

Treasures of the Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms

Start date 18 January 2019 **End date** 20 January 2019

Venue Madingley Hall
 Madingley
 Cambridge

Tutor Professor Edward James **Course code** 1819NRX013

Director of Academic Centres Sarah Ormrod

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To book See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262

Tutor biography

Edward James is Emeritus Professor of Medieval History at University College Dublin. He has held Chairs of Medieval History at both Reading and UCD; before that he was in the Department of History at the University of York, where he directed the Centre for Medieval Studies between 1990 and 1995. He has held research professorships at Rutgers and Sydney.

His DPhil from Oxford was in early medieval archaeology, and he has always emphasised the importance of archaeology for understanding the history of this period, and vice versa. He has published numerous articles on the archaeology and history of early medieval Europe, focussing on France. His first book was *The Merovingian Archaeology of South-West Gaul* (1977), which was followed by an edited book on Visigothic Spain (1980), *The Origins of France* (1982), *The Franks* (1988), *Britain in the First Millennium* (2000) and *Europe's Barbarians* (2009). His translation of Gregory of Tours' *Life of the Fathers* was the first book to appear in Liverpool University Press's Texts in Translation series (1985); he is currently working on a book on Gregory of Tours.

In another life he is a science fiction and fantasy fan. He published *Science Fiction in the Twentieth Century* with Oxford UP in 1994, and with Farah Mendlesohn edited *The Cambridge Companion to Science Fiction* (2003), which won a Hugo Award at the 2005 World Science Fiction Convention, and *The Cambridge Companion to Fantasy Literature* (2012). Their book *A Short History of Fantasy* appeared in 2009. In 2014 he prepared an extensive website on "Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of the Great War", which won the British Science Fiction Association's Best Non-Fiction Award in 2015.

Course programme

Friday

Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

19:00	Dinner
20:30 – 22:00	The Moore Bede (9) and the Laws of Æthelberht (10)
22:00	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Saturday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	The Charters of Hlothhere (19), Æthelbald (38) and Offa (43)
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	The Lindisfarne Gospels (30)
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Free
16:00	Tea
16:30 – 18:00	The Codex Amiatinus (34)
18:00 – 18:30	Free
18:30	Dinner
20:00 – 21:30	The Beowulf Manuscript (86), the Vercelli Book (87), the Junius Manuscript (89) and the Exeter Book (90)
21:30	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Sunday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	Bald's Leechbook (108)
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	The Great Domesday Book (161)
12:45	Lunch

The course will disperse after lunch

Course syllabus

Aims:

This course explores in depth some of the objects currently displayed in the British Library's exhibition "Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms: Art, Word, War", which is open from October 2018 to 19 February 2019: the numbers in the schedule above are the exhibition's catalogue numbers. The aim is to enhance the experience of visiting the exhibition, whether before or after the course. The thirteen objects have been chosen to illustrate as many aspects of Anglo-Saxon life and achievement as possible; a secondary aim, therefore, is to offer an introduction to Anglo-Saxon society and culture—an alternative title could be "A History of the Anglo-Saxons in Thirteen Objects".

Content:

All the sessions will look closely at the materiality of the objects in question. The Moore Bede is just one of many medieval copies of Bede's *Ecclesiastical History*, but it is one of the closest in time to Bede's actual life; this is contrasted with a book which contains the earliest known legislation from an Anglo-Saxon king, although it comes from six centuries later. A comparison of three royal charters is used to talk about the significance of charters to the historian. The Lindisfarne Gospels and the Codex Amiatinus, two of the most amazing books ever produced in Britain, come from a few miles from each other at roughly the same time, and yet seem worlds apart culturally. The Codex Amiatinus left England in 715/6, and has come back for the first time for this exhibition; the four manuscripts which contain almost all Old English poetry have come together for the first time. Finally, we shall look at an example of an English medical book, and a book that not only records the effects of the Conquest, but is our best record of the state of Anglo-Saxon England before its final destruction by the Normans.

Presentation of the course:

Each session will begin with an illustrated lecture talking about the object in question, and will then put forward points for discussion. There will be a handout with translations of the texts, or extracts from them, where appropriate.

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

- Better understand the analysis and interpretation of Anglo-Saxon manuscripts
- Better appreciate a visit or revisit to the British Library exhibition "Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms: Art, Word, War".
- Acquire a better understanding of Anglo-Saxon history and culture

Reading and resources list

Listed below are texts that might be of interest should you wish to supplement your learning on the course. Any essential reading is marked with an asterisk *

Author	Title	Publisher and date
Breay, Claire and Joanna Story, eds.	<i>Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms: Word, Art, War.</i>	British Library, 2018
Sources:		
Attenborough, F.L.	<i>The Laws of the Earliest English Kings</i>	CUP 1922, 2015
Bede	<i>Ecclesiastical History of the English People</i>	Penguin Classic, 1990
Bradley, S.A.J.	<i>Anglo-Saxon Poetry</i>	Everyman, 1982
Crossley-Holland, Kevin	<i>The Exeter Book Riddles</i>	Penguin Classic, 1979
Fulk, Robert D.	<i>The Beowulf Manuscript</i>	Harvard UP, 2010
Heaney, Seamus	<i>Beowulf</i>	Norton, 2002
Whitelock, Dorothy, ed.	<i>English Historical Documents, vol. 1</i>	2nd ed. Routledge, 1979
Williams, Ann et al.	<i>Domesday Book: A Complete Translation</i>	Penguin Classic, 2003
Studies:		
Backhouse, Janet, et al.	<i>The Golden Age of Anglo-Saxon Art, 966-1066</i>	BM, 1984
Brown, Michelle	<i>The Lindisfarne Gospels</i>	British Library, 2003
Cameron, Malcolm L.	<i>Anglo-Saxon Medicine</i>	CUP, 1993
DiGregorio, Scott, ed.	<i>The Cambridge Companion to Bede</i>	CUP, 2010
Fleming, Robin	<i>Britain After Rome: The Fall and Rise, 400-1070</i>	Penguin, 2011
Gameson, Richard	<i>From Holy Island to Durham: the Contexts and Meanings of the Lindisfarne Gospels</i>	Third Millennium, 2013
Gameson, Richard	<i>The Lindisfarne Gospels: New Perspectives</i>	Brill, 2017
Gameson, Richard	<i>Codex Amiatinus: Making and Meaning</i>	Jarrow Lecture, 2017
Hallam, Elizabeth	<i>Domesday Book through Nine Centuries</i>	Thames & Hudson, 1986
James, Edward	<i>Britain in the First Millennium</i>	Edward Arnold, 2001
Orchard, Andy	<i>Pride and Prodigies: Studies in the Monsters of the Beowulf-Manuscript, 2nd ed.</i>	U Toronto Press, 2003
Roffe, David	<i>Domesday: The Inquest and the Book</i>	Oxford UP, 2000
Webster, Leslie and Janet Backhouse, eds.	<i>The Making of England: Anglo-Saxon Art and Culture, AD 600-900</i>	British Museum, 1991
Webster, Leslie	<i>Anglo-Saxon Art: A New History</i>	British Museum, 2012
Zacher, Samantha	<i>Rewriting the Old Testament in Anglo-Saxon Verse</i>	Bloomsbury, 2014
Zacher, S. and Orchard, A. eds.	<i>New Readings on the Vercelli Book</i>	U Toronto Press, 2009

Note Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

Information correct as of: 01 November 2018