

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-67478-3 - Our Forefathers: The Gothonic Nations: A Manual of the Ethnography of the Gothic,
German, Dutch, Anglo-Saxon, Frisian and Scandinavian Peoples: Volume I

Gudmund Schütte

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

OUR FOREFATHERS

THE GOTHONIC NATIONS

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-67478-3 - Our Forefathers: The Gothonic Nations: A Manual of the Ethnography of the Gothic, German, Dutch, Anglo-Saxon, Frisian and Scandinavian Peoples: Volume I

Gudmund Schütte

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-67478-3 - Our Forefathers: The Gothonic Nations: A Manual of the Ethnography of the Gothic, German, Dutch, Anglo-Saxon, Frisian and Scandinavian Peoples: Volume I

Gudmund Schütte

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

OUR FOREFATHERS

THE GOTHONIC NATIONS

A

MANUAL OF THE ETHNOGRAPHY OF
THE GOTHIC, GERMAN,
DUTCH, ANGLO-SAXON, FRISIAN AND
SCANDINAVIAN PEOPLES

by

GUDMUND SCHÜTTE, PH.D.

VOLUME I

Translated by

JEAN YOUNG, M.A. (CANTAB.)

CAMBRIDGE

AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS

1929

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-67478-3 - Our Forefathers: The Gothic Nations: A Manual of the Ethnography of the Gothic, German, Dutch, Anglo-Saxon, Frisian and Scandinavian Peoples: Volume I

Gudmund Schütte

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

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

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107674783

© Cambridge University Press 1929

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 1929

First paperback edition 2013

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

ISBN 978-1-107-67478-3 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-67478-3 - Our Forefathers: The Gothonic Nations: A Manual of the Ethnography of the Gothic,
German, Dutch, Anglo-Saxon, Frisian and Scandinavian Peoples: Volume I

Gudmund Schütte

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

To
Dame Bertha Phillpotts
in gratitude for her encouragement

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-67478-3 - Our Forefathers: The Gothonic Nations: A Manual of the Ethnography of the Gothic, German, Dutch, Anglo-Saxon, Frisian and Scandinavian Peoples: Volume I

Gudmund Schütte

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

*Published with the aid of subventions
from the Carlsberg Fund and the Rask
Ørsted Fund*

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-67478-3 - Our Forefathers: The Gothonic Nations: A Manual of the Ethnography of the Gothic, German, Dutch, Anglo-Saxon, Frisian and Scandinavian Peoples: Volume I

Gudmund Schütte

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

*Preface**page ix*

INTRODUCTORY SECTION

§§ 1–8. The Indo-Europeans

1. Names	1
2. Sub-division	1
3. Ethnic position	2
4. Environment	2
5. Old home	5
6. Language	6
7. Civilisation	8
8. History	9

PART I. THE GOTHONIC NATIONS

General Description

I. §§ 9–25. Names

9. List of names in alphabetical order	10
10. Mythical conception. Sons of Man	10

§§ 11–15. *Names derived from the northern zone*

11. Norse peoples	11
12. Midnight or septentrional peoples	11
13. Cimbri. Danish ‘Himmerboer’	11
13 <i>a</i> . Teutons=‘Inhabitants of Thiuth’	12
14. Lochlannacha=‘Norwegians’ or ‘Northmen’	12
15. Varjazi=‘Varangians’	13
16. Nēmici, origin unknown	14

§§ 17–19. *Names derived from foreign nations*

17. Celto-Scythians=‘an intermediate people between Celts and Scythians’ .	14
18. Celts and Galatians=‘north-westerly non-Greek and non-Latin peoples’	15
19. Germanic nations=‘non-Celtic Northmen’, later=‘Germans’	17

§§ 20–22. *Names derived from the Germans*

20. Deutsche, Teutsche=‘those who speak popularly’, later=‘Germans’ .	28
21. Teutons, literally=‘people’, later=‘Germans’	29
22. Alemains=‘all-men’, later=‘Germans’	30
23. The intermediate form Gotho-Germans	30
24. Derivation from ‘Goths’: <i>eþel Gotena</i> , <i>Gotþjóð</i> , Goths, the Gothic Family, Gothonic nations	30
25. Comparison of the various forms of names	35

