

Beowulf

- Hwæt! Wē Gār-Dena in geār-dagum,
 þēod-cyninga, þrym gefrūnon,
 hū ðā æþelingas ellen fremedon!
- Oft Scyld Scēfing sceapena þrēatum
 5 monegum mægþum meodo-setla oftēah;
 egsode eorl[as] syððan ærest wearð
 fēasceaft funden; hē þæs frōfre gebād,
 wēox under wolcnum, weorð-myndum þāh,
 oðþæt him æghwylc þāra ymb-sittendra
- 10 ofer hron-rāde hýran scolde,
 gomban gyldan. Þæt wæs gōd cyning!
 Ðām eafera wæs æfter cenned
 geong in geardum, þone God sende
 folce tō frōfre; fyren-ðearfe ongeat
- 15 þæt hīe ær drugon aldor-[lē]ase
 lange hwīle; him þæs Líf-frēa,
 wuldres Wealdend, worold-ære forgeaf:
 [Bēow] wæs brēme —blæd wīde sprang—
 Scyldes eafera, Scede-landum in.
- 20 Swā sceal [geong g]uma gōde gewyrcean,
 fromum feoh-giftum on fæder [bea]rme,
 þæt hine on ylde eft gewunigen
 wil-gesīpas, þonne wīg cume,
 lēode gelæsten; lof-dædum sceal
- 25 in mægþa gehwære man gepēon.

6a MS. eorl: em. Kemble.

15b MS. aldor..ase: em. Grundtvig.

18a The MS. reads "Beowulf" here and 53; see Commentary, p. 278.

20a MS.uma: em. Grein.

21b MS.rme: em. Chambers.

- Him ðā Scyld gewāt tō gescæp-hwīle
 fela-hrōr fēran on Frēan wære.
 Hī hyne þā ætbæron tō brimes faroðe,
 swāse gesīpas, swā hē selfa bād
 30 þenden wordum wēold wine Scyldinga;
 lēof land-fruma lange āhte.
 Ðær æt hýðe stōd hringed-stefna,
 īsig ond ūt-fūs, æbelinges fær.
 Ālēdon þā lēofne þēoden,
 35 bēaga bryttan, on bearm scipes,
 mārne be mæste. Ðær wæs mādma fela
 of feor-wegum, frætwa, gelæded;
 ne hýrde ic cýmlīcor cēol gegyrwan
 hilde-wæpnum ond heaðo-wædum,
 40 billum ond byrnum; him on bearme læg
 mādma mænigo, þā him mid scoldon
 on flōdes æht feor gewītan.
 Nalæs hī hine læssan lācum tēodan,
 þēod-gestrēonum, þon þā dydon,
 45 þe hine æt frum-sceafte forð onsendon
 ænne ofer yðe umbor-wesende.
 Ðā gýt hī him āsetton segen *ge[l]denne*
 hēah ofer hēafod, lēton holm beran,
 gēafon on gār-secg; him wæs geōmor sefa,
 50 murnende mōd. Men ne cunnon
 secgan tō sōðe, sele-rāden[d]e,
 hāleð under heofenum, hwā þam hlæste onfēng.
 I Ðā wæs on burgum [Bēow] Scyldinga
 lēof lēod-cyning longe þrāge
 55 folcum gefrāge —fæder ellor hwearf
 aldor of earde— oppæt him eft onwōc
 hēah Healfdene; hēold þenden lifde,
 gamol ond gūð-rēouw, glæde Scyldingas.
 Ðām fēower bearn forð-gerīmed

47b MS. *ge.denne*: em. Malone, NC, p. 50.

51b MS. *sele rædenne*: em. Kemble.

53b See note to 18a.

- 60 in worold wōcun, weoroda ræswa[n],
 Heorogār ond Hrōðgār ond Hālgā til;
 hȳrde ic þæt [ȳrse wæs On]elan cwēn,
 Heaðo-Scilfingas heals-gebedda.
 Ðā wæs Hrōðgāre here-spēd gyfen,
 65 wīges weorð-mynd, þæt him his wine-māgas
 georne hȳrdon oððþæt sēo geogoð gewēox
 mago-driht micel. Him on mōd be-arn
 þæt heal-reced hātan wolde,
 medo-ærn micel men gewyrcean,
 70 þone ylðo bearn æfre gefrūnon
 ond þær on innan eall gedælan
 geongum ond ealdum, swylc him God sealde,
 būton folc-scare ond feorum gumena.
 Ðā ic wīde gefrægn weorc gebannan
 75 manigre mægþe geond þisne middan-geard,
 folc-stede frætwan. Him on fyrste gelomp,
 ædre mid yldum, þæt hit wearð eal-gearo,
 heal-ærna mæst; scōp him Heort naman,
 sē þe his wordes geweald wīde hæfde.
 80 Hē bēot ne ālēh, bēagas dælde,
 sinc æt symle. Sele hlifade
 hēah ond horn-gēap, heaðo-wylma bād,
 lāðan līges; ne wæs hit lenge þā gēn
 þæt se [e]cg-hete āpum-swerian
 85 æfter wæl-nīðe wæcnan scolde.
 Ðā se ellen-gæst earfoðlice
 þrāge geþolode, sē þe in þýstrum bād,
 þæt hē dōgora gehwām drēam gehȳrde
 hlūdne in healle; þær wæs hearpan swēg,
 90 swutol sang scopes. Sægde, sē þe cūþe

60b MS. ræswa: em. Kemble.

62 Scribal omission but no gap in MS. Em. follows Grundtvig, Bugge, and M. G. Clarke, *Sidelights on Teutonic History during the Migration Period* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1911), pp. 82 ff.

70a Usually em. þon[n]e 'than' but I follow Robinson, *TSL* 11 (1966), 151-55.

84a MS. secg hete: em. Grein, but see R. P. Tripp, *ELN* 18 (1980), 81-86.

- frumsceaft fira feorran reccan,
 cwæð þæt se Ælmihtiga eorðan worh[te],
 wlite-beorhtne wang swā wæter bebūgeð:
 gesette sige-hrēpig sunnan ond mōnan
 95 lēoman tō lēohte land-būendum,
 ond gefræt Wade foldan scēatas
 leomum ond lēafum; lif ēac gesceop
 cynna gehwylcum þāra ðe cwise hwyrfaþ.
 Swā ðā driht-guman drēamum lifdon,
 100 ēadiglice, oððæt ān ongan
 fyrene fre[m]man, fēond on helle.
 Wæs sē grimma gæst Grendel hāten,
 mære mearc-stapa, sē þe mōras hēold,
 fen ond fæsten; fifel-cynnes eard
 105 won-sæli wer weardode hwīle,
 sibðan him Scyppend forscrifen hæfde
 in Cāines cynne— þone cwealm gewræc
 ēce Drihten þæs þe hē Ābel slōg.
 Ne gefeah hē þære fāhðe, ac hē hine feor forwræc,
 110 Metod for þy mæne, man-cynne fram.
 Panon untýdras ealle onwōcon,
 eotenas ond ylfe ond orc-nēas,
 swylce gī[ga]ntas þā wið Gode wunnon
 115 } lange þrāge; hē him ðæs lēan forgeald.
 II } Gewāt ðā nēosian syððan niht becōm,
 hēan hūses, hū hit Hring-Dene
 æfter bēor-þege gebūn hæfdon;
 fand þā ðær inne æþelinga gedriht
 swefan æfter symble— sorge ne cūðon,
 120 wonsceaft wera. Wiht unhælo,
 grim ond grædig, gearo sōna wæs,
 rēoc ond rēpe, ond on ræste genam

92b MS. *worh...*: em. Kremble.

101a MS. *fre.man*: em. Kemble.

106a MS. *scyppen*, with "d" added above line in another hand.

107a The "in" appearing in MS. *caines* altered from "m" by erasure. Cf. MS. camp 1261b.

113a MS. *gi..ntas*: em. Thorkelin. See Malone, *PMLA* 64 (1949), 1193.

- þrītig þegna; þanon eft gewāt
 hūðe hrēmig tō hām faran,
 125 mid þære wæl-fylle wīca nēosan.
 Ðā wæs on ūhtan mid ær-dæge,
 Grendles gūð-cræft gumum undyrne;
 þā wæs æfter wiste wōp ūp āhafen,
 micel morgen-swæg. Mære þēoden,
 130 æþeling ær-gōd, unbliðe sæt,
 þolode ðrýð-swýð, þegn-sorge drēah,
 syðþan hīe þæs lāðan lāst scēawedon
 wergan gāstes. Wæs þæt gewin tō strang,
 lāð ond longsum. Næs hit lengra fyrst
 135 ac ymb āne niht eft gefremede
 morð-beala mære ond nō mearn fore,
 fæhðe ond fyrene; wæs tō fæst on þām.
 Ðā wæs ēað-fynde þe him elles hwær
 gerūmlīcor ræste [*sōhte*],
 140 bed æfter būrum, ðā him gebēacnod wæs,
 gesægd sōðlice sweotolan tācne
 heal-ðegnes hete; hēold hyne syðþan
 fyr ond fæstor sē þām fēonde ætwand.
 Swā rīxode ond wið rihte wan
 145 āna wið eallum, `oðþæt īdel stōd
 hūsa sēlest. Wæs sēo hwīl micel:
 twelf wintra tīd torn gepolode
 wine Scyld[ing]a, wēana gehwelcne,
 sīdra sorga; forðām [*secgum*] wearð,
 150 ylða bearnum undyrne cūð,
 gyddum geōmore, þætte Grendel wan
 hwīle wið Hrōþgar, hete-nīðas wæg,
 fyrene ond fæhðe fela missēra,
 singāle sæce; sibbe ne wolde
 155 wið manna hwone mægenes Deniga,
 feorh-bealo feorran, fēa þingian;

139b No gap in MS: em. Grein.

148a MS. scyldenda: em. Grundtvig.

149b No gap in MS: em. Schücking.

- nē þær nānig witena wēnan þorfte
 beorhtre bōte tō ban[an] folmum;
 [ac se] æglæca ēhtende wæs,
 160 deorc dēaþ-scūa duguþe ond geogoþe
 seomade ond syrede; sin-nihte hēold
 mistige mōras; men ne cunnon
 hwyder hel-rūnan hwyrftum scrīpað.
 Swā fela fyrena fēond man-cynnes,
 165 atol ān-gengea, oft gefremede,
 heardra hýnða. Heorot eardode,
 sinc-fāge sel sweartum nihtum;
 nō hē þone gif-stōl grētan mōste,
 mǣþðum for Metode, nē his myne wisse.
 170 Þæt wæs wræc micel wine Scyldinga,
 mōdes brecða. Monig oft gesæt
 rice tō rūne, ræd eahtedon,
 hwæt swið-ferhðum sēlest wære
 wið fār-gryrum tō gefremmanne.
 175 Hwílum hīe gehēton æt hærg-trafum
 wīg-weorþunga wordum bædon,
 þæt him gāst-bona gēoce gefremede
 wið þēod-þrēaum. Swylc wæs þēaw hyra,
 hāþenra hyht; helle gemundon
 180 in mōd-sefan, Metod hīe ne cūþon,
 dæda Dēmend, ne wiston hīe Drihten God,
 nē hīe hūru heofena Helm herian ne cūþon,
 wuldres Waldend. Wā bið þām ðe sceal
 þurh slīðne nīð sǣwle bescūfan
 185 in fýres fæþm, frōfre ne wēnan,
 wihte gewendan! Wēl bið þām þe mōt
 æfter dēað-dæge Drihten sēcean
 ond tō Fæder fæþmum freoðo wilnian!
 III Swā ðā mæl-ceare maga Healfdenes
 190 singāla sēað, ne mihte snotor hǣleð

158b MS. banum: em. Kemble.

159a Loss at edge of MS. restored by Rieger.

175b MS. hrærg trafum: em. Grundtvig.

- wēan onwendan; wæs þæt gewin tō swyð,
 lāp ond longsum, þe on ða lēode becōm,
 nȳd-wracu nīp-grim, niht-bealwa mæst.
 Ðæt fram hām gefrægn Higelāces þegn,
 195 gōd mid Gēatum, Grendles dāda;
 sē wæs mon-cynnes mægenes strengest
 on þām dæge þysses lifes,
 æpele ond ēacen. Hēt him yð-lidan
 gōdne gegyrwan; cwæð, hē gūð-cyning
 200 ofer swan-rāde sēcean wolde,
 mārne þeoden, þā him wæs manna þearf.
 Ðone sið-fæt him snotere ceorlas
 lýt-hwōn lōgon þeah hē him lēof wære;
 hwetton hige-rōfne, hæl scēawedon.
 205 Hæfde se gōda Gēata lēoda
 cempa gecorone þāra þe hē cēnoste
 findan mihte; fif-tȳna sum
 sund-wudu sōhte secg wīsade
 lagu-cræftig mon land-gemyrcu.
 210 Fyrst forð gewāt; flota wæs on yðum,
 bāt under beorge. Beornas gearwe
 on stefn stigon; strēamas wundon
 sund wið sande; secgas bāron
 on bearm nacan beorhte frætwe
 215 gūð-searo geatolīc; guman ūt scufon
 weras on wil-sið wudu bundenne.
 Gewāt þā ofer wæg-holm winde gefȳsed
 flota fāmī-heals, fugle gelīcost,
 oðþæt ymb ān-tīd, oþres dōgores,
 220 wunden-stefna gewaden hæfde,
 þæt ða līðende land gesāwon,
 brim-clifu blīcan, beorgas stēape,
 sīde sǣ-næssas; þā wæs sund liden,
 ēoletes æt ende. Ðanon up hraðe
 225 Wedera lēode on wang stigon,

204a "rofne" now entirely gone, but deduced from errors in the Thorkelin transcripts. See Malone. *PMLA* 64 (1949), 1195.

- sæ-wudu sældon —syrca hrysedon,
 gūð-gewædo— Gode þancedon
 þæs þe him yð-lāde ēaðe wurdon.
Ða of wealle geseah weard Scildinga
 230 sē þe *holm-clifu* healdan scolde
 beran ofer bolcan beorhte randas
 fyrd-searu fūslicu; hine fyrwyt bræc
 mōd-gehygdum hwæt þā men wæron.
 Gewāt him þā tō waroðe wicge *riðan*
 235 þegn Hrōðgāres, þrymmum cwehte
 mægen-wudu mundum, meþel-wordum frægn:
 “Hwæt syndon gē searo-hæbbendra,
 byrnum werede, þe þus brontne cēol
 ofer lagu-stræte lædan cwōmon,
 240 hider ofer holmas? [*lc hwi*]le wæs
 ende-sæta, æg-wearde hēold,
 þē on land Dena lāðra nænig
 mid scip-herge sceoþan ne meahte.
 Nō hēr cūðlicor cuman ongunnon
 245 lind-hæbbende, nē gē lēafnes-word
 gūð-fremmendra gearwe ne wissen,
 māga gemēdu. Næfre ic mārān geseah
 eorla ofer eorþan ðonne is ēower sum,
 secg on searwum; nis þæt seld-guma
 250 wæpnum geweorðad— næfre him his wlite lēoge,
 ænlic ansyn! Nū ic ēower sceal
 frum-cyn witan, ær gē fyr *heonan*,
 lēas-scēaweras, on land Dena
 furþur fēran. Nū gē feor-būend,
 255 mere-liðende, mīn[*n*]e gehyrað
 ānfealdne geþōht: ofost is sēlest
 tō gecyðanne hwanan ēowre cyme syndon.”
 IIII Him se yldesta andswarode,
 werodes wisa, word-hord onlēac:

240b MS. *holmas le wæs*: em. Kaluza.

250b Usually em. *næf[n]e* ‘unless,’ but I follow Robinson, *TSL* 11 (1966), 155–57.

255b MS. *mine*: em. Kemble.

- 260 "Wē synt gum-cynnes Gēata lēode
ond Higelāces heorð-genēatas.
Wæs mīn fæder folcum gecȳped,
æpele ord-fruma Ecgbēow hāten;
gebād wintra worn ær hē on weg hwurfe,
- 265 gamol of geardum; hine gearwe geman
witena wēl-hwylc wīde geond eorþan.
Wē þurh holdne hige hlāford þinne,
sunu Healfdenes, sēcean cwōmon,
lēod-gebyrgean: wes þū ūs lārena gōd!
- 270 Habbað wē tō þām mæran micel ærende
Deniga frēan; ne sceal þær dyrne sum
wesān, þæs ic wēne. Þū wāst—gif hit is
swā wē sōþlice secgan hȳrdon—
þæt mid Scyldingum *sceaðona* ic nāt hwylc,
- 275 dēogol dād-hata, deorcum nihtum
ēaweð þurh egsan uncūðne nīð
hȳnðu ond hrā-fyl. Ic þæs Hrōðgār mæg
þurh rūmne sefan rād gelæran
hū hē frōd *ond* gōd fēond oferswȳðeþ,
- 280 gyf him edwendan æfre scolde
bealuwa bisigu, bōt eft cuman,
ond þā cear-wylmas cōlran wurðap;
oððe ā syþðan earfoð-þrage,
þrēa-nȳd þolað, þenden þær wunað
- 285 on hēah-stede hūsa sēlest."
- Weard mapelode, ðær on wicge sæt,
ombeht unforht: "Æghwæpres sceal
scearp scyld-wiga gescād witan,
worda ond worca, sē þe wēl þenceð.
- 290 Ic þæt gehȳre, þæt þis is hold weorod
frēan Scyldinga. Gewītaþ forð beran
wæpen ond gewædu; ic ēow wīsigē.
Swylce ic magu-þegnas mīne hāte
wið fēonda gehwone flotan ēowerne,
- 295 nīw-tyrwydne nacan on sande
ārum healdan, oþðæt eft byreð
ofer lagu-strēamas lēofne mannan

- wudu wunden-hals tō Weder-mearce,
 gōd-fremmendra swylcum gifeþe bið
 300 þæt þone hilde-ræs hāl gedigeð."
- Gewiton him þā fēran. Flota stille bād
 seomode on s[ā]lle sīd-fæþmed scip
 on ancre fæst. Eoforlic scionon
 ofer hlēor-beran, gehroden golde;
 305 fāh ond fȳr-heard, ferh-wearde hēold
 gūþ-mōd gr[i]mmon. Guman ōnetton,
 sigon ætsomne, oþþæt hȳ [s]æl timbred,
 geatolic ond gold-fāh ongyton mihton,
 þæt wæs fore-mārost fold-būendum
- 310 receda under roderum on þām se rīca bād;
 līxte se lēoma ofer landa fela.
 Him þā hilde-dēor [h]of mōdigra
 torht getæhte, þæt hīe him tō mihton
 gegnum gangan; gūð-beorna sum
- 315 wicg gewende, word æfter cwæð:
 "Mæl is mē tō fēran; Fæder alwalda
 mid ār-stafum ēowic gehealde
 sīða gesundel! Ic tō sæ wille,
 V } wið wrað werod wearde healdan."
 320 } Stræt wæs stān-fāh, stīg wīode
 gumum ætgædere. Gūð-byrne scān,
 heard, hond-locen, hring-iren scīr
 song in searwum, þā hīe tō sele furðum
 in hyra gryre-geatwum gangan cwōmon.
- 325 Setton sæ-mēþe side scyldas,
 rondas regn-hearde, wið þæs recedes weal;
 bugon þā tō bence, byrnan hringdon,
 gūð-searo gumena. Gāras stōdon,
 sæ-manna searo, samod ætgædere,
- 330 æsc-holt ufan græg; wæs se iren-þrēat

302a MS. sole: em. Ettmüller.

306a MS. grummon: em. Sedgfield.

307b MS. æl: em. Kemble.

312b MS. of: em. Kemble.

322b MS. hælepum: em. Grein.

- wāpnum gewurþad. Ðā ðær wlonc hæleð
 ðret-mecgas æfter æ[þ]e[l]um frægn:
 "Hwanon ferigeað gē fætte scyldas,
 græge syrcan ond grīm-helmas,
 335 here-sceafta hēap? Ic eom Hrōðgāres
 ār ond ombiht. Ne seah ic elþeodige
 þus manige men mōdiglicran.
 Wēn' ic þæt gē for wlenco, nalles for wræc-siðum,
 ac for hige-þrymmum Hrōðgār sōhton."
 340 Him þā ellen-rōf andswarode,
 wlanc Wedera lēod, word æfter spræc,
 heard under helme: "Wē synt Higelāces
 bēod-genēatas; Bēowulf is mīn nama.
 Wille ic āsecgan sunu Healfdenes,
 345 mærum þeodne mīn ærende,
 aldre þīnum, gif hē ūs geunnan wile
 þæt wē hine swā gōdne grētan mōton."
 Wulfgār maþelode; þæt wæs Wendla lēod,
 wæs his mōd-sefa manegum gecyðed,
 350 wīg ond wiðdōm: "Ic þæs wine Deniga
 frēan Scildinga frīnan wille,
 bēaga bryttan, swā þū bēna eart,
 þeoden mærne, ymb þīnne sið,
 ond þē þā andsware ædre gecyðan,
 355 ðe mē se gōda āgifu þenceð."
 Hwearf þā hrædlīce þær Hrōðgār sæt,
 eald ond unhār mid his eorla gedriht;
 ēode ellen-rōf þæt hē for eaxlum gestōd
 Deniga frēan: cūpe hē duguðe þeaw.
 360 Wulfgār maðelode tō his wine-drihtne:
 "Hēr syndon geferede, feorran cumene
 ofer geofenes begang Gēata lēode;
 þone yldestan ðret-mecgas
 Bēowulf nemnað. Hý bēnan synt,
 365 þæt hīe, þeoden mīn, wið þē mōton

339a MS. *þrymmum* rests only on the self-correction of Thorkelin A. See Malone, *PMLA* 64 (1949), 1196.

- wordum wrixlan, nō ðū him wearne getēoh
 ðīnra gegn-cwida, glæd-man Hrōðgār:
 hȳ on wīg-getāwum wyrðe þinceað
 eorla geæhtlan; hūru se aldor dēah,
 370 sē þām heaðo-rincum hider wīsade.”
 VI Hrōðgār maþelode, helm Scyldinga:
 “Ic hine cūðe cniht-wesende;
 wæs his eald-fæder Ecgbēo hāten,
 ðām tō hām forgeaf Hrēpel Gēata
 375 āngan dohtor; is his eafora nū
 heard hēr cumen, sōhte holdne wine!
 Ðonne sægdon þæt sǣ-līþende,
 þā ðe gif-sceattas Gēata fyredon
 þyder tō þance, þæt hē þritiges
 380 manna mægen-cræft on his *mund*-gripe,
 heaþo-rōf, hæbbe. Hine hālig God
 for ār-stafum ūs onsende
 tō West-Denum, þæs ic wēn hæbbe,
 wið Grendles gryre. *Ic þām gōdan sceal*
 385 for his mōd-þræce *mādm*as bēodan.
 Bēo ðū on ofeste, hāt in gān
 sēon sibbe-gedriht samod ætgædere;
 gesaga him ēac wordum þæt hīe sint wil-cuman
 Deniga lēodum.” [*þā tō dura healle*
 390 *Wulfgār ēode,*] word inne ābēad:
 “Eow hēt secgan sige-drihten mīn,
 aldor East-Dena, þæt hē ēower æþelu can,
 ond gē him syndon ofer sǣ-wylmas
 heard-hicgende, hider wil-cuman.
 395 Nū gē mōton gangan in ēowrum gūð-getāwum
 under here-grīman, Hrōðgār geseon;
 lætað hilde-bord hēr onbidian,

375b MS. eaforan: em. Kemble.

389b–390a No gap in MS: conjectural restoration by Grein as adapted by Wrenn.

395b MS. guð geata wum: em. Ettmüller.

397b Originally MS. onbidina in error for “onbidian,” with smudged erasure of “n” after the “di”; thus Malone, *NC*, p. 55. Other scholars see the altered “in” as erased “m” and read “onbīdan.”

- wudu, wæl-sceaftas, worda geþinges."
 Ārās þā se rīca, ymb hine rinc manig,
 400 þrýðlic þegna hēap; sume þær bidon
 heaðo-rēaf hēoldon swā him se hearda bebēad.
 Snyredon ætsomne þā secg wīsoðe,
 under Heorotes hrōf; [ēode hilde-dēor,]
 heard under helme, þæt hē on hēoðe gestōd.
 405 Bēowulf maðelode —on him byrne scān,
 searo-net seowed smipes orþancum:
 "Wæs þū, Hrōðgār, hāl! Ic eom Higelāces
 mæg ond mago-ðegn; hæbbe ic mārða fela
 ongunnen on geogope. Mē wearð Grendles þing
 410 on mīnre ēþel-tyrf undyrne cūð;
 secgað sǣ-liðend þæt þæs sele stande,
 reced sēlesta rinca gehwylcum
 īdel ond unnyt, siððan æfen-lēoht
 under heofenes hādor beholen weorþeð.
 415 Þā mē þæt gelærdon lēode mīne,
 þā sēlestan, snotere ceorlas,
 þēoden Hrōðgār, þæt ic þē sōhte,
 forþan hīe mægenes cræft mīne cūþon,
 selfe ofersāwon ðā ic of searwum cwōm
 420 fāh from fēondum þær ic fife geband
 yðde eotena cyn, ond on yðum slōg
 niceras nihtes, nearo-þearfe drēah,
 wræc Wedera nīð —wēan āhsodon—
 forgrand gramum; ond nū wið Grendel sceal,
 425 wið þām āglæcan, āna gehēgan
 ðing wið þyrse. Ic þē nū ðā,
 brego Beorht-Dena, biddan wille,
 eodor Scyldinga, ānre bēne,
 þæt ðū mē ne forwyrne, wīgendra hlēo,
 430 frēo-wine folca, nū ic þus feorran cōm,
 þæt ic mōte āna, [ond] mīnra eorla gedryht,
 þes hearda hēap, Heorot fælsian.

