

Ch. 5: Old English

c. 449-c. 1100 CE

Part I



Cædmon's Hymn (c. 680 C.E.)

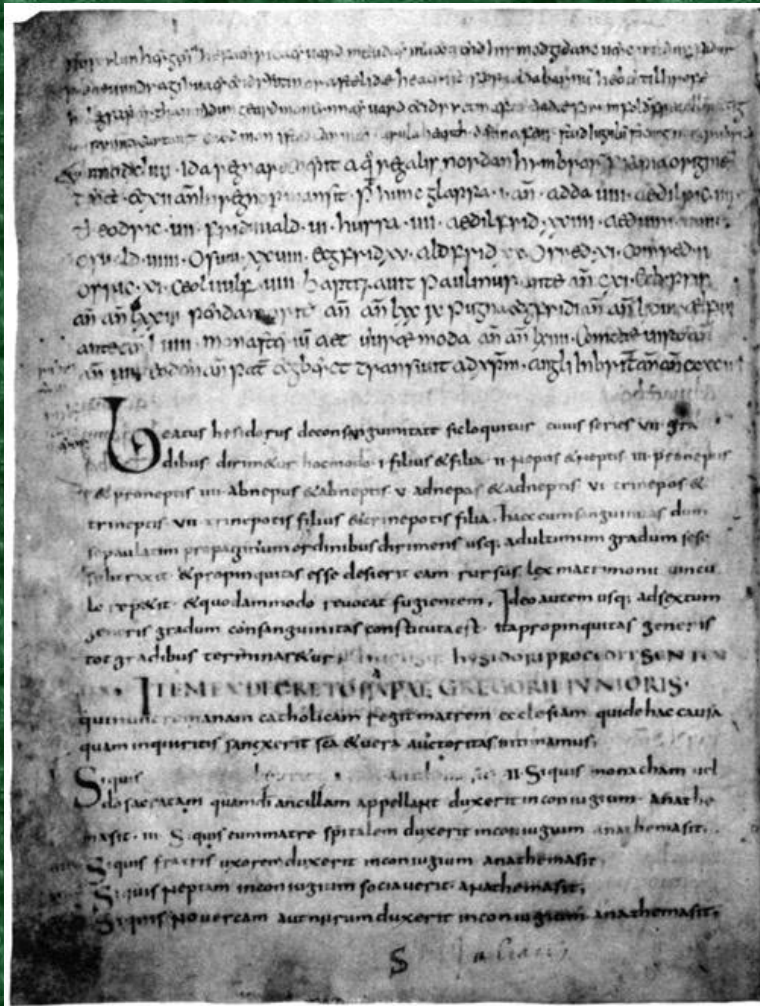
Nu sculon herigean heofonrices weard,
meotodes meahte ond his modgeþanc,
weorc wuldorfæder, swa he wundra gehwæs,
ece drihten, or onstealde.

He ærest sceop eorðan bearnum
heofon to hrofe, halig scyppend;
þa middangeard moncynnes weard,
ece drihten, æfter teode
firum foldan, frea ælmihtig.

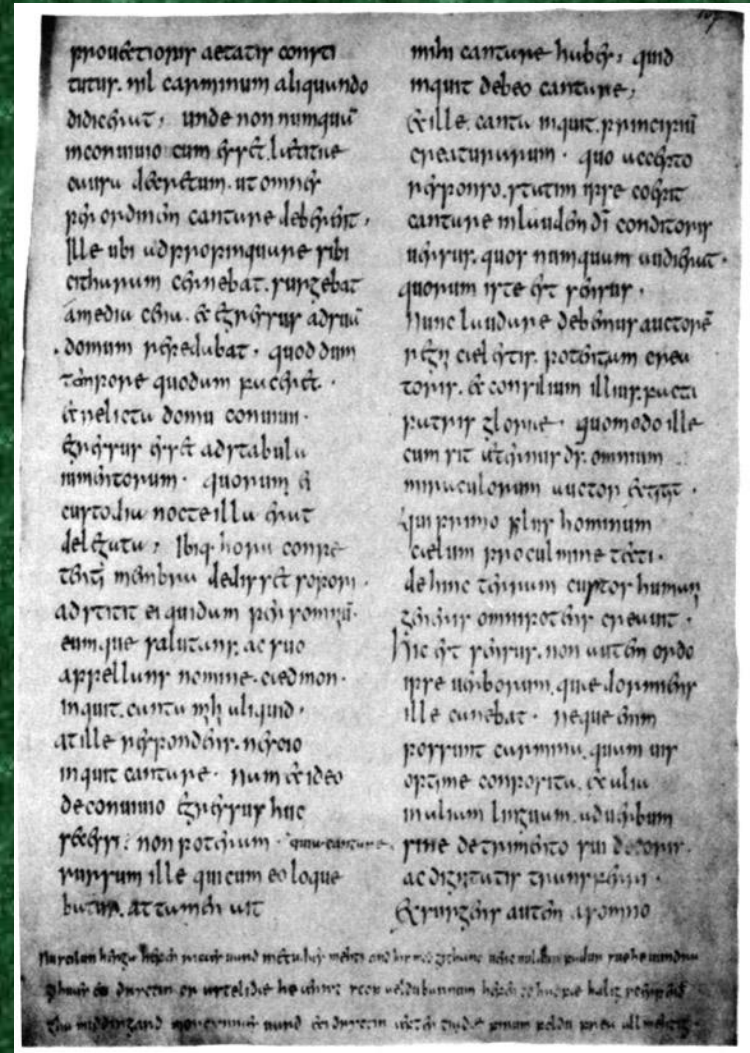
Now we must praise the Protector of the
heavenly kingdom,
the might of the Measurer and His mind's
purpose,
the work of the Father of Glory, as He for each
of the wonders,
the eternal Lord, established a beginning.

