

# Anglo-Saxon 1

# Anglo-Saxon

A journal devoted to the culture of Anglo-Saxon England, both at home and abroad

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1 (2007)

THE CENTRE FOR ANGLO-SAXON STUDIES  
UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

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## Preface

*Anglo-Saxon* is the flagship-journal of The Centre for Anglo-Saxon Studies of The University of Aberdeen. We have five principal aims. We wish to publish high-quality scholarship across the range of disciplines which have an interest in the culture of Anglo-Saxon England. We particularly wish to encourage language- and text-based studies to share the same forum with work based on material culture, for such interaction seems at present to be singularly lacking in the subject's journals. We especially desire to encourage the participation of those newly entering the profession, to offer their fresh insights alongside the work of more established scholars. We should also like to publish primary sources. Finally, we intend to issue the journal at a price which everyone in the field can afford.

To these ends, an international college of Executive Editors has been established: Andrew Reynolds (University College, London) will be responsible for material culture, including numismatics; Robert Fulk (Indiana University, Bloomington) will be responsible for language and literature; and David Dumville (University of Aberdeen), who is also Managing Editor, will be responsible for history, manuscript-studies, and palaeography. The possibility of increasing the number of Executive Editors in further specific areas is not excluded, if the development of the journal suggests the necessity. The Executive Editors have issued invitations to a wide range of scholars to join a substantial Editorial Advisory Board to assist them in recruitment and refereeing of papers. Occasionally (as with volume 3, 2009) a guest-editor will be appointed to be responsible for a volume with a particular purpose.

In the first instance, *Anglo-Saxon* will be published annually in a single volume. If circumstances encourage the development, more frequent publication is not ruled out. The usual language of contributions is English. The journal is for the publication of articles, of whatever length. An occasional review-article of an exceptional book may be published, but in general we do not wish to have reviews in *Anglo-Saxon*: books sent for review will be treated as unsolicited goods.

One feature of the enterprise which deserves special mention is a section labelled 'Re-vision', in which previously published work may be reissued if it meets a current need, whether the demand arises from the work's limited accessibility or from its usefulness in current debate.

Volume 1 has been put together at some speed following the creation of The Centre for Anglo-Saxon Studies and the decision to publish a journal. The Managing Editor therefore bears a greater responsibility for the shape of this

volume than will usually be the case. The other Executive Editors were recruited as the process of assembling the first volume was under way. I am grateful to them not only for responding so positively to the invitations to join the journal's executive team but also for allowing matters to progress thus; I am grateful too to all those who helped with offers of articles or introductions to potential contributors. One result of this sequence of events is that the material-culture element will only come into play with volume 2 (2008): such contributions for that issue and for subsequent volumes are warmly invited and should be sent to Dr Reynolds.

In sum, a new type of Anglo-Saxon journal is envisaged, building on best practice in the subject but casting the net wider in various respects than existing journals have seen fit or been able to do. This will be a fully refereed journal, with each Executive Editor responsible for submissions in his areas of expertise. The Editors hope that the profession will respond with enthusiasm to this new entrant to the field. We hereby encourage both contributors and subscribers to step forward. A subscription-form will be found at the back of the volume. Contributors to the journal will receive gratis 50 offprints of their articles.

*David Dumville*  
for the Executive Editors  
June 2007

# The Centre for Anglo-Saxon Studies

at

## The University of Aberdeen

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THE Centre for Anglo-Saxon Studies was established during the academic year 2006/7 as a focus for research and publication and as part of the University's plans to revivify the study of matters Anglo-Saxon at Aberdeen. Our studies have enjoyed a fruitful history here, but changes in personnel in the 1960s, the severe financial storm which hit the University in the 1980s, and the decision of the then Department of English to abandon the subject (Duncan Macrae-Gibson was its last office-holder responsible for a full teaching programme in Old English), all deprived The University of Aberdeen of its profile in Anglo-Saxon studies.

In the last few years the situation has begun to change significantly. Old English is now being taught to graduate students (as is Old Norse) through The School of Divinity, History & Philosophy; undergraduate teaching in Anglo-Saxon history has resumed; and The College of Arts & Social Sciences has included development of the subject in its strategic plan. The creation of the Centre, with Professor David N. Dumville as its director, is part of this process. The development of archaeology as a full subject of study, under the leadership of Professor Neil S. Price, and the establishment of a Centre for Scandinavian Studies under the directorship of Professor Stefan Brink, both of whom are mediaevalists of distinction, will help the study of northern Europe and the North-Atlantic region to advance broadly and in an integrated fashion at Aberdeen.

Among Aberdeen's historical roll-call of Anglo-Saxonists I must mention here half-a-dozen scholars: Murray L.R. Beaven, the first Assistant [Lecturer] in History, a young scholar of significant promise, appointed in 1908, but killed in action in World-War I as the *English Historical Review* was publishing his three ground-breaking articles on late ninth- and tenth-century chronology; George Osborne Sayles, Burnett-Fletcher Professor of History 1953–62, in whose honour the University in 2005 established an annual memorial lecture; Cecily Clark Anderson (who was one of my own teachers), student of 'The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle' and distinguished scholar also in onomastics; and Duncan Macrae-Gibson, already mentioned, who pioneered cutting-edge methods in the teaching of Old English. A more unusual member of this group was the Secretary (the most senior administrator) of the University 1953–67, William S. Angus (universally known as 'Aberdeen Angus'), who published a series of papers on

chronicle-sources for the English tenth century.

I have so far refrained from mentioning one very important name. Dr Agnes Jane Robertson, pupil of H.M. Chadwick and editor of Old-English lawcodes and charters, Research Fellow of Girton College, Cambridge, and Lecturer (1946–9) and Reader in English Language (1949–57) at Aberdeen where she taught (*inter alia*) Old English and Old Norse, was a scholar whose work is still used and appreciated by Anglo-Saxonists. It is a pleasure to be able to announce here that The College of Arts & Social Sciences, through its Head, Vice-Principal Bryan MacGregor, has assigned funds to an annual memorial lecture in Dr Robertson's name, the first of which will be held in the session 2007/8. We shall hope to publish the lectures in pamphlet-form and also in *Anglo-Saxon*.

*Anglo-Saxon* is itself the other early manifestation of the activities of our Centre for Anglo-Saxon Studies. Further publishing ventures will be announced as funds become available. In the meantime we extend a warm invitation to the community of current and aspirant Anglo-Saxonists to join our activities and (as appropriate) to direct prospective students to Aberdeen or to become such students.

D.N.D.