



TOEBI Newsletter

TEACHERS OF OLD ENGLISH IN BRITAIN AND
IRELAND
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**TOEBI Annual Meeting
Queen's University Belfast, 22 October 2005**

TOEBI NOW: FIFTEEN YEARS ON

Programme

- 9.30 Committee Meeting
- 10.00-10.30 Registration and coffee
- 10.30-12.30 Morning Session: *Teaching Old English in Britain and Ireland:
Current Issues*
Chair: Hugh Magennis
Introduction and Welcome, followed by three presentations:
- Chris Jones (St. Andrews), 'The Place of Old English in English Studies and Modern Literature in Old English Studies'
 - Graham Caie (Glasgow), 'Medieval Studies and Old English Today: at Home and Abroad'
 - Clare Lees (KCL), 'Future Directions for TOEBI'
- 12.30-1.30 Lunch
- 1.30-3.00 Afternoon Session: *Research and Teaching*
Chair: Ivan Herbison (QUB).
Three presentations:
- Philippa Semper (Birmingham): 'Research-Led Teaching'
 - Gale Owen-Crocker (Manchester), 'Interdisciplinarity in Teaching Old English: Anglo-Saxon Women'
 - Christine Thijs (UCD), 'Old English Learning and Teaching in the Republic of Ireland'
- 3.00-3.30 *Special Discussion Topic*
'Old English and the AHRC', led by Elaine Treharne (Leicester)
- 3.30-3.45 Coffee/tea and biscuits
- 3.45-4.30 AGM

TOEBI Conference 2005

The TOEBI conference will be held this year on Saturday 22 October at Queen's University, Belfast, from 10 am to 5 pm. The conference theme is 'TOEBI Now: Fifteen Years On'. The cost for the day, including coffee, lunch and tea, is £30 (£20 unwaged).

If you have not already registered your interest in attending it is not too late to do so! Please contact the organiser, Professor Hugh Magennis (h.magennis@qub.ac.uk) or the secretary, Dr Elisabeth Okasha (e.okasha@ucc.ie).

TOEBI AGM 2005

The AGM will be held immediately after the close of business at the conference.

TOEBI Conference Awards 2005

In March 2005, TOEBI distributed the following advertisement electronically and through the *Newsletter*:

*Teachers of Old English in Britain and Ireland
Conference Award*

TOEBI has set aside funding to help postgraduate students to attend conferences. We anticipate giving three bursaries of up to £200, but, depending upon the number and nature of applications, we may award a larger number of smaller awards. Bursaries will be paid on submission of receipts for the amounts claimed.

Applicants were asked to note the following restrictions:

- The award is open only to postgraduate students
- Only costs related to attending conferences are eligible for support
- To be eligible for an award, it is necessary to be a member of TOEBI (it is permissible to join at the time of application).

The closing date for applications was 30 June 2005. Applications were assessed by TOEBI's executive committee, and notification of awards was made by 7 July 2005.

As was specified in the advertisement the TOEBI committee made awards according to the following criteria:

- Priority will be given to applicants attending conferences in this academic year (i.e. 2004-5)
- Although presenting a paper is not a requirement for an award, preference may be given to those presenting papers.
- Awards are normally given only for attendance at conferences concerned with Old English or which contribute to Old English studies.

Applicants were asked to complete a brief application form (not exceeding 250 words), with the following information:

Name:

Institution:

Research Interest:

Conference to be attended (with date):

How is this conference relevant to Old English Studies?

Title of Paper to be presented (if any):

Has the paper been accepted by the conference? (If a decision has not yet been made, please notify Jennifer Neville at j.neville@rhul.ac.uk when it has).

How will attending this conference benefit your studies?

Funds Requested:

What other sources of funding have you sought and/or received for attending this conference?

We received seven applications, all from PhD students working on Old English literature. One applicant did not send in the full information requested; two were rejected as they had not joined TOEBI as required by the conditions for the award. The other four applicants were all deemed equally worthy of support, and so the committee awarded £150 each to: Abdullah Alger (University of Manchester), Erika Corradini (University of Leicester), Pirkko Koppinen (Royal Holloway, University of London), and Francis Leneghan (Trinity College, Dublin).

The revised application form reflected the issues that had been raised following the award last year and helped to provide the information that the committee required to evaluate the applications, but, inevitably, different issues arose this year. One issue which now arises is whether previous winners should be debarred from applying again. The committee also affirmed that applicants must still be students to receive an award; those who had already

completed their PhDs were not eligible. It was suggested that in future the application form should specify whether students are self-funding or not. It was also suggested that the form might ask for further information regarding the applicant's place in the degree programme (1st, 2nd 3rd year etc), and perhaps an abstract of the paper.

Jennifer Neville
Royal Holloway, University of London

Changing Faces

Congratulations to Linne Mooney on her appointment as Professor of Medieval English Palaeography at the University of York.

And congratulations to Gale Owen-Crocker who is now Reader in Anglo-Saxon Culture at the University of Manchester.

Raluca Radulescu was appointed to a temporary lectureship in Medieval and Renaissance English at the University of Bangor in January 2005, and her position was made permanent in May 2005. She previously taught at Trinity College, Dublin.

Congratulations to Alice Cowen who has recently married, and who has changed her name to Alice Jorgensen. Alice, who was a teaching fellow at St. Andrews in 2004-5, has been reappointed until 2006, replacing Rhiannon Purdie who is on maternity leave.

Christine Thijs, who was appointed to a permanent lectureship in Old and Middle English at University College Dublin in 2004 has resigned from her position.

Kenneth Rooney has been appointed to a one-year temporary lectureship in Medieval and Renaissance English at University College Cork.

Please send information about recent appointments or retirements in your department to the Editor. And encourage your new colleagues to become members of TOEBI! Application forms can be downloaded from the TOEBI website.

