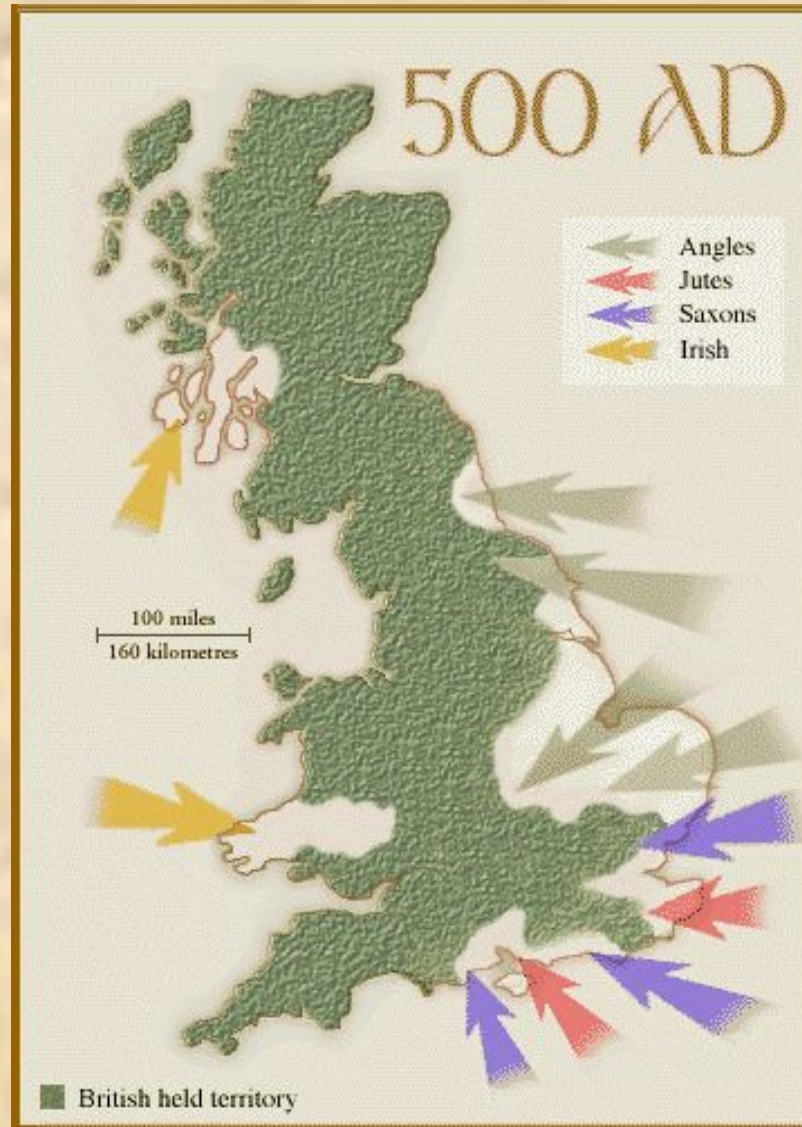