403b No gap in MS: conjectural restoration by von Schaubert.

431b "ond" shifted by Kemble from before "þes" in 432.

- Hæbbe ic ēac geāhsod, þæt sē æglæca
for his won-hȳdum wæpna ne recceð.
- 435 Ic þæt þonne forhicge, swā mē Higelāc sīe,
mīn mon-drihten, mōdes blīðe,
þæt ic sweord bere oþðe sīdne scyld,
geolo-rand tō gūpe, ac ic mid grāpe sceal
fōn wið fēonde ond ymb feorh sacan,
- 440 lāð wið lāpum; ðær gelyfan sceal
Dryhtnes dōme sē þe hine dēað nimeð.
Wēn' ic þæt hē wille, gif hē wealdan mōt,
in þām gūð-sele Gēatena lēode
etan unforhte, swā hē oft dyde,
- 445 mægen Hrēð-manna. Nā þū mīnne þearft
hafalan hȳdan, ac hē mē habban wile
d[r]ēore fāhne, gif mec dēað nimeð;
byreð blōdig wæl, byrgean þenceð,
eteð ān-genga unmunlice,
- 450 mearcað mōr-hopu; nō ðū ymb mīnes ne þearft
lices feorme leng sorgian!
Onsend Higelāce, gif mec hild nime,
beadu-scrūda betst, þæt mīne brēost wereð,
hrægla sēlest; þæt is Hrædlan lāf,
- 455 Welandes geweorc. Gæð ā wyrd swā hīo scel.”
VII Hrōðgār mapelode, helm Scyldinga:
“F[or gewyr]htum þū, wine mīn Bēowulf,
ond for ār-stafum ūsic sōhtest.
Geslōh þīn fæder fāhðe mæste,
- 460 wearþ hē Heapolāfe tō hand-bonan
mid Wilfungum; ðā hine [w]āra cyn
for here-brōgan habban ne mihte.
Panon hē gesōhte Sūð-Dena folc
ofer yða gewearc, Ār-Scyldinga;

443b The third letter of “Gēatena” is “a” altered from “o”: Malone, NC, p. 56. Wrenn reads “Gēotena” as an Anglian form.

447a MS. deore: em. Kemble.

457a MS. fere fyhtum: em. Trautmann.

461b MS. gara cyn: em. Thorpe, newly supported by Joseph Tuso, *MLQ* 29 (1968), 259–62.

- 465 ðā ic furpum wēold folce Deniga
 ond on geogoðe hēold gimme-rīce,
 hord-burh hālepa; ðā wæs Heregār dēad,
 mīn yldra mæg unlifigende,
 bearn Healfdenes; sē wæs betera ðonne icl
- 470 Siððan þā fæhðe fēo þingode;
 sende ic Wylfingum ofer wāteres hrycg
 ealde mādmas; hē mē āpas swōr.
 Sorh is mē tō secganne on sefan mīnum
 gumena ængum, hwæt mē Grendel hafað
- 475 hȳnðo on Heorote mid his hete-þancum,
 fār-nīða gefremed; is mīn flet-werod,
 wīg-hēap gewanod; hīe wyrd forswēop
 on Grendles gryre. God ēaþe mæg
 þone dol-sceaðan dāda getwāfan!
- 480 Ful oft gebēotedon bēore druncne
 ofer ealo-wæge ōret-mecgas,
 þæt hīe in bēor-sele bīdan woldon
 Grendles gūpe mid gryrum ecga.
 ðonne wæs þeos medo-heal on morgen-tīd,
- 485 driht-sele drēor-fāh, þonne dæg lixte,
 eal benc-þelu blōde bestȳmed,
 heall heoru-drēore; āhte ic holdra þȳ lās
 dēorre duguðe, þē þā dēað fornam.
 Site nū tō symle ond onsæl meoto,
- 490 sige-hrēð secgum, swā þīn sefa hwette."
 Þā wæs Gēat-mæcgum geador ætsomne
 on bēor-sele benc gerȳmed;
 þær swīð-ferhþe sittan ēodon,
 þrȳðum dealle. Þegn nytte behēold,
- 495 sē þe on handa bær hroden ealo-wæge,
 scencte scīr wered; scop hwīlum sang
 hādor on Heorote; þær wæs hāleða drēam,
 duguð unlȳtel Dena ond Wedera.

465b MS. deninga: em. Thorpe.

490a MS. secgum from Malone, NC, p. 57. The trans. follows J. W. Bright, *MLN* 31 (1916), 217–23. Wrenn reads: on sæl meoto / sige hrēð-secg[a] 'in due time attend to the victories of glorious warriors,' i.e., listen to Danish lays.

- VIII Unferð mapelode, Ecglāfes bearn,
 500 þe æt fōtum sæt frēan Scyldinga,
 onband beadu-rūne— was him Bēowulfes sīð,
 mōdges mere-faran, micel æfþunca
 forþon þe hē ne ūpe þæt ænig oðer man
 æfre mārða þon mā middan-geardes
 505 gehēdde under heofenum þonne hē sylfa:
 “Eart þū sē Bēowulf, sē þe wið Breca wunne,
 on sīdne sæ ymb sund flite,
 ðær git for wlence wada cunnedon
 ond for dol-gilpe on dēop wæter
 510 aldnum nēþdon? Nē inc ænig mon,
 nē lēof nē lāð, belēan mihte
 sorh-fullne sīð, þā git on sund rēon;
 þær git ēagor-strēam earmum þehton,
 mæton mere-stræta mundum brugdon,
 515 glidon ofer gār-secg; geofon yþum wēol,
 wintrys wylm[um]. Git on wæteres æht
 seofon niht swuncon; hē þē æt sunde oferflāt,
 hæfde mære mægen. Þā hine on morgen-tīd
 on Heapo-Rāmes holm up ætbær;
 520 ðonon hē gesōhte swæsne ēpel,
 lēof his lēodum, lond Brondinga,
 freoðo-burh fægere, þær hē folc āhte,
 burh ond bēagas. Bēot eal wið þē
 sunu Bēanstānes sōðe gelæste.
 525 Ðonne wēne ic tō þē wyrsan gēþingea
 ðēah þū heaðo-rāsa gehwær dohte
 grimre gūðe, gif þū Grendles dearest
 niht-longne fyrst nēan bīdan.”
 Bēowulf mapelode, bearn Ecgþēowes:
 530 “Hwæt þū worn fela, wine mīn Unferð,
 bēore druncen ymb Breca spræce,

499a MS. HVN ferð: em. Rieger, as also in 530, 1165, 1488. Apparently the scribe succumbed to the analogy of other Germanic names such as Hunlafing 1143.

516a MS. wylm: em. Kluge.

530b MS. hun ferð.

- sægdest from his siðe. Sōð ic talige
 þæt ic mere-strengo māran āhte,
 earfeþo on ýpum, ðonne ænig oþer man.
 535 Wit þæt gecwædon cniht-wesende
 ond gebēotedon— wæron bēgen þā git
 on geogoð-fēore— þæt wit on gār-secg ūt
 aldrum nēðdon ond þæt geæfndon swā.
 Hæfdon swurd nacod, þā wit on sund rēon,
 540 heard on handa; wit unc wið hron-fixas
 werian þōhton. Nō hē wiht fram mē
 flōd-ýpum feor flēotan meahte,
 hrapor on holme, nō ic fram him wolde.
 Ðā wit ætsomne on sǣ wæron
 545 fif nihta fyrst, oþþæt unc flōd tōdrāf
 wado weallende, wedera cealdost,
 nīpende niht, ond norþan-wind
 heaðo-grim ondhwearf. Hrēo wæron ýpa,
 wæs mere-fixa mōd onhrēred;
 550 þær mē wið lāðum līc-syrce mīn,
 heard, hond-locen, helpe gefremede,
 beado-hrægl brōden on brēostum læg
 golde gegyrwed. Mē tō grunde tēah
 fāh fēond-scaða, fæste hæfde
 555 grim on grāpe; hwæpre mē gyfeþe wearð
 þæt ic āglæcan orde gerǣhte,
 hilde-bille; heaþo-rās fornam
 mihtig mere-dēor þurh mīne hand.
 VIII “Swā mec gelōme lāð-getēonan
 560 þrēatedon þearle. Ic him þēnode
 dēoran sweorde, swā hit gedēfe wæs.
 Næs hīe ðære fylle gefēan hæfdon,
 mǣn-fordǣdlan, þæt hīe mē þēgon,
 symbel ymb-sǣton sǣ-grunde nēah;
 565 ac on mergenne mēcum wunde
 be ýð-lāfe uppe lægon,
 sweo[r]dum āswefede, þæt syðþan nā

- ymb brontne ford brim-liðende
lāde ne letton. *Lēoht* ēastan cōm,
570 beorht bēacen Godes, brimu swaþredon,
þæt ic sǣ-næssas gesēon mihte
windige weallas. Wyrð oft nereð
unfǣgne eorl, þonne his ellen dēah.
Hwæpere mē gesælde, þæt ic mid sweorde ofslōh
575 niceras nigene. Nō ic on niht gefrægn
under heofones hwealf heardran feohtan,
nē on ēg-strēamum earmran mannon;
hwaþere ic fāra feng fēore gedigde
sīþes wērig. Ðā mec sǣ oþbær,
580 flōd æfter faroðe on Finna land
w[a]du weallendu. Nō ic wiht fram þē
swylcra searo-nīða secgan hȳrde,
billa brōgan. Breca nǣfre gīt
æt heaðo-lāce, nē gehwæper incer,
585 swā dēorlice dæd gefremede
fāgum sweordum —nō ic þæs [*fela*] gylpe—
þēah ðū þīnum brōðrum tō banan wurde,
hēafod-mægum; þæs þū in *helle* scealt
werhðo drēogan, þēah þīn *wit duge*.
590 Secge ic þē to sōðe, sunu *Ecglāfes*,
þæt nǣfre Gre[n]del swā fela gryra gefremede,
atol æglæca ealdre þīnum,
hȳnðo Heorote, gif þīn hige wære,
sefa swā searo-grim, swā þū self talast;
595 ac hē hafað onfunden þæt hē þā fāhðe ne þearf,
atole ecg-þræce ēower lēode
swiðe onsittan, Sige-Scyldinga;
nymed nȳd-bāde, nǣnegum ārað
lēode Deniga, ac hē lust wigeð,
600 swefeð ond s[nē]deþ, secce ne wēneþ

581a MS. wudu: em. Grundtvig.

586b No gap in MS: supplied by Grein.

591a MS. gre del: em. Thorkelin.

600a MS. sendeþ: em. Rudolph Imelmann, *ES* 66 (1932), 324 ff. The MS. form could mean "sends (to death)."

- tō Gār-Denum. Ac ic him Gēata sceal
 eafod̥ ond ellen ungeāra nū
 gūpe gebēodan. Gæþ eft sē þe mōt
 tō medo mōdig, siþþan morgen-lēoht
 605 ofer ylda bearn oþres dōgores,
 sunne swegl-wered sūpan scīneðl̥”
 Ðā wæs on sālum since brytta,
 gamol-feax ond gūð-rōf; gēoce gelyfde
 brego Beorht-Dena, gehýrde on Bēowulfe
 610 folces hyrde fæst-rædne gepōht.
 Ðær wæs hæleþa hleahtor, hlyn swynsode,
 word wæron wynsume. Eode Wealhþēow forð,
 cwēn Hrōðgāres cynna gemyndig;
 grētte gold-hroden guman on healle,
 615 ond þā frēolic wīf ful gesealde
 ærest Eāst-Dena ēpel-wearde;
 bæd hine bliðne æt þære bēor-þege,
 lēodum lēofne; hē on lust gepeah
 symbel ond sele-ful sige-rōf kyning.
 620 Ymb-ēode þā ides Helminga
 dugupe ond geogoþe dæl æghwylcne
 sinc-fato sealde oþþæt sæl ālamp,
 þæt hīo Bēowulfe, bēag-hroden cwēn
 mōde gepungen medo-ful ætbær;
 625 grētte Gēata lēod, Gode þancode
 wīs-fæst wordum, þæs ðe se willa gelamp,
 þæt hēo on ænigne eorl gelyfde
 fyrena frōfre. Hē þæt ful gepeah,
 wæl-rēow wiga, æt Wealhþēon,
 630 ond þā gyddode gūpe gefýsed;
 Bēowulf mabelode, bearn Ecgþēowes:
 “Ic þæt hogode, þā ic on holm gestāh,
 sǣ-bāt gesæt mid mīnra secga gedriht,
 þæt ic ānunga ēowra lēoda
 635 willan geworhte, oþðe on wæl crunge,
 fēond-grāpum fæst. Ic gefremman sceal
 eorlic ellen, oþðe ende-dæg
 on þisse meodu-healle mīnne gebīdan.”
 Ðām wīfe þā word wēl licodon,

- 640 gilp-cwide Gēates; ēode gold-hroden
frēolicu folc-cwēn tō hire frēan sittan.
 Pā wæs eft swā ær inne on healle
 þrýð-word sprecen, ðeod on sælum,
 sige-folca swēg, oppæt semninga
- 645 sunu Healfdenes sēcean wolde
 æfen-ræste; wiste þām ahlācan
 tō þām hēah-sele hilde gepinged,
 siððan hīe sunnan lēoht gesēon meah-ton,
 op ðe nīpende niht ofer ealle,
- 650 scadu-helma gesceapu scriðan cwōman,
 wan under wolcnum. Werod eall ārās.
 [Ge]grētte þā guma oþerne,
 Hrōðgār Bēowulf, ond him hæl ābēad,
 wīn-ærnes geweald, ond þæt word ācwæð:
- 655 "Næfre ic ænegum men ær ālyfde,
 siððan ic hond ond rond hebban mihte,
 ðrýp-ærn Dena būton þe nū ðā.
 Hafa nū ond geheald hūsa sēlest,
 gemyne mærpō, mægen-ellen cýð,
- 660 waca wið wrāpum! Ne bið þe wilna gād
 gif þū þæt ellen-weorc aldre gedigest."
- X Ðā him Hrōþgār gewāt mid his hælepa gedryht,
 eodur Scyldinga út of healle;
 wolde wīg-fruma Wealhþeo sēcan,
- 665 cwēn tō gebeddan. Hæfde Kyning-wuldor
 Grendle tōgēanes, swā guman gefrungon,
 sele-weard āseted; sundor-nytte behēold
 ymb aldor Dena, eoton-weard' ābēad.
 Hūru Gēata lēod georne truwode
- 670 mōdgan mægnes, Metodes hylde.
 Ðā hē him of dyde īsern-byrnan
 helm of hafelan, sealde his hyrsted sweord,
 īrena cyst, ombiht-þegne,
 ond gehealdan hēt hilde-geatwe.
- 675 Gespræc þā se gōda gylp-worda sum,
 Bēowulf Gēata, ær hē on bed stige:

- "Nō ic mē an here-wæsmun hnāgran talige
 gūþ-geweorca, þonne Grendel hine;
 forþan ic hine sweorde swebban nelle,
 680 aldre benēotan, þēah ic eal mæge.
 Nāt hē þāra gōða, þæt hē mē ongēan slēa,
 rand gehēawe, þēah ðe hē rōf sīe
 nīþ-geweorca; ac wit on niht sculon
 secge ofersittan, gif h[ē] gesēcean dear
 685 wīg ofer wāpen, ond siþðan wītig God
 on swā hwæþere hond, hālig Dryhten
 mārðo dēme, swā him gemet þince."
 Hylde hine þā heaþo-dēor, hlēor-bolster onfēng
 eorles andwlitan, ond hine ymb monig
 690 snellic sǣ-rinc sele-reste gebēah.
 Nænig heora þōhte þæt hē þanon scolde
 eft eard-lufan æfre gesēcean,
 folc oþðe frēo-burh, þær hē āfēded wæs;
 ac hīe hæfdon gefrūnen þæt hīe ær tō fela micles
 695 in þām wīn-sele wæl-dēað fornam,
 Denigea lēode. Ac him Dryhten forgeaf
 wīg-spēða gewiofu, Wedera lēodum,
 frōfor ond fultum, þæt hīe fēond heora
 ðurh ānes cræft ealle ofercōmon,
 700 selfes mihtum. Sōð is gecȳped,
 þæt mihtig God manna cynnes
 weold *wīde*-ferhð. Cōm on wanre niht
 scrīðan sceadu-geenge. Scēotend swāfon,
 þā þæt horn-reced healdan scoldon,
 705 ealle būton ānum. Þæt wæs yldum cūþ,
 þæt hīe ne mōste, þā Metod nolde,
 se syn-scaþa under sceadu bregdan,
 ac hē wæccende wrāpum on andan
 bād bolgen-mōd beadwa geþinges.
 710 } Ðā cōm of mōre under mist-hleoþum
 XI } Grendel gongan, Godes yrre bær;

684b MS. het: em. Kemble.

702a Edge of MS. entirely gone, but "ride" in Thorkelin A, who made ninety-six errors of "r" for "w."

- mynte se mǎn-scaða manna cynnes
 sumne besyrwan in sele þām hēan.
 Wōd under wolcnum tō þæs þe hē wīn-reced,
 715 gold-sele gumena, gearwost wisse,
 fættum fāhne. Ne wæs þæt forma sīð
 þæt hē Hrōðgāres hām gesōhte;
 næfre hē on aldor-dagum ær ne siþðan
 heardran hāle, heal-ðegnas fand.
 720 Cōm þā tō recede rinc sīðian
 drēamum bedæled. Duru sōna onarn
 fȳr-bendum fæst syþðan hē hire folmum [ge]hrān;
 onbræd þā bealo-hȳdig, ðā hē [ge]bolgen wæs,
 recedes mūpan. Raþe æfter þon
 725 on fāgne flōr fēond treddode,
 ēode yrre-mōd; him of ēagum stōd
 ligge gelīcost lēoht unfæger.
 Geseah hē in recede rinca manige,
 swefan sibbe-gedriht samod ætgædere,
 730 mago-rinca hēap. Þā his mōd āhlōg;
 mynte þæt hē gedælde, ær þon dæg cwōme,
 atol āglæca, ānra gehwylces
 lif wið līce, þā him ālumpen wæs
 wist-fylle wēn. Ne wæs þæt wyrd þā gēn,
 735 þæt hē mā mōste manna cynnes
 ðicgean ofer þā niht. Þrȳð-swȳð behēold,
 mæg Higelāces, hū se mǎn-scaða
 under fær-gripum gefaran wolde.
 Nē þæt se āglæca yldan þōhte,
 740 ac hē gefēng hraðe forman sīðe
 slæpendne rinc, slāt unwearnum,
 bāt bān-locan, blōd ēdrum dranc,
 syn-snædum swealh; sōna hæfde
 unlyfigendes eal gefeormod,
 745 fēt ond folma. Forð nēar ætstōp,

722b MS. ..hran from Malone, NC, p. 59: restored by Zupitza.

723b "ne" from Conybeare (1826). MS. ...bolgen, much faded, restored tentatively by Zupitza and Malone. Norman Davis would restore the whole passage as "[þær a]bolgen."

- nam þā mid handa hige-þihtigne
 rinc on ræste, ræhte ongēan
 fēond mid folme; hē onfēng hraþe
 inwit-þancum ond wið earm gesæt.
 750 Sōna þæt onfunde fyrena hyrde,
 þæt hē ne mētte middan-geardes,
 eorþan scēatta, on elran men
 mund-gripe mǣran; hē on mōde wearð
 forht on ferhðe; nō þȳ ær fram meahte.
 755 Hyge wæs him hin-fūs, wolde on heolster flēon,
 sēcan dēofla gedræg; ne wæs his drohtoð þær
 swylce hē on ealder-dagum ær gemētte.
 Gemunde þā se gōda, mæg Higelāces,
 æfen-spræce, uplang āstōd
 760 ond him fæste wiðfēng; fingras burston;
 eoten wæs ūtweard, eorl furþur stōp.
 Mynte se mǣra, [þ]ær hē meahte swā,
 wīdre gewindan ond on weg þanon
 flēon on fen-hopu; wiste his fingra geweald
 765 on grames grāpum; þæt wæs gēocor sið
 þæt sē hearm-scaþa to Heorute ātēah.
 Dryht-sele dynede; Denum eallum wearð,
 ceaster-būendum, cēnra gehwylcum,
 eorlum ealu-scerwen. Yrre wæron bēgen,
 770 rēpe ren-weardas. Reced hlynsode;
 þā wæs wundor micel þæt se wīn-sele
 wiðhæfde heaþo-dēorum, þæt hē on hrūsan ne fēol,
 fæger fold-bold; ac hē þæs fæste wæs
 innan ond ūtan īren-bendum
 775 searo-þoncum besmīpod. Þær fram sylle ābēag
 medu-benc monig, mīne gefræge,
 golde geregnad, þær þā graman wunnon.
 Þæs ne wēndon ær witan Scyldinga
 þæt hit ā mid gemete manna ænig,
 780 [b]etlic ond bān-fāg tōbreca meahte,

762b MS. ..ær from Thorkelin A: em. Ettmüller.

765b MS. þæt he wæs: em. Grundtvig.

780a MS. het lic: em. Grundtvig.

- listum tōlūcan, nymfe liges fæþm
 swulge on swaþule. Swæg up āstāg
 nīwe geneahhe; Norð-Denum stōd
 atelīc egesa, ānra gehwylcum
 785 þāra þe of wealle wōp gehýrdon,
 gryre-lēoð galan Godes andsacan
 sige-lēasne sang, sār wānigean
 helle hæfton. Hēold hine fæste,
 sē þe manna wæs mægene strengest
 790 on þām dæge þysses līfes.
 XII Nolde eorla hlēo ānige þinga
 þone cwealm-cuman cwicne forlātan,
 nē his lif-dagas lēoda ānigum
 nytte tealde. Þār genehost brægd
 795 eorl Bēowulfes ealde lāfe,
 wolde frēa-drihtnes feorh ealgian,
 mæres þeodnes, ðær hīe meah-ton swā.
 Hīe þæt ne wiston, þā hīe gewin drugon,
 heard-hicgende hilde-mecgas
 800 ond on healfa gehwone hēawan þōhton,
 sāwle sēcan: þone syn-scaðan
 ānig ofer eorþan īrenna cyst,
 gūð-billa nān grētan nolde,
 ac hē sige-wæpnum forsworen hæfde,
 805 ecga gehwylcre. Scolde his aldor-gedāl
 on ðām dæge þysses līfes
 earmlic wurðan ond se ellor-gāst
 on fēonda gewæld feor stīðian.
 Ðā þæt onfunde sē þe fela ārōr
 810 mōdes myrðe manna cynne,
 fyrene gefremede —he fāg wið God—
 þæt him se līc-homa lāstan nolde
 ac hine se mōdega mæg Hygelāces
 hæfde be honda; wæs gehwæper oðrum
 815 lifigende lāð. Līc-sār gebād
 atol æglāca; him on eaxle wearð
 syn-dolh sweotol; seonowe onsprungon,
 burston bān-locan. Bēowulfe wearð
 gūð-hrēð gyfeþe; scolde Grendel þonan

- 820 feorh-sēoc flēon under fen-hleoðu,
 sēcean wyn-lēas wīc; wiste þē geornor,
 þæt his aldres wæs ende gegongen,
 dōgera dæg-rīm. Denum eallum wearð
 æfter þām wæl-ræse willa gelumpen.
- 825 Hæfde þā gefælsod, sē þe ær feorran cōm,
 snotor ond swýð-ferhð, sele Hrōðgāres,
 genered wið nīðe; niht-weorce gefeh,
 ellen-mærþum. Hæfde Ēast-Denum
 Gēat-mecga lēod gilp gelæsted,
 830 swylce oncýpðe ealle gebētte,
 inwid-sorge, þē hīe ær drugon
 ond for þrēa-nýdum þolian scoldon,
 torn unlýtēl. Þæt wæs tācen sweotol,
 syþðan hilde-dēor hond ālegde,
 835 earm ond eaxle —þær wæs eal geador
 Grendles grāpe— under gēapne hr[ōf].
- XIII Ðā wæs on morgen, mīne gefrāge,
 ymb þā gif-healle gūð-rinc monig;
 fērdon folc-togan feorran ond nēan
 840 geond wīd-wegas wundor scēawian,
 lāpes lāstas. Nō his lif-gedāl
 sārlic þūhte secga ænegum
 þāra þe tīr-lēases trode scēawode,
 hū hē wērig-mōd on weg þanon,
 845 nīða ofercumen, on nicera mere,
 fāge ond geflymed feorh-lāstas bær.
 Ðær wæs on blōde brim weallende,
 atol yða geswing eal gemenged
 hāton heolfre, heoro-drēore wēol;
 850 dēað-fāge dēog, siððan drēama lēas
 in fen-freoðo feorh ālegde,
 hāþene sāwle; þær him hel onfēng.
 Ðanon eft gewiton eald-gestdas,
 swylce geong manig of gomen-wāpe,
 855 fram mere mōdge mēarum rīdan,
 beornas on blancum. Ðær wæs Bēowulfes

- mārðo mæned; monig oft gecwæð
 þætte sūð nē norð be sām twēonum
 ofer eormen-grund ōþer nænig
 860 under swegles begong sēlra nære
 rond-hæbbendra, rīces wyrðra.
 Nē hīe hūru wine-drihten wiht ne lōgon,
 glædne Hrōðgār, ac þæt wæs gōd cyning.
 Hwīlum heaþo-rōfe hlēapan lēton,
 865 on geflit faran fealwe mēaras,
 ðær him fold-wegas fægere þūhton,
 cystum cūðe. Hwīlum cyninges þegn,
 guma gilp-hlæden, gidda gemyndig,
 sē ðe eal-fela eald-gesegenas
 870 worn gemunde, word ōþer fand
 sōðe gebunden; secg eft ongan
 sīð Bēowulfes snyttrum styrian
 ond on spēd wrecan spel gerāde,
 wordum wrixlan. Wēl-hwylc gecwæð
 875 þæt hē fram Sigemunde secgan hýrde
 ellen-dædum, uncūpes fela,
 Wælsinges gewin, wīde sīðas,
 þāra þe gumena bearn gearwe ne wiston,
 fæhðe ond fyrena, būton Fitela *mid* hine,
 880 þonne hē swulces hwæt secgan wolde,
 ēam his nefan, swā hīe ā wæron
 æt nīða gehwām nýd-gesteallan;
 hæfdon eal-fela eotena cynnes
 sweordum gesæged. Sigemunde gesprong
 885 æfter dēað-dæge dōm unlýtel,
 syþðan wīges heard wýrm ācwealde,
 hordes hyrde. Hē under hārne stān,
 æpelinges bearn, āna genēðde
 frēcne dæde, ne wæs him Fitela mid;
 890 hwæpre him gesælde, ðæt þæt swurd þurhwōd
 wrætlicne wýrm, þæt hit on wealle ætstōd,
 dryhtlic īren; draca morðre swealt.
 Hæfde āglæca elne gegongen,
 þæt hē bēah-hordes brūcan mōste
 895 selfes dōme; sǣ-bāt gehlēod,

- bær on bearm scipes beorhte frætwa,
 Wælses eafera; wyrm hāt gemealt.
 Sē was wreccena wīde mærost
 ofer wer-þeode, wīgendra hlēo,
 900 ellen-dædum —hē þæs ær onðāh—
 siððan Heremōdes hild sweðrode,
 eafoð ond ellen; he mid eotenum wearð
 on fēonda geweald forð forlācen
 snūde forsended. Hine sorh-wylmas
 905 lemede tō lange; hē his lēodum wearð,
 eallum æpellingum tō aldor-ceare.
 Swylce oft bemearn ærran mælum
 swið-ferhþes sið snotor ceorl monig,
 sē þe him bealwa tō bōte gelyfde,
 910 þæt þæt ðeodnes bearn geþeon scolde,
 fæder-æpelum onfōn, folc gehealdan,
 hord ond hlēo-burh, hæleþa rīce,
 ēpel Scyldinga. Hē þær eallum wearð,
 mæg Higelāces, manna cynne,
 915 frēondum gefægra; hine fyren onwōd.
 Hwīlum flitende fealwe stræte
 mēarum mæton. Ðā wæs morgen-lēoht
 scofen ond scynded. ðode scealc monig
 swið-hicgende tō sele þām hēan,
 920 searo-wundor sēon; swylce self cyning
 of brýd-būre, bēah-horda wearð,
 tryddode tīr-fæst getrume micle,
 cystum gecýped, ond his cwēn mid him
 medo-stigge mæt mægþa hōse.
 XIII }
 925 } Hrōðgār mapelode— hē tō healle gēong
 stōd on stapole, geseah stēapne hrōf
 golde fāhne ond Grendles hond:
 “Ðisse ansýne Alwealdan þanc
 lungre gelimpe! Fela ic lāþes gebād,
 930 grynna æt Grendle; ā mæg God wyrcan

902a MS. earfoð: em. Jacob Grimm, *Andreas und Elene* (Cassel: Wigand, 1840), p. 101.