Old English in the News

A new film adaptation of *Beowulf* is planned, directed by Robert Zemeckis (whose previous films include *The Polar Express* and *Cast Away*), and starring Anthony Hopkins, Ray Winston, and Angelina Jolie. The actors will appear as animated versions of themselves utilising performance-capture technology. Angelina Jolie, who is better known as the actress of *Lara Croft: Tomb Raider*, is reported to be playing the character of Thryth, a 'queen of darkness who tempts the Viking [Beowulf] during his quest to become king'. *The Independent* reported this as a move which would add 'unlikely sex and spice to Anglo-Saxon poetry', and which would bring 'unexpected glamour' to the story. (*The Independent*, 19 August 2005, p. 3). The same report carried an interview with TOEBI member Paul Cavill who responded enthusiastically, pointing out that such projects usually help to increase general enjoyment of Anglo-Saxon literature: 'They have to be done very badly not to contribute something to the accessibility of the literature.'

English Manuscripts 1060-1220

This five-year project, supported by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), began on 1 May 2005. It is a collaborative enterprise between the universities of Leeds and Leicester, directed by Elaine Treharne and Mary Swan, with the assistance of Orietta da Rold. It aims to identify, analyse and evaluate all manuscripts containing English written in England between 1060 and 1220, and to produce an analytical corpus of this material. It will also investigate a series of principal research questions relating to manuscript production, use, and audience. This promises to be a wide-ranging study which will situate manuscripts and texts in English within their wider cultural context, and which will examine the relationship between languages, language usage, and the regional and national production of English.

For further information see the project's leaflet which is enclosed with this issue of the *TOEBI Newsletter*, or visit the project's website: www.le.ac.uk/em1060to1220

The Cambridge Illuminations: Ten Centuries of Book Production in the Medieval West

This is a spectacular two-venue exhibition of around two hundred world-class illuminated manuscripts, many of which are on public view for the first time. The manuscripts date from the sixth to the sixteenth centuries and are drawn from the collections of the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge University Library and many of the Cambridge colleges. Sacred and secular, scientific and humanistic, historic and literary, the range of manuscripts on display showcases the work of some of the greatest medieval and Renaissance illuminators and includes commissions by the most celebrated patrons of learning and art, including the Kings of France and England, the Dukes of Burgundy and the Medici.

The exhibition is divided into eight thematic sections:

- The Coming of Christianity: Pagans and Missionaries
- The Bible and its Study: from the Cloisters to the University
- The Liturgy and the Offices
- Private Devotion: Humility and Splendour
- History and Literature: Sacred and Secular
- The Medieval Encyclopedia: Science and Practice
- The Humanistic Manuscript
- Manuscripts and Documents for Cambridge University Library

TOEBI members will find much to interest them throughout this exhibition, but the richest sections in terms of the display of earlier material are 'The Coming of Christianity' and 'The Bible and its Study'.

The oldest book in the exhibition is the Gospels of St. Augustine of Canterbury (Corpus Christi College MS 286), the book now used in the enthronement of archbishops of Canterbury. Also included in this section are the Book of Cerne, the St. Gallen Epistolary, the McClean Gospels, and the Southampton Psalter, and key volumes of Anglo-Saxon homilies (Corpus Christi College MS 421 and Trinity College MS B.15.34 which contains Ælfric's homilies). The section devoted to 'The Bible and its Study' includes numerous bibles, amongst them notable early codices such as the Bury Bible and the Dover Bible, the Eadwine Psalter and the Trinity Apocalypse. There are also many commentaries by patristic writers such as Gregory, Jerome, Bede, and Peter Lombard. Although primarily focussed on later materials, other parts of the exhibition also contain

manuscripts of early interest, such as Corpus Christi College MS 422, a liturgical compendium in Latin and Old English; works by Bede and Peter Comestor; the Life of St Edward the Confessor (CUL MS Ee.3.59); two thirteenth-century bestiaries; the major anthology of Anglo-Norman writing, CUL MS Gg.1.1; and Corpus Christi College MS 66, which contains the *Imago Mundi* and the oldest type of world map in England.

The exhibition also includes numerous books of hours, encyclopaedias, scientific manuscripts and historical, mythological and geographical treatises, many lavishly produced and exquisitely worked in gold and precious pigments. There are some familiar images, such as the frontispiece from the Corpus MS of Chaucer's *Troilus and Criseyde*, and also some well-known but little seen manuscripts, such as the complete works of Guillaume de Machaut, both verse and music (known in the musical literature as Codex Vogüé), which is on loan from its private owners. In addition, an entire gallery at the Fitzwilliam Museum has been devoted to the display of individual leaves from the renowned Macclesfield Psalter, which offers visitors a unique opportunity to enjoy the richness and variety of its illustrations.

The exhibition runs until 11 December 2005. Admission is free at both venues.

The Fitzwilliam Museum
Trumpington Street
Cambridge CB2 1RB
☎ 01223 332900

Exhibition opening times:
Tuesday-Saturday: 10.00-17.00
Sundays & Bank Holidays: 12.00-17.00

Cambridge University Library
West Road
Cambridge CB3 9DR
☎ 01223 333000

Exhibition opening times:
Monday-Friday: 9.00-18.00
Saturday: 9.00-16.30

Full details are available at:
www.cambridgeillumination.org

The exhibition is accompanied by a magnificent full-colour catalogue, edited by Paul Binski and Stella Panayotova, published by Harvey Miller (415 pp., hardback 1 872501 59 1 £45, paperback 1 872501 63 X £24.95)

Exam Howlers

Elisabeth Okasha offers the following gems from examinations and yearly assessments at University College Cork (spelling and punctuation are faithfully reproduced in all instances):

- The vocabulary used in this extract is reasonably understandable, apart from some omniscious words.
- In the Old English period, around the 1400/1500's, the language was highly different and punctuation impossible.
- [Anglo-Saxon] churches were abundantly architectural in their appearance.
- This word ['appellation'] originated in France and was probably introduced to the English language after the Norman Conquest (late 16th century).
- Another word which has changed [in meaning] is Pylosopher which now means sorcerer e.g. Harry Potter & the philosophers stone is called Harry Potter & the Sorcers stone in America.
- In this passage we see the use of the modern sentence; starting with a capital and ending with a full spot.
- The world's communication is moving and evolving at such a rapid pace it can now only be described as an abbreviated skeptical of its former self.
- This passage was written in 1642. Therefore it is Middle English.
- Today 'conceit' is used as an adjective meaning quite awful and cheating.