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-67478-3 - Our Forefathers: The Gothonic Nations: A Manual of the Ethnography of the Gothic, German, Dutch, Anglo-Saxon, Frisian and Scandinavian Peoples: Volume I

Gudmund Schütte

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

vi

CONTENTS

II. §§ 26–35. Sub-division	<i>page</i>
26. Various schemes of sub-division	37
27. The Mannung Genealogy	38
28. The Genealogy in Tacitus B	40
29. Mediaeval and Renaissance attempts at sub-division	41
30. The ‘Genealogical Theory’. North Gothonic as opposed to South Gothonic	42
31. The ‘Wave Theory’. Anglo-Saxon as the intermediate link between North and South Gothonic	44
32. The twofold division: West Gothonic-North Gothonic against East Gothonic	47
33. The twofold division: East Gothonic = Gothic-Scandinavian against West Gothonic	47
34. The threefold division: East, West, and North Gothonic	49
35. Political and literary dates of birth of the Gothonic nationalities	50
III. §§ 36–40. Ethnic Position	
36. Different ethnic points of view	53
37. The Kentum phase	54
38. The West European phase	55
39. The Sound Shift phase	57
40. The evolution of Gothonic place names	58
IV. §§ 41–69. Environment	
41. Survey of neighbours	60
42. Marks of age in the names of neighbouring peoples	61
43. Names of neighbours of home-made stamp	64
44. Names of neighbours changed into mythical names	64
45. Names of neighbours as an element in personal names	65
46. A German mark of non-Gothonic nationality	66
§§ 47–62. <i>Indo-European neighbours</i>	
47. The Aryans	66
48. Mutual relations between Aryan and Gothonic civilisation	69
49. Armenians or Haikh	70
50. <i>Arnaut</i> or Albanians = Škijipetar	71
51. The ancient peoples of the East Balkan peninsula—Thracians, Dacians, and the Phrygians	71
52. Mutual relations between Dacian and Gothonic civilisation	75
53. Baltic nations = Aisti	77
54. Mutual relations between Baltic and Gothonic civilisation	80
55. Slavs = Wends	81
56. Mutual relations between Slavonic and Gothonic civilisation	87

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-67478-3 - Our Forefathers: The Gothic Nations: A Manual of the Ethnography of the Gothic, German, Dutch, Anglo-Saxon, Frisian and Scandinavian Peoples: Volume I

Gudmund Schütte

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

vii

	<i>page</i>
57. Greeks = Hellenes	88
58. Mutual relations between Greek and Gothic civilisation	91
59. Illyrians	93
60. Itali, practically = Romans	95
61. Mutual relations between Roman and Gothic civilisation	98
62. Celts = Wealas	106
63. Mutual relations between Celtic and Gothic civilisation	122
§§ 64–69. <i>Non-Indo-European neighbours</i>	
64. Finno-Ugrian peoples	125
65. Mutual relations between Finno-Lappish and Gothic civilisation	128
66. Huns, Avars, Bulgarians	132
67. Mutual relations between Hunnish and Gothic civilisation	133
68. Antes = Circassians	136
69. Peripheral neighbours: Cappadocians, Basques, Semites	137
V. §§ 70–74. Old Home	
70. Starting-point in racial history	138
71. Derivation from the south	138
72. Derivation from the north	139
73. Criticism of the traditions	143
74. The pre-Scandinavian starting-point	145
VI. §§ 75–85. Language	
75. Prefatory note on the ethnographically important types	147
76. Distribution of the various types in Gothic	151
77. Tribal names and toponyms	155
78. Family names	162
79. Place names	164
80. Cosmic names	183
81. Names for worship of the gods, or sorcery	184
82. Names of spirits and gods	185
83. Names of men	187
84. Names of professions, occupations, etc.	190
85. Survey of the various phases in the evolution of the languages	196
VII. §§ 86–100. Civilisation	
86. Survey of the field of study	198
87. Costume, coiffure	200
88. Constitution, social system	203
89. Trade, handicrafts, navigation	208