- wunder æfter wundre, wuldres Hyrde.
 Ðæt wæs ungeāra, þæt ic ænigra mē
 wēana ne wēnde tō wīdan feore
 bōte gebīdan, þonne blōde fāh
 935 hūsa sēlest heoro-drēorig stōd,
 wēa wīd-scofen wītena gehwylc[um]
 ðāra þe ne wēndon, þæt hīe wīde-ferhð
 lēoda land-geweorc lāpum beweredon
 scuccum ond scinum. Nū scealc hafað
 940 þurh Drihtnes miht dæd gefremede,
 ðe wē ealle ær ne meahton
 snyttrum besyrwan. Hwæt, þæt secgan mæg
 efne swā hwylc mægþa, swā ðone magan cende
 æfter gum-cynnum, gyf hēo gýt lyfað,
 945 þæt hyre Eald-metod ēste wære
 bearn-gebyrdo. Nū ic, Bēowulf, þec,
 secg betsta, mē for sunu wylle
 frēogan on ferhþe; heald forð tela
 nīwe sibbe. Ne bið þē [n]ænigre gād
 950 worolde wilna, þe ic geweald hæbbe.
 Ful oft ic for læssan lēan teohhode,
 hord-weorþunge hnāhran rince,
 sāmran æt sæcce. Ðū þē self hafast
 dædum gefremed, þæt þīn [dōm] lyfað
 955 āwa tō aldre. Alwalda þec
 gōde forgylde, swā hē nū gýt dyde!"
 Bēowulf mæpelode, bearn Ecpēowes:
 "Wē þæt ellen-weorc ēstum miclum,
 feohtan fremedon, frēcne genēðdon
 960 eafod uncūþes. Uþe ic swīþor,
 þæt ðū hine selfne gesēon mōste
 fēond on frætewum fyl-wērigne!
 Ic hi[ne] hrædlīce heardan clamnum
 on wæl-bedde wrīpan þōhte,

936b MS. gehwylcne: em. Kemble.

949b MS. ænigre: em. Grein.

954b No gap in MS.; "dōm" supplied by Kemble.

963a MS. him: em. Thorpe.

- 965 þæt hē for [mu]nd-gripe mīnum scolde
 licgean lif-bysig, būtan his lic swice.
 Ic hine ne mihte, þā Metod nolde,
 ganges getwēman, nō ic him þæs georne ætfealh,
 feorh-geñiðlan; wæs tō fore-mihtig
- 970 fēond on fēpe. Hwæpere hē his folme forlēt
 tō lif-wrape lāst weardian,
 earm ond *eaxle*; nō þær ænige swā þēah
 fēasceaft guma frōfre gebohte;
 nō þy leng leofað lāð-geþēona
- 975 synnum gewenced, ac hyne sār hafað
 in [n]id-gripe nearwe befongen,
 balwon bendum; ðær ābīdan sceal
 maga mǣne fāh miclan dōmes,
 hū him scīr Metod scrīfan wille."
- 980 Ðā wæs swīgra secg, sunu Eclāfes
 on gylp-spræce gūð-geweorca,
 siþðan æþelingas eorles cræfte
 ofer hēanne hrōf hand scēawedon,
 feondes fingras; foran æghwylc wæs
- 985 steda nægla gehwylc stýle gelicost,
 hāþenes hand-sporu hilde-rinces
 egl unhēoru. Æghwylc gecwæð
 þæt him heardra nān hrīnan wolde
 īren ær-gōd, þæt ðæs āhlācan
- 990 blōdge beadu-folme onberan wolde.
- XV Ðā wæs hāten hrepe Heort innanweard
 folmum gefrætwod; fela þāra wæs,
 wera ond wīfa, þe þæt wīn-reced
 gest-sele gyredon. Gold-fāg scinon
- 995 web æfter wāgum, wundor-siona fela
 secga gehwylcum þāra þe on swylc starað.
 Wæs þæt beorhte bold tōbrocen swīðe,
 eal inneward īren-bendum fæst,

965a MS. hand gripe: em. Kemble.

976a MS. mid gripe: em. Klaeber.

986b MS. hilde ends folio 154^r and folio 154^r starts with repeated *hilde*, here deleted.

- heorras tōhlidene; hrōf āna genæs
 1000 ealles ansund, þē se āglāca
 fyren-dædum fāg on flēam gewand,
 aldres orwēna. Nō þæt yðe byð
 tō beflēonne, fremme sē þe wille,
 ac ges[ē]can sceal sāwl-berendra
 1005 nýde genýdde, niþða bearna,
 grund-būendra gearwe stōwe,
 þær his lic-homa leger-bedde fæst
 swefep æfter symle. Þā wæs sæl ond mæl
 þæt tō healle gang Healfdenes sunu;
 1010 wolde self cyning symbol þicgan.
 Ne gefrægen ic þā mægþe mārān weorode
 ymb hyra sinc-gyfan sēl gebæran.
 Bugon þā to bence blæd-āgande,
 fylle gefægon; fægere geþægon
 1015 medo-ful manig māgas þāra
 swið-hicgende, on sele þām hēan,
 Hrōðgār ond Hrōþulf. Heorot innan wæs
 frēondum āfyllled; nalles fācen-stafas
 þeod-Scyldingas þenden fremedon.
 1020 Forgeaf þā Bēowulfe brand Healfdenes
 segen gyldenne sigores tō lēane,
 hroden hil[d]e-cumbor, helm ond byrnan,
 mære mādþum-sweord manige gesāwon
 beforan beorn beran. Bēowulf geþah
 1025 ful on flette; nō hē þære feoh-gyfte
 for scōtenum scamigan ðorfte.
 Ne gefrægn ic frēondlicor fēower mādmas
 golde gegyrede gum-manna fela
 in ealo-bence oðrum gesellan.
 1030 Ymb þæs helmes hrōf hēafod-beorge

1004a MS. ge sacan: em. Kemble.

1022a MS. hilde cumbor: em. Ettmüller.

1026a MS. scotenum: von Schaubert reads as dat. pl. of "scēotend" (warrior). Usually em. sc[ē]oten[d]um.

- wīrum bewunden wala ūtan hēold
 þæt him fēla *lāf* frēcne ne meahton
 scūrheard sceþðan, þonne scyld-freca
 ongēan gramum gangan scolde.
 1035 Heht ðā eorla hlēo *eahða* mēaras
 fæted-hlēore on flet tēon
in under eoderas; þāra ānum stōd
 sadol searwum fāh, since gewurþad;
 þæt wæs hilde-setl hēah-cyninges,
 1040 ðonne sweorda gelāc sunu Healfdenes
 efnan wolde; nāfre on ōre lāg
 wīd-cūpes wīg, ðonne walu fēollon.
 Ond ðā Bēowulfe bēga gehwæpres
 eodor Ingwina onweald getēah,
 1045 wigga ond wæpna; hēt hine wēl brūcan.
 Swā manlice mære þeoden,
 hord-weard hāleþa heaþo-rāsas geald
 mēarum ond mādum, swā hȳ nāfre man lyhð,
 sē þe secgan wile sōð æfter rihte.
 XVI }
 1050 } ðā gýt æghwylcum eorla drihten
 þāra þe mid Bēowulfe brim-lāde tēah,
 on þære medu-bence mǣþðum gesealde,
 yrfe-lāfe, ond þone ænne heht
 golde forgyldan, þone ðe Grendel ær
 1055 mǣne ācwealde, swā hē hyra mā wolde,
 nefne him wītig God wyrd forstōde
 ond ðæs mannes mōd. *Metod* eallum wēold
 gumena cynnes, swā hē nū gīt dēð.
 Forþan bið andgit æghwær sēlest,
 1060 ferhðes fore-þanc. Fela sceal gebīdan
 lēofes ond lāþes, sē þe longe hēr
 on ðyssum win-dagum worolde brūceð.
 Þær wæs sang ond swēg samod ætgædere
 fore Healfdenes hilde-wisan,
 1065 gomen-wudu grēted gid oft wrecen,
 ðonne heal-gamen Hrōþgāres scop

1031b MS. walan: em. Ettmüller.

1051b MS. brim leade: em. Kemble.

- æfter medo-bence mænna scolde
 [be] Finnes eaferum, ðā hīe se fār begeat:
 hæleð Healf-Dena, Hnæf Scyldinga,
 1070 in Frēs-wæle feallan scolde.
 Nē hūru Hildeburh herian þorfte
 Eotena trēowe; unsynnum wearð
 beloren lēofum æt þām [l]i[n]d-plegan
 bearnum ond brōðrum; hīe on gebyrd hruron
 1075 gāre wunde; þæt wæs geōmuru ides!
 Nalles hōlinga Hōces dohtor
 methodsceaft bemearn, syþðan morgen cōm,
 ðā hēo under swegle gesēon meahte
 morþor-bealo māga, þær hē[o] ær mæste hēold
 1080 worolde wynne. Wīg ealle fornam
 Finnes þegnas, nemne fēaum ānum,
 þæt hē ne mehte on þām meðel-stede
 wīg Hengeste wiht gefeohtan
 nē þā wēa-lāfe wīge forþringan
 1085 þēodnes ðegne; ac hig him geþingo budon
 þæt hīe him oðer flet eal gerýmdon,
 healle ond hēah-setl, þæt hīe healfre gewæld
 wið Eotena bearn āgan mōston,
 ond æt feoh-gyftum Folcwaldan sunu
 1090 dōgra gehwylce Dene weorþode,
 Hengestes hēap hringum wenede
 efne swā swīðe, sinc-gestrēonum
 fættan goldes, swā hē Frēsena cyn
 on bēor-sele byldan wolde.

1068a No gap in MS.: addition by Thorpe. Thus the "fār" (sudden attack) is the triumphant second battle in which the Danes slaughter Finn and his men (1146 ff.). An alternative is to leave the text unemended, with a colon after 1067, and trans. thus: "Along with Finn's sons, when the attack came on them, the hero of the Half-Danes, Hnæf of the Scyldings, had to fall." This way "the attack" is the first battle at night, described in the *Finnsburh Fragment*. See Commentary, p. 323.

1072a The OE. word "Eoten" (giant) is a by-name for the Frisians or more generally for enemies, like "Wederas" (Weathers) for the seafaring Geats or "Scyldingas" (descendants of Scyld) for the Danes.

1073b MS. hild plegan: em. Kemble.

1079b MS. he: em. Thorpe.

- 1095 Ðā hīe getruwedon on twā healfa
 fæste frioðu-wære. Fin Hengeste
 elne unflitme āðum benemde
 þæt hē þā wēa-lāfe weotena dōme
 ārum hēolde, þæt ðær ænig mon
- 1100 wordum nē worcum wære ne bræce,
 nē þurh inwit-searo æfre gemænden
 ðeah hīe hira bēag-gyfan banan folgedon
 ðeoden-lēase, þā him swā geþearfod wæs;
 gyf þonne Frýsna hwylc frēcnen spræce
- 1105 ðæs morþor-hētes myndgiend wære,
 þonne hit sweordes ecg s[æ]ðan scolde.
 Āð wæs geæfned, ond icge gold
 āhæfen of horde. Here-Scyldinga
 betst beado-rinca wæs on bæl gearu.
- 1110 Æt þæm āde wæs ēp-gesyne
 swāt-fāh syrce, swȳn eal-gylden,
 eofer iren-heard, æpeling manig
 wundum āwyrded; sume on wæle crungon.
 Hēt ðā Hildeburh æt Hnæfes āde
- 1115 hire selfre sunu sweoloðe befæstan,
 bān-fatu bærnā ond on bæl dōn.
 Earne on eaxle ides gnornode,
 geōmrode giddum. Gūð-rinc āstāh;
 wand tō wolcnum wæl-fȳra mæst,
- 1120 hlynode for hlāwe; hafelan multon,
 bengeato burston, ðonne blōd ætspranc,
 lāð-bite lices. Līg ealle forswealg,
 gæsta gīfrost, þāra ðe þær gūð fornam
 bēga folces; wæs hira blāð scacen.
- XVII }
 1125 } Gewiton him ðā wīgend wīca nēosian
 frēondum befeallen, Frȳs-land gesēon,
 hāmas ond hēa-burh. Hengest ðā gýt
 wæl-fāgne winter wunode mid Finne

1106b MS. syððan: em. Klaeber, but see Roger Dahood, *MÆ* 49 (1980), 1-4.

1107b "icge" otherwise unrecorded. Trans. follows James L. Rosier, *PMLA* 81 (1966), 342-46. See also line 2577.

- [ea]l unhlitme; eard gemunde
 1130 þēah þe [n]e meahte on mere drifan
 hringed-stefnan; holm storme wēol,
 won wið winde, winter yþe belēac
 īs-gebinde, oþðæt oþer cōm
 gēar in geardas, swā nū gýt dēð,
 1135 þā ðe syngāles sēle bewitiað,
 wuldor-torhtan weder. Ðā wæs winter scacen,
 fæger foldan bearm. Fundode wrecca,
 gist of geardum; hē tō gyrn-wræce
 swiðor þōhte þonne tō sǣ-lāde,
 1140 gif hē torn-gemōt þurhtēon mihte
 þæt hē Eotena bearm inne gemunde.
 Swā hē ne forwyrnde worold-rādenne,
 þonne him Hūnlāfing hilde-lēoman,
 billa sēlest, on bearm dyde;
 1145 þæs wæron mid Eotenum ecge cūðe.
 Swylce ferhð-frecan Fin eft begeat
 sweord-bealo slīðen æt his selfes hām,
 siþðan grimne gripe Gūðlāf ond Ōslāf
 æfter sǣ-siðe, sorge mǣndon,
 1150 ætwiton wēana dæl; ne meahte wǣfre mōd
 forhabban in hreþre. Ðā wæs heal hroden
 fēonda fēorum, swilce Fin slāgen,
 cyning on corþre, ond sēo cwēn numen.
 Scēotend Scyldinga tō scypon feredon
 1155 eal in-gesteald eorð-cyninges,
 swylce hīe æt Finnes hām findan meahton
 sigla, searo-gimma. Hīe on sǣ-lāde
 drihtlice wif tō Denum feredon,
 læddon tō lēodum. Lēoð wæs āsungen,
 1160 glēo-mannes gyd. Gamen eft āstāh,

1128-29 MS. finnel un / hlitme: em. Klaeber.

1130a MS. he: em. Holthausen.

1141 Trans. follows Bruce Mitchell, *Neophilologus* 52 (1968), 292-99.

1151b "hroden" (decorated) often em. "roden" (reddened) to avoid double alliteration in second half-line.

- beorhtode *benc-swæg*, byrelas sealdon
 wīn of wunder-fatum. Ðā cwōm Wealhþēo forð
 gān under gyldnum bēage þær þā gōdan twēgen
 sæton suhterge-fæderan; þā gýt wæs hiera sib
 ætgædere,
 1165 æghwylc ðōðrum trýwe. Swylce þær Unferþ þyle
 æt fōtum sæt frēan Scyldinga; gehwylc hiora his
 ferhþe trēowde,
 þæt hē hæfde mōd micel, þēah þe hē his māgum nāre
 ār-fæst æt ecga gelācum. Spræc ðā ides Scyldinga:
 "Onfōh þissum fulle, frēo-drihten mīn,
 1170 sinces brytta; þū on sālum wes,
 gold-wine gumena, ond tō Gēatum spræc
 mildum wordum, swā sceal man dōn;
 bēo wið Gēatas glæd, geofena gemyndig,
 nēan ond feorran þū nū hafast.
 1175 Mē man sægde, þæt þū ðē for sunu wolde
 here-ri[n]c habban. Heorot is gefælsod
 bēah-sele beorhta; brūc, þenden þū mōte,
 manigra mēdo, ond þīnum māgum lāf
 folc ond rice, þonne ðū forð scyle,
 1180 metodsceaft sēon. Ic mīnne can
 glædne Hrōþulf, þæt hē þā geogoðe wile
 ārum healdan, gyf þū ær þonne hē,
 wine Scyldinga, worold oflættest;
 wēne ic þæt hē mid gōde gyldan wille
 1185 uncran eaferan, gif hē þæt eal gemon,
 hwæt wit tō willan ond tō worð-myndum
 umbor-wesendum ær ārna gefremedon."
 Hwearf þā bī bence, þær hyre byre wæron,
 Hrēðric ond Hrōðmund, ond hæleþa bearn,
 1190 giogoð ætgædere; þær se gōda sæt,
 Bēowulf Gēata be þām gebrōðrum twām.
 XVIII Him wæs ful boren ond frēond-laþu
 wordum bewægned, ond wunden gold
 ēstum geēawed, earm-rēade twā,

1165b MS. hun ferþ.

1176a MS. here ric: em. Kemble.

1182b Thorkelin A reads þōn, presumably in error for abbreviated þōn.

- 1195 hrægl ond hringas, heals-bēaga mæst
 þāra þe ic on foldan gefrægen hæbbe.
 Nænigne ic under swegle sēlran hýrde
 hord-mā[ðð]um hæleþa, syððan Hāma ætwæg
 tō [þæ]re byrhtan byrig Brōsinga mene,
- 1200 sigle ond sinc-fæt; searo-nīðas fealh
 Eormenrīces; gecēas ēcne ræd.
 Ðone hring hæfde Higelāc Gēata
 nefa Swertinges, nýhstan sīðe,
 siððan hē under segne sinc ealgode,
- 1205 wæl-rēaf werede; hyne wyrd fornam,
 syððan hē for wlenco wēan āhsode,
 fæhðe tō Frýsum. Hē þā frætwe wæg,
 eorclan-stānas ofer yða ful,
 rīce þēoden; hē under rande gecranc.
- 1210 Gehwearf þā in Francna fæþm feorh cyninges,
 brēost-gewædu ond se bēah somod;
 wyrsan wīg-frecan wæl rēafeden
 æfter gūð-sceare; Gēata lēode
 hrēa-wīc hēoldon. Heal swēge onfēng.
- 1215 Wealhðeo mapelode, hēo fore þām werede spræc;
 “Brūc ðisses bēages, Bēowulf lēofa,
 hyse, mid hæle, ond þisses hrægles nēot
 þeo[d]-gestrēona, ond geþēoh tela;
 cen þec mid cræfte, ond þyssum cnyhtum wes
- 1220 lāra līðe; ic þē þæs lēan geman.
 Hafast þū gefēred, þæt ðē feor ond nēah
 ealne wīde-ferhþ weras ehtigað,
 efne swā sīde swā sǣ bebūgeð
 wind-geard, weallas. Wes, þenden þū lifige,
- 1225 æþeling, ēadig! Ic þē an tela
 sinc-gestrēona. Bēo þū suna mīnum
 dædum gedēfe, drēam-healdende.

1198a MS. hord mad mum: em. Grein.

1199a MS. here: em. Ettmüller.

1200b “fealh” (incurred) usually em. “f[lēa]h” (fled) after Heinrich Leo, *Über Beowulf* (Halle: E. Anton, 1839), p. 44.

1218a MS. þeo ge streona: em. Grundtvig.

- Hēr is æghwylc eorl ðþrum getrȳwe,
 mōdes milde, man-drihtne hol[d];
 1230 þegnas syndon geþwære, þēod eal-gearo,
 druncne dryht-guman dōð swā ic bidde.”
 Ēode þā tō setle. Þær wæs symbla cyst,
 druncon wīn weras; wyrd ne cūþon,
 geōsceaft grim[m]e, swā hit āgangen wearð
 1235 eorla manegum, syþðan æfen cwōm,
 ond him Hrōðgār gewāt tō hofe sīnum,
 rīce tō ræste. Reced weardode
 unrīm eorla, swā hīe oft ær dydon;
 benc-þelu beredon; hit geondbræded wearð
 1240 beddum ond bolstrum. Bēor-scealca sum
 fūs ond fæge flet-ræste gebēag.
 Setton him tō hēafdon hilde-randas
 bord-wudu beorhtan. Þær on bence wæs
 ofer æpelinges ȳþ-gesēne
 1245 heaþo-stēapa helm, hringed byrne,
 þrec-wudu þrymlīc. Wæs þēaw hyra
 þæt hīe oft wæron an wīg gearwe,
 gē æt hām gē on herge, gē gehwæper þāra
 efne swylce mæla, swylce hira man-dryhtne
 1250 þearf gesælde; wæs sēo þēod tilu.
 XVIII Sigon þā tō slæpe. Sum sære angeald
 æfen-ræste, swā him ful oft gelamp
 siþðan gold-sele Grendel warode,
 unriht æfnde, oþþæt ende becwōm,
 1255 swylt æfter synnum. Þæt gesȳne wearþ,
 wīd-cūþ werum, þætte wrecend þā gýt
 lifde æfter lāpum, lange þrāge,
 æfter gūð-ceare. Grendles mōdor,
 ides, āglæc-wīf yrmþe gemunde,
 1260 sē þe wæter-egesan wunian scolde,
 cealde strēamas, siþðan Ca[in] wearð
 tō ecg-banan āngan brēþer,

1229b MS. heol: em. Thorkelin.

1234a MS. grimne: em. Ettmüller.

1261b MS. camp: em. Grundtvig.

