

Phonetics Review + English Orthography

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Ling 390

The College of Staten Island, CUNY

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1. A quick review of phonetics

Phonetics: a quick review

- The sounds of spoken language.
- Consonants!
- Vowels!
- Differences between Algeo's transcription and the IPA transcription (which you're more likely to have encountered)!

Consonants

(Algeo 2012: 42–43)

- Stops
- Fricatives
- Affricates
- Nasals
- Liquids
- Semivowels

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Algeo	IPA	Example words
[b]	[b]	<u>b</u> ib, ru <u>b</u> y, ra <u>b</u> ble, rasp <u>b</u> erry
[p]	[p]	<u>p</u> up, stu <u>p</u> id, a <u>p</u> ple, ri <u>p</u> e
[d]	[d]	<u>d</u> ud, bo <u>d</u> y, a <u>d</u> d, bri <u>d</u> e
[t]	[t]	<u>t</u> oot, bu <u>t</u> t, ho <u>p</u> ped, de <u>b</u> t, recei <u>p</u> t
[g]	[g]	ga <u>g</u> , eg <u>g</u> , gh <u>o</u> st, mort <u>g</u> age
[k]	[k]	<u>k</u> ick, <u>s</u> choo <u>l</u> , ta <u>k</u> e, <u>c</u> ar

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You restrict airflow in your mouth by moving your tongue or lips against or close to other parts of your mouth, or by constricting your glottis (for [h]). These are continuous sounds with a “hissy” quality.

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Algeo	IPA	Example words
[v]	[v]	<u>v</u> alve, ve <u>r</u> y
[f]	[f]	ra <u>ff</u> le, rou <u>gh</u> , p <u>h</u> antom
[ð]	[ð]	<u>th</u> en, ba <u>th</u> e, wea <u>th</u> er
[θ]	[θ]	<u>th</u> in, ba <u>th</u> , e <u>th</u> er
[z]	[z]	<u>z</u> oos, fu <u>zz</u> , clo <u>th</u> es
[s]	[s]	<u>s</u> is, des <u>cent</u> , p <u>s</u> ychology
[ž]	[ʒ]	lei <u>s</u> ure, delu <u>s</u> ion, ga <u>r</u> age
[š]	[ʃ]	<u>sh</u> u <u>sh</u> , ma <u>ch</u> ine, pa <u>ss</u> ion
[h]	[h]	<u>h</u> ip, <u>w</u> ho, un <u>h</u> appy

Algeo’s symbols and the IPA symbols differ here.

Consonants

(Algeo 2012: 42–43)

- Stops
- Fricatives
- **Affricates**
- Nasals
- Liquids
- Semivowels

You block the airflow, like with a stop, and continue to restrict the airflow when it's released, like with a fricative. Kind of like a combined stop & fricative.

Algeo's symbols and the IPA symbols differ here.

Algeo	IPA	Example words
[ɟ]	[dʒ]	<u>j</u> udge, ma <u>j</u> or, reg <u>im</u> ent
[č]	[tʃ]	<u>ch</u> urch, <u>it</u> ch, <u>C</u> zech

Consonants

(Algeo 2012: 42–43)

- Stops
- Fricatives
- Affricates
- **Nasals**
- Liquids
- Semivowels

You block the airflow from your mouth, but lower your velum, allowing for airflow through your nostrils.

Algeo	IPA	Example words
[m]	[m]	<u>m</u> um, co <u>m</u> b, para <u>digm</u>
[n]	[n]	<u>n</u> un, <u>k</u> now, sign <u>n</u>
[ŋ]	[ŋ]	sin <u>g</u> , sin <u>k</u> , han <u>d</u> kerchief

Consonants

(Algeo 2012: 42–43)

- Stops
- Fricatives
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The airflow is somewhat restricted by your tongue, but the sound is still clear and almost vowel-like.

Algeo's symbol and the IPA symbol differ here.

Algeo	IPA	Example words
[l]	[l]	<u>l</u> apel, fel <u>l</u> , <u>l</u> ine
[r]	[ɹ]	<u>r</u> ear, ba <u>r</u> on, <u>w</u> rite, biza <u>r</u> re

Consonants

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- Stops
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- Semivowels

These are basically the consonant versions of certain vowels. They behave like consonants in terms of syllable structure (e.g. the presence of a semivowel doesn't create a new syllable).

