



TOEBI Newsletter

TEACHERS OF OLD ENGLISH IN BRITAIN AND
IRELAND
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Some *Newsletter* Milestones

2005 may be regarded as something of a red letter year for the TOEBI *Newsletter*, since it has now completed its first decade in publication. Although TOEBI itself was founded earlier, it was reconstituted in its present form in 1995, and in the same year the *Newsletter* was developed under the editorship of Stuart Lee. Some anomalies in its publication schedule mean that we can also celebrate reaching the *Newsletter's* twenty-first issue in the autumn of 2005.

The *Newsletter* was always intended to appear twice a year, but its initial publication slots were February/March and August. These quickly changed to February and September, and eventually became formally known as the spring and autumn issues. The earliest issues were short (two pages to begin with, then four), with the type set in three columns, and were printed each time on differently coloured paper. Stuart Lee edited issues 1-6 (1995-97), and Elaine Treharne issues 7-13 (1997-2001); the current editor has been responsible for the issues from number 14 onwards (2002 to date).

Ten years ago, when the first (blue) issue appeared, it was circulated generally and not just to members of TOEBI. It carried information on the proposals to reorganize TOEBI (these were subsequently adopted at the 1995 AGM); notices of recent books (Bruce Mitchell's *An Invitation to Old English and Anglo-Saxon England* and George Jack's student edition of *Beowulf*), contributed by the authors themselves; and information about teaching resources relevant to Old English. The editorial included a mission statement to the effect that this was the type of material that the *Newsletter* intended to cover, and invited contributions from members, concluding: 'We see the *Newsletter* as a forum for the expression of current interests and concerns and its success will depend upon the level of involvement of the membership.'

To a great extent the *Newsletter* has remained true to this initial blueprint. It still appears twice yearly, but has grown in size, with typical issues now numbering between 8-18 pages. It carries more notices of recent publications, more book reviews, and more information about conferences and meetings relating to Old English. This may only be evidence of the general proliferation of such activities within the discipline of English and throughout academia in general, with RAE considerations continuing to force the pace and scale of academic publication. More positively, the *Newsletter's* contents and circulation, and its achievement of a decade in print, might be taken as encouraging signs (should we feel the need of such), of the vibrancy and health of Old English studies. Finally, the success of the *Newsletter* still very much depends upon contributions from the TOEBI membership.

TOEBI Conference 2004

The 2004 annual conference and AGM were held in the Manchester Museum, University of Manchester, on Saturday 30 October, with thirty members attending. The conference organiser was Gale Owen-Crocker, to whom many thanks are due for a splendid day.

The subject of the conference was 'Why are we here?' and the day was divided into two sessions, separated by a delicious lunch. Time was available for members to look around the Museum: the recently-painted casts of the Ruthwell and Bewcastle monuments created much interest and discussion.

The morning session was introduced and chaired by the President, Don Scragg, who started by comparing the state of Old English studies today with that when TOEBI was launched fifteen years ago. He concluded that Old English then was in a gloomier state than today. This point was reiterated by the first speaker, Elaine Treharne, who suggested that

over the last five years Old English had retreated in some institutions but had grown stronger in others. She pointed out that those institutions that do still teach Old English tend to be high-status in terms of money, 'A' level requirements etc. She also raised some pertinent questions about Old English studies, for example, is it being diluted by becoming part of a 'super-grouping'?

Some similar points were raised by the second speaker, Mary Swan. For instance, she questioned how far 'English' is really a single discipline and discussed the value of inter-disciplinary studies. She also raised the possibility of the risk of Old English studies becoming invisible in an inter-disciplinary structure, even a medieval one. The third speaker, Anke Bernau, discussed how far Old English courses could be made popular, particularly in the context of recent popularisations of the medieval in the media. Some lively general discussion followed the papers.

