

PSALMUS IESI DAVID



# — OLD — ENGLISH

• *A historical linguistic companion* •

ROGER LASS

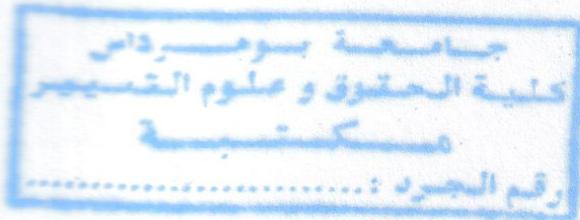
OT  
AN  
TI  
ec  
ET  
iderunt omnes fines terrae saluta  
tubilate do omnis terra  
cantate et exultate et psallite  
salute do nostro in cithara in cith  
et uoce psalmi in tubis ductilibus  
et uoce tubae corneae  
iubilante in conspectu regis dni  
doceatur mare et plenitudo eius

# Old English

*A historical linguistic companion*

Roger Lass

*University of Cape Town*



جامعة بومرداس  
كلية الآداب و اللغات  
مكتبة الكلية  
رقم الجرد: .....  
831

جامعة بومرداس  
كلية الآداب و اللغات  
مكتبة الكلية  
الشارع: .....  
811.111/1091/LAS  
02A



**CAMBRIDGE**  
UNIVERSITY PRESS



	<i>page</i>	
<i>Preface</i>		xiii
<i>Conventions, symbols and abbreviations</i>		xvii
<b>Introduction and caveats: the notion 'Old English'</b>		1
<b>A note on handbooks</b>		5
<b>Part I: Historical prelude</b>		
<b>1 Background and origins</b>		9
1.1 History in linguistic description		9
1.2 Indo-European and Germanic		10
1.3 The attestation of Germanic		12
1.4 Classification of the Germanic languages		13
<b>2 Indo-European to Proto-Germanic to West Germanic</b>		17
2.1 Germanic: an innovation cluster		17
2.2 Formation of the PGmc vowel system		18
2.3 The IE consonants: Grimm's Law		19
2.4 The Accent Shift and Verner's Law		21
2.5 Recapitulation: PGmc phonological systems		24
2.6 Some further remarks on PGmc phonology		24
2.7 Features of Northwest Germanic		25
2.8 West Germanic		27
<b>Part II: Old English Phonology</b>		
<b>3 Evolution of Old English phonology: the major early sound changes</b>		33
3.1 Sound change and linguistic structure		33
3.2 West Germanic Gemination		34
3.3 Pre-nasal vowels in Ingvaemonic and Anglo-Frisian		38
3.4 West Germanic */ɑ:/ and */ɑi/ in Ingvaemonic		39

3.5	Anglo-Frisian Brightening, Restoration of [α] and the /æ:/α/ opposition	41
3.6	Diphthongs old and new: Breaking and related processes	45
3.6.1	'Long' and 'short' diphthongs	45
3.6.2	Breaking, retraction and Diphthong Height Harmony	48
3.6.3	Back umlaut	51
3.6.4	Morphophonemic effects of diphthongization	52
3.7	Palatalization	53
3.8	<i>I</i> -umlaut	59
3.8.1	From allophonic rule to phonemic contrast	59
3.8.2	<i>I</i> -umlaut in detail	64
3.8.3	<i>I</i> -umlaut and Old English morphology	70
3.9	The fricatives: voicing, devoicing, hardening and deletion	71
3.9.1	OE /f, θ, s/	71
3.9.2	The velars	74
3.9.3	Fricative hardening and its consequences	76
3.9.4	Appendix: 'Palatal Diphthongization'	78
<b>4</b>	<b>Suprasegmentals</b>	<b>83</b>
4.1	Suprasegmentals	83
4.2	Germanic stress and Old English stress	84
4.2.1	Stress rules and 'degrees of stress'	84
4.2.2	The Germanic Stress Rule	87
4.2.3	Old English stress	91
4.3	Major developments in weak syllables	95
4.3.1	Final reduction and loss	95
4.3.2	High Vowel Deletion and medial syncope	98
 <b>Part III: Morphophonemic intermezzo</b>		
<b>5</b>	<b>Ablaut, the laryngeals and the IE root</b>	<b>105</b>
5.1	The basic alternations	105
5.2	The conditioning of ablaut	107
5.3	The laryngeals: 'Irregular' ablaut regularized and a new look for IE root-structure	109
5.4	Roots and extensions	114
5.5	Zero-grade revisited	116
5.6	Appendix: consonantal alternations	118
 <b>Part IV: Morphology, lexis and syntax</b>		
<b>6</b>	<b>Inflectional morphology, I: nouns, pronouns, determiners and adjectives</b>	<b>123</b>
6.1	The noun	123
6.1.1	Root vs. stem, thematic vs. athematic	123
6.1.2	IE noun-inflection: gender, number, case	126

6.1.3	The major noun classes	129
6.1.4	A note in retrospect	138
6.2	Pronouns and determiners	139
6.2.1	Personal pronouns	139
6.2.2	'Definite article'/demonstrative	142
6.2.3	Interrogative pronouns	145
6.3	The adjective	146
6.3.1	The basic inflections	146
6.3.2	Comparison	149
<b>7</b>	<b>Inflectional morphology, II: The verb</b>	<b>151</b>
7.1	Historical preliminaries	151
7.2	The strong verb	153
7.2.1	Ablaut in the strong verb, classes I–V	153
7.2.2	The strong verb, classes VI–VII	158
7.2.3	The strong past participle	161
7.2.4	Infinitive and present participle (strong and weak)	162
7.3	The weak verb	164
7.3.1	The weak preterite suffix and past participle	164
7.3.2	The weak verb classes	166
7.4	Preterite presents and minor verb types	169
7.4.1	Preterite presents	169
7.4.2	Athematic root verbs and 'to be'	170
7.5	Person/number/mood inflection	172
7.5.1	The strong verb	172
7.5.2	The weak verb: present system	174
7.5.3	The weak verb: preterite	176
<b>8</b>	<b>Vocabulary and word-formation</b>	<b>178</b>
8.1	The PGmc lexicon	178
8.2	Loans in Old English	183
8.2.1	Latin	183
8.2.2	Scandinavian	186
8.2.3	Celtic and French	189
8.3	Word-formation	190
8.3.1	Typology and productivity	190
8.3.2	Compounding	194
8.3.3	Derivation	198
8.4	Names, adverbs and numerals	205
8.4.1	Proper names	205
8.4.2	Adverbs	207
8.4.3	Numerals	208
<b>9</b>	<b>Topics in OE historical syntax: word-order and case</b>	<b>216</b>
9.1	Reconstructed syntax?	216
9.2	Basic constituent order	217
9.3	The clausal brace and verb-second order	224

xii Contents

9.4	The syntax of the OE cases in historical perspective	228
9.4.1	Overview: form, function and syncretism	228
9.4.2	Historical persistence or natural semantics? IE remains in OE case syntax	234

**Part V: Historical postlude**

10	The dissolution of Old English	243
10.1	Stasis, flux, transition	243
10.2	Monophthongization and merger	246
10.3	The new diphthongs	247
10.4	Quantity adjustment	249
10.5	Weak vowel collapse and the new morphology	250
	<i>Glossary</i>	253
	<i>References</i>	272
	<i>Index of names</i>	281
	<i>Subject index</i>	283
	<i>Index of Old English words and affixes</i>	290