5 He shaped first for the sons of the Earth
heaven as a roof, the Holy Maker;
then the Middle-World, mankind's Guardian,
the eternal Lord, made afterwards,
solid ground for men, the almighty Lord.

Bede's *Ecclesiastical History* (733 C.E.) Recorded in Northumbrian Dialect



Moore Manuscript



Leningrad Manuscript

CÆDMON'S HYMN

WEST SAXON VERSION

Text from MS. Tanner 10 (T), with variants from the other MSS. (for the sigla, see *Introd.*, pp. xcv-xcvii)

Nu sculon herigean heofonrices weard,
meotodes meakte and his modgeþanc,
weorc wuldorfæder, swa he wundra gehwæs,
ece drihten, or onstealde.

5 He ærest scop eorðan bearnum
heofon to hrofe, halig scyppend;
þa middangeard moncynnes weard,
ece drihten, æfter teode
firum foldan, frea ælmihtig.

Cædmon's Hymn 1 Nu| Ne C; Nu we *with we added above the line* O; Nu we Ca B H W Bd₁ Ln Mg Tr₁ Ld₁ Hr sculon herigean] herigan sculon B sculon] sculan O; sceolan Ca Ld₁ Hr; sculun Ln; sceolon Tr₁ herigean] hergean C; herian O H Bd₁ Ln Mg Hr; herian heri *with heri underlined for deletion* W; herian herian *with second herian underlined for deletion* Ld₁; herion Tr₁ heofonrices] heofenrices Tr₁ 2 meotodes] metodes C O Ca B; metodes *with first d dotted beneath for deletion* W; metudes H Bd₁ Ln Mg Tr₁ Ld₁ Hr meakte] mihte C O Ca B W Mg Tr₁ Ld₁ Hr; myhte H Bd₁; michte Ln and] Ond C modgeþanc] modgeþonc C O 3 weorc] weoroda C; wera *with a altered from o* O; wera Ca; wurc H Bd₁ Mg wuldorfæder] wuldorgodes B; wuldorfeder Tr₁; wuldorfæder *with o altered from u* H; wulder fæder Ld₁ Hr wundra gehwæs] wuldres gehwæs Ca; wundra fela B; wundra gehwile H W Mg; wundra gehwyle Ln Tr₁; wundra {...} ylc *with y altered from i* Bd₁ 3b-5a wundra... He] *Not in Hr* 4 ece] eche Ln drihten] dryhten O or onstealde] *Not in Ld₁, which adds þa before he, l. 5* or] oord *with d added above the line* O; ord Ca B H Bd₁ Ln Mg Tr₁; word W onstealde] astealde B H W Bd₁ Ln Tr₁; astalde Mg 5 He] Hu (or Nu?) Tr₁ ærest] æres Ca; ærust Ln; erust Tr₁; 1; 1æst W scop] scop C; gesceop O H Bd₁; gescop Ca W Mg Ln Tr₁ eorðan] *With e crowded in after the rest had been written* Ca; eorþ C; eorðe Ld₁ Hr; ylda H W Bd₁ Ln Mg Tr₁ bearnum] *An erasure of two or three letters after this word* O 6 heofon] heofen *with the second e dotted beneath for deletion and o written above it* W hrofe] rofe Ca W Mg halig scyppend] Ld₁ and Hr *omit this half-line here but insert halig scyppend at the end of the poem after frea ælmihtig* scyppend] scypend C;

(Continued at foot of p. 107.)

BEDE'S DEATH SONG

NORTHUMBRIAN VERSION

Text from MS. 254, St. Gall (Sg), with variants from the other MSS. (for the sigla, see *Introd.*, pp. ci-cii)

Fore thaem neidfaerae naenig uuiurthit
thoncsnotturra, than him tharf sie
to ymbhycgannae aer his hiniongae
huaet his gastae godaes aeththa yflaes
5 aefter deothdaege doemid ueorthae.

Bede's Death Song 1 Fore] fere Z thaem] th'e Sg; thae Ba; the Ad₁ Kl₁ Mu Kl₂ Hk V Z Ad₂ Me; see Note neidfaerae] neidfare Ad₁; neidfaere Kl₁; neydfaere Mu; neidfaere Kl₂ Hk V Z Me; neidfacere Ad₂ uuiurthit vüürthit Mu 2 thonsnotturra] tonsnotturra Kl₁; thonesnotturra Kl₂; thonsnohturra Ad₂ tharf] *With f added above the line* Sg; thars Mu; chraf Kl₂; thraf Hk V Z Ad₂; traf Me sie] siç Hk Ad₂ 3 to] tho Kl₂ ymbhycgannae] ymbhycgannæ Ba; ymbicgannae Kl₁; ymbicgannae Kl₂ V; ymbhycgannae Hk Z Ad₂ Me hiniongae] *With a added above the line* Sg; hyniongae Kl₂ 4 huaet] huaex Kl₂ Hk V Z Ad₂ Me gastae] gaste Ad₁ Kl₁ Mu Kl₂ Hk V Z Ad₂ Me godaes] godeles Kl₂ Hk V Z Me; godoles Ad₂ aeththa] a&htha Sg Ba 5 aefter] aester Ad₁ Kl₁ Mu Kl₂ Hk V Z Ad₂ Me deothdaege] deohtdaege Kl₂ Hk V Z Ad₂ Me doemid] doemud Ad₁; doemnl Kl₁ Mu; doemit Kl₂ Hk V Z Ad₂ Me ueorthae] *With a added above the line* Sg; ueorthe Ad₁ Kl₁ Kl₂ Hk V Z Ad₂ Me; vucorthe Mu