The afternoon session, chaired by Gale Owen-Crocker, started with a most interesting paper by Alex Rumble on the value of manuscript studies in the context of teaching Old English. This was followed by a paper by Jayne Carroll in which she discussed the different options taken by students studying in the Department of English Language and Linguistics in Sheffield. Her presentation was enlivened by various comments made by students as to why they had opted for Old English. The final paper, by Christina Lee was based on her experience of teaching at Nottingham, and returned to the earlier discussion of the inter-disciplinary context of Old English teaching. There was then a stimulating discussion of issues arising from the day's papers.

Elisabeth Okasha
Secretary

TOEBI AGM 2004

The AGM started with the Chair's address, given for the last time by Peter Lucas. Don Scragg then gave a vote of thanks to Peter for all his work as Chair of TOEBI. Elaine Treharne was voted in as the new Chair and Margaret Connolly was re-elected as Newsletter Editor. The committee vacancies were filled by Mary Swan, standing for re-election, and Hugh Magennis. The Newsletter Editor then gave her report and this was followed by the secretary's report.

Decisions taken by the AGM were that TOEBI would this year donate £100 to the Lynne Grundy Memorial Trust, and that the annual subscription would be raised. The new rate for ordinary members is now £7.00 per annum, or £20.00 for three years; the rate for the unwaged remains at £3.00 per annum, £9.00 for three years. Some discussion of the success of the TOEBI Awards scheme followed. It was agreed that new members should be encouraged to join, and to stand for committee positions.

Elisabeth Okasha
Secretary

TOEBI Conference Awards

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.

Please 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 (but it is permissible to join at the time of application).

The closing date for applications is **30 June 2005**. Applications will be assessed by TOEBI's executive committee. Notification of awards will be made by 7 July 2005.

TOEBI's executive committee will make 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.

To apply for a TOEBI Conference Award, please complete an application form (available on request from j.neville@rhul.ac.uk). Please

return the completed form to Jennifer Neville (j.neville@rhul.ac.uk) by 30 June 2005.

TOEBI Conference 2005

The next conference will be held at Queen's University, Belfast, on Saturday 22 October 2005 and will be organised by Hugh Magennis.

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). In recent years TOEBI has voted to make donations to the Trust (see the report on the 2004 AGM earlier in this issue), and these donations have been gratefully acknowledged.

The Secretary recently received a letter from Liz Matthews, on behalf of the Trustees of the Lynne Grundy Memorial Trust, thanking TOEBI for its donation, and asking that thanks be passed on generally to TOEBI members: '... not just for the donation, but also for the vote of confidence. Your support is really invaluable to us, particularly so this year, as we have double our usual number of applicants, all very deserving cases, so your donation will be put to the best possible use, immediately ...'. The Trust's own newsletter emphasises how important the support of the academic community is to its work; this support may be practical, as well as financial - for example, publicising the existence of the Trust in your department and/or at conferences, and encouraging 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

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

Changing Faces

Margaret Connolly has resigned from University College Cork with effect from 1 May 2005.

Philip Shaw has been appointed to a lectureship in the Department of English Language and Linguistics at the University of Sheffield, following Jayne Carroll's move to the Department of English at the University of Leicester.

Catherine Long is spending the year 2004/5 at the Department of English, University of Birmingham. She has been appointed as a Teaching Fellow in Medieval English in the Department to replace Professor Wendy Scase who has a Leverhulme Research Fellowship. During the year, Katie, who is registered as a research student at University College, Dublin, will also be working on her PhD on Old English and Old Norse wisdom and heroic poetry.

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.

Exam Howlers

We have reached the silly season again and the Editor is looking forward to receiving copies of exam howlers relating to Old English. A selection of the most entertaining will be printed in the autumn issue. In advance of the end of year exams, here is one comment recently noticed in an undergraduate essay:

'Donald Scragg, working within the timeframe of the latter tenth century, narrows down the origins of the Vercelli Book by looking closely at the material it contains.'

Thanks to Elaine Treharne for this one (and apologies to Don!)

