

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.compumart.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:

Antonio Linage Conde, *Una Regla Monastica Riojana Feminina del Siglo X: El 'Libellus a Regula Sancti Benedicti Subtractus'*. Salamanca: Universidad de Salamanca, 1972

Contains excerpts from Smaragdus, "Commentario [Expositio] in Regulam Sancti Benedicti," *Patrologia Latina* 102:689-976

Studies:

Charles Juilian Bishko, "Salvus of Albelda and Frontier Monasticism in Tenth-Century Navarre," *Speculum* 23 (1948) 559-590

Antonio Linage Conde, "La difusion de la Regula Benedicti en la Peninsula Iberica," *Regulae Benedicti Studia Annuarium Internationale* 1, 297-325, 1972

Winteneý 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 Winteneý Middle English Version (see below) with alternating Latin and Middle English chapters.]

Editions:

Arnold Schroer, ed., *Die Winteneý-Version der Regula S. Benedicti: Lateinisch und Englisch mit Einleitung, Amerkungen, Glossar und einem Facsimile*. Halle: Max Niemeyer, 1888

Reprint: Tubingen: Max Niemeyer Verlag, 1978, with appendix by Mechthild Gretsch.

Studies:

Helmut Gneuss, "Die Benediktinerregel in England und ihre altenglische Übersetzung," in *Die angelsächsischen Prosabearbeitungen der Benediktinerregel*, ed. A. Schroer, 2nd edn. Darmstadt: Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft, 1964, Appendix, 263-284; reprinted in Helmut Gneuss, *Language and History in Early England*. Variorum Collected Studies Series 559. Variorum: Ashgate Publishing House, 1996, VIII

Mechthild Gretsche, *Die Regula Sancti Benedicti in England und ihre altenglische Übersetzung*. München: Wilhelm Fink, 1973

Mechthild Gretsche, "Aethelwold's translation of the Regula Sancti Benedicti and its Latin exemplar," *Anglo-Saxon England* 3 (1974) 125-151

Mechthild Gretsche, "Die Winteneý-Version der Regula Sancti Benedicti: Eine frühmittelenglische Bearbeitung der altenglischen Prosubersetzung der Benediktinerregel," *Anglia* 96 (1978) 310-348

Frank Henderson, "Feminizing the Rule of Benedict in Medieval England," *Magistra* 1 (Summer 1995) 9-38

Saintes Version

Manuscript:

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

Studies:

Hugh Feiss, "Care for the Text: Glossed Rule of Benedict for Notre Dame des Saintes," *American Benedictine Review* 43 (March 1992) 47-56

Hugh Feiss, "The Chapter Book of the Nuns of Saintes," *Yale University Library Gazette*, 67 (October 1992) 13-20

Hugh Feiss, "The Benedictines of Saintes 1047-1792: Consecrated to Christ, Nuns of the Church Community," *American Benedictine Review* 45 (September 1994) 269-303

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 Winteneý Middle English version is derived from it.]

Winteneý Middle English Version

Manuscript:

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

Editions:

Arnold Schroer, ed., *Die Winteneý-Version der Regula S. Benedicti: Lateinisch und Englisch mit Einleitung, Amerkungen, Glossar und einem Facsimile*. Halle: Max Niemeyer 1888

Reprint: Tübingen: Max Niemeyer Verlag, 1978, with appendix by Mechthild Gretsch.

Bibliographies:

Ernst A. Kock, ed., *Three Middle-English Versions of the Rule of St. Benet and Two Contemporary Rituals for the Ordination of Nuns*. Early English Text Society, Original Series 120, 1902

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

John Edwin Wells, *A Manual of the Writings in Middle English 1050-1400*. New Haven: Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences, 1916, 1926, 365-6, 820

A. Burke Severs, *A Manual of the Writings in Middle English 1050-1500*. Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences, 1970, 654

Studies:

Mechthild Gretsch, *Die Regula Sancti Benedicti in England und ihre altenglische Übersetzung*. München: Wilhelm Fink 1973

Mechthild Gretsch, "Aethelwold's translation of the *Regula Sancti Benedicti* and its Latin exemplar," *Anglo-Saxon England* 3 (1974) 125-151

Mechthild Gretsch, "Die Winteney-Version der Regula Sancti Benedicti: Eine frühmittelenglische Bearbeitung der altenglischen Prosaübersetzung der Benediktinerregel," *Anglia* 96 (1978) 310-348

Mechthild Gretsch, "Anhang zum Nachdruck" in *Die Winteney-Version der Regula S. Benedicti*. Nachdruck... Tübingen: Max Niemeyer Verlag 1978, pp 180-191

