

BEOWULF

Anonymous

BL Cotton Vitellius A.xv

Follows Klaeber 3, modified with K4, eds. Fulk, Bjork, and Niles, with variants of ASPR noted.

HWÆT! WE GARDENA in geardagum f.129r

þeodcyninga, þrym gefrunon,

hu ða æþelingas ellen fremedon.

Oft Scyld Scefing sceapena þreatum,

5 monegum mægþum, meodosetla ofteah,

egsode eorlas. Syððan ærest wearð

feasceaft funden, he þæs frofre gebad,

weox under wolcnum, weorðmyndum þah,

oðþæt him æghwylc þara ymbsittendra

10 ofer hronrade hyran scolde,

gomban gyldan. þæt wæs god cyning!

1 GARDENA | Foliation after Zupitza, with minor corrections, according to the old style
(add 3 for new 1884 foliation)

6 eorlas | MS *eorl*.

Dæm eafera wæs æfter cenned
 geong in geardum, þone God sende
 folce to frofre; fyrenðearfe ongeat
 15 þe hie ær drugon aldorlease
 lange hwile. Him þæs Liffrea,
 wuldres wealdend, woroldare forgeaf;
 Beowulf wæs breme blæd wide sprang,
 Scyldes eafera Scedelandum in.
 20 Swa sceal *geong guma* gode gewyrcean,
 fromum feohgiftum on fæder *bearme*,
 þæt hine on ylde eft gewunigen
 wilgesipas, þonne wig cume,
 leode gelæsten; lofdædum sceal
 25 in mægþa gehwære man geþeon.
 Him ða Scyld gewat to gescæphwile
 felahror feran on frean wære.
 Hi hyne þa ætbæron to brimes faroðe,
 swæse gesipas, swa he selfa bæd,
 30 þenden wordum weold wine Scyldinga;
 leof landfruma lange ahte.

13 God] Pagan-Christian arguments aside, *God* is capitalized throughout because it is a proper name, like *Andy Hardy* or the *Tooth Fairy*.

Pær æt hyðe stod hringedstefna,
 isig ond utfus, æþelinges fær.
 Aledon þa leofne þeoden,
 35 beaga bryttan, on bearm scipes,
 mærne be mæste. þær wæs madma fela
 of feorwegum frætwa gelæded;
 ne hyrde ic cymlicor ceol gegyrwan
 hildewæpnum ond heaðowædum,
 40 billum ond byrnum; him on bearne læg
 madma mænigo, þa him mid scoldon
 on flodes æht feor gewitan.
 Nalæs hi hine læssan lacum teodan,
 þeodgestreonum, þon þa dydon
 45 þe hine æt frumsceafte forð onsendon
 ænne ofer yðe umborwesende. f.130r
 þa gyt hie him asetton segen *gel*denne
 heah ofer heafod, leton holm beran,
 geafon on garsecg; him wæs geomor sefa,
 50 murnende mod. Men ne cunnon
 secgan to soðe, seleræden*de*,

51 seleræden*de*] MS sele rædenne.

hæleð under heofenum, hwa þæm hlæste onfeng.

ÐA wæs on burgum Beowulf Scyldinga,

Fitt I

leof leodcýning, longe þrage

55 folcum gefræge fæder ellor hwearf,

aldor of earde, oþ þæt him eft onwoc

heah Healfdene; heold þenden lifde,

gamol ond guðreow, glæde Scyldingas.

Ðæm feower bearn forðgerimed

60 in worold wocun, weoroda ræswan,

Heorogar ond Hroðgar ond Halga til,

hyrde ic þæt . . . *wæs Onelan* cwen,

Heaðo-Scilfingas healsgebedda.

Pa wæs Hroðgare heresped gyfen,

65 wiges weorðmynd, þæt him his winemagas

georne hyrdon, oðð þæt seo geogoð geweax,

magodriht micel. Him on mod bearn

þæt healreced hatan wolde,

medoærn micel men gewyrcean

f.130v

70 þonne ylðo bearn æfre gefrunon,

ond þær on innan eall gedælan

60 *ræswan* | MS *ræswa*.

62 . . . | MS no gap

geongum ond ealdum, swylc him God sealde,
 buton folcscare ond feorum gumena.
 Ða ic wide gefrægn weorc gebannan
 75 manigre mægþe geond þisne middangeard,
 folcstede frætwan. Him on fyrste gelomp,
 ædre mid yldum, þæt hit wearð ealgearo,
 healærna mæst; scop him Heort naman
 se þe his wordes geweald wide hæfde.
 80 He beot ne aleh, beagas dælde,
 sinc æt symle. Sele hlifade,
 heah ond horngæap, heaðowylma bad,
 laðan liges; ne wæs hit lenge þa gen
 þæt se *ecghete* *apumsweorum*
 85 æfter wælniðe wæcnan scolde.
 Ða se ellengæst earfoðlice
 þrage geþolode, se þe in þystrum bad,
 þæt he dogora gehwam dream gehyrde
 hludne in healle; þær wæs hearpan sweg,
 90 swutol sang scopes. Sægde se þe cuþe
 frumsceaft fira feorran reccan,

Grendel hears
singing.

84 *ecghete* | MS *secg hete*.

84 *apumsweorum* | MS *apum swerian*

cwæð þæt se Ælmihtiga eorðan worhte,
wlitebeorhtne wang, swa wæter bebugeð,
gesette sigehrepig sunnan ond monan
95 leoman to leohte landbuendum
ond gefræt Wade foldan sceatas
leomum ond leafum, lif eac gesceop
cynna gehwylcum þara ðe cwise hwyrfaþ.
Swa ða drihtguman dreamum lifdon
100 eadiglice, oððæt an ongan
fyrene fremman feond on helle.
Wæs se grimma gæst Grendel haten,
mære mearcstapa, se þe moras heold,
fen ond fæsten; fifelcynnes eard
105 wonsæli wer weardode hwile,
siþðan him Scyppend forscrifen hæfde
in Caines cynne. Þone cwealm gewræc
ece drihten, þæs þe he Abel slog;
ne gefeah he þære fæhðe, ac he hine feor forwræc,
110 metod for þy mane, mancynne fram.
þanon untydras ealle onwocon,

Grendel
named.

106 Scyppend] MS scyppen

107 Caines] MS comes

eotenas ond ylfe ond orcneas,
swylce gigantas, þa wið Gode wunnon
lange þrage; he him ðæs lean forgeald.

f.132v

115 **GEWAT** ða neosian, syþðan niht becom,

Fitt II

hean huses, hu hit Hring-Dene
æfter beorþege gebun hæfdon.
Fand þa ðær inne æþelinga gedriht
swefan æfter symble; sorge ne cuðon,

120 wonsceaft wera. Wiht unhælo,
grim ond grædig, gearo sona wæs,
reoc ond reþe, ond on ræste genam
þritig þegna, þanon eft gewat
huðe hremig to ham faran,

125 mid þære wælfylle wica neosan.
Ða wæs on uhtan mid ærdæge
Grendles guðcræft gumum undyrne;
þa wæs æfter wiste wop up ahafen,
micel morgensweg. Mære þeoden,

130 æþeling ærgod, unbliðe sæt,
þolode ðryðswyð, þegnsorge dreah,
syðþan hie þæs laðan last sceawedon,

werġan ġastes; wæs þæt ġewin to strang,
 lað ond longsum. Næs hit lengra fyrst, f. 133r
 135 ac ymb ane niht eft ġefremede
 morðbeala mare, ond no mearn fore,
 fæhðe ond fyrene; wæs to fæst on þam.
 Ða wæs eaðfynde þe him elles hwær
 ġerumlicor ræste *sohte*,
 140 bed æfter burum, ða him ġebeacnod wæs,
 ġesæġd soðlice sweotolan tacne
 healðegnes hete; heold hyne syðþan
 fyr ond fæstor se þæm feonde ætwand.
 Swa rixode ond wið rihte wan,
 145 ana wiðeallum, oðþæt idel stod
 husa selest. Wæs seo hwil micel;
 twelf wintra tid torn ġeþolode
 wine Scyldinga, weana ġehwelcne,
 sidra sorga. Forðam ġesyne wearð,
 150 ylda bearnum, undyrne cuð,
 ġyddum ġeomore, þætte Grendel wan

139 *sohte* | MS *nothing*

148 Scyldinga | MS scyldenda

149 ġesyne | *del.* secġum, neither in MS

hwile wið Hroþgar, heteniðas wæg,
 fyrene ond fæhðe fela missera,
 singale sæce; sibbe ne wolde
 155 wið manna hwone mægenes Deniga,
 feorhbealo feorran, fea þingian,
 ne þær nænig witenas wenan þorfte
 beorhtre bote to banan folmum,
 ac se æglæca ehtende wæs, f. 133v
 160 deorc deaðscua, duguþe ond geogope,
 seomade ond syrede; sinnihte heold
 mistige moras; men ne cunnon
 hwyder helrunan hwyrftum scriþað.
 Swa fela fyrena feond mancynnes,
 165 atol angengea, oft gefremede,
 heardra hynða; Heorot eardode,
 sincfage sel sweartum nihtum.
 No he þone gifstol gretan moste,
 maþðum for metode, ne his myne wisse.
 170 Þæt wæs wræc micel wine Scyldinga,
 modes brecða. Monig oft gesæt

158 *banan* | MS *banū*

rice to rune; ræd eahtedon,
 hwæt swiðferhðum selest wære
 wið færgryrum to gefremmanne.
 175 Hwilum hie geheton æt *hærgtrafum*
 wigweorþunga, wordum bædon
 þæt him gastbona geoce gefremede
 wið þeodþreaum. Swylc wæs þeaw hyra,
 hæþenra hyht; helle gemundon
 180 in modsefan, metod hie ne cuþon,
 dæda demend, ne wiston hie drihten God,
 ne hie huru heofena helm herian ne cuþon,
 wuldres waldend. Wa bið þæm ðe sceal
 þurh sliðne nið sawle bescufan
 185 in fyres fæþm, frofre ne wenan,
 wihte gewendan; wel bið þæm þe mot
 æfter deaðdæge drihten secean
 ond to fæder fæþmum freoðo wilnian.

f. 134r

SWA ða mælceare maga Healfdenes
 190 singala seað; ne mihte snotor hæleð
 wean onwendan; wæs þæt gewin to swyð,

Fitt III

175 *hærgtrafum*] MS hræg trafum

195 lap ond longsum, þe on ða leode becom,
 nydwracu niþgrim, nihtbealwa mæst.
 Pæt fram ham gefrægn Higelaces þegn,
 god mid Geatum, Grendles dæda;
 se wæs moncynnes mægenes strengest
 on þæm dæge þysses lifes,
 æpele ond eacen. Het him yðlidan
 godne gegyrwan; cwæð, he guðcýning
 200 ofer swanrade secean wolde,
 mærne þeoden, þa him wæs manna þearf.
 Done siðfæt him snotere ceorlas
 lythwon logon, þeah he him leof wære;
 hwetton higerofne, hæl sceawedon. f. 134v
 205 Hæfde se goda Geata leoda
 cempan gecorone þara þe he cenoste
 findan mihte. Fiftynana sum
 sundwudu sohte; secg wisade,
 lagucræftig mon, landgemyrcu.
 210 Fyrst forð gewat; flota wæs on yðum,
 bat under beorge. Beornas gearwe
 on stefn stigon. Streamas wundon,

sund wið sande. Secgas bæron
on bearm nacan beorhte frætwe,
215 guðsearo geatolic; guman ut scufon,
weras on wilsio wudu bundenne.
Gewat þa ofer wægholm, winde gefysed,
flota famiheals fugle gelicost,
oðþæt ymb antio oþres dogores
220 wundenstefna gewaden hæfde
þæt ða liðende land gesawon,
brimclifu blican, beorgas steape,
side sænæssas; þa wæs sund liden,
eoletes æt ende. Panon up hraðe
225 Wedera leode on wang stigon,
sæwudu sældon syrcan hrysedon,
guðgewædo; Gode þancedon
þæs þe him yþlade eaðe wurdon.
Pa of wealle geseah weard Scildinga, f. 135r
230 se þe holmclifu healdan scolde,
beran ofer bolcan beorhte randas,
fyrdsearu fuslicu; hine fyrwyrt bræc
modgehygdum, hwæt þa men wæron.

Gewat him þa to waroðe wicge ridan
 235 þegn Hroðgares, þrymmum cwehte
 mægenwudu mundum, meþelwordum frægn:
 “Hwæt syndon ge searohæbbendra,
 byrnum werede, þe þus brontne ceol
 ofer lagustræte lædan cwomon,
 240 hider ofer holmas? Ic *hwile* wæs
 endesæta, ægwearde heold,
 þe on land Dena laðra nænig
 mid scipherge sceðþan ne meahte.
 No her cuðlicor cuman ongunnon
 245 lindhæbbende; ne ge leafnesword
 guðfremmendra gearwe ne wisson,
 maga gemedu. Næfre ic maran geseah
 eorla ofer eorþan ðonne is eower sum,
 secg on searwum; nis þæt seldguma,
 250 wæpnum geweorðad, næfne him his wlite leoge,
 ænlic ansyn. Nu ic eower sceal
 frumcyn witan, ær ge fyr heonan,
 leassceaweras, on land Dena

Shoreguard
 greets
 Beowulf.

f. 135v

240 Ic *hwile* wæs | MS le wæs

250 næfne | MS næfre

255 furþur feran. Nu ge feorbuend,
 mereliðende, minne gehyrað
 anfealdne geþoht: ofost is selest
 to gecyðanne hwanan eowre cyme syndon.”

