



History of the English Language

2011-2012 Academic Year

Lecture 1/1

U'll have the opportunity to

- Get involved into the English History Studies
- Listen to 8 lectures
- Show your ability to think and develop ideas at 9 practice classes
- Cope with Multiple choice tests
- Take a Credit at the end of the Course (IF YOU WISH)

References

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Welcome!

Lecture 1.1

- The Subject Matter of the Course
- Periods in the English Language Development
- Old English Period
 - historical background



I. The Subject Matter of the Course

History of the English language studies

- the rise and development of English,
- its structure and peculiarities in the old days,
- its similarity to other languages of the same family and
- its unique, specific features.



Why should u study the History
of English?!?











Why do we have

- pet - pets & child - children?
- to like – liked and to cut – cut – cut?
- busy & bus?
- fancy & phantasy? chorus & choir? sir & senior?
three & trio? eat, eatable & edible?
- e [i:] & a [ei]?
- host & hostile?

Rules and exceptions will fit into a certain system when you know the history.

SYNCRONY

DIACHRONY

SYNCRONY

- The study of a language as a system of interrelated phenomena at any given point in time.

DIACHRONY

- The study of change or development in a linguistic system over a period of time.

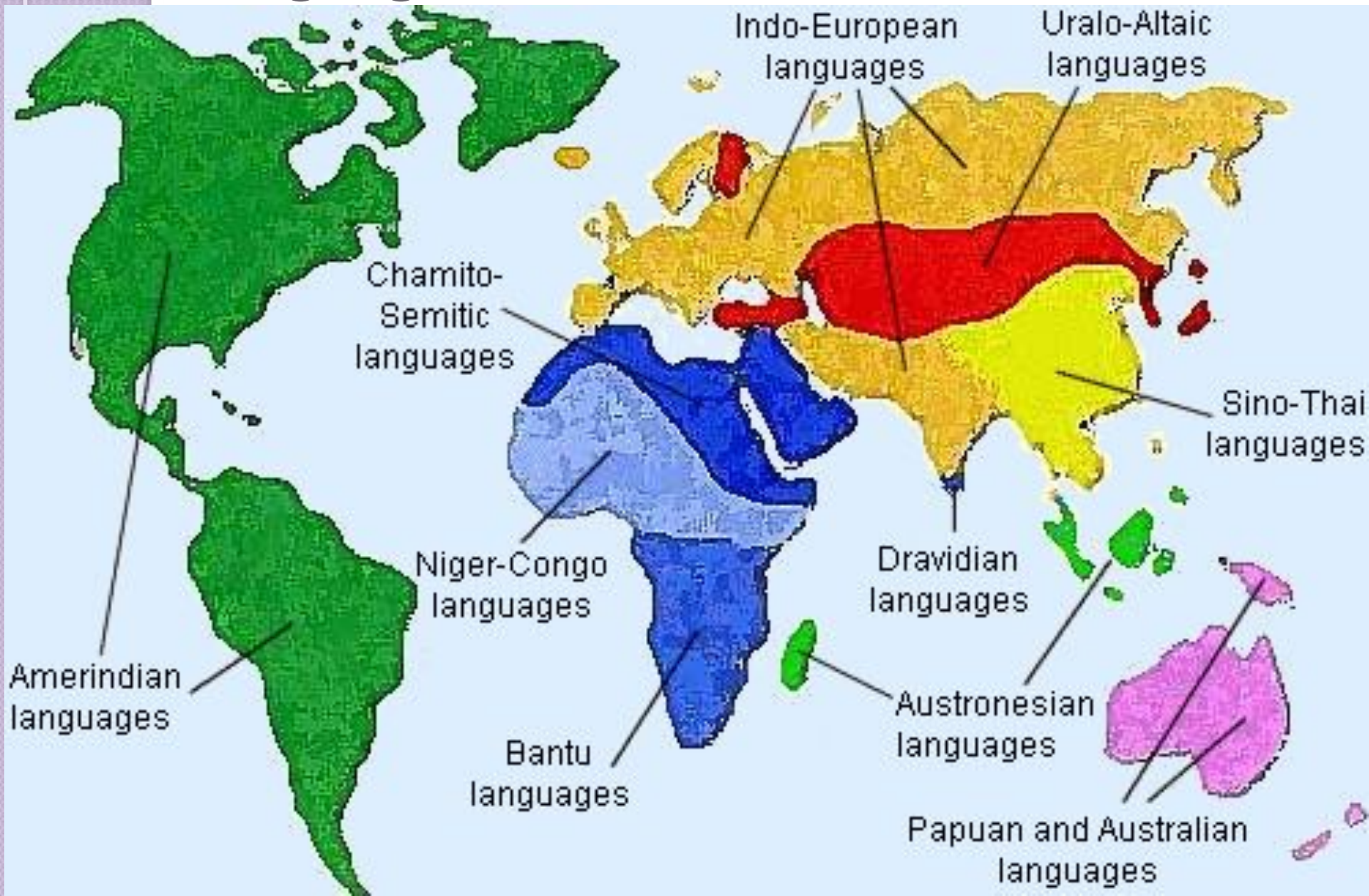
Our plan for this term:

We are going to
have a close look at

- the major stages of development of the language,
- the influence of various linguistic and non-linguistic factors on the language and,

try and formulate what makes this language, once a language of one of the many not very significant European communities, now almost a Lingua Franca, a means of communication on the global scale however willing or unwilling should the peoples and politicians be to admit it.

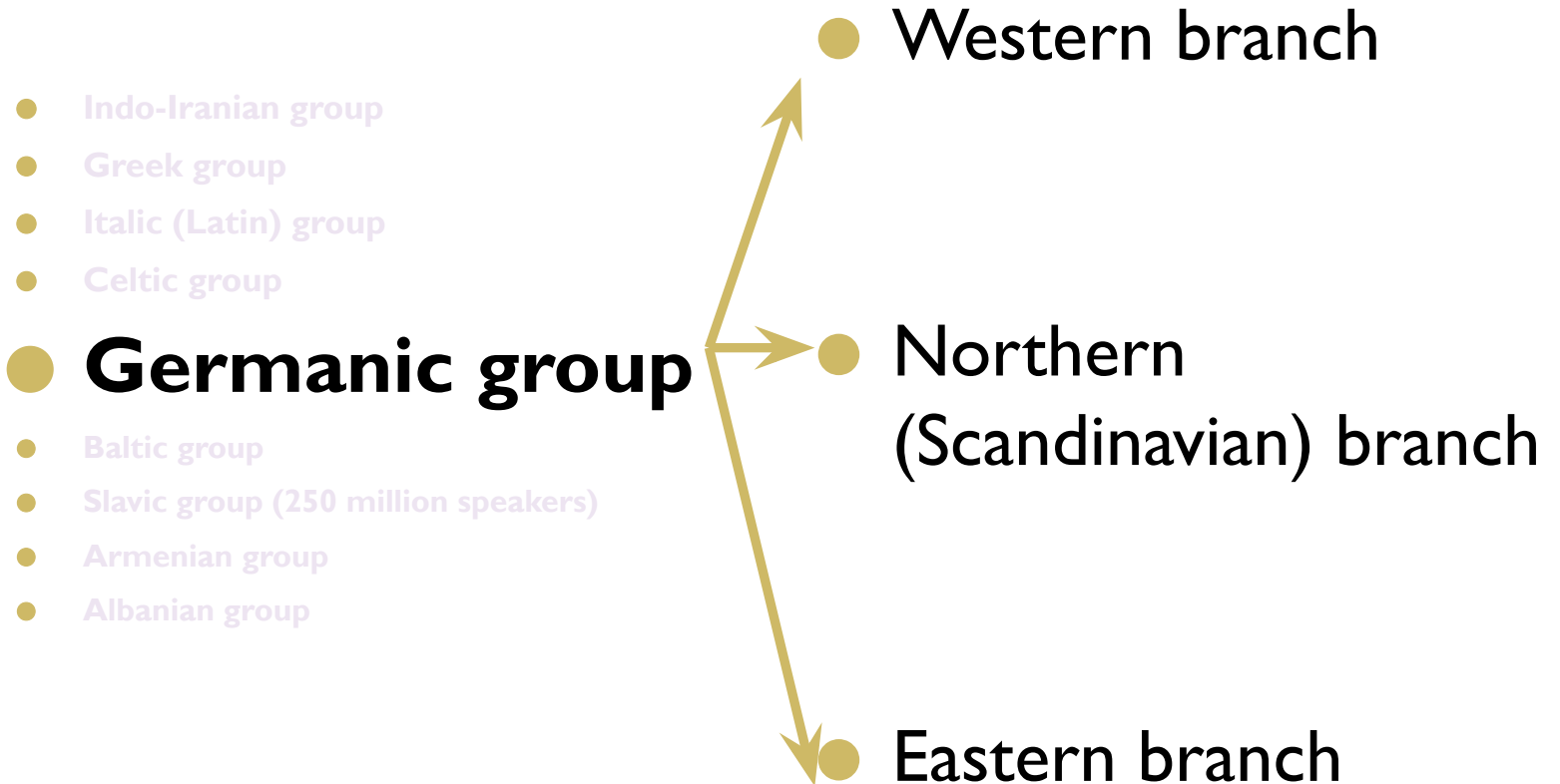
Language Families



Indo-European Family:

- **Indo-Iranian group**
- **Greek group**
- **Italic (Latin) group**
- **Celtic group**
- **Germanic group (480 million speakers)**
- **Baltic group**
- **Slavic group (250 million speakers)**
- **Armenian group**
- **Albanian group**

Indo-European Family:



Indo-European Family:

- Indo-Iranian group
- Greek group
- Italic (Latin) group
- Celtic group

● Germanic group

- Baltic group
- Slavic group (250 million speakers)
- Armenian group
- Albanian group

● Western branch

- *English, Frisian; Dutch, Afrikaans, Northern German; Franconian, German, Eastern Franconian, Southern Franconian, Bavarian, Alemannic, Yiddish (Ashkenazi) and Pensilfaanisch (Amish in USA)*

● Northern (Scandinavian) branch

- *Icelandic, Norwegian, Faroese; Danish, Swedish*

● Eastern branch (extinct)

- *Burgundian, Gothic, Vandalic, Crimean Gothic*

The roots of English:

- originally the dialects of a comparatively small number of related tribes that migrated from the continent onto the British isles,
- the dialects of the Indo-European family - synthetic, inflected language with:
 - a well-developed system of noun forms,
 - a rather poorly represented system of verbal categories,
 - with free word order and
 - a vocabulary that consisted almost entirely of words of native origin.





2. Periods in the English Language Development

ANCIENT HISTORY OF BRITAIN

THE EARLIEST INHABITANTS

- The Iberians 3000 B.C.
- The Scots, the Picts 2000 B.C.
- The Gaels 700 B.C.
- The Celts The Britons 500 B.C.
- The Belgae 100 B.C.
- The Roman Conquest:
 - J.Caesar 55 B.C.
 - Claudius 43 A.D.
- The Anglo-Saxon Conquest:
 - Hengest and Horsa 449 A.D.

- 
- **The beginnings of the English language are traced back to year 449, when coming to help their Celtic ally, two Germanic chieftains, Hengist and Horsa, brought their belligerent tribesmen to the Isles.**


- 
- **So starting as a language separated from the rest of the Germanic linguistic area, English has been functioning for more than a millennium and a half; and there can be traced several periods within its history.**

PERIODIZATION OF THE HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Centuries	Period	Period (H.Sweet)	Period subdivision /early-late/	Beginning	End
V(VII)– XI 449-1066	Old English Period	of full endings	EOE VII-VIII LOE IX-XI	The Germanic Settlement	The Norman Conquest
XII – XV	Middle English Period	of levelled endings	EME XII-XIII LME XIV-XVI	The Norman Conquest	The Introduction of Printing (1475) – Chaucer's Age`
XVI – present day	New English Period	of lost endings	ENE XVII-XVIII LNE XIX-XXI	Shakespeare's Time	




3. The Old English Period

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- **The Old English Period**, in our study is the period from the fifth up to mid-eleventh century.

It is characterised by

- language in the form of several dialects (7 kingdoms that existed on the island);
- the vocabulary of each of them is comparatively homogeneous (words of native origin (Indo-European, Germanic and specifically English));
- a ramified system of endings, hence relatively free word order;
- Common Indo-European traits (double negation or formation of impersonal sentences);
- noticeable drift of the sound system away from other Germanic languages;

- 
- The **BACKGROUND** against which the English language was forming included long years of **pre-written functioning of the language.**
 - Very soon the remnants of the Celtic population were subjugated, or ousted into the outskirts of the Isles - to the North (Scotland), or to the West (Cornwall and Wales).
 - **The invaders-”peacekeepers” felt comfortable on the new territory.**

*Anglo-Saxon
kingdoms*



OLD ENGLISH KINGDOMS AND DIALECTS

The Tribes	The Parts of England	The Kingdoms	The Main Dialects
The Jutes (Frisians)	Kent and the Isle of Wight	Kent	Kentish
The Saxons	South of the Thames	Wessex, Essex, Sussex	West Saxon, East Saxon
The Angles	North of the Thames	East Anglia, Mercia, Northumbria	Anglian, Mercian, Northumbrian

HEPTARCHY

7TH-8TH centuries



HEPTARCHY

7TH-8TH centuries

Supremacy at different times:

Kent,

Mercia

Northumbria



- **Extant documents written in the language date from about 700 to about 1100, but the great bulk of written material represents the speech from about 900 to 1050.**
- The language was represented **in writing in four dialects**: Northumbrian, Mercian, Kentish, and **West-Saxon**.
- The dominance of the West-Saxon literature during the period demonstrates the political and artistic vitality of the kingdom of West Saxons (Wessex).
- **West-Saxon literature** is the ancestor of nearly all English literature, but the West-Saxon language is not.