And Gale Owen-Crocker offers the following from the course on Medieval Women at Manchester which she runs with Anke Bernau:

- Joan of Arc was cross-dressing so she was burnt at the steak.
[French dressing perhaps? Mustard might have been better]
- Eve took the fruit then everything went pear-shaped.

New Annual Journal

Medieval Clothing and Textiles is a new annual journal, produced as a hardback book, edited by Robin Netherton and Gale R. Owen-Crocker. This new series aims to offer all those interested in the subject the fruits of the latest and best research, making use of archaeological finds, text references and artistic evidence.

Volume 1 contains several papers of interest to early medievalists:

- Elizabeth Coatsworth on Anglo-Saxon embroidery
- Maren Clegg Hyer on textiles and textile imagery in *The Exeter Book*
- Gale R. Owen-Crocker on the dress of King Cnut and Queen Emma
- Sandra Ballif Straubhaar on suitable costume for Icelandic slayers

Volume 2, due out May 2006 includes:

- Niamh Whitfield on early Irish dress
- Gale Owen-Crocker on the Bayeux Tapestry

Other goodies include Drea Leed's article which will tell you how to get the wine and urine stains out of your velvet vestments, and Tawny Sherrill on the sumptuous jewelled fur-pieces (*zibellini*) carried by Renaissance ladies.

Medieval Clothing and Textiles is published by Boydell and Brewer. Volume 1 is available now, price £25, isbn 1 84383 123 6. Please ask your institutional librarian to order this new annual for your library.

Revista Canaria de estudios Ingleses Call for Papers

Revista Canaria de estudios Ingleses (RCEI) is issuing a call for papers for the June 2006 volume. The topic is Old English and papers should be mainly on linguistics, even though Old English in general, cultural aspects, and any other fields related to this will also be welcome.

For more information please contact:

Dr Mari Cruz Exposito
Depto. de Filología Moderna,
Univ. La Laguna,
La Laguna 38071,
Tenerife. Spain.
✉ e-mail: mcexposi@ull.es

Florilegium Call for Papers

Florilegium, the journal of the Canadian Society of Medievalists, invites submissions for its next volume, scheduled for publication in Summer 2006. Papers on any aspect of late antiquity and the Middle Ages (including the post-medieval representation of the medieval period) are welcome. Papers intended for volume 23 (2006) should be submitted as soon as possible and should arrive no later than the middle of October to allow for review before the volume goes to press in the late spring or early summer of 2006; papers arriving after the end of October may be considered for volume 24 (2006-7). All submissions are refereed. Essays should not exceed 7,000 words, including notes and references, and should be formatted according to Chicago style. Submissions (three hard copies, including both e-mail and postal addresses) should be mailed to A.E. Christa Canitz, Editor, *Florilegium*, Department of English, University of New Brunswick, 19 Macaulay Ln., Fredericton, NB E3B 5A3, Canada (Canitz@unb.ca)

Lynne Grundy Memorial Trust

The Lynne Grundy Memorial Trust was established to commemorate the life and work of Lynne Grundy, a researcher and lecturer at the University of London, who died in 1997. The Trust, which is a registered charity, gives several grants of up to £500 each every year to scholars and students in the disciplines of Old English / Anglo-Saxon or Humanities Computing (applicants must not already have a permanent full-time academic post or adequate funding). Please publicise the existence of the Trust in your department and/or at conferences, and encourage eligible students to apply for grants from it. Details of award winners, references and academic support, how to apply for a grant from the trust and how to donate, are available on the Trust website: www.lynnegrundytrust.org.uk Please note that the closing date for applications for 2006 will be **no later than Easter 2006**.

You can contact the Trust directly by e-mail: info@lynnegrundytrust.org.uk
or at:

Lynne Grundy Memorial Trust
2A East Mount Street
London E1 1BA
☎ 020 7377 2171

Quadrivium Project Medieval English Textual Cultures

The Quadrivium Project offers subject-specific research training in Medieval English Textual Studies to doctoral students. Our definition of Medieval English Textual Studies is inclusive, covering Language, Palaeography and Codicology, Textual Criticism and Editorial Practices, Socio-Historical Contexts and Theoretical Contexts.

The Project is hosted by the University of Glasgow, funded by the AHRC and is run in partnership with several institutions, i.e., Queen's University, Belfast, the University of Birmingham, Queen Mary University of London, the University of Leicester, and the University of York.

Our intention is to develop materials and orientation useful for many UK universities where medieval texts are studied, and we welcome your contribution of your knowledge and expertise into our website: <http://www.arts.gla.ac.uk/quadrivium>.

The Project has been awarded funding to hold symposia for doctoral students and their supervisors who are working in the broad field of Medieval English textual studies. The first symposium will be held in Glasgow on 3-4 November 2005. It will consist of a mixture of master classes on palaeography, textual criticism, and linguistic contexts, and round-table discussions on medieval English textual cultures. There will also be a guided tour of the Hunterian Collection at Glasgow University Library. Although Quadrivium's symposia are open to all postgraduate students, on this occasion places are limited to a maximum of thirty students. Further events will be held at different locations at a later date.

For further information about the project and future symposia please contact the Project Facilitator:

Dr Takako Kato
Department of English Language
University of Glasgow
Glasgow G12 8QQ
T.Kato@englang.arts.gla.ac.uk

Recent Books

Rory McTurk, ed.

A Companion to Old Norse-Icelandic Literature and Culture

Blackwell, 2004, 545pp.

hardback 0 631 23502 7 £95

This survey of Old Norse-Icelandic literature and culture comprises 29 chapters written by leading scholars in the field. The volume highlights current debates among Old Norse-Icelandic scholars specializing in different aspects of the subject. Coverage of traditional topics is complemented by material on previously neglected areas of study, such as the sagas of Icelandic bishops and the fantasy sagas. Chapters on 'archaeology', 'social institutions' and 'geography and travel' make it possible to view the literature in its wider cultural context; while chapters on 'reception' and 'continuity' demonstrate the ways in which medieval Norse-Icelandic literature and culture overflow into the modern period.

