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THE GOTHONIC NATIONS

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

by

GUDMUND SCHÜTTE, PH.D.

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To the memory of

DAME BERTHA PHILLPOTTS NEWALL

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PREFACE

The second volume of this work can only lay claim to the same modest value as its predecessor, so far as the preciseness of its particulars is concerned.

To make it quite satisfactory in this respect, its various parts ought to have been worked out by as many separate experts. I have not been able to obtain such authoritative collaboration; but Dr Schönfeld, who revised the first volume, has also given valuable help with the greater part of the second, and he has contributed largely to the contents of the Frisian chapter. In addition, the following chapters have been revised by specialists: the East Gothonic, German, and Erulian by Professor Rudolf Much of Vienna; the Anglo-Saxon by Professor Zachrisson of Uppsala; the Scandinavian and Danish by Dr Marius Kristensen of Copenhagen; the Gautic, Gotlandic and Svionic by Dr Rolf Nordensstreng of Uppsala; the Gotlandic by Professor Setälä of Helsingfors; the Norwegian by Dr Gustav Indrebö of Oslo. Various particulars concerning Scandinavian types of farmsteads have been supplied by Halvor Zangenberg of Lyngby, Sigurd Erixon of Stockholm, and Halvor Vreim of Oslo, experts on architectural history. I owe my sincere thanks to them all for their valuable assistance.

My chief aim has been to provide a methodical framework, showing how the detailed information expected in an ethnic manual *should be arranged*. The details themselves are of very unequal quality, sometimes being based upon my own special researches, sometimes upon manuals of recognised value: for it is impossible for one man to cover satisfactorily the whole of the ground required to fill out my scheme. Some of the facts which 'everybody knows' are, in practice, so often ignored that at last they run the risk of being totally forgotten. I, on the contrary, have endeavoured to collect them all and to put them into their right place in the whole scheme.

Owing to the relatively large number of specialists who have revised this work and have contributed numerous literary references, I have given up the practice of marking by an asterisk the works which I quote on the authority of the revisers. But I point out the chapters where I am especially indebted to my various contributors.

The *sequence of paragraphs* corresponds to that of the paragraphs in the Indo-European part, and to that of the chapters in the Gothonic part I. However, owing to the lack of expert collaboration, I here only

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work out four points of the above sequence, viz. 'Names', 'Sub-divisions', 'Ethnic Position', 'History'. On the other hand, I add a paragraph dealing with 'Legendary Traditions'.

The classical 'Names' of groups and tribes are not quoted with MS readings, as the reader will find all necessary particulars in Schönfeld's *Wörterbuch der altgermanischen Personen- und Völkernamen*, 1911. For scientific literature before 1911 I generally refer to the same work, which is, in reality, indispensable to any student of Gothonic ethnology. On the other hand, I add some particulars. Such additions are, for example, the old Scandinavian tribal names which are excluded from Schönfeld's collection because they are not exemplified in classical literature. Further, I add foreign spellings, eponymous forms, ethnic place names, etc., in order to illustrate more fully the onomastic development and to connect it with the point of view of ethnology.

As regards 'Sub-divisions', I have taken great care to avoid the arbitrary scheme of arrangement prevailing in most of the existing manuals. A systematic scheme of sub-division may easily tempt an author to be too categorical. Thus the reader will often find the different Gothonic tribes assigned respectively to the Vandili, Erminones, Istaevones, Inguaeones, and Hilleviones, as if we were no less well informed about these than about the local districts in Yorkshire and Norfolk. But such a use of the groups dating from the epoch of the ancient Mannung Genealogy is fatally misleading, and I have therefore felt obliged to give up this system with its deceptive categorical headings. Some examples will illustrate how I endeavour to avoid illusory statements.

§§ 141–144 deal with 'the Bastarnic Sub-group or Branch', leaving thus its exact rank in the classification open to doubt.

§§ 145–147 deal with 'the West Gothonic Linguistic Sub-group'. I state emphatically that the current name of 'Westgermanen' is merely philological, without any value in political history.

§§ 148–152 introduce the Germans and Dutch as 'the South Gothonic Sub-group', which I put in place of the group of 'Westgermanen', as the latter is imaginary in true political history. It is a grave fault of nearly all ethnologies and similar manuals that a paragraph dealing with the Germans and Dutch before their separation is omitted.

§§ 153–155 define the Erminones as a 'sub-group' which was almost extinct at the beginning of German history, and should therefore be avoided as an item within the practical classification of Gothonic tribes.