MANCASS News

MANCASS visiting speakers this year were David Johnson of the University of Florida, and Jennifer Neville of Royal Holloway College, University of London. David Johnson gave a compelling illustrated lecture on *The Line Drawings of the New Minster Liber Vitae: Vision, Intercession and post-Mortem Judgement*. Focussing on the three-level image of St Peter receiving the saved into heaven, the battle for the soul and the locking of the doomed into hell, David discussed the meaning and message for the community named in the book and for its abbot, pictured observing the middle level of the drawing. Jennifer Neville, speaking on *Anglo-Saxon Riddles*, gave a brilliant and stimulating analysis of *Cuckoo* and other riddling material (sometimes surprisingly identified as such).

The Toller Lecture was given on 7 March by Elaine Treharne, one of Manchester's most distinguished graduates. Elaine's lecture, *The Politics of Early English*, led the audience tenderly from material familiar to us all to some surprisingly little-known Old English. The well-attended lecture was followed by an excellent dinner at Manchester University's Christie Bistro. We were pleased to welcome visitors from Durham, Leeds, London and Talahassee.

MANCASS's first postgraduate conference, organized to interlink with the Toller lecture, attracted an international gathering and excellent papers. The speakers were: Alexander Rumble, Manchester: 'The Manchester Eleventh-century Project: the Spelling Data Base'; Erika Corradini, Leicester: '*Apud Lotharingos altus et doctus*: Leofric of Exeter, 1050-1072'; Mark Faulkner, St. John's, Oxford: 'Anglo-Saxon Books and their Norman Users: The Case of the Old English "Illustrated Hexateuch"'; Maria Cesario, Manchester: 'New Year's Day Prognostication: Christmas Day and *Kalende Ianuarii*'; Conan Doyle, University College, Dublin, '*Song of Heroes*: An Examination of the Possible Relationships between Anglo-Saxon Military Culture and Heroic Poetry'; Winifried Rudolf, Friedrich-Schiller Universität, Jena, Germany, 'Some Passages on Judgement Day in Old English Homilies Revisited'; Jocelyn M. Price, Manchester, 'Anglo-Saxon Censorship: the Copyist and his Excisions'; Francis Leneghan, Trinity College, Dublin, 'Making Sense of Ker's Dates: the Origins of *Beowulf* and the Palaeographers'; Francisco Jose Alvarez Lopez, Manchester and Vigo, Spain, 'The Palaeography of Oxford, Corpus Christi College 197'; Maria Laura

Esteban Segura, Malaga, Spain, 'The Punctuation System of the Anglo-Saxon Version of the Gospel According to St John: A Preliminary Approach'. The delegates enjoyed some hearty English food, and wine, thanks to a subsidy from the School of Arts, Histories and Cultures, University of Manchester.

Abdullah Alger, whose inspiration inaugurated this conference and who carried out all the organization, is bravely preparing for a second conference in 2006. The topic will be *The Lives of Saints in Anglo-Saxon England*. Information from:

Abdullah Alger (Graduate student),
School of Arts, Histories and
Cultures, Humanities,
Lime Grove,
University of Manchester,
M13 9PL.

Please urge your graduate students to attend and to offer papers. The conference offers a wonderful opportunity for young scholars to get to know one another and exchange ideas.

The MANCASS Easter conference, on *King Edgar the Peacable*, took place 30 March - 1 April 2005. The 2006 Easter conference will be on *Royal Authority: kingship and power in Anglo-Saxon England* 3-5 April. Offers of papers and preliminary information from Gale Owen-Crocker, groc@manchester.ac.uk.

Donald Scragg, the founder and director of MANCASS, retires in April, when he will become Professor Emeritus. Alex Rumble takes over as director, and Gale Owen-Crocker becomes deputy director. Don remains as chair of the MANCASS editorial board.