Éamonn Ó Carragáin

Ritual and the Rood: Liturgical Images and the Old English Poems of the Dream of the Rood Tradition

British Library Press, 2005, 320 pp.

hardback 0 7123 4875 1 £50

This book deals with four of the most important surviving artifacts from Anglo-Saxon England: the elaborate eighth-century stone cross at Ruthwell, in Dumfriesshire, Scotland; the related cross-shaft at Bewcastle; the poem *Dream of the Rood*, which survives in a late tenth-century manuscript now at Vercelli, North Italy; and the early-eleventh-century metal reliquary cross now preserved in the Cathedral of Saints Michael and Gudule in Brussels, Belgium. In bringing together these scattered witnesses to the sustained brilliance of Anglo-Saxon artistic achievement across several centuries, Éamonn Ó Carragáin has produced a study which ranges freely between disciplines, and combines aspects of liturgical, literary, historical, and art-historical scholarship. The chief distinction of this book lies in its profound grounding in liturgical practices, and its detailed demonstration that even in the far north of Anglo-Saxon England, people were deeply influenced by the latest developments in liturgy taking place in Rome. The book brings a new dimension to our understanding of the Bewcastle and Ruthwell Crosses, especially of the interaction between their texts and their iconography, and argues

for the existence of a brilliantly original English vernacular poetic tradition recounting the heroic death of Christ.

Gale R. Owen-Crocker, ed.

King Harold II and the Bayeux Tapestry

Brewer, 2005, 248 pp.

hardback 1 84 383 124 4 £45 (\$90)

These essays shed new light on Harold II who is chiefly remembered for the brevity of his reign and his death at the Battle of Hastings. They explore the long career and the dynastic network behind Harold Godwinsson's accession on the death of King Edward the Confessor in 1066, looking in particular at the important questions as to whether Harold's kingship was opportunist or long-planned: a usurpation or a legitimate succession in terms of his Anglo-Scandinavian kinships? They also examine the posthumous legends that Harold survived Hastings and lived on as a religious recluse. The essays in the second part of the volume focus on the Bayeux Tapestry, bringing out the small details which would have resonated significantly for contemporary audiences, both Norman and English, to suggest how they judged Harold and the other players in the succession drama of 1066. Other aspects of the Tapestry are also covered: the possible patron and locations the Tapestry was produced for; where and how it was designed; and the various sources employed by the artist.

Bettina Bildhauer and Robert Mills, eds.

The Monstrous Middle Ages

University of Wales Press, 2003, xiv + 236pp.

hardback 0 70831821 5 £55

paperback 0 7083 1822 3 £17.99

The figure of the monster in medieval culture functions as a vehicle for a range of intellectual and spiritual enquiries, from questions of language and representation to issues of moral, theological and cultural value. Monsters embody cultural tensions that go far beyond the idea of the monster as simply an unintelligible and abject other. *The Monstrous Middle Ages* looks at both the representations of literal monsters and the consumption and exploitation of monstrous metaphors in a wide variety of medieval cultural productions, from travel writings and mystical texts to sermons, manuscript illuminations and maps. Individual essays explore the ways in which monstrosity shaped the construction of gendered and racial identities, religious symbolism and social prejudice in the Middle Ages.

Book Reviews

If you have a book at press or which has recently appeared, please ask your publisher to send a review copy to TOEBI.

New reviewers are always welcome. If you would be interested in reviewing for the TOEBI *Newsletter* please let the Editor know.

Mark C. Amodio and Katherine O'Brien O'Keeffe, eds.

Unlocking the Wordhord: Anglo-Saxon Studies in Memory of Edward B. Irving Jr

University of Toronto Press, 2003 359 pp.
hardback 0 8020 4822 £48 (\$75)

This collection of essays is a fitting tribute to the late Edward Irving. The editors have taken care to follow the overarching idea of the *wordhord* as a treasure trove of ideas which can 'gain entry into the world of the Anglo-Saxons through [...] literary, historical, and cultural artefacts that have survived in varying degrees of intactness, to the present day' (p. 12).

The book opens with considerations of the place that the Anglo-Saxons assigned themselves in the world. Nicholas Howe shows how the Junius Book allows its readers to close the gap between themselves and pre-Christian biblical narratives through the themes of place and exile. Paul Szarmach examines Ælfric's revisions of the Lives of St Martin, showing the careful consideration that was given to the adaptations of his sources.

A.N. Doane and Miles Foley show the impact of non-authorial processes on the transmission and understanding of literature. Doane focuses on idiosyncratic features of the two scribes of the *Beowulf* manuscript, such as capitalization and word spacing, which in turn influence our reading, and more importantly, the reading of contemporaries. He likens the style of scribe B to that of a 'score', which is intended to capture the performance of the poem. Foley looks at the way genre manifests itself in oral traditions. He argues that the metrical universality of Old English literature allows performers to create new aspects by utilizing recognizable phraseological patterns known from one genre and transport them into another context.

Don Scragg returns to the battlefields of Old English poetry, here the transmission of *The Battle of Brunanburh*. Scragg finds parallels between this poem and *The Capture of the Five Boroughs*, which allows him to

draw conclusions about the writer, purpose and date of composition of both poems, which underline the legitimacy of the descendants of Alfred.

Sarah Larratt-Keefer's contribution is an investigation of the individual 'I' of Old English literature. We are used to emphasizing the communal aspect of Anglo-Saxon life; however, it is clear that writers did have a sense of 'self'. Larratt-Keefer demonstrates that late Old English liturgical verses, such as the *Creed*, were meant to be acts of private, rather than public devotion.

The ways in which texts have been transmitted are examined in the second part of the book. Michael Lapidge comments on a possible direct source for Cynewulf's *Juliana*. He adds an edition of the *Passio S. Iulianiae* in which he has highlighted the passages translated by Cynewulf.

Timothy Graham's contribution on the entry for the year 1031 in the Parker version of the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* (MS A), which records a grant by King Cnut, shows just how much more is known to us since the arrival of new technologies. Graham adds an edition including the obliterated text that has been made visible through the examination under ultra-violet light, and offers a comparison with a twelfth-century equivalent, preserved in the F manuscript of the *Chronicle*.

