

**PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION
IN HISTORY**

HISTORY OF THE BRITISH ISLES I

c. 300–1087

Bibliography

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION: BRITISH HISTORY I BRIEF BIBLIOGRAPHIES FOR THE CORE LECTURES

These bibliographies are intended to provide supplementary guidance as you proceed through the lecture series, either to prepare for the lectures beforehand or to fill in afterwards. They are NOT in any way substitutes for the weekly reading-lists set by your tutor.

Late Roman Britain and its collapse

- M. Millett, *The Romanization of Britain* (1990, paperback, 1992).
- S. Johnson, *Roman Britain* (1980).
- B. Ward-Perkins, *The Fall of Rome and the End of Civilization* (2005), offers very important context for the end of Roman Britain.
- A.S. Esmonde Cleary, *The Ending of Roman Britain* (1989).
- E.A. Thompson, *Saint Germanus of Auxerre and the End of Roman Britain* (1984) [Quirky but stimulating].
- D.N. Dumville, 'Sub-Roman Britain: History and Legend', *History* 62 (1977).
- Gildas, *The Ruin of Britain and Other Documents* ed. and tr. M. Winterbottom (1978).
- A.B.E. Hood (ed. and tr.), *St. Patrick, his Writings and Muirchu's Life* (1978).

The Anglo-Saxon settlements and problems of ethnicity

- J. Campbell (ed.), *The Anglo-Saxons* (1982, paperback 1991), chs. 1 and 2.
- H. Hamerow, 'Migration theory and the Anglo-Saxon "identity crisis"', in Hamerow, H. and Chapman, J. (eds.), *Migrations and Invasions in Archaeological Explanation* (BAR 664, 1997), 33–44.
- C. Hills, 'The archaeology of Anglo-Saxon England in the pagan period: a review', *Anglo-Saxon England* 8 (1979), 297–329.
- R. Hodges, *The Anglo-Saxon Achievement* (1989), ch. 2.
- M. Welch, *Anglo-Saxon England* (1992), esp. ch. 8.

British and Irish states in the fifth to eighth centuries

(a) General

- S. Bassett, *The Origins of Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms* (1989), ch. 2.
- P. Wormald, 'Celtic and Anglo-Saxon kingship: some further thoughts', in Szarmach, P., and Oggins, V. (eds.), *Sources of Anglo-Saxon Culture* (1986), 151–83.
- C. Thomas, *Britain and Ireland in Early Christian Times. AD 400–800* (1971).

(b) The Britons

Sources:

- A.O.H. Jarman (ed. and tr.), *Aneirin: Y Gododdin. Britain's Oldest Heroic Poem* (1988).
- M. Winterbottom (ed. and tr.), *Gildas: The Ruin of Britain and Other Documents* (1978).
- J. Morris (ed. and tr.), *Nennius: British History and the Welsh Annals* (1980).

Secondary:

- W. Davies, *Wales in the Early Middle Ages* (1982).
- W. Davies, *Patterns of Power in Early Wales* (1990).
- K. Hughes, *Celtic Britain in the Early Middle Ages* (1980).
- M. Lapidge, and D.N. Dumville (eds.), *Gildas: New Approaches* (1984), ch. 2.

(c) Ireland

Sources:

F. Kelly, (ed and tr.), *Audacht Morainn* (1976) [a statement of what kings should be].

A guide is
K. Hughes, *Early Christian Ireland: Introduction to the Sources* (1972).

Secondary:

D. O Croinin, *Early Medieval Ireland 400-1200* (1995).

t. Charles-Edwards, *Early Christian Ireland* (2000).

F.J. Byrne, *Irish Kings and High-Kings* (1973). [Chs. 1–6 are more accessible than the detailed dynastic history in chs. 7–12.]

N. Edwards, *The Archaeology of Early Medieval Ireland* (1990).

(d) Northern Britain

B.E. Crawford (ed.), *Scotland in Dark-Age Europe* (1994).

