

*The Antwerp–London Glossaries*  
Volume 1: Texts and Indexes

The Antwerp–London Glossaries are eleventh-century descendents of the earliest school text in the English language. In their earliest form they played a central role at the seventh-century school of Canterbury; they contributed material to the fundamental texts, dated to the 600s, known as the Leiden Glossary and the Épinal-Erfurt Glossary.

A varied collection with five distinguishable parts, the glossaries have at their heart a late Latin encyclopedia, the *Etymologies* of Isidore of Seville. The longest glossary lists thousands of Isidorian headwords and gives definitions in Old English. A second long glossary with two alphabetical components has some material that is even older. In addition, two small lists share some material with these longer texts.

The glossaries are an important witness to the composing of the first encyclopedic work in our language. In shaping basic school texts, this encyclopedia became a crucial medium for translating Classical learning to an Insular environment. It put its stamp as well on the production of original works by the first generation of English writers, including Aldhelm, a Canterbury alumnus.

The Antwerp–London Glossaries are perhaps the last long Old English text never to have been properly edited. This edition is accompanied by textual apparatuses and complete English and Latin indexes. A second volume will include introduction, translation, and explanatory notes.



PUBLICATIONS OF THE DICTIONARY OF OLD ENGLISH 8

*The Antwerp–London Glossaries*

The Latin and Latin–Old English Vocabularies  
from Antwerp, Museum Plantin–Moretus 16.2 –  
London, British Library Add. 32246

Volume I  
Texts and Indexes

Edited by DAVID W. PORTER



PONTIFICAL INSTITUTE OF MEDIAEVAL STUDIES

*Library and Archives Canada Cataloguing in Publication*

The Antwerp–London glossaries : the Latin and Latin–Old English vocabularies from Antwerp, Museum Plantin-Moretus 16.2 – London, British Library Add. 32246 / edited by David W. Porter.

(Publications of the Dictionary of Old English ; 8)  
Includes bibliographical references and indexes.  
Contents: v. 1. Texts and indexes.  
ISBN 978-0-88844-908-5 (v. 1)

1. Latin language – Glossaries, vocabularies, etc. – Early works to 1800.  
2. Latin language – Etymology – Early works to 1800. 3. Encyclopedias and dictionaries – Early works to 1800. 4. English language – Old English, ca. 450–1100 – Glossaries, vocabularies, etc. 5. Museum Plantin-Moretus. Manuscript. 16.2. 6. British Library. Manuscript. Additional 32246. I. Porter, David W II. Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies III. Museum Plantin-Moretus. Manuscript. 16.2 IV. British Library. Manuscript. Additional 32246 V. Series: Publications of the Dictionary of Old English ; 8

PA2359.A58 2011

478.1

C2011-901758-X

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Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies  
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Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 2C4  
www.pims.ca

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For Molly



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## Preface

The Anglo-Saxon glossaries of the eleventh-century manuscript Antwerp, Museum Plantin-Moretus 16.2+London, British Library, Additional 32246 offer a valuable word-hoard of Old English vocabulary – terms of all descriptions, especially many *hapax legomena*, from a huge range of semantic fields. At long last, here is an edition. To be sure, some words from these glossaries have been known to scholars since the Renaissance, though an often-repeated misattribution has obscured the fact of that contribution. A partial and very free seventeenth-century transcript by Junius has been much better known than the glossaries themselves. The transcript (now Oxford, Bodleian Library, Junius 71) was erroneously printed by William Somner in 1659 as *Ælfric's Glossary*. Somner's edition in turn was printed as "Archbishop Ælfric's Vocabulary" by Thomas Wright in his 1857 *A Volume of Vocabularies*. A subsequent revision of Wright by Richard Wülcker in 1884 presented the glossaries under the same title, and it is in this form that the texts have been most widely read. Still wrongly ascribed to Ælfric, many lexical rarities of the glossaries are scattered through the Old English dictionaries of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and myriad word studies relying on this large repository of Old English vocabulary cite Ælfric's *Glossary* in place of the four distinguishable lists edited here.

I should mention as well two twentieth-century editions that are superceded by the present volume. During the German occupation of Belgium in World War I, the philologist Max Förster made the trip to Antwerp to see the Plantin-Moretus fragment. Remarking on the singular courtesy of the Belgians, Förster produced in 1917 partial editions of the glossaries and other minor texts preserved in those leaves. In 1955, L. Kindschi, a student of the noted American glossographer H.D. Meritt, edited from photostatic copies the large, mostly Latin alphabetical glossary of about 1100 items and the 3000-item Latin–Old English "class" glossary (a glossary arranged by category). These two large vocabularies Kindschi presented intermingled as one text, in an edition with a single sequence of numbering.

Unlike any of the previous works, the present book includes the entirety of the glossarial material in the complete manuscript, and that material is presented with strict regard for the divisions between the texts. Those texts are (1) the architectural glossary, a short list of terms pertaining to the Roman house; (2) the end-page glossary, a very corrupt miscellaneous list of about a hundred items, mostly in Latin; (3) the alphabetical glossary with its two components, a mostly Latin list alphabetized by the first letter of the word (letters a through s) and a largely Latin–Old English

list alphabetized by the first two letters of the word (letters a through e); and (4) the large Latin–Old English glossary arranged by semantic category. I include two related glossarial lists from other manuscripts. A virtually identical version of the architectural glossary from London, BL Harley 3826 is edited with the Antwerp version, and the appendix to the Antwerp end-page glossary contains a short miscellaneous list from London, BL Harley 3271, which preserves in better form some entries from the Antwerp list.

This Volume 1 offers the four texts themselves, textual apparatuses to accompany them, and complete English and Latin indexes. Volume 2, to appear in future, will include introduction, translation, and notes.

I wish to thank the organizations that have made this work possible: the British Library and the Museum Plantin-Moretus, which allowed me to examine manuscripts in their collections, the National Endowment for the Humanities, which granted me a research fellowship in 1998, and especially my home institution, Southern University at Baton Rouge, which generously awarded me a grant of financial support in Summer 2003.

## On the Editions

The editions preserve manuscript capitalization and punctuation (which is almost exclusively by simple *punctus*). In the absence of punctuation, separation is shown by wide spacing. Except in the critical edition of the architectural glossary, the frequent abbreviations .i. (*id est*), 7 (*et, and, or ond*), † (*uel or oððe*), and ġ (*grece*) remain as they occur in the texts, while other abbreviations are expanded and indicated by underlining. Manuscript readings are given without intervention, except in a few instances where abrasion or other damage has obscured readings which are nonetheless certain. In these cases, supplied letters are placed in square brackets. Ellipsis, shown by three points, indicates lost readings. Textual apparatuses record paleographical notes and conjectural emendations. Variant readings from the previous editors Förster and Kindschi are also included in the apparatuses, but not those of Wright/Wülcker, which are to be found in Kindschi's notes.

Source study has often allowed me to reconstruct the sequence in which the scribes added the glosses in the margins of the manuscript, and I have frequently rearranged Kindschi's order without comment. I have also divided some of his entries and combined others, again most often without comment. Scribal inconsistency has been a challenge to editorial consistency, especially with the many superscript additions of words. When they interrupt the entries, they are placed in parentheses to aid syntax and reading, but when added at the end of the entry, they are noted in the apparatus only. (The architectural glossary appears in a critical edition introduced by remarks of editorial method.)

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