

Curriculum Vitae (as of January 12, 2018).

Geoffrey Richard Russom, Professor Emeritus, Department of English; Nicholas Brown Professor of Oratory and Belles Lettres, Emeritus.

B.A. Cum Laude, with Departmental Honors, Stanford University, June, 1968. M.A., SUNY, Stony Brook, June 1970. Ph.D., SUNY, Stony Brook, June, 1973. Ph.D Dissertation Topic: “Sequential Repetition of Similar Narrative Units as Proof of the Scop’s Originality” (Old English Poetry and Comparative Epic). M.A. (Hon.), Brown University, May 1979.

Assistant Professor, Brown University, 1972-73 through 1977-78; Associate Professor, Brown University, 1978-79 through 1985-86; Professor, Brown University, 1986-87 to December 31, 2008. Professor Emeritus of English, January 1, 2009 – present.

Completed Research

Books:

Collaboration on the late George Anderson’s *Saga of the Volsungs*, (266 pp.; University of Delaware Press, 1982). In seeing this book through the press, I did style editing throughout, reconstructed some unfinished passages from Professor Anderson’s papers, devised a system of transliteration, contributed a signed preface, and did an index.

Old English Meter and Linguistic Theory. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1987. Paperback edition by Cambridge University Press, 2010.

Beowulf and Old Germanic Metre. Cambridge Studies in Anglo-Saxon England, vol. 23 (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998). Electronic republication by Cambridge University Press, 2002. Paperback edition by Cambridge University Press, 2008.

Managing Chaos: Strategies for Identifying Change in English, ed. Christopher M. Cain and Geoffrey Russom. Topics in English Linguistics [TiEL], volume 53. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter, 2007.

The Evolution of Verse Structure in Old and Middle English Poetry: From the Earliest Alliterative Poems to Iambic Pentameter. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2017.

Festschrift honoree:

Early English Poetic Culture and Meter: The Influence of G. R. Russom, ed. M. J. Toswell and Lindy Brady. Kalamazoo: Medieval Institute Publications, 2016.

Entries in Reference Works

Entries: (1) *iprottir*; (2) Old Norse Eddic meters. In *Medieval Scandinavia: An Encyclopedia*, ed. Phillip Pulsiano, et. al. (New York: Garland, 1993), pp. 148-9, 337.

“History of English Prosody.” *Companion to the History of the English Language*, ed. Haruko Momma and Michael Matto. (Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2008), pp. 81-7.

Refereed journal articles and articles in refereed collections

“A Syntactic Key to a number of *Pearl*-group Cruxes,” *Journal of English Linguistics* 10 (March, 1976), 21-9.

“Exeter Riddle 47: A Month Laid Waste to Fame,” *Philological Quarterly* 56 (Winter, 1977), 129-36.

“A Germanic Concept of Nobility in *The Gifts of Men* and *Beowulf*,” *Speculum* 53 (January, 1978), 1-15.

“Artful Avoidance of the Useful Phrase in *Beowulf*, *The Battle of Maldon*, and *Fates of the Apostles*,” *Studies in Philology* 75 (October, 1978), 371-90.

“Verse Translations and the Question of Literacy in *Beowulf*,” in John Miles Foley, ed., *Comparative Research on Oral Traditions: A Memorial for Milman Parry* (Columbus, 1987), pp. 567-80.

“Word and Foot in *Beowulf*,” *Style* 21 (1987), 387-99.

“The Drink of Death in Old English and Germanic Literature,” in Daniel G. Calder and T. Craig Christy, eds., *Germania: Comparative Studies in the Old Germanic Languages and Literatures* (D. S. Brewer, 1988), pp. 175-89.

“A New Kind of Metrical Evidence in Old English Poetry,” in *Papers from the 5th International Conference on English Historical Linguistics*, vol. 65 of *Current Issues in Linguistic Theory* (John Benjamins: Amsterdam, 1990), pp. 435-57.

Reprint of “Artful Avoidance of the Useful Phrase in *Beowulf*, *The Battle of Maldon*, and *Fates of the Apostles*,” in *Interpretations of Beowulf: A Critical Anthology*, ed. R.D. Fulk (Indiana University Press, 1991), pp. 206-18.

“Constraints on Resolution in *Beowulf*,” in *Prosody and Poetics in the Early Middle Ages*, ed. M. J. Toswell (University of Toronto Press, 1995), pp. 147-63.

“Purely Metrical Replacements for Kuhn’s Laws,” in *English Historical Metrics*, ed. C. B. McCully and John J. Anderson (Cambridge University Press, 1996), pp. 30-41.

