

# bede the venerable



holy trinity adult forum  
may 10, 2009



# why study bede?

- ◆ . . . learn about the middle ages
- ◆ . . . explore theology
- ◆ . . . OR . . .

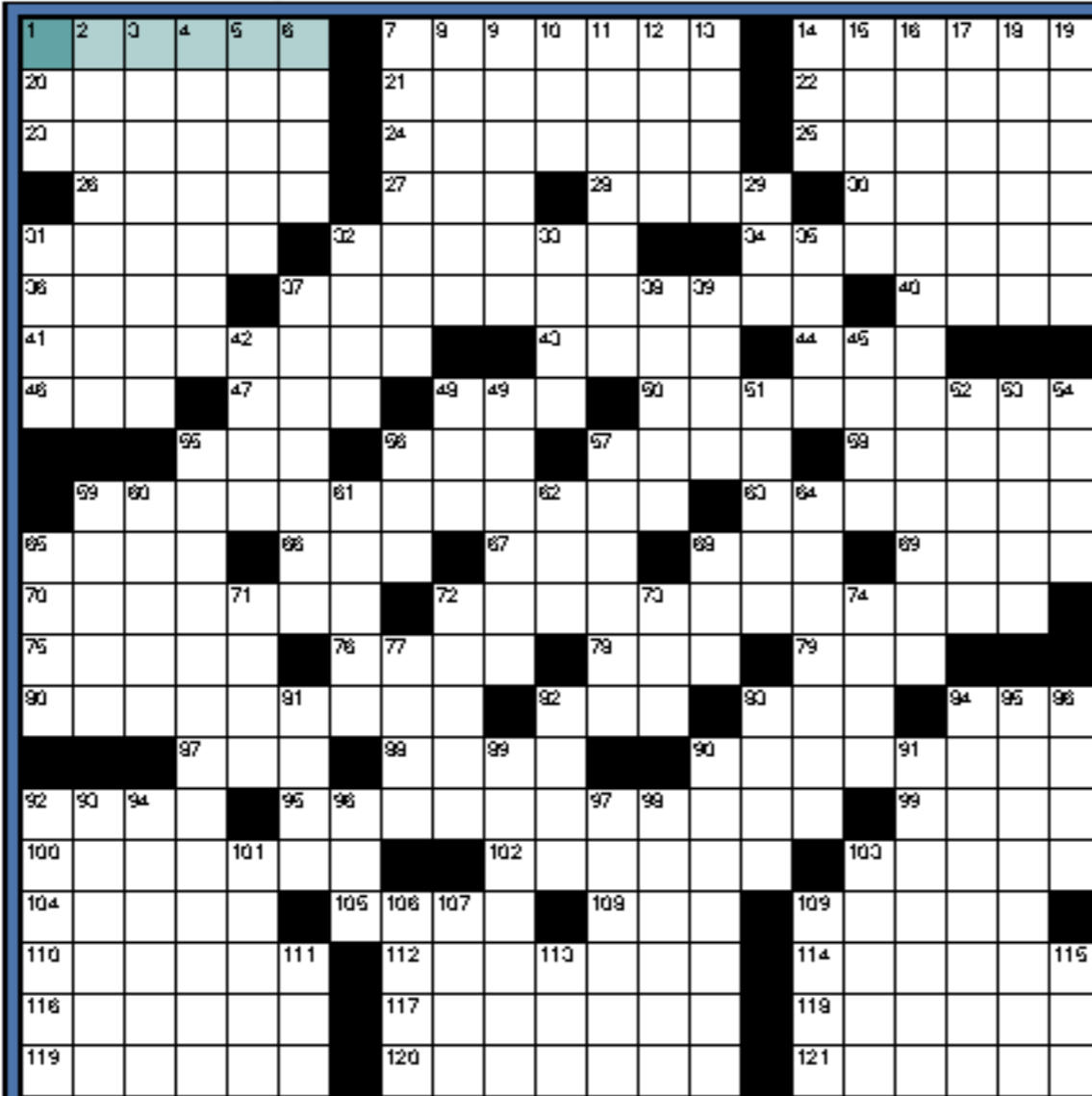




# CROSSWORDS!

Whack Job/By Elizabeth C. Gorski

Edited by Mike Shenk



THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

## Across

1 It's Ital. name is Mongibello

## Down

1 Home arena of the N.Y. Knicks

- ▶ Show Mistakes
- ▶ Instructions

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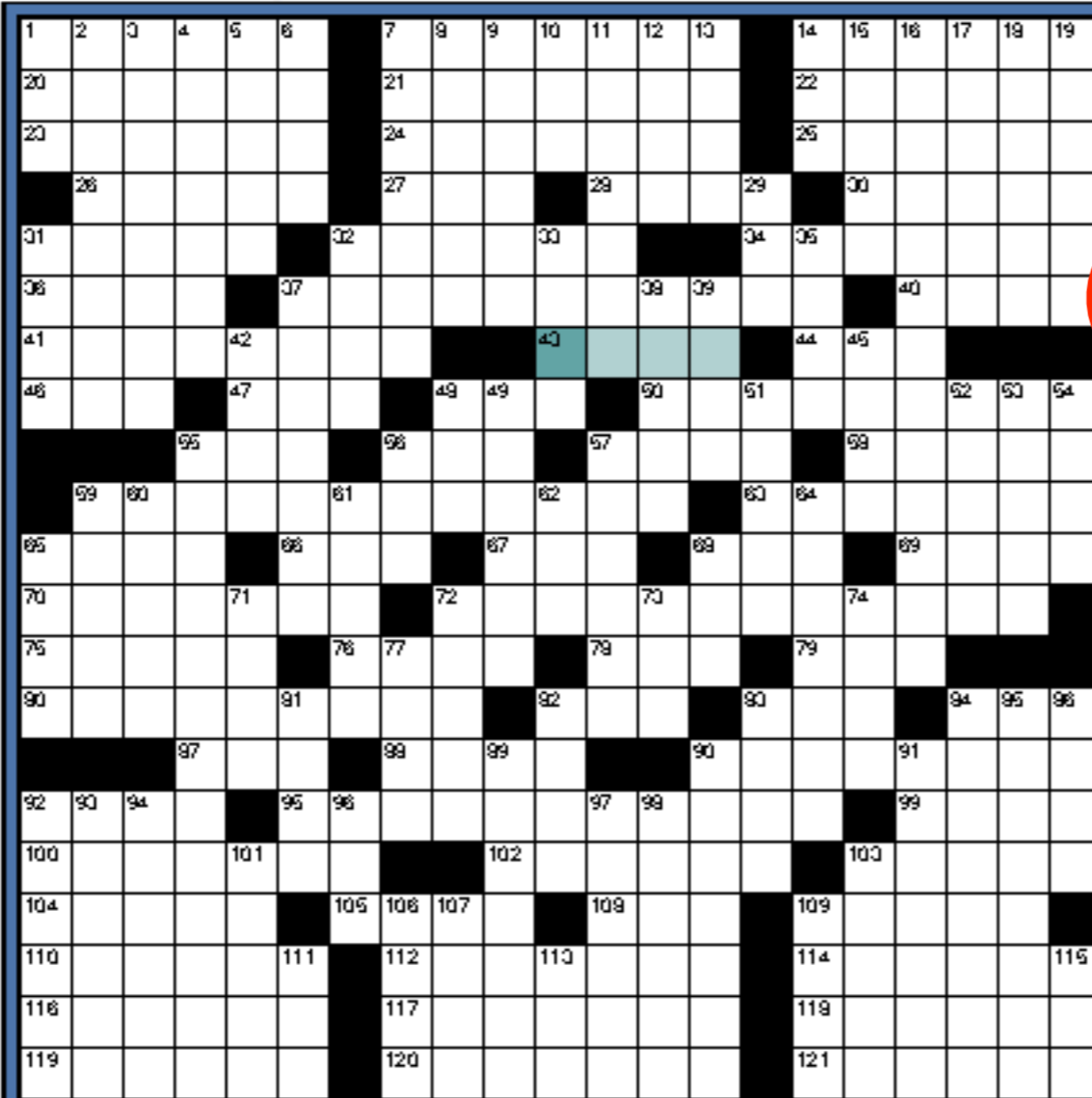
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Cross