- fæderen-mæge; hē þā fāg gewāt,
 morþre gemearcod, *man-drēam* flēon,
 1265 wēsten warode. *Þanon wōc* fela
 geōscaft-gāsta; wæs þāra Grendel sum
 heoro-wearh hetelīc, sē æt Heorote fand
 wæccendne wer wīges bidan.
 Þær him āglæca ætgræpe wearð;
 1270 hwæpre hē gemunde mægenes strenge,
 gim-fæste gife, ðe him God sealde,
 ond him tō Anwaldan āre gelyfde,
 frōfre ond fultum; ðy hē þone fēond ofercwōm,
 gehnægde helle-gāst. Þā hē hēan gewāt,
 1275 drēame bedæled dēap-wīc sēon,
 man-cynnes fēond. Ond his mōdor þā gyt
 gifre ond galg-mōd gegān wolde
 sorh-fulne sīð, sunu [*d*]lēo[ð] wrecan.
 Cōm þā tō Heorote, ðær Hring-Dene
 1280 geond þæt sæld swæfun. Þā ðær sōna wearð
 edhwyrft eorlum siþðan inne fealh
 Grendles mōdor. Wæs se gryre læssa
 efne swā micle, swā bið mægþa cræft,
 wīg-gryre wifes, be wæpned-men
 1285 þonne heoru bunden, hamere geþuren,
 sweord swāte fāh swīn ofer helme,
 ecgum *dyhttig*, andweard scireð.
 Þā wæs on *healle* *heard*-ecg togen,
 sweord ofer setlum, sīd-rand manig
 1290 hafen handa fæst; helm ne gemunde,
 byrnan sīde, þā hine se brōga angeat.
 Hēo wæs on ofste, wolde ut þanon,
 fēore beorgan, þā hēo onfunden wæs.
 Hraðe hēo æplinga ānne hæfde
 1295 fæste befangen, þā hēo tō fenne gang.
 Sē wæs Hrōpgāre hæleþa lēofost
 on gesīðes hād be sām twēonum,
 rīce rand-wiga, þone ðe hēo on ræste ābrēat,

1278b MS. *þeod*: em. Holthausen, but the MS. reading "to avenge the people of her son," i.e., the race of Cain, makes equally good sense.

- blæd-fæstne beorn. Næs Bēowulf ðær,
 1300 ac wæs ðær in ær geteohhod
 æfter mǣpðum-gife mǣrum Gēate.
 Hrēam wearð in Heorote; hēo under heolfre genam
 cūpe folme; cearu wæs geniwod,
 geworden in wīcun. Ne wæs þæt gewrixle til,
 1305 þæt hīe on bā healfa biggan scoldon
 frēonda fēorum. Þā wæs frōd cyning,
 hār hilde-rinc, on hrēon mōde
 syðþan hē aldor-þegn unlyfigendne,
 þone dēorestan dēadne wisse.
 1310 Hraþe wæs tō būre Bēowulf fetod
 sigor-ēadig secg. Samod ær-dæge
 ēode eorla sum, æpele cempa,
 self mid gesiðum, þær se snotera bād,
 hwæpre him Alwalda æfre wille
 1315 æfter wēa-spelle wyrpe gefremman.
 Gang ðā æfter flōre fyrd-wyrðe man
 mid his hand-scale —heal-wudu dynede—
 þæt hē þone wīsan wordum nægde,
 frēan Ingwina; frægn gif him wære,
 1320 æfter nēod-laðu[m], niht getæse.
 XX Hrōðgār mǣpelode, helm Scyldinga:
 “Ne frīn þū æfter sǣlum; sorh is geniwod
 Denigea lēodum. Dēad is Æschere,
 Yrmenlāfes yldra brōþor,
 1325 mīn rūn-wita ond mīn rǣd-bora,
 eaxl-gestealla, ðonne wē on orlege
 hafelan weredon, þonne hniton fēpan,
 eoferas cnysedan. Swy[lc] scolde eorl wesan,
 [æþeling] ær-gōd, swylc Æschere wæs!

1302a MS. oin, with the “i” inserted.

1314a MS. alf walda: em. Thorpe.

1318b MS. hnæg, with “de” from Thorkelin A and B: em. Grein.

1320a MS. neod laðu: em. Ettmüller.

1328b MS. swy.: restored by Thorkelin.

1329a No gap in MS.: supplied by Grein.

- 1330 Wearð him on Heorote tō hand-banan
wæl-gæst wæfre; ic ne wāt hwæ[d]er
atol æse wlanc eft-siðas tēah,
fyllle gefrægnod. Hēo þā fāhðe wræc,
þe þū gystran niht Grendel cwealdest
1335 þurh hæstne hād heardum clammum,
forþan hē tō lange lēode mīne
wanode ond wyrde. Hē æt wīge gecrang
ealdres scyldig, ond nū oþer cwōm
mihtig mǣn-scaða, wolde hyre mæg wrecan,
1340 gē feor hafað fāhðe gestæled,
þæs þe þincean mæg þegne monegum,
sē þe æfter sinc-gyfan on sefan grēoteþ,
hreþer-bealo hearde; nū sēo hand ligeð,
sē þe ēow wēl-hwylcra wilna dohte.
1345 “Ic þæt lond-būend, lēode mīne,
sele-rædende secgan hýrde,
þæt hīe gesāwon swylce twēgen
micle mearc-stapan mōras healdan,
ellor-gāstas. Ðæra oðer wæs,
1350 þæs þe hīe gewislicost gewitan meahton,
idese onlīcnæs; oðer earm-sceapen
on weres wæstmum wræc-lāstas træd,
næfne hē wæs mǣra þonne ænig man oðer;
þone on gear-dagum Grendel nemdo[n]
1355 fold-būende; nō hīe fæder cunnon,
hwæþer him ænig wæs ær ācenned
dymra gāsta. Hīe dýgel lond
warigeað, wulf-hleoþu, windige næssas,
frēcne fen-gelād, ðær fyrgen-strēam
1360 under næssa genipu niþer gewīteð,
flōd under foldan. Nis þæt feor heonon
mil-gemearces, þæt se mere stan[d]eð;

1331b MS. hwæþer: em. Grein.

1333a Often em. to “fyllle gefægnod” (rejoiced in her feast). My trans. follows Wrenn.

1354b MS. nemdod from Thorkelin A and B: em. Kemble.

1362b MS. stanðeð: em. Thorkelin.

- ofer þām hongiað hrinde bearwas,
wudu wyrtrum fæst wæter oferhelmað.
- 1365 Þær mæg nihta gehwæm nīð-wundor sēon,
fȳr on flōde. Nō þæs frōd leofað
gumena bearna þæt þone grund wite.
Ðeah þe hæð-stapa hundum geswenced,
heorot hornum trum holt-wudu sēce,
- 1370 feorran geflȳmed, ær hē feorh seleð,
aldor on ðfre, ær hē in wille,
hafelan [*hȳdan*]. Nis þæt hēoru stōwl
Ðonon ȳð-geblond ūp āstigeð
won tō wolcnum, þonne wind styrep
- 1375 lāð gewidru, oðþæt lyft drysmaþ,
roderas rēotað. Nū is se rād gelang
eft æt þē ānum. Eard gīt ne const,
frēcne stōwe, ðær þū findan miht
fela-sinnigne secg; sēc gif þū dyrrel
- 1380 Ic þē þā fæhðe fēo lēanige,
eald-gestrēonum, swā ic ær dyde,
wundini golde, gyf þū on weg cymest.”
- XXI Bēowulf mæpelode, bearn Ecgbēowes:
“Ne sorga, snotor gumal Sēlre bið æghwæm
- 1385 þæt hē his frēond wrece, þonne hē fela murne.
Ūre æghwylc sceal ende gebīdan
worolde lifes; wyrce sē þe mōte
dōmes ær dēape; þæt bið driht-guman
unlifigendum æfter sēlest.
- 1390 Ārīs, rīces weard, uton hraþe fēran,
Grendles māgan gang scēawigan.
Ic hit þē gehāte: nō hē on helm losaþ,
nē on foldan fæþm, nē on fyr-gen-holt,
nē on gyfenes grund, gā þær hē wille.
- 1395 Ðȳs dōgor þū geþyld hafa

1372a No gap in MS. but insertion mark for verb: supplied by Kemble.

1382a MS. wun / dini from Malone, NC, p. 68. Zupitza and Klaeber allow a possible wun / dmi. Thorkelin A: rundmi; Thorkelin B: wund-dini.

1388b MS. driht gumen, with “a” added over the “e.”

1391b MS. gang: final “g” added above the line in a different hand.

- wēana gehwylces, swā ic þē wēne tō.”
 Āhlēop ðā se gomela, Gode þancode,
 mihtigan Drihtne, þæs se man *gespræc*.
 Ðā wæs Hrōðgāre hors *gebæted*,
 1400 wicg wunden-feax. Wisa fengel
 geatolic gende; gum-fēpa stōp
 lind-hæbbendra. Lāstas wæron
 æfter wald-swaþum wīde gesýne,
 gang ofer grundas, gegnum fōr
 1405 ofer *myrcan* mōr, mago-þegna bær
 þone sēlestan sāwol-lēasne,
 þāra þe mid Hrōðgāre hām eahtode.
 Oferēode þā æþelinga bearn
 stēap stān-hliðo, stige nearwe,
 1410 enge ān-paðas, uncūð gelād,
 neowle næssas, nicor-hūsa fela.
 Hē fēara sum beforan gengde
 wīsa monna, wong scēawian,
 oppæt hē færinga fyr-gen-bēamas
 1415 ofer hārne stān hleonian funde,
 wyn-lēasne wudu; wæter under stōd
 drēorig ond gedrēfed. Denum eallum wæs,
 winum Scyldinga, weorce on mōde
 tō geþolianne, ðegne monegum,
 1420 oncýð eorla gehwām, syðþan Æscheres
 on þām holm-clife hafelan mētton.
 Flōd blōde wēol —folc tō sægon—
 hātan heolfre. Horn stundum song
 fūslic f[yrd]-lēoð. Fēpa eal gesæt.
 1425 Gesāwon ðā æfter wætere wyrm-cynnes fela,
 sellice sæ-dracan sund cunnian,
 swylce on næs-hleoðum nicras licgean,
 ðā on undern-mæl oft bewitigað
 sorh-fulne sīð on segl-rāde,
 1430 wyrmas ond wil-dēor. Hie on weg hruron

1424 MS. *f...*: restored by Karl Bouterwek, *ZDA* 11 (1859), 92; “gesæt” corrected in the scribe’s hand from “geseah.”

- bitere ond gebolgne; bearhtm ongēaton,
 gūð-horn galan. Sumne Gēata lēod
 of flān-bogan fēores getwāfde,
 yð-gewinnes, þæt him on aldre stōd
 1435 here-stræl hearda; hē on holme wæs
 sundes þē sǣnra, ðe hyne swylt fornam.
 Hræpe wearð on yðum mid eofer-sprēotum
 heoro-hōcyhtum hearde genearwod,
 nīða genāged ond on næs togen
 1440 wundorlic wæg-bora; weras scēawedon
 gryreligne gist. Gyrede hine Bēowulf
 eorl-gewādum, nalles for ealdre mearn;
 scolde here-byrne hondum gebrōden,
 sīd ond searo-fāh, sund cunnian,
 1445 sēo ðe bān-cofan beorgan cūpe,
 þæt him hilde-grāp hrepre ne mihte,
 eorres inwit-feng aldre gesceþðan;
 ac se hwīta helm hafelan werede,
 sē þe mere-grundas mangan scolde,
 1450 sēcan sund-gebland since geweorðad,
 befongen frēa-wrāsnum, swā hine fyrn-dagum
 worhte wāpna smið, wundrum tēode,
 besette swīn-licum, þæt hine syððan nō
 brond nē beado-mēcas bītan ne meahton.
 1455 Næs þæt þonne mǣtost mægen-fultuma,
 þæt him on ðearfe lāh ðyle Hrōðgāres;
 wæs þām hæft-mēce Hrunting nama;
 þæt wæs ān foran eald-gestrēona;
 ecg wæs īren, āter-tānum fāh,
 1460 āhyrded heaþo-swāte; næfre hit æt hilde ne swāc
 manna āngum, þāra þe hit mid mundum bewand,
 sē ðe gryre-siðas gegān dorste,
 folc-stede fāra; næs þæt forma sið
 þæt hit ellen-weorc æfnan scolde.
 1465 Hūru ne gemunde mago Ecglāfes,
 eafopes cræftig, þæt hē ær gespræc
 wīne druncen, þā hē þæs wāpnes onlāh
 sēlran sweord-freca; selfa ne dorste
 under yða gewin aldre genēpan,

- 1470 driht-scype drēogan, þær hē dōme forlēas,
ellen-*māerðum*. Ne wæs þām oðrum swā
syðþan hē hine tō gūðe gegyred hæfde.
- XXII Bēowulf maþelode, bearn Ecgbēowes:
“Geþenc nū, se mæra maga Healfdenes,
1475 snottra fengel, nū ic eom sīðes fūs,
gold-wine gumena, hwæt wit geō spræcon,
gif ic æt þearfe þinre scolde
aldre linnan, þæt þū mē ā wære
forð-gewitenum on fæder stæle.
- 1480 Wes þū mund-bora mīnum mago-þegnum,
hond-gesellum, gif mec hild nime;
swylce þū ðā mādmas, þe þū mē sealdest,
Hrōðgar lēofa, Higelāce onsend.
Mæg þonne on þām golde ongitan Gēata dryhten,
1485 gesēon sunu Hræðles, þonne hē on þæt sinc starað,
þæt ic gum-cystum gōdne funde
bēaga bryttan, brēac þonne mōste.
Ond þū Unferð læt ealde lāfe,
wrætlīc wæg-sweord, wīd-cūðne man
- 1490 heard-ecg habban; ic mē mid Hruntinge
dōm gewyrce, oþðe mec dēað nimeð.”
Æfter þām wordum Weder-Gēata lēod
efste mid elne, *nalas andsware*
bīdan wolde; brim-wylm onfēng
- 1495 hilde-rinc. Ðā wæs hwīl dāges,
ær hē þone grund-wong ongytan mehte.
Sōna þæt onfunde, sē ðe flōða begong
heoro-gīfre behēold hund missēra,
grim ond grādig, þæt þær gumena sum
- 1500 æl-wihta eard ufan cunnode.
Grāp þā togēanes; gūð-rinc gefēng
atolan clommum; nō þy ær in gescōd
hālan līce; bring ūtan ymb-bearh,
þæt hēo þone fyrd-hom ðurhfōn ne mihte,
- 1505 locene leoðo-syrca lāpan fingrum.

- Bær þā sēo brim-wylf], þā hēo tō botme cōm,
 hringa þengel tō hofe sīnum,
 swā hē ne mihte, —nō hē þæ[s] mōdig wæs—
 wæpna gewældan, ac hine wundra þæs fela
 1510 swe[n]cte on sunde, sǣ-dēor monig
 hilde-tūxum here-syrcan bræc,
 ēhton āglæcan. Ðā se eorl ongeat
 þæt hē [in] nīð-sele nāt-hwylcum wæs,
 þær him nænig wæter wihte ne sceþede,
 1515 nē him for hrōf-sele hrīnan ne mehte
 fær-gripe flōdes; fȳr-lēoht geseah,
 blācne lēoman beorhte scīnan.
 Ongeat þā se gōda grund-wyrgenne,
 mere-wīf mihtig; mægen-ræs forgeaf
 1520 hilde-bille, ho[n]d sweng ne oftēah
 þæt hire on hafelan hring-mæl āgōl
 grædig gūð-lēoð. Ðā se gist onfand
 þæt se beado-lēoma bītan nolde
 aldre sceþðan, ac sēo ecg geswāc
 1525 ðēodne æt þearfe; ðolode ær fela
 hond-gemōta, helm oft gescær,
 fāges fyrd-hrægl; ðā wæs forma sīð
 dēorum mādme, þæt his dōm ālæg.
 Eft wæs ān-ræd nalas elnes læt
 1530 mǣrða gemyndig mæg Hȳlāces.
 Wearp ðā wunde[n]-mæl wrættum gebunden
 yrre ðretta, þæt hit on eorðan læg,
 stið ond stȳl-ecg; strenge getruwode,
 mund-gripe mægenes. Swā sceal man dōn,
 1535 þonne hē æt gūðe gegān þenceð
 longsumne lof, nā ymb his lif cearað.
 Gefēng þā be eaxle —nalas for fāhðe mearn—

1506a MS. brim wyl: em. Kemble.

1508b MS. þæm: em. Grundtvig.

1510a MS. swecte: em. Kemble.

1513a No gap in MS.: "in" supplied by Thorpe.

1520b MS. hord swenge: em. Grundtvig and Trautmann.

1531a MS. wundel mæl, with second "l" corrected from "g": em. Kemble.

- Gūð-Gēata lēod Grendles mōdor;
 brægd þā beadwe heard, þā hē gebolgen wæs,
 1540 feorh-geniðlan, þæt hēo on flet gebēah.
 Hēo him eft hraþe hand-lēan forgeald
 grimman grāpum, ond him togēanes fēng;
 oferwearp þā wērig-mōd wigena strengest,
 fēþe-cempa, þæt hē on fülle wearð.
 1545 Ofsæt þā þone sele-gyst ond hyre seax getēah,
 brād, brūn-ecg; wolde hire bearn wrecan,
 āngan eaferan. Him on eaxle læg
 brēost-net brōden; þæt gebearh fēore,
 wið ord ond wið ecge ingang forstōd.
 1550 Hæfde ðā forsiðod sunu Ecgbēowes
 under gynne grund, Gēata cempa,
 nemne him heaðo-byrne helpe gefremede,
 here-net hearde, ond hālig God
 gewēold wīg-sigor; wītig Drihten,
 1555 rodera Rædend, hit on ryht gescēd
 yðelice, syþðan hē eft āstōd.
- XXIII Geseah ðā on searwum sige-ēadig bil,
 eald sweord eotenisc ecgum þyhtig,
 wigena weorð-mynd; þæt [wæs] wæpna cyst,
 1560 būton hit wæs mære ðonne ænig mon oðer
 tō beadu-lāce ætberan meahte,
 gōd ond geatolīc, gīganta geweorc.
 Hē gefēng þā fetel-hilt, freca Scyldinga,
 hrēoh ond heoro-grim, hring-mæl gebrægd
 1565 aldres orwēna, yrringa slōh
 þæt hire wið halse heard grāpode
 bān-hringas bræc; bil eal ðurhwōd
 fægne flæsc-homan; hēo on flet gecrong,
 sword wæs swätig, secg weorce gefeh.
 1570 Lixte se lēoma, lēoht inne stōd,
 efne swā of hefene hādre scīneð

1541b Usually em. to "andlēan" (requit, payment) following Rieger, but see line 2094 and Commentary, p. 336.

1545b MS. seaxe: em. Ettmüller.

1559b No gap in MS.: added by Kemble.

- rodores candel. Hē æfter recede wlāt;
 hwearf þā be wealle, wāpen hafenade
 heard be hiltum Higelāces ðegn,
 1575 yrre *ond* *ān-rād*. Næs sēo ecg fracod
 hilde-rince, ac hē hraþe wolde
 Grendle forgyldan gūð-rāsa *fela*
 ðāra þe hē geworhte tō West-Denum
 oftor micle ðonne on ænne sīð
 1580 þonne hē *Hrōðgāres* heorð-genēatas
 slōh on sweofote, slāpende fræt
 folces Denigea fýf-týne men,
 ond oðer swylc ūt offerede,
 lāðlicu lāc. Hē him þæs lēan forgeald,
 1585 rēpe cempa, tō ðæs þe hē on ræste geseah
 gūð-wērigne Grendel licgan,
 aldor-lēasne, swā him ær gescōd
 hild æt Heorote. Hrā wīde sprong,
 syþðan hē æfter dēaðe drepe þrōwade,
 1590 heoro-sweg heardne, ond hine þā hēafde becearf.
 Sōna þæt gesāwon snottre ceorlas,
 þā ðe mid Hrōðgāre on *holm* *wliton*,
 þæt wæs yð-geblond eal gemenged,
 brim *blōde* fāh. Blonden-feaxe
 1595 gomele ymb gōdne ongeador spræcon,
 þæt hig þæs æðelinges eft ne wēndon,
 þæt hē sige-hrēðig sēcean cōme
 mārne þēoden; þā ðæs monige gewearð
 þæt hine sēo brim-wylf ābroten hæfde.
 1600 Ðā cōm nōn dāges. Næs ofgēafon
 hwate Scyldingas; gewāt him hām þonon
 gold-wine gumena. Gistas sē[t]an
 mōdes sēoce, ond on mere staredon;
 wīston ond ne wēndon þæt hīe heora wine-drihten
 1605 selfne gesāwon. Þā þæt sweord ongan
 æfter heapo-swāte hilde-gicelum,
 wīg-bil wanian. Þæt wæs wundra sum,

1599b MS. abreoten: em. Kemble.

1602a MS. secan: em. Grein.

- þæt hit eal gemealt ise gelicost,
 ðonne forstes bend Fæder onlæteð,
 1610 onwindeð wæl-rāpas, sē gewæld hafað
 sæla ond mæla; þæt is sōð Metod.
 Ne nōm hē in þām wicum Weder-Gēata lēod,
 māðm-æhta mā, þēh hē þær monige geseah,
 būton þone hafelan ond þā hilt somod,
 1615 since fāge; sweord ær gemealt,
 forbarn brōden-mæl; wæs þæt blōd tō þæs hāt,
 ættren ellor-gæst, sē þær inne swealt.
 Sōna wæs on sunde, sē þe ær æt sæcce gebād
 wīg-hryre wrāðra, wæter up þurhdēaf;
 1620 wæron yð-gebland eal gefælsod,
 ēacne eardas, þā se ellor-gæst
 oflēt lif-dagas ond þās lēnan gesceaft.
 Cōm þā tō lande lid-manna helm
 swið-mōd swymman, sǣ-lāce gefeah,
 1625 mægen-byrþenne þāra þe hē him mid hæfde.
 Eodon him þā tōgēanes, Gode þancodon,
 ðryðlic þegna hēap, þeodnes gefēgon
 þæs þe hī hyne gesundne gesēon mōston.
 Ðā wæs of þām hrōran helm ond byrne
 1630 lungre ālýsed. Lagu drūsade,
 wæter under wolcnum, wæl-drēore fāg.
 Fērdon forð þonon fēpe-lāstum,
 ferhþum fægne, fold-weg mæton,
 cūpe stræte; cyning-balde men
 1635 from þām holm-clife hafelan bāron
 earfoðlice heora æghwæþrum
 fela-mōdigra; fēower scoldon
 on þām wæl-stenge weorcum geferian
 to þām gold-sele Grendles hēafod,
 1640 oþðæt semninga tō sele cōmon
 frome, fyrd-hwate fēower-tyne
 Gēata gongan; gum-dryhten mid
 mōdig on gemonge meodo-wongas træd.

1617b "ellor" corrected from "ellen" by the same hand; MS. *inne* from Thorkelin B only.

- 1645 Ðā cōm in gān ealdor ðegna,
 dād-cēne mon dōme gewurþad,
 hæle hilde-dēor, Hrōðgār grētan.
 Þā wæs be feaxe on flet boren
 Grendles hēafod, þær guman druncon,
 egeslic for eorlum ond þære idese mid,
 1650 wlite-sēon wrætlice weras on sāwon.
 XXIII Bēowulf maþelode, bearn Ecgbēowes:
 “Hwæt, wē þē þās sǣ-lāc, sunu Healfdenes,
 lēod Scyldinga, lustum brōhton,
 tīres tō tǣcne, þe þū hēr tō lōcast.
 1655 Ic þæt unsōfte ealdre gedigde,
 wigge under wætere, weorc genēþde
 earfoðlice; ætrihte wæs
 gūð getwæfed, nymðe mec God scylde.
 Ne meahste ic æt hilde mid Hruntinge
 1660 wiht gewyrcean, þēah þæt wāpen dūge;
 ac mē geūðe ylða Waldend
 þæt ic on wāge geseah wlitig hangian
 eald-sweord ēacen —oftost wīsoðe
 winigea lēasum— þæt ic ðy wāpne gebræd.
 1665 Ofslōh ðā æt þære sǣcce, þā mē sǣl āgeald,
 hūses hyrdas. Þā þæt hilde-bil
 forbarn, brogden-mæl, swā þæt blōd gesprang,
 hātost heafo-swāta. Ic þæt hilt þanan
 fēondum ætferede, fyren-dāða wræc,
 1670 dēað-cwealm Denigea, swā hit gedēfe wæs.
 Ic hit þē þonne gehāte, þæt þū on Heorote mōst
 sorh-lēas swefan mid þīnra secga gedryht
 ond þegna gehwylc þīnra lēoda,
 duguðe ond iogoþe, þæt þū him ondrædan ne þearft,
 1675 þēoden Scyldinga, on þā healfe,
 aldor-bealu eorlum, swā þū ær dydest.”
 Ðā wæs gylden hilt gamelum rince,
 hārum hild-fruman on hand gyfen,
 enta ær-geweorc; hit on æht gehwearf
 1680 æfter dēofla hryre Denigea frēan,
 wundor-smiþa geweorc; ond þā þās worold ofgeaf
 grom-heort guma, Godes andsaca,

- ðēah þe hine mihtig God mægenes wynnum,
 eafepum stēpte, ofer ealle men
 forð gefremede. Hwæpere him on ferhþe grēow
 brēost-hord blōd-rēow; nallas bēagas geaf
 1720 Denum æfter dōme; drēam-lēas gebād,
 þæt hē þæs gewinnes weorc þrōwade,
 lēod-bealo longsum. Ðū þē lār be þon,
 gum-cyste ongit! Ic þis gid be þē
 āwræc wintrum frōd. Wundor is tō secganne,
 1725 hū mihtig God manna cynne
 þurh sīdne sefan snyttru bryttað,
 eard ond eorlscipe; hē āh ealra geweald.
 Hwīlum hē on lufan lāteð hworfan
 monnes mōd-geþonc mæran cynnes,
 1730 seleð him on ēple eorþan wynne
 tō healdanne, hlēo-burh wera,
 gedēð him swā gewealdene worolde dāelas,
 sīde rīce, þæt hē his selfa ne mæg
 for his unsnyttrum ende geþencean.
 1735 Wunað hē on wiste, nō hine wiht dweleð
 ādl nē ylde, nē him inwit-sorh
 on sefa[n] sweorceð, nē gesacu ōhwær
 ecg-hete ēoweð, ac him eal worold
 wendeð on wīlan. Hē þæt wyrse ne con,
 XXV }
 1740 } oðþæt him on innan ofer-hygda dæl
 weaxeð ond wrīdað, þonne se weard swefeð,
 sāwele hyrde; bið sē slāp tō fæst,
 bisgum gebunden, bona swīðe nēah,
 sē þe of flān-bogan fyrenum scēoteð.
 1745 Þonne bið on hreþre under helm drepen
 biteran stræle —him bebeorgan ne con—
 wōm wundor-bebodum wergan gāstes;
 þinceð him tō lýtēl þæt hē lange heold,

1737a MS. sefað from Thorkelin A and B: em. Grundtvig.

