

OLD ENGLISH: A SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

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I. BIBLIOGRAPHIES

1. Stanley B. Greenfield and Fred C. Robinson, A Bibliography of Publications on Old English Literature to the End of 1972. Toronto: Univ. of Toronto Press, 1980. (Exhaustive.)
2. Fred C. Robinson, Old English Literature: A Select Bibliography. Toronto Medieval Bibliographies Series. Univ. of Toronto Press, 1970. (With brief annotations.)
3. Annual entries in Anglo-Saxon England (Cambridge, England; one volume annually, 1972 to present) and in the Old English Newsletter (1967 to present; published currently by the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, SUNY Binghamton).
4. For a select list of current projects by individual scholars see the annual "Old English Research in Progress" entry in Neuphilologische Mitteilungen.

II. DICTIONARIES

1. Joseph Bosworth and T. Northcote Toller, An Anglo-Saxon Dictionary. Oxford Univ. Press. In three parts: main volume 1898, Supplement by Toller 1921, Enlarged Addenda and Corrigenda to the Supplement, by Alistair Campbell 1972. (The illustrative quotations are particularly helpful if you read Old English.)

2. Christian W.M. Grein, Sprachschatz der angelsächsischen Dichter. Heidelberg, 1912. (Virtually a concordance of the poetry.)
3. Ferdinand Holthausen, Altenglisches etymologisches Wörterbuch. 2nd edition with additions by H.C. Matthes. Heidelberg, 1963.
4. In progress at Toronto: a comprehensive, multi-volume, computer-generated Dictionary of Old English.

III. CONCORDANCES

1. Jess Bessinger, ed., A Concordance to the Anglo-Saxon Poetic Records. Programmed by Philip H. Smith, Jr. Ithaca: Cornell Univ. Press, 1978. (Includes an index of compounds.)
2. Richard L. Venezky and Antonette di Paolo Healey, ed., A Microfiche Concordance to Old English. Toronto: Univ. of Toronto Press, 1981.
3. Richard L. Venezky and Sharon Butler, ed., A Stopword Microfiche Concordance to Old English. Toronto: Univ. of Toronto Press, 1982.

IV. GRAMMARS AND READERS

1. Alistair Campbell, Old English Grammar. Oxford, 1959. (For reference.)
2. Frederic G. Cassidy and Richard N. Ringler, Bright's Old English Grammar and Reader. 3rd edition. New York: Holt, 1971. (Step-by-step lessons in the grammar, followed by readings in prose and poetry, with a full glossary. Texts are not normalized. Be sure to consult the second corrected printing.)
3. Bruce Mitchell, A Guide to Old English. Revised with texts and glossary by Fred C. Robinson. Oxford: Blackwell, 1982. (A less ambitious classroom grammar and reader; prose texts only.)

V. MANUSCRIPTS AND FACSIMILES

1. Neil R. Ker, Catalogue of Manuscripts Containing Anglo-Saxon. Oxford, 1957. (Ker's Introduction includes the best available introduction to Old English paleography.)
2. Peter Clemoes, gen. ed., Early English Manuscripts in Facsimile. Many volumes (15 to 1970). Copenhagen, 1951-).
3. Other titles noted in Fred C. Robinson, Old English Literature: A Select Bibliography, # 11-17.

VI. COLLECTIVE EDITIONS: POETRY

1. George P. Krapp and Elliott V.K. Dobbie, eds., The Anglo-Saxon Poetic Records. 6 volumes. New York: Columbia Univ. Press, 1931-53. (The standard edition. No glossaries are provided. The Bessinger concordances are based on these texts.)

2. Methuen's Old English Library. Many volumes (13 to 1970). London: Methuen, 1933- . (Useful classroom editions in a standard format, with a glossary in each edition. I know of no central list of these titles; check the Robinson Select Bibliography, for pp. 12-49, for individual editors and titles.)

VII. COLLECTIVE EDITIONS: PROSE

1. Christian W.M. Grein and Richard P. Wülker, gen. eds., Bibliothek der angelsächsischen Prosa. 13 volumes. Kassel and Hamburg, 1872-1933. Most of these volumes were reprinted, some with new matter, by Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft, Darmstadt, 1964-66.
2. Various Early English Text Society editions, 1864-1920. (These are of both Old English and, chiefly Middle English texts, both prose and poetry. The poetic texts are all outdated; some of the prose texts are still standard.)