HIM se yldesta ondswarode, **Fitt IIII**
 werodes wisa, wordhord onleac:
 260 “We synt gumcynnes Geata leode
 ond Higelaces heorðgeneatas.
 Wæs min fæder folcum gecyþed,
 æpele ordfruma, Ecgþeow haten;
 gebad wintra worn, ær he on weg hwurfe,
 265 gamol of geardum; hine gearwe geman
 witena welhwylc wide geond eorþan.
 We þurh holdne hige hlaford þinne,
 sunu Healfdenes, secean cwomon,
 leodgebyrgean. Wes þu us larena god.
 270 Habbaðwe to þæm mæran micel ærende,
 Deniga frean. Ne sceal þær dyrne sum
 wesan, þæs ic wene: þu wast, gif hit is
 swa we soþlice secgan hyrdon,

f. 136r

255 minne] MS mine

275 þæt mid Scyldingum sceaðona ic nat hwylc,
 deogol dædhata, deorcum nihtum
 eaweðþurh egsan uncuðne nið,
 hynðu ond hrafyl. Ic þæs Hroðgar mæg
 þurh rumne sefan ræd gelæran,
 hu he frod ond god feond oferswyðeþ —
 280 gyf him edwenden æfre scolde
 bealuwa bisigu, bot eft cuman —
 ond þa cearwylmas colran wurðaþ;
 oððe a syþðan earfoðþrage,
 þreanyd þolað þenden þær wunað
 285 on heahstede husa selest.”
 Weard maþelode ðær on wicge sæt,
 ombeht unforht: “æghwæþres sceal
 scearp scyldwiga gescad witan,
 worda ond worca, se þe wel þenceð.
 290 Ic þæt gehyre, þæt þis is hold weorod
 frea Scyldinga. Gewitaþ forðberan
 wæpen ond gewædu; ic eow wisige.
 Swylce ic maguþegnas mine hate

280 edwenden] MS edwendan

wiðfeonda gehwone flotan eowerne,
 295 niwtyrwydne nacan on sande
 arum healdan, oþ ðæt eft byreð
 ofer lagustreamas leofne mannan f. 136v
 wudu wundenhals to Wedermearce,
 godfremmendra swylcum gifeþe bið
 300 þæt þone hilderæs hal gedigeð.”
 Gewiton him þa feran; flota stille bad,
 seomode on *sale* sidfæþmed scip,
 on ancre fæst; eoforlic scionon
 ofer hleorbergan gehroden golde,
 305 fah ond fyrheard; ferhwearde heold
 guþmod grimmon. Guman onetton,
 sigon ætsomne, oþ þæt hy sæl timbred
 geatolic ond goldfah, ongyton mihton;
 þæt wæs foremærost foldbuendum
 310 receda under roderum, on þæm se rica bad;
 lixte se leoma ofer landa fela.

302 *sale* | MS *sole*

304 *hleorbergan* | MS *hleor beran*

306 *grimmon* | MS *grummon*

307 *sæl timbred* | MS *æltimbred*

Him þa hildedeor *hof* modigra
 torht getæhte, þæt hie him to mihton
 gegnum gangan; guðbeorna sum
 315 wicg gewende, word æfter cwæð:
 “Mæl is me to feran; fæder alwalda
 mid arstafum eowic gehealde
 siða gesunde. Ic to sæ wille,
 wiðwraðwerod wearde healdan.” f. 137r
 320 **STRÆT** wæs stanfah, stig wisode **Fitt V**
 gumum ætgædere. Guðbyrne scan
 heard hondlocen; hringiren scir
 song in searwum. Þa hie to sele furðum
 in hyra gryregeatwum gangan cwomon,
 325 setton sæmeþe side scyldas,
 rondas regnhearde, wið þæs recedes weal;
 bugon þa to bence. Byrnan hringdon,
 guðsearo gumena; garas stodon,
 sæmanna searo, samod ætgædere,
 330 æscholt ufan græg; wæs se irenþreat
 wæpnum gewurþad. Þa ðær wlonc hæleð

oretmecgas æfter *æþelum* frægn:

“Hwanon ferigeað ge fætte scyldas,

Wulfgar greets
Beowulf

græge syrcan ond grimhelmas,

335 heresceafta heap? Ic eom Hroðgares

ar ond ombiht. Ne seah ic elþeodige

þus manige men modiglicran.

Wen ic þæt ge for wlenco, nalles for wræcsiðum,

ac for higeþrymmum Hroðgar sohton.”

f. 137v

340 Him þa ellenrof andswarode,

wlanc Wedera leod, word æfter spræc,

heard under helme: “We synt Higelaces

Beowulf to
Wulfgar

beodgeneatas; Beowulf is min nama.

Wille ic asecgan sunu Healfdenes,

345 mærum þeodne, min ærende,

aldre þinum, gif he us geunnan wile

þæt we hine swa godne gretan moton.”

Wulfgar maþelode; þæt wæs Wendla leod;

wæs his modsefa manegum gecyðed,

350 wig ond wisdom: “Ic þæs wine Deniga,

frean Scildinga, frinan wille,

332 *æþelum* | MS *hælepum*

“Ic hine cuðe cnihtwesende;
 wæs his ealdfæder Ecgþeo haten,
 ðæm to ham forgeaf Hreþel Geata
 375 angan dohtor; is his eafora nu
 heard her cumen, sohte holdne wine.
 Ðonne sægdon þæt sæliþende,
 þa ðe gifsceattas Geata fyredon
 þyder to þance, þæt he þritiges f. 138v
 380 manna mægen-cræft on his mundgripe
 heaþorof hæbbe. Hine halig God
 for arstafum us onsende,
 to West-Denum, þæs ic wen hæbbe,
 wið Grendles gryre. Ic þæm godan sceal
 385 for his modþræce madmas beodan.
 Beo ðu on ofeste, hat in gan
 seon sibbegedriht samod ætgædere;
 gesaga him eac wordum þæt hie sint wilcuman
 Deniga leodum.” ***
 390 *Wedera leodum* word inne abead:
 “Eow het secgan sigedrihten min,

Hroðgar to
Wulfgar

f. 138v

Wulfgar to
Hroðgar

375 eafora] MS eaforan

389 ***] MS *no gap*

aldor East-Dena, þæt he eower æþelu can,
 ond ge him syndon ofer sæwylmas
 heardhicgende hider wilcuman.
 395 Nu ge moton gangan in eowrum guðgeatawum
 under heregriman Hroðgar geseon;
 lætað hildebord her onbidan,
 wudu wælsceaftas, worda geþinges.”
 Aras þa se rica, ymb hine rinc manig,
 400 þryðlic þegna heap; sume þær bidon,
 heaðoreaf heoldon, swa him se hearda bebead. f. 139r
 Snyredon ætsomne, þa secg wisode,
 under Heorotes hrof; *eode hildedeor*
 heard under helme, þæt he on heorðe gestod.
 405 Beowulf maðelode; on him byrne scan,
 searonet seowed smiþes orþancum:
 “Wæs þu, Hroðgar, hal! Ic eom Higelaces
 mæg ond magoðegn; hæbbe ic mærdæ fela
 ongunnen on geogope. Me wearð Grendles þing
 410 on minre eþeltyrf undyrne cuð;
 secgað sæliðend þæt þæs sele stande,

Beowulf to
 Hroðgar

reced selesta, rinca gehwylcum
 idel ond unnyt, siððan æfenleoht
 under heofenes haðor beholen weorþeð.
 415 Ða me þæt gelærdon leode mine
 þa selestan, snotere ceorlas,
 þeoden Hroðgar, þæt ic þe sohte,
 forþan hie mægenes cræft minne cuþon;
 selfe ofersawon, ða ic of searwum cwom,
 420 fah from feondum, þær ic fife geband,
 yðde eotena cyn ond on yðum slog
 niceras nihtes, nearoþearfe dreah,
 wræc Wedera nið — wean ahsodon —
 forgrand gramum; ond nu wið Grendel sceal,
 425 wið þam aglæcan, ana gehegan
 ðing wið þyrse. Ic þe nuða,
 brego Beorht-Dena, biddan wille,
 eodor Scyldinga, anre bene,
 þæt ðu me ne forwyrne, wigendra hleo,
 430 freowine folca, nu ic þus feorran com,
 þæt ic mote ana, minra eorla gedryht,

f. 139v

414 haðor] MS hador

ond þes hearda heap Heorot fælsian.
 Hæbbe ic eac geahsod þæt se æglæca
 for his wonhydum wæpna ne recceð.
 435 Ic þæt þonne forhicge, swa me Higelac sie,
 min mondrihten, modes bliðe,
 þæt ic sweord bere oþðe sidne scyld,
 geolorand to guþe, ac ic mid grape sceal
 fon wið feonde ond ymb feorh sacan,
 440 lað wið laþum; ðær gelyfan sceal
 dryhtnes dome se þe hine deað nimeð.
 Wen ic þæt he wille, gif he wealdan mot,
 in þæm guðsele Geatena leode
 etan unforhte, swa he oft dyde, f. 140r
 445 mægenhreð manna. Na þu minne þearft
 hafalan hydan, ac he me habban wile
 dreore fahne, gif mec deað nimeð:
 byreð blodig wæl, byrgean þenceð,
 eteð angenga unmunlice,
 450 mearcað morhopu — no ðu ymb mines ne þearft
 lices feorme leng sorgian.
 Onsend Higelace, gif mec hild nime,

beaduscruda betst, þæt mine breost wereð,
hrægla selest; þæt is Hrædlaŋ laf,
455 Welandes geweorc. Gæð a wyrd swa hio scel.”

HROÐGAR mabelode, helm Scyldinga:

Fitt VII

Hroþgar to
Beowulf

“For fyhtum þu, wine min Beowulf,
ond for arstafum usic sohtest.
Gesloh þin fæder fæhðe mæste;
460 wearþ he Heapolafe to handbonan
mid Wilfingum; ða hine *Wedera* cyn
for herebrogan habban ne mihte.
Panon he gesohte Suð-Dena folc
ofer yða gewealc, Ar-Scyldinga;
465 ða ic furþum weold folce Deniga
ond on geogoðe heold ginne rice,
hordburh hæleþa, ða wæs Heregar dead,
min yldra mæg unlifigende,
bearn Healfdenes; se wæs betera ðonne ic.
470 Siððan þa fæhðe feo þingode:
sende ic Wylfingum ofer wæteres hrycg

f. 140v

457 fyhtum] del. *gewyrhtum*

461 *Wedera*] MS gara

466 ginne] MS gimme

ealde madmas; he me aþas swor.
 Sorh is me to secganne on sefan minum
 gumena ængum hwæt me Grendel hafað
 475 hynðo on Heorote mid his hetepancum,
 færniða gefremed; is min fletwerod,
 wigheap gewanod; hie wyrd forsweop
 on Grendles gryre. God eaþe mæg
 þone dolscaðan dæda getwæfan.
 480 Ful oft gebeotedon beore druncne
 ofer ealowæge oretmecgas
 þæt hie in beorsele bidan woldon
 Grendles guþe mid gryrum ecga.
 Donne wæs þeos medoheal on morgentid,
 485 drihtsele dreorfah þonne dæg lixte,
 eal bencþelu blode bestymed, f. 141r
 heall heorudreore; ahte ic holdra þy læs,
 deorre duguðe, þe þa deað fornam.
 Site nu to symle ond onsæl meoto,
 490 sigehreð secgum, swa þin sefa hwette.”
 Ða wæs Geatmægum geador ætsomne
 on beorsele benc gerymed;

þær swiðferhþe sittan eodon,
 þryðum dealle. Þegn nytte beheold,
 495 se þe on handa bær hroden ealowæge,
 scencte scir wered. Scop hwilum sang
 hador on Heorote. Þær wæs hæleða dream,
 duguð unlytel Dena ond Wedera.