1741a MS. weaxeð from Grundtvig's examination of the MS. in 1829 (Malone, NC, p. 73).

1748b MS. he to lange: Zupitza and Malone claim erasure of this second "tō" in the line as a scribal error. Wrenn sees only discoloration and retains

- gýtsað grom-hýdig, nallas on gylp seleð
 1750 fædde bēagas, ond hē þā forð-gesceaft
 forgyteð ond forgýmeð, þæs þē him ær God sealde,
 wuldres Waldend, weorð-mynda dæl.
 Hit on ende-stæf eft gelimpeð
 þæt se lic-homa lāne gedrēoseð,
 1755 fæge gefealleð; fēhð ofer tō,
 sē þe unmunlice mādmas dælep
 eorles ær-gestrēon, egesan ne gýmeð.
 Bebeorh þē ðone bealo-nīð, Bēowulf lēofa,
 secg betsta, ond þē þæt sēlre gecēos,
 1760 ēce rādas; ofer-hýda ne gým,
 mære cempal Nū is þīnes mægnes blæd
 āne hwīle; eft sōna bið
 þæt þec ādl oððe ecg eafopes getwæfeð,
 oððe fýres feng oððe flōdes wylm
 1765 oððe gripe mēces oððe gāres fliht
 oððe atol yldo, oððe ēagena bearhtm
 forsited and forsworced; semninga bið,
 þæt ðe, dryht-guma, dēað oferswýðeð.
 "Swā ic Hring-Dena hund missēra
 1770 wēold under wolcnum, ond hig wigge belēac
 manigum mægþa geond þysne middan-geard,
 æscum ond ecgum, þæt ic mē ænigne
 under swegles begong gesacan ne tealde.
 Hwæt mē þæs on ēple edwend[e]n cwōm,
 1775 gýrn æfter gomene, seopðan Grendel wearð,
 eald-gewinna ingenga mīn;
 ic þære sōcne singāles wæg
 mōd-ceare micle. Þæs sig Metode þanc,
 ēcean Dryhtne, þæs ðe ic on aldre gebād,
 1780 þæt ic on þone hafelan heoro-drēorigne
 ofer eald gewin ēagum starige!
 Gā nū tō setle, symbel-wynne drēoh
 wīg-geweorpad; unc sceal worn fela

1750a Often em. fæ[ti]e (Thorpe), but the MS. form is an acceptable variant.

1774b MS. ed wendan: em. Grein.

- māþma gemænra, sipðan *morgen* bið.”
- 1785 Gēat wæs glæd-mōd, gēong sōna tō,
 setles nēosan, swā se snottra heht.
 Ðā wæs eft swā ær ellen-rōfum,
 flet-sittendum fægere gereorded
 nīowan stefne. Nihl-helm geswearc
- 1790 deorc ofer dryht-gumum. Duguð eal ārās;
 wolde blonden-feax beddes nēosan,
 gamela Scylding. Gēat unigmetes wēl,
 rōfne rand-wigan, restan lyste.
 Sōna him sele-þegn siðes wērgum,
- 1795 feorran-cundum forð wīsade,
 sē for andrysnum ealle beweote[d]e
 þegnes þearfe, swylce þy dōgore
 heaþo-līðende habban scoldon.
- Reste hine þā rūm-heort; reced hliuade
- 1800 gēap ond gold-fāh; gæst inne swæf
 oþþæt hrefn blaca heofones wynne
 blīð-heort bodode. Ðā cōm beorht scacan
 [scīma ofer sceadwa;] scaþan ðnetton,
 wæron æþelingas eft tō lēodum
- 1805 fūse tō farenne; wolde feor þanon
 cuma collen-ferhð cēoles nēosan.
 Heht þā se hearda Hrunting beran
 sunu Ecglāfes, heht *his* sweord niman,
 lēoflic īren; sægde him þæs lēanes þanc,
- 1810 cwæð, hē þone gūð-wine gōdne tealde,
 wīg-cræftigne, nales wordum lōg
 mēces ecge; þæt wæs mōdig secg.
 Ond þā sið-frome, searwum gearwe
 wīgend wæron; ēode weorð Denum
- 1815 æþeling tō yppan, þær se oþer wæs,
 h[æ]le hilde-dēor Hrōðgār grētte.

1796b MS. beweotene: em. Grundtvig.

1803a No gap in MS: conjectural restoration by Klaeber, trans. “the brightness (of dawn) across the shadows.”

1805a MS. farene ne from Thorkelin B: em. Kemble.

1816a MS. helle: em. Kemble.

- XXVI *Bēowulf* maþelode, bearn Ecgbēowes:
 “Nū wē sæ-liðend secgan wyllað,
 feorran cumene, þæt wē fundiaþ
 1820 Higela cēcan. Wæron hēr tela,
 willum bewenede; þū ūs wēl dohtest.
 Gif ic þonne on eorþan ōwihhte mæg
 þīnre mōd-lufan māran tilian,
 gumena dryhten, ðonne ic gýt dyde,
 1825 gūð-geweorca, ic bēo gearo sōna.
 Gif ic þæt gefricge ofer flōða begang
 þæt þec ymb-sittend egesan þýwað,
 swā þec hetende hwīlum dydon,
 ic ðe þūsenda þegna bringe,
 1830 hælepa tō helpe. Ic on Higela cē wāt,
 Gēata dryhten, þeah ðe hē geong sý,
 folces hyrde, þæt hē mec fremman wile
 wordum ond worcum, þæt ic þe wēl herige
 ond þe tō gēoce gār-holt bere,
 1835 mægenes fultum, þær ðe bið manna þearf.
 Gif him þonne Hrēþric tō hofum Gēata
 geþinge[ð], þeodnes bēarn, hē mæg þær fela
 frēonda findan; feor-cýpðe bēoð
 sēlran gesōhte þæm þe him selfa deah.”
 1840 Hrōðgār maþelode him ond andsware:
 “Þe þā word-cwydas wigtig Drihten
 on sefan sende; ne hýrde ic snotorlicor
 on swā geongum feore guman þingian.
 Þū eart mægenes strang ond on mōde frōd,
 1845 wīs word-cwida. Wēn ic talige,
 gif þæt gegangeð, þæt ðe gār nymeð,
 hild heoru-grimme Hrēþles eaferan,
 ādl opðe īren ealdor ðīnne,
 folces hyrda, ond þū þīn feorh hafast,
 1850 þæt þe Sæ-Gēatas sēlran næbben

1833a MS. weordum: em. Thorpe and refined by Dobbie, p. 309.

1836a MS. hreþrinc: em. Grundtvig.

1837a MS. geþinged: em. Grein.

- tō gecēosenne cyning ænigne,
 hord-weard hæleþa, gyf þū healdan wylt
 māga rīce. Mē þīn mōd-sefa
 līcað leng swā wēl, lēofa Bēowulf.
 1855 Hafast þū gefēred þæt þām folcum sceal,
 Gēata lēodum ond Gār-Denum,
 sib gemæn[e], ond sacu restan,
 inwit-nīþas, þe hīe ær drugon,
 wesana, þenden ic wealde wīdan rīces,
 1860 mǣpmas gemæne, manig oþerne
 gōdum gegrēttan ofer ganotes bæð;
 sceal hring-naca ofer hea[f]u bringan
 lāc ond luf-tācen. Ic þā lēode wāt
 gē wið fēond gē wið frēond fæste geworhte,
 1865 æghwæs untæle ealde wīsan.”
 Ðā gīt him eorla hlēo inne gesealde,
 mago Healfdenes mǣpmas twelfe,
 hēt [h]ine mid þām lācum lēode swāse
 sēcean on gesyntum, snūde eft cuman.
 1870 Gecyste þā cyning æpelum gōd,
 þēoden Scyldinga ðegn betstan
 ond be healse genam; hrunon him tēaras,
 blonden-feaxum. Him wæs bēga wēn,
 ealdum infrōdum, oþres swīðor,
 1875 þæt h[ī] seoððan [nā] gesēon mōston,
 mōdige on meple. Wæs him se man tō þon lēof,
 þæt hē þone brēost-wylm forberan ne mehte
 ac him on hrepre hyge-bendum fæst

1857a MS. ge mǣnum: em. Eduard Slevers, *PBB* 9 (1884), 40.

1862b MS. hea þu: em. Kluge. The MS. reading “ofer heaþu” could mean “after the war”; cf. line 1781.

1868a MS. inne: em. Thorpe.

1875a MS. he seoðða.: Kemble (1835) saw the final “n.” Em. and trans. from Grundtvig, Thorpe, Kluge, and Bugge. Alternatively, W. S. Mackie, *MLR* 34 (1939), 524, would keep “hē” and em. to “mōst[e].” Then trans. “that he (Hrothgar) would never again see the brave men in the assembly.” Either emendation, to the singular or the plural, affects interpretation of Hrothgar’s character. See Commentary, p. 347.

1876b MS. .æs: Thorkelin A þæs but Kemble saw wæs.

- æfter dēorum men dyrne langað
 1880 beorn wið blōde. Him Bēowulf þanan,
 gūð-rinc gold-wlanc, græs-moldan træd
 since hrēmig; sǣ-genga bād
 āge[n]d-frēan, sē þe on ancre rād.
 Ðā wæs on gange gifu Hrōðgāres
 1885 oft geæhted; þæt wæs ān cyning,
 æghwæs orleahstre, oppæt hine yldo benam
 mægenes wynnum, sē þe oft manegum scōd.
 XXVII Cwōm þā tō flōde fela-mōdigra,
 hæg-stealdra [hēap]; hring-net bāron,
 1890 locene leoðo-syrcan. Land-weard onfand
 eft-sið eorla, swā hē ær dyde;
 nō hē mid hearne of hliðes nosan
 gæs[*tas*] grētte, ac him tōgēanes rād,
 cwæð þæt wil-cuman Wedera lēodum
 1895 scaþan scīr-hame tō scipe fōron.
 Ðā wæs on sande sǣ-gēap naca
 hladen here-wædum, hringed-stefna,
 mēarum ond mǣðmum; mæst hlifade
 ofer Hrōðgāres hord-gestrēonum.
 1900 Hē þām bāt-wearde bunden golde
 swurd gesealde, þæt hē syðþan wæs
 on meodu-bence mǣpm[*e*] þy weorþr[*a*],
 yrfe-lāfe. Gewāt him on naca,
 drēfan dēop wæter, Dena land ofgeaf.
 1905 Ðā wæs be mæste mere-hrægla sum,
 segl sāle fæst; sund-wudu þunede;
 nō þær wēg-flotan wind ofer yðum
 siðes getwæfde; sǣ-genga fōr,
 flēat fāmig-heals forð ofer yðe,
 1910 bunden-stefna ofer brim-strēamas,
 þæt hīe Gēata clifu ongitan meah-ton

1883a MS. aged: em. Kemble.

1889a No gap in MS.: conjectural restoration by Grein.

1893a MS. gæs.....: restored by Grundtvig.

1902b MS. mǣpma þy weorþre: em. Thorpe.

1903b MS. nacan: em. Rieger.

- cūpe næssas; cēol up geþrang
 lyft-geswenced, on lande stōd.
 Hraþe wæs æt holme hȳð-weard geara,
 1915 sē þe ær lange tīd lēofra manna
 fūs æt faroðe *feor* wlātode;
 sælde tō sande sīd-fæþme scip
 oncer-bendum fæst, þȳ lās hym ȳþa ðrym
 wudu wynsuman forwrecan *meahte*.
 1920 Hēt þā ūp beran æþelinga gestrēon,
 frætwe ond fæt-gold; næs him *feor* þanon
 tō gesēcanne sinces bryttan,
 Higelāc Hrēþling, þær æt hām wunað
selfa mid gesiðum sǣ-wealle nēah.
 1925 Bold wæs betlic, brego-rōf cyning,
 hēa[*h on*] healle, Hygd swiðe geong,
 wīs, wel-þungen, þēah ðe wintra lȳt
 under burh-locan gebiden hæbbe
 Hæreþes dohtor; næs hīo hnāh swā þēah
 1930 nē tō gnēað gifa Gēata lēodum
 mǣþm-gestrēona. Mōðþrȳðo wæg,
 fremu folces cwēn, firen' ondrysne.
 Nānig þæt dorste dēor genēþan
 swāsra gesiða, nefne sin-frēa,
 1935 þæt hire an dāges ēagum starede;
 ac him wæl-bende weotode tealde,
 hand-gewriþene; hraþe *seopðan* wæs
 æfter mund-gripe mēce gepinged,
 þæt hit sceāden-mǣl scȳran mōste,
 1940 cwealm-bealu cȳðan. Ne bið swylc *cwēnlic* þēaw
 idese tō efnanne, þēah ðe hīo ænlicu sȳ,
 þætte freoðu-webbe fēores *onsāce*
 æfter lige-torne lēofne mannan.

1918a MS. on Cear bendum: em. Grundtvig.

1926a MS. hea halle: em. E. A. Kock, *Anglia* 42 (1918), 116.

1931b MS. mod þrȳðo wæg. Word division and translation follow G. V. Smithers (1966). See Commentary, p. 349.

1939b Beginning with "mōste," Scribe II takes over, starting a new MS. line. See Backgrounds, p. 245.

- Hūru þæt onhōhsnod[e] Hem[m]inges mæg;
 1945 ealo-drincende oðer sædan,
 þæt hīo lēod-bealewa læs gefremede,
 inwit-nīða, syððan ærest wearð
 gyfen gold-hroden geongum ceman,
 æðelum dīore, syððan hīo Offan flet
 1950 ofer fealone flōd be fæder lāre
 sīðe gesōhte; ðær hīo syððan well
 in gum-stōle, gōde, mære,
 lif-gesceafta lifigende brēc
 hīold hēah-lufan wið hælepa brego,
 1955 ealles mon-cynnes mīne gefræge
 þ[one] sēlestan bī sām twēonum,
 eormen-cynnes. Forðām Offa wæs
 geofum ond gūðum gār-cēne man,
 wīde geweorðod; wīsdōme hēold
 1960 ēðel sīnne; þonon Ēom[ē]r wōc
 hæleðum tō helpe, Hem[m]inges mæg,
 nefa Gārmundes, nīða cræftig.
 XXVIII Gewāt him ðā se hearda mid his hond-scole
 sylf æfter sande sǣ-wong tredan,
 1965 wīde waroðas; woruld-candel scān
 sigel sūðan fūs. Hī sīð drugon,
 elne geēodon, tō ðæs ðe eorla hlēo,
 bonan Ongenþēoes burgum in innan,
 geongne gūð-cyning gōdne gefrūnon
 1970 hringas dælan. Higelāce wæs
 sīð Bēowulfes snūde gecyðed,
 þæt ðær on worðig wīgendra hlēo,
 lind-gestealla lifigende cwōm,
 heaðo-lāces hāl tō hofe gongan.
 1975 Hraðe wæs gerȳmed, swā se rīca bebēad,
 fēðe-gestum flet innanweard.

1944 MS. on hohsnod hem ninges: em. Thorpe and Kemble.

1956a MS. þæs: em. Thorpe.

1960b MS. geomor 'sad': em. Thorpe. The name of Offa's son is attested by Bede as Lat. *Eumer*, OE. *Ēomær*.

1961b MS. hem inges: em. Kemble.

- Gesæt þā wið sylfne, sē ðā sæcce genæs,
 mæg wið mæge, syððan man-dryhten
 þurh hlēoðor-cwyde holdne gegrētte
 1980 mēaglūm wordum. Meodu-scencum hwearf
 geond þæt [heal]-reced Hæreðes dohtor,
 lufode ðā lēode līð-wāge bær
 hae[leþ]um tō handa. Higelāc ongan
 sīnne geseldan in sele þām hēan
 1985 fægre fricgean; hyne fyrwet bræc,
 hwylce Sæ-Gēata siðas wæron:
 "Hū lomp ēow on lāde, lēofa Bīowulf,
 þā ðū fāringa feorr gehogodest
 sæcce sēcean ofer sealt wæter,
 1990 hilde tō Hiorote? Ac ðū Hrōðgāre
 wī[d]-cūðne wēan wihte gebēttest,
 mārūm ðeodne? Ic ðæs mōd-ceare
 sorh-wylmum sēað siðe ne truwoðe
 lēofes mannes; ic ðē lange bæd
 1995 þæt ðū þone wæl-gæst wihte ne grētte,
 lēte Sūð-Dene sylfe geweorðan
 gūðe wið Grendel. Gode ic þanc secge,
 þæs ðe ic ðē gesundne gesēon mōste."
 Bīowulf maðelode, bearn Ecgðioes:
 2000 "Þæt is undyrne, dryhten Hige[lāc],
 [māru] gemēting monegum fira,
 hwylc [orleg]-hwīl uncer Grendles
 wearð on ðām wange, þær hē worna fela

1981a MS. þæt reced, with "side" added above line by same hand in different ink: em. Kemble. The MS. reading can be made to alliterate if "hwearf" is moved down from the previous line. Then 1981 becomes: hwearf geond þæt reced Hæreðes dohtor (thus von Schaubert's edition).

1983a MS. hæ[ð] nū, with "ð" erased but correction not completed. Em. Trautmann. The uncorrected MS. form could be dat. pl. for the "Hæðnas," a Norse tribe mentioned in *Widsið* 81. See Wrenn-Bolton, p. 296.

1991a MS. wið cuðne: em. Thorkelin.

2000b MS. hige...: em. Thorkelin when he revised Transcript B (Malone, NC, p. 77).

2001-2 Lost words at edge restored by Thorpe and by Samuel Moore, *JEGP* 18 (1919), 210.

- Sige-Scyldingum sorge gefremede,
 2005 yrmðe tō aldre; ic ðæt eall gewræc,
 swā begylpan [ne] þearf Grendeles māga
 [ænig] ofer eorðan ūht-hlem þone,
 sē ðe lengest leofað lāðan cynnes
 [fæcne] bifongen. Ic ðær furðum cwōm
 2010 tō ðām hring-sele Hrōðgār grētan;
 sōna mē se mæra mago Healfdenes
 syððan hē mōd-sefan minne cūðe,
 wið his sylfes sunu setl getæhte.
 Weorod wæs on wynne, ne seah ic wīdan feorh
 2015 under heofones hwealf heal-sittendra
 medu-drēam mǣran. Hwīlum mǣru cwēn,
 friðu-sibb folca, flet eall geond-hwearf,
 bādde byre geonge; oft hīo bēah-wriðan
 secge [sealde], ær hīe tō setle gēong.
 2020 Hwīlum for [d]uguðe dohtor Hrōðgāres
 eorlum on ende ealu-wāge bær,
 þā ic Frēaware flet-sittende
 nemnan hýrde, þær hīo [næ]gled-sinc
 hæleðum sealde. Sīo gehāten [wæs]
 2025 geong, gold-hroden, gladum suna Frōdan;
 [h]afað þæs geworden wine Scyldinga,
 rīces hyrde, ond þæt ræd talað
 þæt hē mid ðy wife wæl-fāhða dæl,
 sæcca gesette. Oft seldan hwær
 2030 æfter lēod-hryre lýtle hwīle
 bon-gār bugeð, þeah sēo brýd dugel!

2006a Addition by Grein.

2007a MS. *en..* in Thorkelin B only: restored by Kemble.

2009a MS. First restored by Bugge as "fæcne" (in crime), of which "fæcne" is a variant spelling. Malone, *NC*, p. 77, explains the Thorkelin A and B readings *fæ* and *fer* as interpretations of a damaged "æc" ligature.

2019a Lost word at edge supplied by Thorpe.

2020a MS. *.uguðe* from Thorkelin B: restored by Grundtvig.

2023b MS. *.gled sinc*: restored by Grein.

2024b MS. ...*se* in Thorkelin B only. Malone, *NC*, p. 78, suspects reversal by B and would read *.es* which produces "wes" as a side-form of "wæs." Recent editions supply "is" (Kluge).

2026a MS. *.afað*: restored by Kemble.

- Mæg þæs þonne ofþyncan ðeod[ne] Heaðobeardna
 ond þegna gehwām þāra lēoda,
 þonne hē mid fæmnan on flett gæð,
 2035 dryht-bearn Dena, duguða biwenede;
 on him gladiað gomelra lāfe,
 heard ond hring-mæl Heaðabear[d]na gestreōn,
 þenden hīe ðām wæpnum wealdan mōston,
 [XXIX] oððæt hīe forlæddan tō ðām lind-plegan
 2040 swāse gesiðas ond hyra sylfra feorh.
 Þonne cwið æt bēore sē ðe bēah gesyhð,
 eald æsc-wiga, sē ðe eall ge[man]
 gār-cwealm gumena —him bið grim [se]fa—
 onginneð geōmor-mōd geong[um] cempan
 2045 þurh hreðra gehygd higes cunnian,
 wig-bealu weccan, ond þæt word ācwyð:
 'Meaht ðū, mīn wine, mēce gecnāwan,
 þone þīn fæder to gefeohte bær
 under here-grīman hindeman siðe,
 2050 dýre īren, þær hyne Dene slōgon,
 wēoldon wæl-stōwe, syððan Wiðergyld læg,
 æfter hæleþa hryre, hwate Scyldungas?
 Nū hēr þāra banena byre nāt-hwylces
 frætwum hrēmig on flet gæð,
 2055 morðres gylpe[ð] ond þone maðpum byreð,
 þone þe ðū mid rihte rædan sceoldest.
 Manað swā ond myndgað mæla gehwylce
 sārūm wordum oððæt sæl cymeð,
 þæt se fæmnan þegn fore fæder dædum
 2060 æfter billes bite blōd-fāg swefeð,

2032b MS. *ðeoden*: em. Kemble.

2037b MS. *heaða bearna*: em. Thorpe.

2039 In MS. large capital "O" in "*oððæt*" indicates beginning of fitt, but there is no roman numeral. The numbering then skips XXX and continues with XXXI at 2144.

2042b Thorkelin B: *ge..m*, which Thorkelin later completed as "*genam*" (took, endured). Em. Thorpe.

2043b MS. *grim....fa*: completed by Conybeare and Kemble.

2044b MS. *geong..*: restored by Kemble.

2055a MS. *gylped* from Thorkelin B: em. Kemble.

- ealdres scyldig; him se oðer þonan
 losað [*li*]figende, con him land geare.
 Donne bīoð [*āb*]rocene on bā healfe
 āð-sweorð eorla; [*syb*]ðan Ingelde
 2065 weallað wæl-nīðas ond him wīf-lufan
 æfter cear-wælmum cōlran weorðað.
 Ðy ic Heaðobear[*d*]na hyldo ne telge,
 dryht-sibbe dæl Denum unfæcne,
 frēondscipe fæstne. Ic sceal forð spreca,
 2070 gēn ymbe Grendel, þæt ðū geare cunne,
 sinces brytta, tō hwan syððan wearð
 hond-ræs hæleða. Syððan heofones gim
 glād ofer grundas, gæst yrre cwōm
 eatol, æfen-grom, ūser nēosan,
 2075 ðær wē gesunde sæl weardodon.
 Ðær wæs Hondscið hild onsæge,
 feorh-bealu fægum; hē fyrrest læg,
 gyrded cempa; him Grendel wearð,
 mærum magu-þegne, tō mūð-bonan,
 2080 lēofes mannes līc eall forswearg.
 Nō ðy ær ūt ðā gēn īdel-hende
 bona blōdig-tōð bealewa gemyndig
 of ðām gold-sele gongan wolde,
 ac hē mægnes rōf mīn costode,
 2085 grāpode gearo-folm. Glōf hangode
 sīd ond syllic, searo-bendum fæst;
 sīo wæs orðoncum eall gegyrwed,
 dēofles cræftum ond dracan fellum,
 Hē mec þær on innan unsynnigne,
 2090 dīor dæd-fruma, gedōn wolde
 manigra sumne; hyt ne mihte swā,

2062a MS. ..figende from Thorkelin A: em. Heyne.

2063a MS. ...rocene: em. Kemble.

2064b MS. ...ðan: em. Kemble.

2067a MS. heaðo bearna: em. Thorpe.

2076b MS. hilde: em. Adolf Holtzmann, *Germania* 8 (1863), 496.

2079a MS. mæru magu þegne: em. Kemble.

2085a MS. geareo: em. Thorkelin.