VIII. ANCILLARY SUBJECTS

1. David C. Douglas, gen. ed., English Historical Documents. A 12 volume series. Bearing on Old English studies are Volume I: C. 500-1042, 2nd. edition, ed. Dorothy Whitelock, and Volume II: 1042-1189, ed. David C. Douglas. New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1979 and 19 , respectively. (All documents are in translation.)
2. Frank M. Stenton, Anglo-Saxon England. 2nd. ed. Oxford, 1947. (The standard history of the period.)
3. Peter Hunter Blair, An Introduction to Anglo-Saxon England. Cambridge, 1956. (A standard general survey.)
4. Peter Hunter Blair, Roman Britain and Early England, 55 B.C.-A.D. 871. Edinburgh: Nelson, 1963.
5. James Campbell, The Anglo-Saxons. Ithaca: Cornell Univ. Press, 1982. (Excellent pictures.)
6. David Hill, An Atlas of Anglo-Saxon England. Toronto: Univ. of Toronto Press, 1981.
7. David M. Wilson, The Anglo-Saxons. London, 1960. (An introduction to Anglo-Saxon archaeology.)
8. David M. Wilson, ed., The Archaeology of Anglo-Saxon England. London: Methuen, 1977.
9. David M. Wilson, ed., The Northern World. New York: Abrams, 1980. (A survey of northwest Europe during the earlier Middle Ages; chiefly of interest for its pictures.)
10. Rupert L. Bruce-Mitford, The Sutton Hoo Ship-Burial. In two impressively large volumes: 1, Excavations, Background, the Ship, Dating and Inventory and 2, Arms, Armour, and Regalia. London: British Museum, 1975-78.

11. Daniel G. Calder and Michael J. B. Allen, eds., Sources and Analogues of Old English Poetry: The Major Latin Texts in Translation. Cambridge: D.S. Brewer, 1976.
12. Daniel G. Calder, R.E. Bjork, P.K. Ford, and D.F. Melia, eds., Sources and Analogues... vol. II: The Major Germanic and Celtic Texts in Translation. Cambridge: D.S. Brewer, 1984 (?).
13. Whitney F. Bolton, A History of Anglo-Latin Literature, vol. 1: 597-740. Princeton, 1967. (A second volume covering the period 741-1066 was planned but has not been completed, as far as I know.)

IX. GENERAL STUDIES OF THE LITERATURE

1. Stanley B. Greenfield, A Critical History of Old English Literature. New York: NYU Press, 1965. (Focuses on the literary criticism published before 1965. A new edition is in preparation, to be co-authored by Daniel G. Calder.)
2. Charles L. Wrenn, A Study of Old English Literature. New York: Norton, 1967.
3. Thomas A. Shippey, Old English Verse. London: Hutchinson, 1972.
4. Milton McC. Gatch, Loyalties and Traditions: Man and His World in Old English Literature. New York: Pegasus, 1971.
5. Opland, Jeff. Anglo-Saxon Oral Poetry: A Study of the Traditions. New Haven: Yale Univ. Press, 1980. (Influenced by his own valuable work collecting oral literature from Blacks in South Africa.)

X. COLLECTIONS OF CRITICAL ESSAYS

1. Robert P. Creed, ed., Old English Poetry: Fifteen Essays. Providence: Brown Univ. Press, 1967.
2. Jess B. Bessinger and Stanley J. Kahrl, eds., Essential Articles for the Study of Old English Poetry. Hamden, Conn.: Archon, 1968.
3. Martin Stevens and Jerome Mandel, eds., Old English Literature: Twenty-Two Analytical Essays. Rev. ed. Lincoln: Univ. of Nebraska Press, 1976.
4. John D. Niles, ed., Old English Literature in Context: Ten Essays. Ipswich: D.S. Brewer, 1980.

XI. VERSE FORM

1. Winfred P. Lehmann, The Development of Germanic Verse Form. Austin: Univ. of Texas Press, 1956. (Sets the study of OE meter into the context of the Germanic alliterative meter in general.)
2. John Collins Pope, The Rhythm of Beowulf. 2nd. edition. New Haven: Yale Univ. Press, 1966. (Although devoted specifically to

Beowulf, Pope's study applies in principle to other OE poetry. His theory, based on the supposed use of the lyre to mark time, is more ingenious than probable. His Introduction provides a useful survey of the theories of prior scholars, including Sievers and Heusler.)

XII. TRANSLATIONS

1. S.A.J. Bradley, Anglo-Saxon Poetry. London: Dent, 1982. (Supplants the earlier Dent anthology edited by R.K. Gordon in the Everyman's Library series. Includes Beowulf.)
2. Michael Swanton, Anglo-Saxon Prose. London: Dent, 1975. (A selective set of translations)
3. Kevin Crossley-Holland, The Anglo-Saxon World: An Anthology. Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press, 1984. (A lively choice of both prose and poetry, including Beowulf.)

XIII. BEOWULF

A. Bibliographies

1. Donald K. Fry, Beowulf and the Fight at Finnsburgh: A Bibliography. Charlottesville: Univ. of Virginia, 1969. (Exhaustive up to its date of publication.)
2. Douglas D. Short, Beowulf Scholarship: An Annotated Bibliography. New York: Garland, 1980. (Selective; concentrates on the more recent books and critical essays, with a brief evaluation of each.)
3. Sources cited in section I above.

