PART ONE

THE MANUSCRIPT AND ITS PROVENANCE
CHAPTER ONE

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Contents

Arabic numbers preceding the entries below follow the early sequence of numerals inserted in the upper margins of L to indicate the sequence of content. In a few instances a single number encompasses what modern scholarship has established as two separate items. Arabic numbers within round brackets are the relevant numbers from NIMEV.¹

8  fols. 1–10v:² *South English Ministry & Passion* (2931.55); begins imperfectly; a fragmentary version of this poem. For details of contents, see O. S. Pickering, ed. *The South English Ministry and Passion, ed. from St. John’s College, Cambridge, MS B.6, Middle English Texts 16* (Heidelberg: Carl Winter, 1984), 8–10.

9  fols. 11–22: *SEL*: Apocryphal history of Christ’s infancy, also known as *Infancy of Jesus Christ* (1550); Carl Horstmann, ed. *Altenglische Legenden* (Paderborn: Ferdinand Schöningh, 1875), 1–61.

10  fols. 23–29v: *SEL*: Holy Cross (3387); Horstmann, *ESEL*, 1–19.


14  fols. 32v–34: *SEL*: St. John the Baptist (2945); Horstmann, *ESEL*, 29–33.


² The first verse text is preceded by a single leaf containing a four-line inscription beginning “Ihesu mercy / Ihesu mercy” in a fourteenth-century hand. Laid into the leaf is a smaller sheet in a fifteenth-century hand beginning “These ben þe namys of seyntys lyfys þat makyn in | this booke. In primis seynt steyvn item seynt | luke item seynt valentyne . . .”