I. Henderson, *The Picts* (1967).

E.H. Nicoll (ed.), *A Pictish Panorama: The Story of the Picts and A Pictish Bibliography* (1995). [Useful brief introductory essays.]

The formation of Anglo-Saxon kingdoms

P. Wormald, 'The emergence of Anglo-Saxon kingdoms', in L.M. Smith (ed.), *The Making of Britain: the Dark Ages* (Macmillan for LWT, 1984).

J. Campbell (ed.), *The Anglo-Saxons* (1982, paperback 1991), chs. 2–3. [Excellent text and even better illustrations.]

P.H. Sawyer, *From Roman Britain to Norman England* (1978, 2nd edn. 1998), ch. 1(2). [Otherwise the best modern 'textbook.].

S. Bassett (ed.), *The Origins of Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms* (1989). [As the title implies, this is now the standard collection on this theme. Sample it, e.g. chs. 1–3 (introductory), 4 (Kent), 6 (Wessex), 7, 11 (Mercia), 16 (Tribal Hidage).]

B. Yorke, *Kings and Kingdoms of Early Anglo-Saxon England* (1990). [Another useful collection, in the same 'spirit' as Bassett's. Read chs. I, VIII, and a couple of other 'sample' kingdoms.]

- D.P. Kirby, *The Earliest English Kings* (1991), chs. 1–4 [likewise, a bit more analytical].
- F.M. Stenton, *Anglo-Saxon England* (3rd ed., 1971). [Remains the ‘great work’ on Anglo-Saxon history. Do not by-pass its chs. 2–3, but remember that it was originally published in 1943.]

The economy, seventh to ninth centuries

- R. Hodges, *The Anglo-Saxon Achievement: Archaeology and the Beginnings of English Society* (1989).
- D. Hinton, *Archaeology, Economy and Society: Britain from the Fifth to the Fifteenth Century* (1990).
- D. Hinton, *Gold and Gilt, Pots and Pins: Possessions and People in Medieval Britain* (2005).
- C.J. Arnold, *An Archaeology of the Early Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms* (1988).
- R. Faith, *The English Peasantry and the Growth of Lordship* (1997).
- W. Davies, *Wales in the Early Middle Ages* (1982).
- C. Fell, *Women in Anglo-Saxon England* (1984).
- D. Hill, *An Atlas of Anglo-Saxon England* (1981).
- G. Williams, *Early Anglo-Saxon Coins* (2008).
- T. Pestell and K. Ulmschneider (eds.), *Markets in Early Medieval Europe* (2003);
- Articles on ‘Agriculture’, ‘Animal husbandry’, ‘Estates’, ‘Field-systems’, ‘Food and drink’ in M. Lapidge, J. Blair, S. Keynes and D. Scragg (eds.), *The Blackwell Encyclopaedia of Anglo-Saxon England* (1999).

The early Anglo-Saxon Church: conversion, organization and pastoral care

- H. Mayr-Harting, *The Coming of Christianity to Anglo-Saxon England* (1972).
- J. Blair, *The Church in Anglo-Saxon Society* (2005).
- P. Hunter Blair, *The World of Bede* (1971).
- J. Campbell, *Essays in Anglo-Saxon History* (1986), chapters 1–4.

- J. Blair and R. Sharpe (eds.), *Pastoral Care before the Parish* (1992).
- P. Sims-Williams, *Religion and Literature in Western England 600–800* (1990).
- S. Foot, *Monastic Life in Anglo-Saxon England c.600-900* (2006).

The Mercian supremacy

- J. Campbell (ed.), *The Anglo-Saxons* (1982, paperback 1991), chs. 4–5.
- P.H. Sawyer, *From Roman Britain to Norman England* (1978, 2nd edn., 1998), ch. 11(1).
- S. Bassett (ed.), *The Origins of Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms* (1989) [e.g., chs.11–14].
- B. Yorke, *Kings and Kingdoms of Early Anglo-Saxon England* (1990), chs. V–VI.
- D.P. Kirby, *The Earliest English Kings* (1991), chs. 6–7.
- M.P. Brown and C.A. Farr (eds.), *Mercia: an Anglo-Saxon Kingdom in Europe* (2001).
- J. Story, *Carolingian Connections* (2003).

