

The Cambridge Old English Reader

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publisher description

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this groundbreaking reader of old english prose and verse has been extensively revised for the second edition

a comprehensive introduction to old english combining simple clear philology with the best literary works to provide a compelling and accessible beginners guide provides a comprehensive introduction to old english uses a practical approach suited to the needs of the beginning student features selections from the greatest works of old english literature organized from simple to more challenging texts to keep pace with the reader includes a discussion of anglo saxon literature history and culture and a bibliography directing readers to useful publications on the subject updated throughout with new material including the first 25 lines from beowulf with detailed annotation and an explanation of grimm s and verner s laws

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the texts in this reader include prose metrical prose and poetry and represent a variety of genres saints lives and metrical charms as well as heroic verse frequently

taught canonical texts are balanced with interesting lesser known works the glossary is at the back of the book and the companion website includes texts with clickable glossing as well as additional texts for study

this highly respected anthology of medieval english literature features poetry prose and popular tales from arthurian legend and classical mythology includes notes on each extract appendices and an extensive glossary by j r r tolkien

the poetry includes caedmon s hymn from bede s ecclesiastical history of the english people the battle of brunanburg the battle of maldon the dream of rood from the vercelli book the wanderer the seafarer the wife s lament the storm riddles the panther and the whale from the exeter book

in the six centuries before the norman conquest the anglo saxons set their mark on england the origins of much that is distinctive in modern english culture may be found in the period most notably the english language itself this outstanding book is an introduction to old english language and literature set within the context of anglo saxon history and society so arranged that the one constantly illuminates the other parts i ii and v aim to provide the reader with an understanding of and in particular the ability to read old english drawing on over four decades of teaching experience the author proceeds in clear manageable steps he stresses the englishness of old english guides the reader through possible difficulties and illustrates each point with examples part iii presents a wide ranging account of anglo saxon england a description of the literature is followed by a brief history of the period made vivid through a series of extracts from the anglo saxon chronicle the author draws on the latest archaeological and historical research to describe arts crafts and occupations from weapons coins textiles and jewellery to ship building architecture and sculpture in his account of town and country life of warriors farmers and entertainers bruce mitchell shows the impact of christianity on a heroic society in which both men and women played important roles this impact created a tension that is frequently apparent in a representative selection of fifty one prose and verse texts provided in part iv each of the texts is introduced and placed in context and footnote annotations explain points of difficulty the book is illustrated with maps line drawings and photographs it has a guide to further reading and full indexes and concludes with a glossary tailored to meet the needs of those encountering old english for the first time the author s aim is to allow the reader both to understand anglo saxon society and to experience the richness of its literature and culture he will be found to have succeeded

more than fifty specialists have contributed to this new edition of volume 1 of the cambridge bibliography of english literature the design of the original work has established itself so firmly as a workable solution to the immense problems of analysis articulation and coordination that it has been retained in all its essentials for the new edition the task of the new contributors has been to revise and integrate the lists of 1940 and 1957 to add materials of the following decade to correct and refine the

bibliographical details already available and to re shape the whole according to a new series of conventions devised to give greater clarity and consistency to the entries designed for complete beginners and tested for years with real learners complete old english offers a bridge from the textbook to the real world enabling you to learn the grammar understand the vocabulary and even how to translate such canonical texts as beowulf and the earliest version of the lord s prayer from a critical point in our history structured around authentic material using online audio to aid pronunciation and introducing both a grammar perspective and a full introduction to essential vocabulary this course also features 22 learning units plus maps and verb guide new edition features key set texts in an appendix in a title suitable for classroom or self study use authentic materials language taught through key texts teaches the key skills reading and understanding old english grammar and vocabulary culture insights learn about the culture and religion of the anglo saxons self tests and learning activities see and track your own progress rely on teach yourself trusted by language learners for over 75 years

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