UNFERÐ maþelode, Ecglafes bearn,

Fitt VIII

500 þe æt fotum sæt frean Scyldinga,
 onband beadurune. Wæs him Beowulfes sið,
 modges merefaran, micel æþþunca,
 forþon þe he ne uþe þæt ænig oðer man
 æfre mærdða þon ma middangeardes
 505 gehedde under heofenum þonne he sylfa:
 “Eart þu se Beowulf, se þe wið Breca wunne
 on sidne sæ ymb sund flite,
 ðær git for wlence wada cunnedon
 ond for dolgilpe on deop wæter
 510 aldrum neþdon? Ne inc ænig mon,
 ne leof ne lað, belean mihte
 sorhfullne sið, þa git on sund reon.

f. 141v

Unferþ to
Beowulf

	Pær git eagorstream	earmum þehton,	
	mæton merestræta,	mundum brugdon,	
515	glidon ofer garsecg;	geofon yþum weol,	
	wintrys wylmum.	Git on wæteres æht	
	seofonniht swuncon;	he þe æt sunde oferflat,	
	hæfde mare mægen.	Pa hine on morgentid	
	on Heaþo-Ræmes	holm up ætbær;	
520	ðonon he gesohte	swæsne eþel,	
	leof his leodum,	lond Brondinga,	
	freoðoburh fægere,	þær he folc ahte,	
	burh ond beagas.	Beot eal wið þe	
	sunu Beanstanes	soðe gelæste.	f.142r
525	Ðonne wene ic to þe	wyrsan geþingea,	
	ðeah þu heaðoræsa	gehwær dohte,	
	grimre guðe,	gif þu Grendles dearst	
	nihtlongne fyrst	nean bidan.”	
	Beowulf maþelode,	bearn Ecgþeowes:	
530	“Hwæt, þu worn fela,	wine min Unferð,	Beowulf replies to Unferð
	beore druncen	ymb Breca spræce,	
	sægdest from his siðe.	Soð ic talige,	
	þæt ic merestrenge	maran ahte,	

eafeþo on yþum, ðonne ænig oþer man.
 535 Wit þæt gecwædon cnihtwesende
 ond gebeotedon (wæron begen þa git
 on geogoðfeore) þæt wit on garsecg ut
 aldrum neðdon, ond þæt geæfndon swa.
 Hæfdon swurd nacod, þa wit on sund reon,
 540 heard on handa; wit unc wið hronfixas
 werian þohton. No he wiht fram me
 flodyþum feor fleotan meahte,
 hraþor on holme; no ic fram him wolde.
 Ða wit ætsomne on sæ wæron
 545 fifnihta fyrst, oþþæt unc flod todraf,
 wado weallende, wedera cealdost,
 nipende niht, ond norþan wind
 heaðogrim ondhwearf; hreo wæron yþa.
 Wæs merefixa mod onhrered;
 550 þær me wið laðum licsyrce min,
 heard, hondlocen, helpe gefremede;
 beadohrægl broden on breostum læg
 golde gegyrwed. Me to grunde teah
 fah feondscaða, fæste hæfde

534 eafeþo] ASPR. earfeþo

555 grim on grape; hwæpre me gyfeþe wearð
 þæt ic aglæcan orde geræhte,
 hildebille; heaporaes fornam
 mihtig meredeor þurh mine hand.

SWA mec gelome laðgeteonan

Fitt IX

560 þreatedon þearle. Ic him þenode
 deoran sweorde, swa hit gedefe wæs.
 Næs hie ðære fylle gefean hæfdon,
 manfordædlan, þæt hie me þegon,
 symbol ymbseton sægrunde neah;

565 ac on mergenne mecum wunde
 be yðlafe uppe lægon,
 sweordum aswefede, þæt syðþan na
 ymb brontne ford brimliðende
 lade ne letton. Leoht eastan com,

f.143r

570 beorht beacen Godes; brimu swaþredon,
 þæt ic sænæssas geseon mihte,
 windige weallas. Wyrð oft nereð
 unfægne eorl, þonne his ellen deah.
 Hwæþere me gesælde þæt ic mid sweorde ofsloh

575 niceras nigene. No ic on niht gefrægn
 under heofones hwealf heardran feohtan,
 ne on egstreamum earmran mannon;
 hwaþere ic fara feng feore gedigde,
 siþes werig. Ða mec sæ opbær,
 580 flod æfter faroðe on Finna land,
 wadu weallendu. No ic wiht fram þe
 swylcra searoniða secgan hyrde,
 billa brogan. Breca næfre git
 æt heaðolace, ne gehwæþer incer,
 585 swa deorlice dæd gefremede
 fagum sweordum (no ic þæs *fela* gylpe),
 þeah ðu þinum broðrum to banan wurde,
 heafodmægum; þæs þu in helle scealt f.143v
 werhðo dreogan, þeah þin wit duge.
 590 Secge ic þe to soðe, sunu Ecglafes,
 þæt næfre Grendel swa fela gryra gefremede,
 atol æglæca, ealdre þinum,
 hynðo on Heorote, gif þin hige wære,
 sefa swa searogrim, swa þu self talast.
 595 Ac he hafað onfunden þæt he þa fæhðe ne þearf,

	atole ecgþræce	eower leode	
	swiðe onsittan,	Sigescyldinga;	
	nymeð nydbade,	nænegum arað	
	leode Deniga,	ac he lust wigeð,	
600	swefeð ond sendeþ,	secce ne weneþ	
	to Gardenum.	Ac ic him Geata sceal	
	eafoð ond ellen	ungeara nu,	
	guþe gebeodan.	Gæþ eft se þe mot	
	to medo modig,	sipþan morgenleoht	
605	ofer ylða bearn	opres dogores,	
	sunne sweglwered	supan scineð.”	
	Pa wæs on salum	sinces brytta,	
	gamolfeax ond guðrof;	geoce gelyfde	
	brego Beorhtdena,	gehyrde on Beowulfe	f.144v
610	folces hyrde	fæstrædne geþoht.	
	Ðær wæs hælepa hleahtor,	hlyn swynsode,	
	word wæron wynsume.	Eode Wealhþeow forð,	Wealhþeow enters
	cwen Hroðgares,	cynna gemyndig,	
	grette goldhroden	guman on healle,	
615	ond þa freolic wif	ful gesealde	
	ærest Eastdena	epelwearde,	

bæd hine bliðne æt þære beorþege,
 leodum leofne. He on lust geþeah
 symbel ond seleaf, sigerof kyning.
 620 Ymbeode þa ides Helminga
 duguþe ond geogoþe dæl æghwylcne,
 sincfato sealde, oppæt sæl alamp
 þæt hio Beowulfe, beaghroden cwen
 mode gebungen, medoful ætbær;
 625 grette Geata leod, Gode þancode
 wisfæst wordum þæs ðe hire se willa gelamp
 þæt heo on ænigne eorl gelyfde
 fyrena frofre. He þæt ful geþeah,
 wæltreow wiga æt Wealhþeon, f.144v
 630 ond þa gyddode guþe gefysed.
 Beowulf mabelode, bearn Ecgþeowes:
 “Ic þæt hogode, þa ic on holm gestah,
 sæbat gesæt mid minra secga gedriht,
 þæt ic anunga eowra leoda
 635 willan geworhte oþðe on wæl crunge,
 feondgrapum fæst. Ic gefremman sceal
 eorlic ellen, oþðe endedæg

Beowulf
 pledges his life

on þisse meoduhealle minne gebidan.”
 Ðam wife þa word wel licodon,
 640 gilpcwide Geates; eode goldhroden
 freolicu folccwen to hire frean sittan.
 Ða wæs eft swa ær inne on healle
 þryðword sprecen, ðeod on sælum,
 sigefolca sweg, oþ þæt semninga
 645 sunu Healfdenes secean wolde
 æfenræste; wiste þæm ahlæcan
 to þæm heahsele hilde gepinged,
 siððan hie sunnan leoht geseon meahton,
 oþ ðe nipende niht ofer ealle,
 650 scaduhelma gesceapu scriðan cwoman,
 wan under wolcnum. Werod eall aras.
 Gegrette þa guma oþerne,
 Hroðgar Beowulf, ond him hæl abead,
 winærnes geweald, ond þæt word acwæð:
 655 “Næfre ic ænegum men ær alyfde,
 siþðan ic hond ond rond hebban mihte,
 ðryþærn Dena buton þe nuða.

f.145r

Hroðgar to
Beowulf

648 meahton] ASPR. ne meahton

Hafa nu ond geheald husa selest,
gemyne mærpō, mægenellen cyð,
660 waca wið wrapum. Ne bið þe wilna gad
gif þu þæt ellenweorc aldre gedigest.”

ÐA him Hroþgar gewat mid his hæleþa gedryht, **Fitt X**
eodur Scyldinga, ut of healle;
wolde wigfruma Wealhþeo secan,
665 cwen to gebeddan. Hæfde kyningwuldor
Grendle togeanes, swa guman gefrungon,
seleweard aseted; sundornytte beheold
ymb aldor Dena, eotonweard abead.
Huru Geata leod georne truwode
670 modgan mægnes, metodes hylde.
Ða he him of dyde isernbyrnan,
helm of hafelan, sealde his hyrsted sweord,
irena cyst, ombihtþegne,
ond gehealdan het hildegeatwe.
675 Gespræc þa se goda gylpworda sum,
Beowulf Geata, ær he on bed stige:
“No ic me an herewæsmun hnagran talige
guþgeweorca, þonne Grendel hine;

f.145v

Beowulf vows
to his men

forþan ic hine sweorde swebban nelle,
 680 aldre beneotan, þeah ic eal mæge.
 Nat he þara goda þæt he me ongear slea,
 rand geheawe, þeah ðe he rof sie
 niþgeweorca; ac wit on niht sculon
 secge ofersittan, gif he gesecean dear
 685 wig ofer wæpen, ond siþðan witig God
 on swa hwæþere hond, halig dryhten
 mærho deme, swa him gemet þince.”
 Hylde hine þa heapodeor, hleorbolster onfeng
 eorles andwlitan, ond hine ymb monig
 690 snellic særinc selereste gebeah.
 Nænig heora þohte þæt he þanon scolde
 eft eardlufan æfre gesecean,
 folc oþðe freoburh, þær he afeded wæs;
 ac hie hæfdon gefrunen þæt hie ær to fela micles
 695 in þæm winsele wældeað fornam,
 Denigea leode. Ac him dryhten forgeaf
 wigspeda gewiofu, Wedera leodum,
 frofor ond fultum, þæt hie feond heora
 ðurh anes cræft ealle ofercomon,

The Geats
 rest

f.146r

700 selfes mihtum. Soð is gecyþed
 þæt mihtig God manna cynnes
 weold *wideferhð*. Com on wanre niht
 scriðan sceadugenga. Sceotend swæfon,
 þa þæt hornreced healdan scoldon,
 705 ealle buton anum (þæt wæs yldum cup
 þæt hie ne moste, þa metod nolde,
 se scynscaþa under sceadu bregdan)
 ac he wæccende wrapum on andan
 bad bolgenmod beadwa geþinges.

710 ÐA com of more under misthleopum
 Grendel gongan, godes yrre bær;
 mynte se manscaða manna cynnes
 sumne besyrwan in sele þam hean.
 Wod under wolcnum to þæs þe he winreced,
 715 goldsele gumena, gearwost wisse,
 fættum fahne. Ne wæs þæt forma sið
 þæt he Hroþgares ham gesohte;
 næfre he on aldordagum ær ne siþðan
 heardran hæle, healðegnas fand.

720 Com þa to recede rinc siðian,

Fitt XI

Grendel enters

f.146v

dreamum bedæled. Duru sona onarn,
 fyrbendum fæst, syþðan he hire folmum æthran;
 onbræd þa bealohydig, ða he gebolgen wæs,
 recedes mupan. Raþe æfter þon
 725 on fagne flor feond treddode,
 eode yrremod; him of eagum stod
 ligge gelicost leoht unfæger.
 Geseah he in recede rinca manige,
 swefan sibbegedriht samod ætgædere,
 730 magorinca heap. Þa his mod ahlog;
 mynte þæt he gedælde, ærþon dæg cwome,
 atol aglæca, anra gehwylces
 lif wið lice, þa him alumpen wæs
 wistfylle wen. Ne wæs þæt wyrd þa gen
 735 þæt he ma moste manna cynnes
 ðicgean ofer þa niht. Pryðswyð beheold
 mæg Higelaces, hu se manscaða
 under færgripum gefaran wolde.
 Ne þæt se aglæca yldan þohte,
 740 ac he gefeng hraðe forman siðe

f.131r

740 gefeng] MS. earlier leaf interpolated here

slæpendne rinc, slat unwearnum,
 bat banlocan, blod edrum dranc,
 synsnædum swealh; sona hæfde
 unlyfigendes eal gefeormod,
 745 fet ond folma. Forð near ætstop,
 nam þa mid handa higeþihtigne
 rinc on ræste. He him ræhte ongear
 feond mid folme; he onfeng hraþe
 inwitþancum ond wið earm gesæt.
 750 Sona þæt onfunde fyrena hyrde
 þæt he ne mette middangeardes,
 eorþan sceata, on elran men
 mundgripe maran. He on mode wearð
 forht on ferhðe; no þy ær fram meahte.
 755 Hyge wæs him hinfus, wolde on heolster fleon,
 secan deofla gedræg; ne wæs his drohtoð þær
 swylce he on ealderdagum ær gemette.
 Gemunde þa se goda, mæg Higelaces,
 æfenspræce, uplang astod
 760 ond him fæste wiðfeng; fingras burston.