Art and architecture

- R. Dodwell, *Anglo-Saxon Art: a New Perspective* (1982).
- E. Fernie, *The Architecture of the Anglo-Saxons* (1982).
- G. Henderson, *From Durrrow to Kells*.
- L. Webster and J. Backhouse (eds.), *The Making of England: Anglo-Saxon Art and Culture AD 600–900* (catalogue of British Museum exhibition, 1991).
- S. Youngs (eds.), *'The Work of Angels': Masterpieces of Celtic Metalwork. 6th–9th Centuries AD* (catalogue of British Museum exhibition, 1989).
- J. Backhouse, D.H. Turner and L. Webster (eds.), *The Golden Age of Anglo-Saxon Art. 966-1066* (catalogue of British Museum exhibition, 1984).
- R. N. Bailey, *England's Earliest Sculptors* (1996).

The impact on Britain of Ireland and Irish culture in the sixth to ninth centuries

[The lecturer will distribute a brief reading-list separately.]

The Nordic impact

- P.H. Sawyer, *Kings and Vikings* (1982).
- B. Crawford, *Scandinavian Scotland* (1987).
- B. Clarke et al. (eds.), *Ireland and Scandinavia in the Early Viking Age* (1998).
- P. Sawyer, *Anglo-Saxon Lincolnshire* (1998), chs. 6, 7 and 9.
- J. Graham-Campbell and others (eds.), *Vikings and the Danelaw* (2001).
- D.M. Hadley and J.D. Richards (eds.), *Cultures in Contact: Scandinavian Settlement in England in the Ninth and Tenth Centuries* (2000).
- P. Sawyer (ed.), *The Oxford Illustrated History of the Vikings* (1997) [articles by Keynes, Ó Corráin and Lund].

Alfred and the rise of Wessex

The best short book on Alfred is

- R. Abels, *Alfred the Great* (1998).
- S. Keynes and M. Lapidge, *Alfred the Great: Asser's Life of King Alfred and Other Contemporary Sources* (Penguin, 1983) is essential.

Stimulating articles are:

- R.H.C. Davis, 'Alfred the Great: Propaganda and Truth', *History* 56 (1971), 169–82.
- R. Fleming, 'Monastic lands and England's defence in the Viking Age', *English Historical Review*. 100 (1985), 247–65.
- J. Nelson, 'Wealth and wisdom: the politics of Alfred the Great', in J. Rosenthal (ed.), *Kings and Kingship: Acta* 11 (1986 for 1984), 31-52.
- J.R. Maddicott, 'Trade, industry and the wealth of King Alfred', *Past and Present* 135 (1992), 142–88, opened a new dimension.
- A.P. Smyth, *Alfred the Great* (1995) is a work much condemned by other experts, because its author argues (almost certainly wrongly) that 'Asser' is a fake (or quasi- fake) of c.1000. For all that it is a most interesting work, full of relevant learning.

Kingdoms and kingship in the British Isles, 900–1100

(a) Ireland

H.B. Clarke, M. Ní Mhaonaigh and R. Ó Floinn (eds.), *Ireland and Scandinavia in the Early Viking Age* (1998), chs 3–5, 12–13, 16.

D. Ó Corráin, *Ireland Before the Normans* (1972).

D. Ó Corráin, 'Nationality and kingship in pre-Norman Ireland', in T.W. Moody (ed.), *Nationality and the Pursuit of National Independence* *Historical Studies* 12 (1978), 1–35.

(b) Wales

W. Davies, *Wales in the Early Middle Ages* (1982).

(c) The Kingdom of the Scots

A.P. Smyth, *Warlords and Holy Men: Scotland, AD 80–1000* (1984), chs. 6–7.

A. Woolf, *From Pictland to Alba 789–1070* (2007).

P. Wormald, 'The emergence of the *Regnum Scottorum*: a Carolingian hegemony?', in B.E. Crawford (ed.), *Scotland in Dark-Age Britain* (1996), 131–60.

