Kurath believed could be done well. First, there was to be a full display of quotations from the collection. As Kurath put it in the unpublished report cited in note 9, "We have an unsurpassed collection of quotations from all M[id]dle E[n]glish sources and must display it fully in the Dictionary. The quotations, our primary evidence for M[id]dle E[n]glish usage, will retain their value undiminished long after the opinions expressed by the

editors in the definitions and the arrangement of the senses will have been superseded (or viewed with the scepticism with which we now approach the semantic and historical treatment of the vocabulary in Grimm's great German Dictionary (1854-) or in the earlier volumes of the monumental Oxford Dictionary (1888-))" (p. 9). Second, there was to be a systematic treatment of "the formal features of M[iddle] E[nglish]—spellings, grammatical forms and regional variants," the evidence for which was "ready to hand in our great collection of quotations and texts from all the dialect areas of England" (p. 9). And, finally, the meanings of the Middle English words were to be conveyed "in the briefest form possible—by giving the Modern English equivalents (with clarifying comments, when needed) and resorting to explicit definition only when translation into M[oder]n E[nglish] is not feasible or [is] misleading" (p. 9). That is to say, the *MED* was to be "similar to a bilingual dictionary . . . designed for use by those who are at home in M[oder]n E[nglish], the language of the definitions" (Kuhn 1982: 32).

Kurath also observed that Middle English usage varies so greatly during the period, both chronologically and regionally, that only a dictionary of considerable size could do justice to English usage of this age, which is also the formative period for a large part of the Modern English vocabulary. He therefore decided, early in 1947, that the *MED* should run to approximately 8,000 pages, which would allow him to present a considerable part of the quotations stored in the files and thus produce a dictionary of independent value that would serve scholars for years to come.

The bibliographical apparatus also presented a formidable problem, which needed to be solved before editing progressed too far. As Kurath explained it in his annual report on the *MED* for 1947:<sup>17</sup>

The bibliographical apparatus of the *MED*, as it was in 1946, was found to be quite inadequate for our purposes. It had simply accumulated over a period of years and had never been systematically reviewed. Much of it had been taken over uncritically from the O[xford] D[ictionary] or culled piece-meal from the introductions to edited texts. Some texts were assigned composition dates, others MS dates (which sometimes are a century apart). For some texts the MS date reflected the opinions of early paleographers who were inclined to push the MS dates rather far back; for others the more conservative dating of recent paleographers was accepted. In some cases different texts from one and the same MS, written by one and the same hand, had very different dates. Some texts were quoted under two or three different titles without anyone being aware of it.

A thorough overhauling of the bibliographical apparatus was undertaken between 1946 and 1949 by Margaret Ogden, Charles Palmer, and Richard McKelvey, and the system that was adopted contained the innovation of what has been called the "double-dating" feature.<sup>18</sup> As Kurath put it in his 1947 report, "We have decided to assign the MS date to all texts, and to add the composition date in parentheses if the text was composed a

quarter of a century or more earlier than the date of the MS from which we quote. Paleographic evidence gives us a fairly reliable approximate date for all the MSS, whereas the composition date is often highly conjectural. Mixing MS dates and composition dates, as in the past, is very misleading" (p. 3).

Between 1946 and 1952 editing began on E and then progressed to F (A, B, C, and parts of D had already been edited according to Knott's plan but were postponed for re-editing until Kurath's plan had been tried out on E and F), all slips were refiled using Southeast Midland headwords, the dating of manuscripts was set by correspondence with librarians and scholars, the short titles with their dates (or "stencils," as they are called at the *MED*) were put into final form, and finally in 1952 the first fascicle (the first part of E) was published by the University of Michigan Press. Two years later Kurath published a description of the editing plan, in the original *Plan and Bibliography* (1954), and we have followed this plan in broad outline and basic essentials ever since.<sup>19</sup>

During the remainder of Kurath's editorship (which ended in 1961), and into that of his successor, Sherman M. Kuhn (1961-83), who had come to Michigan as associate editor in 1948 from what is now Oklahoma State University, the editing progressed slowly but deliberately, with a staff that fluctuated between four and seven part-time editors (many of whom were also part-time faculty in the Department of English), reaching the middle of the letter M by the end of 1974.<sup>20</sup> Also during this period the reading program was continued, as editions of unpublished Middle English texts began to appear with ever-increasing frequency after World War II (and especially from the 1970s onward), and many previously edited texts began to be reedited. These were read by the staff, as they came to their attention and as time allowed, and quotations extracted from them for use in the words still to be edited.<sup>21</sup>

From 1930 to 1974 the project had been supported almost entirely by the University of Michigan, except for the assistance in the 1930s, already mentioned, from the Rockefeller Foundation through the American Council of Learned Societies. In 1974, in order to hasten the completion of the editing, application was made to the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for funds to expand the editorial staff; the application was successful, and in 1975 the project was awarded the first of three large grants, which enabled it to appoint seven new full-time editors in 1975-76 and move to larger quarters. In 1980 the National Endowment for the Humanities awarded the project the first of six grants, in both outright and matching funds, and from then to the end of 1996 the editing was supported jointly by the Mellon Foundation and the National Endowment, with contributions from well over two hundred individuals and institutions who responded to our fund-raising appeals in North America during 1993-96 helping to support the final stages.<sup>22</sup> Continued funding from the University of Michigan, primarily through the Office of the Vice President for Research, supported the other parts of the project from 1974 to its conclusion in 2001.

Between 1975 and 1996, during the remainder of Kuhn's editorship and into mine (1982-2001<sup>23</sup>), with a staff that fluctuated between seven and thirteen editors (nearly all full time), the editing proceeded at a faster rate, despite the fact that the amount of data was increasing, especially during the 1980s and early 1990s, through the continuing extraction of quotations

from newly edited texts. Finally, in late 1997, approximately fifty years after it began according to Kurath's plan, the editing was completed by a reduced staff of editors.

Before World War II the University of Michigan had an understanding with the Clarendon Press in Oxford that the *MED* would be published there, with a subvention from the University. When negotiations were resumed in 1950, printing costs had risen so sharply and the potential European market for the *MED* had shrunk so drastically that the University felt unable to meet the increased financial demands. On the recommendation of Kurath and the University's Committee on Dictionaries, the University of Michigan Press declared its willingness to publish the *MED* by offset if the delegates of the Clarendon Press would release the University from the original understanding; the release was granted in April of 1951. Since 1952, when the first fascicle was printed, the final camera-ready copy has been prepared by the *MED* staff, then printed lithographically and bound in Ann Arbor by Cushing-Malloy, Inc., and finally distributed and marketed by the University of Michigan Press.

Between 1952 and 1984 fascicles (normally of 128 pages) appeared at an average rate of two per year, progressing from E and F to A through D, then from G to the end of P. Up to 1984 the final copy for the fascicles was produced on two IBM Executive typewriters (one for the secretarial font and the other for the boldface font). In 1984, beginning with the Q-fascicle and *Plan and Bibliography Supplement I*, we replaced this typewriter-generated system with a computer-assisted system, which allowed us to update and revise our fonts and to increase our rate of publication to an average of three fascicles per year between Q and the final X-Y-Z fascicle in 2001. (The increased rate of publication can be attributed partly to an increase in the amount of reviewed copy, thanks to the use of one or more reviewers, in addition to the editor-in-chief, from 1983 on.) From Q through S the format of the earlier typewriter-generated pages was kept, but with the first T-fascicle, thanks to a customized package of Times Roman softfonts, we incorporated some formatting changes to increase readability (the most important of which were boldfaced dates and italicized short titles for the Middle English texts), and these changes continued through the rest of the alphabet. With the publication of the final X-Y-Z fascicle in 2001, the completed *MED* proper runs to 14,939 pages in 115 fascicles (combined into thirteen volumes),<sup>24</sup> with 54,081 separate entries and 891,531 quotations. The final figure of 14,939 pages is nearly double the 8,000 that Kurath had projected. That is partly because the definitions have become more elaborate and more detailed as the *MED* has progressed, but primarily because the number of illustrative quotations has increased, though this has been partly by default: there was simply more data added to the files (especially from the fifteenth century) as the editors proceeded through the alphabet.

Since 1998, thanks to a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities in the previous year and with support from various units at the University of Michigan, an electronic version of the *MED*, under the direction of Frances McSparran and John Wilkin of the University of Michigan, has been available to subscribers online; it constitutes one of the three resources in the *Middle English Compendium* (the other two are the *HyperBibliography* of Middle English, based on the *MED* bibliographies, and the *Corpus of Middle English Prose* and

*Verse*, a series of fully searchable electronic texts linked to the *HyperBibliography*).<sup>25</sup> The letters A through P of the print *MED* were keyboarded and then converted to SGML markup, the electronic files of Q through T were also converted to SGML markup, and the *MED* production staff themselves encoded U through Z in SGML, with the result that all of the existing print *MED* is now available online. This makes what we have produced during the past fifty years more widely available and more easily accessible for various kinds of searches than would be feasible in the print *MED*.

Since the early years of publication a print supplement has been part of the long-range plan. The files for it began to be organized during Kuhn's editorship, and between then and 2001 we systematically added to them, with the result that we now have eighteen boxes of alphabetized supplementary materials.<sup>26</sup> We have been referring to a supplement publicly since at least 1961,<sup>27</sup> and in the printed fascicles from R through Z we have inserted cross-references to "Suppl." entries.

The kind of supplement envisioned originally was a short one, in which we would correct the obvious errors, revise definitions and etymologies that we knew needed to be revised, and add the new words in our files, much like the supplement to the *Scottish National Dictionary* (1976). But as we worked through the remainder of the alphabet, it became increasingly clear to us that, in view of the length of time that had elapsed since the first fascicle appeared in 1952 and the changes in editorial practice that had taken place since then, the kind of supplement that would best serve the scholarly community would be a full and systematic one, which, in conjunction with the completed *MED*, would provide a coherent whole in which all entries would be similar in treatment, fullness, and coverage from A to Z. This would involve revising a number of entries (especially in E and F, to a lesser extent in A through D, and occasionally in later letters) and bringing the whole dictionary up to date by a reading program to cover the large number of new editions of Middle English texts that have appeared since 1952; we, of course, did extract quotations from these editions as they were published for the letters we had not yet reached in our editing, but we would need to go back and read them again for words beginning with the letter A and continuing to where we began our extracting.

Unfortunately, the cost of producing this fuller kind of supplement—indeed, of producing even the shorter version—is very great, and beyond our means at the present time, but our supplement files are available to scholars for consultation in Ann Arbor, through the Special Collections Library in the Hatcher Graduate Library at the University of Michigan, and we expect to be able, as time and resources permit, to correct our obvious errors, to append some additional quotations for current entries, and to add some entirely new entries in the electronic *MED*. And perhaps sometime later in this century it will be possible to carry out the work necessary for a full supplement, either to be printed separately or to be incorporated into the electronic version.

### The Scope and Contents of the *Middle English Dictionary*

The *MED* is an historically oriented period-dictionary covering the variety of English known as Middle English, which was spoken and written during the period between Old English

and Early Modern English. Dividing the continuum of a language into discrete periods is always problematic, and “middle” periods are the most problematic of all because they are transitional and depend for their delimitation on the perspective of the language as a whole and on the nature and length of the periods before and after. Traditionally in English-language studies a mix of categories has been employed to define a period—the temporal/historical, the typological/linguistic, and the socio-linguistic/cultural—and that mix is reflected in the way the Middle English period has been delimited during the past 175 years.<sup>28</sup>

Historically, the year of the Norman Conquest, 1066, would seem to be an appropriate beginning date for the Middle English period, but a language does not change its linguistic characteristics overnight, and some of the characteristics that have traditionally been associated with Middle English had already appeared in Old English, whereas others did not appear until the twelfth century or even later. Moreover, the *MED* is a dictionary of written Middle English, and there is very little written English extant from the period between 1066 and the first half of the twelfth century. The editors of the *MED*, therefore, early on in the course of their work, arbitrarily set 1100 as their beginning date.<sup>29</sup> Some exceptions were made, which may seem illogical, and there is also some slight overlap with Old English at the beginning of the period. For example, some texts from the twelfth and thirteenth centuries that are either definitely or probably copies of Old English originals have been treated as Middle English, based on their date of production and on their slight variation from the Old English (e.g., c1150(OE) *Hrl.HApul.*, c1175(?OE) *Bod.Hom.*, a1225(?OE) *Lamb.Hom.*, a1225(?OE) *Trin.Hom.*);<sup>30</sup> these texts could just as easily, based on their overall language, be called late Old English, and some of them are also included in the *Dictionary of Old English (DOE)* in progress at the University of Toronto.

At the other end of the period, either 1476 (the introduction of printing into England) or 1485 (the accession of Henry VII) would, historically, seem to be an appropriate cut-off date, though in at least one aspect of the language (phonology) a date closer to the beginning of the fifteenth century would be more appropriate and in another (the rise of the standardized written variety of the language known as Chancery Standard) a date circa 1430 would be more appropriate. Kurath and his predecessors at the *MED* used 1475, “the beginning of printing,” as the end date;<sup>31</sup> this refers to date of composition. The end date has since been extended to 1500, but this refers to manuscript date, since so many texts without known composition dates appear in manuscripts dated simply “ante 1500.”<sup>32</sup> These two dates, 1475 for composition and 1500 for manuscript, are not really contradictory, and indeed it is standard practice for the *MED* to use both manuscript and composition dates in its short titles wherever possible.<sup>33</sup> Printed books, however, all produced after 1475, are excluded, on the grounds that the invention of printing “led to a standardization of spelling practices which foreshadows that of Modern English and tends to separate early printed English from other varieties of M[id]dle E[nglish]” (Kuhn 1982:17).

There are, inevitably, a number of exceptions to these general rules. For example, (1) we sometimes quote from manuscripts written in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, when these are

the only copies available, or the only complete copies, if the original texts were written during the Middle English period (e.g., c1540(?a1400) *Destr.Troy*, 1543(1464) *Hardyng Chron.B.*, 1591(?a1425) *Chester Pl.*, c1600(?c1395) *PPl.Creed*); (2) the cut-off date for composition (this applies chiefly to quotations from documents, which are assumed to be contemporary with the events they record unless the evidence indicates otherwise) has been gradually pushed forward during the years of the making of the *MED* from 1475 to approximately 1483, producing the inconsistency that some texts which were omitted in the 1950s began to be used in the 1960s and 1970s or later;<sup>34</sup> and (3) parts of certain early printed editions have been included, usually “in order that the *MED* might cover such texts completely” (Kuhn 1982: 17), if the original texts were written, or presumed to have been written, during the Middle English period (e.g., 1485 (a1470) *Malory Wks.* (Caxton: Vinaver), 1486 ?*Berners Bk.St. Albans* (Blades 1881), 1532(?a1400) *RRose* (Thynne: Robinson), 1532 rev.(c1385) *Usk TL* (Skeat)).

Our decisions about breaking up the continuum of the language and determining the beginning and end dates of the Middle English period are arbitrary, and no real harm is done if transition texts at either end of the continuum are counted in two periods; the greater harm would be the possibility that words and forms from these transition texts might be omitted in the relevant dictionaries. But this is not the case with the *MED* and the *DOE*, as the two dictionaries cover all of the relevant texts between them, and presumably it will not be the case with the *MED* and the *Early Modern English Dictionary* if the latter ever becomes a reality.

Texts in English written or copied between 1100 and 1500 in England, Ireland, and Wales are included in the corpus for the *MED*.<sup>35</sup> Texts in English written in Scotland, that is, Middle Scots texts, are excluded because they are treated by the *Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue (DOST)*. There were, however, some inconsistencies in our practice regarding Middle Scots texts in the early parts of the *MED*. Our policy has always been to place non-Middle English quotations (those in, e.g., Latin, Old French, Old English, Middle Scots), when used for various illustrative purposes, in brackets at the beginnings of the blocks of Middle English quotations, regardless of date. But with some Middle Scots quotations the brackets were omitted and the quotations placed among the Middle English quotations, and occasionally Middle Scots quotations were the only ones used to illustrate a meaning.<sup>36</sup> In spite of these inconsistencies, however, the general rule regarding the exclusion of Middle Scots texts still holds.

Inevitably a period dictionary, though it belongs to the genre of historical dictionary in its coverage of a longer or shorter duration of historical time and in its use of chronologically arranged quotations, has characteristics of a synchronic dictionary, covering as it does a specific slice of the language as a whole. This is true of the *MED*, as it is true also of the other English period dictionaries, the *DOE* and *DOST*.<sup>37</sup> But this raises two problems for makers of such dictionaries: the first is how to distinguish the chronological, or diachronic, dimension from the synchronic dimension. Many changes—orthographic, phonological, morphological, lexical, etc.—occurred during the nearly 400-year period that we call Middle English, and it would give a misleading impression if there were not some way to call

attention to these changes, or at least the majority of them. Lexical changes can of course be seen in the dated quotations: whether, for example, a native word survives into early Middle English and then dies out, or a borrowed word first appears later in the period and continues to the end, and so forth. Orthographic (and, through the orthographic, the phonological) and morphological changes, on the other hand, can be seen only in the variant spellings and forms, of which, depending on the word, there may be a large number represented in the quotations. One way to call attention to the diachronic aspect(s) of these among the variant spellings and in the form sections is to label them by century, as *OED1* and *OED2* do, and also *OED3* from the sixteenth century on. Another way, which is the one used in the *MED*, is to label them "early" (up to circa 1300) or "late" (between 1450 and 1500), with unmarked spellings and forms to be assumed as covering the whole period (or as much of it as there are quotations) or at least as not specifically "early" or "late."<sup>38</sup> These two labels have been used from the early volumes (A through F) of the *MED* on, with the number of occurrences of the label "early" increasing greatly in the later volumes, by more than double in G through P and by more than eightfold in Q through Z.

The second problem for makers of period dictionaries, and this is especially relevant to the *MED*, is how to distinguish this chronological, or diachronic, dimension from the geographical/regional, or diatopic, dimension (which is itself an aspect of the synchronic dimension). As Barbara Strang puts it, "M[iddle] E[nglish] is, *par excellence*, the dialectal phase of English, in the sense that while dialects have been spoken at all periods, it was in M[iddle] E[nglish] that divergent local usage was normally indicated in writing . . . It stands alone as having a rich and varied documentation in localised varieties of English, and dialectology is more central to the study of M[iddle] E[nglish] than to any other branch of English historical linguistics" (1970: 224-25). Indeed, until late in the period there was *only* regional diversity in both the spoken and the written language. But "In the course of the fifteenth century, and not at the same rate in all places [(circa 1430 in the south, somewhat later in the north), written] regional diversity gives way increasingly to Chancery Standard, the official language of the London administrators and the direct ancestor of modern Standard English" (*LALME* 1986: 1.3). This situation accounts for the heavy emphasis on regional dialect in the original *Plan* (1954), as well as for the rationale, early in the history of the *MED*, for the dialectal survey carried out by Moore, Meech, and Whitehall (1935). Ideally, as the authors of *LALME* (1986) and the forthcoming *Linguistic Atlas of Early Middle English (LAEME)* have been saying for some time, a time-span of 125 to 150 years is about "the most that can be covered without the problem arising that diachronic changes . . . may confuse the pattern produced by synchronic regional variation."<sup>39</sup> Kurath recognized that dialectal information was essential to an adequate description of Middle English, but he seldom used dialectal labels among the variant spellings and in the form sections in his part of the *MED* (A through F). In Kuhn's part (G through P), however, there was an increase in the number, especially from M on, and in mine (Q through Z) a further, larger increase, and, in addition—in order to help to solve the problem laid out at the beginning of this paragraph—we have tried in the later volumes to indicate the combination of the

diachronic and the diatopic (e.g., "early SWM") whenever possible (see further **Appendix I**).

Middle English is characterized by a number of features: in phonology, the merger of the short vowels of unstressed syllables into a single sound like the final vowel in the word *sofa* (/ə/), and some changes in tonic vowels, especially (for long vowels) the beginnings of the Great Vowel Shift towards the end of the period; in morphology, the reduction—sometimes the near-total loss—of inflections in all parts of speech (with the concomitant syntactic development of a more fixed word order and a more frequent use of periphrastic constructions); in regional dialectology, the great diversity already mentioned; and in vocabulary, the influence of other languages, chiefly French. All of these features are based on, or extrapolated from, the written language, for written texts are all that remain for Middle English; the *MED* provides data for the study of these features, but its main focus is of course on the last one: the vocabulary.

The Middle English period is the great formative period in the development of the English lexicon, and the primary reason for this is that Middle English borrows or assimilates from so many different sources. At the beginning of the period the language is almost entirely West Germanic; by the end it has become that mix of Germanic, Romance, and Latin elements that gives it its current variety and cosmopolitan character. Five main elements go into this mix: (1) the parent language, Old English; (2) Old Norse, the language of the Scandinavian invaders who came to England in waves from the mid-eighth century to the early eleventh century, which is most prevalent in the northern and eastern parts of the country but which does not really begin to show itself in English until early in the Middle English period and later; (3) French, the language of the next wave of invaders in the second half of the eleventh century, which appears in the first instance as the Norman dialect of the conquerors but later, because of contacts with the continent and through Old French literature, as a different dialect or variety; (4) Latin, especially in the later part of the period, both in its classical form and in its medieval form, including the insular variety known as Anglo-Latin, which was influenced by both Anglo-French and Old English; and finally (5) the continental Germanic dialects of the low countries and northwestern Germany known as Middle Dutch and Middle Low German, which were a prevalent influence on English from the beginning of the period but especially towards the end because of trading relations, the wool industry, Flemish settlements in England, and the like.

In addition to borrowing directly from other languages, Middle English enlarges its lexicon by employing processes that were already at work in the native language. One of these is compounding, which was used frequently in Old English (especially in poetry), that is, the combining of two (or more) words to form a single lexical item (e.g., noun + noun: *salt-saler* (e n., *tile-ston* n., *wei-goer* n.; noun + adjective: *lillie-whit* adj., *signe-manuel* n.; adjective + noun: *heigh wel* n., in *heigh* adj. 2b.(e); adjective + adjective: *red-hot* adj., in *red* adj. 7.; verb + noun: *save-nap* (e n., *want-wit* n.); for others see below, the introduction to **An Entry and Its Constituent Parts** and section 6. (c). Another is derivation, that is, the addition of affixes to a base (e.g., *bisnesse* n., *elvish* adj., *kindeshipe* n., *outridere* n., *thennesward* adv., *undergrowen* v., all of which combine native affixes with native words); this process in Middle

English also involved borrowing, since foreign words, once borrowed, could take native affixes (e.g., **chereful** adj., **feithles** adj., **nicehede** n., **pesfulli** adv., **underden** n., **ungentilnes**(se n., **upclosen** v.), and native words could take foreign affixes, especially from French and Latin (e.g., **defilen** v., **giltif** adj., **onement**(e n., **reneuen** v.(1), **retaking** ger., **seable** adj.). Some others are collocation, that is, the persistent association between particular words (e.g., **grith and frith**, **sake and soke**, **stif and stoute**, **sweten and swinken**, **tide and time**, **up and down**; or **sharp as a sword**, **strong as stele**, **whit as snou**; or **not worth a lek/oistre**/etc.) and the development of phrasal verbs (that is, simple verb plus adverb), often alongside, or sometimes even in place of, earlier combinations of verb plus prefix (e.g., **holden on**, **setten down**, **taken awei**; or **comen in**, **faren oute**, **passen over**, **springen up** alongside **incomen**, **outfaren**, **overpassen**, **upspringen**).<sup>40</sup> All of these processes, and others, along with the borrowings from foreign languages, may be seen in the entries presented in the *MED*.

### An Entry and Its Constituent Parts

Entries are arranged alphabetically and are of four types: primary words (that is, words free of affixes), derivatives, compounds and combinations of primary words or derivatives, and affixes or combining elements. Interspersed among the entries, also in alphabetical order, are cross-references to the variant spellings and grammatical forms taken from the main entries. Derivatives normally contain separate affixes, but sometimes related affixes are joined together in a single entry (e.g., **-ari**(e suf./-e)rie suf. and **-er**(e suf.(1)/-our suf.).<sup>41</sup>

Compounds and combinations are of two types: *asyntactic* and *syntactic*. Those which are *asyntactic* are normally treated as separate entries (e.g., **bit(t)er-swete** adj. as n., **for(e-ganger** n., **hennes-forth** adv., **lillie-whit** adj., **sang-rede** n., **sauf-vouchen** v., **wher-in**(ne adv. & conj., **who-ever** pron.). Those which are *syntactic*, which are often difficult to distinguish from phrases, are treated either as separate entries or under one of the members (at least the first, and, as the *MED* progresses, under the second, or third, as well). To qualify as a separate entry, a *syntactic* compound must have some complexity in one or more of the following categories:<sup>42</sup>

(1) *meaning*: it must have at least two lettered (or numbered) senses (e.g., **sak-cloth** n., **scab-wort** n., **se-bank**(e n., **setl-gang** n.);

(2) *form*: either it must have a spelling or morphological modification in the first member or in the combination of the two members (e.g., **lemman** n., **shakelok** n., **shaltre** n., **skilom** n., **womman** n., and see the variant spellings for **save-nap**(e n., **seven-night** n., **shir-reve** n.), or there must be variant spellings or forms that do not appear either in the entry for the first member or in the entry for the second member if already treated in the *MED* (e.g., **sal-nitre** n., **seil**(e-cloth n., **se-meu**(e n.);

(3) *etymology*: it must require a special comment (e.g., **sat-wort** n., **Sexene-lage** n.), including cases in which one (or more) of the members of the compound or combination is unattested as a simplex (e.g., **neue-fangel** adj., **war-lou** n., **Wednes-dal** n.).

Compounds and combinations, when treated as separate entries, normally have a hyphen between the members, but they

are written solid primarily when a spelling or morphological modification has taken place (see first set of examples in (2) above) or when the compound is no longer perceived as a compound (e.g., **saucefleume** n., **selcouth** adj., **windou**(e n.), and they have the members spaced primarily when their status as compounds is uncertain (e.g., **sancta sanctorum** phr., **saun**(s **fail**(e phr., **scire facias** n., **shir**(e **Thuresdai** phr.). (For the treatment of compounds and combinations under one or more of the members within the body of the entry, see below, section 6. (c).)

All entries are assumed to be Middle English, but, with two other languages, French and Latin, in use in England, in addition to English, during the period, it is sometimes difficult to distinguish English words from those which are Latin or French, especially with nouns.<sup>43</sup> For example, Old French, and especially Anglo-French, nouns have essentially the same morphological shape as Middle English nouns from the thirteenth century on, and it is usually only by the context that one can decide from which language they derive. The *MED* errs on the side of inclusion with such words, though we sometimes indicate when we are uncertain about their status (see, e.g., **trief** n., **ulner** n., **wambais** n.).<sup>44</sup> With Latin the situation is somewhat different because the words in question (also usually nouns) normally have a Latin suffix and belong to the class of technical vocabulary (plant names, legal terms, medical or anatomical terms, etc.), and the criteria for deciding whether they belong to the Middle English word stock are different as well. If the context is definitely Middle English, if (for translation texts) the words are used in their Latin nominative form when the original has the oblique form, or if they continue in their Latin form into Modern English, then we normally treat them as Middle English (e.g., **nasturcium** n., **peritoneum** n., **quorum** n., **sandix** n., **terapeucia** n., **tibia** n., **ulcus** n., **versus** prep., **virus** n.).<sup>45</sup>

### 1. Headword and Part of Speech

Each entry begins with a boldfaced headword, followed by its part of speech or grammatical category in abbreviated form. The headword is lowercased except for proper nouns and their derivatives, which begin with a capital letter. Parentheses or a single parenthesis may be used within a headword to indicate that it has two forms equally qualified to serve as the standard headword spelling.

Nouns are normally given in the nominative singular form (though occasionally in the plural if they are attested only in that form). If the evidence is extensive enough, pronouns are given separate entries for nominative, accusative, genitive, and occasionally dative cases, and the same applies to the definite articles in **th-** derived from Old English. Verbs are given in the infinitive, nearly always with an **-en** ending, which is reconstructed if not attested in the quotations. Participles are treated under the verb unless no other form of the verb occurs or they appear only in adjectival constructions, in which case they are given separate entries. Adverbs are nearly always given separate entries, though they may be treated under the adjective if the adverbial usage is rare and the forms and etyma are not distinct, with the formula "As adv.;" less frequently adjectives are treated under the adverb, with the formula "As adj."