Beowulf seizes
 Grendel

747 He him] not in ASPR

eoten wæs utweard, eorl furþur stop.
Mynte se mæra, hwær he meahte swa, f.131v
widre gewindan ond on weg þanon
fleon on fenhopu; wiste his fingra geweald
765 on grames grapum. Þæt wæs geocor sið
þæt se hearmscaþa to Heorute ateah.
Dryhtsele dynede; Denum eallum wearð,
ceasterbuendum, cenra gehwylcum,
eorlum ealuscerwen. Yrre wæron begen,
770 reþe renweardas. Reced hlynsoðe.
Pa wæs wundor micel þæt se winsele
wiðhæfde heapodeorum, þæt he on hrusan ne feol,
fæger foldbold; ac he þæs fæste wæs
innan ond utan irenbendum
775 searopuncum besmipod. Pær fram sylle abeag
medubenc monig, mine gefræge,
golde geregnad, þær þa gramann wunnon.
Pæs ne wendon ær witan Scyldinga
þæt hit a mid gemete manna ænig,
780 betlic ond banfag, tobreca meahte,

762 hwær | ASPR. þær

sawle secan: þone synscaðan
 ænig ofer eorþan irenna cyst,
 guðbilla nan, gretan nolde,
 ac he sigewæpnum forsworen hæfde, f.147v
 805 ecga gehwylcre. Scolde his aldorgedal
 on ðæm dæge þysses lifes
 earmlic wurðan, ond se ellorgast
 on feonda geweald feor siðian.
 Ða þæt onfunde se þe fela æror
 810 modes myrðe manna cynne,
 fyrene gefremede (he *wæs* fag wið God)
 þæt him se lichoma læstan nolde,
 ac hine se modega mæg Hygelaces
 hæfde be honda; wæs gehwæper oðrum
 815 lifigende lað. Licsar gebad
 atol æglæca; him on eaxle wearð
 syndolh sweotol, seonowe onsprungon,
 burston banlocan. Beowulfe wearð
 guðhreð gyfeþe. Scolde Grendel þonan
 820 feorhseoc fleon under fenhleoðu,
 secean wynleas wic; wiste þe geornor

þæt his aldres wæs ende gegongen,
 dogera dægrim. Denum eallum wearð
 æfter þam wælræse willa gelumpen.
 825 Hæfde þa gefælsod se þe ær feorran com,
 snotor ond swyðferhð, sele Hroðgares,
 genered wið niðe. Nihtweorce gefeh,
 ellenmærþum. Hæfde Eastdenum
 Geatmecga leod gilp gelæsted,
 830 swylce oncyþðe ealle gebette,
 inwidsorge, þe hie ær drugon
 ond for þreanydum þolian scoldon,
 torn unlytel. Þæt wæs tacen sweotol,
 syþðan hildedeor hond alegde,
 835 earm ond eaxle (þær wæs eal geador
 Grendles grape) under geapne hrof.

f.148v

ÐA wæs on morgen mine gefræge **Fitt XIII**
 ymb þa gifhealle guðrinc monig;
 ferdon folctogan feorran ond nean
 840 geond widwegas wundor sceawian,
 lapes lastas. No his lifgedal
 sarlic þuhte secga ænegum

þara þe tirleases trode sceawode,
 hu he werigmod on weg þanon,
 845 niða ofercumen, on nicera mere
 fæge ond geflymed feorhlastas bær.
 Ðær wæs on blode brim weallende,
 atol yða geswing eal gemenged
 haton heolfre, heorodreore weol. f.148v
 850 Deaðfæge deog, siððan dreama leas
 in fenfreoðo feorh alegde,
 hæþene sawle; þær him hel onfeng.
 Þanon eft gewiton ealdgesiðas
 swylce geong manig of gomenwape
 855 fram mere modge mearum ridan,
 beornas on blancum. Ðær wæs Beowulfes
 mærðo mæned; monig oft gecwæð
 þætte suð ne norð be sæm tweonum
 ofer eormengrund oþer nænig
 860 under swegles begong selra nære
 rondhæbbendra, rices wyrðra.
 Ne hie huru winedrihten wiht ne logon,
 glædne Hroðgar, ac þæt wæs god cyning.

	Hwilum heaþorofe hleapan leton,	
865	on geflit faran fealwe mearas	Horse racing and singing
	ðær him foldwegas fægere þuhton,	
	cystum cuðe. Hwilum cyninges þegn,	
	guma gilphlæden, gidða gemyndig,	
	se ðe eal fela ealldgesegena	
870	worn gemunde, word oþer fand	
	soðe gebunden; secg eft ongan	
	sið Beowulfes snyttrum styrian	f.149r
	ond on sped wrecan spel gerade,	
	wordum wrixlan. Welhwylc gecwæð	
875	þæt he fram Sigemundes secgan hyrde	Lay of Sigemund
	ellendædum, uncuþes fela,	
	Wælsinges gewin, wide siðas,	
	þara þe gumena bearn gearwe ne wiston,	
	fæhðe ond fyrena, buton Fitela mid hine,	
880	þonne he swulces hwæt secgan wolde,	
	eam his nefan, swa hie a wæron	
	æt niða gehwam nydgesteallan;	
	hæfdon eal fela eotena cynnes	
	sweordum gesæged. Sigemunde gesprong	

885 æfter deaðdæge dom unlytel,
 syþðan wiges heard wurm acwealde,
 hordes hyrde. He under harne stan,
 æþelinges bearn, ana geneðde
 frecne dæde, ne wæs him Fitela mid.
 890 Hwæpre him gesælde ðæt þæt swurd þurhwod
 wræhtlicne wurm, þæt hit on wealle ætstod,
 dryhtlic iren; draca morðre swealt.
 Hæfde aglæca elne gegongen
 þæt he beahhordes brucan moste
 895 selfes dome; sæbat gehleod, f.149v
 bær on bearm scipes beorhte frætwa,
 Wælses eafera. Wurm hat gemealt.
 Se wæs wreccena wide mærost
 ofer werþeode, wigendra hleo,
 900 ellendædum (he þæs ær onðah),
 siððan Heremodes hild sweðrode, Lay of
 eafodð ond ellen. He mid Eotenum wearð Heremod
 on feonda geweald forð forlacen,
 snude forsended. Hine sorhwylmas
 905 lemedon to lange; he his leodum wearð,

eallum æþellingum to aldorceare;
 swylce oft bemearn ærran mælum
 swiðferhþes sið snotor ceorl monig,
 se þe him bealwa to bote gelyfde,
 910 þæt þæt ðeodnes bearn geþeon scolde,
 fæderæþelum onfon, folc gehealdan,
 hord ond hleoburh, hæleþa rice,
 eþel Scyldinga. He þær eallum wearð,
 mæg Higelaces, manna cynne,
 915 freondum gefægra; hine fyren onwod.
 Hwilum flitende fealwe stræte
 mearum mæton. Ða wæs morgenleoht
 scofen ond scynded. Eode scealc monig f.150r
 swiðhicgende to sele þam hean
 920 searowundor seon; swylce self cyning
 of brydbure, beahhorda weard,
 tryddode tirfæst getrume micle,
 cystum gecyþed, ond his cwen mid him
 medostigge mæt mægþa hose.
 925 **HROÐGAR** maþelode (he to healle geong, **Fitt XIV**
 stod on stapole, geseah steapne hrof,

	golde fahne, ond Grendles hond):	
	“Ðisse ansyne alwealdan þanc	Hroðgar's speech
	lungre gelimpe. Fela ic laþes gebad,	
930	grynna æt Grendle; a mæg God wyrcan	
	wunder æfter wundre, wuldres hyrde.	
	Ðæt wæs ungeara þæt ic ænigra me	
	weana ne wende to widan feore	
	bote gebidan, þonne blode fah	
935	husa selest heorodreorig stod,	
	wea widscofen witenas gehwylc <i>um</i>	
	ðara þe ne wendon þæt hie wideferhð	
	leoda landgeweorc laþum beweredon	
	scuccum ond scinum. Nu scealc hafað	f.150v
940	þurh drihtnes miht dæd gefremede	
	ðe we ealle ær ne meahton	
	snyttrum besyrwan. Hwæt, þæt secgan mæg	
	efne swa hwylc mægþa swa ðone magan cende	
	æfter gumcynnum, gyf heo gyt lyfað,	
945	þæt hyre ealdmetod este wære	
	bearngebyrdo. Nu ic, Beowulf, þec,	
	secg betesta, me for sunu wylle	Hroðgar's proposal of adoption

freogan on ferhþe; heald forð tela
 niwe sibbe. Ne bið þe *nænigra* gad
 950 worolde wilna, þe ic geweald hæbbe.
 Ful oft ic for læssan lean teohhode,
 hordweorþunge hnahran rince,
 sæmran æt sæcce. Ðu þe self hafast
 dædum gefremed þæt þin *dom* lyfað
 955 awa to aldre. Alwalda þec
 gode forgylde, swa he nu gyt dyde.”
 Beowulf maþelode, bearn Ecþeowes:
 “We þæt ellenweorc estum miclum,
 feohtan fremedon, frecne geneðdon
 960 eafoð uncupes. Uþe ic swiþor
 þæt ðu hine selfne geseon moste,
 feond on frætewum fylwerigne.
 Ic *hine* hrædlice heardan clammum
 on wælbedde wripan þohte,
 965 þæt he for *mundgripe* minum scolde
 licgean lifbysig, butan his lic swice.
 Ic hine ne mihte, þa metod nolde,
 ganges getwæman, no ic him þæs georne ætfealh,

Beowulf
 replies

f.151r

feorhgeniðlan; wæs to foremihlig
 970 feond on fepe. Hwæpere he his folme forlet
 to lifwraþe last weardian,
 earm ond eaxle. No þær ænige swa þeah
 feasceaft guma frofre gebohte;
 no þy leng leofað laðgeteona,
 975 synnum geswenced, ac hyne sar hafað
 mid *nidgripe* nearwe befongen,
 balwon bendum. Ðær abidan sceal
 maga mane fah miclan domes,
 hu him scir metod scrifan wille.”
 980 Ða wæs swigra secg, sunu Eclafes,
 on gylpspræce guðgeweorca,
 siþðan æþelingas eorles cræfte
 ofer heanne hrof hand sceawedon,
 feondes fingras. Foran æghwylc wæs,
 985 steda nægla gehwylc, style gelicost,
 hæþenes handsporu hilderinces, f.151v
 egl unheoru. Æghwylc gecwæð
 þæt him heardra nan hrinan wolde

985 steda] ASPR. stiðra

990 iren ærgod, þæt ðæs ahlæcan
 blodge beadufolme onberan wolde.

 ÐA wæs haten hreþe Heort innanweard
 folmum gefrætwod. Fela þæra wæs,
 wera ond wifa, þe þæt winreced,
 gestsele gyredon. Goldfag scinon
995 web æfter wagum, wundorsiona fela
 secga gehwylcum þara þe on swylc starað.

 Wæs þæt beorhte bold tobrocen swiðe,
 eal inneweard irenbendum fæst,
 heorras tohlidene. Hrof ana genæs
1000 ealles ansund, þe se aglæca
 fyrendædum fag, on fleam gewand,
 aldres orwena. No þæt yðe byð
 to befeonne, —fremme se þe wille—
 ac gesecan sceal sawlberendra

1005 nyde genydde, niþða bearna,
 grundbuendra gearwe stowe,
 þær his lichoma legerbedde fæst
 swefeþ æfter symle. Ða wæs sæl ond mæl
 þæt to healle gang Healfdenes sunu;

Fitt XV

f.152r

1010 wolde self cyning symbel þicgan.
 Ne gefrægen ic þa mægþe maran weorode
 ymb hyra sincgyfan sel gebæran.
 Bugon þa to bence blædagande,
 fylla gefægon; fægere geþægon
 1015 medoful manig magas þara
 swiðhicgende on sele þam hean,
 Hroðgar ond Hroþulf. Heorot innan wæs
 freondum afylled; nalles facenstafas
 Peodscyldingas þenden fremedon.
 1020 Forgeaf þa Beowulfe bearn Healfdenes,
 segen gylðenne sigores to leane,
 hroden hildcumbor, helm ond byrnan.
 Mære maðþumsweord manige gesawon
 beforan beorn beran. Beowulf geþah
 1025 ful on flette; no he þære feohgyfte
 for sceotendum scamigan ðorfte.
 Ne gefrægn ic freondlicor feower madmas
 golde gegyrede gummanna fela
 in ealobence oðrum gesellan.
 1030 Ymb þæs helmes hrof heafodbeorge

Hroðgar
 rewards
 Beowulf

	wirum bewunden	wal <u>u</u> utan heold,	
	þæt him feola laf	frecne ne meaht <u>e</u>	f.152v
	scurheard sceþðan,	þonne scyldfreca	
	ongean gramum	gangan scolde.	
1035	Heht ða eorla hleo	eahta mearas	
	fætedhleore	on flet teon,	
	<i>in</i> under eoderas.	þara anum stod	
	sadol searwum fah,	since gewurþað;	
	þæt wæs hildesetl	heahcyniges	
1040	ðonne sweorda gelac	sunu Healfdenes	
	efnan wolde —	næfre on ore læg	
	widcūþes wig	ðonne walu feollon.	
	Ond ða Beowulfe	bega gehwæþres	
	eodor Ingwina	onweald geteah,	
1045	wicga ond wæpna,	het hine wel brucan.	
	Swa manlice	mære þeoden,	
	hordweard hæleþa,	heaporaesas geald	
	mearum ond madmum,	swa hy næfre man lyhð,	
	se þe secgan wile	soð æfter rihte.	
1050	ÐA gyt æghwylcum	eorla drihten	Fitt XVI

þara þe mid Beowulfe brimlade teah
 on þære medubence maþðum gesealde,
 yrfelafe, ond þone ænne heht
 golde forgyldan, þone ðe Grendel ær
 1055 mane acwealde — swa he hyra ma wolde,
 nefne him witig God wyrd forstode
 ond ðæs mannes mod. Metod eallum weold
 gumena cynnes, swa he nu git deð.
 Forþan bið andgit æghwær selest,
 1060 ferhðes foreþanc. Fela sceal gebidan
 leofes ond lapes se þe longe her
 on ðyssum windagum worolde bruceð.
 Pær wæs sang ond sweg samod ætgædere
 fore Healfdenes hildewisan,
 1065 gomenwudu greted, gid oft wrecen,
 ðonne Healgamen Hroþgares scop
 æfter medobence mænan scolde
 Finnes eaferan, ða hie se fær begeat,
 hæleð Healfdena, Hnæf Scyldinga,
 1070 in Freswæle feallan scolde.