Introduction of Christianity

Introduction of Christianity

- Pope Gregory the Great sent a mission to the Isles
- since **597** Christianity comes into the life of the islanders
- **BUT** the Romans were Christians by the times they left Great Britain, and so were the Celts.

Week Days Loan Translation

LATIN	ENGLISH (Pagan Gods)
dies lunae	Monday moon day (lunar)
dies marti (Mars)	Tuesday
dies mercuri	Wednesday (Wodan's day)
dies iovis (Jupiter/Jove)	Thursday (Thor's day)
dies veneris (Venus)	Friday (Freya's day)
dies saturni	Saturday (Saturn day)
dies solis	Sunday sun day (solar)

Introduction of Christianity

- England received the Latin alphabet and educated people.
- It brought monasteries with their schools and chronicles.
- Now the English history was written by the Englishmen themselves, in their own language.
- Now translation as a kind of intellectual activity came into the life of Englishmen.

King Alfred the Great (of Wessex)



- the Wedmore peace treaty of 878
- Danelaw
- **This treaty allowed a relatively stable period in the development of the rest of the country; more than that, the very personality of Alfred seems to be one of the most prominent educators of the nation.**

King Alfred the Great (of Wessex)



- implementation of literacy among the free well-to-do people;
 - promoted learning languages;
 - the first libraries in England.
-
- Much of what is now available in Old English was created or preserved thanks to Alfred the Great.

Dialects

<p>The Kentish dialect</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ the 8th century glosses of Bede's <i>"Ecclesiastical History of the English people"</i> (<i>"Historia Ecclesiastica gentis Anglorum"</i>) ✓ translations of <i>Psalms</i> ✓ some old charters (chronicles)
<p>The Northumbrian dialect</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ runic inscriptions of the Ruthwell Cross ✓ the Franks Casket ✓ poetry: Caedmon's <i>"Hymn"</i>; Bede's <i>"Dying Song"</i>; Cynewulf <i>"Elene"</i>, <i>"Andreas"</i>, <i>"Juliana"</i> ✓ epic poem <i>"Beowulf"</i>
<p>The Wessex dialect</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ King Alfred <i>"Pastoral Care"</i> (<i>"Cura Pastoralis"</i>); Orosius' <i>"World History"</i> (<i>"Historiarium adversus paganos"</i>) ✓ Boethius' <i>"Consolation of Philosophy"</i> ✓ Bede's <i>"Ecclesiastical History"</i> ✓ the earlier part of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles
<p>Later period in the history</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Aelfric's works - <i>Gospels, Homilies, Lives of Saints, Latin grammar, Old Testament;</i> ✓ <i>Old Saxon Chronicles</i> ✓ Wulfstan's <i>"Homilies,</i>

Runic Alphabet (Gothic)



feoh

(cattle, weath)

f



ur

(aurochs)

u



þorn

(thorn)

þ



ōs

(god)

o



rād

(journey/riding)

r



cen

(torch)

c



giefu

(gift)

g[ū]



wyn

(joy)

ƿ



hægl

(hail)

h



nied

(necessity/trouble)

n



is

(ice)

i



gear

(year)

j



ēoh

(yew)

z



peor

(?)

ƿ



eoh

(sedge?)

x



sigel

(sun)

s



tiw/tir

(Tiw - a god)

t



beorc

(birch)

b



eoh

(horse)

e



man

(man)

m



lagu

(water/sea)

l



Ing

(a god)

ng



epel

(land/estate)

ce



dæg

(day)

d

Anglo-Saxon Runes

ƿ feoh - f "wealth" Ʊ ur - u "cattle" þ þorn - þ "thorn" ƿ os - o "mouth" ʀ rad - r "ride" ʁ cen - c "torch" ʒ ziefu - ʒ "gift" ƿ pynn - ƿ "joy" ʰ hæzl - ʰ "hail"

Ț nyd - n "need" Ʊ is - i "ice" ƶ jear - j "year" Ʒ eoh - eo "yew" ƿ peorð - ƿ "game" ƿ eolxecʒ - x "elk-sedge" ʒ sʒel - s "sun" ƿ tyr - t "Tyr" ƶ beorc - b "birch"