## 10 Spelling and Diacritics

Adjectives used as nouns are normally treated under the relevant adjectives unless they refer to abstractions, in which case they are given their own noun entries. Entries for numerals contain both adjectival and nominal senses, with the adjectival ones listed first.

Homonyms and homographs belonging to the same part of speech are labeled (1), (2), etc.; for homographs the normal order is for those without diacritics to precede those with diacritics (with vowels marked both long and short to precede long vowels,  $\bar{e}$ ,  $\bar{o}$  to precede  $\bar{e}$ ,  $\bar{o}$ , and  $\bar{o}$  to come between  $\bar{o}$  and  $\bar{o}$  wherever possible). Homonyms and homographs belonging to different parts of speech or grammatical categories are arranged in the following order: noun, gerund, pronoun, article, adjective, participle, numeral, adverb, verb, preposition, conjunction, interjection, particle, affix.

### 2. Spelling and Diacritics

The headwords are, in principle, based on the Southeast Midland (or London) dialect of circa 1400.<sup>46</sup> If the word is actually attested in that dialect between, say, 1350 and the end of the Middle English period, then usually the most common spelling from that dialect is given as the headword. If not, either an attested spelling from one of the other dialects is given (usually the most common one),<sup>47</sup> or the spelling is reconstructed. The latter practice is used if the present tense of a strong or an irregular verb, the singular of a noun, or the positive degree of an irregular adjective or adverb is not attested, but the practice is also used in order to keep related words together in a series (e.g., derivatives, such as *soukerel* n. and *specheful* adj.) or as close as possible to each other alphabetically (e.g., all verbs derived from Old English verbs with *ge*-prefix begin with *i*-, whether or not an *i*-form is actually attested).

If the word is attested in the Southeast Midland (or London) dialect, the headword is given in a standardized spelling based on the phonemes of that dialect circa 1400. These phonemes, which are given below, are rather well known, partly by inference from the spellings of the dialect itself,<sup>48</sup> partly from rhymes, partly from Old English, Old French, and Latin antecedents, and partly from the details of the later history of the dialect as it develops into standard Modern English. The spellings chosen for the phonemes are taken from, or closely conform to the usage of, the manuscripts of the writers (primarily Geoffrey Chaucer and his contemporaries) who use the Southeast Midland (or London) dialect during the last quarter of the fourteenth century and into the early fifteenth century.<sup>49</sup>

Vowels and Diphthongs		
Short Vowels	Long Vowels	Diphthongs
/i/	/ī/ (=i:)	/iū/ (=iu/) <sup>50</sup>
/e/	/ē/ (=e:)	/eu/
	/ē/ (=ɛ:)	
/ə/ (unstressed)		
/a/	/ā/ (=a:)	/ai/, /au/
/o/	/ō/ (=o:)	/oi/, /ou/
	/ō/ (=ɔ:)	
/u/	/ū/ (=u:)	/ui/

Consonants						
	Labial	Dental	Alveolar	Palatoalveolar	Palatal	Velar
Stop	/p/	/t/		/ch/ (=tʃ/)		/k/
	/b/	/d/		/ġ/ (=dʒ/)		/g/
Fricative	/f/	/th/ (=θ/)	/s/	/sh/ (=ʃ/)		/gh, h/ (=x/)
	/v/	/th/ (=ð/)	/z/			
Nasal	/m/	/n/				
Liquid	/w/	/r/, /l/			/y/ (=j/)	

These phonemic spellings involve some standardization, and that standardization has been retained, and slightly expanded, in the spellings of the headwords. The major categories of standardization are as follows:

(1) of the pairs *i/j*, *l/y*, *u/v*, *u/w*, which are usually interchangeable in the manuscripts, *j*, *v*, *w*, and *y* are used for consonants (e.g., *jogelour* n., *leven* n., *walwen* v., *oinyon* n.),<sup>51</sup> and *i* and *u* are used for vowels and in the diphthongs (e.g., *blithe* adj., *inli* adv., *unseien* v., *wough* n.(2));

(2) the various spellings for /sh/—*sh*, *ssh*, *sch*, *ssch*, *ss*, *s*—have been standardized as *sh*, as in *fish* n., *ship* n. (for a few exceptions with *sch*, based on etymology, see *sch-cons.clust.*);<sup>52</sup>

(3) doubled vowels are reduced to a single vowel, on the assumption that they represent a single long vowel (unless the evidence indicates otherwise);

(4) *th* is used for both the voiceless dental fricative /θ/ and the voiced dental fricative /ð/ in all positions (e.g., *bath* n., *thing* n. and *bathen* v., *fether* n., *the* def.art. respectively); the earlier spellings, *þ* and *ð*, have been retained only when a word is attested in early quotations with one of these spellings (e.g., *fixnoð* n., *stilðe* n., *tactþe* n., *truþ* n.) or is a possible error (e.g., *vilenþe* n.), and even then *th*- is used initially (e.g., *thearle* adv. and *theoten* v.);

(5) of the pair *gh/h*, *gh* is used medially and finally (e.g., *laughen* v., *sigh(e* n., *thurgh* prep.), *h* initially (e.g., *harpen* v., *humble* adj.); medial and final *ʒ*, *ʒh*, *g*, *h*, and *hg* are standardized as *gh* unless a word is attested once or only a few times, usually early, with only *ʒ* or *h* (e.g., *mon-slaʒe* n., *reh* adj., *sihe* n., *wlouʒ* adj.);

(6) doubled consonants are reduced to a single one within a syllable or in final position (e.g., *full* to *ful*, *mann* to *man*, *wittnesse* to *witnesse*), but are retained between syllables (e.g., *pollen* v., *sitten* v., including those that appear exceptional but are called for by the etymology, like *recchen* v.(1) and *sitthe* adv., from the Old English doubled consonants -*cc*- and -*ðð*-, in contrast to *rechen* v.(1) and *sithe* n., from the Old English single consonants -*c*- and -*ð*-);

(7) initial *qu*-, which is the usual spelling in the Southeast

Midland dialect for /kw/, of whatever origin, is used in all relevant entries but one in Q, even when another spelling may be more common for a given word;

(8) initial **wh-**, which is the usual spelling in the Southeast Midland dialect for words from Old English **hw-** or Old Norse **hv-**, is used in all relevant entries in W, even when another spelling may be more common for a given word;

(9) initial **y-** is used for **z-** throughout Y no matter what the actual spellings of the words in question are (and note that the 3 section of the *MED* contains, with the one exception of 3 n., only cross-references to other words, chiefly those with initial **y-**, sometimes those with initial **l-**, occasionally those with initial **g-**);

(10) in native words and borrowings from other Germanic languages the unstressed short vowel /ə/ is usually spelled **e**, especially finally and in inflected endings (chiefly infinitives in **-en**), but in Latin and Old French borrowings the traditional spelling of those languages is usually retained.

To avoid too great a divergence from the spelling of the manuscripts, however, the following traditional (historical) spellings are used in the headwords as equivalents of specific phonemes listed above:

(1) **ei**, beside **ai**, where earlier Middle English (from Old English, Old French, and Old Norse) had /ei/, which coalesced with /ai/ by the end of the fourteenth century, with spellings in either **ai** or **ei** (e.g., **grei** adj. & n., **seil**(e n., **streit** adj., **thei** pron. beside **batail**(e n., **displaien** v., **fair** adj., **nai** interj.);

(2) **c** for both /k/ (as in **cler** adj., **courteis** adj. & n., **craft** n.(1), **discret**(e adj., **extincten** v., **recorden** v., **sclaundre** n., **scornen** v., where **c** appears before a back vowel or a consonant, chiefly /l/ and /r/) and /s/ (as in **certain** adj., **cite** n., **nacloun** n., where **c** appears before a front vowel or /ə/);

(3) **o** is kept when it appears in manuscripts and represents /u/, usually in the neighborhood of minims, but a hacek has been added to it (=ð) to distinguish it from /o/, as in **cōmen** v., **lōve** n.(1), **pōding** n., **sōnne** n.;

(4) **j** for /ǰ/, chiefly in words from Old French such as **joi**(e n., **objeccoun** n.;

(5) **s** for /z/ between voiced sounds (e.g., **resoun** n.(2), **risen** v.) or in final **-(e)s** (e.g., **temporales** adj.pl., **upwardes** adv., **youres** pron. and in low-stress words like the **is**, was forms of **ben** v.);

(6) **gn** for /n/ in some words of Old French origin (e.g., **benigne** adj., **regne** n.(1), **soigne** n.);<sup>53</sup>

(7) earlier **æ**, which fell out of fashion in the thirteenth century, being replaced usually by **a** or **e/ee**, has been retained only when a word is attested in early quotations with this spelling, once or a very few times (e.g., **æ** n., **ætǰædere** adv., **blæð** adj., **iwæcen** v., **untæle** adv., **wulder-fæste** adj.).

Diacritics appear on certain vowels and one consonant in the list of phonemes above to identify the quantity or quality of the ambiguous phonemic spellings, and these are retained in the spellings of the headwords. The macron is used to indicate length, the inferior dot to indicate the quality of long close ē and long close ǫ (to distinguish them from the open variety of the two, ē and ǫ), and the inverted circumflex, or hacek, on the long vowel ǫu (to distinguish it from the diphthong ou) and on one consonant, the voiced affricate ǰ (to distinguish it from the voiced velar g). The hacek is also used in headwords on the

short vowel ǫ (see item 3 in previous list of spellings). In addition, the breve is used in combination with the macron when a vowel can be either long or short (e.g., ē̆) and, as the *MED* progresses, occasionally on its own as well to make a point. Most of these diacritics are the traditional variety in use in early English studies, both before Kurath's time and since, and diacritics of quantity also appear in the standard dictionaries of Old English (Bosworth-Toller with supplements, 1882-1972, and Clark Hall-Merritt, 1960) and in one Middle English dictionary that preceded the *MED* (Bradley-Stratmann, 1891), and indeed continue to appear, as in the *DOE* (in progress).<sup>54</sup> The spelling of the headwords, therefore, is basically the spelling of the manuscripts, with some standardization, reflecting as closely as possible the phonemes of the Southeast Midland (or London) dialect of circa 1400, and with a few diacritics superimposed on the spelling.

### 3. Variant Spellings and Form Section

Following the headword are the variant spellings and the grammatical forms, boldfaced, that are attested in the quotations, with labels for those that (so far as we can confirm from our data) are exclusively "early" (1100 to circa 1300), "late" (after 1450 but before 1500), dialectal (i.e., in a dialect other than Southeast Midland), "in names" (or "in place names," "as surname," etc.), or erroneous (or possibly erroneous).<sup>55</sup> Normally we do not list post-medieval spellings unless they are unusual, in which case (from S on only) we list them with the labels "16th cent.," "17th cent.," etc. Errors and possible errors come at the end of the lists of variant spellings or grammatical forms, but are not noted for names. Contractions (if they exist) appear last, following either the variant spellings or (more commonly) the grammatical forms.

The lists of variant spellings have always been intended to "include spellings which reflect phonemic or important phonetic variations and confusing spellings which the reader of a M[iddle] E[nglish] text would have difficulty in tracing to the proper entry in the *MED* . . . [as well as those] representing chronological or dialectal differences . . ." (Kuhn 1982: 37), and the lists of grammatical forms to include all those forms that deviate from the regular ones. In the first two letters to be published, E and F, the lists were selective, and sometimes omitted phonemically significant spellings, but they became somewhat fuller in A through D and considerably fuller in G through P; since the beginning of Q we have tried to be as complete as possible in our listing of both variant spellings and grammatical forms.<sup>56</sup> However, if an entry is a compound or combination of two elements or contains an affix, the spellings already listed in the *MED* for the second element or for the affix are not normally repeated.<sup>57</sup> Also, if one entry is derived from another, e.g., an adverb in **-li** from the corresponding adjective without **-li**, the spellings of the former are not normally repeated in the latter.

Variant spellings, which are always preceded by the word "Also," represent for nouns the nominative singular (and other cases in the singular that are not clearly oblique), for adjectives and adverbs the positive degree, and for verbs the infinitive, present first person singular, present subjunctive, and singular imperative; inflected present tense forms of the verb regularly

## 12 Cross-References; Etymology

derivable from the infinitive may be given the **-en** infinitive ending and be listed among the variant spellings.

Grammatical forms of a word (i.e., oblique cases and plurals of nouns, comparative and superlative degrees and plurals of adjectives, comparative and superlative degrees of adverbs, and tenses of verbs) are always labeled; they follow either the variant spellings (separated from them by a semi-colon or a period, and sometimes preceded by the word "Forms," especially if they are plentiful) or (if there are no variant spellings) the headword itself. All forms that do not conform to the regular paradigms illustrated below are given. Regular forms are given only if they are paralleled by irregular ones or if there are unusual root spellings with regular forms attached, or when the intention is to be complete in the listing of forms.

### Regular Paradigms

Nouns: sg. gen. **-es, -is, -us**; pl. **-es, -is, -us**

Adjectives and adverbs: comp. **-er(e, -ir(e, -ur(e, -re; sup. -est(e, -ist(e, -ust(e**

Verbs: present: sg.2 **-es(t, -is(t, -ust**  
sg.3 **-eth, -ith, -uth & -es, -is, -us**  
pl. **-e(n, -in, -un & -eth, -ith, -uth & (chiefly N & NM) -es, -is**  
ppl. **-ing(e, -in, -eng(e & -inde, -ende, (N & NM) -and(e**

past: sg.1/3 & ppl. **-ed(e, -id(e, -ud(e, -de**  
pl. **-ed(e(n, -edin, -edun, -id(e(n, -idin, -idun, -ud(e(n, -udin, -udun, -den, -din, -dun**

In the listing of variant spellings and grammatical forms some of the conventions used for the headwords have normally been kept (specifically, items 1, 3, and 6 on p. 10b), but the variants otherwise follow the manuscripts as closely as possible, and for errors or possible errors the actual spellings are normally used, especially from R on. Some observations on specific details: (1) in accordance with item 2 on p. 10b, most of the variant spellings for /sh/ are not noted, but **s** and **ss** are given, along with **sc** for early spellings, if not duplicated in post-circa 1300 spellings as **sh**, as are all examples of initial **x**, a characteristic primarily of East Anglia; (2) the actual **þ** and **ð** from the manuscripts are given for early spellings and forms if they are not duplicated in post-circa 1300 spellings as **th**, but only one of the two (usually **þ**) is given if the variant spellings are otherwise identical; (3) **ȝ** appears as **z** when it consistently represents a sibilant (chiefly in final position in the poems from MS Cotton Nero A.x, *Cleanness*, *Gawain*, *Patience*, and *Pearl*, and in a few other texts, e.g., *Chauliac(1)* and *MS Rawl.B.520* [OD col.]); (4) as a general rule, diacritics are not used with variant spellings or with grammatical forms that follow the variant spellings separated only by a semi-colon,<sup>58</sup> but if a full-fledged form section is needed (indicated by a period at the end of the variant spellings followed by either a capital letter or the word "Forms"), then all of the following grammatical forms will have diacritics wherever appropriate.

Parentheses or a single parenthesis may be used within a variant spelling or a grammatical form to indicate that it can be expanded into two forms (e.g., **turnd(e** and **whit(t)e**, mean,

respectively, that both **turnd** and **turnde** are past tense forms of **turnen** v. and **white** and **whitte** are variant spellings of **whit** adj.).<sup>59</sup> An ampersand (&) is frequently used between groups of variant spellings or grammatical forms to separate different stem vowels, spellings illustrative of different forms of the etymon, strong and weak past tense forms of verbs, etc. An ampersand always cancels the label or diacritics of the preceding group of spellings or forms. In the listing of grammatical forms an ampersand is frequently preceded by an "etc." This formula ("etc. &") indicates that regular forms having one or more of the variant spellings listed in the "Also" spellings or earlier in the grammatical forms are also attested in the quotations and that in addition there are regular forms with other variant spellings or irregular forms as listed after the ampersand.

As noted above, all variant spellings and irregular grammatical forms are alphabetically cross-referenced to their respective headwords among the main entries; regular forms are not normally cross-referenced.

## 4. Cross-References

Following the variant spellings and the form section are boldfaced cross-references, where appropriate, to other entries in the *MED*, preceded by "Cp." These cross-references, which do not appear among the main entries, are nearly always to entries that are similar in meaning or otherwise bear some semantic relationship to the headword. This is also the position for comments on spellings or forms, especially when the spellings do not derive from the immediate etymon, e.g., "for other forms see such and such a word." Beginning in S, with **she** pron., we also list in this position selected spellings taken from the relevant entries in Volume 4 of *LALME* (1986) but not attested in our quotations.

## 5. Etymology

Only the immediate source of the Middle English word is given, boldfaced, with diacritics wherever appropriate, and enclosed in brackets. There are full etymological notes in the *OED* and in the more recent unabridged dictionaries, like *Webster's Third New International Dictionary of the English Language* (1961) and the second edition of *The Random House Dictionary of the English Language* (1987), and in the specifically etymological dictionaries, like *The Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology* (1966) and *The Barnhart Dictionary of Etymology* (1988), not to mention some of the dictionaries of the languages from which Middle English words are most often derived. It has seemed unnecessary to us to repeat or paraphrase in the *MED* the elaborate etymologies in such dictionaries, which trace words back through Germanic, Italic, etc. to their ultimate Indo-European sources. From the point of view of Middle English it is the immediate source that is the important one.

The source is cited in the form (or forms) that will enable the user of the *MED* to pursue its remoter history in the standard dictionaries of Old English, Old French, Latin, Medieval Latin, Old Icelandic, etc. For the languages most commonly cited in the etymologies, for which there is more than one standard

dictionary,<sup>60</sup> we cite headwords from the dictionaries in the following order of precedence: for Old English (OE), Bosworth-Toller (including supplements, 1882-1972), Clark Hall-Merritt (1960), *A Microfiche Concordance to Old English* (1980); for Old French (OF), Tobler-Lommatzsch (1925-), Godefroy (1880-1902); for Anglo-French (AF), the *Anglo-Norman Dictionary* (1977-92), Tobler-Lommatzsch (1925-2002) or Godefroy (1880-1902) if relevant (for *MED* entries up to the end of S, when the *Anglo-Norman Dictionary* caught up with the *MED*); for Latin (L), the *Oxford Latin Dictionary* (1968-82; from R on), Lewis and Short (1907; the preferred source before R), Souter (1949); for Medieval Latin (ML), the *Revised Medieval Latin Word-List* (1965) or the *Dictionary of Medieval Latin from British Sources* (as far as it goes; 1975-) when corroborated by other ML evidence, Du Cange (1833-87), Niermeyer (1954-76), Blaise (1975); for Anglo-Latin (AL), the *Revised Medieval Latin Word-List* (1965) or the *Dictionary of Medieval Latin from British Sources* (1975-); for Old Icelandic (OI), Zoëga (1910), Cleasby-Vigfusson (1874), Fritzner (1886-96); for Middle Low German (MLG), Lasch-Borchling (as far as it goes; 1928-), Schiller-Lübben (1875-81).

The meaning of the OE or foreign word is given only when the meaning of the Middle English word diverges significantly from the range of meanings attested in the source or when the source is a homograph or homonym.

Variants of the source language (including sometimes even the errors) that appear to be reflected in the Middle English spellings are cited, when readily available, along with the headword;<sup>61</sup> diacritics are supplied wherever appropriate. These variants are taken both from the dictionaries listed above and from other sources (other dictionaries, texts from which a Middle English work has been translated, etc.) without comment.

The etymologies in A through F are generally brief, and sometimes even omitted,<sup>62</sup> and they contain relatively few variants from the source languages in question. The etymologies in G through P are more elaborate, especially those involving OE, which was Kuhn's primary field of research, and they continue along these same lines in Q through Z, but with the fullness in these letters extended to the Latin and French etymologies as more AF evidence became available, primarily through the *Anglo-Norman Dictionary* (1977-92), and as we looked further into the ML and AL evidence.

When the direct source of a Middle English word is unattested, whatever the reason, a word related to it in some way may be cited for comparison, preceded by "cp." When no plausible source can be suggested, we use "Origin unknown" or, in earlier parts of the *MED*, make no comment.

If a language label appears without citation of an etymon, it means either that the etymon is identical to the Middle English headword or (for OE, OF, AF, L, ML, AL) that the etymon appears below in a quotation from the language in question, in brackets, preceding the Middle English quotations or in a bracketed gloss in a Middle English quotation. If, however, a query or "Prob.," "Possibly," "Perh." precedes the label, this does not suggest an identity of etymon and Middle English headword but only that the actual etymon may be from the language in question but has not been found.

Words inherited from OE frequently reflect Anglian rather

than, or in addition to, West Saxon forms. These Anglian forms, as well as the constituent Mercian and Northumbrian forms, are cited whenever they are attested, along with the corresponding specifically West Saxon forms if there are any; if only the Anglian forms are involved, the West Saxon forms are given for comparison, preceded by "cp."

Words were introduced into English from French throughout the Middle English period, first from AF,<sup>63</sup> later more largely from Central French (CF).<sup>64</sup> Whenever AF agrees with CF, the source is cited simply as OF, a designation used here to include not only the French of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries but that of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries as well. When Middle English has distinct forms from both AF and CF, or from only one of these, as well as from Northern French (ONF),<sup>65</sup> an attempt is made to give the relevant forms. The label AF is usually used for Anglo-French (that is, Norman French as it developed in Britain), but sometimes encompasses forms in Norman texts, in French texts written by British writers on the continent, and in insular copies of continental French originals when these correspond to expected AF forms.

Throughout the Middle English period Latin enriched the word stock of English, especially from the latter part of the fourteenth century onward, when learned works were translated into the vernacular in large numbers and when legal, administrative, religious, and other specialized vocabulary entered the language.<sup>66</sup> Words of this origin are cited as L if they occur in Classical Latin or in later Latin down to roughly 600 A.D.; otherwise they are cited as ML or AL, the latter of which is restricted to Latin derived from OE, Middle English, or AF or used only in Britain so far as we can tell from the dictionaries or from the cultural or historical context. Since many L words came into English by way of OF, it is often impossible to say whether any given word entered Middle English directly from L, from OF, or from both sources. In such cases both L (or ML, AL) and OF (or AF, CF, ONF) are cited or referred to.<sup>67</sup>

Words taken from Old Norse are usually not reconstructed in the form in which they entered English; instead, the OI or a form from another North Germanic language, preferably a form from an older period, is cited for comparison.

Etymologies are given in Q through Z for all derivatives, though in the early volumes they were omitted, especially if the formation of the derivative was obvious. If a derivative is clearly formed on an attested primary word, we say "from such and such a primary"; if the primary word is not attested but another derivative from the same base does occur, we say "cp. such and such a derivative"; if the relation of a derivative to other members of a kinship group is not clear, we say simply "cp. such and such words." Since prefixes, suffixes, and infixes are fully treated in separate entries, the user of the *MED* should not find it difficult to identify these elements, though in ambiguous cases we specify which affixes are involved.

As with derivatives, etymologies for all compounds and combinations are given in Q through Z, though in the early volumes they were often omitted if the elements of the compound or combination were clear. In all parts of the *MED*, if any element of a compound or combination is rare, obscure, or ambiguous, a reference to the simplex is provided. When a compound or combination occurs only in the body of an entry,

## 14 Meaning and Definitions

and is attested in the language from which the primary word is taken (usually OE), we frequently cite the source in brackets following it.

### 6. Body of the Entry

The body of the entry contains the definitions, along with relevant phrases, collocations, and compounds and combinations containing the word in question, followed by illustrative quotations for each of these components.

#### (a) Meaning and Definitions

In the *MED* the analysis of meaning is based upon Middle English usage insofar as that can be inferred from the written remains of the period, in the form of quotations which a systematic selective sampling has put at our disposal through our reading program. These remains, both because they are written and because they are a sampling, are inevitably an incomplete record of the range of varieties, genres, registers, idioms, etc. used by the speakers and writers of the period. That, however, is the nature of the evidence on which the *MED*, like nearly all other historical dictionaries, must rely, and we must assume that our sampling techniques are sound and thorough and that the evidence is as full and as representative as possible. If it appears to be less than full or representative, we sometimes undertake a quick search of appropriate texts and glossaries to supplement our stock of quotations, but in the main our treatment relies upon the material in our files.

Our basic principle in determining meaning is not to claim more knowledge than we can glean from the quotations themselves and from their context, though we of course draw upon other sources, in addition to the quotations, to help us in this process, e.g.,

- (1) The work of other lexicographers, editors of texts, and scholars who have dealt with the Middle English lexicon and the specific works and words in question;
- (2) The meanings of the words in earlier and later periods of English (Old English, Middle Scots, Early Modern English, etc.) or in the language from which they were borrowed;
- (3) The meanings of related words in Middle English or in the language from which they were borrowed;
- (4) Drawings, artifacts, and other tangible remains;
- (5) Contemporary encyclopedic works;
- (6) Reconstructions of the past by non-language scholars, i.e., specialists in literature, science, law and politics, material culture, the arts, religion, philosophy, etc.<sup>68</sup>

With respect to ways of defining, in the editing plan devised by Kurath in the late 1940s the *MED* was conceived as primarily a bilingual translation dictionary, "designed for use by those who are at home in M[oder]n E[nglish]" (Kuhn 1982: 32), and that general orientation has remained throughout. A Modern English translation or paraphrase is often the most effective way to convey the meaning of the Middle English word and is the preferred method in the *MED*. This typically takes the form of a synonym, or, if there is any ambiguity to the synonym, a second and sometimes a third synonym or a qualifying phrase or statement may be added.<sup>69</sup> Explicit definition is normally reserved for "Words with involved senses (e.g., *ME kinde* noun) [or for] words which have no equivalents in M[oder]n E[nglish],

such as] names of tools or implements no longer used (e.g., *arblast*, especially as used in surgery), words for obsolete customs or practices (e.g., *infangenethef*), [or] technical terms not found in modern dictionaries (e.g., *unguent of lincloth*) . . ." (Kuhn 1982: 33).

In the course of the *MED*, however, there is a gradual increase in the amount of explicit definition, and the definitions themselves become more elaborate, more precise, and more descriptive or contextual,<sup>70</sup> with more editorial guideposts for the reader along the way. This is in keeping with our conviction that the definitions are the core of a dictionary and that the *MED* has an obligation to define as accurately as possible, including giving the reader as much help as possible with difficult quotations and with subtleties of meaning.<sup>71</sup> It is too difficult for the reader, even the knowledgeable, discriminating reader, to have to make distinctions from the quotations alone between, e.g., transitive and intransitive uses of verbs or to decide which quotation in a long block of quotations is the one example of a slight variation in meaning preceded by the word "also."<sup>72</sup>

For a polysemous word, that is, a word with multiple meanings, the manner of differentiating meanings, or senses, varies according to the nature of the word in question and the number and variety of the quotations we have to work with. Though we have tried to avoid excessive subdivision, the *MED* is a period dictionary dealing in depth with a restricted period of time for which a number of quotations per century (at least four if available, and usually more) have been used as illustration, and our sense distinctions and divisions are therefore quite detailed and elaborate.

There are many ways to differentiate senses and sub-senses. First, there are the semantic categories: concrete vs. abstract, general vs. specific, action vs. state, animate vs. inanimate, primary vs. transferred, literal vs. figurative or metaphorical, contextual senses (e.g., the use of a color word, without any difference in meaning, in reference to hair, complexion, objects, etc.), specialized senses (frequently those with field labels),<sup>73</sup> miscellaneous senses (e.g., unique or unusual uses, proverbs, errors, names), etc. Then there are the non-semantic categories: formal grammatical or syntactic differences, often involving simple vs. complex; for verbs, transitive vs. intransitive, and for pronouns, grammatical or syntactic function in a sentence; phrases and collocations (this category overlaps with the semantic categories); etc. The *MED* makes use of all of these categories, not in every polysemous word, of course, but whenever the evidence is extensive and the categories help to separate uses and senses of a word.