Mechthild Gretsch, "The Benedictine Rule in Old English: A Document of Bishop Aethelwold's Reform Politics," in Michael Korhammer, ed., *Words, Texts and Manuscripts: Studies in Anglo-Saxon Culture Presented to Helmut Gneuss on the Occasion of his Sixty-Fifth Birthday*. Woodbridge: D.S. Brewer, 1992, 131-158

Frank Henderson, "Feminizing the Rule of Benedict in Medieval England," *Magistra* 1 (Summer 1995) 9-38

Northern Prose Version

Manuscript:

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

Editions:

Ernst A. Koch, ed., *Three Middle-English Version of the Rule of St. Benet and Two Contemporary Rituals for the Ordination of Nuns*. Early English Text Society, Original Series 120, 1902.

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

Bibliographies:

John Edwin Wells, *A Manual of the Writings in Middle English 1050-1400*. New Haven: Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences, 1916, 1926, 365-820

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

Studies:

Frank Henderson, "Feminizing the Rule of Benedict in Medieval England," *Magistra* 1 (Summer 1995) 9-38

Antha Spreckelmeyer, "Reclaiming the 'Wayward Nun:' Thematic Similarities in Three Middle English Versions of the Benedictine Rule," *Magistra* 2 (Summer 1996) 51-62

Northern Metrical Version

Manuscript:

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

Editions:

Ernst A. Koch, ed., *Three Middle-English Version of the Rule of St. Benet and Two Contemporary Rituals for the Ordination of Nuns*. Early English Text Society, Original Series 120, 1902

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

Bibliographies:

John Edwin Wells, *A Manual of the Writings in Middle English 1050-1400*. New Haven: Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences, 1916, 1926, 365-920

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

Studies:

Frank Henderson, "Feminizing the Rule of Benedict in Medieval England," *Magistra* 1 (Summer 1995) 9-38

Antha Spreckelmeyer, "Reclaiming the 'Wayward Nun:' Thematic Similarities in Three Middle English Versions of the Benedictine Rule," *Magistra* 2 (Summer 1996) 51-62

Antha Spreckelmeyer, "Feminine Experience in the Northern Metrical Version of the Benedictine Rule," *Magistra* 1 (Winter 1995) 267-280

David Parker, "Three Models of Self-governance: Medieval English Translations of Latin Rules for Nuns, *Magistra* 7 (Winter 2001) 100-125

Lyminster Version

Manuscript:

Washington. Library of Congress, MS 4, ff 1r-37v, Regula Sancti Benedicti [15th c.]

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

Bibliographies:

Ruth J. Dean and M. Dominica Legge, eds., *The Rule of St. Benedict: A Norman Prose Version*. Medium Aevum Monographs VII. Oxford: Society for the Study of Mediaeval Languages and Literature, 1964, 105.

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

Study:

Jeanne Krochalis, "The Benedictine Rule for Nuns: Library of Congress, MS 4." *Manuscripta* 30 (1986) 21-34

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:

Ernst A. Koch, ed., *Three Middle-English Version of the Rule of St. Benet and Two Contemporary Rituals for the Ordination of Nuns*. Early English Text Society, Original Series 120, 1902

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

Bibliographies:

John Edwin Wells, *A Manual of the Writings in Middle English 1050-1400*. New Haven: Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences, 1916, 1926, 366, 820

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

N. F. Blake, *William Caxton: A Bibliographical Guide*. New York and London: Garland Publishing, 1985, 35

Studies:

Frank Henderson, "Feminizing the Rule of Benedict in Medieval England," *Magistra* 1 (Summer 1995) 9-38

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:

Richard Foxe, *Here Begynneth the Rule of St. Benet*. London: Pynson 1516 [STC 1859]

Edition and Study:

Barry Collett, *Female Monastic Life in Early Tudor England: An Edition of Richard Fox's Translation of the Benedictine Rule for Women, 1517, with an Introductory Monograph*. Aldershot, Hampshire: Ashgate, 2002

Bibliographies:

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

Suzanne W. Hull, *Chaste Silent & Obedient: English Books for Women 1475-1640*. San Marino: Huntington Library 1982, 148-149

Studies:

Joan Greatrex, "On Ministering to 'Certayne Devoute and Religiouse Women': Bishop Fox and the Benedictine Nuns of Winchester Diocese on the Eve of the Dissolution," in *Women in the Church*, ed. W. J. Sheils and D. Wood. Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1990, 223-235

Barry Collett, "The Civil Servant and Monastic Reform: Richard Fox's Translation of the Benedictine Rule for Women, 1517," in Judith Loades, ed., *Monastic Studies: The Continuity of Tradition*. Headstart History 1990

Brussels Version

Early Printed Books:

Benedictus, Saint. *The rule of the most blisshed Saint Benedict*. Gant: Joos Doom 1632 [STC 1860]

Edition:

The Rule of the Most Blissed Father Saint Benedict Patriarke of all Munkes. English Recusant Literature 1558-1640, vol. 278. London: The Scolar Press, 1976. Microfilm: Early English Books, 1475-1640, reel 1090:08 (Ann Arbor: UMI).

