



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

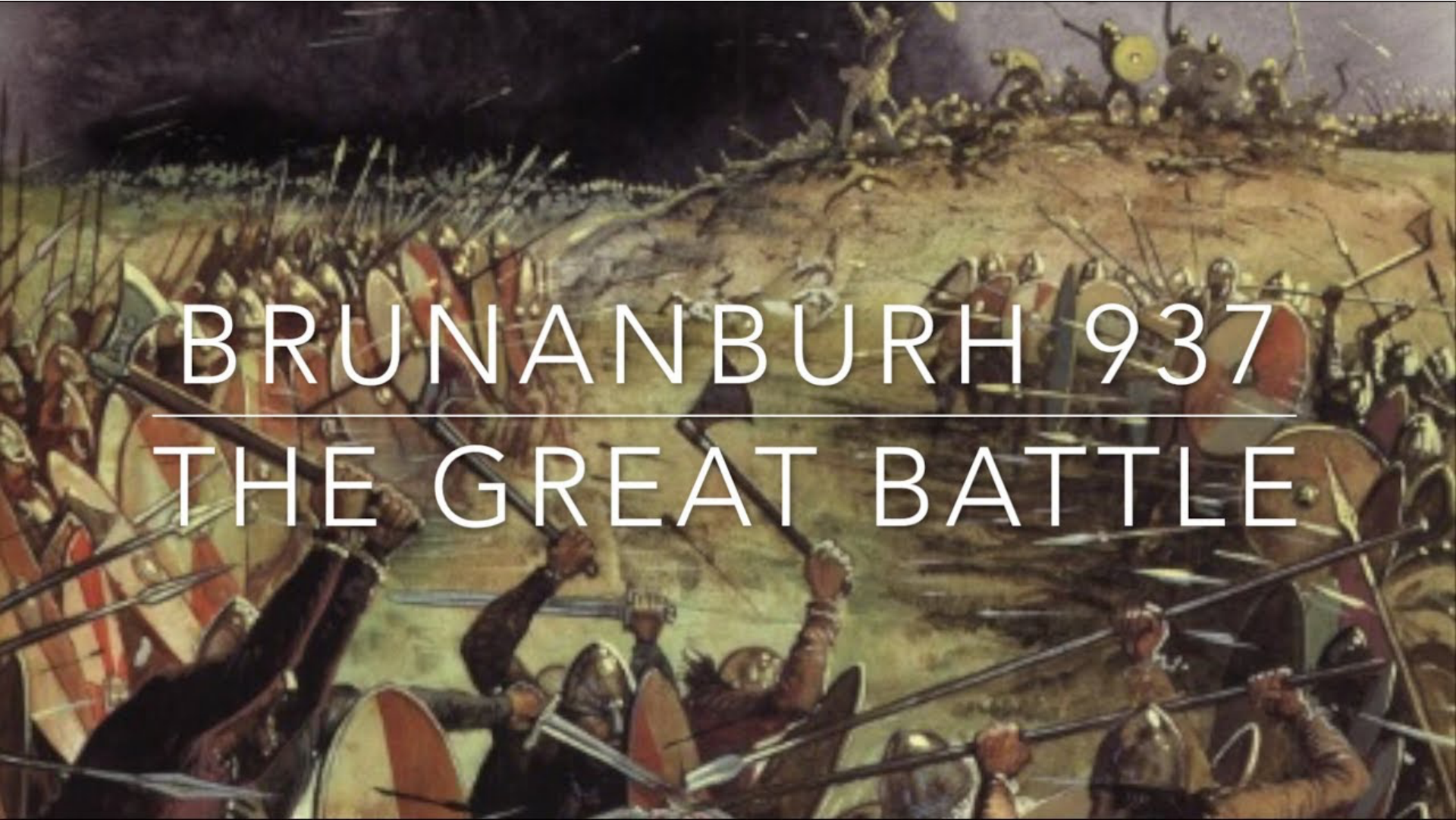
Admiration of heroic warriors who prevail in battle

