

**THE LAY OF HAVELOK THE
DANE: COMPOSED
IN THE REIGN OF EDWARD
I, ABOUT A.D. 1280**

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The Lay of Havelok the Dane: Composed in the Reign of Edward I, About A.D. 1280 by Walter W. Skeat

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WALTER W. SKEAT

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BY THE

REV. WALTER W. SKEAT, M.A.,

AUTHOR OF "A NORD-GOTHIC GLOSSARY," EDITOR OF "PIRES FLOWMAN,"
"WILLIAM OF BALKENE," &c.

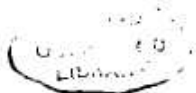


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P R E F A C E.

§ 1. THE English version of the Lay of Havelok, now here reprinted, is one of the few poems that have happily been recovered, after having long been given up as lost. Tyrwhitt, in his Essay on the Language and Versification of Chaucer, has a footnote (No. 51) deploring the loss of the Rime concerning Gryme the Fisher, the founder of Grymesby, Hanelok [*read* Havelok] the Dane, and his wife Goldborough; and Ritson, in his Dissertation on Romance and Minstrelsy—(vol. i. p. lxxxviii. of his *Metrical Romances*)—makes remarks to the same effect. It was at length, however, discovered by accident in a manuscript belonging to the Bodleian library, which had been described in the old Catalogue merely as *Vite Sanctorum*, a large portion of it being occupied by metrical legends of the Saints. In 1828, it was edited for the Roxburghe Club by Sir F. Madden, the title-page of the edition being as follows :—“The Ancient English Romance of Havelok the Dane, accompanied by the French Text: with an introduction, notes, and a glossary, by Frederick Madden, Esq., F.A.S. F.R.S.L., Sub-Keeper of the MSS. in the British Museum. Printed for the Roxburghe Club, London. W. Nicol, Shakspeare Press, MDCCCXXVIII.” This volume contains a very complete Introduction, pp. i—lvi; the English version of Havelok, pp. 1—104; the French text of the Romance of Havelok, from a MS. in the Heralds’ College, pp. 105—146; the French Romance of Havelok, as abridged and altered by Geffrei Gaimar, pp. 147—180; notes to the English text, pp. 181—207; notes to the French