43 "Venerable"  
theologian

Down

33 Boxcar rider

- ▶ Show Mistakes
- ▶ Instructions



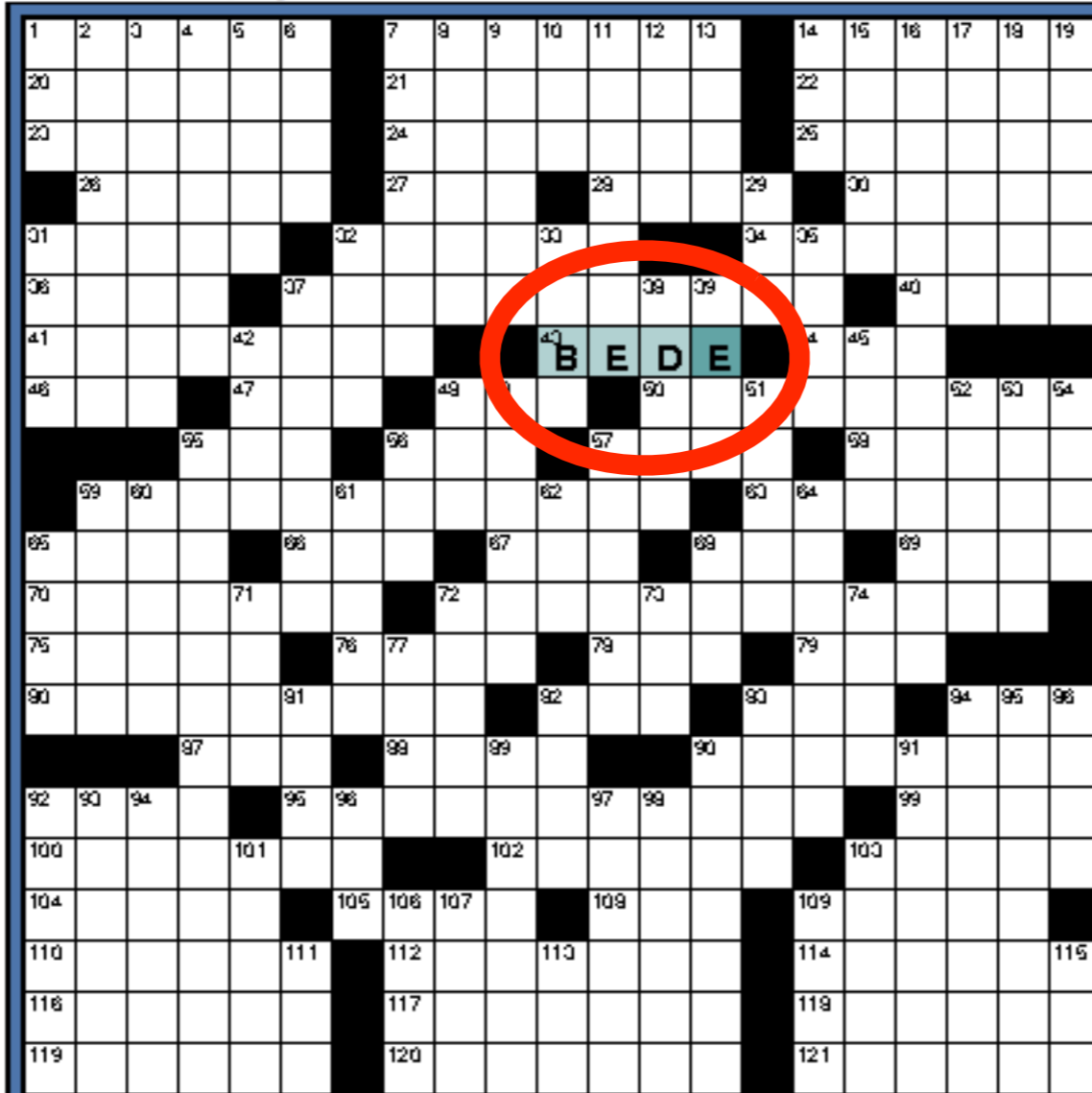
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# CROSSWORDS!