COURAGE, LOYALTY, GERMANIC GODS

ANGLO-SAXON PERIOD

Historical Context

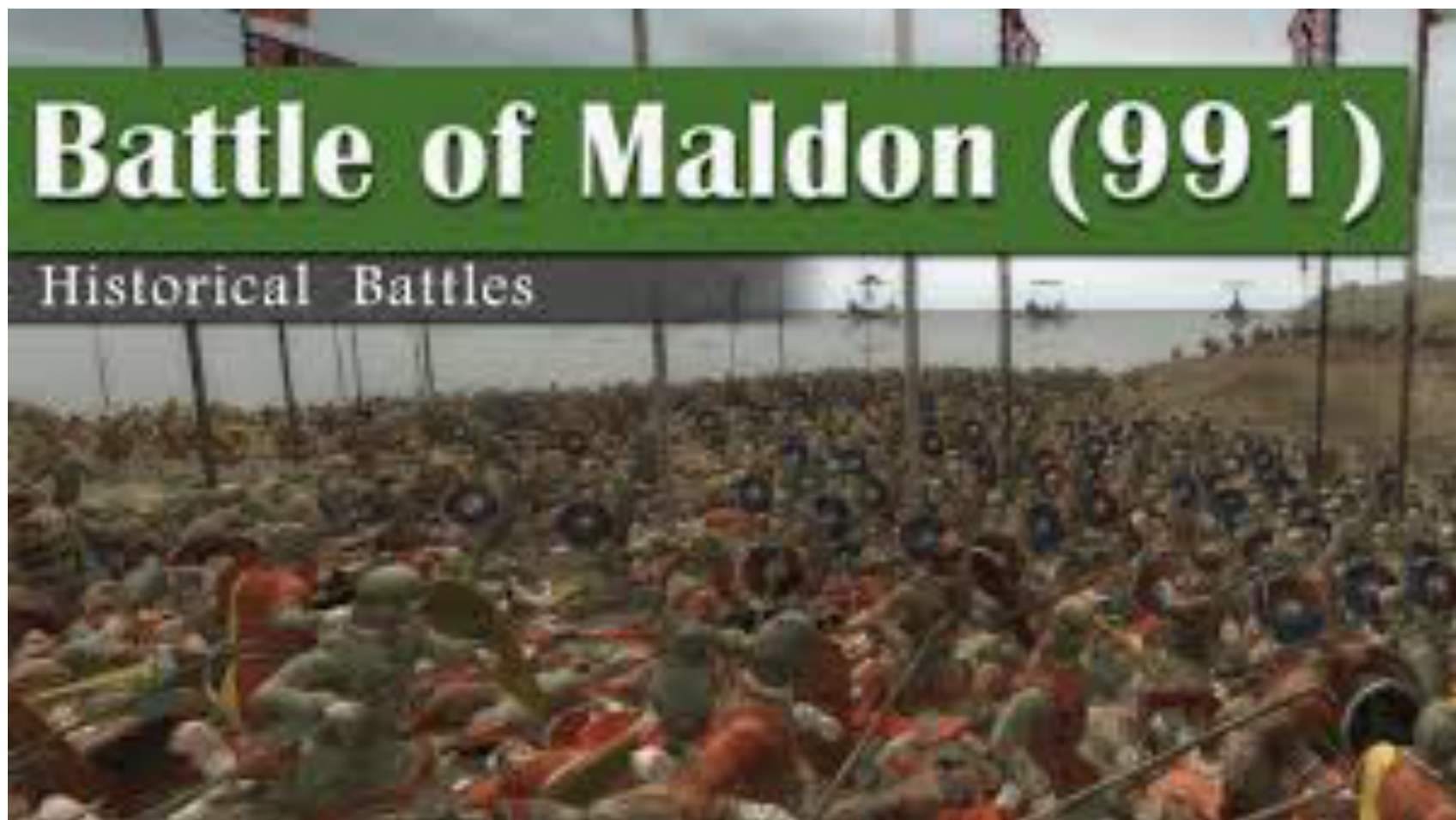
- Life centered around ancestral tribes/clans that ruled themselves
- At first, tribes/clans were warriors from invading outlying areas
 - Angles, Saxons, Jutes, and Danes
- Later, they became primarily agricultural
- **KENNING** (heaven's candle-sun, sea-stallion – ship)
- **ALLITERATIVE VERSE**
- Divided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