f.153r

Scop sings of
Finnsburh

1068 Finnes eaferan] ASPR be Finnes eaferum

Ne huru Hildeburh herian þorfte
 Eotena treowe; unsynnum wearð
 beloren leofum æt þam lindplegan,
 bearnum ond broðrum; hie on gebyrd hruron,
 1075 gare wunde. þæt wæs geomuru ides! f.153v
 Nalles holinga Hoces dohtor
 meotodsceaft bemearn, syþðan morgen com,
 ða heo under swegle geseon meahste
 morþorbealo maga, þær heo ær mæste heold
 1080 worolde wynne. Wig ealle fornam
 Finnes þegnas nemne feaum anum,
 þæt he ne mehte on þæm meðelstede
 wig Hengeste wiht gefeohtan,
 ne þa wealafe wige forþringan
 1085 þeodnes ðegna; ac hig him geþingo budon,
 þæt hie him oðer flet eal gerymdon,
 healle ond heahsetl, þæt hie healfre geweald
 wið Eotena bearn agan moston,
 ond æt feohgyftum Folcwaldan sunu
 1090 dogra gehwylce Dene weorþode,
 Hengestes heap hringum wenede

efne swa swiðe sincgestreonum
 fættan goldes, swa he Fresena cyn
 on beorsele byldan wolde.
 1095 Ða hie getruwedon on twa healfa
 fæste frioðuwære. Fin Hengeste
 elne, unflitme aðum benemde f.154r
 þæt he þa wealafe weotena dome
 arum heolde, þæt ðær ænig mon
 1100 wordum ne worcum wære ne bræce,
 ne þurh inwitsearo æfre gemænden
 ðeah hie hira beaggyfan banan folgedon
 ðeodenlease, þa him swa geþearfod wæs;
 gyf þonne Frysna hwylc frecnan spræce
 1105 ðæs morþorhetes myndgiend wære,
 þonne hit sweordes ecg seðan scede.
 Ad wæs geæfned ond icge gold
 ahæfen of horde. Herescyldinga
 betst beadorinca wæs on bæl gearu.
 1110 Æt þæm ade wæs eþgesyne
 swatfah syrce, swyn eal gylden,

1106 scede] ASPR scolde

	eofer irenheard,	æþeling manig	
	wundum awyrded;	sume on wæle crungon.	
	Het ða Hildeburh	æt Hnæfes ade	
1115	hire selfre sunu	sweoloðe befæstan,	
	banfatu bærnan	ond on bæl don	
	eame on eaxle.	Ides gnornode,	
	geomrode giddum.	Guðrec astah,	
	wand to wolcnum;	wælfyra mæst	f.154v
1120	hlynode for hlawe.	Hafelan multon,	
	bengeato burston,	ðonne blod ætspranc,	
	laðbite lices.	Lig ealle forswealg,	
	gæsta gifrost,	þara ðe þær guð fornam	
	bega folces;	wæs hira blæd scacen.	
1125	GEWITON him ða wigend	wica neosian	Fitt XVII
	freondum befeallen,	Frysland geseon,	
	hamas ond heaburh.	Hengest ða gyt	
	wælfagne winter	wunode mid Finne;	
	he unhlitme	eard gemunde,	

1118 Guðrec | ASPR Guðrinc

1129 he | ASPR eal

1122 forswealg | Cf. Grendel eating Hondscio, 2080.

1125 wica neosian | Cf. Grendel, 821.

1130 þeah þe he *ne* meahte on mere drifan
 hringedstefnan — holm storme weol,
 won wið winde, winter yþe beleac
 isgebinde — oþ ðæt oþer com
 gear in geardas, swa nu gyt deð,
1135 þa ðe syngales sele bewitiað,
 wuldortorhtan weder. Ða wæs winter scacen,
 fæger foldan bearm. Fundode wrecca,
 gist of geardum; he to gyrnwræce
 swiðor þohte þonne to sælade,
1140 gif he torngemot þurhteon mihte
 þæt he Eotena bearn inne gemunde —
 swa he ne forwyrnde woroldrædenne —
 þonne him Hunlafing hildeleoman,
 billa selest, on bearm dyde,
1145 þæs wæron mid Eotenum ecge cuðe.
 Swylce ferhðfrecan Fin eft begeat
 sweordbealo sliðen æt his selfes ham,
 siþðan grimne gripe Guðlaf ond Oslaf
 æfter sæsiðe sorge mændon,
1150 ætwiton weana dæl; ne meahte wæfre mod

Spring comes
to Finnsburh

f.155r

	forhabban in hreþre. Ða wæs heal roden	
	feonda feorum, swilce Fin slægen,	
	cýning on corþre, ond seo cwen numen.	
	Sceotend Scyldinga to scypon feredon	
1155	eal ingesteald eorðcýninges,	
	swylce hie æt Finnes ham findan meahton	
	sigla searogimma. Hie on sælade	
	drihtlice wif to Denum feredon,	
	læddon to leodum. Leoð wæs asungen,	f.155v
1160	gleomannes gyd. Gamen eft astah,	End of Finnsburh
	beorhtode bencsweg; byrelas sealdon	
	win of wunderfatum. Ða cwom Wealhþeo forð	Wealhþeow enters
	gan under gyldnum beage þær þa godan twegen	
	sæton suhtergefæderan; þa gyt wæs hiera sib ætgædere,	
1165	æghwylc oðrum trywe. Swylce þær Unferþ þyle	
	æt fotum sæt frean Scyldinga; gehwylc hiora his ferhþe treowde,	
	þæt he hæfde mod micel, þeah þe he his magum nære	
	arfæst æt ecga gelacum. Spræc ða ides Scyldinga:	
	“Onfoh þissum fulle, freodrihten min,	Wealhþeow's speech
1170	sinces brytta. Ðu on sælum wes,	

1162 Ða cwom Wealhþeo | First of three sets of hypermetric verses. See K4, clx.

goldwine gumena, ond to Geatum spræc
mildum wordum, swa sceal man don.
Beo wið Geatas glæd, geofena gemyndig,
nean ond feorran þa þu nu hafast.
1175 Me man sægde þæt þu ðe for sunu wolde
hererinc habban. Heorot is gefælsod,
beahsele beorhta; bruc þenden þu mote
manigra medo, ond þinum magum læf
folc ond rice, þonne ðu forð scyle
1180 methodsceaft seon. Ic minne can
glædne Hroþulf, þæt he þa geogoðe wile
arum healdan, gyf þu ær þonne he,
wine Scildinga, worold oflættest;
wene ic þæt he mid gode gyldan wille
1185 uncran eaferan, gif he þæt eal gemon,
hwæt wit to willan ond to worðmyndum
umborwesendum ær arna gefremedon.”
Hwearf þa bi bence þær hyre byre wæron,
Hreðric ond Hroðmund, ond hælepa bearn,
1190 giogoð ætgædere; þær se goda sæt,
Beowulf Geata, be þæm gebroðrum twæm.

f.156r

1195 HIM wæs ful boren ond freondlaþu
 wordum bewægned, ond wunden gold
 estum geeawed, earnreade twa,
 hrægl ond hringas, healsbeaga mæst
 þara þe ic on foldan gefrægen hæbbe.
 Nænigne ic under swegle selran hyrde
 hordmaððum hæleþa, syþðan Hama ætwæg
 to þære byrhtan byrig Brosinga mene,
 1200 sigle ond sincfæt; searoniðas fleah
 Eormenrices, geceas ecne ræd.
 Þone hring hæfde Higelac Geata,
 nefa Swertinges, nyhstan siðe,
 siðþan he under segne sinc ealgode,
 1205 wælreaf werede; hyne wyrd fornam,
 syþðan he for wlenco wean ahsode,
 fæhðe to Frysum. He þa frætwe wæg,
 eorclanstanas ofer yða ful,
 rice þeoden; he under rande gecranc.
 1210 Gehwearf þa in Francna fæþm feorh cyninges,
 breostgewædu ond se beah somod.
 Wyrstan wigfrecan wæl reafedon

	æfter guðsceare,	Geata leode,	
	hreawic heoldon.	Heal swege onfeng.	
1215	Wealhðeo mapelode,	heo fore þæm werede spræc:	Wealhþeow to Beowulf
	“Bruc ðisses beages,	Beowulf leofa,	
	hyse, mid hæle,	ond þisses hrægles neot,	f.157r
	þeodgestreona,	ond geþeoh tela,	
	cen þec mid cræfte	ond þyssum cnyhtum wes	
1220	lara liðe.	Ic þe þæs lean geman.	
	Hafast þu gefered	þæt ðe feor ond neah	
	ealne wideferhþ	weras ehtigað,	
	efne swa side	swa sæ bebugeð,	
	windgeard, weallas.	Wes þenden þu lifige,	
1225	æþeling, eadig.	Ic þe an tela	
	sincgestreona.	Beo þu suna minum	
	dædum gedefe,	dreamhealdende.	
	Her is æghwylc eorl	oþrum getrywe,	
	modes milde,	mandrihtne hold;	
1230	þegnas syndon geþwære,	þeod eal gearo,	
	druncne dryhtguman	doð swa ic bidde.”	
	Eode þa to setle.	Þær wæs symbla cyst,	
	druncon win weras.	Wyrð ne cuþon,	

geosceaft grimme, swa hit agangen wearð
 1235 eorla manegum, syþðan æfen cwom
 ond him Hroþgar gewat to hofe sinum,
 rice to ræste. Reced weardode
 unrim eorla, swa hie oft ær dydon.
 Bencþelu beredon; hit geondbræded wearð
 1240 beddum ond bolstrum. Beorscealca sum
 fus ond fæge fletæste gebeag. f.157v
 Setton him to heafdon hilderandas,
 bordwudu beorhtan; þær on bence wæs
 ofer æþelinge yþgesene
 1245 heaþosteapa helm, hringed byrne,
 þrecwudu þrymlic. Wæs þeaw hyra
 þæt hie oft wæron an wig gearwe,
 ge æt ham ge on herge, ge gehwæþer þara,
 efne swylce mæla swylce hira mandryhtne
 1250 þearf gesælde; wæs seo þeod tilu.

SIGON þa to slæpe. Sum sare angeald
 æfenræste, swa him ful oft gelamp,
 siþðan goldsele Grendel warode,
 unriht æfnde, oþ þæt ende becwom,

Fitt XIX

1255 swylt æfter synnum. Ðæt gesyne wearþ,
 widcup werum, þætte wrecend þa gyt
 lifde æfter laþum, lange þrage,
 æfter guðceare. Grendles modor,
 ides aglæcwif yrmþe gemunde,
 1260 se þe wætereges an wunian scolde,
 cealde streamas, siþðan *Cain* wearð
 to ecgbanan angan breþer,
 fæderenmæge; he þa fag gewat,
 morþre gemearcod mandream fleon,
 1265 westen warode. Ðanon woc fela
 geosceaftgasta; wæs þæra Grendel sum,
 heorowearh hetelic, se æt Heorote fand
 wæccendne wer wiges bidan.
 Ðær him aglæca ætgræpe wearð;
 1270 hwæþre he gemunde mægenes strenge,
 gimfæste gife ðe him God sealde,
 ond him to anwaldan are gelyfde,
 frofre ond fultum; ðy he þone feond ofercwom,
 gehnægde helle gast. Ða he hean gewat,
 1275 dreame bedæled deapwic seon,

Grendel's
 mother

f.158r

mancynnes feond, ond his modor þa gyt,
 gifre ond galgmod gegan wolde
 sorhfulne sið, sunu deað wrecan.
 Com þa to Heorote, ðær Hringdene
 1280 geond þæt sæld swæfun. Þa ðær sona wearð
 edhwyrft eorlum, siþðan inne fealh
 Grendles modor. Wæs se gryre læssa
 efne swa micle swa bið mægþa cræft,
 wiggryre wifes, be wæpnedmen,
 1285 þonne heoru bunden, hamere geþruen,
 sweord swate fah swin ofer helme
 ecgum dyhttig andweard scireð.
 Pa wæs on healle heardecg togen
 sweord ofer setlum, sidrand manig
 1290 hafen handa fæst; helm ne gemunde,
 byrnan side, þa hine se broga angeat.
 Heo wæs on ofste, wolde ut þanon,
 feore beorgan, þa heo onfunden wæs.
 Hraðe heo æþelinga anne hæfde
 1295 fæste befangen, þa heo to fenne gang.

Grendel's
 mother to
 Heorot

f.158v

1285 geþruen] ASPR gepuren

Se wæs Hroþgare hæleþa leofost
 on gesiðes had be sām tweonum,
 rice randwiga, þone ðe heo on ræste abreat,
 blædfæstne beorn. Næs Beowulf ðær,
 1300 ac wæs oþer in ær geteohhod
 æfter maþðumgife mærum Geate.
 Hream wearð in Heorote; heo under heolfre genam
 cuþe folme; cearu wæs geniwod,
 geworden in wicun. Ne wæs þæt gewrixle til,
 1305 þæt hie on ba healfa bicgan scoldon
 freonda feorum. Þa wæs frod cyning,
 har hilderinc, on hreon mode, f.159r
 syðþan he aldorþegn unlyfigendne,
 þone deorestan deadne wisse.
 1310 Hraþe wæs to bure Beowulf fetod,
 sigoreadig secg. Samod ærdæge
 eode eorla sum, æþele cempa
 self mid gesiðum þær se snotera bad,
 hwæþer him alwalda æfre wille
 1315 æfter weaspelle wyrpe gefremman.
 Gang ða æfter flore fyrdwyrðe man

mid his handscale — healwudu dynede —
 þæt he þone wisan wordum nægde
 frean Ingwina, frægn gif him wære
 1320 æfter neodlaðum niht getæse.

