

14: Applied Old English



1^a
Forþan nu min hyge hweorfeð
min modsefa
ofer hwæles eþel
eorþan sceatas --
gifre ond grædig;
hweteð on hwælweg
ofer holma gelagu.

m
hwe
cymeð
gielleð
hreber e

Key Questions

- ▶ What practical, hands-on work is being done in Anglo-Saxon studies today?
- ▶ What's Tolkien's connection with Anglo-Saxon studies?
- ▶ What can *I* do with my medieval studies training?
- ▶ Where can I go to pursue medieval studies training at an advanced level?
- ▶ What's the point?

Part I: Lexicography

Part II: Tolkien

Part III: More Medieval Studies

Postscript: What's the Point?

Bosworth-Toller Anglo-Saxon Dictionary

A - Æ - B - C - D - E - F - G - H - I - K - L - M - N - O - P - Q - R - S - T - Þ - U - V - W - Y

Welcome to the digital edition of the Bosworth-Toller Anglo-Saxon Dictionary

This is an online edition of *An Anglo-Saxon Dictionary*, or a dictionary of "Old English". The dictionary records the state of the English language as it was used between ca. 700-1100 AD by the Anglo-Saxon inhabitants of the British Isles. More information about this project can be found in the [About](#) section.

11 November 2013

Sorry for the recent outages!

Once the new server got under the pressure of spam bots, the caching module malfunctioned. All should be well now and we will continue to work on other caching solutions to speed the things up. If you experience slow response times or downtime, please let us know. Early feedback means early resolution.

6 November 2013

Major data & software update and server upgrade:

- [The dictionary was moved to a new and faster server.](#)
 - It may take a few days for the cache to build up.
 - If you experience any lag, please let us know.
- [The data were structurally re-tagged.](#)
 - Previously, the entries were tagged only to preserve the typography of the printed original. Now the tagging reflects the structure of the entries.
 - It should be much easier to read the entries.
 - The abbreviation of the references are linked to their explanations and will be linked to the source texts, if these are available.



Advanced Search

Search



AN
ANGLO-SAXON DICTIONARY

BASED ON THE MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

OF THE LATE

JOSEPH BOSWORTH, D.D., F.R.S.

RAWLINSONIAN PROFESSOR OF ANGLO-SAXON
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

EDITED AND ENLARGED

BY

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AND SMITH PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH IN THE OWENS COLLEGE, MANCHESTER.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

Bosworth–Toller Publication History

- 1838 Joseph Bosworth, *Dictionary of the Anglo-Saxon Language* (721 pp.)
- 1898 Thomas Northcote Toller, *An Anglo-Saxon Dictionary* (1302 pp.)
- 1921 Thomas Northcote Toller, *Supplement* (753 pp.)
- 1972 Alistair Campbell, photographic reprint “with enlarged addenda and corrigenda” (68 pp.)

How to use the 1972 Bosworth–Toller:

1. Look up your word in the main dictionary (1302 pp.)
2. Check for corrections and additions in the *Supplement* (753 pp.)
3. Check for corrections and additions in the enlarged addenda and corrigenda (68 pp.)

Issues with Bosworth–Toller

1. Corrections and addenda not integrated into the main text
2. 1972 edition hard to get by
3. References outdated text editions
4. Inexact quotations (e.g. silent omissions)
5. Obscure references, e.g. “Cd.” for *Genesis AB, Exodus, Daniel, Christ and Satan*
6. Idiotic ideas (see overleaf)

