

## EARLY ENGLISH TEXT SOCIETY

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### PUBLICATIONS FOR 2010

O. S. 335     *A Critical Edition of John Mirk's Festial, Edited from British Library MS Cotton Claudius A II*, vol. 2, ed. Susan Powell. The *Festial*, by John Mirk, a late fourteenth-century Augustinian canon of Lilleshall Abbey, Shropshire, was one of the most influential medieval English sermon collections, which enjoyed enormous popularity and continued to be read and revised throughout the period and beyond. It was written as the author said, for the use of other priests, as a collection of model sermons on the saints, based freely on the *Legenda aurea* of Jacobus de Voragine. The *Festial* has long attracted attention for the lively exemplary stories, a number given local Shropshire settings, with which Mirk augmented his material, but was also a powerful and successful response to a growing demand for orthodox preaching materials to counter the threat of the Wycliffite heresy.

This new edition supersedes the EETS edition of the text only by Theodor Erbe (E.S. 96 (1905)), which he was unable to complete. O.S. 335 will complete the edition: vol. 1 contained the Introduction and the first part of the text; vol. 2 will contain the remainder of the text, the explanatory notes and glossary.

O. S. 336     *The Egerton Version of Mandeville's Travels*, ed. M.C. Seymour. This is the fourth and final volume of the series of English versions of *Mandeville* published by the Society (there are five in all; the Cotton Version, also edited by Seymour, was published by the Clarendon Press in 1967). The Egerton Version (previously only available in a limited edition of 1889) represents a unique response to the text, in a single manuscript, combining two earlier versions, one of which is now lost. The Egerton text was made in Yorkshire, before 1400, by a Benedictine monk, having access to a large scholastic library. It offers important textual insights into the dissemination of this enormously influential and widely-read text.

The new edition incorporates a commentary, reporting the latest discoveries concerning the text and its sources, as well as Introduction and Glossary.

S.S. 24       *The York Corpus Christi Play*, vol. 2, ed. Richard Beadle. This completes the two-volume edition, of which vol. 1, S.S. 23, containing the Introduction and Text was published in 2009. Vol. 2 contains the commentary and glossary. This edition of the York Plays supersedes the editor's previous edition (of the text only), which appeared in the York Medieval Texts Series in 1982, and the commentary and glossary are new, taking account of recent scholarship. This will be the authoritative edition of this important text.

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A NOTE TO MEMBERS: O.S. 334, *John Mirk's Festial*, vol. 1

Dear Member,

I am writing to apologise for the late appearance of this volume, which was due to be published late in 2009, and which has been unavoidably delayed in production. It will now be sent out early in the new year: I estimate in around March. The editor has been working on this exigent and eagerly-awaited text for many years, and I hope that members will forgive a short delay. We still hope to publish the second volume towards the end of 2010.

H. L. Spencer,  
Editorial Secretary