Most students will experience Old English literature through editions and may be introduced to the texts through a Modern English translation. It is therefore important to remind the next generation of Anglo-Saxonists of the role that editorial practices and the choice of words play in the transmission and interpretation of literature. Robert Bjork's essay demonstrates just how much the political agenda of the nineteenth century shaped the edition of the Old English *Phoenix* by Danish nationalist N.F.S. Grundvig.

However, not all texts were written on parchment. We know that Anglo-Saxon culture was deeply visual and that images and texts could appear side-by-side, adding new aspects of meaning to each other. The skill of reading both to the same level of proficiency is mastered by few scholars today, since they are usually artificially separated into the realms of text criticism and material culture. Gail Ivy Berlin's contribution looks at the function of the animals depicted in the borders of the Bayeux Tapestry. These have been taken to constitute a commentary on the main narrative by some, a separate story by others, and there are also critics, such as the late Patrick Wormald, who regarded them as purely decorative. Berlin, like others before, claims

that the borders depict images from Aesop's Fables, and therefore constitute a politically charged commentary on the events in the main narrative.

Any new examination of Old English literature must always also focus on the complexities of language, and the final part of the collection is dedicated to lexical studies. Our knowledge of what exactly the Anglo-Saxon meant when talking about *ellen*, *caf* or *unforht* is helped through detailed comparative studies, such as Janet Bately's contribution on the vocabulary of bravery in *Beowulf*. This is also the theme of Jane Roberts's essay. She examines the word *aglæca*, which has been variably translated as 'monster' or 'hero'. Roberts shows that by placing the term in the context of the heroic world we can clearly understand the implied ambiguity of the term. Antonette di Paolo Healey contributes an examination of the adjective *fæger* and its relations, which demonstrates the semantic richness of Old English. Nobody talks 'dirty' like Roberta Frank. Her profound sense for language(s) illustrates the linguistic sensibilities needed for translating Old English. Frank shows that the Anglo-Saxons had words aplenty for sexual intercourse, but that editors of dictionaries face problems of finding fitting modern English cognates for such delicate matters. Frank, like her co-contributors, shows that unlocking the *wordhord* of Old English may be an arduous task, but one that is pleasurable in the end.

The authors of this collection illustrate that the study of Old English language and literature is a fertile field, which is far from being exhausted. They have achieved their aim of giving a 'snapshot of current scholarship' (p. 5) in the area of text criticism and language study, which should continue the discussion well into the new millennium.

Christina Lee
University of Nottingham

Gale R. Owen-Crocker
Dress in Anglo-Saxon England
The Boydell Press, 2004, 448 pp.
hardback 1 84383 081 7 £30 (\$50)

This splendid book replaces Owen-Crocker's much loved monograph of the same name (Manchester University Press, 1986) as the major overview of Anglo-Saxon clothing and textiles from the fifth to the eleventh centuries. In crudest terms, for xi + 241 pages at £39.95

then you now get xix + 400 at £30, a snip. Where there were eight black and white plates (seven of these are repeated, but the Tollund cap and belt are replaced by a drawing, Fig. 83, of a man in cap), there are thirteen; where there were 186 drawings and diagrams in the 1986 edition there are now 238; and an eight-page colour section containing twelve plates is entirely new. Overall the page dimensions are a fraction larger, giving an even more pleasing sense of space to the effective mise-en-page.

Such changes are easily counted and listed. They are part and parcel of a bigger and better book, thoroughly up-to-date with developments in the many subject areas consulted, some of which are noted in the 'Introduction to the revised edition' (pp. 1-9): new directions in archaeology (not just of the old finds read in new ways but of new excavations and techniques); the British Museum exhibitions and catalogues that provided an assessment of many major artefacts and manuscripts; the British Academy's publications of Anglo-Saxon stone sculpture; facsimiles of illustrated manuscripts; the appearance of 'new and more readable editions of Old English texts'; and new lexical and web resources. The first edition itself appeared at a time when museum curators in Britain were increasingly keen to reconstruct Anglo-Saxon settings and dress as educational exhibits, and since its appearance Owen-Crocker has become the authority reconstructors call upon. Thus, a major emphasis of the second edition is how Anglo-Saxon costumes can be made. Plates D, F and G are larger reproductions of the three coloured illustrations of sixth and seventh-century regional dress on the front of the dust-jacket, and a new appendix by Robin Netherton provides a basic pattern for cutting the sort of gown worn by women in the eleventh century, together with a clear description of and labels for its constituent pieces.

The first of ten numbered chapters provides 'A historical framework', an essential and most readable overview of origins and Anglo-Saxon history. There follow six central chapters, as before dealing in turn with women's and men's clothing, first in the fifth and sixth centuries, then from the seventh to ninth centuries and last in the tenth and eleventh centuries (an order dictated (p. 4) by the 'greater amount of evidence for female dress in the earliest chronological period'. Although at first sight these chapters look familiar, it soon becomes clear that considerable work has gone into recasting and updating their materials. Interestingly too, they

are enriched from insights gained by re-enactors. Shoes, for example, could in early times have been a hindrance rather than a help, liable to ruin 'by wet and mud' (p. 82 n. 188), and illustrations in late Anglo-Saxon manuscripts suggest that even then they might not be worn for ploughing and sowing (p. 123). For seventeen lines of text in the first edition there are now twenty-eight; and the notes that were tucked away at the back of the first edition are now proper footnotes. Chapter VII, on 'Textile production', has more than doubled in length, reflecting the advances being made in this area of research by Owen-Crocker, Elisabeth Coatsworth and their colleagues in Manchester. A final chapter opens up questions of 'The significance of dress', deftly and succinctly considering such issues as nudity, gender difference, the selectivity of the evidence, viewpoints from which the evidence is interpreted. Appendix A presents a summary of 'Old English garment-names', usefully summarising the words skilfully deployed throughout the six central chapters (there are very few changes, for example, the simplex *sceorp* and the once-recorded *hrycghraegl* have dropped out; *heafodfrætennes*, a glossing word, is newly included; *handscio* has acquired the comment 'the word only survives as a proper noun in written Old English, but was evidently common Germanic').