The Dark Ages, 1923–present

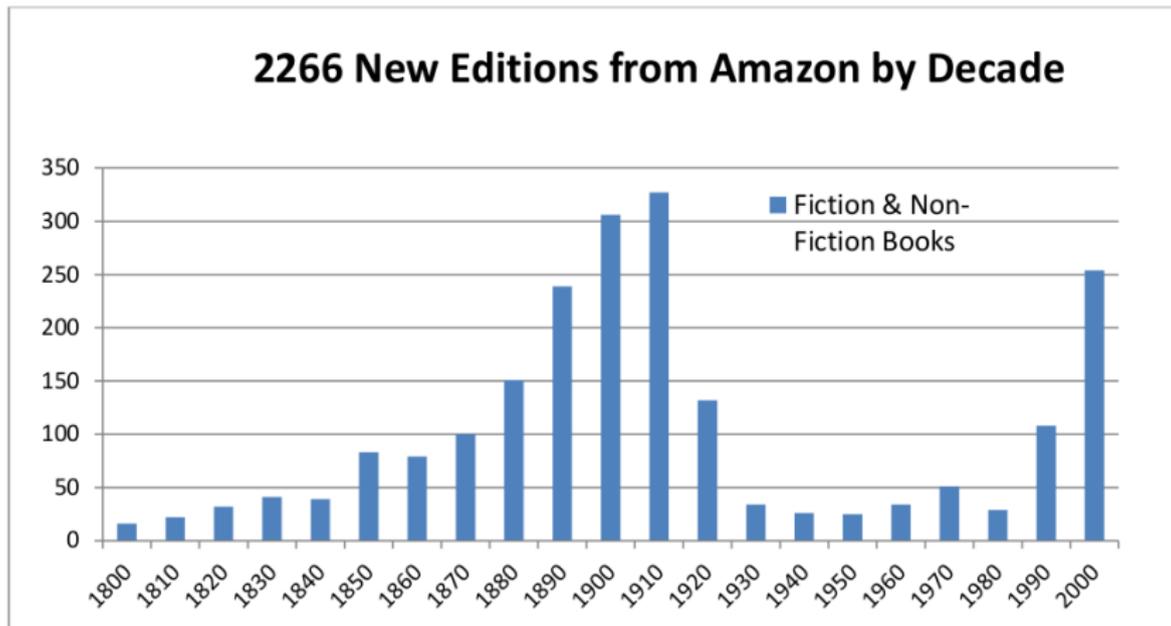


Figure: From Heald, “How Copyright Keeps Works Disappeared”

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Why You Shouldn't Rely on Ancient Scholarship

“

BEOWULF, a celebrated warrior of the Scyldings' race, a record of whose heroic deeds is given in the Anglo-Saxon poem bearing his name. It appears most probable that Beowulf was originally an Old Norse heathen Saga, written in the language common at the earliest age in Denmark, Sweden, and Norway, but now only spoken in Iceland. This Saga it is hoped may yet be found in some Swedish library.

[...]

It was the first heroic poem by any Germanic nation, and must have been translated into Anglo-Saxon by a Christian, as is evident by Grendel's mother being spoken of as a descendant of Cain, and numerous Christian allusions, when the Danish sovereignty in England was at its height, perhaps in the reign of Canute, about A. D. 1020. If it were originally written in the Old Norse or Icelandic the Saga would be called *Böðúlfr*, and the translator into Anglo-Saxon would naturally write it *Beado-wulf* contracted to *Beó-wulf*. (Bosworth-Toller) ”



Bosworth-Toller Anglo-Saxon Dictionary

A - Æ - B - C - D - E - F - G - H - I - K - L - M - N - O - P - Q - R - S - T - Þ - U - V - W - Y

Feature Search | Wildcard Search | Regular Expression Search

Individual Features are connected by the logical operator "AND". All conditions must be fulfilled to match.

æ þ Advanced Search

Search



æ þ ð

æ þ ð More Options

Find headword that:

Contains

Find entry that:

Contains

 Noun Masculine Neuter Feminine Pronoun Adjective Verb Strong Weak Anomalous Preterite-Present Contracted Participle Uncertain Adverb Numeral Conjunction Interjection Preposition Prefix

Items per page:

20

Apply

Headword Entry Preview

A It is not necessary to speak of the form of what are often called Anglo-Saxon letters, as all Teutonic, Celtic, and Latin manuscripts of the same age are written in letters of the same form. There is one exception: the Anglo-Saxons had, with great propriety, two different letters for the two distinct sounds of our *th*: the hard þ in *thin* and *sooth*, and the soft ð in *thine* and *soothe*, vide Þ, þ. ...