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-67478-3 - Our Forefathers: The Gothic Nations: A Manual of the Ethnography of the Gothic, German, Dutch, Anglo-Saxon, Frisian and Scandinavian Peoples: Volume I

Gudmund Schütte

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

viii

CONTENTS

§§ 90–100. <i>Religion</i>	<i>page</i>
90. Religious community	211
91. Pre-animism. Belief in the life of matter	212
92. Belief in the soul. Werewolf, the night-jar, the soul, Dfsir, Norns	213
93. Wights, Ases, heroes, alfar	214
94. Giants and other demons	215
95. Primitive nature gods	217
96. Gods in animal form	220
97. Local goddesses; the Dioscuri or Alci	222
98. Fertility divinities, Nerthus and Njörd, and their family, the Vanes	223
99. Woden, Odin	226
100. Priests, divine worship, sorcery	230
 VIII. §§ 101–111. <i>History</i>	
101. Survey of the different phases in the history of the Gothic nations	238
102. The West European phase	239
103. The Finnish phase	239
104. The East European phase	240
105. The continental Celtic phase	241
106. The Roman phase	243
107. The Hunnish phase	245
108. The phase of Slavonic advance	246
109. The British phase	251
110. The phase of West Slavonic retreat	252
111. Conclusion	253
 <i>Index</i>	 255
 <i>List of Abbreviations</i>	 289
 <i>Appendix</i>	 291

ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig. 1. Mammoth and <i>olfend</i> (camel)	292
2. Gothic tribal names and toponymics	293
3. Important Scandinavian Long Derivative types	294
4. The primaeval Gothic nomenclature of parishes in the county of Hardsyssel in Western Jutland available for download in colour from www.cambridge.org/9781107674783	
5. South-east European influences	296
6. Celtic influences	297
7. Roman influences	296
8. Distribution of nationalities according to Ptolemy	298
9. Distribution of nationalities shown on a correct map	300
10. The map of Germania in Ptolemy's atlas, Cod. Urbinae 82	301

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-67478-3 - Our Forefathers: The Gothic Nations: A Manual of the Ethnography of the Gothic, German, Dutch, Anglo-Saxon, Frisian and Scandinavian Peoples: Volume I

Gudmund Schütte

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

PREFACE

The Anglo-Saxon scientific world has long felt the lack of a description of the ethnography of our forefathers (the peoples of the North), comparable with the German text-books of Zeuss, Bremer, Much and Kauffmann. No such work has yet been published in English, and since my English and American colleagues hold out no hope of the production of such a work in the near future, I have at length endeavoured to supply the lack.

The present volume was published in Danish in 1926. I have been engaged on preliminary study since about 1900, but, in spite of this, the contents cannot claim to be a thoroughly mature product. The encyclopaedic scale on which the book is planned would have necessitated at least a dozen collaborators for the satisfactory working-out of the separate parts, whereas I have only had one, Dr M. Schönfeld of Holland, who did excellent work, but who only assisted me temporarily.

The strength of my work lies not in its subject-matter, but in its method, the systematic frame-work. The contents should be regarded as material to illustrate the use of this frame.

The basic principle of encyclopaedic description is that homogeneous matter should always be presented in homogeneous columns under precisely the same headings and in the same order. This method has long been appreciated and used in the geographical, but not in the ethnographical, sections of encyclopaedias. If the encyclopaedic item 'Nations' be consulted, the result will be found to be complete chaos; each collaborator writes according to his own fancy, so that it is impossible for the reader to orientate himself or to make a full comparison of one article with another.

In the present work a strict regularity of plan has taken the place of chaos. A regular series of sections is observed: 'Name', 'Sub-division', 'Ethnic Position', 'Old Home', 'Environment', 'Language', 'Civilisation', 'History'. In the introductory chapter on the Indo-Europeans, which was originally designed as a separate volume, these sections appear as paragraphs, whereas in the description of the Gothic Nations as a whole the same headings appear as chapters. In Volume II, which will give an account of the individual Gothic tribes, the paragraphs of each chapter are constructed on the whole on the same lines, only here

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-67478-3 - Our Forefathers: The Gothonic Nations: A Manual of the Ethnography of the Gothic, German, Dutch, Anglo-Saxon, Frisian and Scandinavian Peoples: Volume I

Gudmund Schütte

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

x

P R E F A C E

some of the above-mentioned sections will be omitted, e.g. 'Old Home', 'Environment', 'Language', etc.: and a new one added, viz. 'Epic Traditions'. As a detailed subject-index accompanies this systematic, homogeneous series of sections, the reader will thereby be enabled to orientate himself in a way hitherto impossible.