- syððan ic on yrrē upp-riht āstōd.
 Tō lang ys tō reccenne, hū ic ðām lēod-sceaðan
 yfla gehwylces hond-lēan forgeald
 2095 þær ic, þēoden mīn, þīne lēode
 weorðode weorcum. Hē on weg losade,
 lýtle hwīle lif-wynna brēc;
 hwæpre him sīo swiðre swaðe weardade
 hand on Hiorde, ond hē hēan ðonan
 2100 mōdes geōmor mere-grund gefēoll.
 Mē þone wæl-rās wine Scyldunga
 fættan golde fela lēanode,
 manegum mādum, syððan mergen cōm
 ond wē tō symble geseten hæfdon.
 2105 Þær wæs gidd ond glēo; gomela Scilding,
 fela fricgende, feorran rehte;
 hwīlum hilde-dēor hearpan wyne,
 gome[n]-wudu grētte, hwīlum gyd āwræc
 sōð ond sārlic, hwīlum syllic spell
 2110 rehte æfter rihte rūm-heort cyning;
 hwīlum eft ongan eldo gebunden
 gomel gūð-wiga gioguðe cwīðan,
 hilde-strengo; hreðer inne wēoll,
 þonne hē wintrum frōd worn gemunde.
 2115 Swā wē þær inne andlangne dæg
 nīode nāman, oððæt niht becwōm
 oðer tō yldum. Þā wæs eft hraðe
 gearo gyn-wræce Grendeles mōdor,
 sīðode sorh-full; sunu dēað fornam,

2092b MS. upp rihte in Thorkelin A (thus an adverb), but the "e" is gone in the later Transcript B, followed in most editions as a silent emendation. The "e" is an authentic reading according to Malone, NC, p. 80, but the meter is improved without it.

2093b MS. huiedā in Thorkelin A with "e" misread for "c," and "d" for "ð." First deduced by Grundtvig.

2094b Usually em. "ondlēan" (payment, requital) but see line 1541 and Commentary, p. 336.

2097b MS. brēc in Thorkelin A, where Scribe II's "ea" is transcribed as "æ" five other times. Restored by Kemble.

2108a MS. go mel from Thorkelin A and B: em. Grundtvig.

- 2120 wīg-hete *Wedra*. Wif unhýre
hyre bearn gewræc, *beorn* ācwealde
ellenlice; þær wæs *Æschere*,
frōdan fyrr-witan, feorh ūðgegne.
Nōðer hý hine ne mōston, syððan *mergen* cwōm
- 2125 dēað-wērigne, *Denia* lēode
bronde forbærnan, *nē* on bæl hladan
lēofne mannan; *hīo* þæt līc ætbær
fēondes fæð[mum] [un]der firgen-strēam.
Þæt wæs *Hrōðgār[e]* hrēowa tornost,
2130 þāra þe lēod-fruman lange begēate.
Þā se ðēoden *mec* ðīne life
healsode hrēoh-mōd þæt ic on holma geþring
eorlscipe efnde ealdre genēðde,
mārðo fremede; hē mē mēde gehēt.
- 2135 Ic ðā ðæs wælmēs, þē is wīde cūð
grim[n]e gryrelīcne grund-hyrde fond.
Þær unc hwīle wæs hand gemāne;
holm heolfre wēoll, ond ic hēafde becearf
in ðām [gūð]-sele Grendeles mōdor
- 2140 ēacnum ecgum; unsōfte þonan
feorh oðferede. Næs ic fæge þā gýt,
ac mē eorla hlēo eft gesealde
māðma menigeo, maga Healfdenes.
- XXXI “Swā se ðēod-kyning þēawum lyfde;
2145 nealles ic ðām lēanum forloren hæfde,
mægnes mēde, ac hē mē [māðma]s geaf,
sunu Healfdenes, on [mīn]ne sylfes dōm;
ðā ic ðē, beorn-cyning, bringan wylle,
ēstum geýwan. Gēn is eall æt ðē
- 2150 lissa gelong; ic lýt hafo
hēafod-māga, nefne, Hygelāc, ðec.”

2128 MS. *fæðrunge*. according to Malone, NC, p. 81: em. Grein and Kemble.

2129a Lost letter restored by Grundtvig.

2136a MS. *grimme*: em. Thorpe.

2139a No gap in MS.: conjectural restoration by Thorpe.

2146-47 Words lost at edge restored by Kemble.

- Hēt ðā in beran eafor-hēafod-segn,
 heaðo-stēapne helm, hāre byrnan,
 gūð-sweord geatolic, gyd æfter wræc:
 2155 "Mē ðis hilde-sceorp Hrōðgār sealde,
 snotra fengel; sume worde hēt,
 þæt ic his ærest ðē ēst gesægde;
 cwæð þæt hyt hæfde Hiorogār cyning,
 lēod Scyldunga, lange hwile.
- 2160 Nō ðy ær suna sīnum syllan wolde,
 hwatum Heorowearde, þeah hē him hold wære,
 brēost-gewædu. Brūc ealles well!"
 Hýrde ic þæt þām frætsum fēower mēaras,
 lungre, gelice lāst weardode,
 2165 æppel-fealuwe; hē him ēst geteah
 mēara ond māðma. Swā sceal mæg dōn,
 nealles inwit-net oðrum bregdon
 dyrnum cræfte, dēað rēn[ian]
 hond-gesteallan. Hygelāce wæs,
 2170 nīða heardum, nefa swyðe hold
 ond gehwæðer oðrum hrōpra gemyndig.
 Hýrde ic þæt hē ðone heals-bēah Hygde gesealde,
 wrætlicne wundur-māððum, ðone þe him Wealhðeo
 geaf,
- ðeod[nes] dohtor, þrīo wicg somod
 2175 swancor ond sadol-beorht; hyre syððan wæs
 æfter bēah-ðege br[ē]ost geweorðod.
 Swā bealdode bearn Ecgðeowes,
 guma gūðum cūð, gōdum dædum,
 drēah æfter dōme, nealles druncne slōg
 2180 heorð-genēatas; næs him hrēoh sefa,
 ac hē man-cynnes mæste cræfte,
 gin-fæstan gife, þe him God sealde,
 hēold hilde-dēor. Hēan wæs lange
 swā hyne Gēata bearn gōdne ne tealdon,
 2185 nē hyne on medo-bence micles wyrðne

2168b MS. *ren...*: em. Kemble.2174a MS. *ðeod...*: restored by Kemble.2176b MS. *brost*: em. Thorpe.

- drihten* We[d]e[r]a gedōn wolde;
 swýðe [wēn]don þæt hē slēac wære,
 æðeling unfrom. Edwenden cwōm
 tīr-ēadigum menn torna gehwylces.
 2190 Hēt ðā eorla hlēo in gefetian,
 heaðo-rōf cyning, Hrēðles lāfe,
 golde gegyrede; næs mid Gēatum ðā
 sinc-māðpum sēlra on sweordes hād;
 þæt hē on Bīowulfes bearm ālegde,
 2195 ond him gesealde seofan þūsendo,
 bold ond brego-stōl. Him wæs bām samod
 on ðām lēod-scipe lond gecynde,
 eard, ēðel-riht, oðrum swiðor,
 sīde rīce, þām ðær sēlra wæs.
 2200 Eft þæt geiode ufaran dōgrum
 hilde-hlæmmum, syððan Hygelāc læg,
 ond Hear[dr]ēde hilde-mēceas
 under bord-hrēoðan tō bōnan wurden,
 ðā hyne gesōhtan on sige-þēode
 2205 hearde hild-frecan, Heaðo-Scylfingas,
 nīða genægdan nefan Hererīces:
 syððan Bēowulfe brāde rīce
 on hand gehwearf. Hē gehēold tela
 fiftig wintra —wæs ðā frōd cyning,
 2210 eald ēpel-[w]eard— oððæt ān ongan
 deorcum nihtum draca rīcs[i]an,
 sē ðe on hēaum hofe hord beweotode,
 stān-beorh stēa[p]ne; stīg under læg
 eldum uncūð; þær on innan gīong

2186a MS. ...hten wereda, with *drihten* from Thorkelin B: em. Cosijn.

2187a MS. ...don: restored by Grein.

2202a MS. hearede: em. Grundtvig.

2205a MS. hilde frecan: em. Grundtvig (for meter).

2207a "Bēowulfe" begins folio 182' which is badly faded and often illegible. Experts disagree on which portions of this page have been freshened up by a later scribe.

2210a MS. epel peard: read thus by Malone, NC, p. 84.

2211b MS. rics an from Thorkelin A: em. Kemble.

2213a MS. stearne: em. Malone, NC, p. 84.

- 2215 *niða nāt-hwylc, sē [þe] nēh gefēng*
hæðnum horde, hond
 since fāhne. *Hē þæt syððan [wræc],*
þēah ðe hē slæpende besyre[de wur]de
þeofes cræfte; þæt sīe ðiod on[fan]d,
- 2220 *bū-folc beorna, þæt hē gebolgen wæs.*
- XXXII *Nealles mid gew[e]ldum wurm-hord ā[b]ræ[c],*
sylfes willum, sē ðe him sære gesceōd,
ac for þrēa-nēdian þ[ēow] nāt-hwylces
hæleða bearna hete-swengeas flēoh,
- 2225 *ærn[e]s þearfa, ond ðær inne feal[h],*
secg syn-bysig; sōna [in]w[ī]āt[o]de,
þæt [gehðo] ðām gyste [gryr]e-br[ō]g[a] stōd;
hwæðre [earm]-sceapen

2215b MS. *se...neh gefeng* from readings by Sedgefield and Malone under ultraviolet light. Conjectural restoration by Sedgefield.

2217b Four or five illegible letters follow "syððan." Conjectural restoration by Sedgefield. Klaeber's alternative is to place the "ne" in the b-line and supply "bemað" (concealed) instead of "wræc."

2218 MS. *þ..hð. h.*, confirmed by Thorkelin B. In the second half-line, only *de* was legible to Zupitza. Restoration by Kluge.

2219b MS. *on...d*: restored by Grein.

2221 MS. *ge weoldū*: em. Zupitza, disputed by Malone, NC, p. 85. MS. *wurm horda cræft*: em. Kaluza.

2223b MS. *þ...*: restored as *þ[ēow]* 'slave' by Grundtvig (accepted by Malone) and as *þ[egn]* 'retainer' by Kemble (accepted by Zupitza). The social status of the thief may affect interpretation.

2225 MS. *ærn.s*: thus read and restored by Zupitza. MS. *feal* with "f" altered from "w" (Malone, NC, p. 85), emended by Grein from Thorkelin A and B weall.

2226b MS. *mwatide* is meaningless. Em. by Thorpe, followed by Chambers and von Schaubert. A more conservative alternative offered by Ettmüller and Heyne is "in [þ]ā tīde" (in that time). Upon the assumption that the reading was inaccurately freshened up, Dobbie conjectured an original "onfunde" (he discovered); see MLN 67 (1952), 242-45. The context is insufficient for confident emendation.

2227 Conjectural restoration by Malone, NC, p. 85, for the first illegible space, about five letters long; "gryre" conjectured by Grein from MS.
 br.g.

2228a Conjectural restoration of a four-letter space by Kemble.

- *sceapen*
 2230 þā hyne se fæ[r] befeat
 sinc-fæt [*sōhte*]. Þær wæs swylcra fela
 in ðām eorð-[*hū*]se ær-gestrēona,
 swā hȳ on geār-dagum gumena nāt-hwylc,
 eormen-lāfe æþelan cynnes,
 2235 þanc-hycgende þær gehȳdde,
 dēore mādmas. Ealle hīe dēað fornam
 ærran mælum, ond s[e] ān ðā gēn
 lēoda duguðe, sē ðær lengest hwearf,
 weard wine-geōmor, [w]lēnde þæs ylcan
 2240 þæt hē lȳtel fæc long-gestrēona
 brūcan mōste. Beorh eall-gearo
 wunode on wonge wæter-ȳðum nēah,
 nīwe be næsse nearo-cræftum fæst.
 Þær on innon bær eorl-gestrēona
 2245 hringa hyrde hord-wyrðne *dæl*,
 fættan goldes, fēa worda cwæð:
 “Heald þū nū, hrūse, nū hæleð ne m[ō]stan,
 eorla æhte! Hwæt, hyt ær on ðē
 gōde begēaton. Gūð-dēað fornam,
 2250 [f]eorh-beal[o] frēcne fȳra gehwylcne
 lēoda mīnra, þā[r]a ðe þis [*lif*] ofgeaf,
 gesāwon sele-drēam[as]. Nāh hwā sweord wege

2230b MS. fæs, with very small superscript “fær” or “er” added in much later hand (Malone, *NC*, p. 85).

2231a An illegible five-letter space, restored by Grein and newly supported by Robert P. Creed, *PQ* 35 (1956), 206–8. Cf. line 2300.

2232a MS. eorð/ .. se: restored by Zupitza.

2237b MS. si: em. Kemble.

2239b MS. rende (so Sedgefield and Malone); Zupitza saw “rihde” freshened up over an original “wende.” The original “c” of “ylcan” was later altered to “d.”

2245b MS. hord, with “o” later altered to “a.”

2247b MS. mæstan, with an original “o” under the “æ” (Zupitza).

2250 MS. reorh bealc: em. Zupitza and Malone. MS. fyrena: em. Thorpe.

2251b MS. þana / ðe þis ofgeaf: em. Kemble.

2252a Two illegible letters at end of fol. 182^v restored by Bugge. An alternative restoration by Holthausen is to leave “sele-drēam” singular and to add “Ic” to the start of the b-line.

- oððe fe[ormie] fæted wæge,
 drync-fæt dēore; dug[uð] ellor s[c]ōc.
 2255 Sceal se hearda helm [hyr]sted golde
 fætum befeallen; feormynd swefað,
 þā ðe beado-grīman bȳwan sceoldon;
 gē swylce sēo here-pād, sīo æt hilde gebād
 ofer borda gebræc bite irena,
 2260 broснаð æfter beorne; ne mæg byrnan hring
 æfter wīg-fruman wīde fēran
 hæleðum be healfe. Næs hearpan wyn,
 gomen glēo-bēames, nē gōd hafoc
 geond sæl swingeð, nē se swifta mearh
 2265 burh-stede bēateð. Bealo-cwealm hafað
 fela feorh-cynna forð onsended!"
 Swā giōmor-mōd gιοhðo mænde,
 ān æfter eallum; unbliðe hwe[arf]
 dæges ond nihtes, oððæt dēaðes wylm
 2270 hrān æt heortan. Hord-wynne fond
 eald ūht-sceaða opene standan,
 sē ðe byrmende biorgas sēceð,
 nacod nið-draca, nihtes flēogeð
 fȳre befangen; hyne fold-būend
 2275 [swiðe ondræ]da[ð]. Hē gesēcean sceall
 [ho]r[d on h]rūsan, þær hē hāðen gold
 warað wintrum frōd; ne byð him wihte ðȳ sēl.
 Swā se ðēod-sceaða þrēo hund wintra
 hēold on hrūsa[n] hord-ærna sum
 2280 ēacen-cræftig, oððæt hyne ān ābealch
 mon on mōde; man-dryhtne bær
 fæted wæge, frioðo-wære bæd
 hlāford sinne. Ðā wæs hord rāsod,
 onboren bēaga hord, bēne getiðad

2253a MS. fe.....: restored by Grein.

2254b MS. dug.: restored by Kemble. MS. seoc: em. Grein.

2255b MS. ...sted: restored by Grundtvig.

2268b MS. hwe.r.: em. Grein.

2275a Only "da" legible in MS. Restoration by Zupitza.

2276a MS. ...r. / .. rusan: restorations by Zupitza, Grein, Grundtvig.

2279a MS. hrusam: em. Thorkelin.

- 2285 fēasceaftum men. Frēa scēawode
fīra fyrn-geweorc forman sīðe.
Ðā se wyrm onwōc, wrōht wæs genīwad;
stonc ðā æfter stāne, stearc-heort onfand
fēondes fōt-lāst; hē tō forð gestōp
- 2290 dyrnan cræfte, dracan hēafde nēah.
Swā mæg unfæge ēaðe gedigan
wēan ond wræc-sīð, sē ðe Waldendes
hyldo gehealdeþ. Hord-weard sōhte
georne æfter grunde, wolde guman findan,
- 2295 þone þe him on sweofote sære getēode;
hāt ond hrēoh-mōd hlāw oft ymbe-hwearf
ealne ūtanweardne, nē ðær ænig mon
on þære wēstenne; hwæðre [wīges] gefeh,
bea[dwe] weorces; hwīlum on beorh æthwearf
- 2300 sinc-fæt sōhte. Hē þæt sōna onfand
ðæt hæfde gumena sum goldes gefandod,
hēah-gestrēona. Hord-weard onbād
earfoðlice, oððæt æfen cwōm;
wæs ðā gebolgen beorges hyrde
- 2305 wolde [s]e lāða līge forgyldan
drinc-fæt dýre. Ðā wæs dæg sceacen
wyrm on willan; nō on wealle læ[n]g
bīdan wolde, ac mid bæle fōr,
fýre gefýsed. Wæs se fruma egeslic
- 2310 lēodum on lande, swā hyt lungre wearð
on hyra sinc-gifan sære geendod.
- XXXIII Ðā se gæst ongan glēdum spīwan,

2296b MS. hlaewū: em. Kemble.

2298b MS. hilde: em. Trautmann.

2299a MS. bea. The em. follows Malone, *NC*, p. 88, who argues that Scribe II wrote "bead," skipping one "we" in a copy text that read "beadwe weorces."

2305a MS. fela ða: em. Bugge.

2307b MS. læg: em. Cosijn. The MS. reading can be retained simply by placing a comma at the end of the line (thus von Schaubert's edition). Then the translation would go: "he did not remain inside the wall, he would not wait."

- beorht hofu bærnan; bryne-lēoma stōð
 eldum on andan; nō ðær āht cwices
 2315 lāð lyft-floga lāfan wolde.
 Wæs þæs wyrmes wīg wīde gesýne,
 nearo-fāges nið nēan ond feorran,
 hū se gūð-sceaða Gēata lēode
 hatode ond hýnde; hord eft gescēat,
 2320 dryht-sele dymne ær dāges hwīle.
 Hæfde land-wara līge befangen,
 bæle ond bronde; beorges getruwode,
 wīges ond wealles; him sēo wēn gelēah.
 Ðā wæs Biowulfe brōga gecýðed
 2325 snūde tō sōðe, þæt his sylfes h[ā]m,
 bolda sēlest, bryne-wylmum mealt,
 gif-stōl Gēata. Ðæt ðām gōðan wæs
 hrēow on hreðre, hyge-sorge mæst;
 wēnde se wīsa þæt hē Wealdende
 2330 ofer ealde riht, ēcean Dryhtne,
 bitre gebulge; brēost innan wēoll
 þēostrum geþoncum, swā him gepýwe ne wæs.
 Hæfde līg-draca lēoda fæsten,
 ēa-lond ūtan, eorð-weard ðone
 2335 glēdum forgrunden; him ðæs gūð-kyning,
 Wedera þīoden, wræce leornode.
 Heht him þā gewyrcean wīgendra hlēo
 eall-īrenne, eorla dryhten,
 wīg-bord wrætlic; wisse hē gearwe
 2340 þæt him holt-wudu he[lpan] ne meahte,
 lind wið līge. Sceolde [lī]þend-daga
 æpeling ær-gōd ende gebīdan,
 worulde līfes, ond se wyrm somod,
 þēah ðe hord-welan hēolde lange.
 2345 Oferhogode ðā hringa fengel,

2325b MS. him: em. Grundtvig.

2340b MS. he....: restored by Thorkelin.

2341b MS. sceolde .. / þend daga (letter-spaces at MS. line-end from Thorkelin B): restoration by Malone, NC, p. 89. Usually emended as "læn-daga" (loaned days) following Grundtvig.

- þæt hē þone wīd-flogan weorode gesōhte,
 sīdan herge; nō hē him þā sæcce ondrēd,
 nē him þæs wyrmes wīg for wiht dyde,
 eafod ond ellen, forðon hē ær fela
 2350 nearo nēðende nīða gedigde,
 hilde-hlemma, syððan hē Hrōðgāres,
 sigor-ēadig secg, sele fælsode
 ond æt gūðe forgrāp Grendeles mægum
 lāðan cynnes. Nō þæt læsest wæs
 2355 hond-gemōt[a], þær mon Hygelāc slōh,
 syððan Gēata cyning gūðe rāsum,
 frēa-wine folca Frēs-londum on,
 Hrēðles eafora hiora-dryncum swealt,
 bille gebēaten. Ponan Bīowulf cōm
 2360 sylfes cræfte, sund-nytte drēah;
 hæfde him on earme [eorla] þritig[ra]
 hilde-geatwa, þā hē tō holme [st]āg;
 nealles Hetware hrēnge þorf[ton
 fēðe-wīges, þe him foran ongēan
 2365 līnde bæron; lýt eft becwōm
 fram þām hild-frecan hāmes nīosan.
 Oferswam ðā sioleða bigong sunu Ecgðēowes,
 earm ān-haga eft tō lēodum;
 þær him Hygd gebēad hord ond rīce,
 2370 bēagas ond brego-stōl; bearne ne truwode,
 þæt hē wið æl-fylcum ēpel-stōlas
 healdan cūðe, ðā wæs Hygelāc dēad.
 Nō ðy ær fēasceafte findan meahton
 æt ðām æðelinge ænige ðinga,
 2375 þæt hē Heardrēde hlāford wære,
 oððe þone cynedōm cīosan wolde;
 hwæðre hē hi[ne] on folce frēond-lārum hēold,

2347b MS. þā: em. Thorkelin.

2355a MS. hond gemot: em. Kemble.

2361–62 The MS. leaf begins: ... XXX hilde geat wa þahe to holme
 ..ag: em. and trans. follow Fred C. Robinson, *SP* 62 (1965), 12.

2363b MS. þorf. with "on" from Thorkelin B: restored by Kemble.

2377a MS. hī: em. Thorpe.

- ēstum mid āre, oððæt hē yldra wearð,
 Weder-Gēatum wēold. Hyne wræc-mæcgas
 2380 ofer sǣ sōhtan, suna Ōhteres;
 hæfdon hȳ forhealden helm Scylfinga,
 þone sēlestan sǣ-cyninga,
 þāra ðe in Swīo-rīce sinc brytnade,
 mǣrne þēoden. Him þæt tō mearce wearð;
 2385 hē þær [f]or feorme feorh-wunde hlēat,
 sweordes swengum, sunu Hygelāces,
 ond *him* eft gewāt Ongendōies bearn
 hāmes nīosan, syððan Heardrēd læg,
 lēt ðone brego-stōl Bīowulf healdan
 2390 Gēatum wealdan; þæt wæs gōd cyning.
 XXXIII Sē ðæs lēod-hryres lēan gemunde
 uferan dōgrum, Eadgilse wearð,
 fēasceaftum frēond; folce gestēpte
 ofer sǣ sīde sunu Ōhteres,
 2395 wigum ond wǣpnum; hē gewræc syððan
 cealdum cear-sīðum, cyning ealdre binēat.
 Swā hē nīða gehwane genesen hæfde,
 slīðra geslyhta, sunu Ecgðīowes,
 ellen-weorca, oð ðone ānne dæg,
 2400 þē hē wið þām wyrme gewegan sceolde.
 Gewāt þā twelfa sum, torne gebolgen,
 dryhten Gēata dracan scēawian.
 Hæfde þā gefrūnen, hwanan sīo fæhð ārās,
 bealo-nīð biorna; him tō bearne *cwōm*
 2405 mǣðpum-fæt mǣre þurh ðæs *meldan* hond.
 Sē wæs on ðām ðrēate þreottēoða secg,
 sē ðæs orleges or onstealde,
 hæft *hyge-giōmor*, sceolde hēan ðonon
 wong *wīsian*. Hē ofer willan gīong,
 2410 tō ðæs ðe hē eorð-sele ānne wisse,
 hlāw under *hrūsan* holm-wylme nēh,
 yð-gewinne; sē wæs innan full

2383a MS. þara ðe / ðe: em. Kemble.

2385a MS. orfeorme: em. Hermann Möller, *Das altenglischen Volksepos* (Kiel: Lipsius & Tischer, 1883), p. 111.

- wrætta ond wīra. Weard unhīore,
 gearo gūð-freca gold-māðmas hēold,
 2415 eald under eorðan; næs þæt yðe cēap
 tō gegangenne gumena ænigum.
 Gesæt ðā on nasse nīð-heard cyning
 þenden hālo ābēad heorð-genēatum,
 gold-wine Gēata. Him wæs geōmor sefa
 2420 wæfre ond wæl-fūs, wyrd ungemete nēah,
 sē ðone gomelan grētan sceolde,
 sēcean sāwle hord, sundur gedælan
 lif wið līce; nō þon lange wæs
 feorh æpelinges flāsce bewunden.
 2425 Biowulf maþelade, bearn Ecgðēowes:
 "Fela ic on giogoðe gūð-ræsa genæs,
 orleg-hwīla; ic þæt eall gemon.
 Ic wæs syfan-wintre, þā mec sinca *baldor*,
 frēa-wine folca æt mīnum fæder genam.
 2430 Hēold mec ond hæfde Hrēðel cyning,
 geaf mē sinc ond symbel, sibbe gemunde;
 næs ic him tō life lāðra ðwihte
 beorn *in* burgum þonne his bearna hwylc,
 Herebeald ond Hæðcyn, oððe Hygelāc mīn.
 2435 Wæs þām yldestan ungedēfelice
 mæges dædum morþor-bed strēd,
 syððan hyne Hæðcyn of horn-bogan,
 his frēa-wine flāne geswencte,
 miste mercelses ond his mæg ofscēt,
 2440 brōðor ððerne, blōdigan gære.
 Þæt wæs feoh-lēas gefeoht, fyrenum gesyngad,
 hreðre hyge-mēðe; sceolde hwæðre swā þeah
 æðeling unwrecen ealdres linnan.
 "Swā bið geōmorlīc gomelum ceorle
 2445 tō gebīdanne, þæt his byre rīde
 giong on galgan; þonne hē gyd wrece,
 sārigne sang, þonne his sunu hangað
 hrefne tō hrōðre ond hē him help[e] ne mæg,
 eald ond infrōd, ænige gefremman.