HROÐGAR maþelode, helm Scyldinga:
 “Ne frin þu æfter sælum. Sorh is geniwod
 Denigea leodum. Dead is Æschere,
 Yrmenlafes yldra broþor,
 1325 min runwita ond min rædbora,
 eaxlgestealla ðonne we on orlege
 hafelan weredon, þonne hniton feþan,
 eoferas cnysedan. Swylc scolde eorl wesan,
 æþeling ærgod, swylc Æschere wæs.

1330 Wearð him on Heorote to handbanan
 wælgæst wæfre; ic ne wat hwæder
 atol æse wlanc eftsiðas teah,
 fylle gefreƿnod. Heo þa fæhðe wræc
 þe þu gystran niht Grendel cwealdest
 1335 þurh hæstne had heardum clammum,
 forþan he to lange leode mine

Fitt XX

Hroðgar's
speech

f.159v

1333 gefreƿnod | ASPR gefægnod

wanode ond wyrde. He æt wige gecrang
 ealdres scyldig, ond nu oþer cwom
 mihtig manscaða, wolde hyre mæg wrecan,
 1340 ge feor hafað fæhðe gestæled —
 þæs þe þincean mæg þegne monegum,
 se þe æfter sincgyfan on sefan greoteþ —
 hreþerbealo hearde; nu seo hand ligeð,
 se þe eow welhwylcra wilna dohte.
 1345 Ic þæt londbuend, leode mine,
 selerædende secgan hyrde
 þæt hie gesawon swylce twegen
 micle mearcstapan moras healdan,
 ellorgæstas. Ðæra oðer wæs,
 1350 þæs þe hie gewislicost gewitan meahton,
 idese onlicnæs; oðer earmsceapen
 on weres wæstmum wræclastas træd,
 næfne he wæs mara þonne ænig man oðer;
 þone on geardagum Grendel nemdon
 1355 foldbuende. No hie fæder cunnon,
 hwæþer him ænig wæs ær acenned

Tale of
Grendel

f.160r

1354 on geardagum] Cf. line 1

dyrnra gasta. Hie dygel lond
 warigeað, wulfhleopu, windige næssas,
 frecne fengelad, ðær fyrgenstream
 1360 under næssa genipu niþer gewiteð,
 flod under foldan. Nis þæt feor heonon
 milgemeances þæt se mere standeð;
 ofer þæm hongiað hrinde bearwas,
 wudu wyrtum fæst wæter oferhelmað.
 1365 Þær mæg nihta gehwæm niðwundor seon,
 fyr on flode. No þæs frod leofað
 gumena bearna, þæt þone grund wite.
 Deah þe hæðstapa hundum geswenced,
 heorot hornum trum holtwudu sece,
 1370 feorran geflymed, ær he feorh seleð,
 aldor on ofre, ær he in wille
 hafelan *beorgan*. Nis þæt heoru stow.
 Ðonon yðgeblond up astigeð
 won to wolcnum, þonne wind styreþ
 1375 lað gewidru, oð þæt lyft drysmaþ,
 roderas reotað. Nu is se ræd gelang

1372 *beorgan*] ASPR hydan

eft æt þe anum. Eard git ne const, f.160v

frecne stowe, ðær þu findan miht

sinnigne secg; sec gif þu dyre.

1380 Ic þe þa fæhðe feo leanige,
ealdgestreonum, swa ic ær dyde,
wundnan golde, gyf þu on weg cymest.”

BEOWULF mapelode, bearn Ecgþeowes:

Fitt XXI

“Ne sorga, snotor guma. Selre bið æghwæm

Beowulf to
Hroðgar

1385 þæt he his freond wrece, þonne he fela murne.
Ure æghwylc sceal ende gebidan
worolde lifes; wyrce se þe mote
domes ær deaþe; þæt bið drihtguman
unlifgendum æfter selest.

1390 Aris, rices weard, uton raþe feran
Grendles magan gang sceawigan.
Ic hit þe gehate, no he on helm losað,
ne on foldan fæþm, ne on fyrgeholt,
ne on gyfenes grund, ga þær he wille.

1395 Ðys dogor þu geþyld hafa
weana gehwylces, swa ic þe wene to.”

1379 *sinnigne* | ASPR felasinnigne

1382 *wundnan* | ASPR wundnum

	Ahleop ða se gomela,	Gode þancode,	
	mihtigan drihtne,	þæs se man gespræc.	f. 161r
	Pa wæs Hroðgare	hors gebæted,	
1400	wicg wundenfeax.	Wisa fengel	
	geatolic gende;	gumfeþa stop	
	lindhæbbendra.	Lastas wæron	
	æfter waldswaþum	wide gesyne,	
	gang ofer grundas,	<i>þær</i> heo gegnum for	
1405	ofer myrcan mor,	magopegna bær	
	þone selestan	sawolleasne	
	para þe mid Hroðgare	ham eahtode.	
	Ofereode þa	æþelinga bearn	The hunt for Grendel's mother
	steap stanhliðo,	stige nearwe,	
1410	enge anpaðas,	uncuð gelad,	
	neowle næssas,	nicorhusa fela.	
	He feara sum	beforan gengde	
	wisra monna	wong sceawian,	
	op þæt he færinga	fyrgebeamas	
1415	ofer harne stan	hleonian funde,	
	wynleasne wudu;	wæter under stod	The Mere
	dreorig ond gedrefed.	Denum eallum wæs,	

winum Scyldinga, weorce on mode
 to geþolianne, ðegne monegum,
 1420 oncyð eorla gehwæm, syðþan Æscheres
 on þam holmclice hafelan metton.
 Flod blode weol — folc to sægon —
 hatan heolfre. Horn stundum song f.161v
 fuslic *fyrð*leoð. Feþa eal gesæt.
 1425 Gesawon ða æfter wætere wyrmcynnes fela,
 sellice sædracan, sund cunnian,
 swylce on næshleoðum nicras licgean,
 ða on undernmæl oft bewitigað
 sorhfulne sið on segrade,
 1430 wyrmas ond wildeor. Hie on weg hruron,
 bitere ond gebolgne, bearhtm ongeaton,
 guðhorn galan. Sumne Geata leod
 of flanbogan feores getwæfde,
 yðgewinnes, þæt him on aldre stod
 1435 herestræl hearda; he on holme wæs
 sundes þe sænra, ðe hyne swylt fornam.
 Hræpe wearð on yðum mid eoferspreotum
 heorohocyhtum hearde genearwod,

niða genæged, ond on næs togen,
 1440 wundorlic wægþora; weras sceawedon
 gryrelicne gist. Gyrede hine Beowulf
 eorlgewædum, nalles for ealdre mearn.
 Scolde herebyrne hondum gebroden,
 sid ond searofah, sund cunnian,
 1445 seo ðe bancofan beorgan cuþe,
 þæt him hildegrap hreþre ne mihte,
 eorres inwitfeng, aldre gesceþðan;
 ac se hwita helm hafelan werede, f.162r
 se þe meregrundas mengan scolde,
 1450 secan sundgebland since geweorðad,
 befongen freawrasnum, swa hine fyrndagum
 worhte wæpna smið, wundrum teode,
 besette swinlicum, þæt hine syðþan no
 brond ne beadomecas bitan ne meahton.
 1455 Næs þæt þonne mætost mægenfultuma
 þæt him on ðearfe lah ðyle Hroðgares;
 wæs þæm hæftmece Hrunting nama.
 Pæt wæs an foran ealdgestreona;
 ecg wæs iren, atertanum fah,

1460 ahyrded heaþoswate; næfre hit æt hilde ne swac
 manna ængum þara þe hit mid mundum bewand,
 se ðe gryresiðas gegan dorste,
 folcstede fara; næs þæt forma sið
 þæt hit ellenweorc æfnan scolde.

1465 Huru ne gemunde mago Ecglafes,
 eafopes cræftig, þæt he ær gespræc
 wine druncen, þa he þæs wæpnes onlah
 selran sweordfreca. Selfa ne dorste
 under yða gewin aldre geneþan,

1470 drihtscype dreogan; þær he dome forleas,
 ellenmærdum. Ne wæs þæm oðrum swa,
 syðþan he hine to guðe gegyred hæfde.

BEOWULF maðelode, bearn Ecgþeowes:

 “Gepenc nu, se mæra maga Healfdenes,

1475 snottra fengel, nu ic eom siðes fus,
 goldwine gumena, hwæt wit geo spræcon,
 gif ic æt þearfe þinre scolde
 aldre linnan, þæt ðu me a wære
 forðgewitenum on fæder stæle.

1480 Wes þu mundbora minum magoþegnum,

f.162v

**Fitt
XXII**

Beowulf says
farewell

hondgesellum, gif mec hild nime;
 swylce þu ða madmas þe þu me sealdest,
 Hroðgar leofa, Higelace onsend.
 Mæg þonne on þæm golde ongitan Geata dryhten,
 1485 geseon sunu Hrædles, þonne he on þæt sinc starað,
 þæt ic gumcystum godne funde
 beaga bryttan, breac þonne moste.
 Ond þu Unferð læt ealde lafe,
 wrætlic wægsweord, widcuðne man
 1490 heardecg habban; ic me mid Hruntinge
 dom gewyrce, oþðe mec deað nimeð.” f.163r
 Æfter þæm wordum Wedergeata leod
 efste mid elne, nalas andsware
 bidan wolde; brimwylm onfeng
 1495 hilderince. Ða wæs hwil dæg
 ær he þone grundwong ongytan mehte.
 Sona þæt onfunde se ðe floda begong
 heorogifre beheold hund missera,
 grim ond grædig, þæt þær gumena sum
 1500 ælwihta eard ufan cunnode.
 Grap þa togeanes, guðrinc gefeng

atolan clommum. No þy ær in gescod
 halan lice; hring utan ymbbearh,
 þæt heo þone fyrdhom ðurhfon ne mihte,
 1505 locene leoðosyrca laþan fingrum.
 Bær þa seo brimwylf, þa heo to botme com,
 hringa þengel to hofe sinum,
 swa he ne mihte, no he þæs modig wæs,
 wæpna gewealdan, ac hine wundra þæs fela
 1510 swencte on sunde, sædeor monig
 hildetuxum heresyrcan bræc,
 ehton aglæcan. Ða se eorl ongeat
 þæt he *in* niðsele nathwylcum wæs,
 þær him nænig wæter wihte ne sceþede,
 1515 ne him for hrofsele hrinan ne mehte
 færgripe flodes; fyrleoht geseah,
 blacne leoman, beorhte scinan.
 Ongeat þa se goda grundwyrgegne,
 merewif mihtig; mægenræs forgeaf
 1520 hildebille, hond sweng ne ofteah,
 þæt hire on hafelan hringmæl agol
 grædig guðleoð. Ða se gist onfand

Beowulf enters
 Grendelkin
 Hall

f.163v

þæt se beadleoma bitan nolde,
 aldre sceþðan, ac seo ecg geswac
 1525 ðeodne æt þearfe; ðolode ær fela
 hondgemota, helm oft gescær,
 fæges fyrdhrægl; ða wæs forma sið
 deorum madme, þæt his dom alæg.
 Eft wæs anræd, nalas elnes læt,
 1530 mærdða gemyndig mæg Hylaces.
 Wearp ða wundenmæl wrættum gebunden
 yrre oretta, þæt hit on eorðan læg,
 stið ond stylecg; strenge getruwode,
 mundgripe mægenes. Swa sceal man don,
 1535 þonne he æt guðe gegan þenceð
 longsumne lof, na ymb his lif cearað.
 Gefeng þa be eaxle — nalas for fæhðe mearn —
 Guðgeata leod Grendles modor;
 brægd þa beadwe heard, þa he gebolgen wæs,
 1540 feorhgeniðlan, þæt heo on flet gebeah.
 Heo him eft hraþe andlean forgeald
 grimman grapum ond him togeanes feng;
 oferwearp þa werigmod wigena strengest,

feþecempa, þæt he on fylle wearð.
 1545 Ofsæt þa þone selegyst ond hyre seax geteah,
 brad *ond* brunecg, wolde hire bearn wrecan,
 angan eaferan. Him on eaxle læg
 breostnet broden; þæt gebearh feore,
 wið ord ond wið ecge ingang forstod.
 1550 Hæfde ða forsiðod sunu Ecgþeowes
 under gynne grund, Geata cempa,
 nemne him heaðobyrne helpe gefremede,
 herenet hearde, ond halig God.
 Geweold wigsigor witig drihten,
 1555 rodera rædend, hit on ryht gesced
 yðelice, syþðan he eft astod.
 GESEAH ða on searwum sigeeadig bil,
 eald sweord eotenisc, ecgum þyhtig,
 wigena weorðmynd; þæt *wæs* wæpna cyst,
 1560 buton hit wæs mare ðonne ænig mon oðer
 to beadulace ætberan meahte,
 god ond geatolic, giganta geweorc.
 He gefeng þa fetelhilt, freca Scyldinga
 hreoh ond heorogrim hringmæl gebrægd,

