

### OVERVIEW OF ENGLISH LITERATURE

1. Old and Middle English Literature

### ANGLO-SAXON PERIOD / OLD ENGLISH LITERATURE

449-1066

**ORAL TRADITIONS** 

Oral tradition helps unite diverse people and their myths

Strong belief in fate

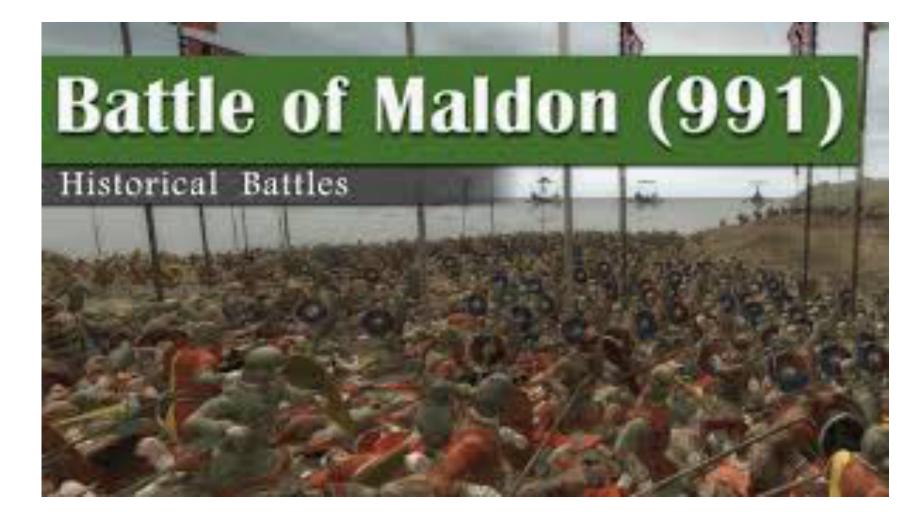
Admiration of heroic warriors who prevail in battle COURAGE, LOYALTY, GERMANIC GODS

### ANGLO-SAXON PERIOD

#### **Historical Context**

- Life centered around ancestral tribes/clans that ruled themselves
- At first, tribes/clans were warriors from invading outlying areas
  - Angles, Saxons, Jutes, and Danes
- Later, they became primarily agricultural
- KENNING (heaven's candle-sun, sea-stallion ship)
- ALLITERATIVE VERSE
- Divided by caesura (pause) into half-lines

# BRUNANBURH 937 THE GREAT BATTLE

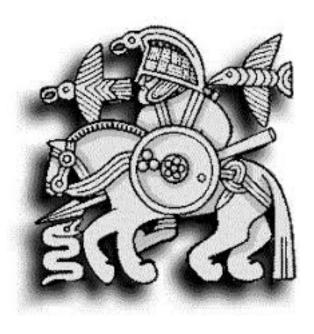


## THE SEAFARER

- "The Seafarer" is a 124-line poem written in Old English that scholars often view as a companion piece to The Wanderer.
- "The Seafarer" is one of the most famous Anglo-Saxon elegies and is found only in The Exeter Book.
- The poem is lyrical and elegiac
- It has an alliterative rhyme scheme.
- A lyric poem expresses intense personal emotions.
- Poet's subject is the sea—a common occurrence due to the placement of Britain