The *MED*, like other historical and period dictionaries where quotations are used, tries, in polysemous words, to reject those that are ambiguous, so that a clear distinction between senses will stand, but it has always been our habit to give a quotation for every "significant" and "unusual" form (Kuhn 1982: 35), whether or not that quotation is ambiguous. For this reason primarily, a given use of a word, as illustrated by its quotations, may often cross senses, that is, it may have elements of two (or more) meanings, and we have had, as a result, to resort to qualifications and caveats in some of our definitions. But, in addition, some quotations are just ambiguous, and in small words we try to use every quotation we have. Even in large words it is sometimes worth indicating the ambiguity when it is

widespread. The *MED* often resorts to a caveat like “sometimes difficult to distinguish from sense such and such,” with variations such as “some quotes. difficult to distinguish from those in sense such and such” or “difficult to distinguish from sense such and such, to which some quotes. may belong” or “occasionally difficult to distinguish from sense such and such and vice versa.” Others include “may belong to,” “could be construed as,” “the precise gloss is highly contextual,” and “with punning reference to” (or “pun on”), all of which become more frequent as the *MED* goes along, primarily because of the huge number of quotations added to the files since the 1970s, many of which had to be used because of spelling. Sometimes certain uses are just so ambiguous, with so many overtones of other senses, that it is impossible to use them without caveats.

Once differentiated, the major senses of a polysemous word are normally presented in a logical rather than a chronological, or historical, ordering, unless the quotations clearly support the latter ordering (which is rare). By a logical ordering we mean “an arrangement of the various senses . . . in such a way that senses which the reader is likely to perceive as related or similar (regardless of which is later or derived from the other) will be grouped rather than scattered; that the most important (usually the commonest) senses within groups are placed at the heads of groups, and the most important group at the beginning of the treatment of the word as a whole; and that, if possible, no sense is placed in a position where the user of the dictionary would never think to look for it. These goals are not easy to attain. Especially in large words with many and varied senses, the *MED* must frequently settle for orderings which are far less logical than one would wish. We believe, nevertheless, that this method is most likely to facilitate the finding of senses” (Kuhn 1982: 34).

Logical ordering of senses is not something unique to the *MED*. The *OED*, for example, also uses logical ordering, in addition to (indeed, frequently in preference to) chronological ordering. Its logical ordering goes back to James A.H. Murray and the beginnings of the *OED*, and indeed even further to the traditions embodied in sixteenth- to nineteenth-century European lexicographical practice, British Enlightenment philosophy, and nineteenth-century evolutionary thought.<sup>74</sup> As Murray says in this well known passage from the “General Explanations” section of his “Preface to Volume I” (A and B) of the *OED*:

The order in which [the] senses were developed is one of the most important facts in the history of the word; to discover and exhibit it are among the most difficult duties of a dictionary which aims at giving this history. If the historical record were complete, that is, if we possessed written examples of all the uses of each word from the beginning, the simple exhibition of these would display a rational or logical development. The historical record is not complete enough to do this, but it is usually sufficient to enable us to infer the actual order. In exhibiting this in the Dictionary, that sense is placed first which was actually the earliest in the language: the others follow in the order in which they appear to have

arisen (1888: xxxi; emphasis mine).

There is a difference, however, between Murray’s logical ordering and the *MED*’s logical ordering. That difference can best be characterized as a difference between developmental logic (the *OED*’s approach) and relational logic (the *MED*’s approach). For the *OED*, certain categories precede, and develop into, others in the order of things, and especially as they affect the ordering of senses in dictionaries, e.g., concrete precedes abstract (this is the main one, based on the equations concrete = simple and abstract = complex), general precedes specific, literal precedes figurative or metaphorical. “If the historical record were complete,” Murray believed (1888: xxxi), the historical order and the natural or logical order of these (and other) categories would agree; if, based on the available evidence, they did not, then the historical order had to be adjusted to make it logical, that is, developmentally logical.

The *MED*, on the other hand, puts “the most important group [of senses] at the beginning of the treatment of the word as a whole” (Kuhn 1982: 34), rather than the *OED*’s “‘earliest meaning’ or ‘original meaning’,” and the reasoning for this is that so often the earliest or original meaning “cannot be determined with any certainty. The earliest occurrence of a sense in writing is not a reliable guide, for we must always assume that the written use of the word was preceded by the oral . . .”; even if this written use were reliable, determining “chronological ordering too often breaks down into either an arbitrary choice of the sense occurring in a text of the year 1137 against that found in a text of 1150, etc., or an endless juggling of conjectures” (all from Kuhn 1982: 33). The development of one sense from another also presents problems. “[F]requently . . . a sense of a word . . . to judge by the existing evidence, could have developed from any one of several other senses. In other instances, it seems . . . clear that a sense is a blend of two other senses rather than a derivative from either by itself. And in many cases, we can never be sure whether sense (a) is derived from sense (b) or the reverse” (Kuhn 1982: 34).<sup>75</sup>

The *MED*’s preference for relational logic—for an ordering of senses that is logical rather than chronological, “regardless of which [one] is later or derived from the other” (Kuhn 1982: 34; emphasis mine)—goes back to Kurath (*Plan* 1954: 3b) and has remained the general orientation ever since, but, because of the pervasiveness of the tradition in European lexicographical thought that equates the logical with the developmental, it has been nearly impossible for the *MED* to escape the influence of this tradition. The *MED* has always observed, though perhaps unconsciously, most of the traditional concepts of ordering—e.g., general precedes specific (which includes technical and miscellaneous senses), simple precedes complex (especially for syntactic and morphological items), literal precedes figurative or metaphorical<sup>76</sup>—and in the later volumes it has also, for the most part consciously, tried to follow an order that suggests logical development, whether or not it is chronological.

In the *MED* definitions themselves, only a few conventions call for comment. (1) The word “also” either detaches a meaning in a sense from a group of more closely related meanings or calls attention to a rare or exceptional meaning. (2) The phrases “without obj.” and “also without obj.” (with

## 16 Phrases

variations) are in verb entries in the letters A through P equivalent either to the *OED*'s "absolute" use (i.e., a basically transitive verb having an object understood<sup>77</sup>) or to an intransitive use. In Q through Z, however, these phrases refer only to a transitive use of a verb whose object appears quite a distance from that verb, usually with a different syntactic environment (e.g., **smaken** v. 2.(b), **twisten** v. 1.(d), **welden** v. 2.(d) and 5.(b)). The use labeled "absol." in A through P is always considered an intransitive in Q through Z, just as the use labeled "absol." in *OED1* and *OED2* is always considered intransitive in *OED3* (in progress). (3) Participles used adjectivally, whether in apposition (either before or after the word modified), in attributive position, or in predicate position, are treated under their cognate finite verbs, if they exist. Throughout the *MED* the phrase "ppl. such and such" is used for all of these occurrences. Only exceptionally in A through F, and only occasionally in G through P, is the adjectival function noted, with the phrases "ppl. as adj.," "ppl. such and such as adj.," and variations on these. In Q through Z, however, the phrase "ppl. such and such as adj." occurs frequently, and it means that the participle is used in the sense specified *only* in attributive position or in predicate position. The phrase "ppl. such and such" is used either when the participle is just an appositive or when *both* the appositive and the attributive or predicate uses occur.

Most marks of punctuation in definitions are self-explanatory, but a few of them call for comment. The first is parentheses, which have many uses. The most common use is to enclose elements that show the construction of the word in context, or that specify lexical restrictions, but that are *not* part of the definition itself. Direct objects of transitive verbs are one example: "to ride (a horse)," "to mix (ingredients) together," "to trust (sb. or sth.)," "to describe (a place, one's state, etc.)."<sup>78</sup> This can be extended to infinitives or object clauses, usually in a generalized formula like "to hope (to do sth., that sth. is so, etc.)" (for some specific examples see **trusten** v. 2.(a), (b) and **willen** v.(1) 1.(e), (f)). Objects of prepositions are another example: "in (a town)," "near (sb. or sth.)," "in between (two states, qualities, etc.)," "for the purpose of (sth., an act, repair or maintenance of sth., etc.)." Other examples are indirect objects (e.g., "to tell (sb. sth.)," "to describe (sth. to sb.)"), clauses following subordinating conjunctions or adverbs (e.g., "that (sb. is in a certain state)," "until (sth. happens)," "hardly (had one event occurred) when (a second event occurred)"), verb phrases following pronouns (e.g., "whoever (does sth.)," and the addition of a noun to clarify the nature of an adjective (e.g., "one or two (persons or things)," "whichever (person)").

Another common use of parentheses in definitions is in the glossing of phrases, where the parentheses enclose either an alternative element in the definition (reflecting that in the phrase) or an optional element in the definition (reflecting that latter if it appears at the beginning or the end of the phrase. Some examples of the former are "two halves (thirds)" in **two** num. 3.(d), "white as chalk (milk, paper, a swan)" in **whit** adj. 5.(b), and "within you (me)" in **womb**(e n. 8. Some examples of the latter are "a (great) while ago" in **sitt**the adv. (c), "to be born of (a) woman" in **womman** n. 1b.(c), and, with a single parenthesis, "it is) no surprise" in **wonder** n. 3.(b). And yet

another noteworthy use of parentheses is for information that fills out, qualifies, or explicates a meaning (see, e.g., **flaume** n. 2.(a), **other** pron. 3a.(g), **whit** adj. 4a.(a), **womman** n. 2d., and, for the use of Latin names of plants following the English names, **wort** n.(1) 3.).

Only a few other marks of punctuation call for comment. Commas separate strict synonyms or near synonyms, as well as synonymic phrases. Semi-colons separate sets of synonyms or synonymic definitions within a sense. A question mark preceding a definition or part of a definition indicates uncertainty about it. Brackets are used for editorial comments: e.g., a cross-reference to another entry in the *MED*, indicating that it bears some semantic relationship to this sense of the word in question; a reference to a quotation that is being cited for a specific definition, usually after the word "also"; a comment on an individual quotation, on a sense relationship, on frequency of occurrence, on a mistranslation, etc.; a reference to another language, especially an Old English original for a compound or combination; or a brief encyclopedic note or reference to a discussion of the subject matter involved, though we try to keep this kind of encyclopedic information to an absolute minimum.

### (b) Phrases

Phrases are fully displayed in the *MED*, either under the various senses of the word in question or in a separate sense or sub-sense, usually (in the latter case) with the label "in phrases" or some variation on that, and are always boldfaced. Phrases are normally treated in the entry for the main word, i.e., the word to which the other words in the phrase are subordinated. However, they are often also illustrated and defined in the entry for a subordinate word. Phrases with coordinate main words, such as **comen and gon**, **hille and dale**, **to and fro**, **wele and (or) wo**, **yong and olde**, are normally dealt with in the entries for both.

The *MED* distinguishes three general kinds of phrases: (1) normal live phrases; (2) fixed (or set) phrases; and (3) idiomatic phrases. The first kind shows the normal constructions of the parts of speech in free combination. Such phrases seldom need defining and, unless they are used frequently, are not treated in the *MED*, and even when frequency determines that they be noted, they are combined, condensed, and collapsed as much as possible. Some examples are in **sole** n. 1.(b), **sufferen** v. 3a.(c), **word** n. 7a.(a), and **yore** adv. 1b.(a).

The second kind is a fixed or "a relatively fixed collocation of words which recurs so frequently as to call for special attention" (Kuhn 1982: 32). Fixed phrases have set syntactical patterns, but their meanings may range from normal to idiomatic. They are usually defined, unless their meanings are obvious. Some examples are: **in bed** (in **bed** n.(1) 1b.(b) and 2b.(b)), **on hors-bak** (in **hors-bak** n. (a)), **under seile** (in **seil**(e n. 1.(c)), **at wittes ende** (in **wit** n. 2.(e)).

The third kind, idiomatic, is "a collocation whose meaning cannot be derived from the sum of its parts" (Kuhn 1982: 32). Idiomatic phrases, which are often figurative in origin, may have the syntax of either live phrases or fixed phrases. Their distinctive feature is either a peculiar meaning that belongs to the phrase as a whole (and cannot be inferred wholly from the meanings of its constituent parts) or a peculiar meaning of one of the words in the phrase. Some examples are: **beren loue seile** (in **seil**(e n. 2.(g)), **sen herte blod** (in **sen** v.(1) 2.(a)), **shaven him a prest doun to the nekke** (in **shaven** v. 2.(b)), **sitten in**

the smeke (in smek(e n. 1.(a)), werken the dede (in werken v.(1) 6.), whit wif (in whit adj. 4c.(a)).

If the phrase is adequately treated in the entry for the main word, or in an earlier entry for one of the other members, it is not normally treated in the entry for any of the other words in the phrase, but is given a cross-reference in brackets there, e.g., "[see hete n.(1) 3.(c)]" for the phrase *kindeli hete* in *kindeli* adj. 1.(c), or "[see Psalm(e n. 1a.(c))]" for the phrase *seven psalmes in seven num. 1b.(a)*, or "[see main adj. 3.]" for the phrase *main yerd in yerd n.(2) 3.*, which means that the user of the *MED* should go to the earlier entry for all quotations containing the phrase. If the phrase is adequately treated in the entry for the main word, or in an earlier entry for one of the other members, but important additional quotations have been discovered, the phrase is treated again in the later entry, but without duplicating quotations unless they are needed for spelling or form, and a cross-reference added in brackets, e.g., "[see also *doun* adv. 5a.(d)]" for the phrase *leien doun* in *leien* v.(1) 5.(a), or "[see also *nutritif* adj. (a)]" for the phrases *vertu nutritif* and *nutritif vertu* in *vertu* n. 5.(b), which means that there is at least one quotation in the later entry but that the others appear in the earlier entry. If the phrase is inadequately treated (three quotations or fewer) in the entry for the main word, or in an earlier entry for one of the members, our normal practice is to move the quotations from the original entry to the later entry without any cross-reference, e.g., *olde daunce* in *old(e* adj. 5d. and *coral veine, veine coral* in *vein(e* n.(1) 1b.(b).

Parentheses, or a single parenthesis, may often be used in the listing of phrases to indicate either the alternation of identical structures or the presence or absence of optional elements. Some examples of the alternation of identical structures are: at (*bi, in, upon*) *al might* in *might* n. 3.(f), *receiven (taken) the sacrament* in *sacrament* n. 2.(c), *seuen bille (claim, pleinte, write)* in *seuen* v.(1) 10.(b), *sitthe gon ful longe (yore, mani a dai)* in *sitthe* adv. (c). Some examples of the presence or absence of optional elements are: *second person (in trinite* in *second num. 1.(b)*, *setten (al) on seven* in *setten* v. 21.(b), *peire (of) sheres* in *shere* n.(1) (a), *don sinne(s and dedli) sinnes seven* in, respectively, *sinne* n. 2.(e) and 3.(a).

Phrases, whether they appear in a sense or sub-sense containing a definition of the main word or in a separate sense or sub-sense with the label "in phrases" or some variation on that, normally appear in non-verb entries in this order: phrases not needing any definition (because the meaning of the main word in the phrase is identical, or very close, to that of the headword in the sense in question); phrases with definitions in which the headword comes first, arranged alphabetically by the first word after the headword; remaining phrases with definitions, alphabetized by the first word of the phrase, with verb phrases appearing last (e.g., *se* n.(1) 1a.(a), (c); *sesoun* n. 4.(a); *womb(e* n. 2a.(b), (c)). In verb entries, the order is normally: infinitive phrases with complements (chiefly adverbs) not needing any definition (because the meaning of the phrase is so close to that of the headword of the sense in question); verb phrases with definitions in which the headword comes first, arranged alphabetically by the first word after the headword; remaining verb phrases with definitions, arranged alphabetically by the first word of the phrase; and, finally, participial uses and constructions, with present participles preceding past participles

(e.g., *sheuen* v.(1) 3.(c), *wandren* v. 3.(b), *yeven* v. 13.(a)).

### (c) Compounds and Combinations

As noted above in the introduction to the section entitled *An Entry and Its Constituent Parts*, syntactic compounds and combinations may sometimes qualify as separate entries if they exhibit complexity according to one (or more) of three criteria, and such compounds and combinations are always noted, boldfaced and followed by "q.v.," in the entries for their first members and usually also in the entries for their second (or third) members (e.g., "*seile yerde*, q.v." in *seil(e* n. 3.(a), "*peni weght*, q.v." in *weght* n.(1) 5.(b)). But syntactic compounds and combinations usually appear *within* entries, and when they do so, they always appear, boldfaced, in the entries for the first members, and also, as the *MED* progresses (and especially from the letter S on), within the entries for the second (or third) members as well, or else there are cross-references there to the first members. The cross-references used, as with phrases, are "see" and "see also." The first indicates that the user of the *MED* should go to the other entry for all quotations containing the compound or combination (e.g., "[see *somer* n.(2)]" for the compound *somer sadel* in *sadel* n.(d)). The second indicates that there is at least one quotation in the entry for the second member but that the others will appear in the entry for the first member (e.g., "[see also *cart* n. 5.(a)]" for the compound *cart sadel* in *sadel* n. (d)). In addition, as a convenience to the user, the usual practice from S on has been to move any compound with three or fewer quotations from its original entry for the first member to the new entry for the second member without any cross-reference (e.g., *honde saue* in *sau(e* n.(1) (d), *hoke tide* and *holi rode tide* in *tid(e* n.(2) (b)).<sup>79</sup>

As also noted above in the introduction to the section entitled *An Entry and Its Constituent Parts*, it is very difficult, and frequently impossible, to distinguish syntactic compounds from phrases, unless there are morphological features differentiating them or spellings and/or rhymes pointing to phonemic modification. Stress, such a determining feature of Modern English compounds, is not indicated in the manuscripts, and there is no consistency in word division. The problem is further complicated by the fact that syntactic compounds are derived from phrases, and certain sequences that occur as either normal or fixed phrases in early Middle English may later become compounds, or be used side by side throughout the period. The user of the *MED* may therefore have to look for such sequences under both categories, and indeed the word "combinations" is usually used in conjunction with "compounds" in recognition of the ambiguities.

Compounds and combinations treated within an entry are normally inserted, without comment, in the sense to which they belong (e.g., *table* n. 4., *womman* n. 3.(a) and 4.(a)). In such cases, they follow the definition or definitions and normally appear in this order: compounds not needing any definition (usually because the meaning of the headword in the compound is so close to that of the headword in the sense in question); compounds with definitions in which the headword is the first member of the compound, arranged alphabetically by the second member; remaining compounds with definitions in which the headword is the second (or third) member, alphabetized by the first member of the compound.

If there are a number of compounds and combinations, they

## 18 Proverbs; Names; Quotations

are placed in a separate sense or sub-sense, usually with the label "in cpds. & combs." or some variation on that, and are normally arranged in this order: compounds in which the headword is the first member, alphabetized by the second member, followed by compounds in which the headword is the second member, alphabetized by the first member (e.g., *tile* n.(2) 1.(b), 2.(b), 3.(b)). If there are too many for a single sense or sub-sense, they are divided into two or more subsenses, organized alphabetically or semantically (e.g., *heven* n. 7., *wode* n.(2) 6a. and 6b., *wort* n.(1) 2. and 3., *wright*(e n.(1) 2.). When it is not entirely clear to which sense a series of compounds or combinations belongs, or if the headword in question is of infrequent occurrence, they are normally put in a separate sense or sub-sense following the senses to which they could belong, near or at the end of the word (e.g., *game* n. 7.(a), *hegge* n. (e), *tile* n.(2) 4., *toth* n. 5., *water* n. 9.).

### (d) Proverbs

Proverbs are a specialized variety of phrases, and we have tried to call attention to them whenever possible, and increasingly so as the *MED* has progressed. We almost never define them, however, but rather just incorporate them into the entries as "in proverbs," "in proverbial expressions," and the like. Sometimes we have expanded or modified the category to include related phrases such as "conventional comparisons," "stock phrases" (or "stock similes"), "sayings," "oaths and asseverations," "imprecations" (or "curses," or "maledictions"), among others. In polysemous words we have tried to group proverbial and related uses with the sense to which they belong. When only a few examples occur, they are normally added to a sense or sub-sense with "also in proverbs," etc. (e.g., *hol*(e adj.(2) 3.(a), *next*(e prep. 1.(a), *stal*(le n. 1.(a), *water* n. 2a.(b), *yer* n.(2) 3a.(a)). When many examples occur, they are placed in a separate sub-sense (e.g., *kinde* n. 8.(d); *mesure* n. 8.(h); *sorwe* n. 1.(h), 3.(e); *ston* n. 1.(j), 2.(d), 7a.(g); *treu*(e adj. 3.(f)). In the majority of words that have proverbial and related uses, however, it is difficult to place these uses in a specific sense, and for that reason we often put them near the end of the entry, after all of the senses or sub-senses to which they could belong (e.g., *dogge* n. 3., *fir* n. 14., *short* adj. 5., *strau* n. 3., *worm* n. 6.).

### (e) Names

Our use of personal and place names goes back to Moore and the beginnings of the *MED* (and even farther, at least with respect to proper names, to its years at Cornell University, 1925-30), but was given increased emphasis by Knott, who added extensively to our collection of surnames during his editorship. In our reading program we have drawn selectively on the data in the volumes of the English Place-Name Society (still in progress) and other books on place names and in the various collections of surnames (occupational, topographical, etc.) and nicknames that have appeared with increasing frequency since the 1930s, and especially since the 1960s. Such onomastic material, however, is not a normal feature of period or historical dictionaries, and we have not attempted to be complete in our use of it. Though in the earlier volumes there are occasionally entries for words that appear only in, or as, names, in the later ones we use such evidence solely as corroboration for words attested in other kinds of Middle

English texts, and our primary reason for it is etymological. "When, for example, a word appears in O[ld] E[nglish] and then disappears from ordinary written sources to turn up once more in the fourteenth or fifteenth century, one may be in doubt as to whether the later instances were really descended from O[ld] E[nglish] or whether they represent a new formation in M[iddle] E[nglish] or a borrowing from another language. But if the word is well-attested in names of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, one can accept the O[ld] E[nglish] etymology with greater confidence" (Kuhn 1982: 20-21). Similarly, such evidence frequently gives us our earliest occurrences of words borrowed from Anglo-French and Old Norse. With such supplementary evidence we can corroborate etymologies arrived at through the standard dictionaries as well as demonstrate closer chronological links to the various source languages and dialects in question, and thus provide the fullest possible picture of the immediate source of the Middle English word.

Names nearly always come last in the order of senses, and they are not defined, just listed as "In surnames and place names," "As surname," "in street name," "as ship name," etc. In polysemous words this placement is unvarying if we are not sure of the meaning(s) of the names, or if they could go with more than one sense. If, on the other hand, we know exactly what sense they go with, we put them there (e.g., *over* adv. 4b.(c), *stelen* v. 4.(b)). We use the designation "surnames" to cover all words (occupational names, topographical names, nicknames, descriptive adjectives, etc.) used in the surname position (e.g., "John Whelwrihte," s.v. *whole-wright*(e n. (c)), but not for *terms*, especially occupational *terms*, following a surname (e.g., "Johannes Cocker, qwelewright," s.v. *whole-wright*(e n. (a)), which belong to a semantic sense. For place names we normally put "in Smith *PNElem.*" and a volume and page reference in brackets following the "In place names" designation.<sup>80</sup>

### (f) Quotations

The last item in an entry is the quotations that document the meaning(s), divided into blocks and labeled by number or letter according to the number of senses and sub-senses in the entry. Each block begins with the earliest quotation and concludes with the latest, with "the quotations . . . arranged in chronological order," with "an adequate representation of all parts of the period from c1100 to c1500," and with "at least one quotation—if any is available—" for every "quarter century" (Kuhn 1982: 35).

The quotations have been selected primarily for their suitability in documenting lexical meanings, and for that purpose we prefer the following types of quotations, which we call "defining quotations":

(1) those containing an explicit definition by a medieval writer, irrespective of its validity or acceptance by his contemporaries;

(2) those containing synonyms or antonyms;

(3) those containing words for coordinate, subordinate, or superior units in a system of classification, as in the sciences, or in philosophy, theology, etc.;

(4) those exhibiting the expression in a linguistic context or in a specific setting which effectively restricts the meaning, e.g., to the spatial, temporal, or modal sphere; to a concrete situation or to the realm of the spirit; to a particular activity or profession;

a social institution, such as government, law, etc.;

(5) those giving a Latin or French equivalent of the Middle English expression, or for which the foreign equivalent is available (as in quotations taken from the numerous translation texts).

Such defining quotations, however, are “comparatively rare,” and “In order to flesh out our senses” we have had to use quotations that are “imperfect as definers” (Kuhn 1982: 36), or perhaps only neutral in their defining value. This is especially true of the small words, those with one or only a few quotations, for which we use either all or most of the quotations in our files. For larger words, the problem of choosing has been more difficult, for we have had to choose our quotations with two other aims in mind: to represent as many different phrases, constructions, syntactic patterns, genres, registers, authors, etc. as possible and to illustrate every “significant” and “unusual” spelling and form (Kuhn 1982: 35), including spellings and constructions chosen because of dialect. In general, we have tried to use quotations not represented in the printed *OED*, so as to present, by a combination of the two dictionaries, the *OED* and the *MED*, the largest possible amount of evidence for any given word. If, however, the evidence for a word is limited, or if the *OED* quotation is a defining quotation, or needed for spelling, date, or construction, or otherwise revealing, then we of course have made an exception.

Kurath’s idea was that the quotations should document the meanings and forms “in an adequate manner ([but] not profusely),”<sup>81</sup> and one can see his restraint especially in E and F. But beginning with A and continuing to the end of the alphabet one can observe a gradual increase in the number of quotations, as well as in their length. Our quotations have always been chosen with the principles in the previous two paragraphs in mind, but as the editing progressed these principles became complicated by the huge increase in the number of quotations added to the files, especially from fifteenth-century texts, and the question for us was how to represent this increase. As noted at the beginning of this section, we have always tried to use at least one quotation for each quarter century in the roughly 400-year period that is Middle English, but in the later volumes it is not unusual for us to use two, three, or more quotations for each quarter century, especially from the last quarter of the fourteenth century to the end of the fifteenth century. At the same time the average length of the quotations has increased as we have felt the need to make cuttings that could stand on their own syntactically and would give the reader enough context to actually show how they documented, or illustrated, the definitions.

Occasionally non-Middle English quotations (Latin, Old French, Old English, Middle Scots, etc.) are used for various illustrative purposes, e.g., for Latin or Old French, to exhibit the meaning or construction of the foreign word taken over into Middle English; or, for Old English or Middle Scots, to shed light on the meaning of the Middle English word if the Middle English evidence is scanty, or to show the context(s) of the etymon. Such quotations are enclosed in brackets and placed at the beginnings of the blocks of Middle English quotations, regardless of date.

In our styling of the quotations, (1) the spelling is reproduced exactly as it appears in the edited or manuscript text, except that in early texts *wynn* (= *ƿ*, from Old English) is

rendered as *w* and *ff* (at the beginning of a quotation) and *Ff* are rendered as *F*; (2) the capitalization of edited and manuscript texts is preserved, except that every quotation begins with a capital letter, and words in capitals (or in small capitals) are lowercased, except in proper names; (3) abbreviations are usually expanded if we are certain what they mean, and all expansions in edited texts (whether underlined or not) are reproduced; (4) omissions and excisions within a quotation are indicated by two suspension points (for excisions at the end of a quotation see item (8) in the next paragraph); (5) punctuation is modernized, except that we retain the hyphen in compounds or derivatives occurring in edited texts.