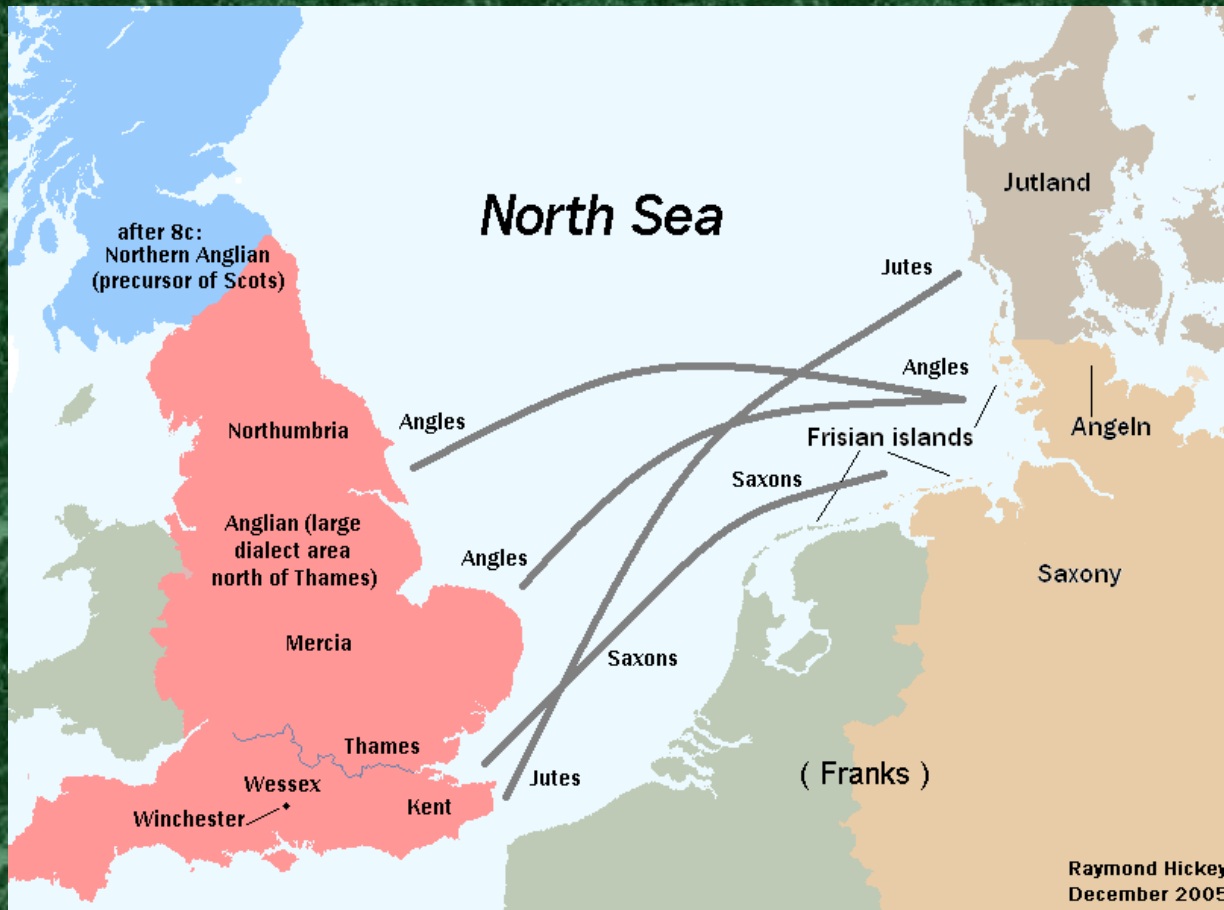
(Continued from p. 106.)

scypend W 7 þa middangeard] ða middongearð O; þe middangeard B; middangearde H Ln Mg Tr₁; middanear{...} W; {...} danea{...} de Bd₁ moncynnes] manncynnes B W; manncynnes H Bd₁ Mg; manncynnes Ln Tr₁ weard] *The letter e erased after this word* Ln 8 ece] eche Ln drihten] dryhten O; driht Ca; drihtent Hr æfter] æft Ca; epter Tr₁; efter Hr teode] *An erasure of one letter (d?) after o* O; eode C; tida H W Bd₁ Ln Mg Tr₁ 9 firum] finu C; fyrum B W Ld₁; fyru Hr; pirum Tr₁ foldan] *With n added above the line* O; on foldum H W Bd₁ Ln Mg Tr₁; on folden Ld₁ Hr frea] eua Tr₁ ælmihtig] ælmyhtig H; calmihti W; elmihtig Tr₁; Ld₁ and Hr *add halig scyppend (for l. 6b) after ælmihtig*