Whack Job/By Elizabeth C. Gorski

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**Across**  
43 "Venerable" theologian

**Down**  
39 Revivalists

▶ Show Mistakes  
▶ Instructions



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# bede the venerable



“**God**, the ORDERER of natures,  
who raised the sun FROM the  
east on the fourth day of  
CREATION, in the sixth day of  
the world has made Bede rise  
FROM the west as a new sun to  
illuminate the whole earth.”

--notker the stammerer  
(late 9th century)



# bede the venerable



bede “holds a privileged and unrivaled place among first historians of christian europe.”

--historian walter zoffart



# the ruin



Wrætlic is þes wealstan. Wyrde gebræcon.  
Burgstede burston; brosnað **enta geweorc.**

*This masonry is wondrous. Fates broke it.*

*Courtyard pavements were smashed; the work of giants is decaying.*



# the ruin



Beorht wæron burgræced, burnsele monige,  
heah horngestreon, heresweg micel,  
meodoheall monig mondreama full.

*Bright were the castle buildings, many the bathing-halls,  
high the abundance of gables, great the noise of the multitude,  
many a meadhall full of festivity.*



# the Ruin



opþæt þæt onwende wyrd seo swife.  
Crungon walo wide, cwoman woldagas,  
swylt eall fornóm secgrofra wera.

*until Fate the mighty changed that.*

*Far and wide the slain perished, days of pestilence came,  
death took all the brave men away.*