Brackets are frequently used within quotations for various purposes, primarily:

(1) for alterations and additions to the text by the, or a, scribe, or actual manuscript readings when they differ from those given by the editor of the text, designated by “[alt. to:—]” or “[alt. from:—],” “[Gloss:—],” “[MS:—],” “[MS prob. adds:—],” and the like (e.g., quotes. *Palladius* (1st) in *glenen* v. 2.(c), *PParv.*(1st) in *knokel* n. 2.(a), 7 *Sages*(1) in *roupe* n., *NVPsalter* in *sleule* n., Chaucer *CTSq.* in *thing* n. 10.(c), *Cursor* (Fr) in *thrones* n., *WBible*(1) in *truffer* n. (a), *Ancr.* in *unseuli* adj., *Lay.Brut* in *vær* n., *Ancr.* in *wough* adj. (d));

(2) for variant readings from other manuscripts of the same text, usually designated by “[vr.—]” or “[vrr.—],” sometimes by manuscript (including examples where the quotation is from a non-preferred manuscript and the variant is from the preferred), occasionally by date<sup>82</sup> (e.g., quotes. *PLove* in *spere* v.(1) 6., *Cath.Angl.*(Monson) in *shoing(e* ger. (b), *Gloss. Bibbesw.* in *squirting* ger., *Ancr.*(Nero) in *tenden* v.(3) 1.(b), *SLeg.*(Hrl) in *uniwar(e* adj. (a), *Degare* in *visen* v. 2.(a), *PPLA*(1) (Vrn) in *wi(e* n. (a), *Cursor* in *witnessen* v. 1.(b), *Lay.Brut* in *York* n.(e));

(3) for readings from other Middle English versions of a text (e.g., “[*Vices & V.*(2):—]” in quot. *Ayenb.*(2nd) in *honest(e* adj. 4.(b), “[*Man.*(2):—]” in quot. *Mandev.*(1) in *repreving(e* ger. (d)), “[*Misyn ML*:—]” in quot. *Rolle Mend.L* in *sliper* adj. (f), “[*B*:—]” (for *PPLB*) in quot. *PPLA*(1) (Vrn) in *thrumblen* v. (a), “[*Ashmole*:—]” and “[*Caritate*:—]” in quot. *Lambeth SSecr.* in *upberen* v. (a));

(4) for the Latin (“[L:—]”), French (“[F:—]”), Old English (“[OE:—]”), or other foreign-language original from which the Middle English word in question was translated or paraphrased (e.g., quotes. *Hrl.HApul.* in *shat* n. (c), \**Trev.Barth* in *thinnes*(se n. (b), *York MGame* in *unjoinen* v. 1b.(a));

(5) for “[rime:—],” that is, a rhyming word or words, which often provide important evidence for pronunciation (e.g., quotes. *PMor.* in *strecche* n. (a), *Arth.& M.* in *whale* n. 1.(a));

(6) for emendations or suggested readings, usually in the form “[read:—]” or “[?read:—]” for probable or possible errors (e.g., quotes. *Cursor* (2nd) in *gest*(e n.(1) 2.(a), *Alex.& D.* in *swaging*(e ger. 3.(a), *Gawain* in *trailen* v.(1) 6., *Gen.& Ex.* in *wacche* n. 2.(a)), including minor ones right in the text itself (e.g., “medy[ci]nes” in quot. \**Trev.Barth.*(1st) in *margarit*(e n. (a), “her[t]ien” in quot. *Bestiary* (2nd) in *nede* n. 1a.(a));

(7) for a clarifying comment in modern English to enhance the defining value of the quotation (e.g., “he [Midas]” in quot. *Gower CA* in *discrecioun* n. 2.(c), “it [a plant]” in quot. *Ashmole SSecr.* in *swelling*(e ger. 5.(b), “arterie [aorta]” in quot. *Lanfranc* (2nd) and “hole [of the heart]” in quot. *Chauliac*(1)

(1st) both in **venial n. (a)**;

(8) for "[etc.]" at the end of a quotation to indicate that a passage has been omitted as unnecessary for an understanding of the Middle English word in question (e.g., *quots. Dc.257 Cook.Recipes* in **rew n.**, *Ayemb.in spreden v. 5.(b), Alph.Tales* in **usage n. 2.**).

For the texts from which we take our quotations, with their short titles and dates (or stencils), see the **Bibliography** following, and for the principles on which they are based, see the **Introduction** to the **Bibliography**.

For verse texts with continuous lineation our mode of reference is by line (e.g., *Destr.Troy* 113, *Gawain* 247); for verse texts that are divided into books, passus, etc., by part and line (e.g., *Lydg.FP* 3.720, *PPLC* 7.309); for verse texts with numbered stanzas without lineation, by stanza (e.g., *?Jas.I KQ* st. 52); for verse texts without lineation, by the page number

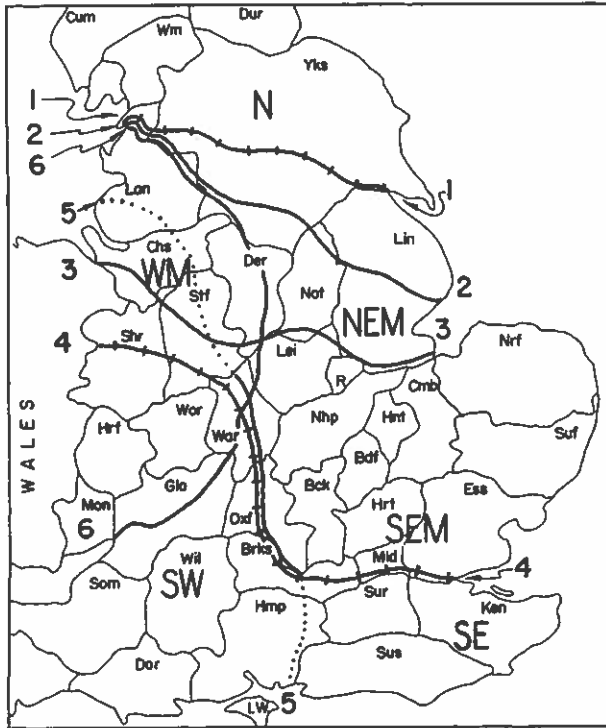
preceded by p. (e.g., *Boothe be ware* p. 227); and for verse texts with continuous lineation but where the format might cause confusion, by page and line (e.g., *Bevis* 10/217, *Shoreham Poems* 11/288).

For prose texts with continuous pagination our mode of reference is by page (e.g., *Wycl.Church* 347) or by page and line (e.g., *Malory Wks.* 1147/29); for prose texts published in several volumes with separate pagination, by volume and page (e.g., *Trev. Higd.* 2.17); and for the Bible, by book, chapter (psalm), and verse (e.g., *WBible(1)* Mat. 2.16, *WBible(2)* Ps. 97. 5).

For unedited manuscripts, which are identified by an asterisk (\*), our mode of reference is by folio, page (a = recto, b = verso), and column (a = first column, etc.), as *\*Medulla* 28a/b, or *\*Trev.Barth.85b/a*.

## Appendix I: Dialect Areas and Regional Texts and Manuscripts

Kurath's treatment of dialect areas in the original *Plan* (1954) was based primarily on the survey by Moore, Meech, and Whitehall (1935) for the period 1400-1450, which was prepared for the *MED* during the early years of the project (1931-34), supplemented by the work of J.P. Oakden, Alois Brandl, and others.<sup>83</sup> Kurath was of the opinion that "The precise [dialect] boundaries . . . are not of great significance for our purpose . . ."<sup>84</sup> and in the *Plan* he observed that Moore, Meech, and Whitehall's isoglosses were "not numerous enough for a definitive scheme of the dialect areas of England for the period 1400-1450" (1954: 8a). But, he continued, "they can serve as a basis for the formulation of a convenient scheme for general orientation" (p. 8a),<sup>85</sup> and he plotted what he considered to be their six main isoglosses on a general map (p. 8a: Map 1, reproduced below—with two changes: n = N, s = S).



These isoglosses, by number, refer to:

1. The line between Northern *stān* and Midland *stōn* (the reflex of OE long *ā* (/a:/); Moore, Meech, and Whitehall, line A)
2. The line between *-es* forms of the present plural (to the north) and *-en* forms (to the south) (Moore, Meech, and Whitehall, line B)
3. The line between *-es* forms of the 3rd person present singular (to the north) and *-eth* forms (to the south) (Moore, Meech, and Whitehall, line G)
4. The line between Midland *-en* and Southern *-eth* forms of the present plural (Moore, Meech, and Whitehall, line H)
5. The line between Western *hul* and Eastern *hil* (the reflex of OE short *y* (/ū/); Moore, Meech, and Whitehall, line F)
6. The line between Western *mon* and Eastern *man* (the reflex of OE short *a* (/a/) before a nasal; Moore, Meech, and Whitehall, line D)

The five main dialect areas resulting from these isoglosses—Northern, West Midland, East Midland, South-

western, and Southeastern—agreed in general with those assumed by other writers at the time, and indeed agree with those in more recent general studies, including ones written after the publication of *LALME* (1986).<sup>86</sup> The only deviation from the traditional scheme was that Kurath allowed what is now called the Southwest Midland area to be included in the Southwestern area because of his belief that the isogloss between the *-en/-eth* forms of the present plural (line 4) was more important than the isogloss between *mon* and *man* (line 6), which divided West Midland from the rest of the country. The only subdivision Kurath recognized on his map was in the East Midland area, between Northeast Midland and Southeast Midland, on the basis of line 3, reinforced by two other isoglosses from Moore, Meech, and Whitehall, their lines C (between *s-* forms of *shulen* v. to the north and *sh-* forms to the south) and E (between *th-* forms for the 3rd person plural personal pronoun to the north and *h-* forms to the south),<sup>87</sup> but he did not introduce this subdivision into his list of regional texts and manuscripts.

Kurath's policy was to give a fairly large list of texts and manuscripts (including a number from earlier than the first half of the fifteenth century) that could be assigned "with some degree of assurance" to the major areas, on characteristics other than just those represented by the isoglosses on the maps, and to quote them "more extensively . . . than any other texts whenever the pronunciation of a word or its grammatical forms vary regionally, i.e., they will then be quoted not only for meanings and constructions, but also for pronunciation and forms. Regionally restricted formal features will thus be systematically illustrated in the *MED*."<sup>88</sup> His policy included a reluctance to give dialect labels among the variant spellings and in the form sections, preferring instead to let the list of regional texts and manuscripts and the discussion of dialectal characteristics in the *Plan* "relieve us of the necessity of making geographic statements concerning pronunciation in the body of the Dictionary, except in special cases."<sup>89</sup> The user of the *MED* will therefore find few dialect labels in the letters A through F, Kurath's part of the dictionary.

Kuhn followed Kurath's general policy at the beginning of his editorship, but as time went on he added more dialect labels among the variant spellings and in the form sections, especially from the letters L and M on, and by 1978, the date of his revision of the "Editor's Guide," he had also revised and slightly expanded Kurath's list of regional texts and manuscripts. This list, with a few additions and corrections by me, was incorporated in the *Plan and Bibliography Supplement I* (1984: 1-3). The main differences in the two lists are (1) the division of East Midland into Southeast Midland and Northeast Midland; (2) the further division of West Midland into Southwest Midland and Northwest Midland, on the basis of lines 3 and 4 and perhaps 5 on Kurath's map as well as other characteristics; and (3) the change of name from Southeastern to Kentish (with the implied restriction of the geographical area to Kent and the eastern part of Sussex). At the same time many of the texts that Kurath had assigned to the Southwestern area because of the isogloss for the present plural endings were transferred to the Southwest Midland subdivision of West Midland.<sup>90</sup>

Since 1984, beginning with the letter Q, there has been a further increase in the frequency of dialect labeling,<sup>91</sup> but the general principle enunciated by Kurath in the 1940s and 1950s—that is, not to place a great emphasis on precise dialect

## 22 Regional Texts and Manuscripts

boundaries but rather to focus on specific texts as representative of the dialect areas and to record characteristics extensively from them—has remained constant throughout. One reason for the increased frequency of labeling, speaking only for my part of the *MED* (since so far as I know Kuhn never expressed his opinion on the subject), is the belief that it is too difficult for the user, as Kurath hoped, to keep the list of regional texts in mind when reading through the quotations and to try to associate characteristics within the areas represented by the texts. The other reason has to do with the blurring of the “diatopic variations and distinctions . . . by diachronic change” over the 400-year period that is Middle English.<sup>92</sup> Kurath included in his list of regional texts both early ones (primarily from the thirteenth century) and later ones (primarily from the fifteenth century), and we have continued this practice in our subsequent lists, but, in order to help to offset the problem of blurring, both Kuhn and I have used the word “early,” in addition to the area, in our dialect labeling whenever it is justified by the data.<sup>93</sup>

The most important development in Middle English dialect studies since the time of the original *Plan* (1954) has been the publication of *LALME* (1986), but this appeared so late in the course of our work on the *MED* that we could not take full advantage of its data and observations. *LALME*, which focuses exclusively on the written language, makes use of considerably more potentially diagnostic features than Moore, Meech, and Whitehall, and Kurath following them, and in principle rejects the notion of isoglosses in favor of maps of individual items and dot maps of the distribution of items or groups of items. Nevertheless, the dot maps (in Volume 1 of *LALME*) generally confirm the isoglosses on the general map reproduced above.<sup>94</sup> One definite influence on the *MED* from *LALME*, and from studies growing out of the work on *LALME*, is that from T on we have often referred in our dialect labeling to the East Anglian subdivision of the Southeast Midland area, based primarily on the language of Norfolk, and to a lesser extent that of Suffolk.<sup>95</sup>

The following list of regional texts and manuscripts is a slightly expanded version of the list in the *Plan and Bibliography Supplement I* (1984: 1-3). As with the earlier lists, this one is not intended to be exhaustive (we often supplement it with localized documents), but rather to exhibit those texts and manuscripts from which we frequently select quotations to illustrate regional features of spelling, phonology (insofar as it is revealed through spelling or rhyme), morphology, syntax, and vocabulary. In addition, we often use the localized texts and manuscripts in *LALME* and in the forthcoming *LAEME* to confirm, refute, or qualify our own dialect attributions.<sup>96</sup> In some cases, as is to be expected, our assignments of texts and manuscripts, made many years ago and reflecting the traditional opinions of the time, differ from those of *LALME* and *LAEME*, but we have not made the corresponding changes in the list below because they would distort the consistency with which we have characterized dialect areas during the course of our work. The assignments, when they differ, usually do so only by one contiguous county, occasionally crossing a traditional dialect boundary or subdivision boundary.<sup>97</sup> Only five texts and manuscripts in the *MED* differ by a considerable distance from the localizations in *LALME*, and these have been marked by a dagger (†) in the following list.<sup>98</sup> Users interested in comparing the items on our list with those in *LALME* will be able to do so by first consulting the *LALME* references in the Hyper-Bibliography section of the online *Middle English Compendium* (1998-) and then looking further at the *LALME* entries themselves.<sup>99</sup>

### 1. East Midland

a1450 *Castile Persev.* (Folg)  
a1500(c1400) *Emare* (Clg)  
?a1475 *Ludus C.* (Vsp)  
(a1398) \**Trev.Barth.* (Add)

### 2. Northeast Midland

a1500 *Eglam.* (Cmb)  
(c1300) *Havelok* (Ld)  
a1500(a1400) *Ipom.*(1) (Chet)  
a1460 *Ipom.*(3) (Lngl)  
a1450(a1338) *Mannyng Chron.Pt.1* (Lamb)  
?a1400(1338) *Mannyng Chron.Pt.2* (Petyt)  
a1400(c1303) *Mannyng HS* (Hrl)†  
a1500(?a1400) *Morte Arth.*(2) (Hrl)  
?c1200 *Orm.* (Jun)  
a1425(a1400) *Paul.Epist.* (Corp-C)  
a1500(a1460) *Towneley Pl.* (Hnt)

### 3. Southeast Midland

c1330(?c1300) *Amis* (Auch)  
c1330(?a1300) *Arth. & M.* (Auch)  
a1450(a1400) *Athelston* (Cai)  
a1300(a1250) *Bestiary* (Arun)  
c1330(?c1300) *Bevis* (Auch)  
1447 *Bokenham Sts.* (Arun)  
c1400 *Brut-1333* (Rwl B.171)†  
?1425(a1400) *Brut-1377* (Corp-C)  
(a1464) *Capgr.Chron.* (Cmb)  
c1450 *Capgr.Rome* (Bod)  
(c1450) *Capgr.St.Aug.* (Add)  
(c1451) *Capgr.St.Gilb.* (Add)  
c1450 *Capgr.St.Kath.* (Arun 396)  
(v.d.) Chaucer  
(v.d.) *Doc./Will/etc.* in *Bk.Lond.E.* (local docs only)  
a1325(c1250) *Gen. & Ex.* (Corp-C)  
(a1393) *Gower CA* (Frff)  
c1330(?c1300) *Guy(1)* (Auch)  
c1330(?a1300) *Guy(2)* (Auch)  
(v.d.) Hoccleve  
c1330 *Horn Child* (Auch)  
c1450 *Jacob's W.* (Sal)  
c1330(?a1300) *KAlex.* (Auch)  
c1400(?a1300) *KAlex.* (Ld)  
c1330 *KTars* (Auch)  
(v.d.) Lydgate  
?a1425(c1400) *Mandev.(1)* (Tit)  
a1500(?c1450) *Merlin* (Cmb)  
(a1438) *MKempe A* (Butler-Bowdon)  
(c1438) *MKempe B* (Butler-Bowdon)  
c1350 *MPPsalter* (Add)  
1389 *Nrf.Gild Ret.*  
c1330 *Orfeo* (Auch)  
c1330 *Otuel* (Auch)†  
(?1440) *Palladius* (Fitzw)  
(v.d.) Paston  
c1475(c1445) *Pecock Donet* (Bod)  
(c1454) *Pecock Fol.* (Roy)  
a1121-1160 *Peterb.Chron.* (Ld)  
a1225 *PMor.* (Trin-C)  
(1258) *Procl.Hen.III* in *PST (1881)*  
c1330 *Roland & V.* (Auch)  
c1330 7 *Sages(1)* (Auch)  
a1400(?a1350) *Siege Troy(1)* (Suth)  
c1330(?c1300) *Spec.Guy* (Auch)†

c1330 *St.Kath.*(2) (Auch)  
 c1330 *St.Marg.*(2) (Auch)  
 c1330 *St.Mary Magd.*(1) (Auch)  
 c1450(c1400) *Sultan Bab.* (Gar)  
 a1225(?OE/?a1200) *Trin.Hom.* (Trin-C)  
 a1225(c1200) *Vices & V.*(1) (Stw)  
 (v.d.) *WBible*(1) & (2)  
 c1330 *Why werre* (Auch)†  
 a1375 *WPa1.* (KC)

#### 4. Northern

c1450 *Alph.Tales* (Add)  
 a1425 *Ben.Rule*(1) (Lnsd)  
 a1450 *Ben.Rule*(2) (Vsp)  
 c1440 *Bonav.Medit* (3) (Thrn)  
 ?a1425(?a1350) *Castleford Chron.* (Göt)  
 a1400 *Cursor* (Göt)  
 a1400 *Cursor* (Phys-E)  
 a1400(a1325) *Cursor* (Vsp)  
 a1425 *Daily Work* (Arun(1))  
 c1440 *Degrev.* (Thrn)  
 (1357) *Gaytr.LFCatech.* (Yk-M)  
 ?a1425 *GGuy*(1) (Rwl)  
 c1440(a1350) *Isumb.* (Thrn)  
 ?a1425 *Mandev.*(2) (Eg)  
 a1425(c1333-52) *Minot Poems* (Glb)  
 c1440(?c1350) *Mirror St.Edm.*(4) (Thrn)  
 (1435) *Misyn FL* (Corp-O)  
 (1434) *Misyn ML* (Corp-O)  
 c1440(?a1400) *Morte Arth.*(1) (Thrn)  
 c1450(a1425) *MOTest.* (Seld)  
 a1425(c1300) *NHom.*(1) (Ashm & Cmb)  
 a1400(c1300) *NHom.*(1) (Phys-E)  
 ?a1425(?c1350) *NHom.*(3) *Pass.* (Rwl)  
 a1425(?a1350) *Nicod.*(1) (Gib)  
 a1400 *NVPsalter* (Hrl & Vsp)  
 c1440(c1350) *Octav.*(1) (Thrn)  
 a1425 *Ordin.Nuns*(1) (Lnsd)  
 a1450 *Ordin.Nuns*(2) (Vsp)  
 a1425(a1400) *PConsc.* (Glb & Hrl)  
 c1440(?a1400) *Perceval* (Thrn)  
 c1440 *PLAlex.* (Thrn)  
 c1450(?a1400) *Quatref.Love* (Add)  
 c1440(a1349) *Rolle Bee* (Thrn)  
 a1450(a1349) *Rolle Com.LG* (Cmb)  
 a1450(?c1343) *Rolle EDormio* (Cmb)  
 a1400 *Rolle Encom.Jesu* (Hrl)  
 a1425 *Rolle FLiving* (Arun)  
 a1450(?1348) *Rolle FLiving* (Cmb)  
 a1450(?a1349) ?*Rolle Poems* (Cmb)  
 a1400(c1340) *Rolle Psalter* (Hat)  
 a1500(c1340) *Rolle Psalter* (UC 64)  
 c1400 *St.Anne*(1) (Min-U)  
 c1440 *St.Chris.* (Thrn)  
 ?c1450 *St.Cuth.* (Carl)  
 c1440(?a1400) *St.John* (Thrn)  
 a1500(a1450) *St.Robt.Knares.* (Eg)  
 c1440 *Thos.Ercel.* (Thrn)  
 c1440 *Thrn.Med.Bk.* (Thrn)  
 a1475(a1450) *Tourn.Tott.* (Hrl)  
 a1425 \**Treat.Uroscopy* (Wel)  
 a1500 *Wars Alex.* (Dub)  
 a1425(?c1350) *Ywain* (Glb)

#### 5. West Midland (esp. central WM)

c1450(c1350) *Alex. & D.* (Bod)  
 c1600(c1350) *Alex.Maced.* (Grv)<sup>100</sup>  
 a1425 *Arth. & M* (LinI)  
 (c1426) *Audelay Poems* (Dc)  
 a1475 *Bk.Courtesy* (Sln)  
 c1540(?a1400) *Destr.Troy* (Htrn)<sup>101</sup>  
 a1425 *KAlex.* (LinI)  
 a1450(a1425) *Mirk IPP* (Cld)  
 (v.d.) *PPLA, B, C*  
 a1425 *Siege Troy*(1) (LinI)  
 Items from Vrn: c1390(?a1325) *Adam & E.*(2), c1390  
*Castle Love*(1), c1390 *Cato*(1), c1390 *GGuy*(2), c1390  
 Hilton *ML*, c1390(a1325) *Ipotis*, c1390(?c1350) *Jos.Arim.*,  
 c1390 *Mirror St.Edm.*(1), c1390(c1350) *NHom.*(2)  
*Corp.Chr.*, c1390 *NHom.Narrat.*, c1390(c1350) *NHom.*(2)  
*PSanct.*, c1390 *NHom.Theoph.*, c1390 *PPLA*(1), c1390  
*Psalt.Mariae*(1), c1390 *Susan.*, c1390 (?c1350) *SVrn.Leg.*,  
 c1390 *Talking LGod*, c1390 *Vrn.Mir.Virg.*

#### 6. Northwest Midland

c1475(a1400) *Amadace* (Ir)  
 c1475(?c1425) *Avow.Arth.* (Ir)  
 c1475 *Awntys Arth.* (Ir)  
 c1400(?c1380) *Cleanness* (Nero)  
 a1400 *Cursor* (Frf)  
 c1400(?c1390) *Gawain* (Nero)  
 a1400(?c1300) *LFMass Bk.* (Roy)  
 a1475 *Liber Cocorum* (Sln)  
 c1400(?c1380) *Patience* (Nero)  
 c1400(?c1380) *Pearl* (Nero)  
 a1500(?a1400) *SLChrist* (Hrl 3909)  
 a1500(c1400) *St.Erk.* (Hrl)

#### 7. Southwest Midland (chiefly early)

c1230(?a1200) *Ancr.* (Corp-C)  
 c1225 *Body & S.*(2) (Wor)  
 c1325 *Brook Harley Lyrics* (Hrl 2253)  
 ?a1300 *Fox & W.* (Dgb)  
 ?a1300(a1250) *Harrow.H* (Dgb)  
 c1325 *Harrow.H* (Hrl)  
 (a1333) *Herebert Poems* (Phil)  
 c1225(?c1200) *HMaid.* (Bod)  
 a1225(?OE) *Lamb.Hom.* (Lamb)  
 a1225(OE) *Lamb.Hom.Pentec./VA* (Lamb)  
 c1275(?a1200) *Lay.Brut* (Clg)  
 c1300 *Lay.Brut* (Otho)  
 ?a1300 *Maximian* (Dgb)  
 c1325 *Maximian* (Hrl)  
 c1275(?a1216) *Owl & N.* (Clg)  
 a1300 *Owl & N.* (Jes-O)  
 a1300 *PMor.* (Jes-O)  
 a1225(?c1175) *PMor.* (Lamb)  
 ?a1300(c1250) *Prov.Hend.* (Dgb)  
 c1325 *Prov.Hend.* (Hrl)  
 c1330 *SMChron.* (Roy)  
 ?a1300 *St.Eust.* (Dgb)  
 c1225(?c1200) *St.Juliana* (Bod)  
 c1225 *St.Juliana* (Roy)  
 c1225(?c1200) *St.Kath.*(1) (Bod/Roy)  
 c1225(?c1200) *St.Marg.*(1) (Bod)  
 c1225 *St.Marg.*(1) (Roy)  
 c1250 \**St.Marg.*(2) (Trin-C)  
 c1225(?c1200) *SWard* (Bod)  
 c1225 *SWard* (Roy)  
 ?a1300 *Thrush & N.* (Dgb)

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Short poems in Clg A.9, Dgb 86, Jes-O 29, Trin-C 323 (B.14.39). Satires and historical poems in Hrl 2253.

### 8. Southwestern

a1250 *Ancr.* (Nero)  
c1380 *Firumb.(1)* (Ashm)  
c1325(c1300) *Glo.Chron.A* (Clg)  
?a1300 *Jacob & J.* (Bod)  
?c1250 *PMor.* (Eg(1))  
a1225 *PMor.* (Eg(2))  
a1325 *SLeg.* (Corp-C)  
c1300 *SLeg.* (Ld)  
c1300 *SLeg.Becket* (Hrl)  
c1300 *SLeg.Brendan* (Hrl)

a1450 *St.Editha* (Fst)  
a1450 *St.Etheldr.* (Fst)  
c1400 \**Trev.Higd.* (Tbr)  
a1400 *Usages Win.* (Win-G1dh 24)  
c1430 *Usages Win.* (Win-G1dh 25)  
a1225 *Wint.Ben.Rule* (Clf)  
Short poems in Nero A.14.