B. Concordances

1. Jess B. Bessinger, ed., A Concordance to Beowulf. Programmed by Philip H. Smith, Jr. Ithaca: Cornell Univ. Press, 1969. (For certain purposes superior to the other Bessinger concordance cited in section II above, as it gives a complete citation for each simplex of compounds.)

C. Facsimiles

1. Julius Zupitza, ed., Beowulf. 2nd edition, with an introductory note by Norman Davis and new photographs. Early English Text Society series no. 245 (1958). (With a transcription.)
2. Kemp Malone, ed., The Nowell Codex. Volume 12 of the series Early English Manuscripts in Facsimile cited in section V above. Copenhagen, 1963. (A facsimile of the entire codex of which Beowulf is one part.)

D. Editions

1. Frederick Klaeber, ed., Beowulf and the Fight at Finnsburg. 3rd edition with 1st and 2nd supplements. Lexington: Heath, 1950. (Still the standard scholarly edition, with a wonderful glossary; often used in the classroom, but better with graduates than undergraduates.)
2. C.L. Wrenn, ed., Beowulf, With the Finnesburg Fragment. 3rd edition, revised by W.F. Bolton. London: Harrap, 1973.
3. Howell D. Chickering, Jr., ed., Beowulf: A Dual-Language Edition. 2nd edition. New York: Doubleday, 1982. (Includes Chickering's translation en face; not a bad way to approach the poem for people who haven't learned Old English but want to try reading Beowulf in the original.)
4. An ambitious new edition by Roy Leslie is in progress, and is likely to remain so for some while.

E. General Studies

1. Raymond W. Chambers, Beowulf: An Introduction to the Study of the Poem. 3rd edition with a supplement by C.L. Wrenn. Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1959. (Particularly useful for the study of analogues.)
2. J.R.R. Tolkien, "Beowulf: The Monsters and the Critics." Proceedings of the British Academy, 22 (1936), 245-295. (A landmark essay; reprinted in the anthologies by Nicholson and Fry cited in the next section.)
3. Dorothy Whitelock, The Audience of Beowulf. 2nd. ed. Oxford: Clarendon, 1958. (Focusses on social context.)
4. Arthur G. Brodeur, The Art of Beowulf. Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 1959. (Particularly good on questions of diction; little on social context.)
5. John Leyerle, "Beowulf the Hero and the King." Medium AEvum, 34 (1965), 89-102. (A forceful interpretation based on the debatable proposition that Beowulf fails as king.)
6. Edward B. Irving, A Reading of Beowulf. New Haven: Yale Univ. Press, 1968. (A beautifully nuanced "new critical" reading; little on social context.)
7. John D. Niles, Beowulf: The Poem and Its Tradition. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard Univ. Press, 1983. (In three sections: (1) Context, (2) Style and Structure, and (3) Interpretation.)

F. Collections of Critical Essays

1. Lewis E. Nicholson, ed., An Anthology of Beowulf Criticism. Notre Dame: Univ. of Notre Dame Press, 1963. (Religious emphasis.)
2. Donald K. Fry, ed., The Beowulf Poet: A Collection of Critical Essays. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall, 1968.
3. Colin Chase, ed., The Dating of Beowulf. Toronto: Univ. of Toronto Press, 1981. (A smorgasbord of conflicting theories, some of which contest the pre-1981 consensus dating Beowulf to the seventh or eighth century.)

G. Translations

1. E. Talbot Donaldson, trans., Beowulf: A New Prose Translation. New York: Norton, 1966. Rpt. in Joseph Tuso, ed., Beowulf: The Donaldson Translation, Backgrounds and Sources, Criticism. A Norton Critical Edition, 1975. (Literal and clumsy.)
2. Kevin Crossley-Holland, trans., Beowulf. London: Macmillan, 1968. Rpt. in his The Anglo-Saxon World, cited in section XII above. (A freely alliterative poetic rendering, sufficiently exact for casual purposes.)
3. G.N. Garmonsway, trans., Beowulf and Its Analogues. London: Dent, 1968. (Undistinguished prose; the edition is still useful for its convenient grouping of the analogues in translation.)
4. Stanley B. Greenfield, trans., A Readable Beowulf. Carbondale: Southern Illinois Univ. Press, 1982. (A rendering into 9-syllable syllabic meter; an often successful merging of scholarly exactitude and poetic freedom.)
5. Marijane Osborn, Beowulf: A Verse Translation. Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 1983. (With good pictures.)

H. Pedagogy

1. Jess B. Bessinger, Jr., and Robert F. Yeager, eds., Approaches to Teaching Beowulf. New York: MLA, 1984. (With all manner of further up-to-date bibliographical tips relating to Beowulf in particular and Anglo-Saxon culture in general.)