

Leeds Studies in English

Article:

E. L. Olszewska, 'Middle English "word and ende"', *Leeds Studies in English*, 2 (1933), 66

Permanent URL:

https://ludos.leeds.ac.uk:443/R/-?func=dbin-jump-full&object_id=134469&silos_library=GEN01



Leeds Studies in English
School of English
University of Leeds
<http://www.leeds.ac.uk/lse>

four texts of "The Anturs of Arther," or of other Leeds graduates who are preparing to re-edit "Sir Amadace" and "The Avowyng of King Arther."

BRUCE DICKINS.

MIDDLE ENGLISH 'WORD AND ENDE.'

A common Middle English formula is *ord and ende*; this descends from Old English, but a variant *word and ende* also occurs frequently (see C. T. Onions, *Modern Language Review* xxiv, 389 ff.). In Middle English *word* doubtless represents an alteration of the original *ord*; see Onions, *loc. cit.*, p. 393. In Old Swedish, however, a phrase *orþ ok ænde* is recorded with the meaning 'from beginning to end' (see K. F. Söderwall, *Ordbok öfver Svenska Medeltids-Språket*, s.v. *orþ*) and this corresponds exactly to ME. *word and ende*, as *orþ* (with characteristic Scandinavian loss of *w* before a rounded vowel; see J. Brøndum-Nielsen, *Gammeldansk Grammatik*, § 264) = ME. *word* and *ænde* = ME. *ende*.

E.S.O.