

FILOLOGIA GERMANICA – GERMANIC PHILOLOGY 15 (2023)

Call for Submissions

Titolo: Metro e ritmo nei testi germanici medievali

Title: Meter and Rhythm in Medieval Germanic Texts

Editorial Committee

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Foreword

Volume 15 will focus on the themes of meter and rhythm in medieval Germanic texts.

As Augustine already pointed out in *De musica* (3.2.4), although meter and rhythm can be considered to be constituents of medieval verse (*ergo omnis versus est rhythmus et metrum*), they do not always coincide (*non omnis rhythmus etiam metrum*). This very concept, reassessed in Beda's definitions of meter as *ratio cum modulatione* and rhythm as *modulatio sine ratione*, finds a possible correlation in the Norse literary figures of the *skáld* and of the *þulr*, which are assumed to be differently associated with meter and rhythm, the former for being the holder of the art of versification, the latter for being a performer of mostly catalogue-like texts endowed with a rhythmicity suitable for easy memorization. A stimulating debate has recently arisen on the value and function of the alliterative meter and rhythm, taking up and updating the principles of Sieversian Germanic metrics on the basis of linguistic, literary and codicological theories (Kristján Árnason 1991, Russom 1998 and 2017, Fulk 1992 and 2004, Bredehoft 2005, Bögl 2006, Neidorf et al. [Eds.] 2016, Weiskott 2016, Cornelius 2017, Hench - Estes 2018), rekindling the attention on the relationship between lyrics and music (Everist - Kelly [eds.] 2018) and extending our gaze to rhyming poetry.

We invite you to submit contributions that fit into this perspective, in order to propose new evidence and / or stimulate a theoretical, linguistic and critical reflection on the nature and function of meter and rhythm in medieval Germanic texts. The volume will focus on different textual genres within poetry and prose production.

- Kristján Árnason. 1991. *The rhythms of dróttkvætt and other Old Icelandic metres*. Reykjavík, Institute of Linguistics, University of Iceland.
- Bögl, H. (2006). *Abriss der Mittelhochdeutschen Metrik: Mit Einem übungsteil*. Hildesheim: Georg Olms Verlag.
- Bredehoft, Thomas A. 2005. *Early English Metre*, Toronto-Buffalo-London, University of Toronto Press.
- Cornelius, Ian. 2017. *Reconstructing Alliterative Verse: The Pursuit of a Medieval Meter*. Cambridge, Cambridge UP.
- Fulk, R.D. 1992. *A History of Old English Meter*. Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania Press.
- Fulk, R.D. 2004. "Old English Poetry and the Alliterative Revival: On Geoffrey Russom's 'Evolution of Middle English Alliterative Meter'". In A. Curzan and K. Emmons (eds.), *Studies in the History of the English Language II: Unfolding Conversations*. Berlin, Mouton de Gruyter, 305–12.
- Everist, Mark – Kelly, Thomas Forrest (eds.). 2018. *The Cambridge History of Medieval Music*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
- Hench, Christopher – Estes, Alex. 2018. "A Metrical Analysis of Medieval German Poetry Using Supervised Learning". *Frontiers in Digital Humanities* 5:19. doi: 10.3389/fdigh.2018.00019
- Neidorf, Leonard et al. (eds.). 2016. *Old English Philology: Studies in Honour of R.D. Fulk*. Cambridge, D.S. Brewer
- Russom, Geoffrey. 1998. *Beowulf and Old Germanic Metre*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
- Russom, Geoffrey. 2017. *The Evolution of Verse Structure in Old and Middle English Poetry from the Earliest Alliterative Poems to Iambic Pentameter*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
- Weiskott, Eric. 2016. *English Alliterative Verse: Poetic Tradition and Literary History*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.

Major topics

The essays should focus on topics related to the use of meter and rhythm in medieval texts pertaining to one or more Germanic languages, in a time-span ranging from their first attestations to the fifteenth century. Analyses can concern different transmission formats (e.g. epigraphic or manuscript), and be carried out also in a diachronic or comparative perspective, through multidisciplinary approaches, including linguistics, computational linguistics, ecdotics, digital humanities, philology, and literary criticism. Here follows a useful - but by no means exhaustive - list of suggested topics on which contributions are welcome:

- Alliterative poetry
- Alliteration and rhyme
- Rhyming poetry
- Rhythmical prose
- Prosimetrum*
- Rhythm and performing
- Metro and musicality
- Textual and / or documentary evidence for the integration of music and poetry
- Medieval treatises on metrics
- Alliteration, rhyme and textual criticism
- Alliteration, rhyme and the linguistic facies of texts
- Metrics and textual philology

Scholars willing to contribute to this volume (which has a planned publication date of Autumn 2023) should send the following information and material to Letizia Vezzosi (letizia.vezzosi@unifi.it), by **April 15th 2022**:

- name(s) of the author(s) and title of the essay;
- a short abstract in Italian, English or German that should not exceed 2,500 characters (spaces included), except bibliography.

Proposals will be evaluated by the scientific committee. Authors will be notified of acceptance of their proposals by **May 15th 2022**.

We welcome contributions in one of the following languages: English, Italian, German. The full essays should not exceed 50,000 characters (spaces included) and be accompanied by an initial abstract in English (regardless of the language chosen for the essay) of no more than 1,200 characters, and a final bibliography. The style sheet will be sent to the authors upon acceptance of their proposals.

The deadline for the submission of the accepted papers is **December 31st 2022**. All papers will be double-blind peer reviewed by at least two experts in the field of (digital) Germanic philology external to the scientific committee.

Deadlines outline

- by **April 15th 2022** – submission of the proposals (title and abstract) to Letizia Vezzosi (letizia.vezzosi@unifi.it).
- by **May 15th 2022** – notification of acceptance
- by **December 31st 2022** – submission of the accepted papers to Letizia Vezzosi (letizia.vezzosi@unifi.it).