### 9. Kentish

(1340) *Ayenb.* (Arun)  
c1275 *Ken.Serm.* (Ld)  
?a1250 *PMor.* (Dgb)  
(a1333) *Shoreham Poems* (Add)

## Appendix II: Abbreviations

A. General List			
A	Anglian dialects (of OE)	constr.	construction, construed with
a	ante (before) (preceding a date); recto (of a folio); first column (on a page)	contr.	contraction, contracted
abbrev.	abbreviation	cook.	cookery
abl.	ablative	Corn.	Cornish
absol.	absolute, -ly	correl.	correlative, -ly
abstr.	abstract, -ly	corresp.	corresponding
acc.	accusative	cosmol.	cosmology
act.	active	cost.	costume
adj.	adjective, adjectival	cp.	compare
adv.	adverb, adverbial	cpd., cpds.	compound(s)
AF	Anglo-French	Dan.	Danish
agr.	agriculture and horticulture	dat.	dative
AL	Anglo-Latin	ded.	dedication
alch.	alchemy, chemistry	def.art.	definite article
allegor.	allegorical	dem.adj.	demonstrative adjective
also cp.	a possible alternative etymon is (in etymologies only)	dem.pron.	demonstrative pronoun
	altered to/from	deriv.	derivative, derivation
alt. to/from	Anglo-Norman	dial.	dialect, -al, -ally
AN	analogy	dim.	diminutive
anal.	anaphoric pronoun	diss.	dissertation
anaph.pron.	anatomy	DOST	W.A. Craigie et al., <i>Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue</i> (1931-2002)
anat.	antiquities, archaeology	Du.	Dutch
ant.	apparently; appendix	E	English
app.	approximate, -ly	EAngl., EAnglian	East Anglia(n)
approx.	Arabic	eccl.	ecclesiastical usage
Ar.	Aramaic	ed.	edition; edited by
Aram.	architecture	EDD	J.Wright, <i>English Dialect Dictionary</i> (1898-1905)
arch.	arithmetic	E dial.	English dialect
arith.	arms, armor	eds.	editions; editors, edited by (more than one person)
arm.	article	EFris.	East Fnsian
art.	astronomy	e.g.	exempli gratia (for example)
astr., astron.	astrology	ellipt.	elliptical, -ly
astrol.	attributive, -ly	EM	East Midland dialect (of ME)
attrib.	auxiliary	EMnE	Early Modern English
aux.	verso (of a folio); second column (on page)	emph.	emphatic, emphasis
b	Biblical	EN	East Norse
Bibl.	biology	equiv.	equivalent(s)
biol.	botany	erron.	erroneous, -ly
bot.	Breton	esp.	especially
Bret.	circa	et al.	et alii (and others)
c	Catalan	etc.	et cetera (and so forth)
Cat.	Celtic	etym.	etymology, -ical
Celt.	century, -ies	euph.	euphemism, -istic, -ally
cent.	Central French;	EWS	Early West Saxon dialect (of OE)
CF	Continental French	ex., exx.	example(s)
	clause	exc.	except
cl.	Classical Latin	F	French
CL	combinations	f., ff.	folio(s)
cmbs.	cognate	fem.	feminine
cogn.	collection	FEW	W. v. Wartburg, <i>Französisches etymologisches Wörterbuch</i> (1922-)
col.	column(s)	fig.	figurative, -ly
col., cols.	collective, -ly	fish.	fishing and angling
coll.	combination, combining	Flem.	Flemish
comb.	combinations	fn., fns.	footnote(s)
combs.	comparative	freq., frequ.	frequent, -ly
comp.	complement	Fris.	Frisian
compl.	concrete	fut.	future
concr.	conjunction	G	German
conj.	consonant	Gael.	Gaelic
cons.	consonant cluster		
cons.clust.			

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gen.	genitive	met.	metaphor, -ical
geog.	geography	metath.	metathesis
geom.	geometry, geometrical	MFlem.	Middle Flemish
ger.	gerund (verbal noun)	MHG	Middle High German
Ger.	German	mil.	military usage
gloss.	glossary; gloss(es)	Mir.	Middle Irish
Gmc, Gmc.	Germanic	misc., miscel.	miscellaneous
Goth.	Gothic	misr.	misread
gov.	government	mistransl.	mistranslation, mistranslating
Gr.	Greek	ML	Medieval Latin
gram.	grammar	MLG	Middle Low German
hawk.	hawking (falconry)	MnE	Modern English
Heb.	Hebrew	MnE dial.	Modern English dialect (usu. = EDD, q.v.)
her.	heraldry	MnF	Modern French
HG	High German	MnG	Modern German
hunt.	hunting	MnIr.	Modern Irish
ibid.	ibidem (in the same place)	MnScot.	Modern Scots
Icel.	Icelandic	MnScot.Gael.	Modern Scottish Gaelic
IE	Indo-European	MS, MSS	manuscript(s)
i.e.	id est (that is)	MScot.	Middle Scots
imit.	imitative	mus.	music
impers.	impersonal	MWel., MWelsh	Middle Welsh
impv., ipv.	imperative	myth., mythol.	mythology
ind.	indicative	N	Northern dialect (of ME)
indef.adj.	indefinite adjective	n.	noun
indef.art.	indefinite article	nat.	natural
indef.pron.	indefinite pronoun	nat.hist.	natural history
inf., infin.	infinitive	naut.	nautical usage
infl.	inflected; influenced	neg.	negative
influ.	influenced	NEM, nEM	Northeast Midland dialect (of ME)
insc., inscr.	inscription	neut.	neuter
interj.	interjection	NF	Northern French
interrog.	interrogative	Nhb.	Northumbrian dialect (of OE)
intr., intrans.	intransitive, -ly	NHG	New High German
intro., introd.	introduction	NM	North Midland dialect (of ME)
Ir.	Irish	No., no.	number (with figures only)
Ir.Gael.	Irish Gaelic	nom.	nominative
iron.	ironic, -ally	Norw.	Norwegian
irreg.	irregular, -ly	NS, n.s.	New Series (of serial publications)
It., Ital.	Italian	NT	New Testament
joc.	jocular, -ly	num.	numeral; numismatics
K	Kentish dialect (of ME or OE)	NWM, nWM	Northwest Midland dialect (of ME)
Kt.	Kentish dialect (of OE)	OA	Old Anglian (dialect of OE)
L, Lat.	Latin	obj.	object, -ive
LALME	A. McIntosh et al., <i>A Linguistic Atlas of Late Mediaeval English</i> (1986)	occas.	occasional, -ly
lang.	language	OD, OED	<i>Oxford [English] Dictionary</i> (=J.A.H. Murray et al., <i>A New English Dictionary on Historical Principles</i> (1884-1928))
lapid.	lapidary	ODan.	Old Danish
Lat.Gram.	Latin grammar	OE	Old English
LG	Low German	OF	Old French
lim.	limiting (adj.)	OFris.	Old Frisian
lit.	literal, -ly	OHG	Old High German
liturg.	liturgical usage	OI	Old Icelandic
LOE	Late Old English (11th cent.)	OIr.	Old Irish
LWS	Late West Saxon dialect (of OE)	OIt.	Old Italian
M	Midland dialects (of ME)	OK	Old Kentish (dialect of OE)
marg.	margin, -al	OLFc.	Old Low Franconian
masc.	masculine	OMerc.	Old Mercian (dialect of OE)
math.	mathematics, arithmetic, geometry	ON	Old Norse
MDu.	Middle Dutch	ONF	Old Northern French
ME	Middle English	ONorw.	Old Norwegian
mech.	mechanics	op.cit.	opere citato (in the work cited)
MED	H. Kurath et al., <i>Middle English Dictionary</i> (1952-2001)	OProv.	Old Provençal
med.	medicine	orig.	origin; original, -ly
Merc	Mercian dialect (of OE)		

OS	Old Saxon	sb.	somebody, someone
OSl.	Old Slavonic	sbj.	subjunctive
OSp., OSpan.	Old Spanish	Scand.	Scandinavian
OSwed.	Old Swedish	Scot.	Scottish
OT	Old Testament	Scot.Gael.	Scottish Gaelic
OW	Old Welsh	SE	Southeastern dialect (of ME), except Kentish
OWalloon	Old Walloon		
OWS	Old West Saxon (dialect of OE)	SEM, sEM	Southeast Midland dialect (of ME)
p.	preterite, past tense	ser.	series
p., pp.	page(s)	sg., sing.	singular
palm.	palmistry	Shet.	Shetland
pass.	passive	sic	thus (actual reading)
pathol.	pathology	Skt.	Sanskrit
perh.	perhaps	Slav.	Slavonic, Slavic
Pers.	Persian	SM	South Midland dialects (of ME)
pers.	person	Sp., Span.	Spanish
person.	personified, -fication	specif.	specific, -ally
pers.pron.	personal pronoun	sth.	something
pert.	pertaining	str.	strong (of verbs, etc.)
PGmc.	Proto-Germanic	subj.	subject
pharm.	pharmacology	subst.	substantive
phil., philos.	philosophy	substit.	substitution
phon.	phonetic, -ally	suf.	suffix
phr., phrs.	phrase(s)	sup.	superlative
phys.	physics	Suppl.	Supplement
physiog.	physiognomy	surg.	surgery
physiol.	physiology	surm.	surname(s)
Pic.	Picard	s.v.	sub verbo (under the entry)
pl., plur.	plural	SW	Southwestern dialect(s) (of ME)
poet.	poetry; poetic, -ally	Swed.	Swedish
Port.	Portuguese	SWM, sWM	Southwest Midland dialect (of ME)
pos.	positive	techn.	technical, -ly
poss.	possessive; possession	theol.	theology
ppl., pppls.	participle(s)	trans.	transitive, -ly
p.ppl., p.pppls.	past participle(s)	transcr.	transcribed by; transcription
pr., pres.	present	transl.	translation(s)
prec.	preceding	Turk.	Turkish
pred.	predicate	ult.	ultimate, -ly
pred.adj.	predicate adjective	uninfl.	uninflected
pref.	prefix; preferred; preface	usu.	usually
prep.	preposition, -al	v.	verb
priv.	privative	var., vars., varr.	variant(s)
prob.	probable, -ly	vb.	verb
prol.	prologue	v.d.	various dates
pron.	pronoun	vet., veter.	veterinary usage
Prov.	Provençal	VL	Vulgar Latin
prov.	proverb; proverbial	voc.	vocative
psych.	psychology	vol., vols.	volume(s)
pt., pts.	part(s)	vr., vrr.	variant reading(s)
quot., quotes.	quotation(s)	Vulg.	Vulgate
q.v.	quod vide (which see)	W	Western dialect(s) (of ME)
RC	Roman Catholic	war.	warfare, military usage
ref.	reference	Wel.	Welsh
refl.	reflexive, -ly	WFlem.	West Flemish
refl.pron.	reflexive pronoun	WGmc.	West Germanic
reg.	regular, -ly	wk.	weak (of verbs, etc.)
rel.pron.	relative pronoun	WM	West Midland dialects (of ME)
repr.	representing	WN	West Norse
rev.	revised, revised by	WS	West Saxon dialect (of OE)
rhet.	rhetoric	*	reconstructed, hypothetical (in etymologies and related notes)
RN	Runic Norse	→	see
Rom.	Romanic, Romance	~	repetition of headword in its base form
S	Southern dialects (of ME), except Kentish		

28 Abbreviations

**B. Names of English Counties and Other Place Names  
(counties are named as they were before the Local  
Government Act of 1974)**

Bck	Buckinghamshire
Bdf	Bedfordshire
Brks	Berkshire
Chs	Cheshire
Cmb	Cambridgeshire
Cor, Cornw.	Cornwall
Cum	Cumberland
Der	Derbyshire
Dev	Devonshire
Dor	Dorset
Dur	Durham
Ess	Essex
Glo	Gloucestershire
Hmp	Hampshire
Hnt	Huntingdonshire
Hrf	Herefordshire
Hrt	Hertfordshire
I.W.	Isle of Wight
Ken	Kent

Lan  
Lei  
Lin  
Mid  
Mon  
Nhb  
Nhp  
Not  
Nrf  
Oxf  
R  
Shr  
Som  
Stf  
Suf  
Sur  
Sus  
War  
Wil  
Wm  
Wor  
Yks

Lancashire  
Leicestershire  
Lincolnshire  
Middlesex  
Monmouthshire  
Northumberland  
Northamptonshire  
Nottinghamshire  
Norfolk  
Oxfordshire  
Rutland  
Shropshire  
Somerset  
Staffordshire  
Suffolk  
Surrey  
Sussex  
Warwickshire  
Wiltshire  
Westmorland  
Worcestershire  
Yorkshire

### Appendix III: Chronological List of *MED* Fascicles

Volume 3	E.1 (1952)	e - endelonges	Pages i-ii, 1-120	(120 + 2)
	E.2 (1953)	ende-mate - escheu	121-244	(124)
	E.3 (1953)	escheuen - fair	245-372	(128)
	F.1 (1953)	fair - fered	373-500	(128)
	F.2 (1954)	fered - fleshlihede	501-628	(128)
	F.3 (1955)	fleshlinesse - forjif	629-756	(128)
	F.4 (1955)	forjiten - fyyn	757-952	(196)
Volume 1	A.1 (1956)	a - affrai	[iii], 1-124	(124 + 1)
	A.2 (1956)	affraien - amirien	125-252	(128)
	A.3 (1956)	amis - arm	253-380	(128)
	A.4 (1957)	arm - attractif	381-508	(128)
	B.1 (1957)	attracting - bapteme	509-636	(128)
	B.2 (1957)	baptemen - beste	637-764	(128)
	B.3 (1958)	beste - bisetten	765-892	(128)
Volume 2	B.4 (1958)	bisetten - bok	893-1020	(128)
	B.5 (1958)	bok - byyn	1021-1245	(225)
	C.1 (1959)	c - certain	1-126	(126)
	C.2 (1959)	certain - chine	127-254	(128)
	C.3 (1959)	chine - cold	255-382	(128)
	C.4 (1960)	cold - congré	383-510	(128)
	C.5 (1960)	congregacioun - cotoned	511-638	(128)
	C.6 (1960)	cotoner - crosser	639-766	(128)
	D.1 (1961)	crosser - defectif	767-894	(128)
	D.2 (1961)	defeculte - desirous	895-1022	(128)
	D.3 (1961)	desirousli - dispersen	1023-1150	(128)
	D.4 (1962)	dispershen - drauen	1151-1278	(128)
	D.5 (1962)	drauen - dywe	1279-1371	(93)
Volume 4	G.1 (1963)	g - girdel	1-128	(128)
	G.2 (1963)	girdel - gos-hauk	129-256	(128)
	G.3 (1964)	goshien - grith	257-384	(128)
	H.1 (1965)	grith - hastie	385-512	(128)
	H.2 (1966)	hastie - hennes-fore-ward	513-640	(128)
	H.3 (1966)	hennes-forth - hidous	641-768	(128)
	H.4 (1966)	hidous - honde	769-896	(128)
	H.5 (1967)	honde - hyye	897-1053	(157)
	Volume 5	I.1 (1968)	i - in	1-128
I.2 (1968)		in - inviscaten	129-256	(128)
J.1 (1969)		inviscative - jeueler	257-384	(128)
K.1 (1969)		jeuel-hous - kindelen	385-512	(128)
L.1 (1970)		kindelen - langage	513-640	(128)
L.2 (1970)		langage - lef	641-768	(128)
L.3 (1971)		lef - leten	769-896	(128)
L.4 (1972)		leten - lightli	897-1024	(128)
L.5 (1973)		lightli - loggen	1025-1152	(128)
L.6 (1973)		loggen - lyye	1153-1318	(166)
Volume 6		M.1 (1975)	m - manere	1-128
	M.2 (1975)	manere - medle	129-256	(128)
	M.3 (1975)	medle - metal	257-384	(128)
	M.4 (1977)	metalli - minten	385-512	(128)
	M.5 (1977)	minten - moleine	513-640	(128)
	M.6 (1977)	molendine - muche	641-768	(128)
	N.1 (1978)	muche - neigh	769-896	(128)
	N.2 (1979)	neigh - noien	897-1024	(128)
	N.3 (1979)	noien - nywrþe	1025-1141	(117)
Volume 7	O.1 (1980)	o - oinonette	1-128	(128)
	O.2 (1980)	oinoun - ordeinen	129-256	(128)
	O.3 (1981)	ordeinen - ournement	257-384	(128)
	O.4 (1981)	ournen - oversen	385-512	(128)
	P.1 (1981)	oversenden - partable	513-640	(128)
	P.2 (1982)	partable - penaunce	641-768	(128)

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	P.3 (1982)	penaunce - piable	769-896	(128)
	P.4 (1983)	piacle - pleie	897-1024	(128)
	P.5 (1983)	pleie - pouche	1025-1152	(128)
	P.6 (1983)	poucher - preven	1153-1280	(128)
	P.7 (1983)	preven - propugnacie	1281-1408	(128)
	P.8 (1984)	propugnatour - pyuet	1409-1540	(132)
Volume 8	Q (1984)	q - raiment	1-128	(128)
	R.1 (1984)	raimet - red	129-256	(128)
	R.2 (1985)	red - relesen	257-384	(128)
	R.3 (1985)	relesen - rere-warde	385-512	(128)
	R.4 (1985)	rerid - reward	513-640	(128)
	R.5 (1985)	reward - robbinge	641-768	(128)
	R.6 (1986)	robbori - ryyntyn	769-893	(125)
Volume 9	S.1 (1986)	s - savable	1-128	(128)
	S.2 (1986)	savacioun - se	129-256	(128)
	S.3 (1987)	se - semeli	257-384	(128)
	S.4 (1987)	semeli - setle	385-512	(128)
	S.5 (1987)	setle - sheden	513-640	(128)
	S.6 (1987)	sheden - shouven	641-768	(128)
	S.7 (1988)	shouven - simile	769-896	(128)
	S.8 (1988)	simile-wise - slyrke	897-1077	(181)
Volume 10	S.9 (1988)	sm - solas	1-126	(126)
	S.10 (1989)	solas - soth	127-254	(128)
	S.11 (1989)	soth - speche	255-382	(128)
	S.12 (1989)	speche - spranklin	383-510	(128)
	S.13 (1990)	spranklinge - steiring	511-638	(128)
	S.14 (1990)	steirne - stok	639-766	(128)
	S.15 (1991)	stok - streit	767-894	(128)
	S.16 (1991)	streit - subjeccioun	895-1022	(128)
	S.17 (1992)	subjecht - suster	1023-1150	(128)
	S.18 (1992)	suster - szlidinde	1151-1268	(118)
Volume 11	T.1 (1993)	t - tastinge	1-126	(126)
	T.2 (1993)	tastit - testificacion	127-254	(128)
	T.3 (1994)	testifien - them-self	255-382	(128)
	T.4 (1994)	them-self - thinken	383-510	(128)
	T.5 (1994)	thinken - thufe	511-638	(128)
	T.6 (1995)	thuffes - to	639-766	(128)
	T.7 (1996)	to - toshaken	767-894	(128)
	T.8 (1996)	toshal - treisoun	895-1022	(128)
	T.9 (1996)	treisoun - trussel	1023-1134	(112)
	T.10 (1997)	trussel - tyxtest	1135-1222	(88)
Volume 12	U.1 (1997)	u - understandinge	iii-iv, 1-124	(124 + 2)
	U.2 (1998)	understandinge - unmightnesse	125-252	(128)
	U.3 (1998)	unmightious - unware	253-380	(128)
	U.4 (1998)	unware - vaporacioun	381-508	(128)
	V (1998)	vaporatife - vynn	509-692	(184)
Volume 13	W.1 (1999)	w - war-wode	1-126	(126)
	W.2 (1999)	warwolf - wel	127-254	(128)
	W.3 (1999)	wel - werroun	255-382	(128)
	W.4 (2000)	wers - whilte	383-510	(128)
	W.5 (2000)	whil-tiden - winden	511-638	(128)
	W.6 (2000)	winden - withouten-forth	639-766	(128)
	W.7 (2001)	withouten-forth - worldshipe	767-894	(128)
	W.8 (2001)	world-thing - wun	895-1022	(128)
	X-Y-Z (2001)	wunæð - zynne	1023-1167	(145)

115 fascicles

14,939 pages

## Notes

1. This paper, with an addendum written in 1925, was not published until 1931: see Craigie (1919 [1931]). Craigie returned to the subject in 1936 with another paper read to the Philological Society, later published as Craigie (1937). Craigie's ideas on the period dictionaries are conveniently summarized by Aitken (1987), who also describes the progress made on them down to the mid-1980s. Henry Bradley had earlier suggested the possibility of period dictionaries of English, but had not made a detailed proposal: see Bradley (1905-6: esp. 313-14).

2. Unlike the second edition of the *OED*, the third edition (in progress) adds material from the *MED* both in its revised datings and dating practice and in additional quotations where appropriate (usually for date); see the online "Preface to the Third Edition," the section entitled "Documentation," especially the last paragraph. See also Durkin (2001: esp. 10-11) and Weiner (2000: esp. 170-71).

3. Primarily the letter E (see Flügel 1913), but a few examples of edited words beginning with A and B had already appeared (see Flügel 1911). Flügel had described his plans in grant reports to the Carnegie Institution of Washington (Flügel 1905-9, esp. 1905 and 1906). For a brief history of Flügel's work (and its antecedents) see the Introduction to Tatlock and Kennedy (1927: x-xii); a later summary, with all of the relevant references, may be found in Blake (2002: 49-53).

4. Northup, in a report written at the end of 1926 (see Northup 1927), gives details of the first year at Cornell, along with his future plans for the dictionary; in some later *MED* reports, the number of slips generated at Cornell is estimated to be 240,000.

5. For a discussion of the history of this dictionary see Bailey et al. (1975) and, for a fuller version, Bailey (1985).

6. The history of the Middle English dictionary project from 1922 until its transfer to the University of Michigan in 1930 can be traced in the proceedings of the annual meetings and the acts of the Executive Council of the Modern Language Association as published in *Publications of the Modern Language Association of America* 38-45 (1923-30), with some supplementary help from the *American Council of Learned Societies Bulletin* 7-18 (1928-32) and from early letters in the files of *MED* correspondence now housed in the Bentley Historical Library at the University of Michigan. The text of the invitation from the University may be found in *Publications of the Modern Language Association of America* 45 (1930: 1276). Northup became chairman of the Modern Language Association's Advisory Board for the *MED* in 1930.

7. Moore found the material "heterogeneous in character" and "much of it . . . in a highly disordered state" (1932: 106); see also Meech (1935: 103). Meech was interim head of the *MED* between Moore's death and the arrival of Knott in 1935.

8. See Moore, Meech, and Whitehall (1935). On dialect in the *MED* see further **Appendix I**.

9. This confidential report, dated November 15, 1946, was presented to the University of Michigan's Committee on Dictionaries; it, along with most of the other *MED* records and materials, is now housed in the Bentley Historical Library at the University of Michigan. The present quotation is on p. 5; page numbers of subsequent quotations from this report are noted in parentheses following the quotations.

10. Moore said that it would have been premature to experiment with editing because the material was incomplete (1934: 102). During 1933 and 1934, however, Moore did

prepare a few specimens, with entries borrowed from the *OED*, to circulate among scholars; see Moore (1934: 105-6) and Adams (2002: 98 and footnote 4).

11. These two procedures involved, respectively, "identifying all obscure, doubtful, and ambiguous words, and alphabetizing the quotations" and "alphabetizing into one alphabet all . . . quotations for words that are immediately identifiable" (Knott 1936: 105).

12. At one point Knott proposed using as few as only the earliest and the latest for each sense; at another, the earliest and usually several others; at yet another, the earliest, the latest, and one other. For the outlines of Knott's editing plan, which was never formalized, see Knott (1936: 109); unpublished descriptions of the *MED* by Knott from 1935 and 1941, along with the unpublished "Stylebook of the Middle English Dictionary," presumably written by Knott in 1936 (both of these are now in the Bentley Historical Library at the University of Michigan); and Kurath's summary on p. 7 of his unpublished 1946 report (see note 9).

13. For the Executive Council's decision see *Publications of the Modern Language Association of America* 53 (1938: 904). Adams (1995) has a full discussion of the circulation and aftermath of this specimen; for reactions to it see especially his pp. 153-56 and 176-79.

14. See Knott's annual report on the *MED* for 1 July 1937 to 30 June 1938, along with related documents dated 1938 (all in the Bentley Historical Library at the University of Michigan), for the details of the suspension and the combination of staffs. For the reasons for the postponement of the *Early Modern English Dictionary* in 1939 see Bailey (1985: esp. 186-89, 193-97); work resumed on it for a while in the 1960s and 1970s, for which see Bailey et al. (1975). For some years thereafter it was hoped that the work could continue after the *MED* was completed, but that hope was abandoned and the materials sent to the Oxford University Press in 1994 for use in *OED3*; see Durkin (1999: 32-33 footnote 28) and the online "Preface to the Third Edition," the section entitled "Documentation."

15. For the Executive Council's decision on this second specimen see *Publications of the Modern Language Association of America* 57 (1942: 1206), and for reactions to it see Adams (2002: 107 and footnote 19).

16. On Kurath's appointment see Adams (1995: 181-83) and Adams (2002: 104-5); for the reaction of the Executive Council of the Modern Language Association see *Publications of the Modern Language Association of America* 61 (1946: 605-6), which also refers to a "Basis for Cooperation" printed in the previous year's journal, 60 (1945: 621-22). Hereward T. Price was interim head of the *MED* from March 1945, when Knott went on sick leave, until Kurath's appointment later in the year.

17. "THE MIDDLE ENGLISH DICTIONARY Report for 1947," pp. 2-3 (now in the Bentley Historical Library at the University of Michigan).

18. See the **Introduction to the Bibliography** below for a discussion of the main features of the bibliographic system; for some observations on the innovation of the "double-dating" feature see Lewis (2002a: 172-75) and Lewis (2002b: 82-83).

19. We have, however, made some modifications to it over the years, becoming increasingly fuller in our treatment of some of its components and more elaborate and more discriminating in our semantic distinctions. I comment on these modifications at the appropriate places in the section entitled **An Entry and Its**

**Constituent Parts**; see also Lewis (2002b: 78-81).

20. In 1961, on Kurath's retirement and Kuhn's succession, and after spending the 1960-61 academic year as a visiting lecturer at the University of Michigan, John Reidy of the University of Western Ontario was hired as associate editor of the *MED*. He continued in that position until 1975, when he moved to full-time teaching in the Department of English; he returned to the *MED* as part-time consulting editor in 1979 and became full-time review editor from 1983 until his retirement in 1987.

21. Indeed, the reading program continued to within a year of the publication of the final fascicle in 2001, with the result that the collection contained over 3,000,000 quotation slips by that time. For comments on the history of the reading program from 1946 on see Jost (1985: 209-12).

22. The names of these contributors will be found in the *Preface to MED Volume 12 (U-V)*, pp. iii-iv; see also Lewis (2002b: 90).

23. I came to the University of Michigan from Indiana University in 1982 to be co-editor with Kuhn during his last year on the University of Michigan faculty and then became editor-in-chief on his retirement in 1983.

24. See **Appendix III** for a chronological list of these fascicles.

25. For an up-to-date statement on the history and components of the *Compendium* see McSparran (2002).

26. These range from notes on corrections and revisions to supplementary quotations for already existing entries to new entries (some already edited). The supplementary quotations have been partially entered into the computer and proofed against the texts and will be added to the online *MED* in due course; see McSparran (2002: 140).

27. With a progress report by Kuhn delivered to the Middle English Group of the Modern Language Association of America. In 1984 I wrote a paper on the possible shapes such a supplement might take, subsequently printed as Lewis (1985).

28. For a good survey of the problems as they apply specifically to Middle English see Lass (2000: esp. 10-11, 16-20, 32-34); see also Fisiak (1994) and, for more general discussions, Blake (1994) and Nicolaisen (1997). The dates of "Middle English" varied greatly between the 1830s, when the term was first introduced into English as a translation from the German of Jacob Grimm, and the 1870s, when it began to be applied (first by Henry Sweet) to the general range of dates it has today; see Matthews (1999: esp. xxviii-xxxi) and Matthews (2000: 1-6 et passim). For the earliest occurrence of "Middle English" see Shapiro (1983).

29. This is also the usual consensus by scholars in the field; see, e.g., Fisiak (1994: 56) and Kitson (1997: 222). The earliest use of 1100 at the *MED* was by Knott in an unpublished description of the dictionary in 1935 ("about 1100"; this description is among the *MED* documents in the Bentley Historical Library at the University of Michigan), though in his ACLS report for the same year he has "1150" (Knott 1936: 767). In all subsequent statements by the *MED*, published and unpublished, 1100 has been used. Moore had used 1050 (1932: 105); Northup before him had used 1066 (1927: xli). For discussions of the difficulties in dating the beginning of Middle English see Laing (1991: 33-39), Kitson (1997), and Lutz (2002).

30. The short titles (with dates), called "stencils" at the *MED*, here and elsewhere in the *Plan* will be found in the **Bibliography** below. For the meaning of "(OE)" and "(?OE)" see **Introduction to the Bibliography**.

31. See *Plan and Bibliography* (1954: ix). Knott was the

first to use the date 1475—Moore had used 1450 (1935: 105)—but there was little dispute about it, since it coincided with the beginning date of the *Early Modern English Dictionary*, which was in progress at the University of Michigan from the late 1920s to the late 1930s.

32. See below, **Introduction to the Bibliography**, for what this means. Knott in his unpublished "Stylebook" (see note 12) had decided earlier that exceptions could be made for quotations from approved texts dated either between 1475 and 1500 or ante 1500.

