

What is *Fontes Anglo-Saxonici*?

Fontes Anglo-Saxonici is a database register that aims to identify all written sources which were incorporated, quoted, translated or adapted anywhere in English or Latin texts which were written, or are likely to have been written, in Anglo-Saxon England, including those by foreign authors. It also identifies the written sources used by authors of texts written abroad if those authors are certainly or arguably Anglo-Saxons, and by foreigners who were drawing mainly on materials which they had obtained, or are likely to have obtained, in Anglo-Saxon England. Anglo-Saxon England is defined as England up to 1066, but a text is sourced whether it is extant in a pre-1066 copy or only in a later one. A text written after 1066 is included in the project only if it is of a type characteristic of England before 1066. An identifiable source is recorded whether or not it is extant. Oral sources and booklists are excluded.

The database covers about 1150 Anglo-Saxon texts, over 500 in Old English and over 600 in Latin. For the full list, see 'Texts Included in the Database' on the Fontes support website. Nearly a thousand source-texts have been cited, from Abbo to Wulfstan.

What can I do with the database?

- You can select an Anglo-Saxon text (whether Old English or Latin) and get a report of all the sources used for it, passage by passage, sometimes phrase by phrase, matched to a precise location in the source text.
- You can get a summary account of all the different source authors used by a particular Anglo-Saxon author, or of all the sources used for a particular Anglo-Saxon text, and follow up those in which you are interested.
- You can pick a text used as a source, and ask for a list of all the Anglo-Saxon texts that used that source, and follow up the examples that interest you. Or, after choosing a source-text, you can select the Anglo-Saxon texts which you want to know about.

Features of the Database

- Anglo-Saxon texts are identified by their author, title and edition (in summary form). The particular passage is identified by its line-numbers or other appropriate reference, and by the opening and closing words (or a full quotation if it is very short). Information about the contributor, transmission of sources, and any bibliography of source-studies for that text appear when the text is selected.
- Source texts are identified by their author (including Anonymous and *Biblia Sacra* for books of the Bible), title, and edition (in abbreviated form). We use as far as possible standard, widely accessible editions of source-texts to make it easy for users to follow up references, especially on databases such as PLD (Patrologia Latina Database) and Cetedoc (Library of Christian Latin Texts on CD-ROM). These are not always the most recent editions, and in some cases different editions of the same text have been cited, usually because they contain distinct versions of the source-text. In identifying authors we have tried to keep abreast of modern re-attributions and identifications, but since these are constantly changing users should be prepared to look for other possibilities (e.g. by consulting *Clavis Patrum Latinorum* for patristic texts).

- Individual source-identifications are accompanied by a sigil indicating 'source-status' - that is, is it a single source or one of several (alternative or combined) sources for that passage? Is it a certain source, or a probable one, or just a possible one, or an analogue?

Acknowledging the Database

The records for each text were compiled by the individual contributors named in the database, who used either their own unpublished research or published work by themselves or others as noted in the bibliographical information provided with the records, or a combination of the two. Any user wishing to employ material drawn from the database in their own publications should acknowledge the *Fontes* database and, where appropriate, the individual contributor and the published work cited in the bibliographies. For further guidance, see the separate webpage 'Citing the database'.