

Western Michigan University ScholarWorks at WMU

Richard Rawlinson Center Series

Medieval Institute Publications

10-26-2020

Poetic Style and Innovation in Old English, Old Norse, and Old Saxon

Megan E. Hartman University of Nebraska at Kearney, hartmanme@unk.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/mip_rrc

Part of the Literature in English, British Isles Commons, and the Medieval Studies Commons

Recommended Citation

Hartman, Megan E., "Poetic Style and Innovation in Old English, Old Norse, and Old Saxon" (2020). *Richard Rawlinson Center Series.* 5. https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/mip_rrc/5

This Monograph is brought to you for free and open access by the Medieval Institute Publications at ScholarWorks at WMU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Richard Rawlinson Center Series by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at WMU. For more information, please contact wmuscholarworks@wmich.edu.



DE GRUYTER

Megan E. Hartman POETIC STYLE AND INNOVATION IN OLD ENGLISH, OLD NORSE, AND OLD SAXON

RICHARD RAWLINSON CENTER SERIES

DE

EDIEVA

Megan E. Hartman Poetic Style and Innovation in Old English, Old Norse, and Old Saxon

Richard Rawlinson Center Series for Anglo-Saxon Studies

Editorial Board and Special Advisors Lindy Brady, University of Mississippi, USA Kees Dekker, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, the Netherlands Nicole Guenther Discenza, University of South Florida Helen Foxhall Forbes, Durham University Timothy Graham, University of New Mexico, USA Catherine Karkov, University of Leeds, England (Series Editor) Rosalind Love, Robinson College, Cambridge University, England

Megan E. Hartman **Poetic Style and Innovation in Old English, Old Norse, and Old Saxon**



DE GRUYTER

ISBN 978-1-5015-1832-4 e-ISBN (PDF) 978-1-5015-1368-8 e-ISBN (EPUB) 978-1-5015-1355-8

Library of Congress Control Number: 2020946063

Bibliographic information published by the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek The Deutsche Nationalbibliothek lists this publication in the Deutsche Nationalbibliografie; detailed bibliographic data are available on the Internet at http://dnb.dnb.de.

© 2020 Walter de Gruyter GmbH, Berlin/Boston Cover image: © The British Library Board (Cotton MS Vespasian A.i f030v) Typesetting: Integra Software Services Pvt. Ltd. Printing and binding: CPI books GmbH, Leck

www.degruyter.com

For my parents

Contents

Acknowledgement — VII List of Tables — XII Introduction ----- 1 Chapter 1: Conservative Old English Hypermetrics: A Basis for Analysis — 15 Introduction — 15 Metrical Properties of Conservative Hypermetrics — 16 The Structure of the Onset ----- 17 The Structure of the Cadence — 20 Distribution Patterns - 23 Verse Grammar — 27 Points of Continuity — 28 Hypermetric Innovations — 31 Rhetorical Uses and Practical Purposes of Hypermetric Verse — 38 Conclusions — 50 Chapter 2: Old English Wisdom Poetry: The Influence of Formulaic Diction — 53 Introduction — 53 The Structure of Gnomic Hypermetrics — 56 The Structure of the Line — 56 The Distribution of the Line — 60 Kuhn's Laws in Gnomic Verse — 62 Placement of the Finite Verb — 65 Oral Formulaic Diction and Syntax ---- 67 Oral Formulaic Theory and Gnomic Formulae — 68 Formulaic Diction and the Structure of Gnomic Hypermetrics — 70 Syntax in Gnomic Hypermetrics — 74 The Rhetorical Functions of Gnomic Hypermetrics — 77 Hypermetrics in *The Fortunes of Men* — 79 Hypermetrics in Maxims II ---- 81 Hypermetrics in Maxims I ----- 84 Conclusion ---- 87

Chapter 3: Old Norse Ljóðaháttr and Málaháttr: Dividing

Hypermetrics — 89

Introduction — 89 Linguistic and Metrical Differences in Old Norse — 91 Effect of Linguistic Differences in Old Norse Meter — 92 Features of Old Norse Hypermetrics — 94 The Syntactic Style of Old Norse Hypermetrics — 98 Narrative Convenience in Málaháttr — 99 The Flexibility of the Ljóðaháttr Full Line — 103 Style Shifting in the Eddic Praise Poems — 112 Building up Battle in Hákonarmál — 113 Shifting views of Valholl in Eiríksmál — 117 Speech Patterning in Haraldskvæði — 120 Conclusion — 124

Chapter 4: The Old Saxon *Heliand*: Working through Ambiguity — 125 Introduction — 125

Linguistic Differences and Increased Flexibility in the Old Saxon Tradition — 127 Flexibility within the Verse Types — 128 Flexibility of Distribution Patterns — 130 Determining the Corpus — 134 The Composition of Old Saxon Hypermetrics — 135 The Structure of the Old Saxon Line — 136 Verse Grammar in Old Saxon — 138 Two Modes of Hypermetric Composition — 142 Converting the Bible through Hypermetrics — 145 The Sermon on the Mount — 147 Mary Magdalena — 150 Short Hypermetric Passages — 154 Conclusion — 156

Chapter 5: Late Old English Hypermetrics: Linguistic Change and Stylistic Adaptation in the Old English *Judith* — 159

Introduction — 159 Developments in Late Old English — 162 Hypermetric composition in *Judith* — 167 Hypermetric Structure in *Judith* — 167 Verse Grammar in *Judith* — 171 The Style and Possible Uses of *Judith's* Hypermetric Passages — 174 Repetition and Variation in *Judith* — 175 Thematic Expansion in Hypermetric Passages — 181 Conclusion — 192

Conclusion — 195

Works Cited — 199

Index — 211