

The Built Environment



P. S. Langeslag

Heorot: Origin Stories

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Don't be like Sarrazin (1886):

[D]ie Grendelsage sowol, [sic] wie die ursprüngliche dichtung von Beowulfs kampf mit Grendel sind in Dänemark entstanden. Der verfasser des epos war ein dänischer skalde, der vermutlich am königshöfe von Lethra sich eine zeit lang aufgehalten hatte. Das angelsächsische Beowulfepos ist in seinem ersten teil eine durch interpolationen erweiterte freie übersetzung dieses bis auf 2 strophen verloren gegangenen gedichts.
(181)

Heorot: Architectural Reference Points 1/3



Figure 1: Reconstructed longhouse, Viking Museum Borg, Vestvågøy (Lofoten, Norway; CC-BY-SA Jörg Hempel)

Heorot: Architectural Reference Points 2/3



Figure 2: Reconstructed longhouse, Haroldswick (Shetland; CC-BY-SA David Dixon)

Heorot: Architectural Reference Points 3/3



Figure 3: Reconstructed longhouse, Haroldswick (Shetland; CC-BY-SA Carroll Pierce)

Lejre

- ▶ Hall 1 built c. 550, overlooking the stream Hjortende and immediately beside a Bronze Age barrow (and with others nearby).
- ▶ Another large tumulus, Grydehøj, c. 40m in diameter, built in the early seventh century; perhaps “built in honor of a high-status individual connected with [Lejre]” (Niles 191).
- ▶ Hall 2 (Mysselhøjgård) built c. 680 and (repeatedly rebuilt and) used for 300 years.
- ▶ Mysselhøjgård hall rebuilt c. 890, perhaps with “wealth gained from English conquests” (Niles 209).

Burial Mounds: Sutton Hoo



Figure 4: Burial mounds at Sutton Hoo

Burial Mounds: Gamla Uppsala 1/2



Figure 5: Burial mounds at Gamla Uppsala (CC-BY-SA WMC user [Pudelek](#))

Burial Mounds: Gamla Uppsala 2/2



Figure 6: 1874 excavation of a mound at Gamla Uppsala (public domain)

The Dragon's Lair

2212 sē ðe on hēaum **hofe** hord beweotode,
stānbeorh stēarcne

2715 þæt hē bī wealle wīs-hycgende
gesæt on sesse sēon **enta geweorc**,
hū ðā **stānbogan** **stapulum fæste**
ēce eorð-reced innan healde.

The Dragon's Lair: Terminology

- ▶ *beorg* “(burial) mound, barrow” (2213, 2241, 2299, 2304, etc.)
- ▶ *hlæw* “(burial) mound, barrow” (2296, 2411, 2773)
- ▶ *stānbogan* “stone arches” (2213, 2545, 2718)
- ▶ *stapulās* “pillars” (2718; in *Andreas* they are of marble)
- ▶ *enta geweorc* “the work of giants” (2717; cf. 2774 of the hoard, 1679 of a sword)

enta geweorc: The Ruin

- I wrætlic is ðes **wealstān**, wyrde gebræcon;
 burgstede burston, broснаð **enta geweorc**.

enta geweorc: Andreas

Hē be **wealle** geseah wundrum fæste
under sǣlwage, swer-as unlytle
stapulas standan storme bedrifene,
1495 eald **enta geweorc**. Hē wiþ ānne þæra,
mihtig ond modrof, mæþel gehēde,
wīs wundrum glēaw. Word stunde āhōf:
“Gehēr þū, **marmanstān**, [...]”

enta geweorc: Maxims II

- I Cyning sceal rice healdan; ceastra bēoþ feorran gesyne,
orþanc enta geweorc, þā þe on þysse eorþan syndon,
wrætlic weallstāna geweorc.

enta geweorc and ubi sunt: The Wanderer

- 85 Ȝðde swā ðisne eardgeard ælda Scyppend,
oððæt burgwara breahmta lēase,
eald **enta geweorc** idlu stōdon.
Sē ðonne ðisne **wealsteal** wīse geðōhte
ond ðis deorce lif dēope geondðenceð,
90 frōd in ferðe feor oft gemon,
wælsleahta worn, ond ðas word ācwið:
“Hwær cwōm mearg? Hwær cwōm mago? Hwær cwōm māððumgyfa?
Hwær cwōm symbla gesetu? Hwær sindon seledrēamas?
Ēalā beorht bune! Ēalā byrnwiga!
95 Ēalā ðēodnes ðrym! Hū sēo ðrāg gewāt,
genāp under nihthelm swā hēo nō wære!
Stondeð nū on lāste lēofre duguðe
weal wundrum hēah, wrymlicum fāh.
Eorlās fornōman asca ðrȳðe,
100 wāpen wælgifu, wyrd sēo mære.”

Ubi sunt (qui ante fuerunt)

Hwār syndon þās rīcan cāserās and þā cyningās þe iū wāron, oððe þā ealdormenn
þe bebodu setton? Hwār is heora dōmera dōmstōw? hwār is heora ofermedla, būtan
mid moldan beþeht and on wītum gewrecen? [...] Hwār cōm middaneardes gestrēon?
Hwār cōm þyssere woruld welan? Hwār cōm foldan fægernyss? Hwār cōmon þā þæ
geornlicost æhta tyledon and oðrum eft yrfe læfdon? (Napier homily 49)



Figure 7: Munich, BSB Clm 4660, fol. 1^r (detail; *Carmina Burana*, public domain)

The Romans, their Architecture, and Buried Treasure

409: Hēr Gotan ābrēcon Rōmeburg, 7 nǣfre siþan Rōmāne ne ricsodon on Bretone. Ðæt wæs embe xi hund wintra 7 x wintra þes þe hēo getimbred was. Ealles hī ðǣr rixodon on Brytene fēower hund wintra 7 hund seouanti wintra syþþan ǣrost Gāius Iūlius þæt lond ǣrost gesōhte.

418: Hēr Rōmāne gesomnodon al þā goldhord þe on Bretene wǣron 7 **sume on eorþan āhȳddon þæt hīe nǣnig mon siþþan findan ne meahte**, 7 sume mid him on Gallia lēddon.

(Anglo-Saxon Chronicle A)

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