“Tolkien’s Versecraft in *The Hobbit* and *Lord of the Rings*,” in *J. R. R. Tolkien and his Literary Resonances*, ed. George Clark and Daniel Timmons (Greenwood Press, 2000), pp. 53-69.

“Metrical Evidence for Subordinate Stress in Old English.” *Journal of Germanic Linguistics* 13.1 (2001), 39-64.

“A Bard’s-Eye View of the Germanic Syllable,” *JEGP* (July 2002), 305-28.

“Dating criteria for Old English Poems,” in *Studies in the History of the English Language: A Millennial Perspective*, ed. Donka Minkova and Robert Stockwell. Topics in English Linguistics 39 (Mouton de Gruyter, 2002), pp. 245-65.

“The Evolution of Middle English Alliterative Meter,” in *Studies in the History of the English Language II: Unfolding Conversations*, ed. Anne Curzan and Kimberly Emmons. Topics in English Linguistics, 45 (Mouton de Gruyter, 2004), pp. 279-304. In the same volume (pp. 313-14), A brief response to Robert D. Fulk, “Old English Poetry and the Alliterative Revival: On Geoffrey Russom’s ‘The Evolution of Middle English Meter’” (pp. 305-12).

“At the Center of *Beowulf*,” in *Myth in early Northwest Europe*, ed. Stephen Glosecki (Medieval and Renaissance Texts and Studies, 2007), 225-40.

“Literary Form as an independent domain of validation in History of English pedagogy,” *Studies in Medieval and Renaissance Teaching*, 14.1, Special Issue: Rethinking History of the English Language Pedagogy and Teaching, pp. 1-9.

“Evolution of the a-verse in English Alliterative Meter,” published in the *Managing Chaos* volume that I co-edited, pp. 63-87 (see under “Books” above).

“Some Unnoticed Constraints on the A-verse in *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*,” in *Approaches to the Metres of Alliterative Verse*, ed. Judith Jefferson and Ad Putter, Leeds Texts and Monographs: Leeds, 2009, pp. 41–57.

“Why there are Three Eddic Meters.” In *Anglo-Saxons and the North*, ed. Matti Kilpiö, Leena Kahlas-Tarkka, Jane Roberts, and Olga Timofeeva. Tempe: Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, 2009, pp. 69–87.

“Historicity and Anachronism in *Beowulf*.” In *Epic and History*, ed. David Konstan and Kurt A. Raaflaub. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2009, pp. 243–61.

“On the Distribution of Verse Types in Old English Poetry.” In *Form and Order in the Anglo-Saxon World* (Anglo-Saxon Studies in Archaeology and History 16), ed. Sally Crawford and Helena Hamerow with Leslie Webster. Oxford: Oxford University School of Archaeology, 2009, pp. 108–118.

“Aesthetic Criteria in Old English Heroic Style.” In *On the Aesthetics of Beowulf and Other Old English Poems*, ed. John Hill (University of Toronto Press, 2010), pp. 64–80.

“Word Patterns and Phrase Patterns in Universalist Metrics.” In *Frontiers in Comparative Prosody*, ed. Mihhail Lotman and Maria Kristiina Lotman. (Bern: Peter Lang, 2011), pp. 337-73.

“What explanatory metrics has to say about the history of English function words.” In *Analysing Older English*, ed. David Denison, Ricardo Bermúdez-Otero, Christopher McCully, and Emma Moore, with the assistance of Ayumi Miura. (Cambridge University Press, 2012). Pp. 15-27.

“Metrical Complexity and Verse Placement in *Beowulf*,” in *Old English Philology: Studies in Honor of R. D. Fulk*, ed. Leonard Neidorf, Rafael J. Pascual, and Tom Shippey (Cambridge: D. S, Brewer, 2016), pp. 82-102.

Book reviews

David Yerkes, *The Two Versions of Waerferth’s Translation of Gregory’s Dialogues: An Old English Thesaurus: Speculum* 55 (October, 1980), 878-9.

Alexandra Hennessey Olsen, *Guthlac of Croyland: A Study of Heroic Hagiography: Speculum* 58 (April 1983), 519-21.

James E. Cross and Thomas D. Hill, eds., *The Prose Solomon and Saturn and Adrian and Ritheus: Speculum* 59 (April, 1984), 388-90.

Marian C. Bean, *The Development of Word Order Patterns in Old English: Journal of English and Germanic Philology* 74 (1985), 117-18.