-a affixed to words, denotes *A person, an agent, or actor*, hence, *All nouns ending in a are masculine, and make the gen. in an*; as from *Cum come* [thou], *cuma a person who comes, or a guest*: *Swic deceive* [thou], *swilca a traitor*: *Worht wrought*, *wyrhta a workman*, *wright*: *Fóregeng foregoing*, *fóregenga a foregoer*: *Beað or gebéd a supplication, praying*, *beáda a person who supplicates or prays*: *Bytl a beetle or hammer*, *bytlia a hamme* ...

J. R. Clark Hall, *A Concise Dictionary of Anglo-Saxon*

- ▶ Published 1894; rev. 1916, 1931
- ▶ Reissued with a supplement (!) by Herbert D. Meritt in 1960
- ▶ Based on
 1. Glossaries to text editions
 2. Existing dictionaries, including Bosworth–Toller
 3. The editor's own concordance to Alfredian texts
 4. Words found by browsing Bede and Ælfric's homilies

1969



Figure: Margaret Hamilton with Apollo Guidance Computer code (PD / **WMC**)

Storage



Quelle: Deutsche Fotothek

Figure: Magnetic tape (CC-BY-SA Deutsche Fotothek)

17VI	[consortes X	¶ i. parta } CD <i>dælnimendras</i>		25,36
2	[laudibus X	¶ praeconiis } Im. R <i>lofū</i>	255,20	25,37
	[Habetis]	¶ <i>habbe gvt</i>		
	[perpetue X	¶ eterne } CD <i>cesl</i>	255,21	26,1
3	[uirginitatis X	¶ castitatis } CD <i>hadesl</i>		26,2
1885	[libidinum X	¶ uoluptatum } CD <i>lusta</i>	255,22	26,3
4	[tropheum X	¶ signum uictorie } Im. CD		
5		<i>herelof</i>		26,4
	[uictoria]	CD <i>leanl</i>		
	[de]	CD <i>of</i>		
1890	[securitas X	¶ requies l quietudo } CD		
6	[clangor]	<i>stihys</i>	255,23	26,5
	[uelut tonitruali fragore :]	A <i>swag, [sonitus]</i>		
		X <i>swilce of þunera d' sli can X</i>		
		CD <i>cerme : Im. C þunelicū</i>		
		<i>cirme</i>		
	[concrepans]	X <i>bleopringende X [resonans]</i>	255,24	26,6
7	[cohortatur X	¶ ammonet] s. apostolus : CD		
		<i>manab</i>		26,7
1895	[rumorum X	X <i>opiniorum } Im. CD</i>		
8	[prosequitur X	<i>blisena</i>	255,25	
		X <i>i. ducit l exponit] i.</i>		
		<i>þenað } tobæd] [claudet] R s.</i>		
		<i>apostolus</i>		26,8







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CORPUS
CHRISTI
COLLEGE

CAMBRIDGE
EMBROKE
COLLEGE

VARIOUS
MSS

CAMBRIDGE
TRINITY
COLLEGE





C94.1-52
< PrudGI 1 52

B3.3.8/101

B14.12-03
< LawVIA 12.1

hand

saglum þa mulas calle endemes, ac hi æfre stodon on þam
ylcan stede swilce anlicnyssa.

ÆCHom I, 29 424.179: ða ða Decius þæt geaxode þa
tam borgeafian & mid stearcum stengum

hand, noun

D1.4-1052
< AnGI 4 1052

hand

hand, noun

Uda

100-2-2000
100-2-2000

hand

100-2-2000

hand, noun





Lemmatization: Problem

Spelling “ne”: 30.187 occurrences

ne, adverb

- ▶ “not”

nē, conjunction

- ▶ “neither”
- ▶ “nor”

- ▶ Næs he æþelboren. **ne** him naht to þam cynecynne **ne** gebyrode.
- ▶ Me ofhreow þæt hi **ne** cuðon **ne** næfdon ða godspellican lare on heora gewritum.
- ▶ Hi næfre **ne** mihto **ne** noldon syððan fram his willan gebugan. **ne** hi **ne** magon nu **ne** hi nellað nane synne gewyrcan.

