Feminine Versions of the Rule of St. Benedict: Bibliography:

Updated February 2002

J. Frank Henderson

Frank Henderson’s Page on Liturgy and Medieval Women
http://www.compusmart.ab.ca/fhenders

© 1999 J. Frank Henderson

This working bibliography was prepared to accompany of feminine versions of the Rule of Benedict from the medieval and early modern periods. These texts use feminine and gender neutral grammatical forms instead of or in addition to masculine forms. Manuscripts, early printed books, editions, bibliographies and scholarly studies having to do with these feminine version are included, though purely linguistic studies are not.

These versions are groups according to language: Latin, English, German, French and Catalan.

The same bibliography is included on the following website:
Feminine Versions of the Rule of St. Benedict in Latin, English, German, French from the Medieval and Early Modern Periods
http://www.osb.org/aba/rb/feminine
Latin

Riojana Version

*Manuscript:*  
Madrid, Biblioteca de la Real Academia de la Historia, MS Aemilianensis 62. [10th c.]

*Edition:*  


*Studies:*  


Winteney Latin Version

*Manuscript:*  
London, British Library, MS. Cotton Claudius D.iii, ff 52a-138a [1200-1225]

[The manuscript contains both this Latin version and the Winteney Middle English Version (see below) with alternating Latin and Middle English chapters.]

*Editions:*  


*Studies:*


**Saintes Version**

*Manuscript:*
New Haven, Yale University, Beinecke Library, Marston MS 25 [12th c.]

*Studies:*


Hugh Feiss, “A Poet Abbess from Notre-Dame de Saintes,” *Magistra* 1 (Summer 1995) 39-54
**English**

[Aethelwold’s Old English Version for Nuns]

[Aethelwold, bishop of Winchester, translated the Rule of Benedict from Latin into Old English ca. 960-970. He prepared a masculine version; it is not certain if he also prepared a feminine version. Very soon, however, both feminine and masculine versions were in circulation (together with the Latin exemplar). The initial feminine text is not extant, but the Winteney Middle English version is derived from it.]

**Winteney Middle English Version**

*Manuscript:*
London, British Library, MS. Cotton Claudius D.iii, ff 52a-138a [1200-25]

*Editions:*


*Bibliographies:*

Reprints: Millwood NY: Kraus Reprint Co., 1972, 1975


Studies:


Northern Prose Version

Manuscript:
London, British Library, MS. Lansdowne 378, ff 1b-42b [early 15 c.]

Editions:


Bibliographies:

*Studies:*


*Northern Metrical Version*

*Manuscript:*
London, British Library, MS Cotton Vespasian A.xxv, ff 66a-119b  [early 15th c.]

*Editions:*

Reprints: Millwood NY: Kraus Reprint Co., 1972, 1975

*Bibliographies:*


*Studies:*


**Lyminster Version**

*Manuscript:*

[The Lyminster Version is translated from an Old French version.]

*Bibliographies:*

A. Bruce Severs, *A Manual of the Writings in Middle English 1050-1500.* Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences, 1970, 655

*Study:*

**Caxton Version**

*Early Printed Book:*
[A] *Compendius abstracte...of the holy rule of S. Benet*, Caxton, Westminster 1490? [STC 3305]

[This is one of three separate works printed in a volume variously known as *Horologium Sapientiae* or *The Book of Divers Ghostly Matters.*]

*Editions:*

Reprints: Millwood NY: Kraus Reprint Co., 1972, 1975
Bibliographies:


Studies:

Antha Spreckelmeyer, “Reclaiming the ‘Wayward Nun’: Thematic Similarities in Three Middle English Versions of the Benedictine rule,” *Magistra* 2 (Summer 1996) 51-62

Foxe Version

*Early Printed Book:*

*Edition and Study:*

Bibliographies:

Studies:

Brusseles Version

Early Printed Books:
Benedictus, Saint. The rule of the most blissed Saint Benedict. Gant: Joos Doom 1632 [STC 1860]

Edition:

Bibliography:
German

Oxford Version

*Manuscript:*
Oxford, Bodleian Library, Codex Laud Misc. 237  [beginning of 14th c.]

*Edition:*
Carl Selmer, *Middle High German Translations of the Regula Sancti Benedicti: The Eight Oldest Versions.* Old German Prose Documents I. Cambridge MA: Mediaeval Academy of America 1933, 245-278

*Studies:*

Patricia A. Giangrosso, “*Weibliche Stimmen* in Early German Translations of the Regula Benedicti,” *Magistra* 2 (Winter 1996) 70-91

Berlin Version

*Manuscript:*
Berlin, Prussische Stattsbibliothek, ms. germ. 0 810  [15th c.]

*Edition:*

*Studies:*

Patricia A. Giangrosso, “Weibliche Stimmen in Early German Translations of the Regula Benedicti,” Magistra 2 (Winter 1996) 70-91

**Altenburg Version**

*Manuscript:*
Altenburg, Stiftsbibliothek, Codex Altenburgensis MS AB 15 E 6, fol. 119r-156v [1505]

*Edition:*

*Studies:*


John Crean, Jr., “Embellishment in Feminine Versions of the Rule of St. Benedict in Middle High German,” *Cistercian Studies* 16 (1981) 66-75


John E. Crean, Jr., “Scripture and the Bible: Luther and a German Women’s Version,” *Magistra* 2 (Summer 1996) 88-105

Friedenspring Version

Manuscript: 
[??] [1597]

Study:
Patricia A. Giangrosso, “Weibliche Stimmen in Early German Translations of the Regula Benedicti,” Magistra 2 (Winter 1996) 70-91

Lower Rhenish Version

Manuscript:
Leiden, Bibliotheek der Rijksuniversiteit MS BPL 2483 [not dated]

Bibliographic Citation:
French

Dijon Version

Manuscript:
Dijon, Bibliotheque publique de Dijon, MS. no. 352 [13th c.]

Edition:

[Rule] Ci comence li prologues de le Riule Saint Benoit. Ascula, 585-642

Bibliographic Citation and Study:

Rouen Version

Manuscript:
Rouen A. 389 (534), ff 95r - 126r [13th c.]

Bibliographic citation:

Stockholm Version

Manuscript:

Bibliographic citation:
**St. Arnand Version**

*Manuscript:*  
Vatican, Regin. Lat. 343, ff. 1r-46r; [15th c., perhaps 1450]

*Bibliographic citation:*  

**Catalan**

**Monserrat Version**

*Manuscript:*  
Biblioteca de Monserrat, MS 67 [1519]

*Bibliographic citation:*  

This manuscript includes an illustration of St. Benedict blessing an abbess.