



Manuscripts & Written Culture

ENG240Y Old English / Fri 29 Oct 2010

Writing in the British Isles

- Romans, 43 CE–410 CE
- runes, C5–C11
- C5 Irish monastic culture
- Gildas, early C6
- c. 600 Anglo-Saxon monastic culture

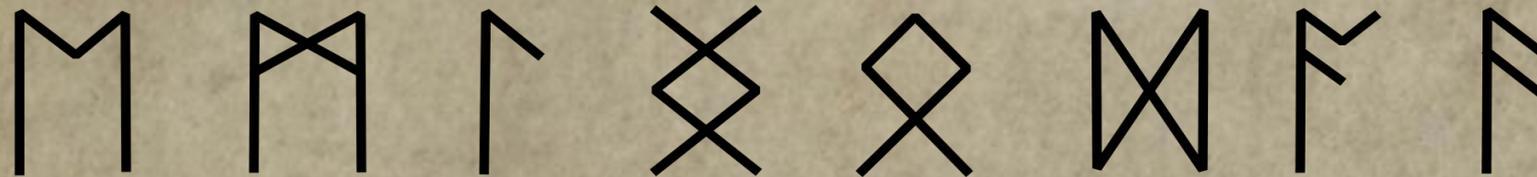
Anglo-Saxon runes



feoh - f "wealth" ur - u "cattle" born - þ "thorn" os - o "mouth" rad - r "ride" cen - c "torch" ziefu - Ʒ "gift" pynn - ƿ "joy" hæzl - h "hail"



nyd - n "need" is - i "ice" jear - j "year" eeoh - eo "yew" peorð - þ "game" eolxec3 - x "elk-sedge" sizel - s "sun" tyr - t "Tyr" beorc - b "birch"



eoh - e "horse" man - m "man" lagu - l "lake" ing - ŋ "Ing" œðel - œ "estate" dæ3 - d "day" ac - a "oak" æsc - æ "ash"



yr - y "bow" ear - ea "earth" iar - ia "serpent" kalc - k "chalice" kalc - kk "chalice" gar - g "spear" cpeorð - çþ "fire" stan - st "stone"

hrones ban fisc flodu ahof on fergenberig



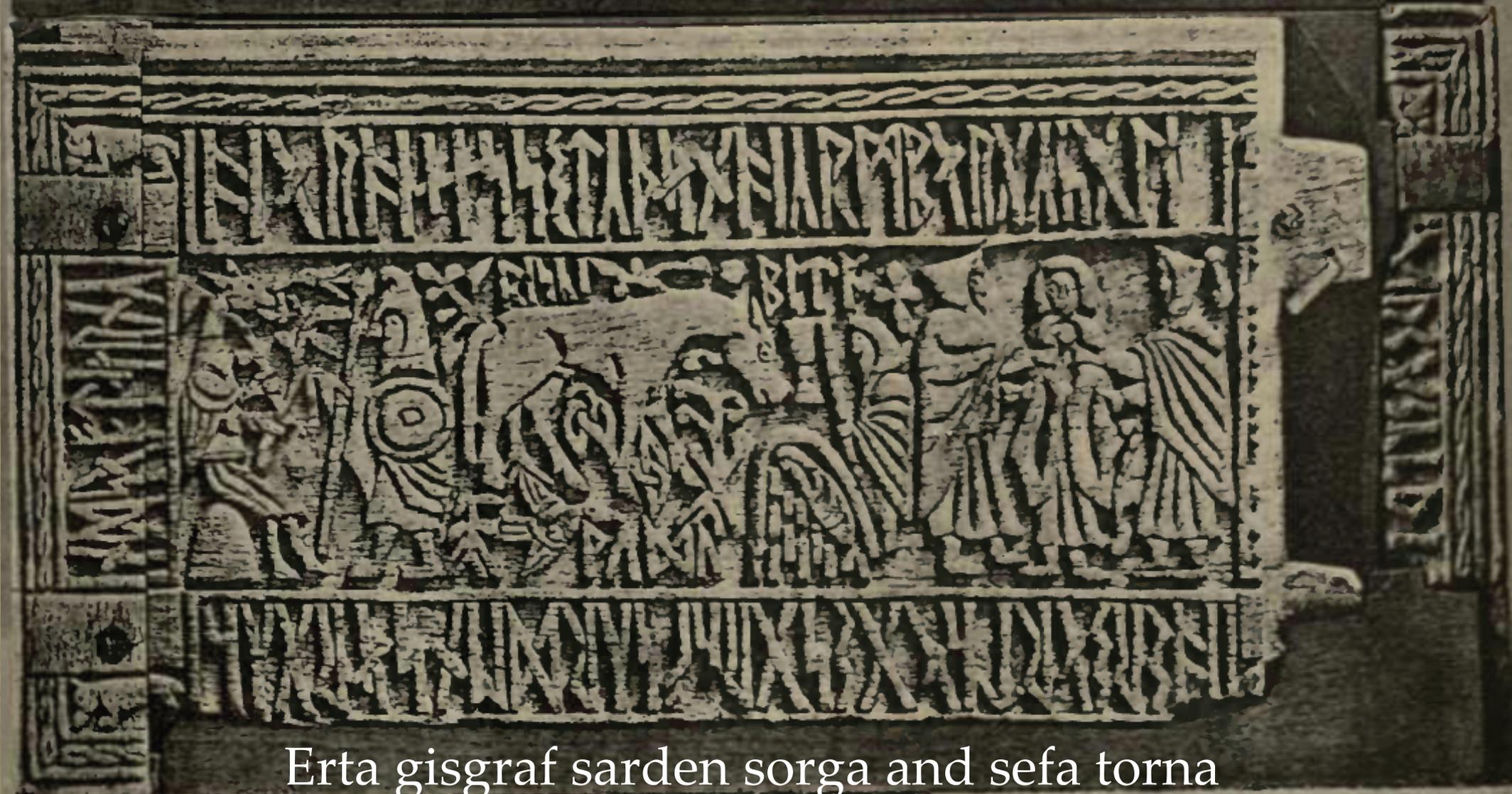
warþ ga[:]sric grorn þær he on greut giswom

oplae unneg Romwalus and Reumwalus twoegen gibroðær



a foeddæ hiæ wylif in Romæcæstri

her hos sitæþ on hærmberge agl[:] drigiþ swa hiræ



Erta gisgraf sarden sorga and sefa torna









Ingenitio

Manuscripts of Old English

See N.R. Ker, *Catalogue of Manuscripts Containing Anglo-Saxon*, Oxford 1957

- “Four great codices” of Old English poetry:
 - Junius 11 (Oxford, Bodley, Junius XI)
 - Exeter Book (Exeter, Cathedral Library 3501)
 - Vercelli Book (Vercelli, Cathedral Library, CXVII)
 - Nowell Codex (London, BL, Cotton Vitellius A. xv)
- numerous prose codices
 - Lindisfarne Gospels (London, BL, Cotton Nero D. iv)
 - Blickling Homilies (Princeton, PUL, Scheide Coll. 71)
 - etc.
- fragments

Lindisfarne Gospels (f. 27r)



Junius 11

[[link to online images of Junius 11](#)]

Reading Old English manuscripts

- script: Anglo-Saxon minuscule
- punctuation: inconsistent
- note the following letter-forms:
 - ȝ 'g'
 - ƿ 'r'
 - ſ, ʃ 's'
 - ƿ 'w' (not to be confused with p or þ)
- note the following abbreviations:
 - ʒ 'and'
 - þæt 'þæt' or 'þonne'
 - þā 'þām', mannū 'mannum', etc.