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GLOSSARY OF CHARACTERS AND TERMS

MATEUSZ FAFINSKI

Abel
A biblical figure; brother of Cain, son of Adam and Eve. Slain by his brother, see Genesis 4:1–16. (108)

Ælfhere
A kinsman of Wiglaf; ælf- (elf) and here (army). (2604)

Æschere
A follower and warrior of Hrothgar; aesc- (ash or spear) and here (army) (1323)

Æþeling
A prince, a man of royal blood, a hero (3)

Beanstan
The father of Breca; (perh.) from Icelandic bauni- (shark) or OE bēan (bean?) (524)

Beow
Danish king, the son of Scyld (18)

Beowulf
The hero of the poem (343)

Breca
A friend of Beowulf, chieftain of the Brondings; (perh.) from brecan (rush, storm) (583)

Brondings
A tribe; (perh.) from brond (sword) or Old Norse brandr (prow) (521)

Brosings
Legendary tribe of dwarves who were supposed to make a necklace for goddess Freya (1201)

Cain
A biblical figure; brother of Abel, son of Adam and Eve. Killed his brother Abel, see Genesis 4:1–16. (107)

Dæghræfn
A warrior of the Hugas; dæg (day) and hrefn (raven) (2508)

(Dene) Danes
A people inhabiting what is now Southern Scandinavia, including modern Denmark and Scania (242)

Beowulf
Bright-Danes (426)
East-Danes (828)
North-Danes (783)
Ring-Danes (1281)
South-Danes (1998)
Spear-Danes (1)
West-Danes (383)

Eadgils
Son of Ohthere, brother of Eanmund, prince of Sweden; ead (wealth) and gisel (hostage) (2393)

Eanmund
Son of Ohthere, brother of Eadgils (2614)

Earnanæs
(Eagles’) promontory in the land of the Getas (3033)
Ecglaf
Father of Unferth; ecg (sword) and laf (remnant) (498)

Ecgtheow, Ecgtheow
Father of Beowulf from the tribe of Wæmundings; ecg (sword) and theow (servant) (263)

Eofer, Iofor
A Geat warrior, killed Ongentheow; eofor (boar) (2483)

Eomer
Son of Offa, king of the Angles; eoh (horse) and mære (famous) (1960)

Eormanric
King of the East Goths; eormen (immense) and rice (powerful) (1203)

Finn
Son of Folcwald, Hnæf’s brother in law, king of the Frisians (1095)

Fitela
Nephew of Sigmund (878)

Folcwald
Father of Finn (1088)

Franks
A collective term for tribes first associated with Lower and Middle Rhine. They are attacked by Hygelac; (perh.) (spear-men), cf. franca (spear) (1212)

Freawaru
The daughter of Hrothgar; waru (watchful care) (2026)

Friesland
Land of the Frisians (2358)

Frisians
A people living in what is now the northern coast of the Netherlands and Germany (2913)

Garmund
Father of Offa; gar (spear) and mund (protection) (1965)

Geats
A people in what is now southern Sweden (195)
Battle-Geats (1540)
Hredlingas (2961)
Sea-Geats (1853)
Weather-Geats (2381)
Weder-Geats (225)
Windloving, the (2706)

Gifthas
A people, possibly to be identified with the Gepids (2495)

Grendel
A being killed by Beowulf (102)

Guðlaf
A Danish warrior (1147)

Hæreth
The father of Hygd (1932)

Hæthcyn
A prince of the Geats; heathu (war) (2434)

Halga
A prince of the Danes, the younger brother of Hrothgar; derived from hal (hale, uninjured) (61)

Hama
A warrior who stole the Brosings necklace (1200)
Healfdene

A king of the Danes, son of Beow (57)

Heardred

A king of the Geats, son of Hygelac (2195)

Heatho-Bards

A people, enemies of the Danes; heatho- (war) and beard (beard) (2070)

Heatho-Raemas

A people, living in what is now southern Norway (518)

Heapolaf

A warrior of the Wylfings (459)

Hemming

A kinsman of Offa and Eomer (1944)