So this class will cover

- The historical development of Old English
- The major cultural and social factors that shaped the language
- The sources of the Old English lexis (vocabulary) and how these lexical items have come down to us today
- The evolution of dialects of Old English
- The impact of the Scandinavian invasions on the English we speak today
- Attempts to teach and preserve Old English
- Phonemic differences in Old English
- Gender in a linguistic sense
- Grammar, concord, inflections, and inflectional morphemes

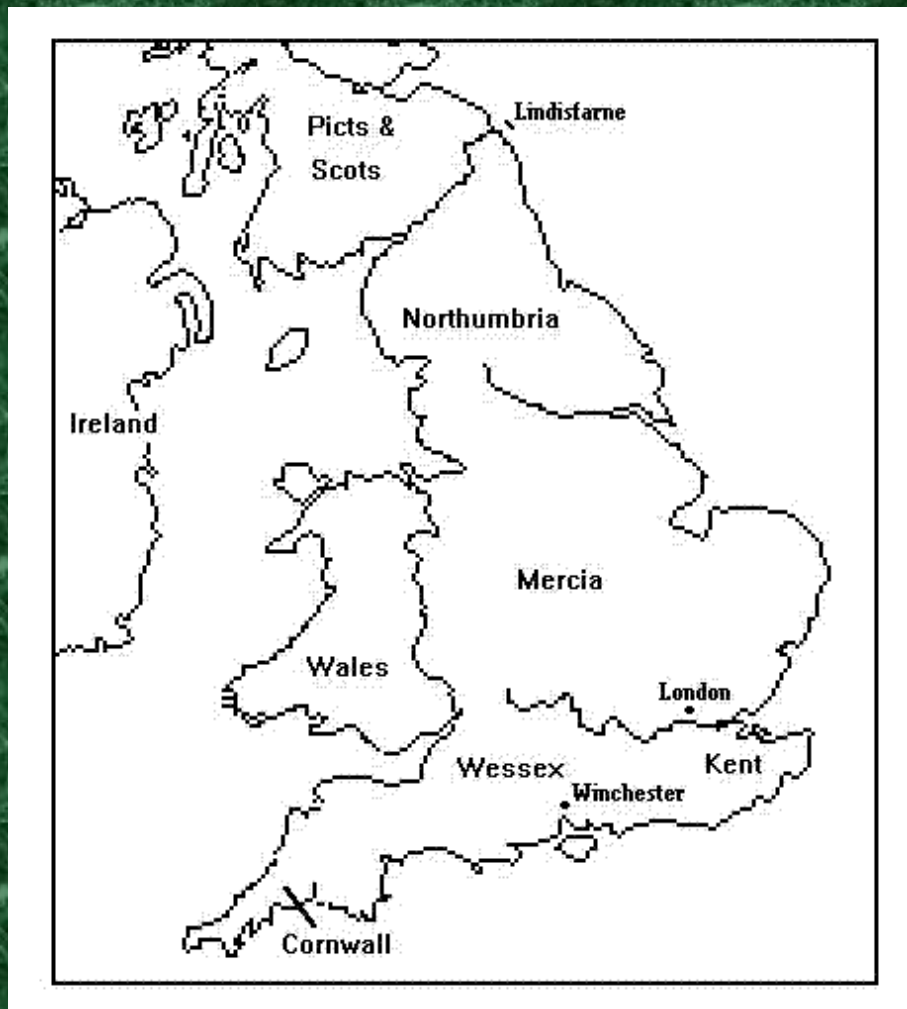
Around 449 C.E.



Routes taken across the North Sea by Germanic tribes in the 5c. The Jutes came from Jutland and settled in Kent. The Saxons came from the area of present-day (Lower) Saxony and settled largely south of the River Thames. The Angles came from the lower part of the the Jutland peninsula which is now Schleswig Holstein in Germany and settled in central and northern England.

The lines in the above map are very approximate. Many of the settlers may have crossed the North Sea from the area of present-day Belgium as this would have involved the shortest sea journey.

Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms & Dialects



Augustine of Canterbury (d. 604 C.E.)



