

Ph. D. Examination Reading List: Old English (2008-2010)

This list is meant as a template from which a slightly more focused list may be drawn to fit the student's area of specialization.

I. PRIMARY SOURCES

Section I. Poetry

As a Ph.D. candidate, you would want to be familiar with the following standard editions of OE poetry. There are others, of course, but these are fundamental sources for your readings in OE poetry. You might also want to have looked at and be aware of the content of the facsimiles of the 4 codices that contain most of the corpus of OE poetry, three of which are in Special Collections at Zimmerman, and the fourth on microfiche.

Fr. Klaeber, ed. *Beowulf and the Fight at Finnsburg*, with Supplement 3rd ed. Lexington, MA, 1950.

The Anglo-Saxon Poetic Records, ed. George Phillip Krapp and Elliott Van Kirk Dobbie, 6 vols. (New York, 1931-53).

Pope, John C. *Seven Old English Poems*. 2nd ed. New York: Norton, 1981. [This volume has been superceded by R.D. Fulk's 3rd rev. edition: *Eight Old English Poems* (2001). Pope's commentary on the poetry is worthwhile reading in conjunction with Fulk's.]

Heroic Poetry

Beowulf

The Battle of Maldon

The Dream of the Rood

The Battle of Brunanburh

Elene

Judith

Andreas

Doxology

Cædmon's Hymn

Wisdom Poetry

Fortunes of Men

Maxims & Metrical Charms

The Elegies:

The Wife's Lament

Wulf and Eadwacer

The Wanderer

The Seafarer

Section II. Prose

There are any number of definitive editions on the various prose works listed below, which I will not include here. You would want to be aware of at least the standard editions of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle: *The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle: Two of the Saxon Chronicles Parallel, with Supplementary Extracts from the Others*, ed. Charles Plummer and John Earle, 2 vols. (1892-1899; rev. ed. Oxford, 1952), and the current project of publishing separate volumes of the versions the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* in preparation, *The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle: A Collaborative Edition*, 9 volumes of which have already been published.

Ælfric

The Passion of St. Edmund

The Colloquy

Homily on Judith

Alfred

"The Voyages of Othere and Wulfstan" in Alfred's translation of Orosius's *Historia Adversum Paganos*.

Preface to St Gregory's *Cura Pastoralis*.

Preface to St. Augustine's *Soliloquies*

Selections from Boethius's *Consolation of Philosophy*

The Anglo Saxon Chronicles

The Parker Chronicle (A), The Peterborough Chronicle (E); C and D

Entries for years: 443-601; 755; 787-796; 871-

901; 937; 978-1018; 1066; 1070-1071; 1083; 1086; 1137.

OE Bede

Selections from The OE Bede: Book I, Chapters 1-3, 14-16, 23-25;

Book II, Chapters 1, 9-16;

Book III, Chapters 1-5;

Byrhtferth

Prologue to the *Scientific Manual*

Book IV, Chapter 24.

Wulfstan

Sermo Lupi Ad Anglos

Institutes of Polity

Romance and Travel

Apollonius of Tyre

Wonders of the East

Alexander's Letter to Aristotle

II. SECONDARY SOURCES

A. Bibliographic materials.

Again as a Ph.D. graduate you would want to be familiar with the basic research tools that you have at your disposal, such as the *Dictionary of Old English* on-line, which of course does not give definitions, only offers you the context of the word in question; Bosworth-Toller *Dictionary* is still useful and valuable for definitions and can now be obtained on-line; the Cleasby-Vigfusson *Icelandic-English Dictionary* is helpful for finding cognates with the OE, also available on-line; the *Micro-fiche Concordance to Old English Literature*, although somewhat displaced by the *DOE* on-line, is still worth looking at; the Bessinger concordances to the *Anglo-Saxon Poetic Records* and to *Beowulf* are still very useful and easy to use for quick-finds. In addition to the plethora of information on the web, some basic hardbound encyclopedias you might find interesting and perhaps inspiring: the Garland Encyclopedias of *Medieval England*, *Medieval Scandinavia*, *Medieval France*, as a start, and the *Blackwell Encyclopaedia of Anglo-Saxon England*, ed. Michael Lapidge et al. Very helpful also would be Stanley B. Greenfield and Fred C. Robinson. *A Bibliography of Publications on Old English Literature to the End of 1972*. Toronto, 1980; the Annual Bibliography and Year's Work in Old English Studies in *Old English Newsletter*, ed. R. M. Luizza; and The Annual Bibliography in *Anglo-Saxon England*, ed Simon Keynes, et al. On *Beowulf*, you might want to look at the bibliography in *The Beowulf Handbook*, ed. Robert E. Bjork and John D. Niles. Lincoln, 1997. I have not listed here any of the important works you might want to know regarding manuscripts and paleography. These you will receive from Dr. Graham. Of course, you will not be examined on the above texts, but you ought to have the pleasure of being acquainted with them.

B. Critical Material (again this is a general selected list, by no means comprehensive, to be augmented by the student's area of interest)

Anglo-Saxonism and the Construction of Social Identity, ed. Allen Frantzen and John D. Niles. Gainesville, FL, 1997.

The Battle of Maldon, ed. Donald Scragg Oxford, 1991.