Lemmatization: Simulation

Forms

ha

had

hada

hadas

hade

hades

hadgenne

hadige

hadlað

hadlicere

hadod

hador

hadre

hadswape

hadswæpa

hadum

hadunge

hadys

Occurrences

[001400 (Ju 25, A.2)] Pæt wæs haliges **hades** fæmne on Rome, ac heo wæs gehergod fram ælþeodegum cyninge, se wæs on naman Aceia.

[004500 (52)] Gif þu þone mon lacnian wille, þænc his gebæra and wite hwilces **hades** he sie.

[000700 (7)] Gyf he fuglas geseog betwenan winnan, þæt byð, þæt rice **hades** winnað heom beotweonan.

[023800 (19(15).4)] & na gemyngende **hades** & na spede syndriende *Neque confundentes personas neque substantiam separantes.*

[026000 (19(15).26)] Ac ealle þrio **hades** euenece him beoð & euenlice *Sed tote tres persone coaetern sibi sunt et coequales.*

Assign headword

Headwords

ha

habban

haca

hacce

haccian

hacele

hacine

hacod

had

hada

hadarung

hadbot

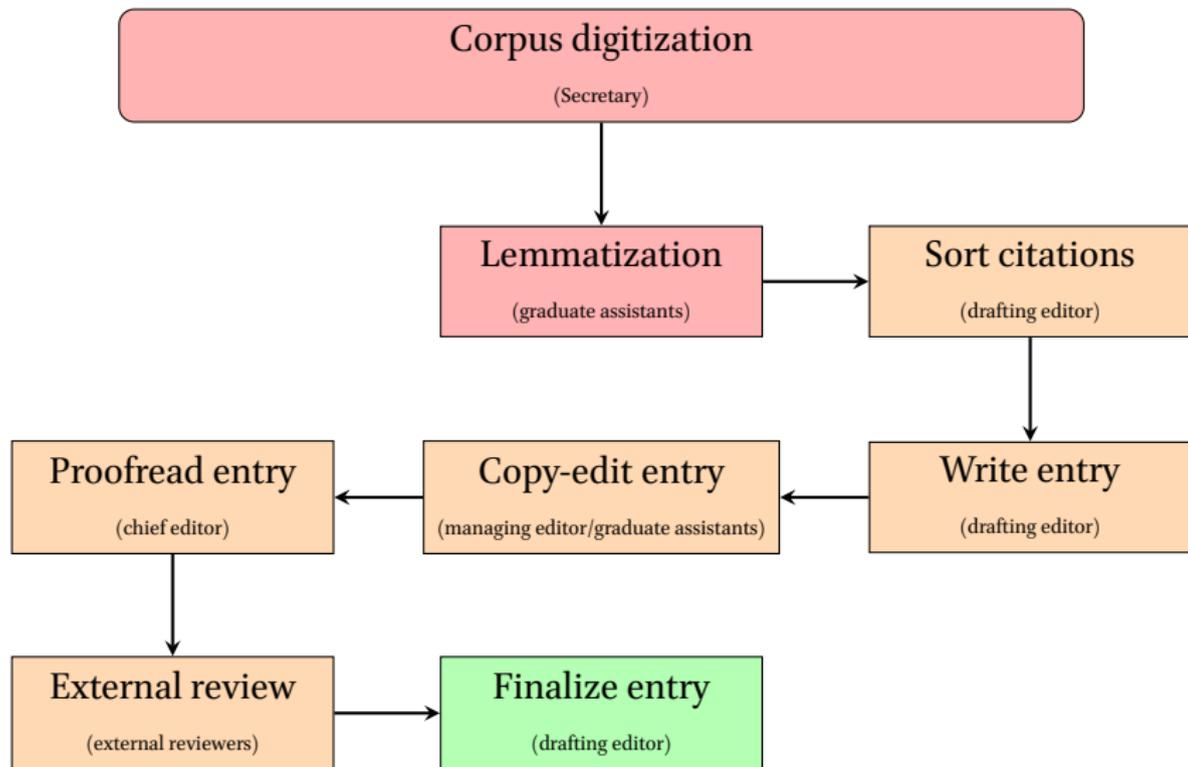
hadbreca

hadbryce

hadelice

haderung

DOE Workflow



Publication Format



Figure: Microfiche (CC-BY-SA Ianaré Sévi)