33. See below, **Introduction to the Bibliography**, and see also Lewis (2002a: 170-75) and Lewis (2002b: 82-84).

34. This might give the impression that our reading program was as systematic for the period 1476-83 as for the period up to 1475, but that would be misleading. Quotations with composition dates between 1476 and 1483 appear in our files only sporadically, and we have usually used them only when they have contributed significantly to some aspect of an entry or when the other evidence was limited. Quotations are also occasionally taken from documents with composition dates later than 1483 (see, e.g., *moresk(e n.(a))*, *rakent n. (b)*, and *seini n. (b), (c)*), but they are used only to shed some light on earlier quotations or on the sense in question, never as the first quotation in a sense. Some texts, chiefly literary, whose composition dates are unknown but which appear in manuscripts dated "a1500" may also have been composed after 1483.

35. The number of such texts from Ireland is relatively small and from Wales even smaller. For Ireland see, e.g., the preferred manuscripts of *Conq. Irel.*, *NPass.*, *Pride Life*, *Rev.HWoman*, and *Yonge SSecr.*, along with local documents such as *Acc.R.Priory HTrin.Dub.*, *Doc.Ireland in RS 53* and *RS 69*, *Doc.PRIreland in Dep.Rep.24*, *Extent Kilkenny in Curtis Ormond Deeds 2*, and *Statutes Ireland 1-3*. For Wales see, e.g., *Alas howe schall, Let.Hen.IV in RS 18.1* pages 35-38 and 158, and *PPLC (Hnt HM 137)*, along with local documents such as *Doc.Denbigh in PRSM 16*, *Doc. in Seebohm Trib.Syst.Wales*, *Doc. in Vinogradoff Survey Denbigh*, and *Statutes Wales in Britton*. Cp. the relevant sections in *A Linguistic Atlas of Late Mediaeval English (LALME, 1986: 1.269-79)*.

36. The brackets were omitted, e.g., for Barbour *Bruce in amour n.(1) (a)*, Wyntoun *Chron. in at adv. & prep. (c)*, *How GWife(2) in daunten v. 3.(b)*, *Golagros in ech on pron. phrase (b)*, *Bk.Alex. in enclosen v. 7.(a)*, *Exch.Rolls Scoll. in fat n. 1.(b)*, *Act Parl.Scot.(1) in folwen v. 5.(c)*, and *Sc.Leg. in fri(e n.(2) 2.*, and Middle Scots quotations were mistakenly used as the only ones for a sense in *embandounen v. (a)* and *equalite n. 5*. In a few cases some brief Scottish documents in an otherwise Middle English collection, *Let.Coldingham*, were inadvertently used. *The Kingis Quair* by James I of Scotland (= ?Jas.I KQ in the *MED Bibliography* below) has always occupied an ambiguous place in our corpus: we list it as a Middle English poem, but it is also claimed as Middle Scots by *DOST* (12, 2002: ccxvi). The latest opinion is that it is a conscious combination of English and Scots (see Jeffery 1978: esp. 217) and thus has a place in both dictionaries. As with many of the early and late Middle English texts mentioned above vis-à-vis the *DOE* and the *Early Modern English Dictionary* (respectively), no harm is done if it appears in two historically contiguous dictionaries.

37. This is especially true of the *MED* with respect to its treatment of the ordering of senses (see p. 15) and of the *DOE* in the fact that it does not date any of its texts. On the general subject of the synchronic aspects of historical dictionaries see esp. Zgusta (1991: 1-2), and also Zgusta (1971: 202-4); the synchronic aspects of the term "period dictionary" can be inferred from the treatments of the latter in Aitken (1987) and

Craigie (1919 [1931] and 1937).

38. See further *An Entry and Its Constituent Parts*, section 3. *OED3* (in progress) uses "ME" for generalized Middle English, but replaces the centuries in *OED1* and *OED2* with "eME" for early Middle English and "lME" for late Middle English, though the dates are slightly different: up to 1325 for "eME," after 1400 for "lME."

39. Laing (1991: 27); see also *LALME* (1986: 1-3).

40. Burnley especially (1992: 439-52) is full in his treatment of these processes, and often refers to earlier writers on the subject; and see also Strang (1970: 188-96, 257-58).

41. In the early volumes of the *MED* some prefixes and combining elements were given separate entries, with definitions and a full display of illustrative quotations (e.g., *after-* pref., *ayen-* pref., *bifore-* pref., *doun* adv. 5a.-5c.); in any supplement to the *MED* these entries will be deleted and the quotations distributed to new entries for each word represented in the quotations. All abbreviations in examples from the *MED* used in this section, *An Entry and Its Constituent Parts*, as well as in the body of the *MED*, may be found in Appendix II.A.

42. Sometimes in the earliest volumes syntactic compounds which do not have any of these three characteristics are treated as separate entries (e.g., *est-dede* n., *fern-sitter* n., *fof-knave* n.), in spite of the statement in the *Plan* (1954: 4a, last paragraph). In R and the early part of S we gave separate entries to compounds with (a) a semantic sense and (b) a surname or place name sense (e.g., *ringe-man* n., *scole-hous* n.), but later in S and in the letters following we put these under the simplex (cp. *stod*(e n.(1)). Occasionally also from R through Z compounds without any of the three distinguishing characteristics are treated as separate entries if they are in a series of related compounds at least one of which is a legitimate entry: e.g., *soth-sauen* v., *soth-sauer* n. (cp. *soth-sau*(e n.) and *wel-faren* v., *wel-faring*(e ger. (cp. *wel-fare* n.).

43. On this trilingual situation see, e.g., Rothwell (1994) and some of the articles in Trotter (2000), especially those (by Hunt, Jefferson, Rothwell, and Wright) that deal specifically with the difficulties of distinguishing Middle English from Latin and Anglo-French.

44. We also sometimes indicate in some clearly Middle English entries, e.g., *vaum-brace* n. and *wald*(e n., when we think that some quotations may be Anglo-French.

45. We have tried to be consistent in the later parts of the *MED*, but inevitably inconsistencies have crept in, and there are definitely inconsistencies in the early parts, where Latin quotations are sometimes included, unbracketed, in entries that are otherwise Middle English. In *MED* letters G through P Cornish quotations from *Origo Mundi* and *Pass. Christi* in Norris *Anc. Corn. Drama* that contained words borrowed from Middle English were included, without brackets, but this practice was discontinued beginning with Q.

46. The words "(or London)" are from page i of Kurath's "Prefatory Note" to the first fascicle (1952). Two years later, in the *Plan* (1954), he dropped them, but it is clear from references throughout that he intended the two to go hand in hand. Much has been learned since 1954 about the London dialect and the sources of standard written English in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. The most important study is that by Samuels (1963 [1989]), who distinguishes four "incipient standards" (p. 71) during this period. Of the four, Type III, which is representative of London English circa 1400, is found chiefly in the best manuscripts of Chaucer and in selected documents relating to London and is closest to the spelling of the *MED*'s headwords; it, along with the later developing Type IV, has elements of the "Central Midlands" (Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire, Hunting-

donsire, etc., those counties in what Kurath considered the northwest central part of the Southeast Midland area), which were brought to London primarily through immigrants from those counties.

47. This can also apply to words attested only in early Middle English, where older spellings have been retained in the headwords, e.g., *æ* (see item 7 at the bottom of p. 11a), *3* and *h* (see item 5 on p. 10b), *sc* (see note 52), *þ* and *ð* (see item 4 on p. 10b).

48. The traditional assumption behind this, of course, is that English alphabetic orthography, especially in the older periods of the language, is generally reflective of phonemic distinctions. This is truer of Old English, in which the Latin-based orthography is relatively close to the presumed phonemes, than of Middle English, which has undergone phonological changes that are not reflected in the inherited orthography and into which French orthographic traditions have been introduced, but as a general principle it still holds for Middle English. See Lass (1992: 27-31, 35-38) and especially Milroy (1992: 162-66); also McIntosh (1956 [1989]: Part I passim) and Laing and Lass (2003: 257-69).

49. The phonemic system in use in the *MED* is essentially Kurath's, and the principles behind it are that the spellings chosen should (1) systematically and unmistakably identify the phonemes and (2) adhere as closely as possible to the spelling of the manuscripts. Occasionally these two principles are in conflict (see next note and items 1 through 6 on p. 11a), but not often, and when they are, the spelling of the manuscripts takes precedence. As a convenience to readers who are more familiar with the International Phonetic Alphabet and the variations on it normally used in the standard works on the English language, I have indicated the equivalents in parentheses after the *MED* phonemes in the charts on p. 10.

50. In the original *Plan* (1954) /ū/ represented the sound in words chiefly from Old French spelled with *u* both in their Old French originals and in their Middle English reflexes (e.g., *duk* n., *natur*(e n., *pur*(e adj., *refusen* v., *tribut*(e n.). The actual sound in Middle English is uncertain, however. Some scholars have assumed that the original Old French /ū/ (= International Phonetic Alphabet vowel /y:/) was retained in Middle English, but it is more likely that this sound, whatever it was, fell in with the native diphthong /iu/ in the Southeast Midland dialect by the end of the fourteenth century, and that is why it has been entered among the diphthongs in the phoneme chart. At about the same time, Middle English /eu/ coalesced with /iu/, in /iu/, although *eu* is retained in the *MED* headwords because that is the dominant spelling in Southeast Midland texts circa 1400 (the only exception is *Tiues-dai* n. and related words), and this *eu* is sometimes substituted for *u* in the headwords for the Old French derivatives if the evidence warrants (e.g., *bleu* adj., *gleu* n., *reule* n., *seur* adj., and note that *u*, *eu*, and *iu*, as well as *ui* and even *ou*, frequently alternate in the variant spellings for these and similar words). But the spelling *u* is also used for the phoneme /ōu/ (= /u:/). Words having this phoneme, from various sources, usually have their headwords spelled with *ōu* (e.g., *brōuken* v., *dōut*(e n., *hōure* n., *naciōun* n., *pōudre* n.(1), *tōun* n., *vōuchen* v.), but so often these words have both *ou* and *u* in their variant spellings, and occasionally the headwords are spelled with *u* if that is the dominant, or only, spelling (e.g., *drup* n., *gufere* n., *lbrucen* v., *through* n., *tuken* v.).

51. Occasionally *w* and *y* are used for vowels if a word is attested only once with one of these spellings, either in an early quotation or as a probable error (e.g., *rew* n., *uneawfæstlice* adv., *clyt* n., *recoyn* n., *smoleynt* n.). I have used *w*, rather than *u*, more often than my predecessors if it could possibly be

construed as consonantal, primarily in intervocalic position, especially towards the end of the alphabet (e.g., *wawen* v., *wowe* n.). In general, there is slightly less standardization in Q through Z than in A through P, both in headwords and, especially, in variant spellings and forms.

52. The early spelling for /sh/, *sc*, has been retained in headwords only when a word is attested in early quotations with this spelling, and, since *sc* normally represents /sk/ (cp. item 2 on p. 11a), this applies only when *sc* appears before the front vowels and diphthong *e*, *ea*, *i*, and occasionally before *a* and *æ*, or when it is final (e.g., *æsc-pröte* n., *feondsceipe* n., *overscawian* v., *Samaritanisc* adj., *scæððig* adj., *sceallen* n.pl., *sceppen* v.).

53. In other words, chiefly from Latin, *gn* undoubtedly represents /gn/ (e.g., *stagne* n.), but in some the *gn* is phonologically ambiguous (e.g., *oppugnen* v. vs. *pugnen* v.).

54. Because of uncertainty about vowel quantity and quality, it might have been more prudent originally to have dispensed with diacritics and to have used just the spellings, either standardized or actual, as *DOST* (1931-2002) does, but, once the decision had been made, there was no question about keeping the same notation through to the end. The actual spellings can of course be found in the quotations in both the print *MED* and the electronic *MED*, and can be searched in the latter. The diacritic of stress, however, has not been indicated on the headwords. The general outlines of Middle English stress are known (see Lass 1992: 83-90), and in the first two editions of the "Editor's Guide" (1947, 1948; see above, Preface, note 2) Kurath had intended to indicate stress, but between then and the first fascicle in 1952 he must have decided that not enough was known about the details, or that it varied too greatly in foreign borrowings, for the *MED* to commit itself.

55. We also occasionally use the label "Latinate" to indicate either "derived, or retained, from Latin" (for words with a Latin etymon) or "having the inflections of Latin" (for words from other languages).

56. The one exception is in the entries for verbs: if the only variant spelling for the present tense is the headword spelling with an *-e* ending in place of the infinitive ending *-en*, it is omitted unless there are other present spellings that need to be listed, in which case it is given for completeness.

57. Suffixes in the letter E are an exception. For the common suffix entries *-ed(e)*, *-ede(n)*, *-en*, *-er*, *-es*, *-est*, etc. no variant spellings were listed, but we assume that they should have included (and that any Supplement entry will include) at least the common variants in *-ĭ* and *-u* (i.e., *-ĭd(e)*, *-ud(e)*, *-in*, *-un*, etc.), and we do not normally list these in the form sections.

58. Except for special reasons, e.g., to indicate that there are variants with long close *ē* or *ō* in addition to forms with long open *ē* or *ō* as indicated by the headword (or vice versa). If a diacritic is used in the variant spellings, it carries over to the next vowel or consonant if that vowel or consonant is identical.

59. These parentheses may, of course, be multiplied: e.g., *sæhtn(i)e(n)* (var. of *saughtenen* v.) or *l)served(e)* (p.pl. of *serven* v.), with the expansions extending to more than two forms.

60. Except for Middle Dutch (MDu.), for which we have used only Verwijs and Verdam (1885-1941).

61. Our reason for doing this is that we are dealing with source languages and dialects in contact, and the actual forms in those languages and dialects, rather than just the standard dictionary headwords, seem to have given rise to the Middle English forms; see further Lewis (2002b: 85-86). Some representative examples from later volumes of the *MED* are *skerren* v., *spole* n., *spousaille* n., *sprouten* v., *stal(le)* n., *sufficient* adj., *sword* n., *wain-scot* n., *warde-robe* n., *weiven*

v.(1), *wepen* n., and *wing(e)* n.

62. Derivatives sometimes, and compounds and combinations often, have no etymologies in these volumes (see discussion below), and gerunds, unless they come directly from OE, only begin to acquire etymologies systematically beginning with T.

63. On AF see the series of important articles by William Rothwell during the past quarter century (esp. Rothwell 1991, 1992, and 1994); as he makes clear, the AF influence on Middle English continues into the fifteenth century. In a number of his articles Rothwell has criticized the *MED* for its failure to make sufficient use of the AF evidence in its French etymologies. Before 1984 this criticism was certainly justified, if somewhat unfair since the full resources of the *Anglo-Norman Dictionary* (1977-92) were not available to us until that dictionary caught up with the *MED* in 1990 with the letter S. But, as I stated in 1984 in *Plan and Bibliography Supplement I*, by that date the *MED* was making use of the *Anglo-Norman Dictionary* "as far as it goes" (1984: 1) for AF etymologies. Also in that year one of our editors expert in OF, Stephen Lappert, using the lists in the *Anglo-Norman Dictionary* and other sources, annotated the Tobler-Lommatzsch bibliographies for AF and other OF dialectal texts, and we used that for R and much of S, and indeed have continued using it ever since for supplementary evidence. A glance at the *MED* entries from R through Z will indicate how extensively we cite AF forms and, from the end of S on, how heavily (and indeed scrupulously) indebted we are to the entries in the *Anglo-Norman Dictionary*. Despite all of this, however, even as late as 2000 Rothwell continued to misrepresent our practice when he said that "the *MED* takes [no] cognizance of the existence of the *Anglo-Norman Dictionary*" (2000a: 56 footnote 57).

64. When contrasted with AF, the abbreviation CF may also stand for Continental French.

65. Generally, the area including Flanders, Picardy, and the northern and eastern part of Normandy; cp. the *MED* entry *scac*-cluster (in words of Romance origin), for help with which we are indebted to Hans-Erich Keller of Ohio State University. On the ONF influence in Middle English see Bush (1922). The *MED*'s annotated Tobler-Lommatzsch bibliographies mentioned in note 62 also contain notes on ONF texts.

66. See, e.g., Burnley (1992: 432-35); also Coleman (1995: 108-23 passim).

67. Durkin (2000) has some valuable comments on this general subject and on the *MED*'s practice in dealing with it.

68. My colleague Jeffrey Singman has some remarks, sometimes critical, on the frequency of the *MED*'s use of such sources in its treatment of technical vocabulary (see Singman 1997). Determining how much to draw on such sources versus how much to rely on the specific textual context of the Middle English word was a constant problem for the *MED* editors.

69. As my colleague Elizabeth Girsch (1997: 187 footnote 22) so aptly puts it, "In practice, this has come to mean that the ideal entry consists of the smallest possible set of synonyms or synonymous phrases that will accommodate all the citations idiomatically."

70. The ways of defining in *DOST* evolved in a similar way, with A.J. Aitken's practice departing from Craigie's and becoming more elaborate beginning with the letter H; see Dareau (2002: 217, 221), incorporated in *DOST* 12 (2002: xxii, xxiv).

71. On the importance of definitions see the discussions in Kuhn (1982: 27, 37) and Lewis (2002b: 80-81). For contrasts with Kurath, who was somewhat skeptical of semantics (especially the historical variety) and who privileged the data (in

the form of quotations) above all else, see Adams (2002: 95-96 and footnote 1, 111), Kretzschmar (2002: 122-23), and Lewis (2002b: 79-80).

72. Kurath in his part of the *MED* usually put transitive and intransitive uses of a verb together in a single sense if they were semantically similar; Kuhn in his part frequently divided them into two senses if there were enough quotations. I tried to make the system consistent beginning with T, dividing them into separate senses if there were enough quotations, but, if there were not, specifying within a single sense which quotation or quotations were illustrative of the minority use. I did something similar with the word "also" from S and especially T on to the end of the alphabet, again specifying within a single sense which quotation or quotations were illustrative of the slight variation in meaning.

73. Field labels, usually abbreviated (see Appendix II.A), are used (as originally intended) for technical words and uses, but, as the *MED* progresses, they are frequently applied also to "ordinary words and usages occurring in technical context" (Kuhn 1982: 23).

74. On these traditions see Hultin (1986) and Zgusta (1989), and on the practice of the *OED* Silva (2000: 90-93); Lewis (2005: passim) contains a discussion of the general subject of ordering, especially the logical variety. The *OED* is not the only historical dictionary of English, other than the *MED*, to use logical ordering. The *DOE*, in the absence of a clear chronological pattern (which is rare, because the *DOE* does not date its texts), uses "a logical pattern" to order its senses, beginning with "the most common sense," or "the most general sense," or "a literal sense," and then proceeding in a logical order, primarily relational (but sometimes developmental), to the other senses (see Lewis 2005: 152, 154, and footnotes 9 and 20). In *DOST* (which dates its texts only in the bibliography, not in the dictionary proper) the approach has changed somewhat over the years: before 1986 there was an eclectic approach to ordering, with the first sense in an entry the earliest recorded one if it was sufficiently "distanced in time from the others," but with the developmentally logical taking precedence otherwise; from 1986 to the end in 2002 the emphasis shifted to the functioning of the language in Scots society, with the first sense still the earliest recorded one if possible, but with the other senses appearing "in their order of centrality to the functioning of the word," in other words in a logical order that is primarily developmental but also sometimes relational (see Lewis 2005: 152, 154, and footnotes 10, 11, 19; and see also *DOST* 12, 2002: clxxxi).

75. The problems are compounded by the *MED*'s system of double-dating, that is, giving the manuscript date of each text first and only adding the composition date, in parentheses following, if it is at least twenty-five years earlier. See above, p. 5, and the references in note 18.

76. There are only two concepts that I can think of in which the *MED* does not follow the *OED*, and these two seem to me to be arguably developmental too. The first is the more important, in that it reverses the *OED*'s main concept of order: in the *MED* abstract usually precedes concrete, which seems to me not unlike general precedes specific. This order, however, is not always followed: it depends on the nature of the word. The second is that the *MED* nearly always has intransitive uses of verbs before transitive ones no matter what the chronology, especially from the letter H on. This seems to me similar to simple precedes complex, not unlike the *OED*'s simple verb precedes phrasal verb.

77. The label "absol." is also sometimes used for this construction in letters A through P of the *MED*.

78. Unlike the *OED*, the *MED* never labels a sense either transitive or intransitive, but rather lets the presence or absence of an object in parentheses inform the reader which one is intended. Occasionally, however, an editorial comment may refer to a "trans." or an "intrans." use of a verb.

79. The main exceptions to this practice are words that have a number of compounds listed together in a separate section (e.g., *silver* n. 4., *skin* n.(1) 2.(g), *tre* n. 1c.(b))

80. Though A.H. Smith's *English Place-Name Elements* (1956; see Bibliography) is now somewhat out of date, and an "Addenda & Corrigenda" has been issued in *The Journal of the English Place-Name Society* 1 (1968-69) and a new edition is in progress (*The Vocabulary of English Place-Names*), we have found that Smith is still the most convenient way into the volumes of the English Place-Name Society, both those published before 1956 and those after.

81. Report of November 15, 1946 (see note 9), Introduction, p. 1.

82. The variant reading may also occasionally come from an eclectic critical edition, in which case it is designated by the name of either the editor or the edition instead of by the manuscript or date: e.g., "[Brunner:—]" in quot. *Rich.*(Auch) in *drauen* v. 1c.(a), "[Warner:—]" in quot. *Libel EP* (Ld) in *wisell* adj. (a), "[Riverside:—]" in quots. Chaucer *TC* (Corp-C) in *unhapli* adv. (a) and Chaucer *PF* (Cmb Gg) in *untrussen* v. (c).

83. For a full discussion of Kurath's sources see Adams (in preparation: esp. Chapter 4); in the meantime, see *Plan* (1954: 8-11) and also Adams (2002: 101-3).

84. Said in a letter to Hope Emily Allen of 2 April 1947, quoted in Adams (in preparation: Chapter 3).

85. Earlier in the *Plan* (1954: ix) Kurath observed that "Moore had intended . . . to reconsider the interpretation of the isoglosses after further evidence had accumulated in the course of editing the *MED*. Although the number of the isoglosses established for the period 1400-1450 is small and the evidence for eLan., sChs., Stf., Not., Bck., Oxf., and sGlo. is rather fragmentary, the survey nevertheless provides the most reliable evidence now available for setting up a tentative scheme of the major dialect areas and their subdivisions, to which texts written in regional dialects or exhibiting regional features may be assigned."

86. See, e.g., the map in Lass (1992: 34) and the treatment of dialects by Milroy (1992: esp. 172-77).

87. See *Plan* (1954: 9a, Map 3). I take this opportunity to point out an error on Kurath's Map 6 (*Plan* 1954: 10b), first noticed so far as I know by Sundby (1963: 54 footnote 11): the N *strēte* / S *strēte* line reproduces Oakden's line G rather than his line L as it should.

88. "Editor's Guide," 2nd edition (1948), section 7.1.

89. *Ibid.*; Adams (in preparation) discusses this policy at length in Chapter 4.

90. This does not distort the dialect picture in the *MED* in any significant way, since so often texts in these two dialects share characteristics. From notes remaining in the *MED* files it appears that Kuhn was frequently influenced in his dialect assignments by Forsström (1948).

91. The labeling has been extended to comments in etymologies when words exist "only" or "chiefly" in certain dialects. This is a device that Kurath sometimes employed in A through D, and Kuhn occasionally in his part of the *MED*, but it has been used much more frequently from Q on. For "only" see, e.g., *arudden* v., *bidene* adv., *he* pron.(3), *stulth* n., *therne* adj., *twingen* v., and *waiming* ger.; for "chiefly" see, e.g., *bold* n., *derf* adj., *his* pron.(3), *strenkelen* v., *thine* adv., *uggen* v., and *waght* n.

92. To use the formulation by the authors of *LALME* (1986: 1.3) in restricting their dates to roughly 1325-1450; on the reasons for restricting Early Middle English to the dates 1150-1300 see Laing (1991: 27-28). See also the discussion above, pp. 7-8.

93. Kurath had anticipated the problem when he noted that "The unevenness of documentation by areas and by periods makes it difficult to trace in detail the shifting of the isoglosses during the ME period" (*Plan* 1954:10b), but he did not pursue the implications in any detail.

94. Both Moore, Meech, and Whitehall (1935) and Kurath (*Plan* 1954) use the isoglosses as boundary lines, though Moore, Meech, and Whitehall describe them as outer limits of features, and it is these outer limits that are generally confirmed by the dot maps in *LALME* (1986: 1); frequently there are areas in which the contrastive features overlap. For line 1 cp. *LALME* dot maps 633-38 and 548-52 (esp. 633 and 548, which show the southern limit of  $\bar{a}$ ); for line 2 cp. dot maps 652-53 (esp. 653, which shows the southern limit of present plural -es); for line 3 cp. dot maps 645-46 (esp. 645, which shows the southern limit of 3rd person present singular -es); for line 4 cp. dot maps 652 and 654 (though it is impossible on dot map 652, which covers only the northern part of the country, to tell what the southern limit of present plural -en is); for line 5 cp. dot maps 408-12 and 993-98 (these maps do not bear out the traditional  $i/u/e$  isoglosses as unambiguously as one would have expected); for line 6 cp. dot map 95 (which shows the eastern limit of  $\bar{o}$  before a nasal). For the corroborative isoglosses between Northeast Midland and Southeast Midland cp. dot map 148 (which shows the southern limit of  $s$ - forms of *shulen* v.) and dot maps 39-40 (esp. 40, which shows the northern limit of  $h$ - forms of the 3rd person plural personal pronoun).

95. See, e.g., McIntosh (1976 [1989], including appendices) and Beadle (1991). Norfolk texts on the *MED* list of regional texts and manuscripts include: (from the SEM group) *Bestiary*

(Arun), *Capgr.Chron.*(Cmb), *Capgr.Rome* (Bod), *Capgr.St.Aug. & St.Gilb.* (Add), *Gen. & Ex.* (Corp-C), *MKempe A & B* (Butler-Bowdon), *Nrf.Gild.Ret.*, and *Paston*; (from the EM group) *Castle Persev.* (Folg) and *LudusC* (Vsp); and (from the NEM group) *Havelok* (Ld). Suffolk texts from the SEM group are *Bokenham Sts.* (Arun), *Capgr.St.Kath.* (Arun 396), and *Siege Troy(1)* (Suth).

96. For *LAEME* see especially Laing (1991 and 1993).

97. This is especially the case in the West Midland area, which is very finely differentiated in the later *MED* lists. It is also occasionally the case with variations between the Southwestern and Southwest Midland areas (e.g., *Lay.Brut* (Otho) (*MED* = SWM; *LALME* = Som./*LAEME* = Wil. [the latter assignment is from a personal communication from Margaret Laing]), *Ancr.*(Nero) & short poems (Nero) (*MED* = SW; *LAEME* = Wor.), and *PMor.* (Eg(1) & (2)) (*MED* = SW; *LAEME* = Wor.)) and between the Northern and Northeast Midland areas with respect to manuscripts assigned by *LALME* to Lincolnshire (e.g., *Bonav.Medit.*(3) (Thrn), *Misyn FL* (Corp-O), and *Misyn ML* (Corp-O), all of which the *MED* calls N).

98. The five are *Mannyng HS* (Hrl) (*MED* = NEM; *LALME* = Bck.), *Brut-1333* (Rwl B.171) (*MED* = SEM; *LALME* = Hrf.), *Otuel* (Auch) (*MED* = SEM; *LALME* = Wor.), and *Spec.Guy* (Auch) and *Why werre* (Auch) (*MED* = SEM; *LALME* = Glo.).

99. Since the late 1980s we have had our own in-house guide to the subject, which in a number of cases is more finely differentiated; see Lewis (1994: 208, 211-13) for a description and illustration of this guide.

100. *Alex.Maced.* (Grv), because of its manuscript date, is now usually referred to in our labeling as "17th cent." rather than "WM."

101. *Destr.Troy* (Htrn), because of its manuscript date, is now usually referred to in our labeling as "16th cent." rather than "WM."

