

EARLY ENGLISH TEXT SOCIETY

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NEW PUBLICATIONS FOR 2021

OS 357. William Caxton, *The Golden Legend*, vol. II, ed. Mayumi Taguchi, John Scahill, and Satoko Tokunaga.

This second volume follows the publication last year of vol. I (OS 355) of this large and important collection of saints' lives, based on the *Legenda aurea*. The original *Legenda aurea* was one of the central texts of the late Middle Ages and read across Europe. This translation was printed in 1483-4, as one of the first of William Caxton's books to be printed in English. He did not translate the work himself, but revised an existing English version, of which the manuscript is no longer extant. This English source was close to the *Gilte Legende*, a translation made in 1438 of Jean de Vignay's *Légende dorée* of about 1333-40, itself a close translation of the *Legenda aurea*, and which the Society has previously published in four volumes, edited by Richard Hamer and Vida Russell (O.S. 315, 327, 328, 339). Caxton also consulted a revised version of this French translation, as well as the Latin. This second volume of *The Golden Legend* continues to build on the Society's many previous editions of Caxton's works. *The Golden Legend* is a substantial work; the *Legenda aurea* consists of the feasts of the Church year, and the lives of the saints in calendar order, beginning with Advent. The present editors and the Society hope eventually that we will present Caxton's work in its entirety in several volumes. This second volume contains Caxton's most notable addition: a series of Old Testament legends, from Adam to Judith. It contains its own explanatory notes, glossary, and Index of Proper Names.

OS 358. *The Wycliffite Old Testament Lectionary*, ed. Cosima Gillhammer.

This Lectionary gives English translations of the passages from the Old Testament read during Mass, following Sarum Use. Most of these translations are derived from the Wycliffite English Bible, both the Early and Late versions. In addition, the Lectionary contains strikingly different readings translated independently from the Sarum Missal. It is an important text for broadening our understanding of the wider context of the scholarly Wycliffite project to translate the Bible into English and provides insights into the translators' organization and purpose. The Lectionary is not simply a collection of Bible readings, but a continuous text, in which the passages are arranged in liturgical order (indicated by running titles), and with a sophisticated system of cross-references for readings used on more than one occasion.

This edition presents the first complete edition of the Lectionary, with an introduction, containing full descriptions of the thirty-nine manuscripts and fragments in which the text survives, with a detailed analysis of the Lectionary's textual features, its context, and sources. The volume also contains explanatory notes and glossary.

H. L. Spencer, Editorial Secretary.