It is in this respect that I claim that my method marks the chief advance on the prevailing want of design.

I must add that the nomenclature has also been subjected to a systematic reform. In current works words such as 'Race', 'Nation', 'Group', 'Tribe', are often used in a manner which makes for complete confusion; logic is ignored in order to gratify subordinate aesthetic claims. I aim at strict scientific distinction. 'Race' is used only in the anthropological sense of the word, 'Family' (written with a capital letter) for the broadest divisions into groups according to language, e.g. Indo-Europeans, Semites, Finno-Ugrians, etc.; 'Group of nations' or 'peoples' is used for the chief division within the Families, e.g. in the Indo-European: Gothonic nations (or Teutons), Celts (Kelts), Greeks, Slavs. 'Sub-group' is the next division, e.g. among the Gothonic nations: the East Gothonic or Gothic, the North Gothonic or Scandinavian, the South Gothonic = Germans and Dutchmen. Then follows the 'Branch' comprising various local tribes, e.g. the Gothic branch; it is almost equivalent to the more modern idea of 'Nations' such as the Englishmen, Frisians, Germans, Dutchmen, Swedes, Norwegians, Danes. 'Tribe' is the smallest unit, restricted in the main to remote antiquity, e.g. among Englishmen: Angles, South-, East- and West-Saxons.

Adhering to the older English and Scandinavian expression 'Goths', I call our forefathers 'Gothonic nations' so as to avoid the ambiguity attending all the synonyms now in use, both 'Goths', 'Teutons' and 'Germanic nations'. Otto Jespersen has adopted my usage in his widely-circulated work, *Language*, thereby showing its suitability for international use.

Readers will not fail to notice, and may to some extent be wearied by, repetitions. They are fairly necessary, however, as the system demands that the same particulars shall be specified in another place from new and distinct points of view. With a more finely worked-out technique their number might be reduced, but that must be the task of the future.

Such a work as this must inevitably be much more open to critical objections than its predecessors. While these latter, by their pursuance

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-67478-3 - Our Forefathers: The Gothic Nations: A Manual of the Ethnography of the Gothic, German, Dutch, Anglo-Saxon, Frisian and Scandinavian Peoples: Volume I

Gudmund Schütte

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

P R E F A C E

xi

of a fanciful individual arrangement of material, are easily enabled to cover over the gaps in their knowledge, my present method automatically betrays unevennesses and lacunae; criticism will thus at once seize upon innumerable defects which are not so conspicuous in other works. But if these works were rearranged according to my methodical scheme, many unsuspected defects might be revealed.

I repeat that my work claims to be pioneer by reason of its design, not of its subject-matter. From the latter point of view it may almost be regarded as a kind of *ballon d'essai* which may inspire scholars to soar to greater heights. It is obvious that a work such as this demands one man's initiative, since a strict methodical scheme is not easily produced by collaboration. But as soon as the first effort has been made, it will arouse the interest of all.

My answer to the criticism challenged by my own imperfections as regards subject-matter is simply: 'Well, go and do it better!' The Anglo-Saxon world boasts a sufficient number of excellent specialists. If these would only agree to collaborate according to the standard I have ventured to set them, they would in a short time achieve the work which, in spite of twenty-five years' study, has become so imperfect a conglomerate in the hands of one man.

This work is but a modest step in the direction of the ideal goal: the concise Anglo-Saxon manual of ethnography. Therein, however, lies its own justification.

For further details I may refer the reader to the preface to the Danish edition, *Vor Folkegruppe Gottjod*.

G. S.

ESKJÆR, JEBJERG
July 1927