
This is a check-list of the treatises and shorter prose tracts in Middle English which deal principally with aspects of the spiritual life. The tracts are classified under fifteen headings:

- Long compilations of spiritual instruction
- “Pore Caitif”
- Forms of confession
- Self-knowledge
- Confession and penance
- Sin and sins
- Specific virtues
- Growth in the spiritual life
- General positive teaching
- Tribulations
- Temptations
- Preparation for death
- Prayer
- For the clergy
- For those living under rule

In each class the tracts are listed alphabetically by incipit, followed by information on manuscripts and printed editions (if any). For ease of reference there are separate lists of incipits (including significant variants); of all manuscripts; of the titles and authors when recorded; and of acephalous items. There is also an extensive bibliography.

This check-list provides for Middle English religious prose what has previously been available only for verse writings. It is a reference work of value to all who are working in the field of medieval European spirituality.