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The identification of the Erminones with the Swabian branch is shown to be a theory which cannot be satisfactorily proved.

§§ 195–202 deal with ‘the Marsic Branch, and the Chatthi, Ubii, and Bruchteri’. Though Tacitus, *Germ.* 2, in set terms co-ordinates the Marsi and the Gambrivii as German branches, it seems to be regarded as a matter of course that the Marsi are subordinate to the Gambrivii or Istaevones. I have reaffirmed the statement of Tacitus, placing the Marsi as co-ordinate with the Gambrivii or Istaevones. Moreover, I associate with the Marsi a number of West German tribes which are in the current system arbitrarily represented as Istaevones. But, as classical authorities confirm neither the one theory nor the other, I avoid a heading which might give a false idea of their relationship as an established fact; I simply write: the Marsic Branch, and the Chatthi, etc.

§§ 209–210 introduce ‘the Dutch Secondary Sub-group’. From a modern point of view, as a separate nationality, the Dutch must claim their place in the system; but, in the ancient linguistic pedigree, they are only an offspring of the South Gothic Sub-group, and their name ‘Dutch’ originates from the fact that in the Middle Ages they were regarded as Germans. Therefore §§ 209–210 can only briefly explain their ethnic position, and the other particulars must be given under the headings of the various German tribes from which they originate.

§§ 211–235 deal with ‘the North-west Gothic Sub-group’, embracing Anglo-Saxons and Frisians. I prefer this term to ‘Anglo-Frisians’ or ‘Inguaeones’. The first of these latter names leaves out the Saxon element, and the second is entirely misleading, as it cannot be proved that the Saxons and Frisians ever belonged to a sub-group called Inguaeones, while, on the other hand, the Inguaeonic community temporarily embraced Scandinavian tribes such as the Danes and Sviones.

§§ 236–248 introduce an ‘Ancient Intermediate Peninsular Sub-group’, embracing the Jutlanders and Varines. The current systems which describe the ancient Jutlanders categorically either as ‘Anglo-Frisians’ or as ‘Scandinavians’ are misleading, as we know in reality almost nothing about their ethnic characteristics before the Migration Age. The scope of Joh. Schmidt’s ‘wave theory’ demands the existence of an intermediate domain between the Saxons and Danes, and no doubt the Jutlanders must once have been the connecting link. This link was lost when the Angles and Saxons emigrated in the fifth century, and those Jutlanders who remained in the country were united with the

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Danes. Thus the intermediate sub-group has left no perceptible trace in modern times.

§§ 249–281 deal with ‘the North Gothonic or Scandinavian Sub-group’. I pay no attention to the name of ‘Hilleviones’, which is by several scholars arbitrarily conceived as a synonym of Scandinavians.

The paragraphs representing the ‘Ethnic Position’ ought to form a main element of Vol. II. However, the particulars given in the paragraphs concerned may be open to several objections. Such a careful delineation of the Gothonic ethnic individualities has never before been attempted, and it is therefore to be expected that the first attempt will reflect the lack of preceding foundations.

The paragraphs dedicated to ‘History’, in a complete manual of ethnology, ought to give the ancient history of the sub-groups or tribes concerned in full. The present work, however, does not pretend to give so much. Its detailed representation of the ethnic development is generally limited to that age in which prehistory meets with the full dawn of history. I discuss the first emerging of the ethnic individuality and its first distinct efforts to assert itself—details which are by historians often more or less superficially worked out. But as soon as the well-known chain of historical events begins, I stop the detailed research, referring the reader to standard works such as L. Schmidt, *Geschichte der deutschen Stämme*; Hodgkin, *Italy and her Invaders*; Villari, *The Barbarian Invasions*, etc. I only try to emphasise the main points of ethnic importance, and I give some more detailed accounts if it is a question of the establishment of lasting ethnic frontiers or of the disappearance of a nation.

The paragraphs dealing with ‘Legendary Traditions’ should not be regarded as attempting to cover the ground of Wilh. Grimm’s *Deutsche Heldensage*. I wish merely to draw the reader’s attention to the acknowledged or possible representatives of historical tribes and persons, as the sum total of such figures enables us to realise the relative importance of the single ethnic individualities.

The English of the author’s MS has been revised by Miss Winifred Husbands, B.A., of University College, London.

I conclude my work with the wish and hope that my attempt to create the first Anglo-Saxon Manual of Gothonic Ethnology may soon lead to the publication of a co-operative manual on the scale of the great Encyclopaedias.

ESKJÆR, 1932

G. S.