



TRADITION AND INNOVATION IN OLD ENGLISH METRE

Edited by

RACHEL A. BURNS and
RAFAEL J. PASCUAL

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In memory of A. J. Bliss

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PREFACE

THE LIFE OF this book began in October 2019, when the CLASP project (A Consolidated Library of Anglo-Saxon Poetry) hosted nine speakers at a workshop in Oxford, arranged by myself and Rafael Pascual. Our desire was to celebrate the rich tradition and vibrant innovation in the fields Old English (OE) and Anglo-Latin metre. Moreover, we wanted to make the field of OE metrical studies more accessible to a new generation of scholars, and to stimulate fresh research among those who might not have yet been attracted to considering metre in their work. This spirit of accessibility and pedagogy is central to the CLASP project, which will make a wealth of text and data freely available to the academic community and the interested public alike. Notably, in the context of the present volume, the project will provide metrical scansions of the OE and Anglo-Latin verse corpora, and a record of scribal and editorial emendations to the manuscript texts.

The book was largely compiled during the time of the coronavirus pandemic. Across a period of unprecedented distance and disconnect between colleagues, this volume has been a much-valued point of connection between us, the editors, and our contributors around the world. By publishing this as an open-access collection, funded by CLASP, we hope it will continue to bring people and ideas into contact with one another.

My personal thanks go to Jane Roberts, whose guidance following the examination of my PhD thesis contributed to my continuing enthusiasm for the study of metre, and ultimately to the conception of the workshop that initiated this volume. I would also like to thank Luisa Ostacchini and Eugenia Vorobeva for their editorial assistance.

Rachel A. Burns
University of Oxford

A NOTE ON THE CLASP PROJECT

CLASP (**A CONSOLIDATED** Library of Anglo-Saxon Poetry) is a research project based at the University of Oxford, and the present volume is an output of the project. This project has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (under grant agreement No 695262). Led by Principal Investigator Andy Orchard, the research team at the time of writing are Rachel A. Burns, Colleen Curran, and Rafael J. Pascual. The project is producing an interactive digital library with texts and translations of the surviving 60,000 lines of Old English and Anglo-Latin poetry composed between 670 and 1100 CE. Users of this library will be able to search the texts for features of sound, metre, spellings, diction, syntax, formulas, themes, and genres.

A second edited volume is due to follow, concerning the Anglo-Latin facet of the CLASP project, and focusing on the sources, innovations, and transmission of the Anglo-Latin poetic tradition.



ABBREVIATIONS

<i>Alfred</i>	<i>The Death of the Ætheling Alfred</i>
<i>And</i>	<i>Andreas</i>
<i>ASE</i>	<i>Anglo-Saxon England</i>
<i>ASPR</i>	George Philip Krapp and Elliot Van Kirk Dobbie, eds, <i>The Anglo-Saxon Poetic Records</i> , vols. 1–6 (1931–1953).
<i>Beo</i>	<i>Beowulf</i>
<i>ChristC</i>	<i>Christ III</i>
<i>Dan</i>	<i>Daniel</i>
<i>DOE</i>	Angus Cameron, Ashley Crandell Amos, Antonette diPaolo Healey et al., eds, <i>Dictionary of Old English: A to I</i> online (Toronto: Dictionary of Old English Project, 2018).
<i>Dream</i>	<i>The Dream of the Rood</i>
<i>EEMF</i>	<i>Early English Manuscripts in Facsimile</i>
<i>EPS</i>	<i>English Philological Studies</i>
<i>ES</i>	<i>English Studies</i>
f. or fol.	folio
<i>JdgII</i>	<i>Judgement Day II</i>
<i>JEGP</i>	<i>Journal of English and Germanic Philology</i>
<i>JGL</i>	<i>Journal of Germanic Linguistics</i>
Klaeber 3	Friedrich Klaeber, ed. <i>Beowulf and The Fight at Finnsburg</i> , 3rd ed. (Boston: Heath, 1950).
Klaeber 4	R. D. Fulk, Robert E. Bjork, and John D. Niles, eds., <i>Klaeber's Beowulf and The Fight at Finnsburg</i> (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2008).
<i>Mald</i>	<i>The Battle of Maldon</i>
<i>MÆ</i>	<i>Medium Ævum</i>
MnE	Modern English

MS/MSS	manuscript/manuscripts
<i>N&Q</i>	<i>Notes & Queries</i>
<i>NM</i>	<i>Neuphilologische Mitteilungen</i>
OE	Old English
OHG	Old High German
PGmc	proto-Germanic
<i>PMLA</i>	<i>Publications of the Modern Language Association</i>
<i>RES</i>	<i>Review of English Studies</i>
<i>SN</i>	<i>Studia Neophilologica</i>
st.	stanza

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