The Beowulf Handbook, ed. Robert E. Bjork and John D. Niles. Lincoln, 1997. (A collection of chronological summaries of critical literature on *Beowulf*, as for example, on dating, sources, analogues, women, etc.)

Bredehoft, Thomas A. *Textual Histories: Readings in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*. Toronto, 2001.

Brodeur, Arthur. *The Art of Beowulf*. Berkeley, 1971. [excellent analysis of the composition of the poem; the volume is a point of departure for many later studies.]

The Cambridge Companion to Old English Literature, ed. Malcolm Godden & Michael Lapidge. Cambridge, 1991.

Chambers, R.W. *Beowulf: An Introduction to the Study of the Poem with a Discussion of the Stories of Offa and Finn*, 3rd ed., supplement by C. L. Wrenn. Cambridge, 1967.

Chickering, Howell D. *Beowulf: A Dual-Language Edition*. Garden City, 1977. [Chickering's commentary is worth reading as a start.]

- Clayton, Mary. "Ælfric's Esther: A *Speculum Reginae*?" in *Text and Gloss: Studies in Insular Language and Literature*, eds. Helen Conrad-O'Brian, Anne-Marie D'Arcy and John Scattergood. Blackrock, 1999.
- *The Cult of the Virgin Mary in Anglo-Saxon England*. Cambridge, 1990.
- Damico, Helen. *Beowulf's Wealththeow and the Valkyrie Tradition*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1984.
- and Alexandra Hennessey Olsen, eds. *New Readings on Women in Old English*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1990.
- The Dating of Beowulf*, ed. Colin Chase. Toronto, 1981, 2nd ed. Toronto, 1997. (important articles on the dating argument surrounding *Beowulf*).
- Drout, Michael, ed. *Beowulf: The Monsters and the Critics*, rpt. of 1936 *Proceedings of the British Academy* lecture. Oxford, 1958.[see also under Tolkien]
- Doane, A.N. *Genesis A: A New Edition*. Madison, 1978.
- Frank, Roberta. "King Cnut in the Verse of His Skalds," in *The Reign of Cnut: King of England, Denmark and Norway*, ed. Alexander R. Rumble. Studies in the Early History of Britain. London, 1994.
- ."The Beowulf Poet's Sense of History," in *The Wisdom of Poetry: Essays in Early English Literature in Honor of Morton W. Bloomfield*, ed. Larry D. Benson and Siegfried Wenzel. Kalamazoo, 1982, 53-65. [any work by Frank on *Beowulf* is worth reading]
- Fell, Christine. *Women in Anglo-Saxon England*. Oxford, 1984.
- Fulk, R. D. *A History of Old English Meter*. Philadelphia, 1992.
- Garmonsway, G. N. and Jacqueline Simpson in *Beowulf and Its Analogues, including Archaeology and Beowulf by Hilda Ellis Davidson*. New York, 1971.
- Greenfield, Stanley B. *The Interpretation of Old English Poems*. London and Boston, 1972.
- and Daniel G. Calder. *A New Critical History of English Literature, With a Survey of the Anglo-Latin Background by Michael Lapidge*. New York, 1986.
- Howe, Nicholas. *Migration and Mythmaking in Anglo-Saxon England*. New Haven, 1989.
- Kiernan, Kevin. *Beowulf and the Beowulf Manuscript*. Newark, NJ, 1981; 2nd ed. Ann Arbor, 1996. [one of the most important books of the second half of the 20th century.]
- Klein, Stacy S. *Ruling Women: Queenship and Gender in Anglo-Saxon Literature*. Notre Dame: 2006.
- Lawrence. W.W *Beowulf and Epic Tradition*. 1928; rpt. New York, 1963.
- Orchard, Andy. *Pride and Prodigies: Studies in the Studies of the Beowulf Manuscript*. Cambridge, 1995; now with Toronto University Press.
- . *A Critical Companion to Beowulf*. Cambridge, 2003.
- Rauer, Christine. *Beowulf and the Dragon: Parallels and Analogues*. Cambridge, 2000.
- Remley, Paul G. *Old English Biblical Verse: Studies in Genesis, Exodus and Daniel*. Cambridge, 1996.
- Robinson, Fred C. "The Significance of Names in Old English Literature," *Anglia* 86 (1968): 14-59. [an important early work in English on name-play in OE]
- Sources of Anglo-Saxon Literary Culture: Volume One*, edited by Frederick M. Biggs, Thomas D. Hill, Paul E. Szarmach, E. Gordon Whatley. Kalamazoo, 2001.

- Stafford, Pauline. *Queen Emma and Queen Edith: Queenship and Women's Power in Eleventh-Century England*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1997.
- Queens, Concubines, and Dowagers: The King's Wife in the Early Middle Ages*. Athens, GA, 1983.
- "Emma: The Powers of the Queen in the Eleventh Century," in *Queens and Queenship in Medieval Europe*, ed. Anne J. Duggan. Woodbridge, 1997, 3-26.
- Tolkien, J.R.R. *Beowulf: The Monsters and the Critics*, rpt. as separate pamphlet of 1936 *Proceedings of the British Academy* lecture. Oxford, 1958.