An Eleventh-Century Anglo-Saxon Illustrated Miscellany, ed. P. McGurk, D. N. Dumville, M. R. Godden, and Ann Knock: *Modern Language Studies* 16 (1986), 356-7.

Stephen O. Glosecki, *Shamanism and Old English Poetry: Speculum* 66 (July 1991), 637-9.

Nicholas Howe, *Migration and Mythmaking in Anglo-Saxon England: Speculum* 66 (October 1991), 893-5.

Calvin B. Kendall, *The Metrical Grammar of ‘Beowulf’: ANQ*, vol. 5, numbers 2, 3 (April, July 1992: double issue), pp. 165-8.

The Cambridge History of the English Language. Vol. I: The Beginnings to 1066, ed. Richard M. Hogg. In *Journal of English and Germanic Philology*, vol. 93 no. 3 (July, 1994), 407-9.

Hans Sauer, *Nominalkomposita im Fruemittelenglischen mit Ausblicken auf die Geschichte der englischen Nominalkomposition*. In *Speculum*, vol. 71, no. 1 (January 1996), 209-11.

John Miles Foley, *The Singer of Tales in Performance*. In *Speculum*, vol. 72, no. 2 (April, 1997), 468-9.

Seiichi Suzuki, *The Metrical Organization of 'Beowulf': Prototype and Isomorphism*. In *Speculum*, vol. 73, no. 1 (January, 1998).

B. R. Hutcheson, *Old English Poetic Metre*. *Anglia*, vol. 116 no. 3 (1998), 404-6.

Susan Deskis, *'Beowulf' and the Medieval Proverb Tradition*. *Journal of English and Germanic Philology* (April, 1999).

Haruko Momma, *The Composition of Old English Poetry*. In *Speculum*, vol. 75, no. 1 (January 2000), 224-6.

Catherine E. Karkov, *Text and Picture in Anglo-Saxon England*. In *Speculum*, vol. 78, no. 2 (April 2003), 224-6.

Earl R. Anderson, *Folk-Taxonomies in Early English*. *Speculum*, vol. 80, no. 3 (July 2005), 820-22.

Donka Minkova, *Alliteration and Sound Change in Early English*. *Language*, vol. 81, no. 3 (September 2005), 745-48.

Seiichi Suzuki. *The Metre of Old Saxon Poetry: The Remaking of Alliterative Tradition*. *Anglia* 123 (2005), 702-705.

Andrew Wawn, ed. *Constructing Nations, Reconstructing Myth*. In *JEGP*, vol. 109, no. 2 (April, 2010), pp. 219-21.

Leonard Neidorf, ed. *The Dating of Beowulf: A Reassessment*. Anglo-Saxon Studies 24. Cambridge: Brewer, 2014. In *Anglia*, vol. 133, pp. 397-402.

Ian Cornelius, *Reconstructing Alliterative Verse: The Pursuit of a Medieval Meter*. Forthcoming in *JEGP*.

Invited lectures

“English Philology, Celtic Philology, and Tolkien’s Invented Languages,” Franklin and Marshall College, December 9, 1977.

“Linguistic Theory and Formulaic Epic,” Department of French, Wellesley College, October 30, 1978.

“A New Kind of Metrical Evidence in Old English Poetry,” the plenary session on metrics for the 5th International Conference on English Historical Linguistics, Cambridge University, April 6-9, 1987.

“Beowulf as Royal Myth-Making,” Cornell University, March 12, 1990.

“Purely Metrical Replacements for Kuhn’s Laws,” presented at the first G.L. Brook Symposium, “English Historical Metrics: Prosody from Old English to the Renaissance,” held at the University of Manchester, April 17-19, 1991.

“Constraints on Resolution in *Beowulf*,” delivered at a conference honoring Constance Hieatt at the University of Western Ontario, March 5, 1993.

“Comparative Tests for Claims about Old English Meter,” Harvard University, November 18, 1993.

Local Lecture: “The Genealogy of Beowulf.” Delivered to the Rhode Island Medieval Circle, October 14, 1993.

“A Bard’s-Eye View of the Germanic Syllable.” Invited keynote lecture, Fifth Annual Germanic Linguistics Conference, given April 16, 1999, at University of Texas -- Austin.

“Extracting Cultural Content from Old English Literature.” Invited Lecture, given December 3, 1999 at the Englisches Seminar, Universität Zürich, Switzerland.

“Wealththeow and Cressida.” Invited lecture, given January 11, 2000, at the Department of English, Tokyo University, Japan.

“Historical sound change and subdivision of alliterative meters,” presented to the Graduate Student Lecture Series at Cornell University, November 3, 2005.