Algeo's symbol and the IPA symbol differ here.

Algeo	IPA	Example words
[w]	[w]	<u>w</u> on, <u>w</u> hich, q <u>ue</u> en
[y]	[j]	<u>y</u> ellow, mill <u>i</u> on

Vowels

(Algeo 2012: 43–46)

- Front
- Central
- Back
- Diphthongs

Vowels

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Vowels articulated with your tongue towards the front of your mouth.

Algeo's symbol and the IPA symbol differ here. In fact, Algeo says this is a monophthong, while the IPA says it's a diphthong.

Algeo	IPA	Example words
[i]	[i]	<u>e</u> vil, <u>e</u> el, <u>s</u> ea, <u>k</u> ey
[ɪ]	[ɪ]	<u>i</u> t, <u>E</u> nglish, w <u>o</u> men, b <u>u</u> sy
[e]	[eɪ]	<u>a</u> corn, gr <u>e</u> at, w <u>e</u> igh
[ɛ]	[ɛ]	b <u>e</u> t, thr <u>e</u> at, l <u>e</u> opard
[æ]	[æ]	s <u>a</u> t, s <u>a</u> lmon, mer <u>i</u> ngue

Vowels

(Algeo 2012: 43–46)

- Front
- Central
- Back
- Diphthongs

Vowels articulated with your tongue towards the center of your mouth.

Algeo	IPA	Example words
[ə]	[ə]	Cub <u>a</u> , b <u>i</u> as, myst <u>er</u> ious
[ə]	[ʌ]	<u>u</u> tter, bl <u>oo</u> d, w <u>a</u> s

Algeo uses [ə] for both the stressed and unstressed “uh” sound. Most linguists distinguish between the two – [ə] unstressed, and [ʌ] stressed.

Vowels

(Algeo 2012: 43–46)

- Front
- Central
- Back
- Diphthongs

Vowels articulated with your tongue towards the back of your mouth.

Algeo's symbol and the IPA symbol differ here. In fact, Algeo says this is a monophthong, while the IPA says it's a diphthong.

Algeo	IPA	Example words
[u]	[u]	<u>oo</u> ze, t <u>o</u> mb, thr <u>ou</u> gh
[ʊ]	[ʊ]	h <u>oo</u> k, p <u>u</u> t, sh <u>ou</u> ld
[o]	[oʊ]	<u>ow</u> e, <u>oh</u> , s <u>ou</u> l, f <u>ol</u> k
[ɔ]	[ɔ]	<u>a</u> ll, <u>a</u> we, br <u>oa</u> d
[ɑ]	[ɑ]	f <u>a</u> ther, cl <u>o</u> ck, <u>o</u> n

Vowels

(Algeo 2012: 43–46)

- Front
- Central
- Back
- Diphthongs

You move your tongue so you start in one vowel position and end in another. Essentially a combination of two vowels into one.

Algeo's symbols and the IPA symbols differ here.

Algeo	IPA	Example words
[aɪ]	[aɪ]	<u>i</u> ris, b <u>i</u> te, fl <u>y</u>
[aʊ]	[aʊ]	<u>o</u> unce, h <u>ou</u> se, n <u>ow</u>
[ɔɪ]	[ɔɪ]	<u>o</u> il, b <u>oy</u> s, k <u>oi</u>