- 2450 Symble bið gemyndgað morna gehwylce
eaforan ellor-sið, oðres ne gýmeð
tō gebīdanne burgum in innan
yrfe-weardas, þonne se ān hafað
þurh dēaðes nýd dāda gefondad.
- 2455 Gesyðð sorh-cearig on his suna būre
wīn-sele wēstne, windge reste
rēote berofene; rīdend swefað,
hæleð in hoðman; nis þær hearpan swēg,
 XXXV } *gomen in gearдум, swylce ðær iū wæron.*
 2460 } “Gewīteð þonne on sealman, sorh-lēoð gæleð,
ān æfter ānum; þūhte him eall tō rūm,
wongas ond wīc-stede. Swā Wedra helm
æfter Herebealde heortan sorge
weallende wæg; wihte ne meahte
- 2465 on ðām feorh-bonan fæghðe gebētan;
nō ðy ær hē þone heaðo-rinc hatian ne meahte
lāðum dādum, þeah him lēof ne wæs.
Hē ða mid þære sorhge, [sīo] þe him sār[e] belamp,
gum-drēam ofgeaf, Godes lēoht gecēas;
- 2470 eaferum lāfde, swā dēð ēadig mon,
lond ond lēod-byrig, þā hē of life gewāt.
“Þā wæs synn ond sacu Swēona ond Gēata
ofer [wīd] wæter wrōht gemæne,
here-nið hearda, syððan Hrēðel swealt,
- 2475 oððe him Ongenðēowes eaferan wæran
frome, fyrd-hwate; frēode ne woldon
ofer heafo healdan, ac ymb Hrēosna-beorh
eatolne inwit-scear oft gefremedon.

2464a MS. *weal / .nde* with Thorkelin A and B *weal linde* probably in error; Conybeare (1826) attested an “e” after the second “l.” See Dobbie, p. 244, for analysis of the misreading.

2468b MS. *þe hī sio sar*: this looks corrupt since “sār” (grief) is regularly neuter. Em. by Sedgfield, on the analogy of line 2222b, as the best of many suggestions, including retaining the MS. form as feminine (Chambers, von Schaubert).

2473a Lost word at edge of MS. Thorkelin A *rid*: restoration by Grundtvig.

2478b MS. *oft ge ge fremedon*: em. Thorkelin.

- 2480 *Pæt mæg-wine* *mīne gewræcan,*
 fæhðe ond fyrene, *swā hyt gefræge wæs,*
 þeah ðe oðer his *ealdre gebohte,*
 heardan cēape; *Hæðcynne wearð,*
 Gēata dryhtne, *gūð onsæge.*
 Pā ic on morgne gefrægn *mæg oðerne*
 2485 *billes ecgum* *on bonan stælan,*
 þær Ongenþeow *Eofores nīosað;*
 gūð-helm tōglād, *gomela Scylfing*
 hrēas [heoro]-blāc; *hond gemunde*
 fæhðo genōge, *feorh-sweg ne oftēah.*
 2490 “*Ic him þā māðmas,* *þē hē mē sealde,*
 geald æt gūðe, *swā mē gifeðe wæs,*
 leohtan sweorde; *hē mē lond forgeaf,*
 eard, ēðel-wyn. *Næs him ænig þearf*
 þæt hē tō Gifðum *oððe tō Gār-Denum*
 2495 *oððe in Swīo-rīce* *sēcean þurfe*
 wyrsan wīg-frecan, *weorðe gecýpan;*
 symle ic him on fēðan *beforan wolde,*
 āna on orde, *ond swā tō aldre sceall*
 sæcce fremman, *þenden þis sword þolað,*
 2500 *þæt mec ær ond sið* *oft gelæste,*
 syððan ic for dugeðum *Dæghrefne wearð*
 tō hand-bonan, *Hūga cempa.*
 Nalles hē ðā frætwe *Frēs-cyning[e],*
 brēost-weorðunge *bringan mōste,*
 2505 *ac in c[a]mp[e] gecrong* *cumbles hyrde,*
 æpeling on elne; *ne wæs ecg bona,*
 ac him hilde-grāp *heortan wylmas,*
 bān-hūs gebræc. *Nū sceall billes ecg,*
 hond ond heard sword *ymb hord wīgan.”*
 2510 *Bēowulf maðelode,* *bēot-wordum spræc*
 nīehstan siðe: “*Ic genēðde fela*
 gūða on geogoðe; *gýt ic wylle,*

2488a No gap in MS.: conjectural restoration by Grein.

2503b MS. *fres cyning*; em. Grundtvig.

2505a MS. *incempa*; em. Kemble.

- frōd folces weard, fāhðe sēcan,
 mārðu fremman, gif mec se mǎn-sceaða
 2515 of eorð-sele ūt gesēceð!"
- Gegrētte ðā gumena gehwylcne,
 hwate helm-berend hindeman sīðe,
 swāse gesīðas: "Nolde ic sweord beran,
 wāpen tō wyrme, gif ic wyste hū
 2520 wið ðam āglæcean elles meahte
 gylpe wiðgrīpan, swā ic gið wið Grendle dyde;
 ac ic ðær heaðu-fýres hātes wēne,
 [o]rðes ond attres; forðon ic mē on hafu
 bord ond byrnan. Nelle ic beorges weard
 2525 oferflēon fōtes trem, ac unc [furður] sceal
 weorðan æt wealle, swā unc wyrd getēoð,
 Metod manna gehwæs. Ic eom on mōde from,
 þæt ic wið þone gūð-flogan gylp ofersitte.
 Gebīde gē on beorge, byrnum werede,
 2530 secgas on searwum, hwæðer sēl mæge
 æfter wæl-rāse wunde gedýgan
 uncer twēga. Nis þæt ēower sīð,
 nē gemet mannes, nefne mīn ānes,
 [þæ]t hē wið āglæcan eofoðo dæle
 2535 eorlscype efne. Ic mid elne sceall
 gold gegangan, oððe gūð nimeð,
 feorh-bealu frēcne, frēan ēowerne!"
 Ārās ðā bī ronde rōf ðretta,
 heard under helme, hioro-sercean bær
 2540 under stān-cleofu, strengo getruwode
 ānes mannes; ne bið swylc earges sīð!
 Geseah ðā be wealle, sē ðe worna fela,

2514a MS. mǣrdū: em. Bugge.

2523a MS. reðes 7 hattres: em. Grein and Grundtvig respectively. Of special interest since it resembles hendiadys in classical rhetoric. For further discussion and references, see A. S. Cook, *MLN* 40 (1925), 137-142, and R. D. Stevick, *MLQ* 20 (1959), 339-343.

2525b No gap in MS: conjectural restoration by Klaeber.

2533b MS. nefne from Thorkelin B only.

2534a MS. wat: em. Grundtvig.

- gum-cystum gōd, gūða gedīgde,
 hilde-hlemma, þonne hnitan fēðan,
 2545 sto[n]dan stān-bogan, strēam út þonan
 breacan of beorge; wæs þære burnan wælm
 heaðo-fýrum hāt; ne meahhte horde nēah
 unbyrnende ænige hwīle
 dēop gedýgan for dracan lēge.
 2550 Lēt ðā of brēostum, ðā hē gebolgen wæs,
 Weder-Gēata lēod word út faran,
 stearc-heort styrnde; stefn in becōm
 heaðo-torht hlynnan under hārne stān.
 Hete wæs onhrēred, hord-weard oncnīow
 2555 mannes reorde; næs ðær mǣra fyrst
 frēode tō friclan. From ærest cwōm
 oruð āglæcean út of stāne,
 hāt hilde-swāt; hrūse dynede.
 Biorn under beorge bord-rand onswāf
 2560 wið ðām gryre-gieste, Gēata dryhten;
 ðā wæs hring-bogan heorte gefýsed
 sæcce tō sēceanne. Sweord ær gebræd
 gōd gūð-cyning, gomele lāfe,
 ecgum ungleaw; æghwæðrum wæs
 2565 bealo-hycgendra brōga fram oðrum.
 Stīð-mōd gestōd wið stēapne rond
 winia bealdor, ðā se wyrn gebēah
 snūde tōsomne; hē on searwum bād.
 Gewāt ðā byrnende gebogan scriðan,
 2570 tō gescipe scyndan. Scyld wēl gebearg
 life ond lice læssan hwīle
 mǣrum þeodne þonne his myne sōhte;
 ðær hē þý fyrste, forman dōgore,
 wealdan mōste, swā him wyrd ne gescrāf
 2575 hrēð æt hilde. Hond up abræd
 Gēata dryhten, gryre-fāhne slōh
 incge-lāfe, þæt sīo ecg gewāc,

2545a MS. *stodan*: em. Thorpe.

2564a MS. *un/gleaw*: with "e" partially erased.

- brūn on bāne, bāt unswīðor
 þonne his ðiōd-cyning þearfe hæfde,
 2580 bysigum gebæded. Þā wæs beorges weard
 æfter heaðu-swenge on hrēoum mōde,
 wearp wæl-fyre; wīde sprunгон
 hilde-lēoman. Hrēð-sigora ne gealp
 gold-wine Gēata; gūð-bill geswāc,
 2585 nacod æt nīðe, swā hyt nō sceolde,
 iren ær-gōd. Ne wæs þæt ēðe sīð,
 þæt se mæra maga Ecgðēowes
 grund-wong þone ofgyfan wolde;
 sceolde [*ofer*] willan wīc eardian
 2590 elles hwergen, swā *sceal* æghwylc mon
 ālætan læn-dagas. Næs ðā long tō ðon
 þæt ðā āglæcean h̄ eft gemetton.
 Hyrte hyne hord-weard —hreðer æðme wēoll—
 nīwan stefne; nearo ðrōwode,
 2595 fyre befongen, sē ðe ær folce wēold.
 Nealles him on hēape hand-gesteallan,
 æðelinga bearn ymbe gestōdon
 hilde-cystum, ac h̄ on holt bugon,
 ealdre burgan. Hiora in ānum wēoll
 2600 sefa wið sorgum; sibb æfre ne mæg
 wiht onwenden þām ðe wēl þenceð.
 XXXVI Wīglāf wæs hāten, Wēoxstānes sunu,
 lēoflic lind-wiga, lēod Scylfinga,
 mæg Ælfheres; geseah his mon-dryhten
 2605 under here-grīman hāt þrowian.
 Gemunde ðā ðā āre þe hē him ær forgeaf,
 wīc-stede weligne Wægmundinga,
 folc-rihta gehwylc, swā his fæder āhte;
 ne mihte ðā forhabban, hond rond gefēng,
 2610 geolwe linde; gomel swyrd getēah,
 þæt wæs mid eldum Eanmundes lāf,

2589a No gap in MS.: conjectural restoration by Rieger.

2596b MS. heand gesteallan: em. Kemble.

- sun*a ōhtere[s]. Þā*m* æt sæc*c*e wearð,
wræcca[n] wine-lēasum, Wēohstān bana
mēces ecgum, ond his māgum ætbær
2615 brūn-fāgne helm, hringde byrnan,
eald-sweord etonisc. Þæt him Onela forgeaf,
his gædelinges gūð-gewædu,
fyrd-searo fūslic; nō ymbe ðā fāhðe spræc,
þēah ðe hē his brōðor bearn ābredwade.
2620 Hē frætwe gehēold fela missēra,
bill ond byrnan, oððæt his byre mihte
eorlscipe efnan swā his ær-fæder;
geaf him ðā mid Gēatum gūð-gewæda
æghwæs unrīm, þā hē of ealdre gewāt,
2625 frōd on forð-weg. Þā wæs forma sīð
geongan cempan þæt hē gūðe ræs
mid his frēo-dryhtne fremman sceolde.
Ne gemealt him se mōd-sefa, nē his māges lāf
gewāc æt wīge; þ[æt] se wyrm onfand
2630 syððan hīe tōgædre gegān hæfdon.
Wīglāf maðelode, word-rihta fela
sægde gesīðum— him wæs sefa geōmor:
“*Ic* ðæt *mæl* geman þær wē medu þēgun
þonne wē gehēton ūssum hlāforde
2635 in bīor-sele, ðe ūs ðās bēagas geaf,
þæt wē him ðā gūð-getāwa gyldan woldon,
gif him þyslicu þearf gelumpe,
helmas ond heard sword. Ðē hē ūsic on herge gecēas
tō ðyssum sīð-fate sylfes willum,
2640 onmunde ūsic mārða, ond mē þās māðmas geaf,
þe hē ūsic gār-wīgend gōde tealde,
hwate helm-berend, þēah ðe hlāford ūs
þis ellen-weorc āna āðohte

2612a MS. ohtere: em. Grundtvig.

2613 MS. *wræcca* from Thorkelin A: em. Ettmüller. MS. *weohstanes*: em. Grundtvig.

2628b MS. *mægenes*: em. Ettmüller.

2629b MS. *þa*: em. Thorpe.

- tō gefremmanne, folces hyrde,
 2645 forðām hē manna mæst mæroða gefremede,
 dæda dollicra. Nū is sē dæg cumen
 þæt ure man-dryhten mægenes behōfað,
 gōdra gūð-rinca; wutun gongan tō,
 helpen hild-fruman, þenden hyt sý,
 2650 glēd-egesa grim! God wāt on mec
 þæt mē is micle lēofre þæt mīnne līc-haman
 mid mīnne gold-gyfan glēd fæðmie.
 Ne þynceð mē gerysne þæt wē rondas beren
 eft tō earde, nemne wē æror mægen
 2655 fāne gefyllan, feorh ealgian
 Wedra ðēodnes. Ic wāt geara,
 þæt nāron eald-gewyrht, þæt hē āna scyle
 Gēata duguðe gnorn þrōwian,
 gesīgan æt sæcce; ūrum sceal sweord ond helm,
 2660 byrne ond b[ea]du-scrūd bām gemæne.”
 Wōd þā þurh þone wæl-rēc, wig-heafolan bær
 frēan on fultum, fēa worda cwæð:
 “Lēofa Bīowulf, læst eall tela,
 swā ðū on geoguð-fēore geāra gecwæde,
 2665 þæt ðū ne ālæte be ðē lifigendum
 dōm gedreosan; scealt nū dædum rōf,
 æðeling ān-hýdig, ealle mægene
 feorh ealgian; ic ðē ful-læstu.”
 Æfter ðām wordum wurm yrre cwōm,
 2670 atol inwit-gæst, ððre sīðe,
 fȳr-wylmum fāh, fionda nīosian
 lāðra manna. Līg yðum fōr,
 born bord wið rond; byrne ne meahte
 geongum gār-wigan gēoce gefremman;
 2675 ac se maga geonga under his mæges scyld

2660a MS. byrdu scrud: em. Ettmüller.

2671b Thorkelin A mosum, B niosnan: restoration deduced by Grundtvig.

2672–73 Several different word-divisions are possible here, such as: lig-yðum forborn / bord wið rond[e]. The present arrangement is adapted from R. Willard, *MLN* 76 (1961), 290–93.

- elne geēode, þā his āgen [wæs]
 glēdum forgrunden. Ðā gēn gūð-cyning
 m[æ̃rða] gemunde, mægen-strengo slōh
 hilde-bille, þæt hyt on heafolan stōd
 2680 nīþe genýded; Nægling forbærst,
 geswāc æt sæcce sweord Biowulfes,
 gomol ond græg-mæl. Him þæt gifeðe ne wæs,
 þæt him irenna ecge mihton
 helpan æt hilde; wæs sīo hond tō strong
 2685 sē ðe mēca gehwane, mīne gefræge,
 swenge ofersōhte, þonne hē tō sæcce bær
 wæpen wundum heard; næs him wihte ðē sēl.
 Ðā wæs þeod-sceaða þridan stīe,
 frēcne fyr-draca fæhða gemyndig,
 2690 rāsde on ðone rōfan, þā him rūm āgeald;
 hāt ond heaðo-grim, heals ealne ymbefēng
 biteran bānum; hē geblōdegod wearð
 sāwul-drīore; swāt yðum wēoll.
 XXXVII Ðā ic æt þearfe [gefrægn] þeod-cyniges
 2695 andlongne eorl ellen cýðan,
 cræft ond cēnðu, swā him gecynde wæs.
 Ne hēdde hē þæs heafolan, ac sīo hand gebarn
 mōdiges mannes, þær hē his mæges healp
 þæt hē þone nīð-gæst nīoðor hwēne slōh,
 2700 secg on searwum, þæt ðæt sweord gedēaf
 fāh ond fæted, þæt ðæt fyr ongon
 sweðrian syððan. Ðā gēn sylf cyning
 gewēold his gewitte, wæll-seaxe gebræd,
 biter ond beadu-scearp, þæt hē on byrnan wæg;
 2705 forwrat Wedra helm wurm on middan.
 Fēond gefyldan —ferh ellen wrac—
 ond hī hyne þā bēgen ābroten hæfdon,
 sib-æðelingas. Swylc sceolde secg wasan,
 þegn æt ðearfe! Ðæt ðām þeodne wæs

2676b Conjectural restoration by Grundtvig for word lost at edge.

2678a MS. m....: conjectural restoration by Grundtvig.

2694a No gap in MS.: addition by Kemble.

2698b MS. mægenes: em. Kemble.

- 2710 *sīðas*[*t*] *sige-hwīle* *sylfes dāðum*
worlde geweorces. *Ðā sīo wund ongon,*
þe him se eorð-draca *ær geworhte,*
swelan ond swellan; *hē þæt sōna onfand*
þæt him on brēostum *bealo-nīðe wēoll*
- 2715 *attor on innan.* *Ðā se æðeling gīong*
þæt hē bī wealle, *wīs-hycgende,*
gesæt on sesse; *seah on enta geweorc,*
hū ðā stān-bogan *stapulum fæste*
ēce eorð-reced *innan healde.*
- 2720 *Hyne þā mid handa* *heoro-drēorigne*
þēoden mārne, *þegn ungemete till*
wine-dryhten his *wātere gelafede,*
hilde-sæðne, *ond his hel[m] onspēon.*
Bīowulf mapelode— *hē ofer benne spræc,*
- 2725 *wunde wæl-blēate;* *wisse hē gearwe*
þæt hē dæg-hwīla *gedrogen hæfde,*
eorðan wyn[ne]; *ðā wæs eall sceacen*
dōgor-gerīmes, *dēað ungemete nēah:*
“Nū ic suna mīnum *syllan wolde*
- 2730 *gūð-gewædu,* *þær mē gifeðe swā*
ænig yrfe-weard *æfter wurde,*
lice gelenge. *Ic ðās lēode hēold*
fiftig wintra; *næs sē folc-cyning,*
ymbe-sittendra *ænig ðāra,*
- 2735 *þē mec gūð-winum* *grētan dorste,*
egesan ðēon. *Ic on earde bād*
mæl-gesceafta, *hēold mīn tela,*
ne sōhte searo-nīðas, *nē mē swōr fela*
āða on unriht. *Ic ðæs ealles mæg,*
- 2740 *feorh-bennum sēoc,* *gefēan habban;*
forðām mē wītan ne ðearf *Waldend fīra*

2710a MS. *sīðas*: em. Grein.

2714b Nothing now left in MS. after “beal,” but Thorkelin A *bealomð*, B *bealo niði* where the second “i” answered to the downstroke of an “e.” Restored thus by Malone, NC, p. 96.

2723b MS. *hel*. with Thorkelin A *helo*, B *heb*: em. Grein.

2727a MS. *wyn*..: restored by Thorkelin.

- morðor-bealo māga, þonne mīn sceaceð
 lif of lice. Nū ðū lungre geong
 hord scēawian under hārne stān,
 2745 Wīglāf lēofa, nū se wurm ligeð,
 swefeð sāre wund, since berēafod.
 Bīo nū on ofoste, þæt ic ær-welan,
 gold-æht ongite, gearo scēawige
 swegle searo-gimmas, þæt ic ðy sēft mæge
 2750 æfter mādðum-welan mīn ālātan,
 lif ond lēodscipe, þone ic longe hēold.”
 XXXVIII Ðā ic snūde gefrægn sunu Wihstānes
 æfter word-cwydum wundum dryhtne
 hýran heaðo-sīocum, hring-net beran,
 2755 brogdne beadu-sercean u[n]der beorges hrōf.
 Geseah ðā sige-hrēðig, þā hē bī sesse gēong,
 mago-þegn mōðig mādðum-sigla fealo
 gold glitīnian grunde getenge,
 wundur on wealle, ond þæs wyrmes denn
 2760 ealdes ūht-flogan orcas stondan,
 fyrn-manna fatu, feormend-lēase,
 hyrstum behrorene. Þær wæs helm monig,
 eald ond ōmig, earm-bēaga fela,
 searwum gesæled. Sinc ēaðe mæg,
 2765 gold on grund[e], gum-cynnes gehwone
 oferhīgian, hýde sē ðe wylle!
 Swylce hē siomian geseah segn eall-gylden
 hēah ofer horde, hond-wundra mæst,
 gelocen leoðo-cræftum; of ðām lēoma stōd,
 2770 þæt hē þone grund-wong ongitan meahite,
 wræ[t]e giondwlitan. Næs ðæs wyrmes þær
 onsýn ænig, ac hyne ecg fornam.
 Ðā ic on hlæwe gefrægn hord rēafian,

2755b MS. urder: em. Thorkelin.

2765a MS. grund: em. Grundtvig.

2769b MS. leoman: em. Kemble.

2771a MS. wræce: em. Thorpe and universally accepted since OE. “t” looks much like “c.” But the MS. form, meaning “vengeance, punishment,”

- eald enta geweorc ānne mannan,
 2775 him on bearm hl[a]don bunan ond discas
 sylfes dōme; segn ēac genōm,
 bēacna beorhtost. Bill ær gescōd
 —ecg wæs iren— eald-hlāfordes
 þām ðāra mǣðma mund-bora wæs
 2780 longe hwile, lig-egesan wæg
 hātne for horde, hioro-weallende
 middel-nihtum, oðþæt hē morðre swealt.
 Ār wæs on ofoste, eft-siðes georn,
 frætsum gefyrðred; hyne fyrwet bræc,
 2785 hwæðer collen-ferð cwicne gemette
 in ðām wong-stede Wedra þeoden
 ellen-siocne, þær hē hine ær forlēt.
 Hē ðā mid þām mǣðmum mǣrne þioden,
 dryhten sinne, drīorigne fand,
 2790 ealdres æt ende; hē hine eft ongon
 wæteres weorpan, oðþæt wordes ord
 brēost-hord þurhbræc. [*Bēowulf mapelode,*]
 gomel on gio[h]ðe, gold scēawode:
 “Ic ðāra frætwa Frēan ealles ðanc,
 2795 Wuldur-cyninge, wordum secge,
 ēcum Dryhtne, þe ic hēr on starie,
 þæs ðe ic mōste mīnum lēodum
 ær swylt-dæge swylc gestrȳnan.
 Nū ic on mǣðma hord mīne bebohte
 2800 frōde feorh-lege, fremmað gēna
 lēoda þearfe; ne mæg ic hēr leng wesan.
 Hātað heaðo-mære hlāw gewyrcean,
 beorhtne æfter bāle æt brimes nosan;
 sē scel tō gemyndum mīnum lēodum
 2805 hēah hlifian on Hrones-næsse,
 þæt hit sǣ-liðend syððan hātan

2775a MS. hlodon from Thorkelin B: em. Grein.

2792b Lack of alliteration indicates the loss of a half-line. Conjectural restoration by Sedgfield.

2793a MS. giogoðe: em. Grein.

2799b MS. minne: em. Ettmüller.

Bīowulfes biorh, ðā ðe brentingas
ofer flōða genipu feorran drīfað."

- Dyde him of healse hring gyldenne
2810 þīoden þrist-hȳdig, þegne gesealde,
geongum gār-wigan, gold-fāhne helm,
bēah ond byrnan, hēt hyne brūcan well:
"Þū eart ende-lāf ūsses cynnes,
Wāgmundinga; ealle wyrd fors[w]ēo[p]
2815 mīne māgas tō metod-sceafte,
eorlas on elne; ic him æfter sceal."
Þæt wæs þām gomelan gingæste word
brēost-gehygdum, ær hē bæl cure,
hāte heaðo-wylmas; him of h[re]ðre gewāt
2820 sāwol sēcean sōð-fæstra dōm.

- [XXXIX] Ðā wæs gegongen gum[an] unfrōdum
earfoðlice, þæt hē on eorðan geseah
þone lēofestan lifes æt ende,
blēate gebæran. Bona swylce læg,
2825 egeslic eorð-draca, ealdre berēafod,
bealwe gebæded. Bēah-hordum leng
wyrn wōh-bogen wealdan ne mōste,
ac him irenna ecga fornāmon,
hearde, heaðo-scearde, homera lāfe,
2830 þæt se wīd-floga wundum stille
hrēas on hrūsan hord-ærne nēah.
Nalles æfter lyfte lācende hwearf
middel-nihtum, mādōm-æhta wlonc
ansȳn ȳwde, ac hē eorðan gefēoll

2814b MS. for / speof, with the second word-element squeezed in before a large hole in the parchment. Emended by Kemble on the model of line 477. Wrenn (1st ed.) would read MS. for / speon, with "n" written on a partly erased "f." This would yield "forspēon" (has lured). Malone and Zupitza read only an abnormally placed final "f" before the hole (NC, p. 98).