The first two volumes of MANCASS publications are: *Textual and Material Culture in Anglo-Saxon England: Thomas Northcote Toller and the Toller Memorial Lectures*, ed. Donald Scragg; and *Apochryphal Texts and Traditions in Anglo-Saxon England*, ed. Kathryn Powell and Donald Scragg. The third volume, *King Harold II and the Bayeux Tapestry*, ed. Gale R. Owen-Crocker is due out in 2005. Planned future volumes include *Writings and Texts in Anglo-Saxon England* ed. Alexander R. Rumble; *The Britons in Anglo-Saxon England*, ed. N.J. Higham; *Santa Crux - Halig Rod: the place of the cross in Anglo-Saxon England*, ed. Catherine E. Karkov. Two monographs are also planned for the series: Kathryn Powell, *The East in Anglo-Saxon England*; and Susan Thompson, *Anglo-Saxon Royal Diplomas*.

Gale Owen-Crocker
University of Manchester

Recent Books

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

The Electronic Exeter Anthology of Old English Poetry

**edited and compiled by Bernard Muir
multimedia design by Nick Kennedy**

Exeter Medieval Texts and Studies

Exeter University Press, Spring 2005

CD-ROM only 0 85989 631 5 £275 inc. VAT

CD-ROM package (CD-ROM plus 2-volume hardback set of revised second edition) 0 85989 630 7 £300 inc. VAT

Commonly referred to as *The Exeter Book*, this important anthology is the earliest and largest surviving book of vernacular poetry from Anglo-Saxon England. This edition on CD-ROM will be an invaluable historical and literary acquisition for libraries and a useful reference work for scholars.

The CD will contain the revised second edition of *The Exeter Anthology of Old English Poetry*, linked to a full-colour digital facsimile and images of various other related historical documents. Also included will be a new codicological report on the manuscript's current binding. The images used are of an extremely high resolution; they often provide more information than is available from a physical examination of the manuscript itself.

The CD will be available as a special package with the two-volume revised second edition. This edition includes many newly-discovered alterations to the poetic texts in addition to the four hundred new readings listed in the first edition. The Bibliography and Commentary have also been updated.

Gale R. Owen-Crocker *Dress in Anglo-Saxon England* Revised and Enlarged Edition

Brewer, October 2004

448 pp. 1 84383 081 7. £30

First published in 1986, Gale Owen-Crocker's book quickly became a milestone in costume studies. Nearly twenty years later, there is more to be said, and this updated edition is long overdue. An encyclopaedic study of English dress from the fifth to the eleventh centuries, it draws evidence from archaeology, text and art (manuscripts, ivories, metalwork, stone sculpture, mosaics) and also from re-enactors' experience. It examines textiles, cloth production and the significance of

imported cloth and foreign fashions. Dress is discussed as a mark of gender, ethnicity, status and social role; surviving dress fasteners and accessories are examined with regard to type and to geographical/chronological distribution. There are colour reconstructions of early Anglo-Saxon dress and a cutting pattern for a gown from the Bayeux tapestry; Old English garment names are discussed, and it is completed by a glossary of costume terms.

Antonia Harbus and Russell Poole *Verbal Encounters: Anglo-Saxon and Old Norse studies for Roberta Frank*

University of Toronto Press, January 2005

320 pp. hardback 0 8020 8011 1. £48

Verbal Encounters is a collection of papers on the cultural and linguistic exchange in Old Norse, Old English, and medieval Latin literature, written in honour of Roberta Frank, former University Professor of Medieval Studies at the University of Toronto. The essays feature new scholarship on topics such as constructions of feminine strength and effectiveness in Anglo-Saxon literature; the integral position of Anglo-Latin within Anglo-Saxon culture and literature; the rise of Latin-based learning in twelfth-century Iceland; medieval Icelandic religious poetry; and Christian conversion in medieval Scandinavia.