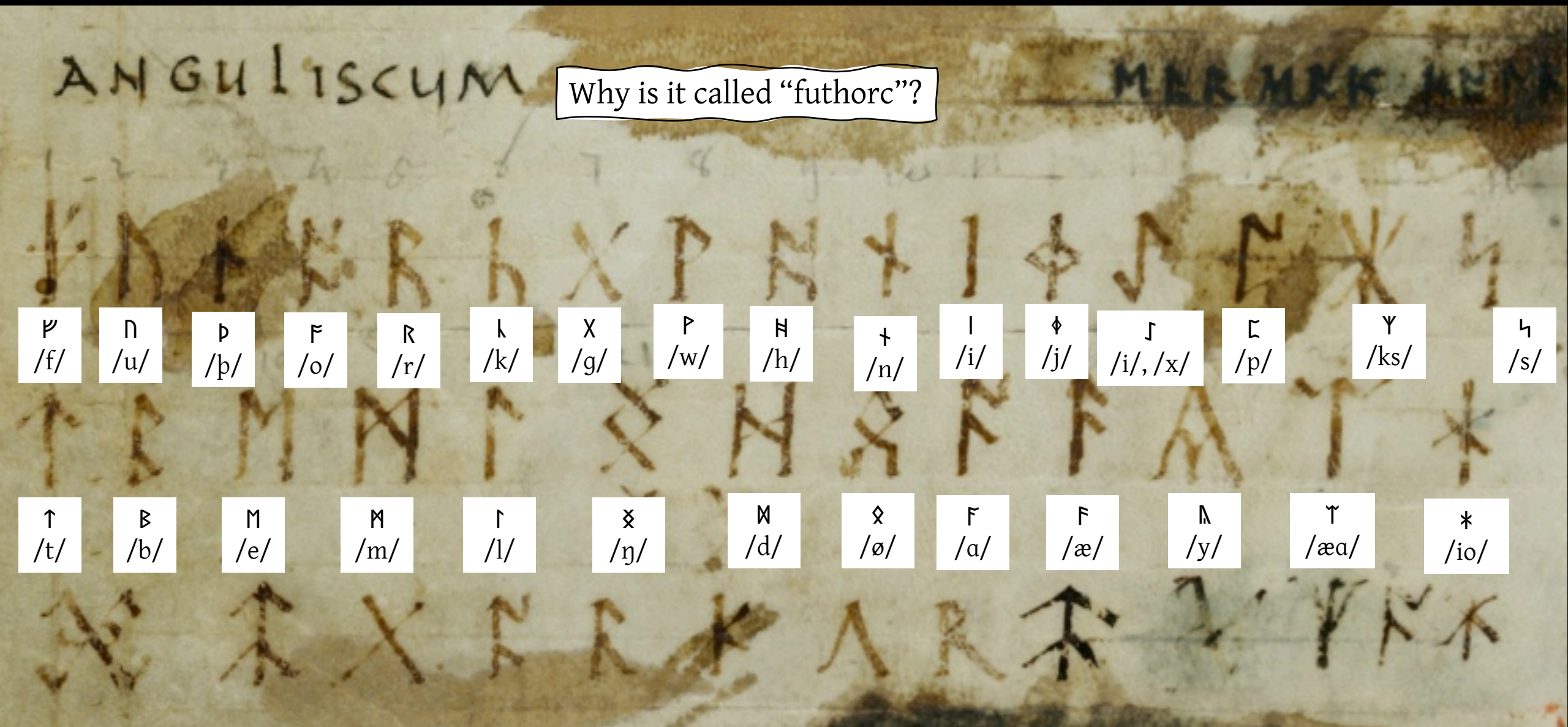
2. Orthography

Orthography

- What is it?
- What does Algeo say about it?

Futhorc

- Anglo-Saxon runes
- Derived from Scandinavian runes called Elder Futhark.
- Developed on the continent, and used for Old Frisian as well.
- 5th-century through approx. 11th-century.



Why is it called “futhorc”?

ƿ /f/	ƿ /u/	ƿ /p/	ƿ /o/	ƿ /r/	ƿ /k/	ƿ /g/	ƿ /w/	ƿ /h/	ƿ /n/	ƿ /i/	ƿ /j/	ƿ /i/, /x/	ƿ /p/	ƿ /ks/	ƿ /s/
ƿ /t/	ƿ /b/	ƿ /e/	ƿ /m/	ƿ /l/	ƿ /ŋ/	ƿ /d/	ƿ /ø/	ƿ /a/	ƿ /æ/	ƿ /y/	ƿ /æa/	ƿ /io/			

Futhorc runes, from the Vademecum of Walahfrid Strabo, written in the first half of the 9th century, p. 321 [\[link\]](#)

Anglo-Saxon Roman Alphabet

- Based on the Roman alphabet.
- For sounds not found in Latin, some runes were borrowed, other innovations made.
- Letter forms follow Irish traditions (“Insular hand”).

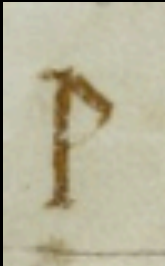
The *SAXON-ALPHABET*.