c. 2500 bce





c. 2500 BCE



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c. 2500 BCE



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c. 600–500 BCE





# Roman Britain, 55 BCE





# ROMAN BRITAIN, 55 BCE





# a-s chronicle: 449

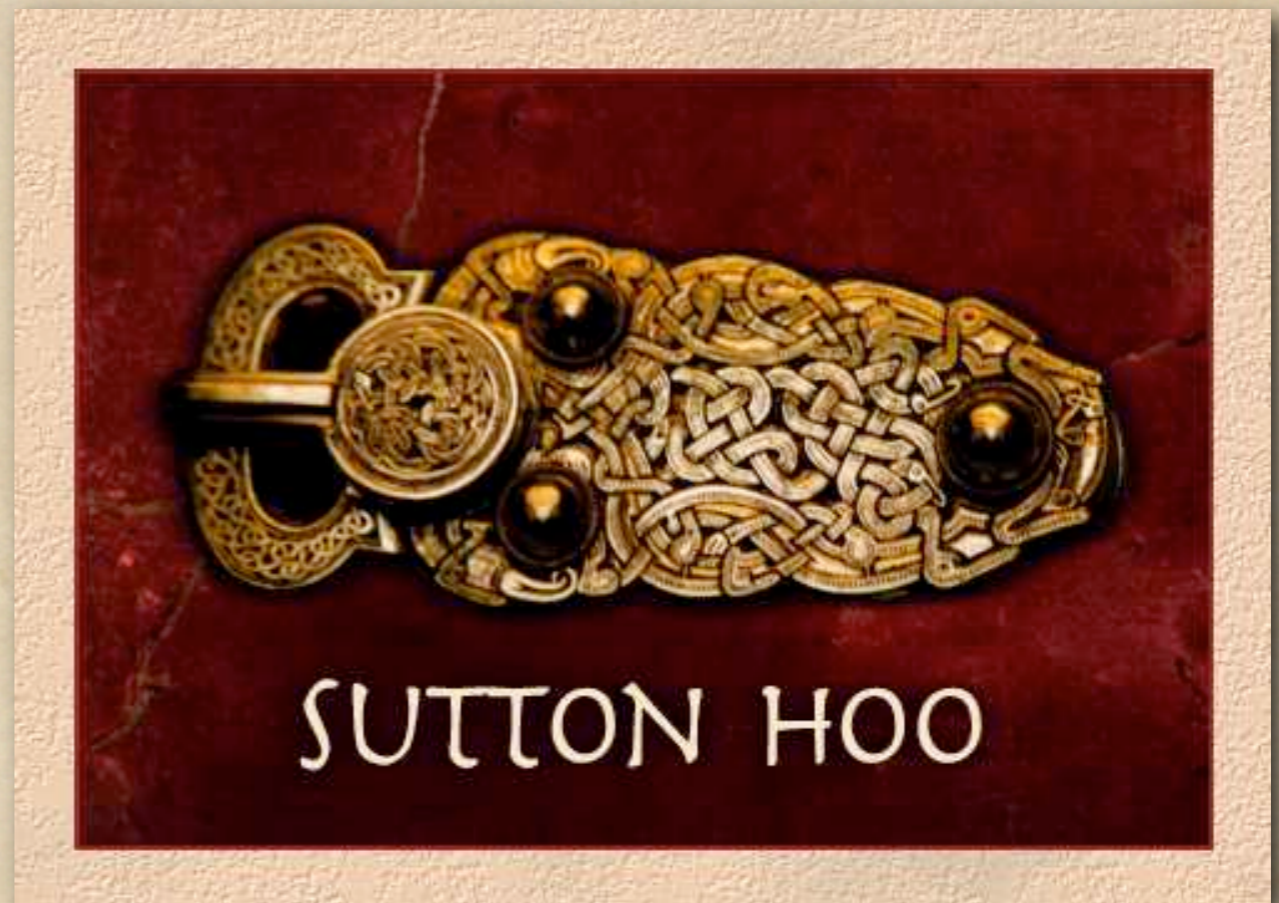
- ◆ angles, saxons, jutes
- ◆ invited by vortigern
- ◆ traditionally 449
- ◆ hengesƿ and horsa
- ◆ called descendants of woden (odin)





