

The Exeter Book

- "The Seafarer"
- "The Wanderer"
- "The Wife's Lament"

The Exeter Book

- Unknown author
- Largest collection of Old English poetry
- *Beowulf* was found in The Exeter Book
- Exeter, in the southwest of England, was an important city during the Middle Ages
- Alfred the Great defended Exeter against invading Danes on two occasions
- Only 1 collection of 4 survived to modern day
- Its history is a mystery
- The Book has a large burn in the manuscript, several stains from a drinking mug, and marks that cause the book to look as if it had been used as a cutting board.
- Without this book, many stories from the oral tradition would have been lost.
- Around 975 the surviving collection (including *Beowulf* and the three poems) was copied and given to Exeter Cathedral
- The Exeter Book still remains in Exeter Cathedral
- The Book was probably compiled by monks during the reign of Alfred the Great.
- Orally created between 700-900 AD and recounts history some 200-400 years earlier
- The collections recount stories once told by scop
- All three poems deal with a character's exile

"The Seafarer"

- Focuses on aspects of the poem characteristic of Anglo-Saxon lyrics (such as kennings, caesuras, regular rhythms, assonance, and alliteration)
- A story of the seafarer's exile
- The seafarer's only home is heaven
- "The Wanderer"
- The wanderer is lamenting the death of his lord
- He feels as if he has no friends, purpose, or hope
- He is left alone to search for a new lord
- Elegaic poetry!!

"The Wife's Lament"

- She has been sent into exile by her husband
- She misses her husband but is angry with her fate