### **COTTON VITELIUS, 1000**

#### THE FIGHT AT FINNSBURG

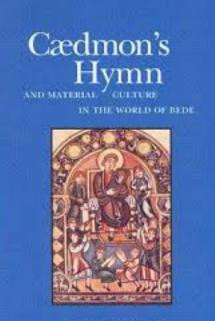


#### **Beowulf original**



### **OE WRITERS**

#### Caedmon



denner se Frenners Strums X. Tirst Vegnar Patersin Pass

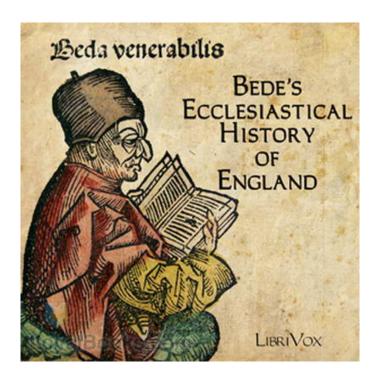
#### Cynewulf

#### The Dream of the Rood

P at 16 fortina city sugar pulle have made matter comique mitre syspan peopo bipitio pesce pundon, pulize me per is se rape ryllique cheop outype ladan looker be punden beama beophrope sall par brach pup be soch mis solde simmar fodon puppe er poldan fearcum. fpyles pap Fipe papon uppe onpar earle se fpanne be helson pap engel opertre ner calle parte puph porto a scarpe noper sign hupa Fracoder sealsa. achme pap be her son halise rafar min opth moldan yeall per mane se fcarpe : Syllic par perise biam yle rynni Fah Fon punded mid pommu se seah ic puldpier cheby. pædum se pibp Sove printi seman se syred und solde simmar hasion be prestine peoplice pailes onep; hpatre ic puph bee sold onzyzan meatre papenna encom her his apest ongan frecan on ha forman haire alle par mis rungum sabutes . For ICPOT FOT pape raspan se rylide se realise

### **OLD ENGLISH LITERATURE IN LATIN**

#### Venerable Bede



Alfred the Great

### The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle

THE HISTORY OF THE ANGLO-SAXONS



KING ALFRED THE GREAT

### EARLY MIDDLE ENGLISH LITERATURE

Literature in French

**Geoffrey Gaimar** 

Norman Wace - Roman de Brut Lazamon - The Owl and the Nightingale

Marie de France-Lays

Chrétien de Troys – Arthurian legends



### MIDDLE ENGLISH LITERATURE

Romances: King Horn, The Lay of Havelock, the Dane

- 3 sources of English romances:
- 1) Rome: Classical legends (Caesar, Troy...)
- 2) France: tales of Charlemagne and his knights)
- 3) Britain: Arthurian legends (Geoffrey of Monmouth, Thomas Mallory)



SIR GAWAIN AND THE GREEN KNIGHT Pearl, Purity Patience

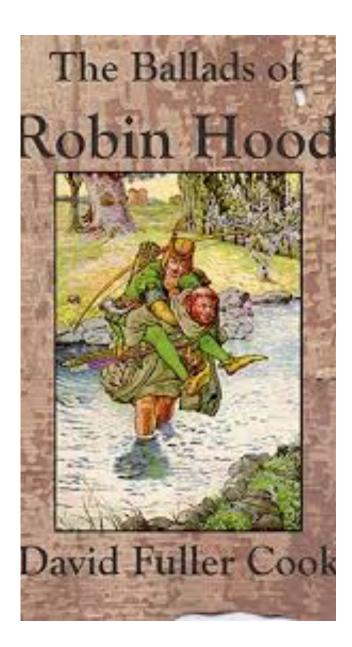
#### RICHARD II BLACK DEATH — PEASANT'S REVOLT REFORMATION

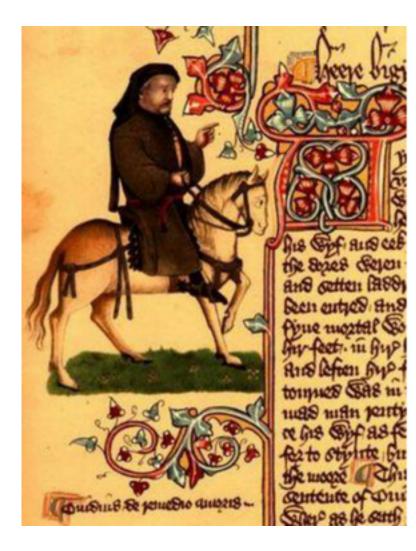
William Langland: The Vision of William Concerning Piers the Plowman

John Gower: Vox Clamansis

**Geoffrey Chaucer: Canterbury Tales** 

- Troilus and Crisede
- Parliament of Fowls





The Canterbury Tales by Beoffrey Chaucer

Pilgrimages & Chaucer's Pilgrims