B.E. Crawford, *Scandinavian Scotland* (1987).

The Church, 900–1100: saints, monasteries and local transformation

D. Rollason, *Saints and Relics in Anglo-Saxon England* (1989), esp. chs. 7 and 8.

E. John, *Orbis Britanniae* (1966), esp. 154–80 and 234–48.

P. Wormald, 'Æthelwold and his continental counterparts: context, comparison, contrast', in B. Yorke (ed.), *Bishop Æthelwold: his Career and Influence* (1988).

- A. Gransden, 'Traditionalism and continuity during the last century of Anglo-Saxon monasticism', *Journal of Ecclesiastical History* 40 (1989), 159–207.
- J. Blair, *The Church in Anglo-Saxon Society* (2005).
- J. Blair (ed.), *Minsters and Parish Churches: the Local Church in Transition 950–1200* (1988).
- J. Backhouse and others (eds.), *The Golden Age of Anglo-Saxon Art, 999–1066* (British Museum exhibition catalogue, 1984).
- Regularis Concordia* ed. and tr. T. Symons (Nelson Oxford Medieval Texts, 1953). [Read the preface (pp.1–9) and skim subsequent chapters for an idea of the daily routine which such customaries stipulated.]
- English Historical Documents* 1, No. 238, for the vernacular account of King Eadgar's establishment of the monasteries.
- Wulfstan, *The Life of Æthelwold* ed. and trans. M. Lapidge and M. Winterbottom

Late Anglo-Saxon government

- H.R. Loyn, *The Governance of Anglo-Saxon England 500–1087*(1984) is a good overview.
- S. Keynes, 'Royal government and the written word in late Anglo-Saxon England', in R McKitterick (ed.), *The Uses of Literacy in Early Medieval Europe* (1990), 226–57.
- J. Campbell, 'Observations on English government from the tenth to the twelfth century', *Transactions of the Royal Historical Society* 5th ser. 23 (1975), 39–54.
- J. Campbell, *The Anglo-Saxon State* (2000) reprints several essays that have been of transformative importance in perceptions of late Anglo-Saxon government, administration, bureaucracy and royal power; see especially chapters 1, 8 and 9.
- Ann Williams, *Kingship and Government in Pre-Conquest England c.500–1066* (1999) is the most recent contribution, and a very good one.
- S. Baxter, *The Earls of Mercia* 2007) is transformative, especially in its treatment of the intersections between central and regional power,

The economy and the rise of towns, 850–1100

- D. Hinton, *Archaeology. Economy and Society: Britain from the Fifth to the Fifteenth Century* (1990).
- P. Grierson and M. Blackburn, *Medieval European Coinage I: the Early Middle Ages* (1986).
- J. Haslam (ed.), *Anglo-Saxon Towns in Southern England* (1984).
- A. Vince, *Saxon London* (1990).
- G. Astill, 'Towns and Town Hierarchies in Saxon England', *Oxford Journal of Archeology*, 10 (1991), 95-117.
- D. Hill, *An Atlas of Anglo-Saxon England* (1981).

Articles on 'Coinage' and 'Towns' in

- M. Lapidge, J. Blair, S. Keynes and D. Scragg (eds.), *The Blackwell Encyclopaedia of Anglo-Saxon England* (1999).

The Norman Conquest and the government of William I

- R. Fleming, *Kings and Lords in Conquest England* (1991) (but now see critique by Baxter, *Earls of Mercia*).
- B. Golding, *Conquest and Colonization. The Normans in Britain 1066–1100* (1994).
- G. Garnett, *Conquered England* (2007).
- A. Williams, *The English and the Norman Conquest* (1995).
- M. Strickland, *Anglo-Norman Warfare* (1992), esp. paper by J. Prestwich. 'Anglo-Saxon Chronicle 1042–1088'.
- William of Poitiers, *Gesta Guillelmi* ed. and tr. R.H.C. Davis and M. Chibnall (Oxford Medieval Texts, 1998), part II, pp.100–187.