Grendel's
 mother draws
 a seax

Fitt
XXIII

1565	aldres orwena, yrringa sloh,	f.164v
	þæt hire wið halse heard grapode,	
	banhringas bræc. Bil eal ðurhwod	
	fægne flæschoman; heo on flet gecrong.	
	Sweord wæs swatig, secg weorce gefeh.	Beowulf kills Grendel's mother
1570	Lixte se leoma, leoht inne stod,	
	efne swa of hefene hadre scineð	
	rodores candel. He æfter recede wlat;	
	hwearf þa be wealle, wæpen hafenade	
	heard be hiltum Higelaces ðegn,	
1575	yrre ond anræd. Næs seo ecg fracod	
	hilderince, ac he hraþe wolde	
	Grendle forgyldan guðræsa fela	Beowulf seeks recompense
	ðara þe he geworhte to Westdenum	
	oftor micle ðonne on ænne sið,	
1580	þonne he Hroðgares heorðgeneatas	
	sloh on sweofote, slæpende fræt	
	folces Denigea fyftyne men	
	ond oðer swylc ut offerede,	
	laðlicu lac. He him þæs lean forgeald,	
1585	reþe cempa, ðæs þe he on ræste geseah	
<hr/>		
	1585 ðæs þe ASPR to ðæs þe	

guðwerigne Grendel licgan
 aldorleasne, swa him ær gescod
 hild æt Heorote. Hra wide sprong,
 syþðan he æfter deaðe drepe þrowade,
 1590 heorosweng heardne, ond hine þa heafde becearf.
 Sona þæt gesawon snottre ceorlas, f.165r
 þa ðe mid Hroðgare on holm wliton,
 þæt wæs yðgeblond eal gemenged,
 brim blode fah. Blondenfeaxe,
 1595 gomele ymb godne ongeador spræcon
 þæt hig þæs æðelinges eft ne wendon
 þæt he sigehreðig secean come
 mærne þeoden; þa ðæs monige gewearð
 þæt hine seo brimwylf abroten hæfde.
 1600 Ða com non dæges. Næs ofgeafon
 hwate Scyldingas; gewat him ham þonon
 goldwine gumena. Gistas setan
 modes seoce ond on mere staredon,
 wiston ond ne wendon þæt hie heora winedrihten
 1605 selfne gesawon. Ða þæt sweord ongan

	æfter heaþoswate	hildegicelum,	
	wigbil wanian.	Þæt wæs wundra sum,	
	þæt hit eal gemealt	ise gelicost,	
	ðonne forstes bend	fæder onlæteð,	
1610	onwindeð wælrapas,	se geweald hafað	
	sæla ond mæla;	þæt is soð metod.	
	Ne nom he in þæm wicum,	Wedergeata leod,	
	maðmæhta ma,	þeh he þær monige geseah,	
	buton þone hafelan	ond þa hilt somod	
1615	since fage.	Sweord ær gemealt,	
	forbarn brodenmæl;	wæs þæt blod to þæs hat,	f.165v
	ættren ellorgæst	se þær inne swealt.	
	Sona wæs on sunde	se þe ær æt sæcce gebad	
	wighryre wraðra,	wæter up þurhdeaf.	
1620	Wæron yðgebland	eal gefælsod,	
	eacne eardas,	þa se ellorgast	
	oflet lifdagas	ond þas lænan gesceaft.	
	Com þa to lande	lidmanna helm	
	swiðmod swymman;	sælace gefeah,	
1625	mægenbyrþenne	þara þe he him mid hæfde.	
	Eodon him þa togeanes,	Gode þancodon,	

Beowulf
returns to
shore

ðryðlic þegna heap, þeodnes gefegon,
 þæs þe hi hyne gesundne geseon moston.
 Ða wæs of þæm hroran helm ond byrne
 1630 lungre alysed. Lagu drusade,
 wæter under wolcnum, wældreore fag.
 Ferdon forð þonon feþelastum
 ferhþum fægne, foldweg mæton,
 cuþe stræte. Cyningbalde men
 1635 from þæm holmlife hafelan bæron
 earfoðlice heora æghwæþrum,
 felamodigra; feower scoldon
 on þæm wælstenge weorcum geferian
 to þæm goldsele Grendles heafod,
 1640 oþðæt semninga to sele comon f.166r
 frome fyrdhwate feowertyne
 Geata gongan; gumdryhten mid
 modig on gemonge meodowongas træd.
 Ða com in gan ealdor ðegna,
 1645 dædcene mon dome gewurþad,
 hæle hildedeor, Hroðgar gretan.
 Ða wæs be feaxe on flet boren

Grendles heafod, þær guman druncon,
egeslic for eorlum ond þære idese mid,
1650 wliteseon wrætlic; weras on sawon.

BEOWULF mabelode, bearn Ecgþeowes:

**Fitt
XXIV**

“Hwæt! we þe þas sælac, sunu Healfdenes,
leod Scyldinga, lustum brohton
tires to tacne, þe þu her to locast.
1655 Ic þæt unsofte ealdre gedigde
wigge under wætere, weorc geneþde
earfoðlice; ætrihte wæs
guð getwæfed, nymðe mec God scylde.

Beowulf
presents
Grendel's
head

Ne meahte ic æt hilde mid Hruntinge
1660 wiht gewyrcan, þeah þæt wæpen duge;
ac me geuðe ylða waldend
þæt ic on wage geseah wlitig hangian
eald sweord eacen, oftost wisode
winigea leasum, þæt ic ðy wæpne gebræd.

f.166v

1665 Ofsloh ða æt þære sæcce, þa me sæl ageald,
huses hyrdas. þa þæt hildebil
forbarn brogdenmæl, swa þæt blod gesprang,
hatost heaþoswata. Ic þæt hilt þanan

feondum ætferede, fyrendæda wræc,
 1670 deaðcwealm Denigea, swa hit gedefe wæs.
 Ic hit þe þonne gehate, þæt þu on Heorote most
 sorhleas swefan mid þinra secga gedryht
 ond þegna gehwylc þinra leoda,
 duguðe ond iogoþe, þæt þu him ondrædan ne þearft,
 1675 þeoden Scyldinga, on þa healfe,
 aldorbealu eorlum, swa þu ær dydest.”
 Ða wæs gylden hilt gamelum rince,
 harum hildfruman, on hand gyfen,
 enta ærgeweorc; hit on æht gehwearf
 1680 æfter deofla hryre Denigea frean,
 wundorsmiþa geweorc, ond þa þas worold ofgeaf
 gromheort guma, Godes andsaca,
 morðres scyldig, ond his modor eac,
 on geweald gehwearf woroldcyninga
 1685 ðæm selestan be sæm tweonum
 ðara þe on Scedenigge sceattas dælde.
 Hroðgar maðelode, hylt sceawode,
 ealde lafe. On ðæm wæs or writen
 fyrngewinnes, syðþan flod ofsloh,

f.167r

The Lay of
the Giants

1690 gifen geotende, giganta cyn
 frecne geferdon; þæt wæs fremde þeod
 ecean dryhtne; him þæs endelea
 þurh wæteres wylm waldend sealde.
 Swa wæs on ðæm scennum sciran goldes
 1695 þurh runstafas rihte gemearcod,
 geseted ond gesæd hwam þæt sweord geworht,
 irena cyst, ærest wære,
 wreopenhilt ond wyrmfah. Ða se wisa spræc
 sunu Healfdenes, swigedon ealle:
 1700 “Þæt, la, mæg secgan se þe soð ond riht
 fremeð on folce, feor eal gemon,
 eald eþelweard, þæt ðes eorl wære
 geboren betera. Blæd is aræred
 geond widwegas, wine min Beowulf,
 1705 ðin ofer þeoda gehwylce. Eal þu hit gebyldum healdest,
 mægen mid modes snyttrum. Ic þe sceal mine gelæstan
 freode, swa wit furðum spræcon. ðu scealt to frofre weorþan
 eal langtwidig leodum þinum,
 hæleðum to helpe. Ne wearð Heremod swa

Hroðgar's
Sermon

f.167v

1702 eþelweard] ASPR weard

1710 eaforum Ecgwelan, Arscyldingum;
 ne geweax he him to willan, ac to wælfearle
 ond to deaðcwalum Deniga leodum;
 breat bolgenmod beodgeneatas,
 eaxlgesteallan, oþ þæt he ana hwearf,
 1715 mære þeoden, mondreamum from.
 Deah þe hine mihtig God mægenes wynnum,
 eafepum stepte, ofer ealle men
 forð gefremede, hwæþere him on ferhþe greow
 breosthord blodreow. Nallas beagas geaf
 1720 Denum æfter dome; dreamleas gebad
 þæt he þæs gewinnes weorc þrowade,
 leodbealo longsum. Ðu þe lær be þon,
 gumcyste ongit; ic þis gid be þe
 awræc wintrum frod. Wundor is to secganne
 1725 hu mihtig God manna cynne
 þurh sidne sefan snyttru bryttað,
 eard ond eorlscipe; he ah ealra geweald.
 Hwilum he on lufan læteð hworfan
 monnes modgeþonc mæran cynnes,
 1730 seleð him on eþle eorþan wyne

	to healdanne, hleoburh wera,	
	gedeð him swa gewældene worolde dælas,	f.168r
	side rice, þæt he his selfa ne mæg	
	for his unsnyttrum ende geþencean.	
1735	Wunað he on wiste; no hine wiht dweleð	
	adl ne ylðo, ne him inwitsorh	
	on sefan sweorceð, ne gesacu ohwær	
	ecghete eoweð, ac him eal worold	
	wendeð on willan; he þæt wyrse ne con,	
1740	OÐ ÐÆT him on innan oferhygda dæl	Fitt XXV
	weaxeð ond wriðað. Þonne se weard swefeð,	
	saweale hyrde; bið se slæp to fæst,	
	bisgum gebunden, bona swiðe neah,	
	se þe of flanbogan fyrenum sceoteð.	
1745	Þonne bið on hreþre under helm drepen	
	biteran stræle — him bebeorgan ne con —	
	wom wundorbebodum wergan gastes;	
	þinceð him to lytel þæt he lange heold,	
	gytsað gromhydig, nallas on gylp seleð	

1740 **OÐ ÐÆT**] Fitt number added after text; along with 29-30, comes in middle of sentence. See Kiernan.

1750 fætte beagas, ond he þa forðgesceaft
 forgyteð ond forgymeð, þæs þe him ær God sealde,
 wuldres waldend, weorðmynda dæl. f.168v
 Hit on endestæf eft gelimpeð
 þæt se lichoma læne gedreoseð,
 1755 fæge gefealleð; fehð oþer to,
 se þe un murnlice madmas dælep,
 eorles ærgestreon, egesan ne gymeð.
 Bebeorh þe ðone bealonið, Beowulf leofa,
 secg betesta, ond þe þæt selre geceos,
 1760 ece rædas; oferhyda ne gym,
 mære cempa. Nu is þines mægnes blæd
 ane hwile. Eft sona bið
 þæt þec adl oððe ecg eafoþes getwæfeð,
 oððe fyres feng, oððe flodes wylm,
 1765 oððe gripe meces, oððe gares fliht,
 oððe atol ylðo; oððe eagenas bearhtm
 forsited and forsworced; semninga bið
 þæt ðec, dryhtguma, deað oferswyðeð.
 Swa ic Hringdena hund missera

1770 weold under wolcnum ond hig wigge beleac
 manigum mægþa geond þysne middangeard,
 æscum ond ecgum, þæt ic me ænigne
 under swegles begong gesacan ne tealde.
 Hwæt, me þæs on eþle edwenden cwom,
1775 gyrn æfter gomene, seopðan Grendel wearð,
 ealdgewinna, ingenga min;
 ic þære socne singales wæg f.169r
 modceare micle. Þæs sig metode þanc,
 ecean dryhtne, þæs ðe ic on aldre gebad
1780 þæt ic on þone hafelan heorodreorigne
 ofer eald gewin eagum starige.
 Ga nu to setle, symbelwynne dreoh
 wigge weorþad; unc sceal worn fela
 maþma gemænra, sibðan morgen bið.”
1785 Geat wæs glædmod, geong sona to
 setles neosan, swa se snottra heht.
 Ða wæs eft swa ær ellenrofum
 fletsittendum fægere gereorded
 niowan stefne. Nihthelm geswearc
1790 deorc ofer dryhtgumum. Duguð eal aras.

	Wolde blondenfeax	beddes neosan,	
	gamela Scylding.	Geat unigmetes wel,	
	rofne randwigan,	restan lyste;	
	sona him seleþegn	siðes wergum,	
1795	feorrancundum,	forð wisade,	
	se for andrysum	ealle beweotede	
	þegnes þearfe,	swylce þy dogor	
	heapoliðende	habban scoldon.	
	Reste hine þa rumheort;	reced hliuade	
1800	geap ond goldfah;	gæst inne swæf	
	oþ þæt hrefn blaca	heofones wynne	
	bliðheort bodode.	Ða com beorht [leoma]	f.169v
	[ofer sceadwa] scacan;	scapan onetton,	
	wæron æþelingas	eft to leodum	
1805	fuse to farenne;	wolde feor þanon	Day of Departure
	cuma collenferhð	ceoles neosan.	
	Heht þa se hearda	Hrunting beran	
	sunu Ecglafes,	heht his sweord niman,	
	leoffic iren;	sægde him þæs leanes þanc,	
1810	cwæð, he þone guðwine	godne tealde,	
	wigcræftigne,	nales wordum log	

meces ecge; þæt wæs modig secg.
Ond þa siððfrome, searwum gearwe
wigend wæron; eode weorð Denum
1815 æþeling to yppan, þær se oþer wæs,
hæle hildedeor Hroðgar grette.