Local lecture: “Structure and History of the Elvish Language,” presented to the Brown literary fraternity, November 15, 2006.

Fellowship lecture: “Ancient Poems and Universalist Poetics,” Institute for Medieval Studies, University of New Mexico, April 10, 2010.

“Metrical Traces of Prehistoric Language in *Beowulf*,” presented to the Graduate Student Lecture Series at Cornell University, April 12, 2013.

“Evolution of Language and Meter in *Judith* and *The Battle of Maldon*,” Yale University, November 21, 2013.

Fellowship Lecture: “Transitioning to Iambic Meter in *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*,” Institute for Medieval Studies, University of New Mexico, March 10, 2014.

Local Invited Lecture: “New Ideas about the Evolution of English,” Temple Bethel, Fall River, Massachusetts, May 17, 2015.

Conference papers

“Artistic Manipulation of Formulas in *Fates of the Apostles*,” 11th Conference on Medieval Studies, Medieval Institute, Western Michigan University; May, 1976.

“Formulas and Syntax: A Plea for Precision,” 12th Conference on Medieval Studies, Medieval Institute, WMU; May, 1977.

“Heroic Poetry and Book Poetry in Old English,” 17th Congress on Medieval Studies, Medieval Institute, WMU; May, 1982.

“*Poculum Mortis* and Germanic Paganism,” Third Medieval Forum for Canadian and American Scholars, Plymouth State College, Plymouth, NH; April, 1983.

“Old English Meter,” delivered at the 19th Congress on Medieval Studies, Medieval Institute, WMU; May, 1984.

“The Drink of Death in Old English and Germanic Literature,” SEMA Conference, Eastern Kentucky University; October, 1984.

“Grendel’s Home in Hell.” 21st Congress on Medieval Studies, Medieval Institute, WMU; May, 1986. Abstract published in *Old English Newsletter*.

“Some Unnoticed Metrical Refinements in *The Battle of Maldon*.” Presented at the 102nd Convention of the MLA in New York; December, 1986. Abstract published in *OEN*.

“Old Norse Evidence for a Theory of Old English Meter,” 24th International Conference on Medieval Studies, WMU; May, 1989. Abstract published in *OEN*.

“Old Saxon Evidence for the Old English Elision Rule,” 25th International Congress on Medieval Studies, WMU; May, 1990. Abstract published in *OEN*.

“The Word Foot in Old English Prosody,” 106th Convention of the MLA, Chicago; December, 1990 (session 121). Abstract published in *OEN*.

“A Comparative Study of Type A1 Verses in Old Saxon Alliterative Verse,” 26th International Congress on Medieval Studies, WMU, May 1991. Abstract published in *OEN*.

“The Metrical Dialect of *Maldon*,” 107th convention of the MLA, San Francisco, December 1991 (session 492). Abstract published in *OEN*.

“Do Kuhn’s Laws Perform any Useful Work?” Presented at the 27th International Congress on Medieval Studies, WMU, May, 1992. Abstract published in *OEN*.

“The Meter of the Paris Psalter,” presented at the 29th International Congress on Medieval Studies, WMU, May, 1994. Abstract published in *OEN*.

“Skaldic Evidence for the Word-Foot Analysis of Sievers’s Types B and C,” presented at the 32nd International Congress on Medieval Studies, WMU, May, 1997. Abstract published in *OEN*.

“New Ways of Looking at Old Norse Meters,” presented at the 33rd International Congress on Medieval Studies, WMU, May 1998. Abstract published in *OEN*.

“Why Extrametricality can’t Explain Old English Compound Stress,” presented at GLAC-6, University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, April 29, 2000.

“Stylistic Preference and Metrical Incompetence in Old English Poetry,” presented at the 33rd International Congress on Medieval Studies, WMU, May 2000.

“Purely Metrical Evidence for Dating Old English Poetry,” presented at SHEL-1, Department of Linguistics, UCLA, May 27, 2000.

“Old Norse Evidence for English Nonprimary Stress,” presented at GLAC-7, Banff, Canada (sponsored by University of Alberta), April 21, 2001.

“Comparison of Old Norse Meters with Old English Meter,” presented at the conference of the International Society of Anglo-Saxonists, University of Helsinki, August 9, 2001.

“Distribution of Verse Types as a Feature of Traditional Versecraft,” presented to the Research Group on Manuscript Evidence, Princeton, New Jersey, November 3, 2001.

“On the Orchestration of Verse Types in Old English Poetry” (presented to the Research Group on Manuscript Evidence at the British Museum, London, March 9, 2002).