2819b MS. hwæðre: em. Kemble (followed by Dobbie). The MS. form, meaning "however," also makes sense. If not a scribal error, it may point up the contrast between the body's death and the soul's immortality: see Richard L. Hoffman, *JEGP* 64 (1965), 664-65 (followed by Bolton).

2821 No number in MS. but the large capital of "Dā" indicates a new fitt. MS. gumū: em. Heyne.

- 2835 for ðæs hild-fruman hond-geweorce.
 Hūru þæt on lande lýt manna ðāh,
 mægen-āgendra, mīne gefrāge,
 þēah ðe hē dāda gehwæs dyrstig wære,
 þæt hē wið attor-sceaðan oreðe gerāsde,
- 2840 oððe hring-sele hondum styrede,
 gif hē wæccende weard onfunde
 būon on beorge. Bīowulfe wearð
 dryht-māðma dæl dēaðe forgolden;
 hæfde æghwæð[er] ende gefēred
- 2845 lānan lifes. Næs ðā lang tō ðon,
 þæt ðā hild-latan holt ofgēfan,
 tȳdre trēow-logan, tȳne ætsomne,
 ðā ne dorston ær dareðum lācan
 on hyra man-dryhtnes miclan þearfe;
- 2850 ac hȳ scamiende scyldas bāran,
 gūð-gewædu, þær se gomela læg;
 wliton on Wīlāf. Hē gewērgad sæt,
 fēðe-cempa, frēan eaxlum nēah,
 wehte hyne wætre, him wiht ne spēo[w].
- 2855 Ne meahte hē on eorðan, ðēah hē ūðe wēl,
 on ðām frum-gāre feorh gehealdan,
 nē ðæs Wealdendes wiht oncirran;
 wolde dōm Godes dædum rædan
 gumena gehwylcum swā hē nū gēn dēð.
- 2860 Þā wæs æt ðām geong[an] grim andswaru
 ēð-begēte þām ðe ær his elne forlēas.
 Wīglāf maðelode, Wēohstānes sunu,
 sec[g] sārīg-ferð— seah on unlēofe:
 “Þæt, lā, mæg secgan, sē ðe wyle sōð specan,
- 2865 þæt se mon-dryhten, sē ēow ðā māðmas geaf,
 ēored-geatwe, þe gē þær on standað,

2844a MS. æghwæðre: em. Kemble.

2854b MS. speop: em. Thorkelin.

2860a MS. geongū: em. A. J. Barnouw, *Textkritische Untersuchungen* (Leiden: Brill, 1902), p. 36.

2863a MS. sec: em. Thorkelin. Wrenn-Bolton retains MS. form as “sēc,” a by-form of “sēc” (ill, weak, sad).

- þonne hē on ealu-bence oft gesealde
 heal-sittendum helm ond byrnan,
 þēoden his þegnum, swylce hē þrydlicost
 2870 ōwer feor oððe nēah findan meahte,
 þæt hē gēnunga gūð-gewædu
 wrāðe forwurpe, ðā hyne wīg beget.
 Nealles folc-cyning fyrd-gesteallum
 gylpan þorfte; hwæðre him God ūðe,
 2875 sigora Waldend, þæt hē hyne sylfne gewræc,
 āna mid ecge, þā him wæs elnes þearf.
 Ic him lif-wraðe lýtle meahte
 ætgifan æt gūðe, ond ongan swā þēah
 ofer mīn gemet mæges helpa;
 2880 symle wæs þý sāmra, þonne ic sweorde drep
 ferhð-genīðlan, fýr unswiðor
 wēoll of gewitte. [W]ergendra tō lýt
 þrong ymbe þēoden, þā hyne sio þræg becwōm.
 [N]ū sceal sinc-þego ond swyrd-gifu,
 2885 eall ēðel-wyn ēowrum cynne,
 lufen ālicgean; lond-rihtes mōt
 þære mæg-burge monna æghwylc
 īdel hweorfan, syððan æðelingas
 feorran gefricgean flēam ēowerne,
 2890 dōm-lēasan dæd. Dēað bið sēlla
 eorla gehwylcum þonne edwīt-lif.”
 XL Heht ðā þæt heaðo-weorc tō hagan biðdan
 up ofer ecg-clif, þær þæt eorl-weorod
 morgen-longne dæg mōd-giōmor sæt,
 2895 bord-hæbbende, bēga on wēnum,
 ende-dōgores ond eft-cymes
 lēofes monnes. Lýt swīgode
 nīwra spella, sē ðe næs gerād,
 ac hē sōðlice sægde ofer ealle:
 2900 “Nū is wil-geofa Wedra lēoda,
 dryhten Gēata dēað-bedde fæst,
 wunað wæl-reste wyrmes dædum;

2882b MS. fergendra: em. Grundtvig.

2884a MS. hu: em. Kemble.

- him on efn ligeð ealdor-gewinna
 siex-bennum sēoc; sweorde ne meahte
 2905 on ðām āglæcean ænige þinga
 wunde gewyrcean. Wiglāf siteð
 ofer Biowulfe, byre Wīhstānes,
 eorl ofer oðrum unlifigendum,
 healdeð hige-mæðum hēafod-wearde,
 2910 lēofes ond lāðes. Nū ys lēodum wēn
 orleg-hwīle, syððan under[ne]
 Froncum ond Frýsum fyll cyninges
 wīde weorðeð. Wæs sīo wrōht scepen
 heard wið Hūgas, syððan Higelāc cwōm
 2915 faran flot-herge on Frēsna land,
 þær hyne Hetware hilde genægdon,
 elne geēodon mid ofer-mægene,
 þæt se byrn-wiga būgan sceolde,
 fēoll on fēðan; nalles frætwe geof
 2920 ealdor dugoðe. Ūs wæs ā syððan
 Merewīoingas milts ungyfeðe.
 Nē ic te Swēo-ðēode sibbe oððe trēowe
 wihte ne wēne, ac wæs wīde cūð,
 þætte Ongenðio ealdre besnyðede
 2925 Hæðcen Hrēþling wið Hrefna-wudu,
 þā for onmēðlan ærest gesōhton
 Gēata lēode Gūð-Sci/fingas.
 Sōna him se frōda fæder Ōhtheres,
 eald ond eges-full ondslyht āgeaf,
 2930 ābrēot brim-wisan, brýd āheorde,
 gomela[n] iō-mēowlan golde berofene,
 Onelan mōdor ond Ōhtheres;
 ond ðā folgode feorh-genīðlan,
 oððæt hī oðēodon earfoðlice

2911b MS. under: em. Grein.

2916b MS. gehnægdon: em. Grein. The MS. form, retained by von Schaubert, can represent either "genægan" (attack, assail) or "gehnægan" (to humble, vanquish).

2929b MS. hond slyht: em. Grein,

2931a MS. gomela: em. Grein.

- 2935 in Hrefnes-holt hlāford-lēase.
 Besæt ðā sin-herge swēorda lāfe
 wundum wēрге; *wēan oft gehēt*
 earmre teohhe *ondlonge* niht,
 cwæð hē on mergenne mēces ecgum
- 2940 gētan wolde, sum' on galg-trēowu[m]
 [*fuglum*] tō gamene. Frōfor eft gelamp
 sārīg-mōdum somod ær-dæge,
 syððan hīe Hygelāces horn ond bȳman,
 gealdor ongēaton, þā se gōda cōm
- 2945 lēoda dugoðe on lāst faran.
 XLI "Wæs sīo swāt-swaðu Sw[ē]ona ond Gēata,
 wæl-rās weora wīde gesȳne,
 hū ðā folc mid him fāhðe tōwehton.
 Gewāt him ðā se gōda mid his gædelingum,
- 2950 frōd fela-geōmor fæsten sēcean,
 eorl Ongenþīo ufor oncirde;
 hæfde Higelāces *hilde* gefrūnen,
 wlonces wīg-cræft; wiðres *ne* truwode
 þæt hē sǣ-mannum onsacan mihte,
- 2955 heaðo-liðendum, hord forstandan,
 bearn ond brȳde; bēah eft þonan
 eald under eorð-weall. Þā wæs æht boden
 Swēona lēodum; segn Higelāce[s]
 freoðo-wong þone for[ð] oferēodon,
 2960 syððan Hrēðlingas tō hagan þrungon.
 Þær wearð Ongenðīow ecgum sword[a]
 blonden-fexa on bid wrecen,

2940b MS. galg treowu: em. Kemble.

2941a No gap in MS.: conjectural restoration by Thorpe.

2946b MS. swona: em. Thorkelin.

2958–59 MS. hige lace: em. Kemble. MS. ford: em. Thorkelin. If "Higelāce" is to be kept unemended, then Chambers offers the best treatment: take "boden" (offered) as having a double subject, place the semicolon after "Higelāce," and translate "then pursuit was offered to the people of the Swedes, [and] a [captured] banner to Hygelac." Then the subject of the following "oferēodon" is an understood "they."

2961b MS. swordū: em. Kemble.

- þæt se þēod-cyning ðaƿian sceolde
 Eafores ānne dōm. Hyne yrringa
 2965 Wulf Wonrēding wāpne gerāhte,
 þæt him for swenge swāt ædrum sprong
 forð under fexe. Næs hē forht swā ðēh,
 gomela Scilfing, ac forgeald hraðe
 wyrsan wrixle wæl-helm þone,
 2970 syððan ðēod-cyning byder oncirde.
 Ne meahte se snella sunu Wonrēdes
 ealdum ceorle ondslyht giofan,
 ac hē him on hēafde helm ær gescer,
 þæt hē blōde fāh būgan sceolde,
 2975 fēoll on foldan; næs hē fæge þā gīt,
 ac hē hyne gewyrpte, þēah ðe him wund hrine.
 Lēt se hearda Higelāces þegn
 brād[n]le mēce, þā his brōðor læg,
 eald-sweord eotonisc entiscne helm
 2980 breca[n] ofer bord-weal; ðā gebēah cyning,
 folces hyrde, wæs in feorh dropen.
 Ðā wæron monige, þe his mæg wriðon,
 ricone ārærdon, ðā him gerȳmed wearð,
 þæt hīe wæl-stōwe wealdan mōston.
 2985 Penden rēafode rinc oðerne,
 nam on Ongenðio iren-byrnan,
 heard swyrd hilted ond his helm somod;
 hāres hyrste Higelāce bær.
 H[ē ðām] frætsum fēng ond him fægre gehēt
 2990 lēana [fore] lēodum ond gelæst[e] swā;
 geald þone gūð-ræs Gēata dryhten,
 Hrēðles eafora, þā hē tō hām becōm,
 Iofore ond Wulfe mid ofer-māðmum,
 sealde hiora gehwæðrum hund þūsenda

2972b MS. hond slyht: em. Kemble.

2978a MS. brade: em. Thorpe.

2989a MS. h....: restored by Grundtvig.

2990 Room for four or five letters at lower right-hand corner of leaf;
 conjectural restoration by Heyne. MS. gelæsta: em. Kemble.

- 2995 landes ond locenra bēaga —ne ðorfte him ðā lēan
oðwītan
mon on middan-gearde— syðða[n] hīe ðā mǣrða
geslōgon;
ond ðā Iofore forgeaf āngan dohtor,
hām-weorðunge hyldo tō wedde.
“Pæt ys sīo fāhðo ond se fēondscipe,
3000 wæl-nīð wera, ðæs ðe ic [wēn] hafo,
þē ūs sēceað tō Swēona lēoda,
syððan hīe gefricgeað frēan ūserne
ealdor-lēasne, þone ðe ær gehēold
wið hettendum hord *ond* rīce
3005 æfter hǣleða hryre, hwate Scildingas,
folc-rēd fremede, oððe furður gēn
eorlscipe efnde. [Nū] is ofost betost,
pæt wē þeod-cyning þær scēawian
ond þone gebringan, þe ūs bēagas geaf,
3010 on ād-fære. Ne scel ānes hwæt
meltan mid þām mōdigan, ac þær is mǣðma hord,
gold unrīme, grimme gecēa[po]d,
ond nū æt sīðestan sylfes fēore
bēagas [geboh]te; þā sceall brond fretan,
3015 æled þeccean, nalles eorl wegan
mǣððum tō gemyndum, nē mægð scýne
habban on healse hring-weorðunge,
ac sceal geōmor-mōd, golde berēafod,
oft, nalles æne, elland tredan,
3020 nū se here-wīsa hleahtor ālegde,
gamen ond glēo-drēam. Forðon sceall gār wesan
monig morgen-ceald mundum bewunden,
hæfen on handa, nalles hearpan swēg

2996b MS. syðða: em. Grundtvig.

3000b No gap in MS.: conjectural restoration by Kemble.

3005b The “hwate Scildingas” would be the Danes unless an emendation is in order. See Commentary, p. 373.

3007b MS. me: em. Kemble.

3012b MS. gecea..d: restored by Kemble.

3014a MS.te: restored by Grundtvig.

- wīgend weccēan, ac se wonna hrefn
 3025 fūs ofer fægum fela reordian,
 earne secgan, hū him æt æte spēow,
 þenden hē wið wulf wæl rēafode.”
 Swā se secg hwata secggende wæs
 lāðra spella; hē ne lēag fela
 3030 wyrda nē weorda. Weorod eall ārās,
 ēodon unblīðe under Earna-næs,
 wollen-tēare, wundur scēawian.
 Fundon ðā on sande sāwul-lēasne
 hlim-bed healdan, þone þe him hringas geaf
 3035 ærran mælum; þā wæs ende-dæg
 gōdum gegongen, þæt se gūð-cyning,
 Wedra þēoden, wundor-dēaðe swealt.
 Ær hī þær gesēgan syllicran wiht,
 wrym on wonge wiðer-ræhtes þær,
 3040 lāðne licgean; wæs se lēg-draca
 grymlic gry[re-fāh], glēdum beswæled.
 Sē wæs fiftiges fōt-gemearces
 lang on legere; lyft-wynne hēold
 nihtes hwīlum, nyðer eft gewāt
 3045 dennes nīosian; wæs ðā dēaðe fæst,
 hæfde eorð-scrafa ende genyttod.
 Him big stōðan bunan ond orcas,
 discas lāgon ond dýre swyrd,
 ðmige, þurhetone, swā hīe wið eorðan fæðm
 3050 þūsend wintra þær eardodon.
 Þonne wæs þæt yrfe ēacen-cræftig,
 iū-monna gold, galdre bewunden,
 þæt ðām hring-sele hrīnan ne mōste
 gumena ænig, nefne God sylfa,
 3055 sigora Sōð-cyning, sealde þām ðe hē wolde
 —hē is manna gehyld— hord openian,
 efne swā hwylcum manna, swā him gemet ðūhte.
 XLII Þā wæs gesýne, þæt se sið ne ðāh
 þām ðe unrihte inne gehýdde

3041a MS. gry..... Thorkelin could read "gryre." Restoration by Bugge.

- 3060 *wræ[ɪ]e* under wealle. Weard ær ofslōh
 fēara sumne; þā sīo fāhð gewearð
 gewrecen wrāðlice. Wundur hwār þonne
 eorl ellen-rōf ende gefēre
 lif-gesceafta, þonne leng ne mæg
- 3065 mon mid his [*mā*]gum medu-seld būan.
 Swā wæs Biowulfe, þā hē biorges weard
 sōhte, searo-nīðas; seolfa ne cūðe
 þurh hwæt his worulde gedæl weorðan sceolde.
 Swā hit oð dōmes dæg dīope benemdon
- 3070 þēodnas mære, þā ðæt þær dydon,
 þæt se secg wære synnum scildig,
 hergum geheaðerod, hell-bendum fæst,
 wommum gewītnad, sē ðone wong str[*u*]de;
 næs hē gold-hwæte gearwor hæfde
- 3075 āgendes ēst ær gescēawod.
 Wīglāf maðelode, Wīhstānes sunu:
 "Oft sceall eorl monig ānes willan
 wræc ādrēog[*an*], swā ūs geworden is.
 Ne meahton wē gelæran lēofne þēoden,
- 3080 rīces hyrde ræd ænigne,
 þæt hē ne grētte gold-weard þone,
 lēte hyne licgean þær hē longe wæs,
 wīcum wunian oð woruld-ende;
 hēold on hēah-gesceap. Hord ys gescēawod,
- 3085 grimme gegongen; wæs þæt gifeðe tō swīð,
 þe ðone [*þēod-cyning*] þyder ontyhte.

3060a MS. *wræce*: em. Thorpe. See also line 2771. Else von Schaubert retains the MS. form and gives "gehýdde" the meaning of "performed." Her translation would run: "the act had not profited him who had performed unlawful vengeance under the wall," i.e., the dragon (see her edition, *Kommentar*, pp. 167–68, and *Glossar*, p. 129).

3065a MS. *..gū*: restored by Kemble.

3073b MS. *štrade*: em. Grundtvig.

3074–75 Perhaps the most obscure two lines in the poem, yet often crucial in interpretation. Treated here as a half-ironic remark. The "he" is Beowulf. See Commentary, p. 374, and A. J. Bliss in *Bibliography*, p. 385.

3078a MS. *adreogeð*: em. Kemble.

3086a No gap in MS.: conjectural restoration by Grein.

- Ic wæs þær inne ond þæt eall geondseh,
 recedes geatwa, þā mē gerȳmed wæs,
 nealles swæslice sið ālyfed
 3090 inn under eorð-weall. Ic on ofoste gefēng
 micle mid mundum mægen-byrðenne
 hord-gestrēona, hider ūt ætbær
 cyninge mīnum. Cwico wæs þā gēna,
 wīs ond gewittig; worn eall gespræc
 3095 gomol on gehðo ond ēowic grētan hēt,
 bād þæt gē geworhton æfter wines dādum
 in bæl-stede beorh þone hēan,
 micelne ond mārne, swā hē manna wæs
 wīgend weorð-fullost wīde geond eorðan,
 3100 þenden hē burh-welan brūcan mōste.
 Uton nū efstan oðre [*siðe*]
 sēon ond sēcean searo-[*gimma*] geþræc,
 wundur under wealle; ic ēow wīsige,
 þæt gē genōge nēon scēawiað
 3105 bēagas ond brād gold. Sīe sīo bær gearo,
 ædre geæfned, þonne wē ūt cymen,
 ond þonne geferian frēan ūserne,
 lēofne mannan, þær hē longe sceal
 on ðæs Waldendes wære gepolian."
 3110 Hēt ðā gebēodan byre Wīhstānes,
 hæle hilde-dīor, hæleða monegum,
 bold-āgendra, þæt hīe bæl-wudu
 feorran feredon, folc-āgende,
 gōdum tōgēnes: "Nū sceal glēd fretan,
 3115 —weaxan wonna lēg— wigena strengel,
 þone ðe oft gebād īsern-scūre,
 þonne stræla storm strengum gebāded
 scōc ofer scild-weall, sceft nytte hēold.
 fæ[ð]ler-gearwum fūs, flāne fullēode."
 3120 Hūru se snotra sunu Wīhstānes

3101b No gap in MS.: restoration by Grundtvig.

3102b No gap in MS.: addition by Bugge.

3119a MS. fæder gearwū: em. Thorkelin.

- ācīgde of corðre cyniges þegnas
 syfone [æɪ]s[om]ne, þā sēlestan,
 ēode eahta sum under inwit-hrōf
 hilde-rinc[a]; sum on handa bær
 3125 æled-lēoman, sē ðe on orde gēong.
 Næs ðā on hlytme, hwā þæt hord strude,
 syððan orwearde, ænigne dæl,
 secgas gesēgon on sele wunian,
 læne licgan; lýt ænig mearn
 3130 þæt hī ofostlic[e] út geferedon
 dýre mādmas; drācan ēc scufun,
 wýrm ofer weall-clif, lēton wēg niman,
 flōd fæðmian frætwa hyrde.
 P[ā] wæs wunden gold on wæn hladen,
 3135 æghwæs unrīm, æþeling boren,
 hār hilde-[rinc] tō Hrones-næsse.
 XLIII Him ðā gegiredan Gēata lēode
 ād on eorðan unwāclīcne,
 helm[um] behongen, hilde-bordum,
 3140 beorhtum byrnum, swā hē bēna wæs;
 ālegdon ðā tōmiddles mārne þēoden
 hāleð hīofende, hlāford lēofne.
 Ongunnon þā on beorge bæl-fýra mæst
 wīgend weccan; wud[u]-rēc āstāh
 3145 sweart ofer swi[o]ðole; swōgende lē[c],
 wōpe bewunden; wind-blond gelæg

3121b "cyniges" begins fol. 201, the last leaf of the poem. It is badly torn and the verso is hopelessly faded in many places. Even with the help of ultraviolet light, paleographers remain uncertain about many readings.

3122a MS. syfone .. s..ne (as read by Malone, *NC*, p. 103): restored by Grein.

3124a MS. hilde rinc: em. Ettmüller.

3130a MS. ofostlic from Thorkelin B: em. Ettmüller.

3134a MS. has abbreviation for "þæt": em. Thorkelin.

3135b MS. æþelinge: em. Kemble.

3136a "hilde" is followed by an erasure of three letters; restoration by Ettmüller.

3139a MS. helm: em. Grein.

3144b MS. wud..ec Thorkelin A wud rec: restored by Kemble.

3145a MS. swicðole: em. Karl Bouterwek, *ZDA* 11 (1859), 82 ff.

- oðpæt hē ðā bān-hūs gebrocen hæfde,
hāt on hreðre. Higum unrōte
mōd-ceare mændon, mon-dryhtnes cw[e]alm;
3150 swylce giōmor-gyd [Ge]at[isc] mēowle
[Biowulfe brægd,] bunden-heorde,
[so]ng sorg-cearig. [Sæde] geneahhe
pæt hīo hyre [here-geon]gas hearde ond[r]ēde
wæl-fylla wo[r]n, werudes egesan,
3155 hy[n]ðo ond hæft-nȳd. Heofon rēce swealg.
Geworhton ðā Wedra lēode
hlāw on hōe, sē wæs hēah ond brād,
wēg-līðendum wīde gesȳne,
ond betimbredon on tȳn dagum
3160 beadu-rōfes bēcn; bronda lāfe
wealle beworhton, swā hyt weorðlicost
fore-snotre men findan mihton.
Hī on beorg dydon bēg ond siglu,
eall swylce hyrsta, swylce on horde ær
3165 nīð-hēdige men genumen hæfdon;

3149b Thorkelin A cw aln, B ...lm: restored by Kemble.

3150b MS. .eat...: restoration by Pope.

3151 A rip has destroyed the first half-line; the conjecture—and it is only that—is by Malone, *NC*, p. 105. For the second half-line A. H. Smith's ultraviolet examination gives us the "b" and Thorkelin B the "de."

3152 MS. ..ng sorg (by Smith's ultraviolet photograph): restored by Bugge. For MS. ..lðe Thorkelin A and B read "sealde." The "i" and "d" are now doubtful; Pope and Davis thought they could see them as "i" and "d." Emendation by Bugge, now seconded by Pope (2nd ed.). Malone accepted the Thorkelin readings as accurate (*NC*, p. 105) and would translate, "It would happen often that she would dread cruel invasions."

3153 MS. ...g.ngas in Malone's conflation of the different expert examinations: conjectural restoration by W. S. Mackie, *MLR* 36 (1941), 98. MS. ond.ede: restored by Bugge.

3154a MS. wonn: em. Bugge.

3155 MS. hyðo 7 h.f.nyd by Smith's ultraviolet photograph and confirmed by Pope in 1964: restored and emended by Bugge. Nothing now visible after "rēce"; Thorkelin A and B sealg. Malone and Zupitza could piece together a vision of the "w" first suggested by Ettmüller.

3157a "hlāw" from Pope and Davis, "hōe" from Smith's Plate VI.

3159a MS. beti. / bredon with the "m" as deduced by Malone, *NC*, p. 107.

- forlēton eorla gestrēon eorðan healdan,
gold on grēote, þær hit nū gēn lifað
eldum swā unnyt, swā hy[*t ær*]or wæs.
Ðā ymbe hlāw riodan hilde-dēore,
3170 æþelinga bearn, ealra twelf[*e*],
woldon [*care*] cwīðan, kyning mænan,
word-gyd wrecan ond ymb we[*r*] sprecan:
eahtodan eorlscipe ond his ellen-weorc
duguðum dēmdon. Swā hit ged[*ēfe*] bið
3175 þæt mon his wine-dryhten wordum herge,
ferhðum frēoge, þonne hē forð scile
of *lic*-haman [*læded*] weorðan.
Swā begnornodon Gēata lēode
hlāfordes [*hr*]yre, heorð-genēatas;
3180 cwædon þæt hē wære wyruld-cyning[*a*],
mannum mildust ond *mon-ðwærust*,
lēodum līðost ond lof-geornost.

3168b MS. *hy. .or*, from Malone, *NC*, pp. 107–8: restoration by Kemble.

3170b MS. *twelfa*: em. Ettmüller.

3171a The MS. has room here for about four letters, hence Klaeber's restoration.

3172b MS. *w.* with *e* from Thorkelin B: restored by Grein.

3174b MS. *gd...* from Malone, *NC*, p. 108: expanded and restored by Kemble.

3177b The MS. and ultraviolet photographs produce nothing for this word. Conjectural restoration by Holthausen. Alternatives proposed by Kemble and Malone are "*læne*" (transitory) and "*lifes*" (of life).

3179a MS. *...yre*: restored by Thorpe.

3180b MS. *wyruldcyning*: em. Kemble.

3181 MS. *.annū*, Thorkelin B supplying the "*m.*" MS. is torn from "*ond*" to "*ust*"; Thorkelin A and B read "*mondrærust*" in evident error, corrected by Grundtvig.