



Corpus Overview

ENG240Y Old English / Wed 3 Nov 2010

Selective preservation

- oral vs written
- popular vs aristocratic (and popular vs learned)
- secular vs religious

Cameron classification

- A Poetry
- B Prose
- C Glosses
- D Glossaries
- E Runes
- F Inscriptions

Cameron classification

3047 “texts”, ~204250 DOE sentences

A Poetry	9561 DOE sentences	5%*
B Prose	100635 DOE sentences	49%
C Glosses	64042 DOE sentences/glosses	31%
D Glossaries	29660 glosses	15%
E Runes	160 items	.08%
F Inscriptions	206 items	.1%

*Percentage does not reflect the fact that glossary items are all single words, as are occasional glosses and many runes and inscriptions.

Genre

A Poetry

- 1) biblical paraphrase: *Genesis, Exodus, Daniel, Azarias, Judith*
- 2) saints' lives: *Andreas, Elene, Guthlac, Juliana*
- 3) religious allegory: *The Phoenix, The Whale, The Panther*
- 4) devotional: Psalms, hymns and prayers
- 5) other religious material: *Christ, Christ and Satan, Dream of the Rood, Soul and Body, Fates of the Apostles, Judgement Day*, homiletic fragments, etc.
- 6) heroic: *Beowulf, Finnsburg Fragment, Waldere, Deor, Widsith; The Battle of Brunanburh, The Battle of Maldon*
- 7) riddles, wisdom poetry, charms
- 8) elegy and lyric: *The Wanderer, The Seafarer, The Wife's Lament, The Ruin, Wulf and Eadwacer, The Husband's Message*

Genre

B Prose

- 1) homilies (Blickling, Ælfric, Wulfstan, miscellaneous)
- 2) laws (secular and ecclesiastical)
- 3) charters and records
- 4) saints' lives (*Ælfric et al.*)
- 5) biblical translation: Heptateuch, Psalms, gospels
- 6) theology: *Soliloquies, Pastoral Care, Dialogues*
- 7) academics: Boethius, computistics, Ælfric's Grammar
- 8) historiography: Orosius, Bede, Anglo-Saxon Chronicle
- 9) guidelines for monks
- 10) liturgy: directions, prayers, creeds
- 11) medical texts, recipes, charms, prognostics
- 12) dialogues: *Solomon and Saturn, Adrian and Ritheus*

Genre

B Prose

13) marvels: *Wonders of the East, Letter of Alexander*

14) “romance”: *Apollonius of Tyre*

15) letters, tracts, and admonitions

16) notes and scribbles