Press Release:

Why *Editing Medieval Texts* is Vital to Our Understanding of a Medieval Book's Editorial Process

Ralph Hanna provides a unique insight into the steps required to move from 'an unedited text in a pre-modern manuscript to the formal presentation of a textual edition.'

(23rd July 2019, Liverpool University Press): When we hear the phrase 'Medieval History', we think of the Middle Ages, the time between the fall of Imperial Rome and the beginning of the early modern Europe. However, what about the actual texts which originate from the Medieval period? Written by Ralph Hanna, one of the pre-eminent medieval scholars of his generation, *Editing Medieval Texts* reflects on decades of teaching at the world's leading universities, in order to provide graduates with an essential guide on how to approach medieval books during the editorial process.

Editing Medieval Texts leads readers through the various stages of the editorial process, using part of Richard Rolle's Commentary on the Song of Songs as the working exemplar. This guide therefore succeeds in blurring the lines between the permeating need for texts and the editors' important quotidian decision-making that underlies these texts.

However, the most striking thing that we learn from *Editing Medieval Texts* is that the evidence offered to any literary work by medieval books is far more diverse than we may have initially foreshadowed.

'In this smart handbook, Ralph Hanna…provides a clear and thoughtful introduction to the steps necessary to progress from an unedited text in a pre-modern manuscript to the formal presentation of a textual edition.' **(*The Medieval Review*)**

EDITING MEDIEVAL TEXTS

An Introduction, using exemplary materials derived from Richard Rolle, 'Super Canticum' 4

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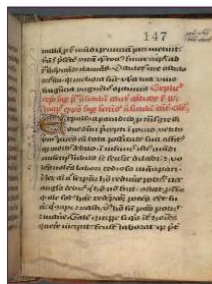
Ralph Hanna

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Ralph Hanna is Professor of Palaeography (Emeritus) and Emeritus Fellow at Keble College, Oxford. He is a former Guggenheim Fellow, former Fellow of the Radcliffe Institute (Harvard University), and winner of the British Academy Sir Israel Gollancz Prize for English Language 2015. His books include Editing Medieval Texts (Liverpool University Press, 2015) and Introducing English Medieval Book History: Manuscripts, their Producers and their Readers (Liverpool University Press, 2013).

Editing Medieval Texts (New in Paperback) is available for pre-order and is due to be published on 31st October via the Liverpool University Press website