Hengest

A retainer of Hnaef, after Hnaef’s death leader of the Danes in the battle of Finnsburgh; hengest (horse) (1082)

Heorogar

A king of the Danes, brother of Hrothgar and son of Healfdene; heoro (sword) or here (army) and gar (spear) (61)

Herebeald

A prince of the Geats; here (army) and beald (bold) (2434)

Heorot, Heort

The hall of Hrothgar, king of the Danes; heorot (stag) (78)

Heremod

A king of the Danes; here (army) and mod (courage) (900)

Hetware

A people, part of the Franks, inhabiting probably the Lower Rhine (2364)

Higelac, Hygelac

A king of the Geats, sometimes identified as Chlochilaicus, a king fighting with the Franks according to Gregory of Tours (434)

Hildeburh

The queen of Finn, king of the Frisians; hild (battle) and burg (a fortified place) (1070)

Hnæf, Hnaef

A chief of the Danes, son of Hoc and brother to Hildeburh (1068)

Hoc

The father of Hildeburh and Hnæf (1075)

Hondscoio

A warrior of the Geats, a follower of Beowulf (2079)

Hrethel, Hreþel, Hreðel

A king of the Geats, father of Hygelac and grandfather of Beowulf (374)

Hrethric

A son of Hrothgar, brother of Hrothmund; hreth (glory) (1191)

Hrothgar

A king of the Danes, Heorot is his hall (61)

Hrothmund

A son of Hrothgar, brother of Hrethric (1191)
Hrothulf
A son of Halga (1016)

Hrunting
The sword of Unferth; hrindan (to push, to thrust) (1459)

Hugas
A people, part of the Franks (2505)

Hygd
The queen of Higelac gehyg (thought, deliberation) (1929)

Merovingian, the
The king of the Franks (2922)

Modthryth
The queen of Offa; her name is actually a manuscript emendation and could be also read as Thryth (1934)

Nægling
The sword of Beowulf (2681)

Offa
A king of the Angles, husband of Modthryth (1951)

Ohthere, Ohtere
A son of Ongentheow; oht (pursuit) and here (army) (2381)

Onela
A king of the Swedes, son of Ongentheow (2618)

Ongentheow, Ongenðeow, Ongenthio
A king of the Swedes, father of Ohthere and Onela (1971)

Oslaf
A warrior of the Danes (1147)

Ravenswood
A forest in Sweden (2926)

Scyld
The founder of the Scyldings dynasty (4)

Scyldings, Shieldings
Descendants of Scyld, but also generally Danes (53)
People-Scyldings (1017)
Honor-Scyldings (Ar-Scyldings) (1713)
Victory-Scyldings (596)
War-Scyldings (1107)

Sigmund
Waeling (876)
A son of Wæls, uncle of Fitela (874)

Swedes
A people, inhabiting the central part of what is today Sweden (2472)

Unferth
A follower of Hrothgar, son of Ecglaf (498)

Wægmund
The forefather of Wæmundings (2815)

Wæls
The father of Sigmund (896)

Wæmundings
The family of Beowulf, Weohstan and Wiglaf (2611)

Wealtheow
The queen of Hrothgar; (perh.) wealh (foreign) and theow (captive) (611)
**Weland**
The famous smith of the gods (454)

**Wendels**
A people, perhaps inhabitants of
what is now Uppland in Sweden
and northern Jutland; perhaps to be
identified with the Vandals (348)

**Wiglaf**
A kinsman of Beowulf, member of the
**Wæmundings**, son of **Wiglaf** (2606)

**Wihstan, Weohstan**
The father of **Wiglaf** (2606)

**Wonred**
A warrior of the **Geats**, father of **Wulf**
and **Eofer** (2971)

**Wulf**
A warrior of the **Geats**, and a son of
**Wonred** (2966)

**Wulfgar**
A member of the court of **Hrothgar**
(348)

**Wylfings, Wilfingas**
A people, living probably on the
southern coast of the Baltic sea (471)

**wyrd**
Fate, destiny (1235)