# sutton hoo (1)

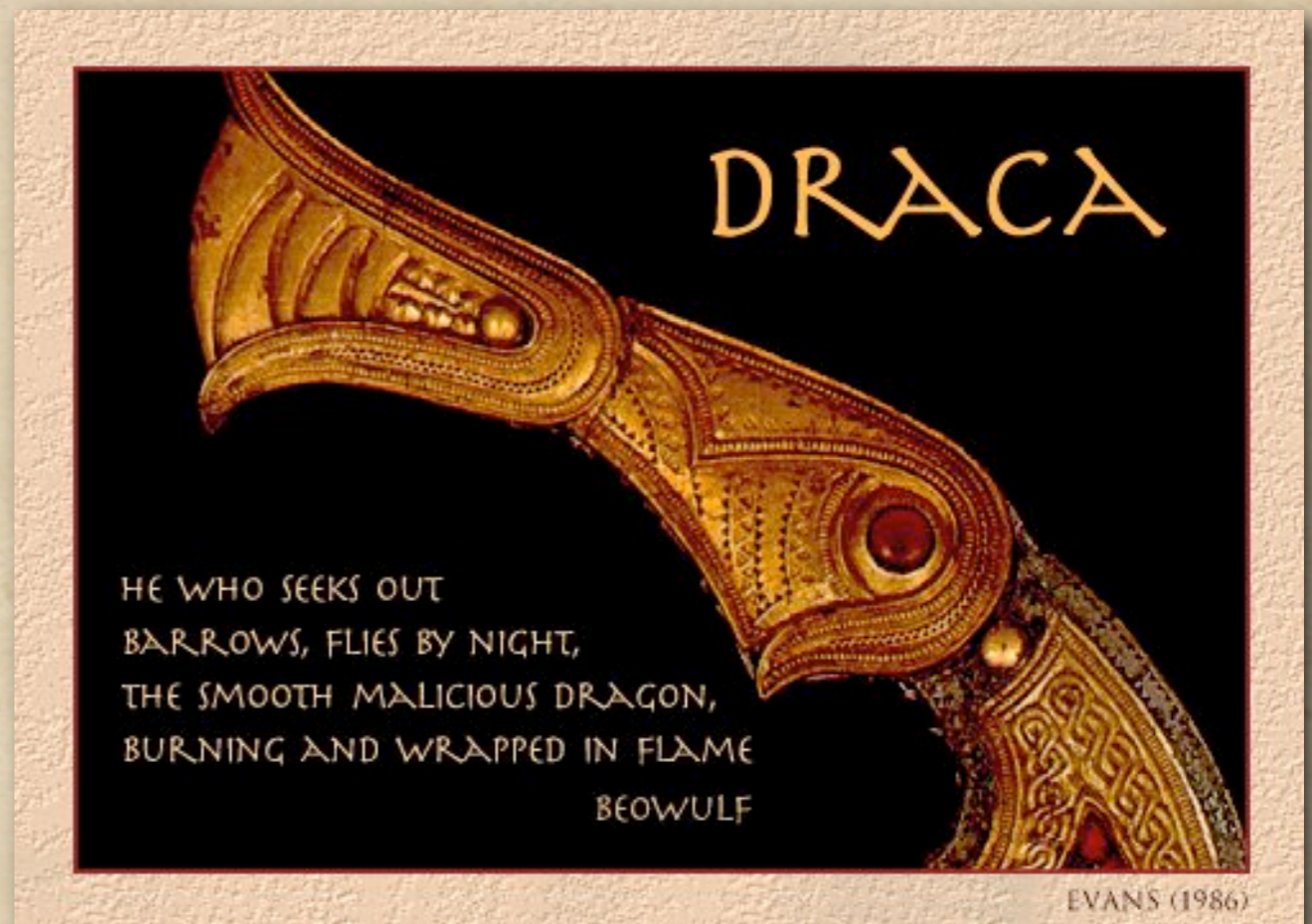
- ◆ site near woodbridge in se sussex, 1939
- ◆ richest burial ever discovered in britain





# sutton hoo (2)

- ◆ anglo-saxon  
ship and  
treasures





# sutton hoo (3)

- ◆ king raedwald of east anglia (died c. 627)?
- ◆ baptized, reverted to paganism





# bede the venerable

- ◆ monk at monasteries of wearmouth and jarrow in northumbria
- ◆ may have come from noble family
- ◆ name from oe beda, 'prayer'?
- ◆ entered when 7 years old
- ◆ wrote over 60 books



bede: 673-735



# bede the venerable

- ◆ scientific, historical and theological works
- ◆ familiar with latin, greek and probably hebrew
- ◆ historical wal zoffard: bede “holds a privileged and unrivaled place among first historians of christian europe.”



bede: 673-735



# bede the venerable

- ◆ best-known for 'ecclesiastical history of the english people'
- ◆ established custom of a.d. dating
- ◆ 'doctor of the church' 1899
- ◆ declared a saint 1935





# stages of canonization

- ◆ servant of god
- ◆ venerable (“heroic in virtue”)
  - ◆ faith, hope, charity
  - ◆ prudence, justice, fortitude, temperance
- ◆ beatification
- ◆ sainthood





