



Filologia del testo inglese medievale

CdL in Lingue e Letterature Europee e Americane

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Writing in Anglo-Saxon England

Literacy in Anglo-Saxon England = use of Latin alphabet

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Introduction of some graphs expressing typically Anglo-Saxon sounds:

/θ/ = voiceless dental fricative

/ð/ = voiced dental fricative

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/θ/ = voiceless dental fricative > rune *þ* (*thorn*)

/ð/ = voiced dental fricative > uncial *ð* (*eth*)

/w/ = velar approximant > rune *ƿ* (*wynn*)

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[London, British Library, MS Cotton Vespasian A.i, 'Vespasian Psalter'](#)

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- **Half-uncial** (5th-6th cent.): minuscule with characters (imperfectly) compressed to fit the bilinear system.

[Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS Auct. D.2.19, 'Rushworth Gospels'](#)

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(fol. 19^r)

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- **insular minuscule:** quadrilinear writing – with marked upper and lower strokes. It would become the standard insular writing.

Writing in Anglo-Saxon England

New writing = expression of national identity

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[Oxford, Bodleian Library MS Hatton 20, Gregory's *Pastoral Care* \(trans.\)](#)

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- **round minuscule** (11th cent.): round-shaped characters; strong influences from carolingian minuscule.

[London, British Library MS Cotton Tiberius B.v, *The Marvels of the East*](#)

Writing in Anglo-Norman England

12th cent.

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Gothic: very edgy script – it resembles the pointed arches typical of the gothic churches.

[Oxford, Bodleian Library MS 264, *Alexander and Dindimus* \(15th cent.\)](#)