Richard Goddard *Lordship and Medieval Urbanisation: Coventry 1043-1355*

Brewer, December 2004

368 pp, 0 86193 271 4 £55

The process by which medieval urban communities were formed and developed can be clearly seen in this study of Coventry. Following a survey of Domesday evidence, the book looks at mechanisms for economic growth in Coventry in the twelfth century, in which both lay and monastic lords played a part. Coventry in the thirteenth century reveals other issues: migration to and from the town, the occupational structure within Coventry, and the urban land market. The story of Coventry's development into the fourteenth century ranges over trade, manufacturing and occupations, and notes changes in the land market. Making extensive use of the town's rich documentation, this study presents a closely argued analysis of the stages by which Coventry developed from its origins in the Anglo-Saxon past to a vibrant, wealthy urban community on the eve of the Black Death.

Book Reviews

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

Richard Marsden

The Cambridge Old English Reader

Cambridge UP, 2004. xxxiv + 532 pp.

hardback 0 521 45426 3 £55

paperback 0 521 45612 6 £18.99

This book aims to offer 'a range of texts far wider than the narrow canon available in the primers and readers in print [. . .] edited to modern standards of "userfriendliness", in the way of presentation, glossing and annotation' (p. ix). In achieving these aims so successfully Marsden has produced an extremely useful new textbook that both teachers and students of Old English will welcome.

Fifty-six texts are arranged in six broad thematic groups (e.g. 'Keeping a Record'). All the old favourites appear, alongside a very wide range of other texts of varying length and difficulty including examples of such little-read genres as wills, wisdom poetry and legal texts.

On-page glosses are provided for all the texts in the book and the amount of such glossing seems very well judged. Within a given text a word is normally glossed only on its first appearance, but there is no assumption that texts will be read in the order printed (texts particularly suitable for beginners are listed on p. xvi). The glosses work most conveniently with verse texts, where they are printed alongside the relevant line; for prose texts the glosses are printed as a block above the explanatory notes at the foot of the page. A very welcome 'belt and braces' approach means that a full glossary is also supplied at the back of the book; this aims to include every different word and word form, though not every occurrence, and means that the student need not be limited to Marsden's (unfailingly judicious) glosses.

Each text has its own introductory headnote including up-to-date suggested reading and helpful information on contextual, historical and linguistic matters, including orthography (the texts are not assimilated to a late West Saxon standard). The explanatory notes are less prescriptive of solutions than is often the case in textbooks and leave the student with a clear sense of different possibilities (and of the difficulties of choosing between them). Throughout the book there is

evidence of a fine appreciation of the needs of today's undergraduates (as, for example, in the account of the contents of the Bible provided on pp. 103–04). Userfriendliness is compromised only very occasionally, in some (to my mind) unnecessarily 'fussy' layout.

A lot of information is packed into the forty-one page 'Reference Grammar', though in a form that is indeed suited for reference purposes rather than initial instruction: a beginner would, for example, appreciate having strong and weak verbs explained before, rather than after, preterite-present verbs (and might also be a little discouraged by cross-references as forbidding as 'see G6d.i.3').

Although there is not space to list them here, the book – like any book of this size and scope – has some typos and other slips (including one or two surprising ones). Some of these will not be obvious to the unguided student, but there will no doubt be ample opportunity to correct them in future reprintings. The strengths and weaknesses of a textbook become fully apparent only after sustained use in the classroom, but I am more than sufficiently impressed by this book to want to put it to just such a test next semester.

Carl Phelpstead

Cardiff University

R. D. Fulk and Christopher M. Cain

A History of Old English Literature

Blackwell, 2003. viii + 346 pp.

hardback 0 631 22397 5 £50

paperback 1 4051 2181 5 £19.99

The need for a comprehensive introductory survey of literature in Old English seems obvious, but none has been attempted since Greenfield's and Calder's *A New Critical History of Old English Literature* (1986). That volume had many imperfections, including a heavy bias towards poetry, and it is good to see that Fulk and Cain acknowledge the importance of prose and tackle it with enthusiasm. The aim of the new work is in fact not literary criticism of the sort that Greenfield and Calder attempted, but elucidation of what the authors call 'the material and social contexts and uses' of Old English literature: they eschew 'formalist aestheticism' in favour of a newly assertive 'historicism'.