Figure,		Power.	
A	a.	A	a.
B	b.	B	b.
C	c.	C	c.
D	d.	D	d.
E	e.	E	e.
F	f.	F	f.
G	g.	G	g.
H	h.	H	h.
I	i.	I	i.
K	k.	K	k.
L	l.	L	l.
M	m.	M	m.
N	n.	N	n.
O	o.	O	o.
P	p.	P	p.
R	r.	R	r.
S	s.	S	s.
T	t.	T	t.
TH	th.	TH	th.
U	u.	U	u.
W	w.	W	w.
X	x.	X	x.
Y	y.	Y	y.
Z	z.	Z	z.



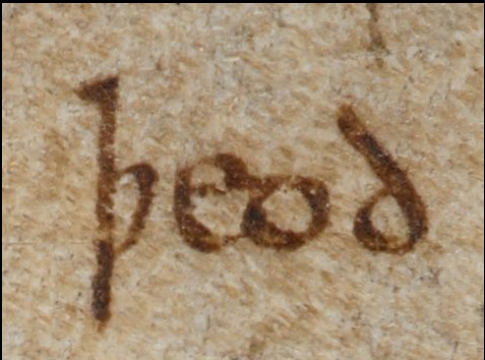
What's another one here we don't use anymore?

Which of these is a borrowed rune?



P
/w/

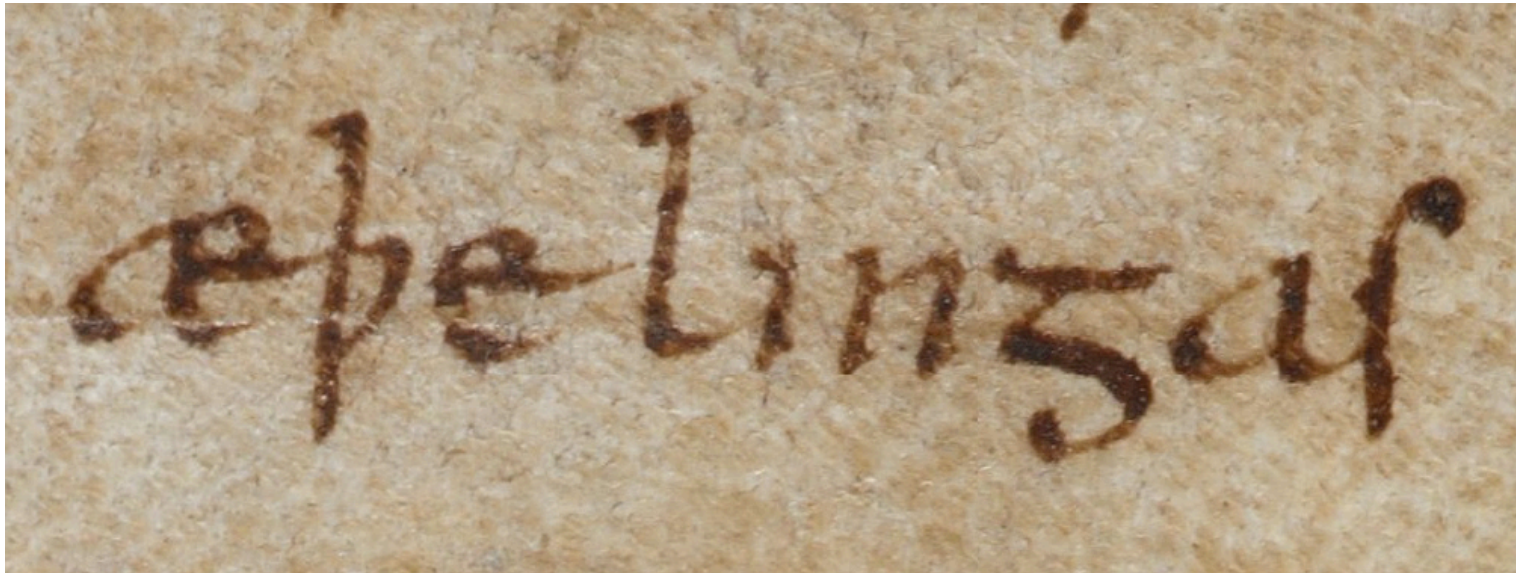
What borrowed rune is *not* shown here?