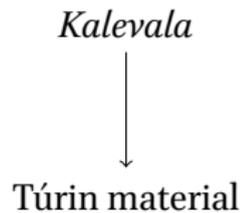
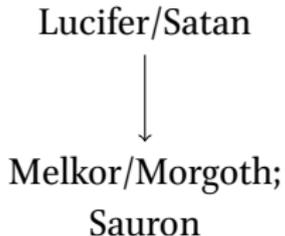
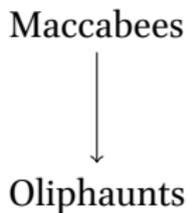
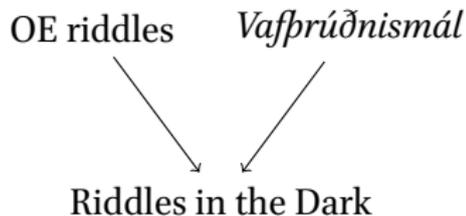
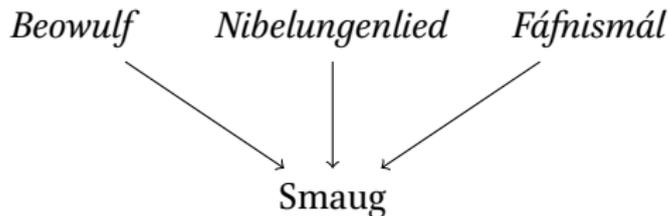
Part I: Lexicography

Part II: Tolkien

Part III: More Medieval Studies

Postscript: What's the Point?

Selected Influences



Education and Career

- 1911 Starts Classics at Oxford
- 1913 Switches to English
- 1915 Graduates; drafted into the British Army as a Lieutenant
- 1920 Takes up work at the *New English Dictionary / OED*
- 1920 Becomes Reader of English at Leeds
- 1925 Becomes Rawlinson and Bosworth Professor of Anglo-Saxon at Oxford

Notable Scholarly Publications

1925	<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> (with E. V. Gordon)	Edition
1936	“ <i>Beowulf</i> : The Monsters and the Critics”	Lecture
1953	“The Homecoming of Beorhtnoth Beorhthelm’s Son”	Article
1966	Book of Jonah	Trans.
1975	<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, Pearl, and Sir Orfeo</i> (ed. Christopher Tolkien)	Trans.
1981	<i>Exodus</i> (ed. Joan Turville-Petre)	Ed. & trans.
1982	<i>Finn and Hengest</i> (ed. Alan Bliss)	Ed. & trans.
2014	<i>Beowulf</i> (ed. Christopher Tolkien)	Trans.

“The Homecoming of Beorhtnoth Beorhthelm’s Son”

“

Torhthelm: It’s strange to me
how they came across this causeway here,
or forced a passage without fierce battle;
but there are few tokens to tell of fighting.
A hill of heathens one would hope to find,
but none lie near.

(Tolkien, “Homecoming,” 10)

”

“The Homecoming of Beorhtnoth Beorhthelm’s Son”

“

Tídwald: No, more’s the pity.
Alas, my friend, our lord was at fault,
or so in Maldon this morning men were saying.
Too proud, too princely! But his pride’s cheated,
and his prinedom has passed, so we’ll praise his valour.
He let them cross the causeway, so keen was he
to give minstrels matter for mighty songs.
Needlessly noble. It should never have been:
bidding bows be still, and the bridge opening,
matching more with few in mad handstrokes!
Well, doom he dared, and died for it.