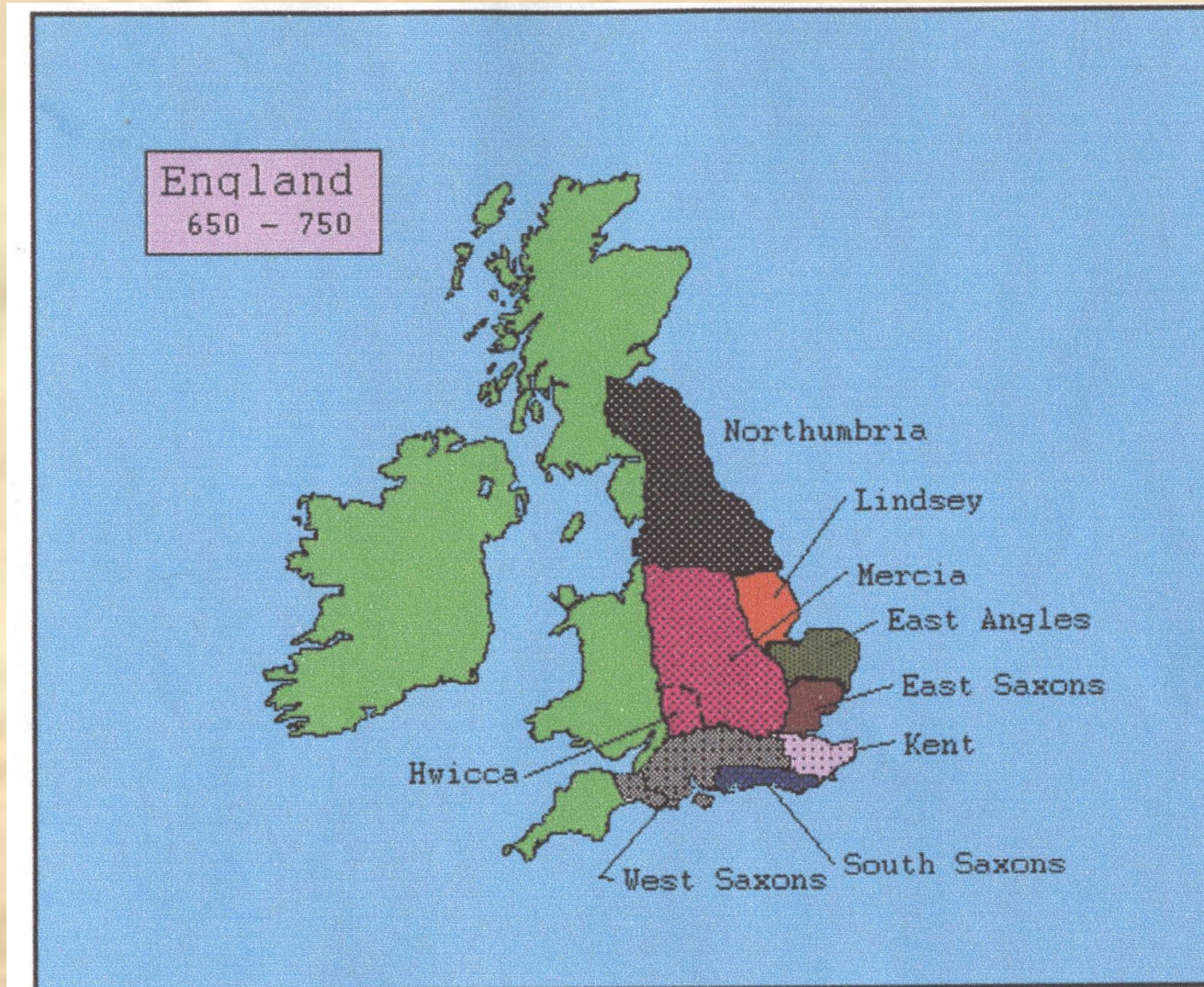