Gale Owen-Crocker reminds us (p. 4) that back in the 1970s, when she began on her research into Anglo-Saxon dress, photocopying was 'hardly heard of', computing was 'a rare skill', and the perils (p. 9) of investigating medieval leather garments on the world wide web did not exist. At every point her wise and scholarly book reflects the painstaking and detailed work necessary to amass, consider in detail and assess the materials she presents. Others embarking on her original research topic might have quailed on discovering within approximately a week (p. 1) 'that there was no correlation between the literary and the archaeological evidence for Anglo-Saxon dress'. Nothing daunted, she set her sights instead 'on a study of all the evidence available'. The evidence that she has continued to do so lies in the wealth of images explained and contextualized in a way that has justly attracted wide admiration.

Jane Roberts
King's College London

Alice Sheppard

Families of the King: Writing Identity in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle

University of Toronto Press, 2004, 266 pp.
 hardback 0 8020 89844 £42 (\$70)

This volume, good though it is, delivers rather less than the title suggests: the kings analysed in the 155 pages of discussion (there are over a hundred pages of notes, bibliography and back matter) are selected by virtue, I imagine, for their dominance in Anglo-Saxon or Anglo-Danish or Anglo-Scandinavian or Anglo-Norman history. One might quickly note, too, that the time seems right for a label debate, given the interest in identities and interculturality in current scholarship. Thus, in this volume, two chapters are devoted to evaluating Alfred - 'Making Alfred King', and 'Proclaiming Alfred's Kingship' - and one each to 'Undoing Æthelred', 'Unmaking Æthelred but Making Cnut', and 'Writing William's Kingship'. In a sense, with the exception of Edgar, these are the kings about which most is written in Anglo-Saxon scholarship generally, but the rationale here is that these selected reigns are 'annals of conquest, settlement, and invasion' (p. 14). From that perspective one might question the omission of Æthelstan, at the very least. It is pleasing, though, to read a thematically unified account of an Old English set of texts that moves smoothly through the traditional period boundaries from the zenith of the *Anglecynn*'s political power to its ostensible nadir.

Throughout the volume, Sheppard writes engagingly and articulately about the *Chronicle(s)*, seeking to rehabilitate the text as legitimate historiographical material, that voices an 'articulation of Anglo-Saxon identity'. The main focus of the study is 'lordship relations' and how this both creates and defines kingship and the king's relationship with his land and subjects. Each regnal narrative reinvents the relationship 'between the king and his men' (*sic.*) Sheppard claims that 'the annalists position lordship as a defining component of Anglo-Saxon cultural identity', a claim that is difficult to disagree with, but is, one might argue, a variant of the ethos of the *comitatus*. In analysing 'the king's performance of his lordship ties [as] central to the narratives for all these kings', Sheppard provides an interesting investigation into annals that 'interpret the events of the recent past, creating a new and imagined history in which the king's lordship defines his newly created *Anglecynn*'. In her discussion of the 'Making of Cnut', for example, Sheppard distinguishes between the differing effects of

the rhetoric of conquest at Cnut's accession and that at William's. She sees Cnut's reign as being successfully built on the application of the 'hold hlaford' promise, 'enabling the founding of a new Anglo-Danish people'. The real shift in emphasis, however, comes in the post-Conquest period where land emerges as a new component of institutional and monarchical identity, in addition to lordship relations. In her often perceptive readings of the annals and related texts, such as the law-codes, Sheppard is able to make a notable contribution to the flourishing debate on English identity and (arguably) proto-nationalism in this period.

Elaine Treharne
University of Leicester

Catherine E. Karkov
The Ruler Portraits of Anglo-Saxon England
The Boydell Press, 2004, viii + 209pp.
hardback 1 84383 059 0 £55 (\$99)

This book, volume 3 in Boydell's revamped *Anglo-Saxon Studies* series, displays enormous scholarship and range. Karkov treats both figurative portraits, images on coins and manuscript illustrations, as well as literary descriptions and documentary styling of kings and queens. The volume necessarily focuses upon the dynasty of Alfred although Karkov briefly discusses the far more limited range of images of previous rulers. Karkov's definition of a portrait is very broad indeed. Thus in the chapter on Alfred she opens with the king's preface to his translation of Gregory's *Regula Pastoralis* analysing this as a form of self portrait. Having set herself such a wide range of materials to work with Karkov displays erudition within the fields of literary criticism, art history and history but inevitably any attempt to pull together such disparate sources runs the risk of trying too hard to produce a seamless narrative. There are also serious problems in the author's apparent presumption that what survives today represents a significant proportion of what was produced in the Anglo-Saxon period. Thus, in chapter 3, Karkov claims that 'One of the most important sources for the portrait of Edgar [in the Winchester, New Minster Charter] is the Corpus 183 portrait of Æthelstan' (p. 87), yet it is hard to see how it can be. Corpus 183 seems to have been produced in Æthelstan's own reign (924-939) and donated immediately to the Community of St Cuthbert at Chester-Le-Street. It remained in the hands of the

Cuthbertines, first at Chester and then at Durham, throughout the Middle Ages. How then could it have provided a model for a southern English artist in the later tenth century? This example typifies a presumption of direct influence of one surviving piece upon another which runs throughout the work. Presumably a more likely interpretation of the relationship between the New Minster Charter's Edgar and Corpus 183's Æthelstan would be that both reflect a widely used kingly image present in tenth-century England. Such an argument, however, would not appeal to Karkov who is eager to use her primary sources to psychoanalyse individuals. Rulers as patrons of art and literature tightly controlled their own portrayals and thus those veyr portrayals betray their self image. Well, up to a point, Lord Copper. There are other presumptions that may be slightly sloppy or even dishonest, for example, on p. 86, the author discusses 'the *ordo* which was used in Edgar's spectacular coronation (almost certainly a second coronation) in 973', and goes on to assert that it 'was no doubt used for his first coronation as well'. No doubt? If Edgar had indeed felt the need to have a second 'spectacular' coronation, is there not at least some possibility that a new and more striking *ordo* might have been devised for it? There are many interesting and exciting observations in this learned work but Karkov was perhaps unwise to seek to draw such disparate materials together and to maintain a unified theoretical position from which to analyse them. The sum is not equal to its parts.