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## Introduction

The following **Bibliography** brings together all of the texts used in the printed *MED*. It combines the original *Bibliography* (1954) and the supplemental *Bibliography* (1984), with appropriate corrections and datings, and merges with these the texts added to the corpus between 1984 and 2001, when the last fascicle of the *MED* was published. In some instances the resources of the electronic *MED* have revealed texts that were cited in the body of the printed *MED*, especially in the earlier fascicles, but were never recorded in the bibliographic files, and these have now been added as well. Nearly all texts listed in the **Bibliography** are in the *MED* library or in the University of Michigan Library except those labeled [OD col.], for which we have relied upon the quotation slips furnished by the *OED*.

The **Bibliography** is divided into two alphabetical lists: **I. Title Stencils** and **II. Incipit Stencils**. A "stencil," as the word is used at the *MED*, is an abbreviated label for a text (plus author if known), preceded by its date or dates and followed, in parentheses, by the abbreviation for the manuscript in which it appears. (This use of "stencil" comes from the original practice of "stenciling" such information on slips.) The **Title Stencils** section contains works, both short and long, with generally accepted titles or by known authors, e.g., c1440(a1400) *Awntyrs Arth.* (Thrn), c1380 *Efficacy AM* (LdLat), (?1440) *Palladius* (Fitzw), a1500(c1340) *Rolle Psalter* (UC 64), a1250 *Treat.Falconry* (Clare). The stencils in this section are largely based upon the titles in J.E. Wells, *A Manual of the Writings in Middle English 1050-1400* (New Haven, 1916-51), the standard reference tool when the 1954 *Bibliography* was prepared. Stencils added since 1954 are based upon the titles either in Wells or in the successor to Wells (*A Manual of the Writings in Middle English 1050-1500* [New Haven, 1967-], edited by J.B. Severs, A.E. Hartung, and P.G. Beidler) or in the texts themselves. The **Incipit Stencils** section contains short pieces in verse, ostensibly anonymous, identified by the first few words of the first line, e.g., c1305 *Als i me rod* (LinI). See further the introduction to the **Incipit Stencils** section.

### Preferred Manuscripts

For every text and for every version of a text a *preferred manuscript* is selected, from an edition or a facsimile of which the quotations are normally taken. In the **Bibliography** the preferred manuscript is always listed ahead of the other manuscripts. Whenever a stencil in the body of the *MED* does not contain a manuscript designation, the user may assume that the quotation is taken from the preferred manuscript. When a quotation is cited from any other manuscript, the manuscript designation is made a part of the stencil.

The earliest complete, or fairly complete, manuscript that has been edited is chosen as the preferred manuscript, which usually coincides with what the editor believes is the most important manuscript or the one closest to the author's original. For passages lacking in the preferred manuscript, the second earliest edited manuscript is usually chosen as the

preferred manuscript for these passages. Fragmentary manuscripts antedating the preferred manuscript are freely drawn upon for quotations and for variants. If the most important manuscript of an important text, or a version of it, has not been edited, or has been poorly edited, a facsimile of that manuscript may be used as the preferred manuscript.

Exceptions to the procedure described above are made if the manuscript relations are very complicated or have not been clarified (e.g., *PPI.*, *SLeg.*). In such cases the manuscript designation is included in the stencil for all quotations given in the body of the *MED*.

Some texts are quoted directly from photostats or microfilms of manuscripts, or from unpublished editions or transcripts, especially in those genres that are not well represented in printed editions, e.g., *\*Cath.Angl.*, *\*Chauliac(1)*, *\*Lelamour Macer*, *\*Medulla*, *\*Pilgr.Soul*, *\*Treat.Uroscopy*, and many documents. All such unpublished sources are marked with an asterisk.

### Preferred Editions

For each manuscript of a text that has been edited by two or more different editors, a *preferred edition* is selected, from which the quotations are normally taken. In the **Bibliography** the preferred edition is always listed ahead of the other edition or editions (from which quotations may be taken for special reasons). Whenever a stencil in the body of the *MED* includes neither the name of an editor nor a manuscript designation, the user may assume that the quotation is taken from the preferred edition.

In selecting the preferred edition, fidelity in the reproduction of the manuscript is the primary consideration. Reliability and fullness of the linguistic and philological apparatus are considered next, and finally, other things being equal, availability. When two editions are regarded as equally suitable, the choice is merely one of convenience.

An exception to the procedure outlined above has been made in the case of Chaucer's works, for which we have used as our preferred editions—without restoration or recovery of the readings of the base manuscripts—the eclectic edition of Manly and Rickert (1940) for the *Canterbury Tales* and Robinson's edition (1933), and more recently the Riverside edition (1987), for most of the other works. See the headnote to Chaucer in the **Bibliography** and, for a fuller discussion, Lewis (2002a: 175-78).

*Critical editions* of texts are not used as preferred editions if a diplomatic edition of any one of the manuscripts is available. In the case of competing critical editions, the ease with which we can recover the manuscript readings is the crucial factor in our choice of which one is preferred, and we restore those readings whenever possible; if the editor's emendation is accepted, it is inserted in brackets. When quotations are taken *directly* from a critical edition, the fact is pointed out in the **Bibliography** by the addition of the editor's name in place of the manuscript, e.g., *Libel EP* (Warner), or *Rich.* (Brunner).

### Manuscript Dates and Composition Dates

All stencils are dated in the **Bibliography**. Most of them bear the *manuscript date*, which is followed by the *composition date* (often conjectural) enclosed in parentheses if the latter is thought to be at least twenty-five years earlier. Some examples are: a1400(a1325) *Cursor*, c1275(?a1200) *Lay.Brut*, a1400 *NVPsalter*, 1372 *Synful man ne dred*. When (OE) appears after the manuscript date, it means that there is an earlier version from the Old English period, i.e., before 1100; when (?OE) appears, it means that there was probably an Old English source, but that it is no longer extant. Some examples are: c1175(?OE) *HRood*, a1150(OE) *Vsp.D.Hom*. Composition dates are added to the manuscript dates only for stencils for preferred manuscripts. (On the reasons for the adoption of this so-called "double-dating" feature see above, **History, Contents, and Guide to the Dictionary**, p. 5, and, for a fuller discussion, Lewis [2002a: 172-75].)

Stencils for documents (if they are assumed to be contemporary, though the evidence may be slight), or for works for which the composition date is well established and less than twenty-five years earlier than the manuscript, bear only the composition date, *enclosed in parentheses*. This practice has been adopted, e.g., for (1340) *Ayenb.*, (c1395) Chaucer *CT.Cl.*, (a1393) Gower *CA*, (a1420) Lydg.*TB*, (a1470) Malory *Wks.*, (v.d.) *Paston*, (c1454) *Pecock Fol.*, (v.d.) *RParl.*, and (a1398) \**Trev.Barth*.

### Dating the Manuscripts

The dates of all the manuscripts quoted in the *MED* were systematically reviewed during a three-year period (1946-49), just before publication of the first fascicle. Cards were made out for all the manuscripts containing Middle English material from which quotations were taken, and for those containing more than one Middle English text the contents were also listed so that all texts written in the same hand, and often given very different dates in previous publications, would be sure to receive the same date in our corpus. Dates assigned by paleographers and editors were entered on these cards along with a summary of whatever evidence (if any) had been offered in support of the date or dates suggested. Official manuscript catalogues, editions of text, and other publications were thoroughly searched. Whenever the evidence so assembled was inconclusive and opinions varied or clashed with regard to the date of any manuscript of some importance, the keepers of manuscripts in the various repositories were consulted. Those at the British Museum (as it then was), the Bodleian Library, and the Cambridge University and college libraries, especially, checked hundreds of dates for us, and we are greatly indebted to them, as well as to the librarians at other repositories of Middle English writings, for their assistance.

Since 1950 we have continued to revise our dates as new evidence has appeared. Usually such changes are not great: a change of a "circa" to an "ante," for example, or at most twenty-five years. But we have occasionally made larger changes if the evidence has warranted, for example, from a1400 to a1500 for *Add.37075 Prov.* on the dating of the

manuscript in D. Thomson, *An Edition of the Middle English Grammatical Texts* (1984), from c1450 to c1540 for *Destr.Troy* (Htrn) on the basis of C.A. Luttrell's data from handwriting, watermarks, etc. in *Neophilologus* 42 (1958), from a1225 to c1275 for *Lay.Brut* (Clg) on the basis of N.R. Ker's conclusions in his facsimile edition of the manuscripts of *Owl & N.* (1963) plus subsequent scholarship, and from a1500 to c1429 for *Mirror Salv.* (Beeleigh) on the dating in A. Henry's edition (1987). Many manuscript dates, however, remain uncertain (and are identified as such by a question mark in the **Bibliography**), and some others are still subjects of controversy among the experts.

Unless a precise date can be given to a manuscript, the *MED* assigns dates by quarter centuries, prefixing c = circa, a = ante, and ? = doubtful to the date in accordance with the available evidence or opinion(s). The quarter-century dates should be read as follows:

c1350 = 1350, or up to a quarter century earlier or later;

a1350 = before 1350, but probably not earlier than 1325;

?a1350 = a1350, but less securely established (and possibly later than 1350).

Attention should be called to the fact that the dating of fifteenth-century manuscripts is beset by special difficulties: the writing is more highly standardized, paleographers have been, at least until recent years, less interested in these manuscripts, and the linguistic evidence is rather elusive because of the increased standardization of the written language. Hence, for the fifteenth century the date a1450 may simply mean that the manuscript has been assigned rather vaguely to the first half of the century, c1450 may simply mean the middle part of the century, and a1500 may mean any of the following: "between 1475 and 1500" or, more generally, "late fifteenth century" or, simply, "any time in the fifteenth century." (The last meaning—"any time in the century"—can in theory also apply to a1400, or a1300, or a1200, but in fact it almost never stands for that in the *MED*.)

With regard to documentary texts, it should be pointed out that many of them are accessible only in the various antiquarian journals published during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, often without adequate information as to identity and date; that others are quoted from more recent historical works in which the spelling is not always accurately rendered; and that some of the more important collections, such as *RParl.* and Rymer's *Foedera*, were edited from 200 to 300 years ago.

### Notes on the Entries

The two sections of the **Bibliography** are arranged alphabetically by stencil. The letter æ is alphabetized as a + e; ȝ follows g; þ and ð are under th; and & is taken as and. If the shelf number of a manuscript is part of the short title in the stencil, that stencil will normally appear before a stencil without a manuscript number, e.g., a1500 *Sln.2584 Med. Miscell.* appears before a1486 *Sln.Bk.Hawking*. The normal order in an entry is: (1) stencil; (2) double colon; (3) bibliographical information.

Preferred manuscripts, from which the quotations are normally taken, are, with two exceptions, always identified in the entries, though never in the body of the *MED*. The exceptions are that preferred manuscripts are seldom identified for documents and are never identified for texts that have both the manuscript designation and the shelf number in their short titles (e.g., a1500 *Hri.2378 Recipes*). Non-preferred manuscripts from which quotations are taken, on the other hand, have their manuscript designations as part of their stencils in the body of the *MED*. The presence or absence of a shelf number following the manuscript designation depends, with a very few exceptions, on whether or not there is another manuscript from the same collection containing the text in question. For example, in the stencil c1450 *Interpol.Rolle Ps.* (Bod 288) the number is added to distinguish this preferred manuscript from the variant manuscript Bod 877 (the same principle applies in this entry for the variant manuscript pairs Ld 174 and Ld 286 and Roy 18.C.26 and Roy 18.D.1). But when there is only one manuscript of a text from a given collection, then only the collection is identified, e.g., c1425 *Interpol.Rolle Ps.* (Lamb). Occasionally the publication of a new edition of a text from a previously unnoted or unused manuscript has necessitated the addition of a shelf number to an existing stencil, e.g., c1400(?a1387) *PPI.C* (Hnt) became c1400(?a1387) *PPI.C* (Hnt HM 137) after the appearance of D.A. Pearsall's 1979 edition of Hnt HM 143, a manuscript not noted by W.W. Skeat in his earlier edition of the poem.

The edition or editions of the preferred manuscript are always listed first in an entry, ahead of the editions of non-preferred manuscripts of the same text, and a line, rather than a repetition of the stencil, is used to indicate each non-preferred edition. For manuscripts that appear only in variant readings, a variant block containing their dates and manuscript designations (and shelf numbers where appropriate), along with the source or sources from which they are taken, appears at the end of the entry. Any non-preferred or variant manuscript may be used in the body of the *MED* for variant readings, enclosed in square brackets, to readings of the preferred manuscript, but they are usually not identified by manuscript designation there, since they can be found quite easily in the entries or in the edition of the preferred manuscript. An exception to this practice has been made for certain important texts, such as *Cursor*, *Lay.Brut*, *SLeg.*, where the source of the variant reading is identified either by manuscript or by date.

When a text occurs in more than one version or recension, the stencil includes a number in parentheses, as *WBible(1)*, *WBible(2)*, or else *A, B, C*, as *PPI.A, PPI.B, PPI.C*. Numbers are also used to distinguish different texts that are conventionally known by the same title, as *Body & S.(1)*, *Body & S.(2)*.

Entries enclosed within brackets in the **Bibliography** are *not* to be regarded as Middle English. A few of them contain stencils and bibliographical information for Old English texts; the others contain stencils and information for Middle Scots texts, some of which were used inconsistently in the early parts of the *MED* (see above, **History, Contents, and Guide to the Dictionary**, p. 7b, and note 36). Quotations from such texts, as well as from Latin and French texts, are sometimes enclosed in

brackets and placed at the beginnings of the blocks of Middle English quotations for various illustrative purposes (see above, p. 19a). Stencils for Latin and French texts that contain Middle English words appear in the **Bibliography**, without brackets, but those that are used *only* for Latin and French quotations (e.g., (1244-59) *Arms* in Brault *Early Blazon* in *ounde* adj.(a), a1250 *Bible* in Wright *Pol.Songs.* in Robert n. 1.(a), c1333 in Thorndike & Kibre *Incipits* in *adrop* n., (?a1150) *Lapid.* in Studer & Evans *ANLapid.* in *paillet* n.(a)) were not systematically recorded in the *MED* bibliographic files and thus do not appear. Such stencils, however, though abbreviated, will usually be understandable and lead the user of the *MED* to the text intended.

Headnotes describe special treatment accorded certain texts and authors, along with specific bibliographical abbreviations; see C.d'Orl., Chaucer, *Fasc.Mor.*, Hoccleve, Lydgate, *NHom.*, *PPI.* (*Piers Plowman*), Rolle, *SLeg.* (*Southern Legendary*), *WBible*, and *Wycl.*

General abbreviations used in the entries may be found above, in **Appendix II.A to History, Contents, and Guide to the Dictionary**. Abbreviations for specific manuscripts and collections of manuscripts may be found in the section **Manuscript Collections and Manuscripts**, and any bibliographical abbreviations that are not expanded in the entries may be found in the section **Journals, Serials, Festschriften, and Collections**, both of which follow here, preceding the **Title Stencils**.

In the first bracketed section at the end of an entry, we have added notes, where appropriate, to indicate the nature of any changes in that entry that have taken place during the course of publication of the *MED* and the point in publication at which they occurred. These notes apply primarily to two kinds of changes: (1) where a new edition of a text has superseded the edition from which quotations were formerly taken, and (2) where a text still cited from the edition previously listed has undergone a re-evaluation that necessitates a change in the date, title, or manuscript designation of its stencil.

In the second bracketed section, we have given bibliographical information, where available, from one or both of the following standard reference works: J.B. Severs, A.E. Hartung, and P.G. Beidler, eds., *A Manual of the Writings in Middle English 1050-1500* (New Haven, 1967-; 11 volumes published thus far), abbreviated S (with reference by volume, chapter, and item), and C. Brown and R.H. Robbins, *The Index of Middle English Verse* (New York, 1943), with *Supplement* by Robbins and J.L. Cutler (Lexington, 1965), abbreviated BR (with reference by incipit number).

### Manuscript Collections and Manuscripts

In the following list "now" means that these are the only manuscripts recorded in the *MED* that have moved; "see" means that these are the manuscripts known to have moved, but that the location of others from the same library is not known; and "see also" means that these are the manuscripts known to have moved, but that others are still at the library or belong to the owner.

#### 46 Manuscript Collections and Manuscripts

- Aber :: Aberdeen, University Library  
 Acland :: Sir Peregrine Acland; now Scheide 12  
 Acland-Hood :: Sir Alexander Acland-Hood; now Harv Eng 938  
 Add :: London, British Library, Additional  
 AddR :: London, British Library, Additional Rolls  
 Adv :: Edinburgh, National Library of Scotland, Advocates  
 Aldh :: Lord Aldenham; now Harv Richardson 44, Yale 324  
 Allanson :: Broughton, Flintshire, Mrs. Allanson; now CmbAdd 6681  
 Antq :: London, Society of Antiquaries  
 Arms :: London, College of Arms (including a group of Arundel MSS)  
 Army :: Bethesda, National Library of Medicine  
 Arras :: Arras, Bibliothèque de la Ville  
 Arun :: British Library, Arundel  
 AS :: Oxford, All Souls College  
 Ashb :: Ashburnham; see Hnt HM 128, Mrg M 249, Ryl Eng 80, Wel 406, and present location unknown (= Ashb 3)  
 Ashm :: Oxford, Bodleian Library, Ashmole  
 Auch :: Auchinleck MS: = Adv 19.2.1, with fragments in Ednb-U 218  
 Aug :: British Library, Cotton Augustus  
 Baker :: Baker MS; now Mellon  
 Bal :: Oxford, Balliol College  
 Banister :: London, Thomas Banister, Esq.; now New York Public Library 67  
 Barl :: Bodleian Library, Barlow  
 Bedf :: Bedford: = Add 36983  
 Beeleigh :: Maldon, Beeleigh Abbey, Foyle  
 Berlin :: Berlin, Staatsbibliothek  
 Bil :: Billyng MS (formerly Yates); present location unknown  
 Blairs :: Aberdeen, Blairs College  
 Blickling :: Blickling Hall, Norfolk  
 Bod :: Bodleian Library, Bodley  
 BodAdd :: Bodleian Library, Additional  
 BodAuct :: Bodleian Library, Auctarium  
 BodDon :: Bodleian Library, Donation  
 BodEMisc :: Bodleian Library, English miscellaneous  
 BodeMus :: Bodleian Library, e Musaeo  
 BodKCh :: Bodleian Library, Kent Charters  
 BodLLtrg :: Bodleian Library, Latin liturgies  
 BodLMisc :: Bodleian Library, Latin miscellaneous  
 BodLTh :: Bodleian Library, Latin theology  
 BodLtrg :: Bodleian Library, Liturgical  
 Bodmer :: Geneva, Bibliotheca Bodmeriana; see also Princ-U Taylor 9  
 BodPoet :: Bodleian Library, English poetry  
 BodR :: Bodleian Library, Bodley Rolls  
 BodTh :: Bodleian Library, English theology  
 Boston :: Boston Public Library  
 Bridgw :: Bridgewater Corporation; now Taunton, Somerset Record Office D/B/bw 123  
 Brist-CL :: Bristol, Avon County (formerly City) Reference Library  
 Bristol :: Bristol Records Office  
 Brist-U :: Bristol, University of Bristol  
 Brm :: Brome Hall, Suffolk, Book of Brome; now Yale 365  
 Brsn :: Oxford, Brasenose College  
 Brudenell :: Edmund Brudenell; now in keeping of Northamptonshire Record Office and housed at Northampton, Delapre Abbey  
 Brussels :: Brussels, Bibliothèque Royale  
 Buccl :: Duke of Buccleuch; see Ill-U 116, Hnt HM 131  
 Bühler :: Curt Bühler; see Mrg and NY  
 Burton :: Preb. John R. Burton; now Add 47663  
 Bute :: Rothesay, Marquess of Bute; now privately owned  
 Butler-Bowdon :: Col. Butler-Bowdon; now Add 61823  
 Cai :: Cambridge, Gonville and Caius College  
 Calth :: Lord Calthorpe (= Yelverton 35); now Add 48031  
 Cardigan :: Cardigan MS of Chaucer's CT; now Tex-U 143  
 Cardwell :: Oxford, Dr. Cardwell; present location unknown  
 Carl :: Earl of Carlisle (formerly at Castle Howard); now Eg 3309  
 CC :: Oxford, Christ Church  
 Chal :: Challoner; now Yk-M Add.2  
 Chats :: Chatsworth House, Duke of Devonshire; see also Tak 24  
 Ches :: Chester, Coopers' Company  
 Chet :: Manchester, Chetham's Library; see also Tak 59  
 ChrC-Dub :: Dublin, Public Record Office, Christ Church Collection  
 ChU :: Chicago, University of Chicago  
 Clare :: Cambridge, Clare College  
 Cld :: British Library, Cotton Claudius  
 Cleo :: British Library, Cotton Cleopatra  
 Cleve-W :: Cleveland Public Library, John G. White Collection  
 Clg :: British Library, Cotton Caligula  
 Cmb :: Cambridge University Library  
 CmbAdd :: Cambridge University Library, Additional  
 Cnt :: Canterbury Cathedral  
 Cole :: Cole MS; present location unknown  
 Copenh :: Copenhagen, Kongelige Bibliotek  
 Corp-C :: Cambridge, Corpus Christi College  
 Corp-O :: Oxford, Corpus Christi College  
 Corser :: Thomas Corser (formerly Ashb 243); now Ryl Eng 90  
 CotApp :: British Library, Cotton Appendix  
 CotR :: British Library, Cotton Rolls  
 CovCorp/CovCRO :: Coventry Corporation Record Office  
 Croo :: Robert Croo MS; now at CovCorp  
 Cuth :: Ushaw, Durham, St. Cuthbert's College  
 Dartford :: Dartford Nunnery MS: = Stratford on the Fosse, Somerset, Downside Abbey 26542  
 Davies :: John Speed Davies; now Lyell 34  
 Dc :: Bodleian Library, Douce  
 Delam :: Delamere MS (= Penrose 10); now Tak 32  
 Denison :: Denison MS (= Wagstaff); now Yale 171  
 Deritend :: Deritend House; now Stafford, Staffordshire Record Office Bagot D 1721/3/186  
 Dewick :: Dewick MS (= Brighton); now Penn-U Lat. 33  
 Dgb :: Bodleian Library, Digby  
 DgbR :: Bodleian Library, Digby Rolls  
 Dlw :: London, Dulwich College  
 Dom :: British Library, Cotton Domitian  
 Dresd :: Dresden, Sächsisches Landesbibliothek  
 Dub :: Dublin, Trinity College

- Dugd :: Bodleian Library, Dugdale  
 Dun :: Dunrobin Castle: now on deposit at Edinburgh, National Library of Scotland  
 Dur-C :: Durham Cathedral  
 Dur-CRO :: Durham County Record Office  
 Dur-D&C :: Durham, Dean & Chapter Muniments  
 Dur-Ex :: Durham, Exchequer: = PRO SC 12/21/28  
 Dur-U :: Durham University  
 Eaton :: Eaton Hall, Cheshire, Duke of Westminster; now privately owned  
 Ednb-U :: Edinburgh, University of Edinburgh  
 Eg :: British Library, Egerton  
 Elm :: Ellesmere MS of Chaucer: = Hnt EL 26. C. 9  
 Em :: Cambridge, Emmanuel College  
 Emral :: Flintshire, Wales, Emral MS: = Add 46846  
 Erf :: Erfurt, Stadtbibliothek  
 Eton :: Eton College  
 Ex :: Exeter City Archives  
 Fenn :: Sir John Fenn; present location unknown  
 Fil :: Fillingham MS: = Add 37492  
 Fitzw :: Fitzwilliam MS; now Bodleian Library, Duke Humfrey d. 2  
 Fitzw-C :: Cambridge, Fitzwilliam Museum  
 Folg :: Washington, D.C., Folger Shakespeare Memorial Library  
 Fountains :: Fountains Abbey; now Norton-on-Tees, Grove House, Fairfax-Blakeborough MS  
 Frf :: Bodleian Library, Fairfax  
 Fst :: British Library, Cotton Faustina  
 Gar :: Princeton, University Library, Garrett  
 Ghent :: Ghent, Universiteitsbibliotheek  
 Glb :: British Library, Cotton Galba  
 Gldh :: London, Guildhall Library  
 Glo :: Gloucester Cathedral Library  
 Göt :: Göttingen, Universitätsbibliothek  
 Gough :: Bodleian Library, Gough  
 Graham :: Sir Richard Graham; now Mrg M 957  
 Gren :: Grenoble, Bibliothèque Municipale  
 GrI :: London, Gray's Inn  
 Grv :: Bodleian Library, Greaves  
 Gurn:: J.H. Gurney; see Bodmer 178, Boston 92, CmbAdd 6864, Eg 3245  
 Hal :: J.O. Halliwell; see Eg 826 (= Hal 219), Eg 829 (= Hal 210), privately owned (= Hal 335), present location unknown (= Hal fragment)  
 Harv :: Cambridge, Massachusetts, Harvard University  
 Hat :: Bodleian Library, Hatton  
 Hatfield :: Hatfield House, Hertfordshire, Marquis of Salisbury  
 Helm :: Helmingham Hall, Suffolk, Lord Tollemache; see also Lond-U 657, Mrg M 876, Princ-U 100  
 Heneage :: Taunton, Somerset Record Office, Walker-Heneage 3084  
 Heng :: Hengwrt MS of Chaucer's *CT*: = Wales Peniarth 392D  
 Henslow :: J.G. Henslow; now Eg 2852  
 Hlk :: Holkham Hall, Norfolk, Earl of Leicester  
 Hnt :: San Marino, California, Huntington Library  
 Holloway :: John Holloway MS; now Oslo, Schøyen Collection 1953  
 Honeyman :: San Juan Capistrano, California, Robert B. Honeyman, Jr.; now Tak 38  
 Hrf-C :: Hereford Cathedral  
 Hrl :: British Library, Harley  
 Hrn :: Bodleian Library, Hearne's diaries  
 Htrn :: Glasgow, Hunterian Museum  
 Huth :: Alfred Huth; see Beeleigh, Hnt HM 144  
 Ilch :: Earl of Ilchester; now Lond-U V.88  
 Ill-U :: Champaign-Urbana, University of Illinois  
 Ing :: Sir Henry Ingilby; see Mrg M 818  
 Ipsw :: Ipswich Public Library  
 Ir/IrBl :: Ireland-Blackburn MS (= Hale Hall); now Princ-U Taylor 9  
 Jas :: Bodleian Library, James  
 Jes-C :: Cambridge, Jesus College  
 Jes-O :: Oxford, Jesus College  
 Jul :: British Library, Cotton Julius  
 Jun :: Bodleian Library, Junius  
 KC :: Cambridge, King's College  
 Kil :: Ormond, Kilkenny Castle; now Dublin, National Library of Ireland D.1435  
 Lamb :: London, Lambeth Palace  
 Lawson :: Sir John Lawson; now Harv Widener 1  
 Lchf :: Lichfield Cathedral Library  
 Ld :: Bodleian Library, Laud Miscellaneous  
 LdLat :: Bodleian Library, Laud Latin  
 Leeds :: Leeds, University of Leeds  
 Leic :: Leicester, Leicestershire Record Office  
 Leyden :: Leiden, Universiteitsbibliotheek  
 Lin-C :: Lincoln Cathedral  
 LinI :: London, Lincoln's Inn  
 Lin-O :: Oxford, Lincoln College  
 Liv-U :: Liverpool, University Library  
 Lndsb :: Lord Londesborough; now Yale 594  
 Lngl :: Longleat House, Marquis of Bath  
 Lnsd :: British Library, Landsdowne  
 Lond-U :: London, University of London  
 Losc :: Loscombe MS; now Wel 406 (formerly Ashb 122, not 130)  
 Lyell :: Bodleian Library, Lyell  
 Magd-C :: Cambridge, Magdalene College  
 Magd-O :: Oxford, Magdalen College  
 Manch :: Manchester Central Library  
 Marl :: Marlborough Vicarage  
 Mayer :: Liverpool, Joseph Mayer; present location unknown  
 McC :: Cambridge, Fitzwilliam Museum, McClean  
 Mdst :: Maidstone, Kent, Corporation Museum  
 Mdst-CKS :: Maidstone, Centre for Kentish Studies  
 Med-L :: London, Medical Society  
 Mel :: Melbourne, State Library of Victoria  
 Mellish :: Mellish MS; now Nott-U Me.LM.1  
 Mellon :: Upperville, Virginia, Paul Mellon  
 Mert :: Oxford, Merton College  
 Merthyr :: Rev. L.C. Simons; now Wales 21972 D (on deposit)  
 Meyer :: Meyerstein; now Princ-U Taylor 3  
 Mid :: Wollaton Hall, Lord Middleton; now Nott-U Middleton  
 Min-U :: Minneapolis, University of Minnesota  
 Monson:: Lord Monson; present location unknown  
 Most :: Mostyn Hall, Lord Mostyn; see Lond-U 278, Yale 661  
 Mrg :: New York, Pierpont Morgan Library

