

- 21 Lucia Kornexl and Ursula Lenker (eds.), **Bookmarks from the Past. Studies in Early English Language and Literature in Honour of Helmut Gneuss**. Münchener Universitätsschriften: Texte und Untersuchungen zur Englischen Philologie 30. Frankfurt (Main) & Bern: Lang, 2003, xxxiii + 319 pp., EUR 65.00.

This volume celebrates the long and distinguished career of Professor Helmut Gneuss, holder of the Chair for English Language and Medieval English Literature at the University of Munich from 1965 to 1995. Written by former students on the occasion of his 75th birthday, the ten papers collected in

this *Festschrift* aim to reflect the wide range of his scholarly interests in such diverse fields as historical linguistics, the history of English-language scholarship, manuscript studies, palaeography, and medieval English literature and culture, attempting to set a few ‘bookmarks’ to indicate how greatly the authors’ various distinctive approaches have benefited from his inspiration. In a “Tribute from Cambridge”, Simon Keynes, Elrington and Bosworth Professor of Anglo-Saxon at the University of Cambridge, highlights the honorand’s seminal contributions to the advancement of Anglo-Saxon studies on an international, interdisciplinary level (pp. xi-xv). Helmut Gneuss’s impressive work for the benefit of English historical philology is further documented in a list of his writings and of the doctoral dissertations he supervised (pp. xvii-xxxiii).

The first two contributions in the volume proceed from Gneuss’s groundbreaking work on the development of the Old English language and in particular the notion of Standard Old English. Drawing on current historical research and new variationist approaches in linguistics, Carolin Schreiber (pp. 1–31) offers a sociolinguistic explanation for the dialectal heterogeneity of Early West Saxon as represented in the Old English *Pastoral Care*. The scholarly requirements for a systematic and comprehensive exploration of Standard Old English are explicated by Mechthild Gretsch, who provides a sample analysis of the *Lives of Saints* as transmitted in MS B.L. Cotton Julius E. vii (pp. 33–67).

Two contributions are devoted to Old English poetry and its reception. In a detailed textual analysis of the last of the Exeter Book Riddles, Michael Korhammer corroborates the solution ‘(holy) text’ (pp. 69–80). Inge B. Milfull and Hans Sauer scrutinize Seamus Heaney’s translation of *Beowulf* and evaluate the Nobel Prize winner’s poetic rendering of the great Old English epic in the light of his entire oeuvre and his cultural background as a Northern Irish poet writing in English (pp. 81–141).

The honorand’s devotion to Anglo-Saxon writing culture, manuscript studies and palaeography is specifically reflected in three papers. Gaby Waxenberger’s reexamination of the inscription of the Gandersheim Runic Casket leads her to a new reading of this much-disputed epigraphical text (pp. 143–176). On the basis of codicological, palaeographical, and historical evidence, Birgit Ebersperger (pp. 177–193) proposes a new candidate – BSG, MS 2409 + Arsenal, MS 933, ff. 128–334 – for Professor Gneuss’s *Handlist of Anglo-Saxon Manuscripts*. In his analysis of the late fifteenth-century lyrics of the Franciscan James Ryman, Karl Reichl stresses the importance of the interplay between text and music in the Ryman Manuscript (pp. 195–227).

The last three contributions are inspired by Helmut Gneuss’s fruitful research into the history of English language scholarship. Lucia Kornexl

examines the question of continuity in vernacular grammar teaching in pre- and post-Conquest England (pp. 229–259). Tracing the origin and various functions of *forsooth* from Old English to Early Modern English, Ursula Lenker (pp. 261–288) emphasizes the great value of metalinguistic sources, especially for historical pragmatics. Problems of arrangement which 18th-century compilers of encyclopaedic dictionaries had to cope with are discussed by Monika Brass in her analysis of alphabetical order and topical relations in Ephraim Chambers's *Cyclopaedia* (pp. 289–311).

The volume is completed by a list of Abbreviations (p. 312), an Index of Manuscripts (pp. 313–314), and a General Index (pp. 315–319).

(Summary by Lucia Kornexl and Ursula Lenker.)