The greatest risk in a work such as this is that the reader is presented with what is little more than an annotated catalogue of texts, but Fulk and Cain consistently avoid

this. Their Introduction ranges intelligently across issues such as cultural identity, conversion, latinity, and literacy. Indeed, taken with chapter 1, 'Chronology and Varieties', this would provide an excellent starting point for anyone beginning a course in Anglo-Saxon studies. A chapter on the 'Literature of the Alfredian Period', is followed by seven genre-chapters < on 'Homilies', 'Saints' Legends' (contributed by Rachel S. Anderson), 'Biblical Literature', 'Liturgical and Devotional Texts', 'Legal, Scientific, and Scholastic Works', 'Wisdom Literature and Lyric Poetry', and 'Germanic Legend and Heroic Lay'. The authors' method is to survey historically the critical scholarship of each genre and to move to a synthesis of current views, providing in the process a cumulative and extremely useful bibliography. Account is taken throughout of the Latin background against which Old English texts must be so often be viewed. The scrupulously even-handed method does not exclude the authors' own critical views, though sometimes one might wish for these to be given a little more prominence.

There are plenty of things to admire in this book: excellent accounts of such relatively neglected texts as the Old English Pastoral Care and Boethius, for instance, and a rejection of the tired 'elegy' label whose use undermines so much criticism of the shorter poems. There are things to quibble about, too. The statement that 'all but a small portion of Old English verse is in fact *translated* from Latin sources' (p. 27; my emphasis) is wrong and manifestly does not apply to any of the poems which most beginning students of Old English literature are likely to read (Rood, Maldon, Wanderer, Genesis B, and Seafarer among them). Overall, however, this is a lively, accurate and practical introduction to the literature for students, which will provide valuable 'refresher' material (including bibliographical reference) for teachers, too. The concluding remarks by the authors address the 'crisis of relevance' currently faced by Old English literary studies. An acknowledgement that these, uniquely in the broader field of literary studies, are an 'archaeological' discipline, requiring a broad range of methodologies (including the philological), is trumped by the assertion that this is precisely what is to be celebrated about them.

Richard Marsden
University of Nottingham

Victoria Thompson
Dying and Death in Later Anglo-Saxon England

Anglo-Saxon Studies 4
Boydell Press, 2004, 300 pp.
hardback 1 84383 070 1. £50

This lively and interesting book discusses actual death and dying in Anglo-Saxon England as well as the cultural and symbolic meanings of various aspects of these. The focus of attention is the Anglo-Saxon period, the ninth to the eleventh centuries, and the evidence used includes texts, images, sites and objects. The book is well written and constructed with clear summaries at strategic points. It is thus both a pleasure to read and easy to use. The index is full and the Bibliography extensive.

The evidence surveyed includes both the material and the textual. Material evidence comes from graves, grave-stones, cemeteries and funerary sculpture; the texts are literary, religious, medical and legal. Both types of evidence are, of course, likely to illuminate the lives and deaths of the elite in society. In the light of what remains from Anglo-Saxon England, this bias is probably unavoidable. However, wherever possible, Thompson is at pains to point out where the evidence may well have been more widely applicable down the social scale.

Chapter 1 takes the death and burial of Queen Æthelflæd of Mercia, ob. 918, as a case-study, pointing out that she lived and died in a world where the dead could be both hurt and helped, where they still had rights, and where their bodies could be moved around. Æthelflæd, however, was rich, powerful and a woman and thus hardly typical. Chapter 2 therefore looks more closely at other strata of society, and other periods, raising questions about paganism, the meaning of *hæþenscip* and the maintenance of Christianity and Christian practices in the wider community. The chapter concludes with a detailed study of Vercelli Homily IX.