Anglo-Saxon roman letters, from John Fortescue's *The Difference between an Absolute and Limited Monarchy*, 1714, p. 152 [\[link\]](#)

Yogh: A Middle English innovation

- In Middle English, a separate letter called yogh was derived from the Insular g.



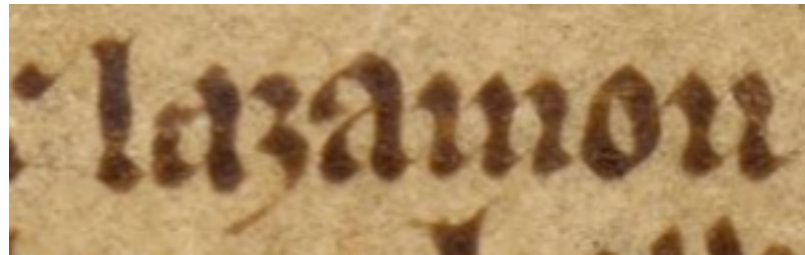
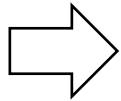
æþelingas 'princes; people'
/æþelɪŋas/

ȝ was just be the normal
way to write lowercase G in
Old English.

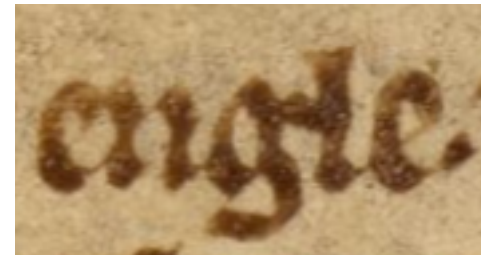
From p. 1 of *Beowulf*, around 1000AD

Yogh: A Middle English innovation

- In Middle English, a separate letter called yogh was derived from the Insular g.



3 “yogh”
[x] [w]



g
[g]

From *Layamon's Brut*, second half of 13th-century. [[link](#)]

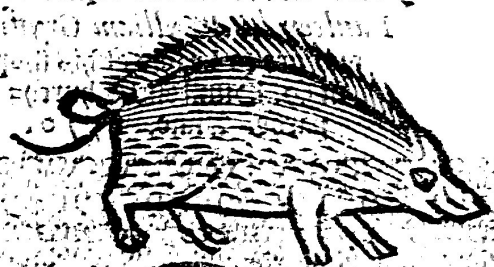
So... what happened?

Ð Þ þ ȝ

- Why don't we have these letters anymore?
- Printing press, mostly.
- They're mostly digraphs (two letters together) now.
- Ð and Þ are often 'th'
- þ is now 'w', originally a digraph of v + v (or u + u)
- ȝ is often 'gh' (like in 'night')

Medial or ‘long’ s

- The normal form of lowercase S except at the end of a word:
fuspicious, Suspicious, SUSPICIOUS
- Persisted a *really* long time (into the 19th century, in dribs and drabs)
- Used to be used in many European alphabets
- Not sure why it dropped out of use – most printing presses had it, but font developers decided to stop making it. (Possible research topic.)



¶ Lowe and Line.

¶ To the Right worshipfull Esquier
maister Iohn Yong, Grace
and health.



Haue penned for your master
ships pleasure one of the sto-
ries which maister Streamer
tolde the last Christmas, and
which you so faine wold haue
heard reported by maister Fe-
res him selfe. And although I be vnable to
penne or speake it so pleasantly as he could,
yet haue I so nerely vfed both the order and
wordes of him that spake them, which is not
the least vertue of a reporter that I doubt
not but that he and maister VVillot shal in
the reading thinke they heare maister Strea-
mer speake, and he him selfe in the like acti-
on shall doubt whether he speaketh or rea-
deth. I haue deuided his oration into three
partes, and put the argument before them,
and an instruction after them with such
notes as might be gathered therof: so ma-
king it booke like, and intituled: *Beware the
Cat*. But because I doubt whether maister
Streamer wilbe contented that other men
plowe with his oxen, I meane penne such
thinges as he speaketh, which perhaps hee
A.ij. would

Haue ... vnable

<u> and <v> are often swapped.

maister ... stories

<f> for non-final /s/

your master ships pleasure

no apostrophe for possession

VVillot ... plowe

Two <V> instead of <W>, but
<w> does appear regularly.

From William Baldwin's *A
maruelous history intituled,
beware the cat*, 1570 [[link](#)]