OLD ENGLISH PHONETICS

SAXON INVASIONS AND LAND HOLDINGS, VI c. AD



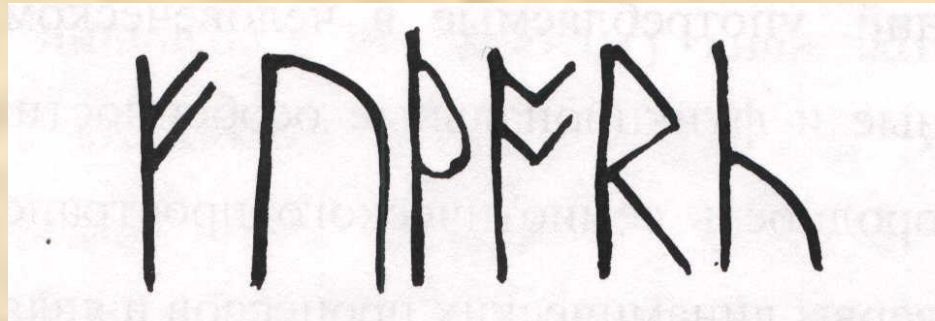
ANGLO-SAXON ENGLAND, VII-VIII c. AD



ANGLO-SAXON ENGLAND, XI c. AD

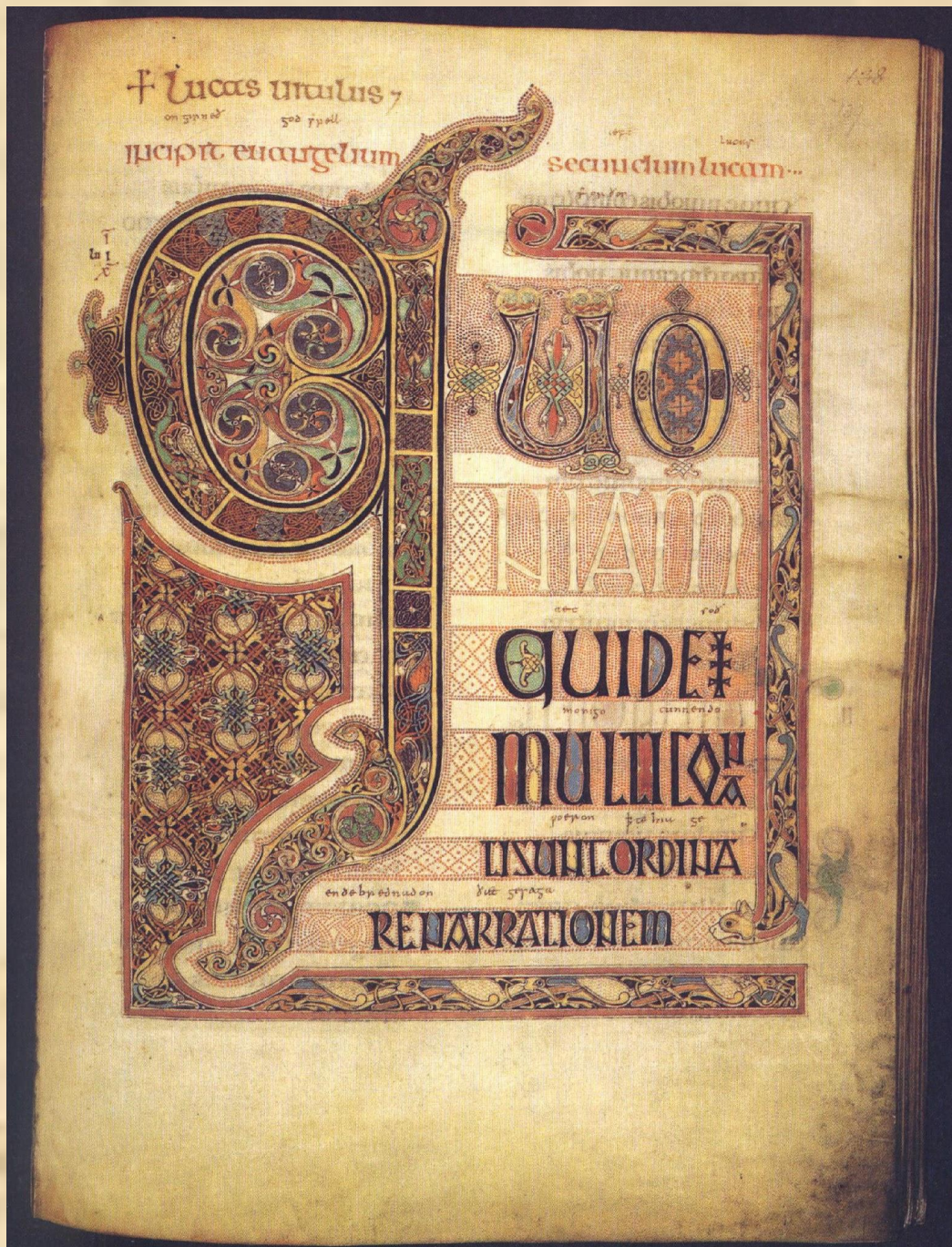


THE RUNIC ALPHABET



FUTHARK

æ



Northumbrian Arts

Initial page at the beginning of St Luke's Gospel (ab. 700 AD)

WORLD HISTORY by Orosius (9th c.)