BRUNANBURH 937
THE GREAT BATTLE

Battle of Maldon (991)

Historical Battles

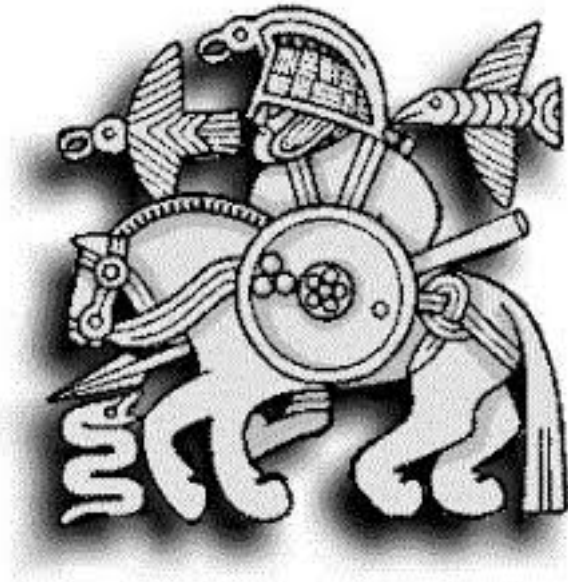


THE SEAFARER

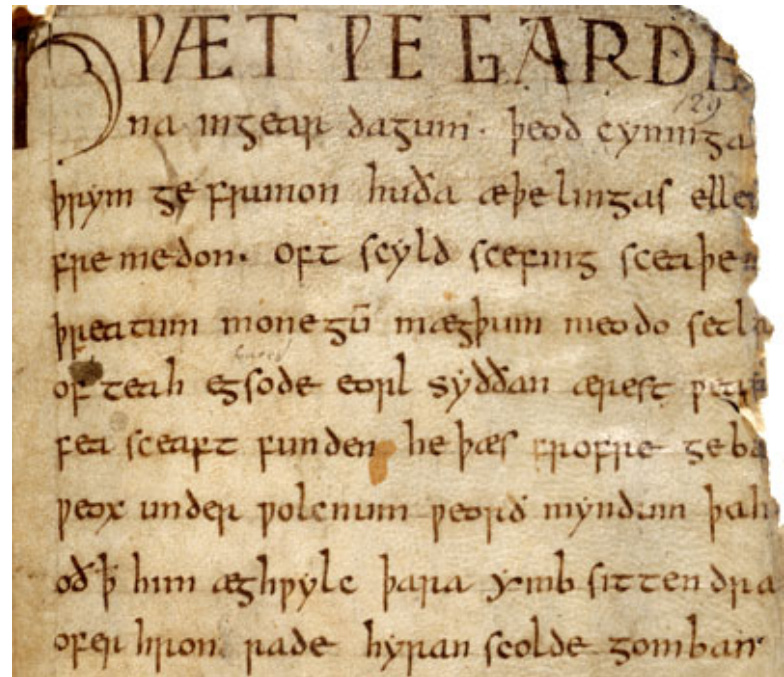
- "**The Seafarer**" is a 124-line poem written in Old English that scholars often view as a companion piece to **The Wanderer**.
- "The Seafarer" is one of the most famous Anglo-Saxon elegies and is found only in The Exeter Book.
- The poem is **lyrical** and **elegiac**
- It has an alliterative rhyme 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