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

ƶ yr - y "bow" ƶ ear - ea "earth" ƶ iar - ia "serpent" ƶ kalc - k "chalice" ƶ kalc - kk "spear" ƶ cƿeorð - cƿ "fire" ƶ stan - st "stone"

Old English Alphabet

A a	Æ æ	B b	C c	D d	Ð ð	E e	F f	G g	h h	I i	L l
a	ash	be	c	de	eth	e	eff	yogh	há	i	ell
a	æ	b	c	d	ð	e	f	3 (g)	h	i	l
M m	N n	O o	P p	R r	S s	T t	U u	ƿ ƿ	X x	Y y	þ þ
emm	enn	o	pe	err	ess	te	u	wynn	eks	yr	thorn
m	n	o	p	r	s	t	u	p (w)	x	y	þ

First English Inscriptions

- Ash Gilton (Kent) gilt silver sword pommel, 6th c.;
- Chessel Down I (Isle of Wight), 6th c.;
- Chessel Down II (Isle of Wight) silver plate (attached to the scabbard mouthpiece of a ring-sword), early 6th
- Boarley (Kent) copper disc-brooch, ca. 600;
- Harford (Norfolk) brooch, ca. 650; *luda:gibcætæsīgīlæ* "Luda repaired the brooch"
- [West Heselton](#) (North Yorkshire) copper cruciform brooch, early 6th c.; *neim*
- Loveden Hill (Lincolnshire) urn; 5th to 6th c.; reading uncertain, maybe *sīpæbæd þiuw hlaw* "the grave of Sīpæbæd the maid"
- [Spong Hill](#) (Norfolk), three cremation urns, 5th c.; decorated with identical runic stamps,
- Kent II coins (some 30 items), 7th century; reading *pada*
- Kent III, IV silver [sceattas](#), ca. 600; reading *æpa* and *epa*
- Suffolk gold shillings (three items), ca. 660; stamped with *desaiona*
- [Caistor-by-Norwich astragalus](#), 5th c.; possibly a Scandinavian import, in Elder Futhark transliteration reading *raihan* "roe"
- Watchfield (Oxfordshire) copper fittings, 6th c.; Elder Futhark reading *hariboki:wusa* (with a probably already fronted to æ)
- Wakerley (Northamptonshire) copper brooch, 6th c.; *buhui*
- Dover (Kent) brooch, ca. 600; *þd bli / bkk*
- Upper Thames Valley gold coins (four items), 620s; *benu:tigoiī*; *benu:+:tidi*
- complete alphabet
- [Willoughby-on-the-Wolds](#) (Nottinghamshire) copper bowl, ca. 600; a
- Cleatham (South Humbershire) copper bowl, ca. 600; [...]*Jedih*
- [Sandwich](#)/Richborough (Kent) stone, 650 or earlier; [...]*Jahabu*[...]*Ji*, perhaps **ræhæbul* "stag"
- Whitby I (Yorkshire) jet spindle whorl; *ueu*
- Selsey (West Sussex) gold plates, 6th to 8th c.; *brnrn / anmu*
- [St. Cuthbert's coffin](#) (Durham), dated to 698
- Whitby II (Yorkshire) bone comb, 7th c.; [*dæ*]*us mæus godaluwalu dohelipæ cy*[i.e. *deus meus, god aluwaldo, helpæ Cy...* "my god, almighty god, help Cy..." ([Cynewulf](#) "my god, almighty god, help Cy..." (Cynewulf or a similar personal name; compare also [names of God in Old English poetry](#).)
- the [Franks casket](#); 7th c.
- zoomorphic silver-gilt knife mount, discovered in the River Thames near Westminster Bridge (late 8th c.): .
- the [Ruthwell Cross](#); 8th c., the inscription may be partly a modern reconstruction
- the Brandon antler piece, *wohs wildum deoræ an* "[this] grew on a wild animal"; 9th century.^[21]
- [Kingmoor Ring](#)
- the [Seax of Beagnoth](#); 9th c. (also known as the Thames scramasax); the only complete alphabet

The Ruthwell Cross



- is a stone Anglo-Saxon is a stone Anglo-Saxon cross is a stone Anglo-Saxon cross probably dating from the 8th century, when Ruthwell is a stone Anglo-Saxon cross probably dating from the 8th century, when Ruthwell was part of the Anglo-Saxon is a

Franks casket



- The **Franks Casket** (or the **Auzon Runic Casket**) is a small Anglo-Saxon) is a small Anglo-Saxon whaleb one) is a small Anglo-Saxon whalebone chest from the seventh century, now in the British Museum.



The END



Thank you!