Vespasian Psalter c. 600 CE

Christianity and the spread of language

Whitby: Hild & Cædmon



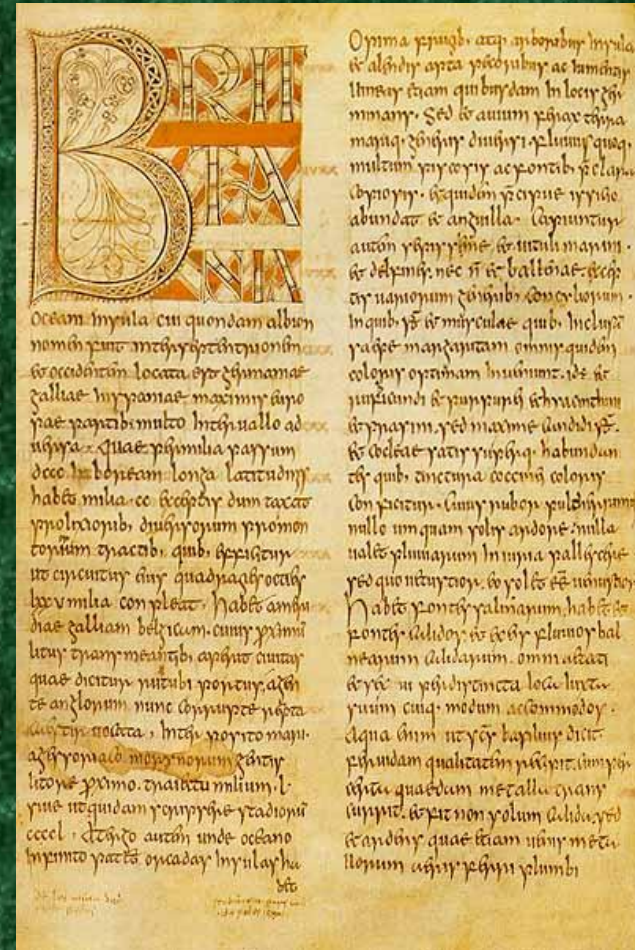
Wearmouth & Jarrow: Bede



Lindisfarne



The Venerable Bede



Influence of Anglo-Saxon Church



Anglo-Saxon Scribes & Bilingualism



Alfred the Great (849-899 C.E.)

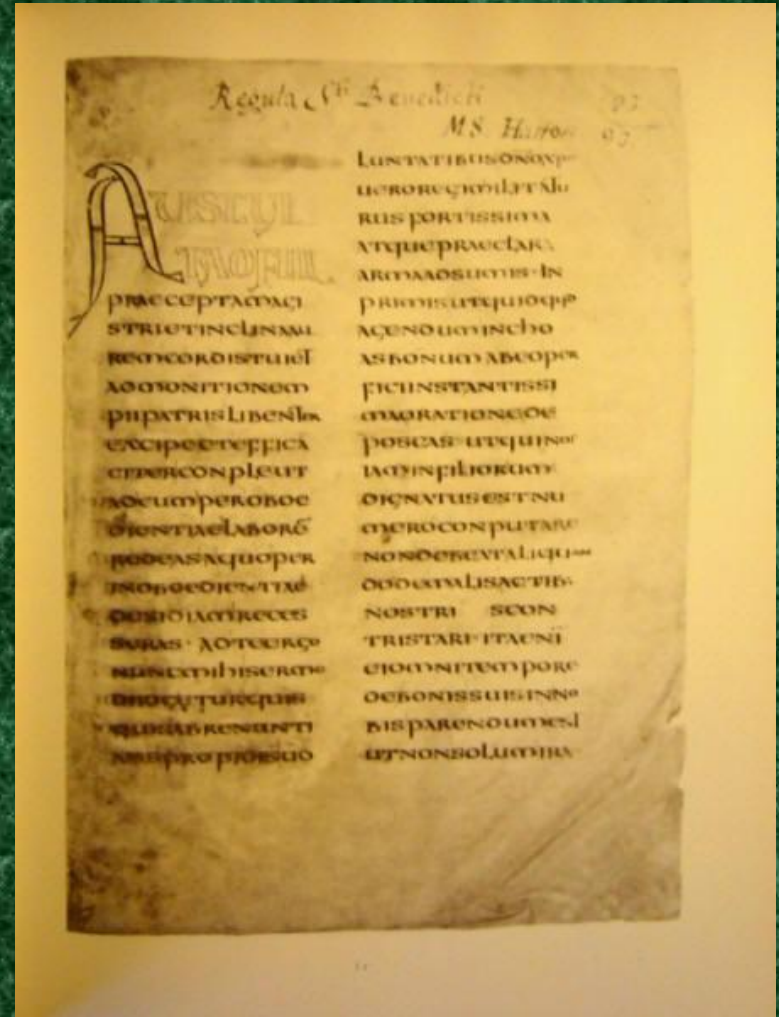


The Anglo-Saxon Book Riddle

Mec feonda sum feore besnybede,
woruldstrenga binom, wætte sibban,
dyfde on wætre, dyde eft þonan,
sette on sunnan, þær ic swiþe beleas
herum þam þe ic hæfde. Heard mec sibban
snað seaxes ecg, sindrum begrunden;
fingras feoldan, ond mec fugles wyn
geond speddropum spyrede geneahhe,
ofer brunne brerd, beamtelge swealg,
streames dæle, stop eft on mec,
sibade sweartlast. Mec sibban wrah
hæleð hleobordum, hyde beþenede,
gierede mec mid golde; forþon me gliwedon
wrætlic weorc smiþa, wire bifongen.
Nu þa gereno ond se reada telg
ond þa wuldorgesteald wide mære
dryhtfolca helm, nales dol wite.
Gif min bearn wera brucan willað,
hy beoð þy gesundran ond þy sigefæstran,
heortum þy hwætran ond þy hygebliþran,
ferþe þy frodran, habbaþ freonda þy ma,
swæsra ond gesibbra, sopra ond godra,
tilra ond getreowra, þa hyra tyr ond ead
estum ycað ond hy arstafum
lissum bilecgað ond hi lufan fæþmum
fæste clyppað. Frige hwæt ic hatte,
niþum to nytte. Nama min is mære,
hælepum gifre ond halig sylf.