(Tolkien, “Homecoming,” 10)

”

Tolkien: Class, Loyalty, and Honour

“ The words of Beorhtwold have been held to be the finest expression of the northern heroic spirit, Norse or English; the clearest statement of the doctrine of uttermost endurance in the service of indomitable will. The poem as a whole has been called ‘the only purely heroic poem extant in Old English’. Yet the doctrine appears in this clarity, and (approximate) purity, precisely because it is put in the mouth of a subordinate, a man for whom the object of his will was decided by another, who had no responsibility downwards, only loyalty upwards. Personal pride was therefore in him at its lowest, and love and loyalty at their highest. (Tolkien, “Homecoming,” 13–14) ”

Tolkien: Class, Loyalty, and Honour

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- ▶ Tolkien was born in the Orange Free State (later South Africa) between the Boer Wars
- ▶ Served as an officer in the Great War

Tolkien: Class, Loyalty, and Honour

“

Yet this element of pride, in the form of the desire for honour and glory, in life and after death, tends to grow, to become a chief motive, driving a man beyond the bleak heroic necessity to excess — to chivalry. “Excess” certainly, even if it be approved by contemporary opinion, when it not only goes beyond need and duty, but interferes with it. [...] Beowulf has no duty to the Danes, he is still a subordinate with no responsibilities downwards; and his glory is also the honour of his side, of the Geatas; above all, as he himself says, it will redound to the credit of the lord of his allegiance, Hygelac. Yet he does not rid himself of his chivalry, the excess persists, even when he is an old king upon whom all the hopes of a people rest. [...] He is saved from defeat, and the essential object, destruction of the dragon, only achieved by the loyalty of a subordinate.

(Tolkien, “Homecoming,” 14) ”

Ofermod in The Battle of Maldon

“

In Beowulf we have only a legend of ‘excess’ in a chief. The case of Beorhtnoth is still more pointed even as a story; but it is also drawn from real life by a contemporary author. Here we have [Beorhtnoth] behaving like young Beowulf: making a ‘sporting fight’ on level terms; but at other people’s expense. In his situation he was not a subordinate, but the authority to be obeyed on the spot; and he was [responsible] for all the men under him, not to throw away their lives except with one object, the defence of the realm from an implacable foe. He says himself that it is his purpose to defend the realm of Æthelred, the people, and the land (52–3). It was heroic for him and his men to fight, to annihilation if necessary, in the attempt to destroy or hold off the invaders. It was wholly unfitting that he should treat a desperate battle with this sole real object as a sporting match, to the ruin of his purpose and duty.

(Tolkien, “Homecoming,” 15) ”

Ofermod in The Battle of Maldon

“ Why did Beorhtnoth do this? Owing to a defect of character, no doubt; but a character, we may surmise, not only formed by nature, but moulded also by ‘aristocratic tradition’, enshrined in tales and verse of poets now lost save for echoes. Beorhtnoth was chivalrous rather than strictly heroic. Honour was in itself a motive, and he sought it at the risk of placing his *heorðwerod*, all the men most dear to him, in a truly heroic situation, which they could redeem only by death. Magnificent perhaps, but certainly wrong. Too foolish to be heroic. And the folly Beorhtnoth at any rate could not wholly redeem by death. (Tolkien, “Homecoming,” 15) ”

Sellic Spell

“ On ærdagum wæs wuniende be norþdælum middangeardes sum cyning, þe angan dohtor hæfde. On his huse wæs eac an cniht oþrum ungelic. For þam þe hit ær gelamp þæt þæs cyninges huntan micelne beran gemetton on þam beorgum, ond hie spyredon æfter him to his denne, and hine þær ofslogon. On þam denne fundon hie hysecild. Puhte him micel wundor, for þam þe þæt cild wæs seofonwintre, and great, and æghwæs gesund, butan hit nan word ne cuþe, ac grunode swa swa wildeor; for þam þe beran hit afeddon.