BEOWULF maþelode, bearn Ecgþeowes:

**Fitt
XXVI**

“Nu we sæliðend secgan wyllað
feorran cumene, þæt we fundiaþ
1820 Higelac secan. Wæron her tela
willum bewenede; þu us wel dohtest.
Gif ic þonne on eorþan owihte mæg
þinre modlufan maran tilian,
gumena dryhten, ðonne ic gyt dyde,
1825 guðgeweorca, ic beo gearo sona.
Gif ic þæt gefricge ofer floda begang
þæt þec ymsittend egesan þywað,
swa þec hetende hwilum dydon,
ic ðe þusenda þegna bringe,
1830 hæleþa to helpe. Ic on Higelac wat,
Geata dryhten, þeah ðe he geong sy,

Beowulf takes
his leave

f.170r

	folces hyrde,	þæt he mec fremman wile	
	wordum ond worcum,	þæt ic þe wel herige	
	ond þe to geoce	garholt bere,	
1835	mægenes fultum,	þær ðe bið manna þearf.	
	Gif him þonne Hreþric	to hofum Geata	
	geþingeð þeodnes bearn,	he mæg þær fela	
	freonda findan;	feorcyþðe beoð	
	selran gesohte	þæm þe him selfa deah.”	
1840	Hroðgar maþelode	him on ondsware:	
	“Þe þa wordcwydas	wigtig drihten	Hroðgar replies
	on sefan sende;	ne hyrde ic snotorlicor	
	on swa geongum feore	guman þingian.	
	Pu eart mægenes strang	ond on mode frod,	
1845	wis wordcwida.	Wen ic talige,	
	gif þæt gegangeð,	þæt ðe gar nymeð,	
	hild heorugrimme	Hreþles eaferan,	
	adl oþðe iren	ealdor ðinne,	
	folces hyrde,	ond þu þin feorh hafast,	
1850	þæt þe Sægeatas	selran næbben	f.170v
	to geceosenne	cyning ænigne,	
	hordweard hæleþa,	gyf þu healdan wylt	

maga rice. Me þin modsefa
 licað leng swa wel, leofa Beowulf.
 1855 Hafast þu gefered þæt þam folcum sceal,
 Geata leodum ond Gardenum,
 sib gemæne, ond sacu restan,
 inwitniþas, þe hie ær drugon,
 wesan, þenden ic wealde widan rices,
 1860 maþmas gemæne, manig oþerne
 godum gegretan ofer ganotes bæð;
 sceal hringnaca ofer heafu bringan
 lac ond luftacen. Ic þa leode wat
 ge wið feond ge wið freond fæste geworhte,
 1865 æghwæs untæle ealde wisan.”
 Ða git him eorla hleo inne gesealde,
 mago Healfdenes, maþmas XII;
 het hine mid þæm lacum leode swæse
 secean on gesyntum, snude eft cuman.
 1870 Gecyste þa cyning æþelum god,
 þeoden Scyldinga, ðegn betestan
 ond be healse genam; hruron him tearas,
 blondenfeaxum. Him wæs bega wen,

	ealdum infrodum,	opres swiðor,	f.171r
1875	þæt hie seoððan <i>no</i>	geseon moston,	
	modige on meþle.	Wæs him se man to þon leof	
	þæt he þone breostwylm	forberan ne mehte,	
	ac him on hreþre	hygebendum fæst	
	æfter deorum men	dyrne langað	
1880	beorn wið blode.	Him Beowulf þanan,	
	guðrinc goldwlanc	græsmoldan træd	
	since hremig;	sægenga bad	
	agendfrean,	se þe on ancre rad.	
	Pa wæs on gange	gifu Hroðgares	
1885	oft geæhted;	þæt wæs an cyning,	
	æghwæs orleahtre,	op þæt hine yldo benam	
	mægenes wynnum,	se þe oft manegum scod.	
	CWOM þa to flode	felamodigra,	Fitt XXVII
	hægstealdra <i>heap</i> ,	hringnet bæron,	
1890	locene leoðosyrca.	Landweard onfand	
	eftsið eorla,	swa he ær dyde;	
	no he mid hearne	of hliðes nosan	
	gæstas grette,	ac him togeanes rad,	f.171v
	cwæð þæt wilcuman	Wedera leodum	

1895 scapan scirhame to scipe foron.
Pa wæs on sande sægeap naca
hladen herewædum, hringedstefna,
mearum ond maðmum; mæst hlifade
ofer Hroðgares hordgestreonum.

1900 He þæm batwearde bunden golde
swurd gesealde, þæt he syðþan wæs
on meodubence maþme þy weorþra,
yrfelafe. Gewat him on naca
drefan deop wæter, Dena land ofgeaf.

A gift for the
shore guard

1905 Pa wæs be mæste merehrægla sum,
segl sale fæst; sundwudu þunede.
No þær wegflotan wind ofer yðum
siðes getwæfde; sægenga for,
fleaþ famigheals forð ofer yðe,

1910 bundenstefna ofer brimstreamas,
þæt hie Geata clifu ongitan meahton,
cupe næssas. Ceol up geþrang
lyftgeswenced, on lande stod.

Hraþe wæs æt holme hyðweard geara,

f.172r

1915 se þe ær lange tid leofra manna

	fus æt faroðe	feor wlatode;	
	sælde to sande	sidfæþme scip,	
	oncerbendum fæst,	þy læs hym yþa ðrym	
	wudu wynsuman	forwrecan meahhte.	
1920	Het þa up beran	æþelinga gestreon,	
	frætwe ond fætgold;	næs him feor þanon	
	to gesecanne	sinces bryttan,	
	Higelac Hreþling,	þær æt ham wunað	
	selfa mid gesiðum	sæwealle neah.	
1925	Bold wæs betlic,	bregorof cyning,	Hygelac's Hall
	heah in healle,	Hygd swiðe geong,	
	wis welþungen,	þeah ðe wintra lyt	
	under burhlocan	gebiden hæbbe,	
	Hæreþes dohtor;	næs hio hnah swa þeah,	
1930	ne to gneað gifa	Geata leodum,	
	maþmgestreona.	Modþryðo wæg	The Lay of Offa's Queen
	Fremu, folces cwen,	firen ondrysne.	
	Nænig þæt dorste	deor geneþan	
	swæsra gesiða,	nefne sinfrea,	
1935	þæt hire an dæges	eagum starede,	
	ac him wælbende	weotode tealde	f.172v

	handgewriþene; hraþe seoþðan wæs	
	æfter mundgripe mece geþinged,	
	þæt hit sceadenmæl scyran moste ,	Scribe B
1940	cwealmbealu cyðan. Ne bið swylc cwenlic þeaw	
	idese to efnanne, þeah ðe hio ænlicu sy,	
	þætte freoðuwebbe feores onsæce	
	æfter ligetorne leofne mannan.	
	Huru þæt onhohsnode Hemminges mæg;	
1945	ealodrincende oðer sædan,	
	þæt hio leodbealewa læs gefremede,	
	inwitniða, syððan ærest wearð	
	gyfen goldhroden geongum cempan,	
	æðelum diore, syððan hio Offan flet	
1950	ofer fealone flod be fæder lare	
	siðe gesohte; ðær hio syððan well	
	in gumstole, gode mære,	
	lifgesceafta lifigende breac,	
	hiold heahlufan wið hæleþa brego,	
1955	ealles moncynnes mine gefræge	

1939 **moste**] MS. **Scribe B** takes over after the third full line on the folio, and will write 40 percent of the manuscript's lines (1056, versus Scribe A's 1750), containing 38 percent of the poem's verses (1216, versus Scribe A's 1939).

	þone selestan	bi sǣm tweonum,	
	eormencynnes.	Forðam Offa wæs	f.173r
	geofum ond guðum,	garcene man,	
	wide geweorðod,	wisdome heold	
1960	eðel sinne;	þonon Eomer woc	
	hæleðum to helpe,	Hemminges mæg,	
	nefa Garmundes,	niða cræftig.	
	GEWAT him ða se hearda	mid his hondscole	Fitt XXVIII
	sylf æfter sande	sæwong tredan,	
1965	wide waroðas.	Woruldcandel scan,	
	sigel suðan fus.	Hi sið drugon,	
	elne geeodon,	to ðæs ðe eorla hleo,	
	bonan Ongenþeoes	burgum in innan,	
	geongne guðcýning	godne gefrunon	
1970	hringas dælan.	Higelace wæs	
	sið Beowulfes	snude gecyðed,	
	þæt ðær on worðig	wigendra hleo,	
	lindgestealla,	lifigende cwom,	
	heaðolaces hal	to hofe gongan.	
1975	Hraðe wæs gerymed,	swa se rica bebead,	Room is made for Beowulf
	feðgestum	flet innanweard.	

	Gesæt þa wið sylfne	se ða sæcce genæs,	
	mæg wið mæge,	syððan mandryhten	f.173v
	þurh hleoðorcwyde	holdne gegrette,	
1980	meaglum wordum.	Meoduscencum hwearf	
	geond þæt <i>heal</i> reced	Hæreðes dohtor,	
	lufode ða leode,	liðwæge bær	
	hæleðum to handa.	Higelac ongan	
	sinne geseldan	in sele þam hean	
1985	fægre fricgean,	hyne fyrwet bræc,	
	hwylce Sægeata	siðas wæron:	
	“Hu lomp eow on lade,	leofa Biowulf,	Hygelac to Beowulf
	þa ðu færinga	feorr gehogodest	
	sæcce secean	ofer sealt wæter,	
1990	hilde to Hiorote?	Ac ðu Hroðgare	
	widcuðne wean	wiht gebetttest,	
	mærum ðeodne?	Ic ðæs modceare	
	sorhwylmum seað,	siðe ne truwode	
	leofes mannes;	ic ðe lange bæd	
1995	þæt ðu þone wælgæst	wiht ne grette,	
	lete Suðdene	sylfe geweorðan	
	guðe wið Grendel.	Gode ic þanc secge	

	þæs ðe ic ðe gesundne	geseon moste.”	
	Biowulf maðelode,	bearn Ecgðioes:	
2000	“Þæt is undyrne,	dryhten Higelac,	f.174r
	<i>mæru</i> gemeting,	monegum fira,	Beowulf to Hygelac
	hwylc orleghwil	uncer Grendles	
	wearð on ðam wange,	þær he worna fela	
	Sigescyldingum	sorge gefremede,	
2005	yrnðe to aldre.	Ic ðæt eall gewræc,	
	swa begylpan <i>ne</i> þearf	Grendeles maga	
	<i>ænig</i> ofer eorðan	uhthlem þone,	
	se		
	textitdhe lengest leofað	laðan cynnes,	
2010	<i>fære</i> bifongen.	Ic ðær furðum cwom	
	to ðam hringsele	Hroðgar gretan;	
	sona me se mæra	mago Healfdenes,	
	syððan he modsefan	minne cuðe,	
	wið his sylfes sunu	setl getæhte.	
2015	Weorod wæs on wyne;	ne seah ic widan feorh	
	under heofones hwealf	healsittendra	
	medudream maran.	Hwilum mæru cwen,	

2001 *mæru*] ASPR micel

2010 *fære*] ASPR facne

friðusibb folca, flet eall geondhwearf,
 bædde byre geonge; oft hio beahwriðan
 2020 secge *sealde*, ær hie to setle geong.
 Hwilum for *duguðe* dohtor Hroðgares
 eorlum on ende ealuwæge bær;
 þa ic Freaware fletsittende
 nemnan hyrde, þær hio *nægled* sinc
 2025 hæleðum sealde. Sio gehaten *is*,
 geong, goldhroden, gladum suna Frodan;
 hafað þæs geworden wine Scyldinga,
 rices hyrde, ond þæt ræd talað,
 þæt he mid ðy wife wælfæhða dæl,
 2030 sæcca gesette. Oft seldan hwær
 æfter leodhryre lytle hwile
 bongar bugeð, þeah seo bryd duge.
 Mæg þæs þonne ofþyncan ðeodne Heaðobeardna
 ond þegna gehwam þara leoda,
 2035 þonne he mid fæmnan on flett gæð,
 dryhtbearn Dena, duguða biwenede.
 On him gladiað gomeþra lafe,
 heard ond hringmæl Heaðabeardna gestreon

f.174v
 Prophecy
 concerning
 Freawaru

	þenden hie ðam wæpnum	wealdan moston —	Fitts
2040	OÐ ÐÆT hie forlæddan	to ðam lindplegan	XXIX- XXX
	swæse gesiðas	ond hyra sylfra feorh.	
	Ponne cwið æt beore	se ðe beah gesyhð,	f.175r
	eald æscwiga,	se ðe eall geman,	
	garcwealm gumena	(him bið grim sefa),	
2045	onginneð geomormod	geongum cempan	
	þurh hreðra gehygd	higes cunnian,	
	wigbealu weccan,	ond þæt word acwyð:	
	‘Meaht ðu, min wine,	mece gecnawan	Old Retainer’s goad
	þone þin fæder	to gefeohte bær	
2050	under heregriman	hindeman siðe,	
	dyre iren,	þær hyne Dene slogon,	
	weoldon wælstowe,	syððan Wiðergyld læg,	
	æfter hæleþa hryre,	hwate Scyldungas?	
	Nu her þara banena	byre nathwylces	
2055	frætsum hremig	on flet gæð,	
	morðres gylpeð,	ond þone maðþum byreð,	
	þone þe ðu mid rihte	rædan sceoldest.’	
	Manað swa ond myndgað	mæla gehwylce	
	sarum wordum,	oððæt sæl cymeð	