

Contents

1 INTRODUCTION	7
2 GERMANIC PEOPLES AT THE TURN OF PREHISTORY AND HISTORY	8
2.1 The oldest information on Germanic peoples from ancient writers	8
2.1.1 The origin of the ethnonym Germani	10
2.1.2 The testimony of toponyms, especially hydronyms	11
2.1.3 Archaic Germanic loanwords in non-Germanic languages	11
2.2 The oldest epigraphical relic	12
2.3 The testimony of archaeology	13
3 OVERVIEW OF OLD GERMANIC LANGUAGES AND THEIR FOLLOWERS	14
3.1 East Germanic Languages (“Vistula–Oder Languages”)	14
3.1.1 Vandalic	14
3.1.2 Burgundian	16
3.1.3 Rugian	19
3.1.4 Herulian	20
3.1.5 Gepidean	21
3.1.6 Gothic	22
3.2 Northwest Germanic	31
3.2.1 Old Runic = Northwest Germanic = “Urnordisch”	31
3.2.1.1 North Germanic	34
3.2.1.1.1 Common Scandinavian	38
3.2.1.1.2 Old Norse	44
3.2.1.1.3 Icelandic	45
3.2.1.1.4 Faroese	48
3.2.1.1.5 Norwegian	49
3.2.1.1.6 Danish	52
3.2.1.1.7 Swedish	55
3.2.1.1.8 Old Gutnish	59
3.2.1.2 West Germanic	61
3.2.1.2.1 Ingvaeanic	61
3.2.1.2.1.1 English	61
3.2.1.2.1.2 Frisian	73
3.2.1.2.1.3 Saxon / Low German	77
3.2.1.2.2 Istvaeonic	82
3.2.1.2.2.1 Frankish	82
3.2.1.2.2.2 Dutch	85
3.2.1.2.3 Erminonic	88
3.2.1.2.3.1 High German	93
4 CONCLUSION	100
RESUMÉ	101
REFERENCES	103
LIST OF SCHEMES, TABLES AND PICTURES	121
APPENDICES	123