

# This week's readings

- Bremmer (2012)

This is a “review” — it doesn't make a new argument, but summarizes a topic, specifically the early medieval connections between Anglo-Saxon England and continental Europe.

- McWhorter (2002)

This article makes an argument regarding the Celtic Hypothesis.

Your final papers can take either approach: review or argument.

# Discussion: Bremmer (2012)

- I do not expect you to memorize the names or dates mentioned in here.
- What stuck out as interesting?
- What are some points of connection between Anglo-Saxon and continental Germanic cultures?

Names from Germanic Paganism found all over England. Day-names and some place-names.

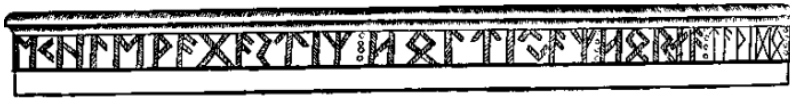
Compounds found in laws in both O.E. and Frisian, e.g. O.E. *banes bite* 'a bite of bone' and O.Fris. *benes biti*.

Alliterative poetry.

Lots of O.E. stories, like Beowulf, take place in Germanic Europe.

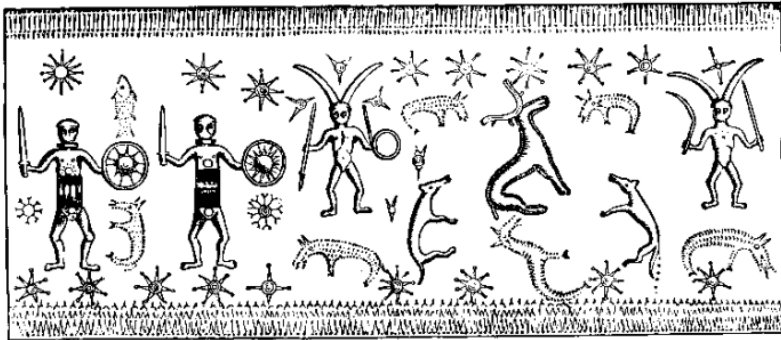
Adapted descriptions of the world incorporated new descriptions of Northern Europe (e.g. Orosius).

# Some interesting points: Bremmer (2012)



ek hlewagastiR holtijaR horna tawido

I Hlewagast [son] of Holt horn made



(Note how he started running out of space.)

Gallehus horn (fragment). Note the runes on top.

# Some interesting points: Bremmer (2012)

Forþon ic mæg singan and secgan spell

therefore I can sing and tell stories

(Widsith)

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Forþon ic mæg singan and secgan spell  
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(Widsith)

That -an is a verbal ending.

In this instance, I is “ic”. What was it on the Gallehus horn?



Ek

## Some interesting points: Bremmer (2012)

nu sceal beaga leas / hworfan from ðisse hilde ... oððe her ær swefan

now he must either leave from this fight without rings or rather die here (Waldere)

# Some interesting points: Bremmer (2012)

nu sceal beaga leas / hworfan from ðisse hilde ... oððe her ær swefan

Now shall ?? less / verb? from this ?? ... ?? here ?? verb?

## Some interesting points: Bremmer (2012)

nu sceal beaga leas / hworfan from ðisse hilde ... oððe her ær swefan

now he must either leave from this fight without rings or rather die here

Now shall ?? less / verb? from this ?? ... ?? here ?? verb?

now shall ring less / leave from this fight ... or here rather die



## Key takeaway: Bremmer (2012)

- People who wrote in Anglo-Saxon England situated themselves within the broader context of Germanic North Europe, along with Scandinavians, Frisians, and others.

# Discussion: McWhorter (2002)

- I do not expect you to memorize all of the facts and controversies mentioned here. But the way he constructs his argument is a great example, and worth returning to.
- What is the Celtic hypothesis?
- What are some points in favor of the Celtic hypothesis?

Celtic had a definite influence on English syntax, especially periphrastic *do*.

That's the obligatory use of *do* in auxiliary position in questions:

*Does Mark like television?*

And negation:

*He does not like television.*

But not declarative sentences:

*He likes television.*

This is rare cross-linguistically. It is also found in Cornish, a Celtic language spoken in England. Parallels are found in Welsh and Breton.

## More on McWhorter (2002)

- Periphrastic do first shows up in the written record in about 1300. If this innovation was introduced by Cornish centuries earlier, why doesn't it show up earlier?

It would have been seen as low-class, and thus not put into writing. (This should be borne in mind by all you slang fans – written records lag considerably behind speech.)

# Blog posts

- I got them from 23 of you. That means 8 of you did not do your blog posts.
- Why?
- Those that I got look good!
- In the future, please aim for ~300 words per post.
- I mean it!