Bibliography:

Suzanne W. Hull, *Chaste Silent & Obedient: English Books for Women 1475-1640*. San Marino: Huntington Library 1983, 149.

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:

John E. Crean, Jr., "A Comparative Study of Three Manuscripts of the Rule of St. Benedict for Women," *Vox Benedictina* 10 (Summer 1993) 157-178.

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

Berlin Version

Manuscript:

Berlin, Prussische Statsbibliothek, ms. germ. 0 810 [15th c.]

Edition:

Konrad Schmidt, *Vier deutsche Benediktinerregeln aus dem späten Mittelalter*. Diss. Technische Universität Berlin, 1969, 217-280.

Studies:

John E. Crean, Jr., "A Comparative Study of Three Manuscripts of the Rule of St. Benedict for Women," *Vox Benedictina* 10 (Summer 1993) 157-178

John E. Crean, Jr., "Benedict in Berlin: Another Feminine Voice," *Magistra* 1 (Summer 1995) 172-190.

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:

John E. Crean, Jr., *The Altenburg Rule of St. Benedict*. Regulae Benedicti Studia Supplementa 9. St. Ottilien: EOS Verlag 1992

Studies:

John Crean, Jr., "Obsculta o fili / Hor o Tochter: Gender Modification in a 1505 Rule of St. Benedict," *Classical Folia* 31 (1977) 153-162

John Crean, Jr., "The Unique Language of the Altenberg Rule of St. Benedict," *Studies in Medieval Culture* 12 (1977) 125-132

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., "Scriptural Adaptations and Accommodation in the Altenburg Rule of St. Benedict: Abba Pater or Frau Mutter," *Regulae Benedicti Studia: Annuario Internationales* 18 (1994) 65-75

John E. Crean, Jr., "Made to Order: The Rule of St. Benedict Feminized," *Across the Oceans: Essays in Honor of Richard Seymour*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press 1995

John E. Crean, Jr., "A comparative study of three manuscripts of the Rule of St. Benedict for Women," *Vox Benedictina* 10 (Summer 1993) 157-178.

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

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

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:

Theo Coun, *De oudste middelnederlandse Vertaling van de Regula S. Benedicti*. *Regulae Benedicti Studia Supplementa* 8. Hildesheim, Gerstenberg Verlag, 1980, 16.

French

Dijon Version

Manuscript:

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

Edition:

Philibert Guignard, Les Monuments primitifs de la regle cistercienne, publies d'apres les manuscrits de l'abbaye de Citeaux. Analecta divionensia, vol. 10. Dijon: J.-E. Rabutot, 1878. Appendice. Ancienne Traducion Francaise des Ecclesiastica officia, Instituta generalis Capituli, Usus conversorum et Regula sancti Benedicti,

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

Bibliographic Citation and Study:

Janet I. Summers, 'The Violent Shall Take It By Force': *The First Century of Cistercian Nuns, 1125-1228*. Ph. D. Dissertation, University of Chicago, 1986, 130-136

Rouen Version

Manuscript:

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

Bibliographic citation:

Ruth J. Dean and M. Dominica Legge, eds., *The Rule of St. Benedict: A Norman Prose Version*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1964, 104, 107

Stockholm Version

Manuscript:

Stockholm, Kungl. Bibl. A 219, ff. 1r-125r [15-16th c.]

Bibliographic citation:

Ruth J. Dean and M. Dominica Legge, eds., *The Rule of St. Benedict: A Norman Prose Version*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1964, 104, 107

St. Arnand Version

Manuscript:

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

Bibliographic citation:

Ruth J. Dean and M. Dominica Legge, eds., *The Rule of St. Benedict: A Norman Prose Version*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1964, 104, 107

Catalan

Montserrat Version

Manuscript:

Biblioteca de Montserrat, MS 67 [1519]

Bibliographic citation:

Anselm M. Albareda, "Textos Catalans de la Regla de Sant Benet," *Catalonia Monastica* 2 (1929) 9-109 [14, 18-19]

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