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THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF TENSES FROM LATE LATIN TO OLD FRENCH

BY

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FOREWORD

This thesis is the product of several years' work and reflects a changing point of view and theoretical development as it proceeds. Chapter IV is not only a summary of the analyses in Chapters II and III, with historical implications, but also a restatement, with some tightening up, of the conclusions of these chapters, and represents most nearly my present point of view, and presents as well an intimation of developments which future study may bring.

I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to three men who have helped me immeasurably to formulate, develop and express my ideas. It was Mr. Rulon S. Wells who forced me out of the original rigidity of the theory and obliged me to find a system characterized by its suppleness and general applicability. Mr. Ralph L. Ward was of great assistance in the interpretation of the Latin texts, and Mr. Henry B. Richardson, who directed my thesis, gave me the benefit of his intimate acquaintance with modern studies in French syntax, descriptive and historical.

I wish also to thank Yale University, which has contributed toward the publication of this thesis by a publication subsidy.

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EXPLANATION OF SYMBOLS

Some of the tense meanings referred to in this work are symbolized as follows:

A line represents time:

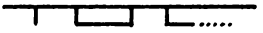
A circle on the line represents the speech moment:



Symbols above the line represent events (E):



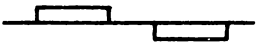
Symbols below the line represent reference periods (R):



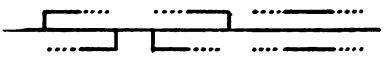
A short vertical line represents a punctual element:



A horizontal line with perpendiculars to the time line represents an expanded element:



A horizontal line with a dotted extension represents an element with indefinite beginning or ending:



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