

PUBLICATIONS FOR 2018

OS 351. *A Middle English Translation from Petrarch's Secretum*, ed. Edward Wilson, completed and with an introduction by Daniel Wakelin.

This previously unpublished translation of Book I of the *Secretum* or 'secret book' by Francesco Petrarca or Petrarch is a landmark in the history of English humanism. It is the most accurate and extensive translation from his writings before the 1530s. It is anonymous and survives in one manuscript made at Winchester Cathedral Priory in 1487. Petrarch's *Secretum* is a dialogue between fictionalized versions of the author and St Augustine. The translation preserves the work's dialogic form and might have been designed for reading aloud or performing. Yet the dialogue is also a vehicle for soul-searching and psychology, as Petrarch explores his own personality and its weaknesses. The debate draws on the ideas of Cicero and other classical writers, whose works, St Augustine suggests, might be more replete with wisdom than the quibbles of the scholastics. It is a striking attempt to express Patristic and classical thought in English. The translator turns Petrarch's Latin prose into English verse. He writes with conversational verve and some poetic inventiveness. Though he avoids the self-conscious aureation of the fifteenth century, he uses many words or senses earlier than previously documented.

The edition contains detailed notes pointing out the translator's handling of the source and his lexical inventiveness. An introduction sets out the translation's manuscript context and reception among urbane churchmen of the mid and late fifteenth century. It examines the exemplars of the Latin source which had reached England.

OS 352. *The Glossed Prose Psalter in Oxford, Bodleian Library MS Bodley 554*, ed. Michael Kuczynski.

This is a previously unpublished Middle English commentary on the Psalms based on the Late Version of the Wycliffite Bible. The commentary consists of over 1,300 shorter and longer glosses, variously interrelated, prepared by scholars sympathetic to the Wycliffite movement and coordinated carefully with the base text of the Psalms. Its early fifteenth-century manuscript was prepared to allow reading of the Psalms alongside the best recent and more ancient Latin commentaries, primarily those of Nicholas of Lyra and St. Augustine. The glosses are both philological and homiletic, testifying to an avidity at the heart of Wycliffism for the close relationship between textual accuracy in the understanding of Scripture and moral rigour in its application to the concerns of medieval Christian individuals and communities. They display a special interest in understanding the Christian Psalms by way of their Hebrew originals.

The edition provides textual notes and variants to parts of the commentary that survive in other manuscripts, the complete Latin sources from Lyra's Latin text (hitherto unedited), bibliographic references to the printed Augustinian sources, and a glossary. Evidence is also presented for the importance of Lyra's exegesis to two other unedited manuscripts related to Wycliffite biblical scholarship: Wyclif's own Latin commentary on the entire Bible, the Psalms portion of which is preserved in Oxford, St. John's College, MS 171; and a Middle English summary of the Bible in Oxford, Trinity College, MS 93.

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