Other chapters use a similar format of general discussion followed by particular instances. Chapter 3 starts by examining the practice of the rites for the sick and the dying, questioning how far these rites were available to both lay and religious and follows it by a detailed examination of the penitential and confessional manuscript Laud 482. Chapter 4 is concerned with disease and death and makes some interesting observations about, among other things, grave-goods and charcoal burials. Chapter 5 considers Old English *wyrmas* in the context of the role of the church in times of

cultural disruption and continuity before examining the poetic texts of *Soul and Body* and the *Wanderer*, followed by discussion of gravestones carved with *wyrmas* decoration. Chapter 6 is concerned with judgement before death, for example in Law codes, and at the Last Judgement, particularly as the Vercelli homilist foresaw it.

In a work of this length and complexity, and one which examines so many sorts of evidence, there are bound to be interpretations which can be queried. This reviewer, for example, would question the interpretation on page 171 of a passage in Hatton 115 where *hi* 'they' is taken to include the men but explicitly to exclude the sexually offending women in the same relationship. Again, on page 90, the Newent stone is described as 'in fact a rendition of a gospel book'. Although such an interpretation is not impossible, it is also perfectly possible to see the Newent stone in the context of other inscribed name-stones set near graves.

Caveats like these, however, in no way detract from the enjoyment of reading this excellent book which will have wide appeal to scholars and to students alike.

Elisabeth Okasha
University College Cork

D. Rollason *et al.* eds
The Durham Liber Vitae and its Context
Regions and Regionalism in History 1
Boydell Press, 2004, 324 pp.
hardback 1843830604. £55.

This interesting volume of essays emanates from a colloquium held in 2001, and from subsequent seminars, all concerned with the one manuscript: BL, MS Cotton Domitian vii, the Durham *Liber Vitae*. A digital facsimile and edition of this manuscript is in preparation and will be published in 2007. While the essays in this volume can deservedly stand alone, they will also form a useful companion to the edition when it appears. Part one of the volume concerns the description and history of the manuscript, Part two its origins and content, and Part three its context.

Part one contains essays by Colin Tite and Michael Gullick. Tite's extremely interesting essay opens the volume with a discussion of the history of the manuscript while it was in Cotton's possession, there being no evidence of its previous history. Cotton's additions to the manuscript certainly included the binding and some quire signatures, and Tite discusses other possible

contributions. Gullick's essay gives an admirably clear account of the codicology of the manuscript.

Part two contains seven essays on the history and content of the manuscript. There are specialist papers on the Scandinavian, the Anglo-Norman and the Scots names, the names of the Durham monks, and the late medieval non-monastic entries. However the two essays most likely to be of interest to Old English scholars are those by Jan Gerchow and by Elizabeth Briggs, both of which deal with the names dating from the original part of the manuscript, from between c. 840 and 1080.

Gerchow points out the sumptuous nature of the manuscript, indicating that it was a book of high prestige, the product of an experienced scriptorium. Gerchow tentatively suggests Wearmouth/Jarrow as its place of origin, arguing his case carefully and convincingly. Briggs' essay argues equally convincingly for the more traditional view that the manuscript was the product of Lindisfarne. They also offer opposing views on the likely compilation date of the lists which lie behind these names. Having the two sets of arguments juxtaposed in this manner makes for most interesting reading, requiring the reader to reconsider all the evidence with care.

The seven essays in Part three concern the context of the *Liber vitae*. The present reader found especially interesting those by Dieter Geuenich, on early continental fraternity books, and by Simon Keynes on the *Liber vitae* of New Minster, Winchester. However in this part, as in the book as a whole, there is much of interest for a wide academic readership.

The editors, both of the book and of the series of which it forms part, are to be congratulated on bringing together an exciting and stimulating collection of essays.