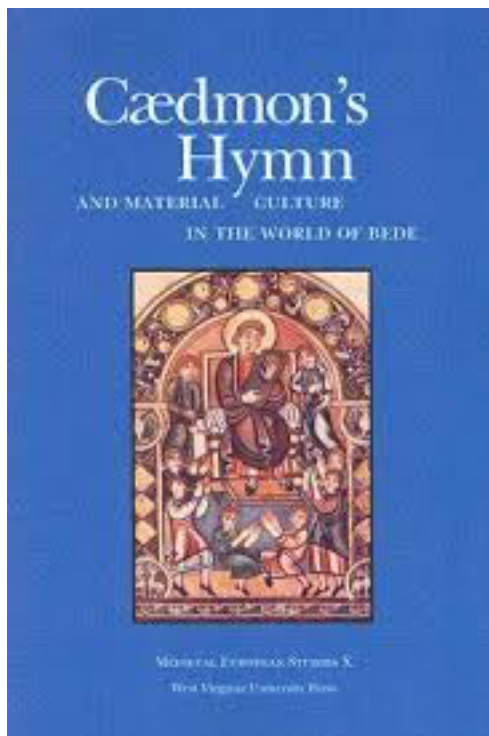


Beowulf original



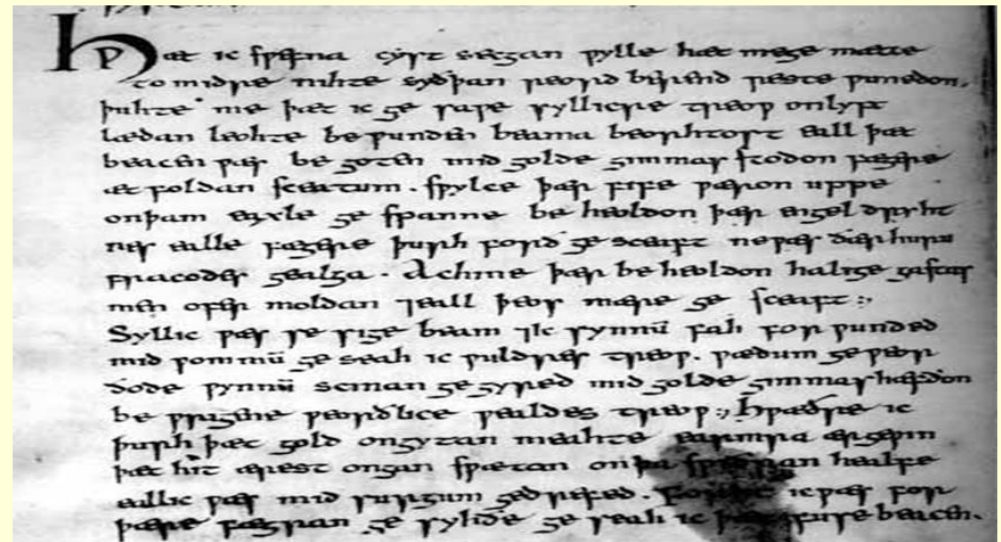
OE WRITERS

Caedmon



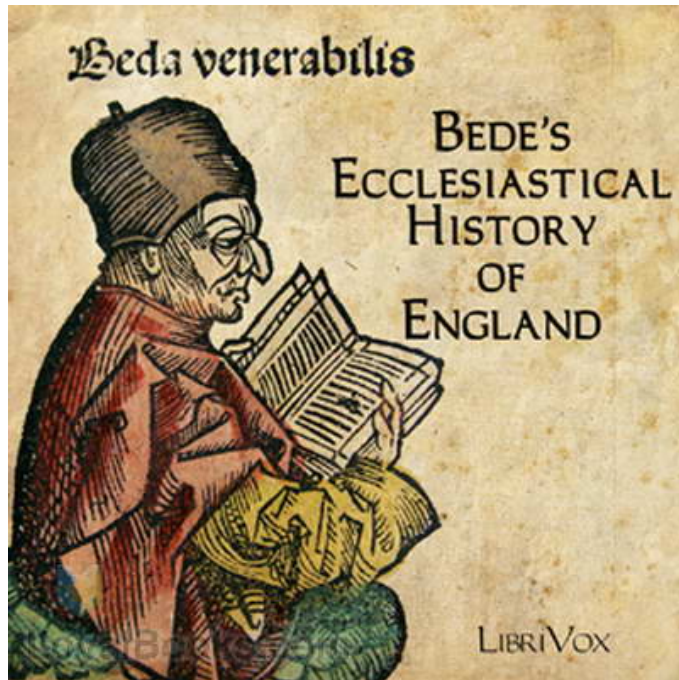
Cynewulf

The Dream of the Rood



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 Clamans

Geoffrey Chaucer: Canterbury Tales

- Troilus and Criseide
- Parliament of Fowls





The Canterbury Tales by Geoffrey Chaucer

Pilgrimages
& Chaucer's Pilgrims