5: The Corpus of Old English

The Dictionary of Old English Corpus

3060 "texts"

A	Poetry	177,480 words	6%
B	Prose	2,128,781 words	70%
C	Glosses	699,606 words	23%
D	Glossaries	26,598 words	.88%
E	Runes	346 words	.01%
F	Inscriptions	331 words	.01%
	Total	**3,033,142 words**	
	Incl. foreign words	**3,791,645 words**	

(numbers for the 2009 corpus release)

Poetry

- ▶ Biblical paraphrase: *Genesis A*, (*Genesis B*,) *Exodus*, *Daniel*, *Azarias*, Psalms 51–150, *Judith*(, *Christ and Satan* pt 3)

- ▶ Biblically inspired and religious narrative: *Genesis B*, *Christ*, *Christ and Satan*, *Dream of the Rood*, *Fates of the Apostles*, *Judgement Day I, II*, *Soul and Body*

- ▶ Saints' lives: *Andreas*, *Elene*, *Guthlac*, *Juliana*

- ▶ Religious allegory: *The Phoenix*, *The Whale*, *The Panther*

- ▶ Devotional: Psalms 51–150, hymns, and prayers (*Christ*, *The Descent into Hell*)

- ▶ Heroic: *Beowulf*, *Finnesburh Fragment*, *Waldere*, *Deor*, *Widsith*, *The Battle of Brunanburh*, *The Battle of Maldon*

- ▶ Riddles, wisdom poetry, charms

- ▶ Lyric and elegy: *The Wanderer*, *The Seafarer*, *The Wife's Lament*, *The Ruin*, *Wulf and Eadwacer*, *The Husband's Message*

Prose

- ▶ Homilies
- ▶ Laws (secular and ecclesiastical)
- ▶ Charters and records
- ▶ Saints' lives (incl. Gregory's *Dialogues* bks 1–3)
- ▶ Biblical translation: Hexateuch, historical books, Psalms, Gospels
- ▶ Learning: *Soliloquies*, *Boethius*, computistics, Ælfric's *Grammar*
- ▶ Historiography: *Orosius*, Bede, *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*
- ▶ Precepts: *Pastoral Care*, *Benedictine Rule*, *Rule of Chrodegang*
- ▶ Liturgy and catechesis: directions, prayers, creeds
- ▶ Medical texts, recipes, charms, prognostics
- ▶ Dialogues: *Solomon and Saturn*, *Adrian and Ritheus*
- ▶ Marvels: *Wonders of the East*, *Letter of Alexander to Aristotle*
- ▶ Romance: *Apollonius of Tyre*
- ▶ Letters, tracts, and admonitions
- ▶ Notes and scribbles

Where Can I Find These Texts?

Here are just a few places to get you started:

Marsden, Richard, ed. *The Cambridge Old English Reader*. 2nd ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015.

McGillivray, Murray, ed. "The Online Corpus of Old English Poetry." `http://oepoetry.ca`. Currently offline. Use archive.org!

Treharne, Elaine, ed. and trans. *Old and Middle English, c. 890–c. 1450: An Anthology*. 3rd ed. Chichester: Wiley–Blackwell, 2010.