Elisabeth Okasha
University College Cork

The autumn issue of the *Newsletter* will carry reviews of:

Unlocking the Wordhord: Anglo-Saxon Studies in Memory of Edward B. Irving Jr by Mark C. Amodio and Katherine O'Brien O'Keefe
The Ruler Portraits of Anglo-Saxon England by Catherine E. Karkov
Dress in Anglo-Saxon England by Gale R. Owen-Crocker
Families of the King: Writing Identity in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle by Alice Sheppard

Books donated to TOEBI

This is to remind TOEBI members that a number of books on Old and Middle English were kindly donated to TOEBI from the library of the late Ramsey Rutherford, of the University of Bielefeld, Germany. The TOEBI membership agreed that the books should be housed in the postgraduate workroom library of the Institute for Medieval Studies. Any TOEBI member who would like to consult the books is most welcome to make an arrangement to do so by contacting:

Ms Alison Martin,
Institute for Medieval Studies,
University of Leeds,
Leeds LS2 9JT
☎ 0113 343 3620
✉ E-mail: medieval-studies@leeds.ac.uk

Forthcoming Conferences 2005/2006

International Medieval Congress 2005, University of Leeds 11-14 July 2005

The special theme for IMC 2005 is Youth and Age. As ever, Anglo-Saxon studies will form a whole strand of sessions at this summer's International Medieval Congress (11-14 July). To register for this summer's IMC, go to the website <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/ims>. Mary Swan is the Anglo-Saxon strand coordinator, and she'd like to encourage Anglo-Saxonists to start preparing paper and session proposals for the 2006 IMC. The deadlines for submitting these to the IMC administration are 31 August 2005 for papers and 31 September 2005 for sessions, and proposal forms and all other details can be found on the website <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/ims>

IMC 2005 Anglo-Saxonists' meal

Mary Swan, of the Institute for Medieval Studies, University of Leeds, is organising the annual Anglo-Saxonists' meal at this summer's International Medieval Congress. The meal will be on the evening of Monday 11 July, in a local restaurant, and any TOEBI members and their Anglo-Saxonist colleagues and students who are attending the IMC are very welcome to attend. If you would like to be put on the mailing list for the meal, please contact Mary Swan by 5 June. (m.t.swan@leeds.ac.uk).

'England and the Continent'

1-6 August 2005

Meeting of the International Society of Anglo-Saxonists, in Munich, Germany.

Contact:

David Johnson, ISAS,
205 Dodd Hall,
Florida State University,
Tallahassee,
FL 32306
djohnson@english.fsu.edu
<http://www.isas.us>

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

Exhibition 26 July - 10 December 2005
Conference 8-10 December 2005

This major exhibition, at the University Library and the Fitzwilliam Museum, will include over 150 manuscripts from all of the main centres of manuscript production and will cover the full range of religious and secular texts, in Latin and the vernacular. The exhibition runs from 26 July to 10 December 2005. It will conclude with a conference, on 8-10 December 2005, whose program will include panels and discussions focused on Cambridge collections, as well as afternoon visits to the Parker, Wren, and Pepys libraries.

'Royal Authority: kingship and power in Anglo-Saxon England'

MANCASS Easter Conference

3-5 April 2006

Offers of papers and preliminary information from Gale Owen-Crocker:
groc@manchester.ac.uk.

Electronic Resources

The Manchester Centre for Anglo-Saxon Studies has made available a new research tool, MANCASS C11, for studying scripts and spellings in eleventh-century England (<http://www.art.man.ac.uk/english/mancass/data/index.htm>). The outcome of a project headed by Donald Scragg with Alex Rumble, it allows users to search a body of manuscript material for particular spellings and spelling variants and to determine when and in what context they were used, as well as searchable information about scribes and hands. Contact: Donald Scragg (don.scragg@man.ac.uk) or Kathryn Powell (kathryn.e.powell@man.ac.uk).

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:

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Send submissions for the next Newsletter by 30 September 2005 to the Editor:

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Please note the Editor's new address!

Action points for Members:

- **For information about the November 2005 TOEBI meeting, or to offer a paper,** 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