“On the Evolution of Middle English Meter” (presented to the SHEL-2 conference at the University of Washington, Seattle, March 23, 2002).

“Some Constraints on Finite Verbs in Old English Poetry,” presented to the GLAC-9 conference at SUNY Buffalo, April 26, 2003.

“Strange Ideas about Linguistics in Old English Studies” (presented at the 38th International Congress on Medieval Studies, WMU, May 10, 2003).

“Metrical Emendation in the Anglo-Saxon Poetic Records” (presented October 25, 2003 at “Editing from Antiquity to the Enlightenment, “a colloquium sponsored by the Center for Epigraphical and Palaeographical Studies, Department of Greek and Latin, Ohio State University).

“The structure of the a-verse in strict Middle English alliterative meter” (presented at the joint meeting of GLAC-10 and SHEL-3, University of Michigan, May 6, 2004).

“Evolution of the a-verse in English and Norse alliterative meters” (presented at the 39th International Congress on Medieval Studies, WMU, May 7, 2004).

“Literary form as an independent domain of validation in History of English pedagogy.” Presented at the 40th International Congress on Medieval Studies, WMU, May 6, 2005.

“The structure of the a-verse in Middle English alliterative meter,” presented at the conference on Middle English alliterative meter at the University of Bristol, Bristol, England, July 15-17, 2005.

“An unnoticed constraint on the a-verse in Middle English alliterative meter,” presented at the SHEL-4 conference, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, September 30-October 2, 2005.

“Historicity and anachronism in *Beowulf*,” Presented at *Epic and History: A Faith and Frederick Sandstrom Conference in Ancient Studies at Brown University*, December 2, 2006.

“The metrist and the editor in Old English studies,” presented at the GLAC-13 conference, Pennsylvania State University, April 14, 2007.

“A new kind of dip in Middle English alliterative verse,” presented at the 42nd International Conference on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI, May 11, 2007

“Old English constraints in Middle English alliterative verse,” presented at the SHEL-5 conference, University of Georgia, October 5, 2007.

“Word Patterns and Phrase Patterns in Universalist Metrics,” presented at the first *Frontiers in Comparative Metrics* conference, Tallinn University, Tallinn, Estonia, November 21.

"The Word Foot in Celtic, Italic, and Germanic Poetry," "presented at the 44th International Conference on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI, May 11, 2009.

"What is Late about Late Old English Meter?" Presented at the 51st International Conference on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI, May 15, 2016.

"Word-Foot Iambic Meter in *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*," presented at the 52nd International Conference on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI, May 12, 2017.

"From Epic to Romance in *Beowulf* and *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*," presented at the International Symposium on Epic & Romance, Nanjing University, Nanjing, China, June 17, 2017.

"Optimality Theory and Poetic Form," presented in *Frontiers in Comparative Metrics III*, a conference hosted by Tallinn University, Tallin, Estonia, September 29, 2017.

Forthcoming:

Review of Ian Cornelius, *Reconstructing Alliterative Verse: The Pursuit of a Medieval Meter*. Forthcoming in *JEGP*.

Teaching (brief summary):

Recent Brown courses include History of English, which had typical enrollments above 70; Old English language and Literature, with enrollments averaging about 20; a course on ancient Celtic and Germanic cultures, with enrollments averaging about 20; and a course on literature and linguistics, enrollments averaging about 15. Brown has about 4500 undergraduates. I have also taught smaller seminars on *Beowulf* (in the original language); Old Norse language and literature; The Old Saxon *Heliand*; Old Irish language and literature; and Gothic. Since retirement, I have taught my History of English course at the request of Brown's English Department (Spring 2011). In Spring 2010 and Spring 2014 I taught a course on Scandinavian mythology as Visiting Scholar at the University of New Mexico, sponsored by the Department of English and the Institute for Medieval Studies.

Service (brief summary):

I have served a three-year term as Chair of the Brown English Department and have served since then on major university committees, such as the undergraduate curriculum

committee (ranking faculty member), the committee on tenure and promotion, and the faculty executive committee (the committee to which all university committees report). I served three terms for a total of nine years as chair of the interdisciplinary Medieval Studies Program at Brown and saw the program through an external review. I have directed dissertations and served on dissertation committees in English, Comparative Literature, and Cognitive Science / Linguistics. Service to the profession has included refereeing articles for numerous journals and refereeing numerous tenure and promotion cases for other universities. I served on the organizing committee for “Methods Past and Current,” a six-day conference of IsLE, the International Society for the Linguistics of English (Boston University, June 16-21, 2011, hosted by Eugene Green).