

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-03184-4 - Images of Community in Old English Poetry

Hugh Magennis

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE STUDIES IN
ANGLO-SAXON ENGLAND

18

IMAGES OF COMMUNITY IN
OLD ENGLISH POETRY

CAMBRIDGE STUDIES IN
 ANGLO-SAXON ENGLAND

GENERAL EDITORS

SIMON KEYNES

MICHAEL LAPIDGE

ASSISTANT EDITOR: ANDY ORCHARD

Volumes published

- 1 *Anglo-Saxon Crucifixion Iconography and the Art of the Monastic Revival* by BARBARA C. RAW
- 2 *The Cult of the Virgin Mary in Anglo-Saxon England* by MARY CLAYTON
- 3 *Religion and Literature in Western England, 600–800* by PATRICK SIMS-WILLIAMS
- 4 *Visible Song: Transitional Literacy in Old English Verse* by KATHERINE O'BRIEN O'KEEFFE
- 5 *The Metrical Grammar of Beowulf* by CALVIN B. KENDALL
- 6 *The Irish Tradition in Old English Literature* by CHARLES D. WRIGHT
- 7 *Anglo-Saxon Medicine* by M. L. CAMERON
- 8 *The Poetic Art of Aldhelm* by ANDY ORCHARD
- 9 *The Old English Lives of St Margaret* by MARY CLAYTON and HUGH MAGENNIS
- 10 *Biblical Commentaries from the Canterbury School of Theodore and Hadrian* by BERNHARD BISCHOFF and MICHAEL LAPIDGE
- 11 *Archbishop Theodore: Commemorative Studies on his Life and Influence* edited by MICHAEL LAPIDGE
- 12 *Interactions of Thought and Language in Old English Poetry* by PETER CLEMOES
- 13 *The Textuality of Old English Poetry* by CAROL BRAUN PASTERNAK
- 14 *The 'Laterculus Malalianus' and the School of Archbishop Theodore* by JANE STEVENSON
- 15 *The Text of the Old Testament in Anglo-Saxon England* by RICHARD MARSDEN
- 16 *Old English Biblical Verse* by PAUL G. REMLEY
- 17 *The Hymns of the Anglo-Saxon Church* by INGE B. MILFULL

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-03184-4 - Images of Community in Old English Poetry

Hugh Magennis

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

IMAGES OF COMMUNITY IN OLD ENGLISH POETRY

HUGH MAGENNIS

The Queen's University of Belfast



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
 978-0-521-03184-4 - Images of Community in Old English Poetry
 Hugh Magennis
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
 Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo

Cambridge University Press
 The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org
 Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521495660

© Cambridge University Press 1996

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception
 and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,
 no reproduction of any part may take place without
 the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 1996
 This digitally printed first paperback version 2006

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data
 Magennis, Hugh.

Images of community in Old English poetry / Hugh Magennis.
 p. cm. – (Cambridge Studies in Anglo-Saxon England: 18)
 Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0 521 49566 0 (hard)

1. English poetry – Old English, ca. 450–1100 – History and criticism.
2. Community life in literature.
3. Christian poetry, English (Old) – History and criticism.
4. Epic poetry, English (Old) – History and criticism.
5. Civilization, Anglo-Saxon, in literature.
6. Literature and society – England – History.
7. Germanic peoples in literature. 8. Beowulf.

I. Title. II. Series.

PR203.M24 1996

829'.1–dc20 95–26344 CIP

ISBN-13 978-0-521-49566-0 hardback

ISBN-10 0-521-49566-0 hardback

ISBN-13 978-0-521-03184-4 paperback

ISBN-10 0-521-03184-2 paperback

Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	page vii
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	viii
1 Introduction: ideas of community and an Anglo-Saxon audience/readership	1
2 Hall and city, feasting and drinking: images of communal life	35
3 Hall and feasting in <i>Beowulf</i>	60
4 Hall and feasting: transformations and alternative perspectives	82
5 Personal in conflict with communal	104
6 The mythic landscape of <i>Beowulf</i> : sea, stronghold and wilderness	121
7 The dwelling-places of God's people: place and setting in biblical poetry	144
8 Places of trial and triumph in hagiographical poetry	168
9 Conclusion: community and power in later poetic and other texts	189
<i>Bibliography</i>	201
<i>Index</i>	207

Acknowledgements

The Queen's University of Belfast granted study leave and funds for travel in connection with my research for this book, for which I am most grateful. I am also grateful to the publishers of *English Studies*, Swets and Zeitlinger, for kindly giving me permission to incorporate into the book, with minor revisions, my article, 'Treatments of Treachery and Betrayal in Anglo-Saxon Texts'. I would like to thank Mary Clayton, Ivan Herbison, Tom McNeill and Brian Scott for their advice and suggestions, and am particularly indebted to Michael Lapidge and Andy Orchard for their invaluable editorial assistance.

Abbreviations

ASE	<i>Anglo-Saxon England</i>
ASPR	The Anglo-Saxon Poetic Records, ed. G. P. Krapp and E. V. K. Dobbie, 6 vols. (New York, 1931–53) (All references herein to Old English poems, including <i>Beowulf</i> , are to this edition, unless otherwise specified.)
BAR	British Archaeological Reports
CCSL	Corpus Christianorum, Series Latina (Turnhout)
CSASE	Cambridge Studies in Anglo-Saxon England
CSEL	Corpus Scriptorum Ecclesiasticorum Latinorum (Vienna)
EEMF	Early English Manuscripts in Facsimile (Copenhagen)
EETS	Early English Text Society
os	original series
ss	supplementary series
ELN	<i>English Language Notes</i>
HE	Bede's <i>Historia Ecclesiastica Gentis Anglorum</i> , ed. and trans. Colgrave and Mynors, <i>Bede's Ecclesiastical History of the English People</i>
JEGP	<i>Journal of English and Germanic Philology</i>
MGH	Monumenta Germaniae Historica
Auct. antiq.	Auctores antiquissimi
Epist.	Epistolæ Aevi Carolini
MLR	<i>Modern Language Review</i>
NM	<i>Neuphilologische Mitteilungen</i>
OE	Old English
ON	Old Norse
PG	Patrologia Graeca, ed. J.-P. Migne, 162 vols. (Paris, 1857–68)

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-03184-4 - Images of Community in Old English Poetry
Hugh Magennis
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

List of abbreviations

- PL Patrologia Latina, ed. J. P. Migne, 221 vols. (Paris, 1844–64)
- PMLA *Proceedings of the Modern Language Association of America*
- Vulgate *Biblia Sacra iuxta Vulgatam Clementinam*, ed. A. Colunga and L. Turrado, 5th. ed. (Madrid, 1977). (Latin biblical references and quotations herein are to this edition. Biblical quotations in English are based on *The Holy Bible* (Douai-Rheims version, rev. R. Challoner) (London, 1914).)