(Tolkien, *Beowulf*, 407) ”

Motif: The Bear's Son

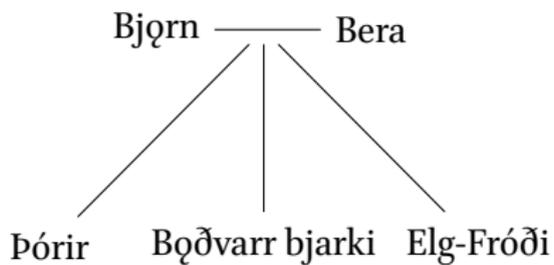


Figure: Bǫðvarr *bjarki* family tree (*Hrólfs saga kraka* ch. 16)

Motif: The Bear's Son

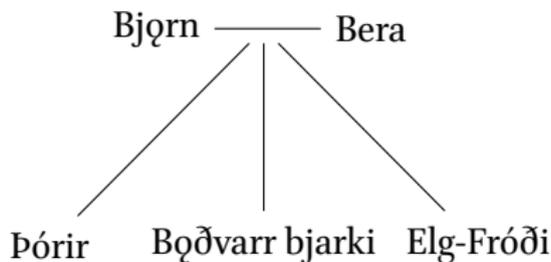


Figure: Bǫðvarr *bjarki* family tree (*Hrólfs saga kraka* ch. 16)

“ He [Björn] told them many things, and then put on a bearskin, and the bear went out thus and she [Bera] went after him, and looking round she saw a great company coming from the ridge, and many large dogs ran before the company. [...] Then they [the dogs] ran at him quickly and killed him.

(*Hrólfs saga* ch. 16) ”

Motif: The Bear's Son

“

Once upon a time there was a King in the North of the world who had an only daughter, and in his house there was a young lad who was not like the others. One day some huntsmen had come upon a great bear in the mountains. They tracked him to his lair and killed him, and in his den they found a man-child. They marvelled much, for it was a fine child, about three years old, and in good health, but it could speak no words. It seemed to the huntsmen that it must have been fostered by the bears, for it growled like a cub. They took the child, and as they could not discover whence he came or to whom he belonged, they brought him to the King.

(Tolkien, *Beowulf*, 360) ”

Motif: The Sluggish Youth

“

The King ordered him to be taken into his house, and reared, and taught the ways of men. He got little good of the foundling, for the child grew to a surly, lumpish boy, and was slow to learn the speech of the land. He would not work, nor learn the use of tools or weapons. He had great liking for honey, and often sought for it in the woods, or plundered the hives of the farmers; and as he had no name of his own, people called him Bee-wolf, and that was his name ever after. He was held in small account, and in the hall he was left in a corner and had no place upon the benches. He sat often on the floor and said little to any man.

(Tolkien, *Beowulf*, 360) ”

Motif: The Sluggish Youth

“ They had another son, who was called Grettir. He was very unruly in his youth, reticent and unfriendly, ungovernable both in his words and in his behaviour.

(Grettis saga ch. 14) ”

“ Now when Eliab his eldest brother heard this, when he was speaking with others, he was angry with David, and said: Why earnest thou hither? and why didst thou leave those few sheep in the desert? I know thy pride, and the wickedness of thy heart: that thou art come down to see the battle. [...] And Saul said to David: Thou art not able to withstand this Philistine, nor to fight against him: for thou art but a boy, but he is a warrior from his youth.

(1 Sm 17:28–33) ”

**No Creative Commons
image available**

Motif: Skilful Companions

Beewolf: “In my arms I have strength more than most.”

Handshoe: “With my gloves I can overturn mighty rocks and tear great stones asunder.”

Ashwood: “With my spear I can put to flight a host of men.”

(Tolkien, *Beowulf*, 365)

“
When they came to the doors of the hall, the guards would have stayed them, and questioned them; but Ashwood brandished his spear and they fell back; and Handshoe set his gloves to the great doors and flung them open.

(Tolkien, *Beowulf*, 364) ”

Part I: Lexicography

Part II: Tolkien

Part III: More Medieval Studies

Postscript: What's the Point?