## 48 Manuscript Collections and Manuscripts

- MSC :: East Lansing, Michigan State College (now University)
- Naples :: Naples, Biblioteca Nazionale
- NC :: Oxford, New College
- Nero :: British Library, Cotton Nero
- Nott-U :: Nottingham, University Library
- Nrw-C :: Norwich, Castle Museum
- Nrw-Crp :: Norwich, Corporation Library
- Nthld :: Alnwick Castle, Duke of Northumberland
- Nuton :: John Nuton; now ChU 254
- Nwb :: Chicago, Newberry Library
- Nwc :: Newcastle upon Tyne, Public Library
- Nwnh :: Cambridge, Newnham College
- NY :: New York Academy of Medicine
- Oriel :: Oxford, Oriel College
- Otho :: British Library, Cotton Otho
- Paris :: Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale
- Patr :: Patrik Papers; now CmbAdd 43
- Pavia :: Pavia, Biblioteca Universitaria
- Payne :: Payne MS; now Wel 542
- Pcy :: Percy MS; now Add 27879
- Pen :: Mrs. Wynn, Peniarth, Wales; now Wales Peniarth
- PennSt-U :: University Park, Pennsylvania State University
- Penn-U :: Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania
- Penrose :: Boies Penrose, Barbados Hill, Devon, Pennsylvania; see Tak 9, Tak 32 (formerly Delam)
- Pep :: Cambridge, Magdalene College, Pepys
- Peterb :: Peterborough Cathedral
- Peterh :: Cambridge, Peterhouse
- Petw :: Petworth, Lord Leconfield; see also Yale 163
- Petyt :: London, Inner Temple Library, Petyt
- Phil :: Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, Sir Thomas Phillipps; see Add 37789, Add 46919, Thom 1, Yale 125, privately owned (= Hal 335), and present location unknown (= Phil 8078 and Phil 8244)
- Phys-E :: Edinburgh, Royal College of Physicians
- Phys-L :: London, Royal College of Physicians
- Plim :: New York, Columbia University, Plimpton
- Pmb-C :: Cambridge Pembroke College
- Pmb-O :: Oxford, Pembroke College
- Porter :: Porter MS; present location unknown
- Pratt :: Lt. Col. Edward Pratt; now Plim Addenda 3
- Princ-U :: Princeton, University Library
- Prk :: Porkington 10; now Wales Brogyntyn 2.1
- PRO :: London, Public Record Office
- Qu-C :: Cambridge, Queen's College
- Qu-O :: Oxford, Queen's College
- Raines :: Raines MS; now BodPoet e.15
- RBOss :: Kilkenny, St. Canice's Library, Red Book of Ossory
- Richardson :: Boston, W.K. Richardson's Library; now Harv Richardson 22, Harv Richardson 44
- Rob :: Viscount Clifden (formerly Lord Robartes); now BodLMisc b.17, BodTh c.70
- Rome :: Rome, English College
- Roy :: British Library, Royal
- Rsnb :: Philadelphia, Rosenbach Museum and Library; see also Bodmer cod 48, Tex-U 46
- Rutland :: Belvoir Castle, Leicestershire, Duke of Rutland
- Rwl :: Bodleian Library, Rawlinson
- Rwl F. :: Bodleian Library, Rawlinson poet.
- Ryl :: Manchester, John Rylands Library
- Sal :: Salisbury Cathedral
- SASht :: Steeple Ashton Vicarage, Wiltshire
- Scheide :: William H. Scheide; now Princeton, New Jersey, Scheide Library
- Seld :: Bodleian Library, Selden
- Selw :: Cambridge, Selwyn College
- Seton :: Walter W. Seton (= Pennant); present location unknown
- Shrop :: Shrewsbury, Shropshire Records and Research Centre
- Shrw :: Shrewsbury School
- Sid :: Cambridge, Sidney Sussex College
- Sim :: Simeon MS: = Add 22283
- Simpson :: Ann Arbor, Michigan, A.W.B. Simpson
- Singh :: Old Buckenham Hall, Norfolk, Prince Frederick Duleep Singh; present location unknown
- Sion :: London, Sion College; see also Tak 22
- Sln :: British Library, Sloane
- Sou :: Southampton City Archives
- Spalding :: Spalding, Lincolnshire, Gentlemen's Society
- Spencer :: New York Public Library, Spencer 19
- Stan :: Worcester, Stanbrook Abbey
- StJ-C :: Cambridge, St. John's College
- StJ-O :: Oxford, St. John's College
- Stmh :: Stonyhurst College, Lancashire
- Stockdale :: Stockdale Hardy, Leicester Psalter; present location unknown
- Stockh :: Stockholm, Kungliga Biblioteket
- StP :: London, St. Paul's Cathedral
- StP-H :: Norwich, St. Peter Hungate Museum of Church Art
- Stw :: British Library, Stowe
- Suth :: Trentham Hall, Duke of Sutherland; now Eg 2862
- Tak :: Tokyo, Toshiyuki Takamiya
- Tan :: Bodleian Library, Tanner
- Tbr :: British Library, Cotton Tiberius
- Tenison :: London, Archbishop Tenison; now Ryl Eng 82
- Tex-U :: Austin, University of Texas
- TH :: Cambridge, Trinity Hall
- Thom :: London, Institution of Electrical Engineers, Thompson
- Thompson :: Henry Yates Thompson; see Fitz-C McClean 40-1950
- Thrn :: Lincoln Cathedral, Thornton MS: = Lin-C 91
- Tit :: British Library, Cotton Titus
- Tol :: Tollemache MS of Trev. *Barth.*: = Mrg M 875
- Trin-C :: Cambridge, Trinity College
- Trin-O :: Oxford, Trinity College
- UC :: Oxford, University College
- UC-L :: London, University College
- Upps :: Uppsala, Universitets Biblioteket
- Vat :: Vatican City, Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana
- Vienna :: Vienna, Österreichische Nationalbibliothek
- Vincent :: Vincent MSS: = Arms Vincent
- Vit :: British Library, Cotton Vitellius
- Vrn :: Bodleian Library, Vernon MS: = BodPoet a.1
- Vsp :: British Library, Cotton Vespasian
- Wad :: Oxford, Wadham College
- Wales :: Aberystwyth, National Library of Wales

- Way :: A. Way; now Add 33534  
 Wel :: London, Wellcome Historical Medical Library  
 Westm-A :: London, Westminster Abbey  
 Westm-S :: London, Westminster School  
 Whit :: New York Public Library, Whitney  
 Whitchurch :: Whitchurch Free Library; now Shrewsbury,  
 Shropshire Records and Research Centre 3232/3  
 Wht :: Wheatley MS: = Add 39574  
 Williams :: London, Dr. Williams' Library  
 Wilton :: Wilton Corporation Archives; present location  
 unknown  
 Win :: Winchester Cathedral  
 Win-C :: Winchester College  
 Win-Gldh :: Winchester, Guildhall; now Winchester,  
 Hampshire Record Office  
 Wnds :: Windsor Castle, St. George's Chapel  
 Wol :: Wolfenbüttel, Herzog-August-Bibliothek  
 Wood :: Bodleian Library, Wood empt.  
 Wor :: Worcester Cathedral  
 Wor-D&C :: Worcester, Dean and Chapter Muniments  
 Wrest :: Wrest Park, Lady Cowper; see Add 40672  
 Yale :: New Haven, Connecticut, Yale University, Beinecke  
 Library  
 Yale-M :: New Haven, Yale Medical Library  
 Yk-M :: York Minster; see also York, Borthwick Institute of  
 Historical Research R.I.11
- Journals, Serials, Festschriften, and Collections**
- AAHSJ :: *Journal of the Architectural, Archaeological, and  
 Historic Society of Chester* (Chester, 1857-)  
 AASRP :: *Associated Architectural Societies Reports and  
 Papers* (London, 1851-)  
 AB :: *Altenglische Bibliothek*, ed. E. Kölbing (Heilbronn,  
 1883-90)  
 AC :: Abbotsford Club: Publications (Edinburgh, 1835-65)  
 AIGBI :: Royal Archaeological Institute of Great Britain and  
 Ireland: Publications (London, v.d.)  
 AJP :: *American Journal of Philology* (Baltimore, 1880-)  
 AMT :: *Alt- und mittelenglische Texte*, ed. L. Morsbach and F.  
 Holthausen (Heidelberg, 1901-)  
 Anc. :: *The Ancestor: A Quarterly Review of County and  
 Family History, Heraldry and Antiquities* (London,  
 1902-)  
 Anec.0. :: *Anecdota Oxoniensia: Texts, Documents, and  
 Extracts Chiefly from Manuscripts in the Bodleian and  
 Other Oxford Libraries: Mediaeval and Modern Series*  
 (Oxford, 1882-1914)  
 Anglia :: *Anglia: Zeitschrift für englische Philologie* (Halle,  
 1878-)  
 Anglia B. :: *Beiblatt zur Anglia: Mitteilungen über englische  
 Sprache und Literatur . . .* (Halle, 1891-)  
 Antiq. :: *The Antiquary, a Magazine Devoted to the Study of  
 the Past* (London, 1880-1915)  
 Ant.J. :: *The Antiquaries Journal*, Society of Antiquaries of  
 London (London, 1921-)  
 APKittredge :: *Anniversary Papers by Colleagues and Pupils  
 of George Lyman Kittredge* (Boston, Massachusetts,  
 1913)
- AQC :: *Ars Quatuor Coronatorum, Being the Transactions of  
 the Quatuor Coronati Lodge No. 2076, London*  
 (Margate, 1888-)  
 Archaeol. :: *Archaeologia, or Miscellaneous Tracts Relating to  
 Antiquity*, Society of Antiquaries of London (London,  
 1770-)  
 Archaeol.Ael. :: *Archaeologia Aeliana, or Miscellaneous  
 Tracts Relating to Antiquities*, Society of Antiquaries  
 of Newcastle-upon-Tyne (Newcastle, 1822-)  
 Archaeol.Cant. :: *Archaeologia Cantiana*, Kent Archaeological  
 Society (London, 1858-)  
 Archaeol.J. :: *The Archaeological Journal*, Royal  
 Archaeological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland  
 (London, 1844-)  
 Archiv :: *Archiv für das Studium der neueren Sprachen und  
 Literaturen* (1846-)  
 BAAJ :: *Journal of the British Archaeological Association*  
 (London, 1846-)  
 BAP :: *Bibliothek der angelsächsischen Prosa*, ed. C.W.M.  
 Grein and R.P. Wülcker (1872-)  
 BARSEHEW :: *British Academy: Records of the Social and  
 Economic History of England and Wales* (London,  
 1914-)  
 BBA :: *Bonner Beiträge zur Anglistik*, ed. M. Trautmann  
 (Bonn, 1898-1908)  
 BBGRP :: *Berliner Beiträge zur germanischen und  
 romanischen Philologie*, ed. E. Ebering (Berlin, 1893-)  
 BBOAJ :: *Berks., Bucks. and Oxon. Archaeological Journal*  
 (Reading, 1895-)  
 Bdf.HRS :: *Publications of the Bedfordshire Historical Record  
 Society* (1913-)  
 Bdf.NQ :: *Bedfordshire Notes and Queries* (1886-93)  
 BC :: *Bannatyne Club: Publications* (Edinburgh, 1823-75)  
 BGAS :: *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire  
 Archaeological Society* (Gloucester, 1876-)  
 BMag :: *The British Magazine* (London, 1832-49)  
 BMQ :: *The British Museum Quarterly* (London, 1927-)  
 BQR :: *The Bodleian Quarterly Record* (Oxford, 1914-1938)  
 BREPFF :: *Beiträge zur romanischen und englischen  
 Philologie: Festgabe für Wendelin Foerster* (Halle,  
 1902)  
 Bristol RS :: *Bristol Record Society: Publications* (Bristol,  
 1930-)  
 Britannica :: *Britannica: Max Förster zum sechzigsten Ge-  
 burtstage* (Leipzig, 1929)  
 BRS :: *British Record Society: The Index Library* (London,  
 1888-)  
 BSEP :: *Bonner Studien zur englischen Philologie* (Bonn,  
 1909-)  
 Bull.IHR :: *Bulletin of the Institute of Historical Research*  
 (London, 1923-)  
 Bull.MHRA :: *Bulletin of the Modern Humanities Research  
 Association* (Cambridge, 1919-)  
 Bull.RL :: *Bulletin of the John Rylands Library* (Manchester,  
 1903)  
 Bull.WR :: *Western Reserve University Bulletin* (Cleveland,  
 1895-)  
 Camd. :: *Camden Society = Royal Historical Society, London:  
 Publications, Camden series* (London, 1838-1901)

## 50 Journals, Serials, and Collections

- Cant.Yk.S :: Canterbury and York Society: Publications (London, 1905-)
- Chet. :: Chetham Society: Remains, Historical and Literary . . . of Lancaster and Chester (Manchester, 1844-88)
- Chs.Sheaf :: *The Cheshire Sheaf* (Chester, 1878-)
- CHStaff. :: Collections for a History of Staffordshire (London, 1880-1919)
- Cmb.AC :: *Cambridge Antiquarian Communications* (Cambridge, 1859-91)
- Cmb.AS :: Cambridge Antiquarian Society: Publications (Cambridge, v.d.)
- CS :: Chaucer Society: Publications (London, 1868-)
- Cum.West.AS :: *Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society* (Kendal, 1874-)
- Dep.Rep. :: *Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records and Keeper of the State Papers in Ireland* (Dublin, 1869-)
- Der.ANHSJ :: *Journal of the Derbyshire Archaeological and Natural History Society* (London, 1879-)
- Dev.Cor.NQ :: *Devon and Cornwall Notes and Queries* (Exeter, 1901-)
- Disc. :: *Discovery: The Popular Journal of Knowledge* (Cambridge, 1920-)
- D.K.R. :: *Annual Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records* (London, 1839-)
- Dugd.Soc. :: Dugdale Society: Publications (Oxford, 1921-)
- EASBrowne :: *Essays & Studies in Honor of Carleton Brown* (New York, 1940)
- EB :: Erlanger Beiträge zur englischen Philologie und vergleichenden Literaturgeschichte, ed. H. Varnhagen (Erlangen, 1889-1904)
- Econ.Hist.Rev. :: *The Economic History Review* (London, 1927-)
- EDS :: English Dialect Society: Publications (London, 1873-1896)
- EETS :: Early English Text Society, Original Series (London, 1864-)
- EETSAS :: Early English Text Society, Advance Specimens
- EETSES :: Early English Text Society, Extra Series (London, 1867-)
- EETSSS :: Early English Text Society, Supplementary Series (London, 1970-)
- EGSt. :: *English and Germanic Studies* (Birmingham, 1947-)
- EHR :: *The English Historical Review* (London, 1886-)
- EJ :: *The English Journal*, National Council of Teachers of English (Chicago, 1912-)
- EMisc.Furnivall :: *An English Miscellany Presented to Dr. Furnivall* (Oxford, 1901)
- EMS :: *English Manuscript Studies, 1100-1700* (Oxford, 1989-)
- EPNS :: English Place-Name Society: Publications (Cambridge, 1924-)
- Ess.AST :: *Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society* (Colchester, 1858-)
- Ess.R :: *The Essex Review* (Chelmsford, London, 1892-)
- Ess.ROP :: Essex Record Office: Publications (Chelmsford, 1947-)
- ESt. :: *Englische Studien: Organ für englische Philologie* (Heilbronn, Leipzig, 1877-)
- EStudies :: *English Studies: Journal of English Letters and Philology* (Amsterdam, 1919-)
- ESUM :: *Essays and Studies in English and Comparative Literature by Members of the English Department of the University of Michigan* (Ann Arbor, 1925-)
- ESUU :: *Essays and Studies on English Language and Literature* (Uppsala, 1949-)
- ET :: Englische Textbibliothek, ed. J. Hoops (Heidelberg, 1898-)
- Fenland NQ :: *Fenland Notes and Queries* (Peterborough, 1889-1909)
- Fest.NM :: *Festschrift zum xii. allgemeinen deutschen Neuphilologentage in München*, ed. E. Stollreither (Erlangen, 1906)
- FMH :: University of Florida Monographs: Humanities (Gainesville, 1959-)
- GRM :: *Germanisch-Romanische Monatsschrift* (Heidelberg, 1909-)
- Hak.Soc. :: Hakluyt Society: Works issued by (London, 1847-)
- Hamp.RS :: Hampshire Record Society: Publications (London, 1889-99)
- HBS :: Henry Bradshaw Society: Publications (London, 1891-)
- HES :: Harvard Economic Studies (Boston, 1906-)
- HHS :: Harvard Historical Studies (New York, 1886-)
- Hist. :: *History: The Journal of the Historical Association* (London, 1912-)
- HLQ :: *Huntington Library Quarterly* (San Marino, 1937-)
- HMC/HMC Rep. :: Historical Manuscripts Commission: Reports (London, 1870-)
- HMC Var.Col. :: Historical Manuscripts Commission: Report on Manuscripts in Various Collections (London, 1901-14)
- Hrl.Soc. :: Harleian Society: Publications (London, 1869-)
- HSLC :: *Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire* (Liverpool, 1848-)
- HSNPL :: Harvard Studies and Notes in Philology and Literature (Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1892-1919)
- IF :: *Indogermanische Forschungen: Zeitschrift für Indogermanistik* (Berlin, 1891)
- JEGP :: *Journal of English and Germanic Philology* (Urbana, 1897-)
- JHMAS :: *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences* (New York, 1946-)
- JRESL :: *Jahrbuch für romanische und englische Sprache und Literatur* (Berlin, 1862-76)
- JRLB :: *John Rylands Library Bulletin* (Manchester, 1903-)
- KAA :: Kölner anglistische Arbeiten (Leipzig, 1927-)
- Kaiserl.Akad. :: *Sitzungsberichte der kaiserliche Akademie der Wissenschaften in Wien, phil.-hist. Kl.* (1848-)
- Kent Archaeol.Soc. :: Kent Archaeological Society, Records Branch: Kent Records (Ashford, 1912-)
- LAAS :: *Reports and Papers of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archaeological Society* (Leicester, 1855-)
- Lang. :: *Language: Journal of the Linguistic Society of America* (Baltimore, 1925-)
- LCAS :: *Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society* (Manchester, 1883-)
- LCRS :: Lancashire and Cheshire Record Society: Publications

- (London, 1878-)
- LG :: *Local Gleanings: An Archeological and Historic Magazine, Chiefly Relating to Lancashire and Cheshire* (Manchester, 1879-80)
- LGRP :: *Literaturblatt für germanische und romanische Philologie* (Heilbronn, 1880-1944)
- Library :: *The Library: A Quarterly Review of Bibliography* (London, 1892-)
- Lin.NQ :: *Lincolnshire Notes and Queries* (Horncastle, 1888-)
- Lin.RS :: Lincoln Record Society: Publications (Lincoln, 1911-)
- LMS :: *London Mediaeval Studies* (London, 1937-)
- LS :: Loomis Studies: *Medieval Studies in Memory of Gertrude Schoepperle Loomis* (Paris, 1927)
- LSE :: *Leeds Studies in English and Kindred Languages* (Leeds, 1932-)
- LSELTM :: Leeds University, School of English Language: Texts and Monographs (Kendal, 1935-)
- LuSE :: Lund Studies in English (Lund, 1933-)
- MA :: *Medium Ævum* (Oxford, 1932-)
- MB :: Münchener Beiträge zur romanischen und englischen Philologie (Erlangen, Leipzig, 1890-)
- Med.St. :: *Mediaeval Studies* (Toronto, 1939-)
- MHS :: Publications of the University of Manchester: Historical Series (Manchester, 1904-)
- MLJ :: *The Modern Language Journal* (Menasha, 1916-)
- MLN :: *Modern Language Notes* (Baltimore, 1886-)
- MLQ :: *Modern Language Quarterly* (London, 1897-1904)
- MLR :: *The Modern Language Review* (Cambridge, 1905-)
- MP :: *Modern Philology* (Chicago, 1903-)
- MSNH :: *Memoires de la Société Néophilologique de Helsinki* (Helsinki, 1893-)
- MSoc.S :: Malone Society: Studies (London, v.d.)
- Neb.St. :: University of Nebraska, *Studies in the Humanities* (Lincoln, 1941-)
- New Shak.Soc. :: New Shakspeare Society: Publications (London, 1874-92)
- NM :: *Neuphilologische Mitteilungen* (Helsingfors, 1899-)
- North.RS :: Northamptonshire Record Society: Publications (Hereford, Kettering, 1921-)
- NPalaog.Soc. :: New Palaeographical Society: Facsimiles of Ancient Manuscripts, 1<sup>st</sup> series (London, 1903-12)
- NQ :: *Notes and Queries* (London, 1849-)
- Nrf.Antiq.Misc. :: *The Norfolk Antiquarian Miscellany* (Norwich, 1877-1908)
- Nrf.Archaeol. :: *Norfolk Archaeology* (Norwich, 1847-)
- NRS :: Navy Records Society: Publications (London, 1894-)
- OAST :: *Transactions of the Oxfordshire Archaeological Society* (Banbury, 1888-)
- OHS :: Oxford Historical Society: Publications (Oxford, 1885-)
- OJGBI :: *Obstetrical Journal of Great Britain and Ireland* (Philadelphia, 1873-80)
- ORS :: Oxfordshire Record Society: Record Series (Oxford, 1919-)
- OSSLH :: Oxford Studies in Social and Legal History, ed P. Vinogradoff (Oxford, 1909-27)
- Palaeog.Soc. :: Palaeographical Society: Facsimiles of Manuscripts and Inscriptions (London, 1873-83)
- PCmb.AS :: *Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society* (Cambridge, 1891-)
- PDNHAFC :: *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Antiquarian Field Club* (Dorchester, 1877-)
- Pipe R.Soc. :: Pipe Roll Society: Publications (London, 1884-)
- PLPLSoc. :: *Proceedings of the Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society*, Literary and Historical Section (Leeds, 1925-)
- PMLA :: *Publications of the Modern Language Association of America* (Baltimore, Menasha, 1884-)
- PQ :: *Philological Quarterly* (Iowa City, 1922-)
- PRIA :: *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy* (Dublin, 1836-)
- PRSM :: Proceedings of the Royal Society of Medicine (London, 1907-)
- PS :: Percy Society: Publications (London, 1840-52)
- PSAL :: *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of London* (London, 1843-; also, sponsored publications 1787 and 1790)
- PST :: *Transactions of the Philological Society* (London, 1842-)
- QF :: *Quellen und Forschungen zur Sprach- und Kulturgeschichte der germanischen Völker* (Strassburg, 1874-)
- RAIGBI :: Royal Archaeological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland: Publications (London, v.d.)
- RC :: Roxburghe Club: Publications (London, 1814-)
- Reliq. :: *The Reliquary and Illustrated Archaeologist* (London, 1860-1909)
- RES :: *The Review of English Studies: A Quarterly Journal of English Literature and the English Language* (London, 1925-)
- RHS :: Royal Historical Society: Publications (London, 1868-)
- Romania :: *Romania: Recueil . . . consacré à l'étude des langues et des littératures romanes* (Paris, 1872-)
- RR :: *Romanic Review* (New York, 1910-)
- RS :: Rolls Series: *Rerum Britannicarum Medii Ævi Scriptores* (London, 1858- 96)
- RSLT :: *Transactions of the Royal Society of Literature of the United Kingdom* (London, 1829-)
- SAC :: *Surrey Archaeological Collections* (London, 1858-)
- Salop.SP :: *Salopian Shreds and Patches* (Shrewsbury, 1874-91)
- SANHS/SANHST :: *Proceedings of the Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society* (Dorchester, 1849-)
- SANT :: Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne: Publications (Newcastle, v.d.)
- SATF :: Société des Anciens Textes Français (Paris, 1875-)
- SAU :: *Studia Historica Upsaliensia* (Uppsala, 1963-)
- SEEP :: *Select Early English Poems*, ed. Sir I. Gollancz (London 1913-)
- Seld.Soc. :: Selden Society: Publications (London, 1887-)
- SEP Klaeber :: *Studies in English Philology: A Miscellany in Honor of Frederick Klaeber*, ed. K. Malone & M. B. Ruud (Minneapolis, 1929)
- Shake.Soc. :: Shakespeare Society: Publications (London, 1841-53)
- SIANH :: *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and Natural History* (Bury St. Edmunds, Lowestoft,

- 1853-)  
 SML Baugh :: *Studies in Medieval Literature in Honor of Professor Albert Croll Baugh*, ed. M. Leach (1961)  
 Som.Dor.NQ :: *Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries* (Sherborne, 1890-)  
 Som.RS :: Somerset Record Society: Publications (Taunton, London, 1887-)  
 Sou.RS :: Southampton Record Society: Publications (Southampton, 1905-)  
 SP :: *Studies in Philology* (Chapel Hill, 1906-)  
 Spec. :: *Speculum: A Journal of Mediaeval Studies* (Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1926-)  
 SSML :: Smith College Studies in Modern Languages (Northampton, Massachusetts, 1919-)  
 St.Paul Eccl.Soc. :: *Transactions of the St. Paul's Ecclesiological Society* (London, 1879-1937)  
 STS :: Scottish Text Society: Publications (Edinburgh, 1884-)  
 Studia Neoph. :: *Studia Neophilologia* (Uppsala, 1928-)  
 Suf.GB :: Suffolk Green Books, ed. S. H. A. Hervey (Wells, Woodbridge, Bury St. Edmunds, 1894-1929)  
 Sur.Soc. :: Surtees Society: Publications (Durham, 1835-)  
 Sus.AC :: *Sussex Archaeological Collections* (Lewes, 1848-)  
 Sus.RS :: Sussex Record Society: Publications (Lewes, 1902-)  
 TFLieb. :: *Texte und Forschungen zur englischen Kulturgeschichte: Festgabe für Felix Liebermann*, ed. H. Boehmer, A. Brandl, et al. (Halle, 1921)  
 TLS :: *The Times Literary Supplement* (London, 1902-)  
 TRHS :: *Transactions of the Royal Historical Society* (London, 1871-)  
 TSE :: University of Texas, *Studies in English* (Austin, 1911-)  
 Tul.SE :: *Tulane Studies in English* (New Orleans, 1949-)  
 VHCE :: *Victoria History of the Counties of England*, ed. H. A. Doubleday, W. Page, et al. (Westminster, 1900-)  
 WANHSM :: *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society Magazine* (Devizes, 1854-)  
 War.AM :: *Warwickshire Antiquarian Magazine* (Warwick, 1859-77)  
 WB :: Wiener Beiträge zur Kulturgeschichte und Linguistik (Vienna, 1930-)  
 WBEP :: Wiener Beiträge zur englischen Philologie (Vienna, 1895-)  
 WC :: Warton Club: Publications (London, 1855-56)  
 Wor.HS :: Worcestershire Historical Society: Publications (Oxford, 1893-)  
 WSAS :: William Salt Archaeological Society = Staffordshire Record Society: Collections for a History of Staffordshire (Birmingham, 1880-)  
 YAJ :: *The Yorkshire Archaeological Journal* (London, 1870-)  
 YASRS :: Yorkshire Archaeological Society: Record Series (Leeds, 1885-)  
 YASRSSES :: Yorkshire Archaeological Society: Record Series, Extra Series (Wakefield, 1935-)  
 YHP :: Yale Historical Publications: Manuscripts and Edited Texts (New Haven, 1913-)  
 Yks.CM :: *Yorkshire County Magazine* (Bingley, 1891-)  
 YSE :: Yale Studies in English (New Haven, 1898-)