Alex Woolf
University of St. Andrews

The spring issue of the Newsletter will carry reviews of:

Verbal Encounters: Anglo-Saxon and Old Norse Studies for Roberta Frank, edited by Antonia Harbus and Russell Poole

The Idea of Anglo-Saxon England in Middle English Romance by Robert Allen Rouse

Cultural Encounters in the Romance of Medieval England, edited by Corinne Saunders

Ritual and the Rood: Liturgical Images and the Old English Poems of the Dream of the Rood Tradition by Éamonn Ó Carragáin

Forthcoming Conferences 2005/2007

'The Cambridge Illuminations: Ten Centuries of Book Production in the Medieval West' Corpus Christi College, Cambridge 8-10 December 2005

This conference concludes the major exhibition of illuminated manuscripts, 'The Cambridge Illuminations: Ten Centuries of Book Production in the Medieval West', which has run since July at the Fitzwilliam Museum and the University Library. Speakers include: Lucy Freeman Sandler (NYU), Alison Stones (U. Pittsburgh), Mary Rouse (UCLA), Judith Oliver (Colgate U.), Richard Rouse (UCLA), Eberhard König (Univ. Berlin), Roger Wieck (Pierpont Morgan Library), and Kathleen Scott (independent scholar). The programme will include visits to the Parker, Wren, and Pepys libraries, a reception at the University Library, and a dinner at Corpus Christi College. The conference is organised by the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities (CRASSH), in collaboration with the Association for Manuscripts and Archives in Research Collections (AMARC). Full details are available at:

<http://www.crassh.cam.ac.uk/events/2005-6/camilluminations.html>

For enquiries contact Stella Panayotova
sdp26@cam.ac.uk
or Mary-Rose Cheadle
events@crassh.cam.ac.uk.

***Romance in Medieval England* Tenth Biennial Conference Centre for Medieval Studies University of York 28-29 March 2006**

This conference will cover all aspects of medieval romance as it relates to medieval England, focusing in particular, but not exclusively, on romances circulating in England, either in Middle English or Anglo-Norman.

For further details please contact:
Nicola McDonald
Centre for Medieval Studies
King's Manor
York YO1 7EP
nfm2@york.ac.uk

***'Royal Authority: kingship and power in Anglo-Saxon England'* MANCASS Easter Conference 3-5 April 2006**

This conference will explore questions of kingship, power, and authority:

Who makes a king?

- his father
- his widowed mother
- the witan
- a powerful subject or faction
- the Church
- himself

What makes a king?

- consecration
- possession of the treasury
- command of an army
- common consent

How is royal authority demonstrated?

- by cross, sceptre and orb
- by weapons
- by documents and the royal seal
- by taxation
- by power of life over death

Please send offers of papers by 1 November to
Gale Owen-Crocker: groc@manchester.ac.uk.

Disease and Disability in Northern Europe 400-1200 Professional Development Centre, University of Birmingham 8-9 July 2006

The organisers invite session proposals on all aspects of disease and disability in early medieval Europe. We welcome papers that explore sickness and the status of the afflicted from a range of different angles, such as archaeology, palaeopathology, as well as linguistic and historical evidence. The conference aims to be a forum for scholars working on the topic in a variety of disciplines and regions of Northern Europe.

Jointly organised by Dr Sally Crawford (Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity, University of Birmingham), Dr Christina Lee (School of English, University of Nottingham) and Robert Arnott (Centre for the History of Medicine, University of Birmingham Medical School).

Abstracts (300 words maximum) should be submitted electronically by 31 January 2006 to
Christina.lee@nottingham.ac.uk

**International Medieval Congress 2006,
University of Leeds
10-13 July 2006**

The Institute for Medieval Studies of the University of Leeds will host the twelfth annual International Medieval Congress at the University of Leeds July 10-13 2006, with over 1200 scholars from around 35 nations likely to attend. As in previous years, a whole strand of the Congress sessions will be devoted to Anglo-Saxon studies, and will include papers on all aspects of the field. Mary Swan (m.t.swan@leeds.ac.uk) is the Anglo-Saxon studies strand co-ordinator for the IMC, and will be happy to answer queries and give advice on paper and session proposals. In addition to the regular IMC strands, the special theme of the 2006 Congress will be 'Emotion and Gesture'. Full details of the IMC can be found at <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/ims>.

**Conceptualizing Multilingualism in
England 800-1250
A Worldwide Universities Network
Multilingualism in Medieval Societies
Conference
and The Third York Alcuin Conference
Centre for Medieval Studies
University of York
14-17 July 2006**

This conference aims to conceptualise the multilingualism of medieval England. It invites papers on all of England's languages and language cultures but particularly seeks research that transcends individual languages and specific texts to examine overarching structures of linguistic pluralism. 'Conceptualizing Multilingualism' involves addressing questions like: Is multilingualism individual? or cultural? How does multilingualism map onto the divisions of social class, education and political hierarchy? How do prestige languages and/or *linguae francae* function in multilingual environments? What are its consequences for literary culture and for the relationship between talk and text, between *langue* and *parole*? What role does translation play in a multilingual society? How does multilingualism impact upon modes of transmission in a manuscript culture? England was not uniquely multilingual, but to what extent was it distinctly so? Is multilingualism a medieval concept or a construct of modern disciplinary?

Speakers will include Julia Crick (Exeter), Andy Orchard (Toronto), David Trotter (Aberystwyth), and David Wallace (Penn). Brief abstracts for papers (of 30 minutes) should be sent by mid October 2005 to:

Dr Elizabeth Tyler,
Centre for Medieval Studies,
The King's Manor
York YO1 7EP
emt1@york.ac.uk

Selected papers from the conference will be published by Brepols in the York-based series 'Studies in the Early Middle Ages'.