Medieval Studies at the English Department, Summer 2016

Format/Slot	Course	Time
Lecture	Middle English Literature	R14
BA Aufbau 1	Medieval English Literature and Culture	var.
BA Aufbau 2	Middle English Visionary Literature	T12
BA Aufbau 2	Chivalric Romances	W16
BA Aufbau 2	England and the Crusades	W14
BA Vertief.	Peer-Assisted Medieval English Studies	var.
MA course	Literary Environments of Middle English Poetry	T10
MA course	England and the Crusades	W14
Übung	Reading group	M18
Seminar*	Colloquium	W18

Course Offerings Outside the English Department

- ▶ German
- ▶ Scandinavian Studies
- ▶ Medieval and Neolatin
- ▶ History
- ▶ Archaeology

→ See *list*

Master Programmes in Göttingen

- ▶ English Philology*
- ▶ Master of Education
- ▶ Medieval and Renaissance Studies*

Master Programmes in Göttingen

- ▶ English Philology*
- ▶ Master of Education
- ▶ Medieval and Renaissance Studies*

***New:** Dual degree programme Göttingen–University College London

- ▶ First year in Göttingen
- ▶ Second year in London
- ▶ One thesis, two degrees
- ▶ **One scholarship per year for the next few years**
- ▶ **Application deadline for next autumn announced soon on short notice!**

Graduate Programmes Elsewhere (Selection)

Institution	Remarks
California	Berkeley, LA, Davis
Cambridge	Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic
Central European	Budapest; English-spoken; no OE/ME
Cornell	
Durham	
Iceland	English-spoken; no fees
Leeds	Includes Old Norse
Manchester	Anglo-Saxon focus
Nottingham	e.g. MA in Viking and Anglo-Saxon Studies
Oxford	e.g. Medieval Studies, Medieval English
St Andrews	
Toronto	Old English programme momentarily crippled
TC Dublin	
UC London	Göttingen Anneliese Maier scholarship!
Western Michigan	
York	

Scholarships

- ▶ DAAD
 - ▶ Own listings
 - ▶ Links to other sources of funding
- ▶ Göttingen-internal Anneliese Maier Scholarship (UCL only)
- ▶ Institutional and institutionally channelled funding (e.g. AHRC)

Part I: Lexicography

Part II: Tolkien

Part III: More Medieval Studies

Postscript: What's the Point?

A Scholarly Career?

Rarely a good idea:

- ▶ Few find a funded PhD position
- ▶ Few obtain follow-up employment
- ▶ In the Anglo-American system, no benefits during PhD studies → endangers pension etc.
- ▶ In Germany, no job security until two books + job offer

However:

- ▶ Continental PhDs often come with full benefits (though typically parttime)
- ▶ “The PhD is the new Master degree”
- ▶ A life of learning

How and Where to Pursue a PhD?

- ▶ Not where you did your first degree

→ A PhD in Göttingen?

On the Continent

- ▶ Funding models in Germany:
 - ▶ Structural-departmental (*Qualifikationsstellen*)
 - ▶ Project-funded
 - ▶ *Graduiertenkollegs* and *Sonderforschungsbereichen*
 - ▶ Self-funding / external scholarships, see e.g. [here](#) or [here](#)
- ▶ NB: publication, typesetting typically at your own expense; copy-editing sometimes not included
- ▶ Take note of [this recent Spiegel article on supervision](#)

In the Anglo-American World

- ▶ UK: apply for internal + external funding
- ▶ North America: apply where funding is guaranteed
- ▶ Publication not required; good publishers cover all expenses except image licences

Non-Academic (Post-)Medieval Studies Career Paths

Statistically Likely

- ▶ Teaching
- ▶ Publishing
- ▶ Translation
- ▶ University administration
- ▶ Funding bodies, etc.

Statistically Unlikely, but Hey

- ▶ Entertainment industry
- ▶ Journalist
- ▶ Author
 - ▶ Popular scholarship
 - ▶ Fiction (e.g. historical fiction; fantasy)

Non-Academic (Post-)Medieval Studies Career Paths



Figure: K. T. Bryski's *Hapax*; cover by Scott Purdy (by permission)

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