# bede's ecclesiastical history

- ◆ pope gregory appoints augustine 597
- ◆ canterbury 597
- ◆ northumbria mid-seventh
- ◆ irish missionaries & monasteries
- ◆ synod of whitby: reconciliation





# bede: conversion of edwin

- ◆ northumbria, mid-7th century
- ◆ missionary paulinus, priest coifi, other
- ◆ sparrow in the hall
- ◆ comitatus ideal
- ◆ destruction of idols/ pagan v. christian



# ðede: caedmon

- ◆ illiterate brother  
at whitby
- ◆ vision of stranger
- ◆ holy songs using  
traditional germanic  
verse
- ◆ 'caedmon's hymn'
- ◆ 'school of caedmon'  
existence unclear





# caedmon's hymn

**Nu** **sculon** **heregean**

Nu sculon heregean  
Now let us praise

**heofonrices** **weard,**

heofonrices weard,  
heaven-kingdom's guardian,

**metodes** **meahte**

metodes meahte  
(the) Ruler's might

**ond** **his** **modgeþanc,**

ond his modgethanc,  
and his wisdom

**weorc** **wuldorfæder,**

weorc wuldorfæder,  
(the) work (of the) glory-father

**swa** **he** **wundra** **gehwæs,**

swa he wundra gehwæs,  
how he (of) wonders each,

**ece** **drihten,**

ece drihten,  
eternal lord,

**on** **onstealde.**

on onstealde.  
(the) beginning established.



# caedmon's hymn

He ærest scop

He ærest scop  
He first created

earðan bearnum

earðan bearnum  
(of) earth (for the) children

heofon to hrofe,

heofon to hrofe,  
heaven as (a) roof,

halig scyppend,

halig scyppend,  
holy creator,

þa middangeard

þa middangeard  
then middle-earth

moncynnes weard,

moncynnes weard,  
man-kind's guardian,

ece drihten,

ece drihten  
eternal lord,

æfter teode

æfter teode  
afterward fashioned

firum foldan,

firum foldan,  
(for) men earth,

frea ælmihtig.

frea ælmihtig.  
lord almighty.



# caedmon's hymn

- ◆ simple lyric
- ◆ variations on 'god': guardian(2), ruler, glory-father, creator, lord (3)
- ◆ 'middle-earth'



# the franks casket (1)





# the franks casket (2)

- ◆ whalebone box, early 8th century
- ◆ Runic carvings of OE verse
- ◆ mixture of cultures:
- ◆ Roman (Romulus and Remus)
- ◆ pagan Germanic (Weland & Beadohild)
- ◆ Christian: adoration of the magi





# the franks casket (3)



front panel



# the franks casket (4)

NRFFNBFF  
FINKFFMDN FNFFFFFMRX  
MFBMRIX  
A994IXTAMRX+9M9974+999XJ1949X4999

**Transliteration:**

**hronæsban  
fisk·flodu· ahofonferg  
enberig  
warþga:srikgrornþærheongreutgiswom**

**Translation:**

⟨This is⟩ whale's bone.  
The flood heaved up the fish on the firm rock.  
The brute was miserable when he swam onto the sand.

[The last line runs from right to left with reversed runes]



c. 2500 BCE



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# the franks casket (5)



weland & beadohild



# the franks casket (6)



adoration of the magi



# the battle of maldon

**Hige sceal þe heardra,**

Hige sceal the heardra,  
Thought must (be) the harder,

**heorte þe cenre,**

heorte the cenre,  
heart the keener,

**mode sceal þe mare,**

mode sceal the mare,  
spirit must (be) the greater,

**þe ure mægen lytlað.**

the ure mægen lytlað.  
as our strength grows less.



# a-s chronicle: 1066

- ◆ harold defeats vikings at stamford bridge
- ◆ battle of hastings
- ◆ oppression



halley's comet (bayeux tapestry)