

## EARLY ENGLISH TEXT SOCIETY

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### PUBLICATIONS FOR 2022

#### **OS 359. Osbern Bokenham, *Lives of the Saints, Volume II*, ed. Simon Horobin.**

The Society published the first volume (of an intended three) of this important text in 2020 as OS 356. Bokenham's translation of the *Legenda aurea*, with additional lives of English saints, was thought to have been lost but was identified by the editor in a manuscript preserved in the library of Sir Walter Scott at Abbotsford House. The recognition of this major work by a known fifteenth-century writer was a remarkable literary discovery, and this second volume is to be welcomed. The first volume contained the first sixty-five lives in the series, and the second volume will continue with the following seventy-eight lives (Secundus to Augustine). The third volume, to follow, will conclude the text and contain the Explanatory Notes and Glossary to the whole set.

#### **OS 360. *The Ormulum, Volume I: Text and Glossary*, ed. Nils-Lennart Johannesson and Andrew Cooper.**

The significance of this twelfth-century collection of sermons on the Biblical readings appointed to be read at Mass during the liturgical year will be familiar to members of the Society, and we are excited to be able to offer the first full, print publication of this important text since 1878 (then edited by the Rev. Robert Holt and Dr R. M. White). An accurate modern edition of this difficult and important text is one of the great desiderata of Middle English scholarship, and the EETS has long hoped to enable its publication. The unique spelling system devised by its author, Orm, offers information of incalculable value to philologists and others interested in linguistic history about the state of English, and its pronunciation, in the period of flux after the Norman Conquest. This new edition, on which the acknowledged expert on the text, Professor Johannesson, worked for many years before his death in 2019, has been brought to completion and prepared for publication by his colleague at Stockholm and Uppsala, Andrew Cooper. Their joint work offers a readable and accurate version of the text as Orm left it, properly representing the important idiosyncrasies of spelling, punctuation, and layout, and incorporating all of Orm's complex revisions in an accessible way. The Society hopes that it will be able to offer an accompanying volume of Introduction and Explanatory Notes in a future year.