



Introduction to Old English

By Peter S. Baker

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Featuring numerous updates and additional anthology selections, the 3rd edition of *Introduction to Old English* confirms its reputation as a leading text designed to help students engage with Old English literature for the first time.

- A new edition of one of the most popular introductions to Old English
Assumes no expertise in other languages or in traditional grammar Includes basic grammar reviews at the beginning of each major chapter and a “minitext” feature to aid students in practicing reading Old English Features updates and several new anthology readings, including King Alfred’s Preface to Gregory’s *Pastoral Care*

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Editorial Review

Review

"Enhanced with new anthology readings, common spelling variants, phonetic symbols and terms, a glossary, references, and a comprehensive index, "Introduction To Old English" is an ideal student textbook and highly recommended addition to academic library instructional reference collections." (*Midwest Book Review*, 1 May 2012)

"Excellent introduction designed to provide reading knowledge ... He [Baker] constructs the book to encourage beginning students to start translating almost immediately" (*The Medieval Review*, June 2008)

"The fruit of years of sensitive, thoughtful and student-responsive teaching. [...] this work is a huge step forward in imaginative course design. It is accessible in manner and genuinely tries to address the needs of the modern student and teacher, taking them through a course step by step. [...] by far the best attempt yet to introduce Old English, and I enthusiastically recommend it to members." (*TOEBI Newsletter*)

"Peter Baker's excellent new book, a combined grammar and reader, deserves to find a central place in the university teaching of Old English. It is unabashedly designed to be accessible to absolute beginners, but students who progress attentively through the whole book will in fact find themselves in command of a great deal of what makes Old English language and literature tick. [...] These chapters [on 'Metre', 'Poetic Style', 'The Grammar of Poetry', and 'Reading Old English Manuscripts'] constitute the real novelty of the book in their lucid summation of some essential truths that have rarely if ever been to clearly set out for beginners; the sections on poetry in particular deserve to be read by all students beginning the translation of Old English for the first time." (*Notes and Queries*)

"The new edition is a solid tool that both an independent student and a classroom full of students will find useful. The book's approach is balanced. It includes just the right amount of explanatory text ... while also offering ... grammar tools and exercises. The selection of readings is varied and exemplary. Much thought was put into the choice, quantity, and order of the other texts in the anthology. I would certainly recommend this book for an introductory course in Old English... Baker's new edition is a pleasure to read and would be a pleasure to use in the classroom." (*Comitatus*)

Review

"In its references to web-sites and computer-links, *An Introduction to Old English* is very much a book of the twenty-first century; and many of its novel features - for example the chapter on the grammar of poetry, or the appendix on common spelling variants - will be extraordinarily helpful to teachers and students alike."

—**Michael Lapidge**, University of Notre Dame

"Baker's *Introduction* is the kind of book that students of Old English - and their teachers - have been waiting for for a long time."

—**Hugh Magennis**, Queen's University Belfast

"This is a truly outstanding textbook for today's student of Old English. Written in lucid and friendly prose, Baker brings the language to life in a manner that will inspire students."

—**Elaine Treharne**, University of Leicester

"Peter Baker's *Introduction to Old English* offers an innovative combination of the traditional and the cutting edge. Beginning with the basics of the language, the chapters proceed through intelligently paced levels so that by the end the user is reading the most sophisticated literature in Old English."

—**Daniel G. Donoghue**, Harvard University

From the Back Cover

Introduction to Old English is a leading text designed to help students engage with Old English literature for the first time. The new third edition builds on the success of previous editions and includes numerous chapter updates, as well as expanded coverage of Old English manuscripts, runes, and other inscriptions.

The book's rich pedagogy includes basic grammar reviews at the beginning of each major chapter, covering the basics of Old English. Other features include "minitexts" for practice in reading the language, and a detailed introduction to meter and poetic style to ease the transition from prose to poetry. Additions to the anthology for this new edition include King Alfred's Preface to Pope Gregory the First's sixth-century *Pastoral Care*, selections from the Old English Riddles, and the epic fragments *The Battle of Finnesburh* and *Waldere*.

The third edition of *Introduction to Old English* confirms its reputation as an essential text for all students encountering the language for the first time.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Dorothy Wright:

The book *Introduction to Old English* make you feel enjoy for your spare time. You can use to make your capable far more increase. Book can for being your best friend when you getting pressure or having big problem with the subject. If you can make reading a book *Introduction to Old English* to be your habit, you can get a lot more advantages, like add your own capable, increase your knowledge about a few or all subjects. It is possible to know everything if you like open and read a book *Introduction to Old English*. Kinds of book are several. It means that, science reserve or encyclopedia or some others. So , how do you think about this reserve?

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