An enemy came, claiming my life.
My worldly strength he stripped, then wet me,
Drowned me in water then drew me out,
Set me in sunshine, where soon I lost
The hair I had. A hard edged knife
Cut me and ground me clean from all grime,
Fingers folded me, a fine bird's clothing
With swift drops made many traces
Across my brown skin's breadth, imbibing the tree-
dye,
A valley stream strode across me
And left a dark path. A pious man clothed me
In boards, then hauled hide across me
Bedecked with gold; I was glad to be bound by
The smith's fine work of wire around me.
Now the decorations and the dye of red
In such wondrous forms give wider fame
To the people's protector from the pains of hell.
If the children of men choose to enjoy me
They shall be safer and surer of victory,
Mightier of heart, happier of mind,
Wiser of spirit, wealthier in friends
Who are dearer and faster, more faithful and better,
Kinder and fairer, who foster glory
With fondest love and fellowship,
Kindness links them, its loving embrace
Holding them soundly. Say what I am,
That is needful to man. My name is famous,
A giver of healing, and holy too.

Æthelræd the Unrædig (c. 968-1016 C.E.)




Aelfric of Eynsham c. 955-c. 1010

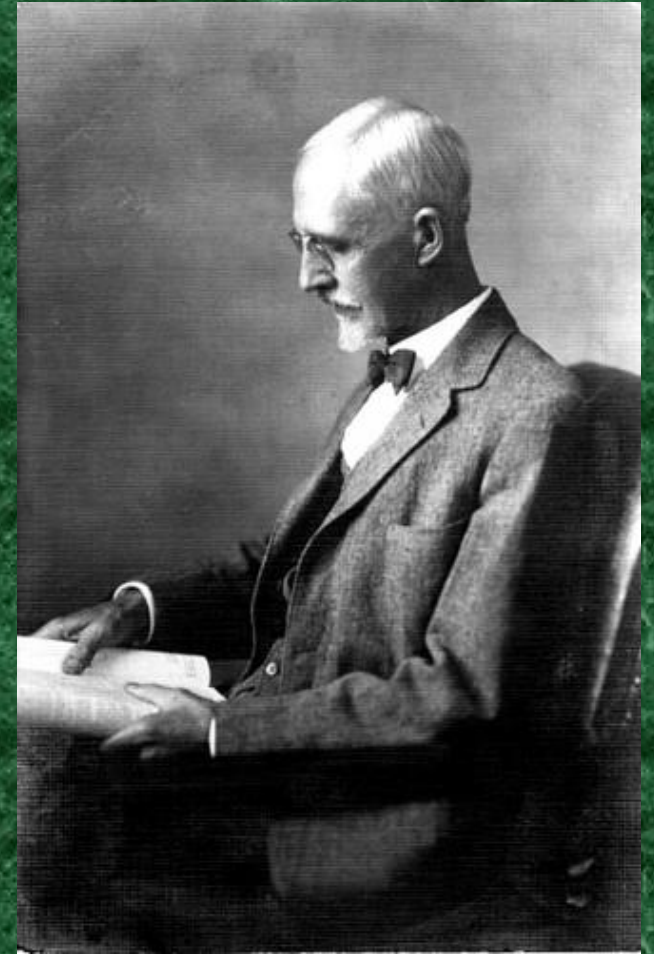


Hanc curie. in Eborac' giga' construxit. Qui p' confusione ligna
 ru' magnam ide' ad p'lat. col' igne' colere docuit.

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 ru' magnam ide' ad p'lat. col' igne' colere docuit.

Wulfstan (d. 1023 C.E.)