**The Thirteenth International Saga
Conference
Durham and York
6-12 August 2006**

The major theme of the conference is 'The Fantastic in Old Norse/Icelandic Literature'; the secondary theme is 'Sagas and the British Isles, especially Northumbria. The conference is sponsored by the Viking Society for Northern Research.

For further information please contact

John McKinnell
Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies,
University of Durham
john.mckinnell@durham.ac.uk

or see the website:

<http://www.dur.ac.uk/medieval.www/>

**Lost in Translation?
The Tenth Cardiff Conference on the
Theory and Practice of Translation in the
Middle Ages
Université de Lausanne, Switzerland
17-22 July 2007**

Call for Papers

We welcome not only papers which address traditional aspects of the translation of texts with reference to any of the classical, Middle Eastern or vernacular languages of the medieval world, but also those which address the modern translation of medieval texts, and those that interpret the idea of translation more broadly, examining the translation of ideas, images, cultural perceptions, or objects of material culture.

Papers may be given in English or in any of the national languages of Switzerland, and should be thirty minutes long. Please send one-page abstracts and brief curriculum vitae by 31 August 2006 to either of the organisers:

Christiania Whitehead,
Department of English and Comparative
Literary Studies,
University of Warwick,
Coventry CV4 7AL
c.a.r.whitehead@warwick.ac.uk

Denis Renevey,
Chair in Medieval Literature
English Department, Faculty of Letters,
University of Lausanne, BFSH 2,
CH-1015 Lausanne, Switzerland.
Denis.Renevey@unil.ch

Following previous practice, it is planned to
publish a book of selected papers in the peer-
reviewed *Medieval Translator* series (Brepols)
following the conference.

Lectures and Seminars of interest to TOEBI members

Department of English University College London

Any Orchard
'Reading Beowulf Now and Then'
13 October 2004, 4.30pm
Embryology Lecture Theatre

Andy Orchard
'Spectacle, Speech-Act, and Source: the
Several Transmutations of *The Dream of the
Rood*'
8 December 2004, 4.30pm
Malet Place,
Engineering Lecture Theatre 1.03

For the locations of the lecture theatres and
department venues, please see
<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/about-ucl/location/maps>
Further information may be obtained from
Prof. Susan Irvine, Department of English
☎ 020 7679 3133
✉ e-mail: s.irvine@ucl.ac.uk

University of St. Andrews Medieval Studies Research Seminar

Francesca Tinti (Cambridge)
'Cotton Tiberius A xiii, fols. 1-118: the earliest
English cartulary'
24 October, 5.15pm

Sally Dixon-Smith (St. Andrews)
'Feeding the poor at the English court under
Henry III'
31 October 2004, 5.15pm

Judith Green (Edinburgh)
'Henry I and the origins of the Civil War of
Stephen's reign'
21 November 2004, 5.15pm

Julian Luxford (St. Andrews)
'Devotion, *disegno*, and doodles: adventitious
drawings in English medieval manuscripts'
28 November 2004, 5.15pm

Alixé Bovey (Kent)
'Tale chasing: The 'Smithfield Decretals' and
pictorial narrative in London manuscripts
before the Black Death'
5 December 2004, 5.15pm

All meetings are held in the Osgood Room, St.
John's House (adjacent to the Department of
Medieval History), South Street.

Volume to Honour Paul Szarmach

Paul E. Szarmach, Director of the Medieval
Institute and Professor of English at Western
Michigan University, retires in June 2007. In
honour of his thirty-five years in the profession
and his many contributions, ACMRS (Arizona
Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies)
will publish an essay collection edited by
Virginia Blanton (University of Missouri,
Kansas City) and Helene Scheck (SUNY,
Albany). The editors expect to publish a
Tabula Gratulatoria at the end of the volume.
Inclusion on this list requires a minimum \$10
donation; a donation of \$50 or more includes a
free copy of the book. Funds will be used to
defray publication costs; if any remain, they
will be deposited in 'The Szarmach Fund' and
used with an acknowledgment to support
ACMRS publications in Paul Szarmach's areas
of interest. The Table of Contents, which
includes many well-known scholars in the field
of Anglo-Saxon studies, and donation form are
available at the ACMRS website:
[http://www.asu.edu/clas/acmrs/Friends_of_AC
MRS_szarmach.html](http://www.asu.edu/clas/acmrs/Friends_of_AC_MRS_szarmach.html)

TOEBI Committee

The dates refer to when members of the committee are due to retire or to stand for re-election.

President: Professor Don Scragg (2006)
Chair: Professor Elaine Treharne (2007)
Secretary: Dr Elisabeth Okasha (2006)
Newsletter Editor: Dr Margaret Connolly (2007)
TOEBI Awards: Dr Jennifer Neville (2006)
Committee members:
Dr Jayne Carroll (2005)
Dr Gale Owen-Crocker (2005)
Dr Richard Dance (2006)
Professor Clare Lees (2006)
Professor Hugh Magennis (2007)
Dr Mary Swan (2007)

For membership details and general enquiries contact the secretary:

Dr Elisabeth Okasha
Department of English
University College
Cork
Republic of Ireland

☎ 00 353 21 490 2635

✉ e-mail: e.okasha@ucc.ie

Send submissions for the next Newsletter by 31 March 2006 to the Editor:

Dr Margaret Connolly
Lauderdale,
Cupar Road,
Ceres,
Fife KY15 5LP
Scotland

✉ e-mail: mc29@st-andrews.ac.uk

Please note the Editor's new address!

Action points for Members:

- **For information about the October 2005 TOEBI meeting** please contact the Secretary or Hugh Magennis: h.magennis@qub.ac.uk
- **Contribute to the Newsletter:** responses to this issue; book reviews; short articles on your Old English courses or assessment procedures; material about professional practice; student howlers
- **Please send information about the following items for inclusion in the Newsletter:**
 - Conferences on Anglo-Saxon Studies
 - Special Lectures by Anglo-Saxonists
 - Postgraduate Courses and Opportunities in Old English in your Department
 - News about promotions, or general (non-salacious) news about lecturers in your Department
 - The publication of new books or articles useful for teaching Old English

Remember!

The TOEBI web-site address is:
www.toebi.org.uk