- Ohthere sæde his hlaforde Alfrede cyninge
[‘o:xtxere ‘sæ:de his ‘xla:vorde ‘ælfre:de ‘kyninge]
“Ohthere said (to) his lord Alfred (the king)
- þæt he ealra Norþmonna norþmest bude...
[þæt he: ‘ealra ‘norþ’monna ‘norþmest ‘bu:de...]
that he (of) all Northmen to the north lived.
- Þa fōr he giet norþryhte
[pa: fo:r he: jiet ‘norþ’ryhte]
Then sailed he yet to the north
- swa feor swa he meahte
[swa: feor swa: he: ‘meaxte]
as far as he might (could)
- On þam oþrum þrim dagum gesiglan.
[on þa:m ‘o:þrum þri:m ‘dajum je’siglan]
in the other three days’ sail”.

WORD STRESS

- OE forweorgan – “perish”
- OE inn-gan – “go in”

HISTORICAL CHANGES OF VOWELS

- 1) Correlation between Old English and other Germanic vowels
- 2) Front Mutation

HISTORICAL CORRELATION BETWEEN OLD ENGLISH AND OTHER GERMANIC VOWELS

Gothic	Old English	Old High German
A	æ /a	-
E	e	a
I	i/e	-
U	u/o	-
O	o	uo
Ai	a	ei
Iu	eo	io
Au	ea	o
U	U	-
I/ei	i	-

Gth slepan – OE slæpan – OHG slafan (sleep)

Gth saups – OE dead – OHG tot (dead)

FRONT MUTATION

(переднеязычная перегласовка, умлаут)

- All vowels become narrow under the influence of the phonemes [i] or [j] in the succeeding syllable, these phonemes [i] and [j] being lost:

[a > e]; [a > æ]; [ea > ie];

[eo > ie]; [o > e]; [u > y]

- *domjan > *doemjan > *demjan > OE dēman
(to deem).

ASSIMILATIVE CHANGES OF VOWELS

- 1) Old English Breaking
- 2) Palatalization
- 3) Palatal Mutation
- 4) Back (Velar) Mutation

1) OLD ENGLISH BREAKING

- The front vowels [e] and [æ] changed into diphthongs when they stood before [h, l, r] plus a consonant or before [h] at the end of the word, thus [æ] > [ea], [e] > [eo]:

Gth alls > OE eall (all);

OHG arm > OE earm (arm).

2) PALATALIZATION

- After the palatal consonants “c” [k’], “g” [g’], “sc” [sk’] short and long [e], [æ] turned into diphthongs:
- æ > ea; e > ie:
scæmu > sceamu > (shame).

3) PALATAL MUTATION

- The same result as the Front Mutation gives, but through the influence of the sound [x']:

neaht > nieht > niht, nyht

(the contraction of [ie] into [y]).

4) BACK (VELAR) MUTATION

- Back vowels in the succeeding syllables transformed the accented root-vowels into diphthongs (if in the succeeding syllable there were [a, o, u]):

[æ > ea]; [e > eo]; [i > io]

cæru > cearu (care);

swestar > sweostor (sister).

OLD ENGLISH CONSONANT CHANGES

- 1) The Second Consonant Shift (between OE and OHG)
- 2) Contraction
- 3) Compensatory Lengthening

1) THE SECOND CONSONANT SHIFT

Gothic / OE	Old High German
a) vowel + p, t, k OE scip – OHG skif (ship)	vowel + f, tz, h (or doubled after a short vowel - ff, zz, hh)
b) p, t, k in the initial position, after a consonant or doubled Gth twai, OE twa – OHG zwei [ei] (two)	pf, ph, z/ zz, ch/ kh
c) b, d, g OE gest – OHG kast (guest);	p, t, k
d) þ OE þæt – OHG daz	d

2) CONTRACTION

- OE consonant “h” in the intervocal position was dropped but a long diphthong appeared instead
 - * sehan – [eh + a] > [eo] > seon (to see)
 - * slahan – [ah + a] > ea > slean (to kill, slay)
 - * fohan – [oh + a] > [o:] > fōn (to get)

3) COMPENSATORY LENGTHENING

- Nasal sonorants [n, m] were lost before fricative consonants [f, s, þ], the preceding vowel was lengthened:

Gth fimf > OE fīf (five).

- If the nasal sonorant was preceded by the vowel [a], then [a] became nasalized and transformed into [o:]:

Gth andar > OE ōper (other).