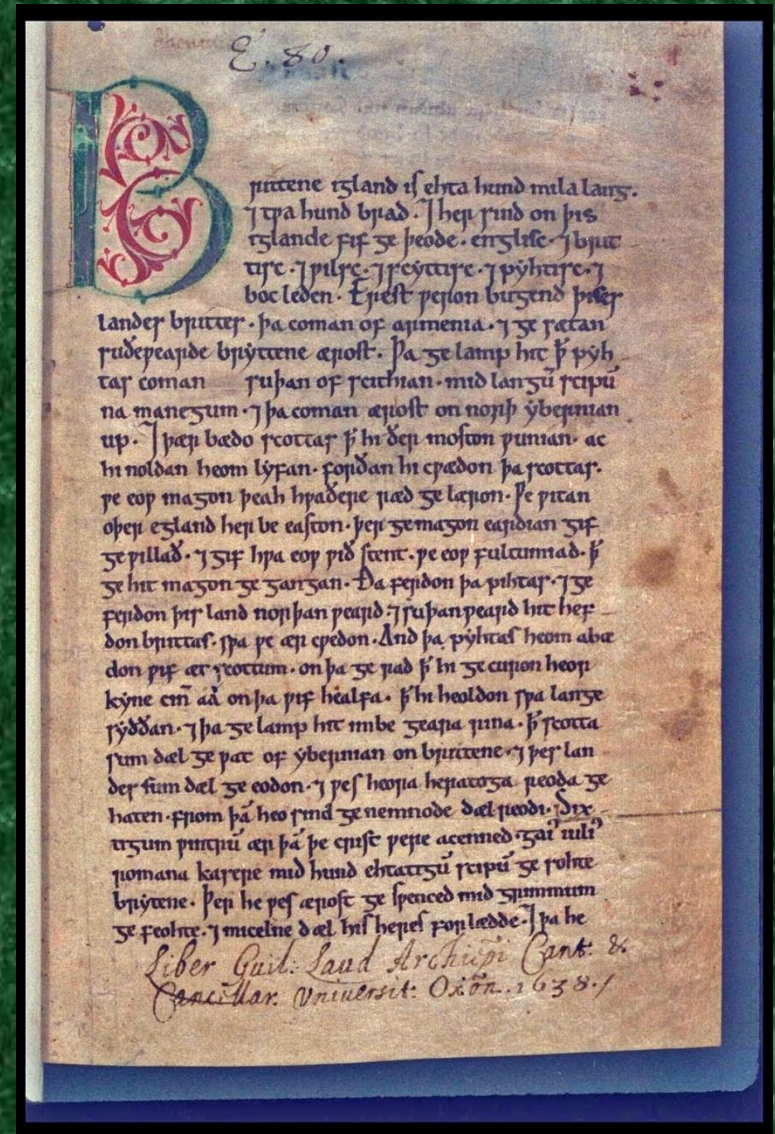
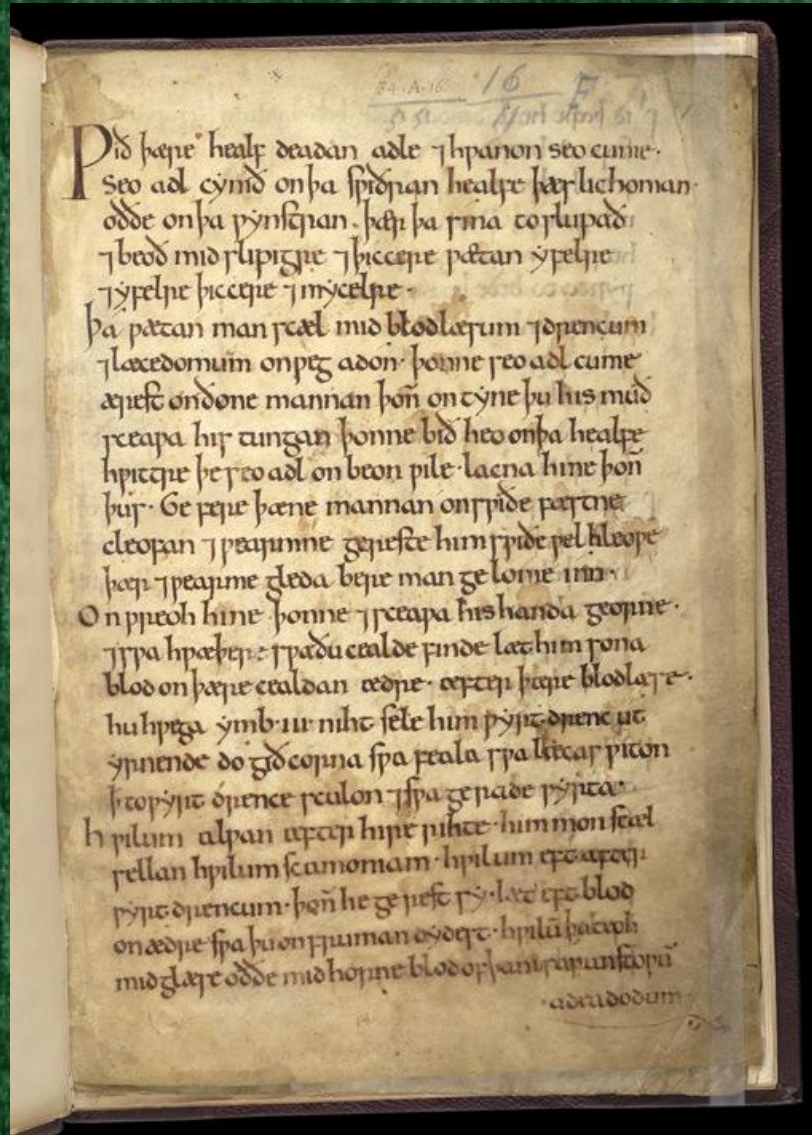
SPERO LUPT AD AMBLOS. QUAM DODANT
ONAXIDE PSEUTISUNT EOS QUOD FUIT.
AN. M. C. XIII. AB INCAUTIONE DNI
LAWI ILLA XPI: 
Leofan men gecnapad þsodis; Deos worold
is on ofsee. 7 hit nealded þa ende. 7 þ hit is.
on worolde aa spaleng spapise. 7 spahit sceal
nyde, for polces synnan. 7 anice eufces to eyme.
þpelian spise; 7 þu hit wissod þanne.
... .. Andentandad



Norman Conquest 1066 C.E.



Intellectual/Academic Vocabulary



Literature is insignificant...

oft gefittneoe pillum in þisse worulde fremot fulost
wraam in hialigra hylc hawan afaigan onstiga awro
nebiþ þam oþru þra seþe on oþru medum awru ðe
dum larpaþ in lathtrum nebað þa læn gelic mid pul
dop cuning wra þe behyppum giffu and moone wyl
genete þe gū on þeore þambid sumle giffu gegedead
gost agn bearn pilgum in worlde gif me seprege ne
laug forþon þe worlon a hec gæde hælo wæost gnuman
in mode mæla: gehwilecum þone gelftan wiga wal
daro Amen

WID SIÐ MAÐOLADE
þoro horo on læc se þe maft maþ þa oþru
awran polca gæro þeore oþre flæte geþah
myne licne maþ þum hane þrom myrgangum æþe
le on þeore he mid ælhlude þe þe þra þu þebban
þon man þe hweð cuningst ham geþolce awtan
of ongle swuman wæst þra þu þa logan on gōn þa
þom þra þean þe la ic monna gefraegū maþ þum þeal
dan þeal þeora gehwile þa þum lifgan wyl afaþ
oþrum eðle wædan se þe hys þeora feol geþan wile

WÆT PE LARDE
na in geare dagum. heod cunnig
þum se þra mon huda æþe lincas elles
þe medon. oft se yld seceþe seceþe
þra cum mone gū maþ þum meodo seceþe
of teah esode eopul syddan ærest þe
þe seceþe funden. he þe seceþe seba
þeox under polenum þeoxid myndum þa
od þe him æghwile þa þa gomb sit ten þra
of þe hron. þa de hysan seolde som þa
syl dan þe se god cuning. ðe an ære þa
ære þe cenned seong in seardum þone god
sende þe ce to þeore þra. ða þe on
geat þe ære þe dægon aldre. ðe. ðe
hwile him þe linc þe pul þe þe þe linc
þeoxid ære þe geare. þeoxid þe þe
blæd þe se þra seceþe seceþe seceþe
landum in. ðe seceþe seceþe seceþe
se þe cean þeoxum seceþe seceþe seceþe

The Old English Lexis

- Germanic word-stock (see Algeo p. 90-91)—
large percentage of overall vocabulary
- Old English already borrowing from other
languages; see the surviving words we got
from the
 - Native Celts
 - Early borrowings from Roman soldiers and
merchants
 - Words from Scandinavian invader/settlers

Celtic Words in the Old English Lexis

- Geographic words: *bre, tun, dun, cumb* (words for hills, valleys, etc., mostly surviving in place names)
- A few words from Celtic Christianity: *cros, dry-* (*druid*), possibly *curse*
- A few random words: *bannuc* (a small bit: bannock), *binn* (a basket), *brocc* ('brock,' a badger)

Early Roman Borrowings in the Old English Lexis

- Words from merchants' and soldiers' vocabularies: *castrum* (-caster) [Chester], *wine*, *candle*, *belt*, *weall* [wall]
- Place names: *Bath*, *Canter-byrig* (Canterbury)

Scandinavian words in the Old English Lexis

- *sky*
- *cake*
- *skin*
- *leg*
- *skill*
- *anger*
- *flat*
- *horse*
- *odd*
- *ugly*
- *get*
- *give*
- *take*
- *raise*
- *call*
- *die*

Grammatical Gender (p. 91-92)

- Linguistic term for categories of inflectional classes—Indo-European survival
- Has NOTHING to do with the biology of the noun we're talking about (as you learned in MLAN)
- Old English recognizes three genders (**masculine, feminine, neuter**)
- Must have **CONCORD**—pronouns, adjectives, demonstratives must agree in GENDER with the grammatical gender of the noun
- Leads to many different allomorphs of various inflectional morphemes

Old English Morphemes: Case

- The **nominative** case indicated the **subject** of the sentence, for example *se cyning* means 'the king'. It was also used for direct address. Adjectives in the predicate (qualifying a noun on the other side of 'to be') were also in the nominative.
- The **accusative** case indicated the **direct object** of the sentence, for example *Æpelbald lufode þone cyning* means "Æpelbald loved the king", where Æpelbald is the subject and the king is the object. Already the accusative had begun to merge with the nominative; it was never distinguished in the plural, or in a neuter noun.
- The **genitive** case indicated **possession**, for example the *þæs cyninges scip* is "the ship of the king" or "the king's ship".
- The **dative** case indicated the **indirect object** of the sentence, for example *hringas þæm cyninge* means "rings for the king" or "rings to the king". There were also several verbs which took direct objects in the dative.
- The **instrumental** case indicated a **means used to achieve something**, for example *lifde sweorde*, "he lived by the sword", where *sweorde* is the instrumental form of *sweord*. During the Old English period, the instrumental was falling out of use, having largely merged with the dative. **Only pronouns and strong adjectives retained separate forms for the instrumental.**

The Case Allomorphs for Nouns: Memorize!:

Ancestor of our singulars, plurals, possessives

The Strong Noun Declension (noun NOT marked by a determiner: girls, some girls)

Case	Masculine		Neuter		Feminine	
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Nominative	--	-as	--	-u / --	-u / --	-a
Accusative	--	-as	--	-u / --	-e	-a / -e
Genitive	-es	-a	-es	-a	-e	-a
Dative/Instr.	-e	-um	-e	-um	-e	-um

The Weak Noun Declension (noun follows a determiner: the girls, these girls)

Case	Masculine		Neuter		Feminine	
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Nominative	-a	-an	-e	-an	-e	-an
Accusative	-an	-a	-e	-a	-an	-a
Genitive	-an	-ena	-an	-ena	-an	-ena
Dative/Instr.	-an	-um	-an	-um	-an	-um