





An epic made by an **anonymous** Christian writer in the first **half of the 8th** century (or the 10th century)

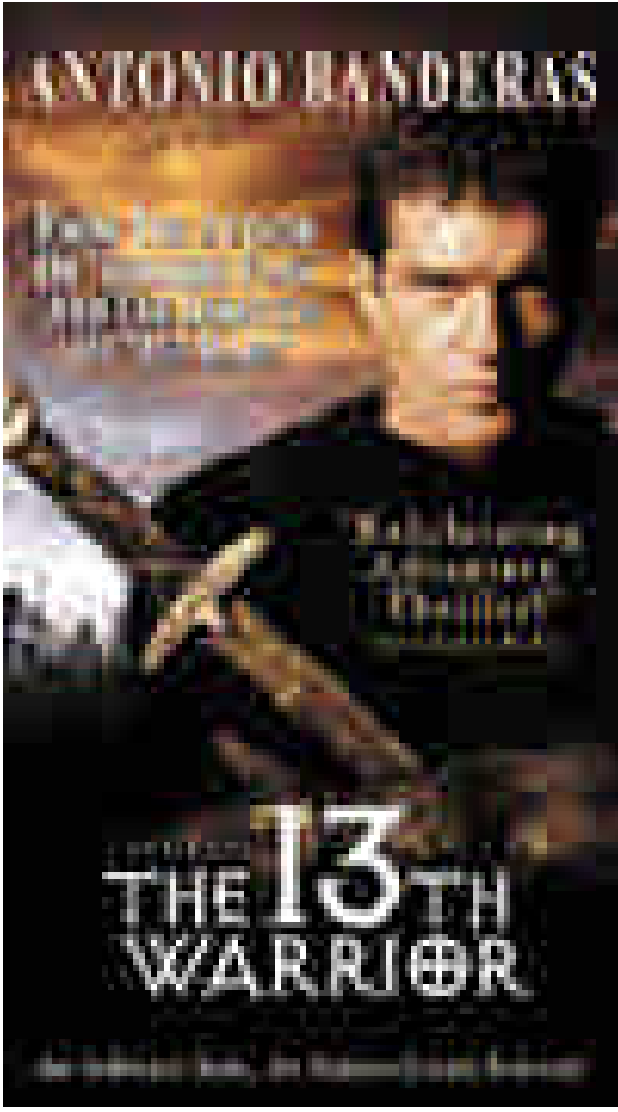
The **lone survivor** of a genre of Old English long epics

The poem is **English** in language and origin but also deals with the **Germanic forebears**

Film Versions

1999 Beowulf (Graham Baker)





ANTONIO BANDERAS

"One of the most
powerful performances
of the year"

"A brilliant
American
classic"

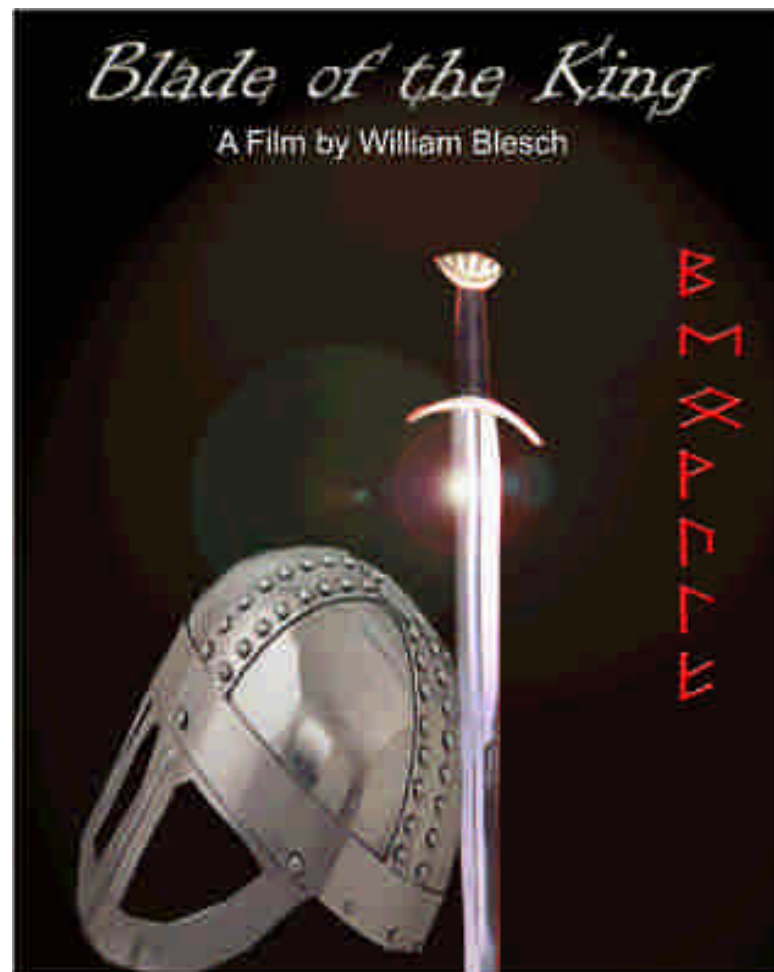
THE 13TH
WARRIOR

ANTONIO BANDERAS, JOHN CUSACK, AND MICHAEL GALENDO



Blade of the King

A Film by William Blesch



MAGELLAN



Beowulf

Nephew of King Hygelac

Slayer of

Grendel

Grendel's mother

The Fire Dragon

Nine sea monsters

Scyld Scefing

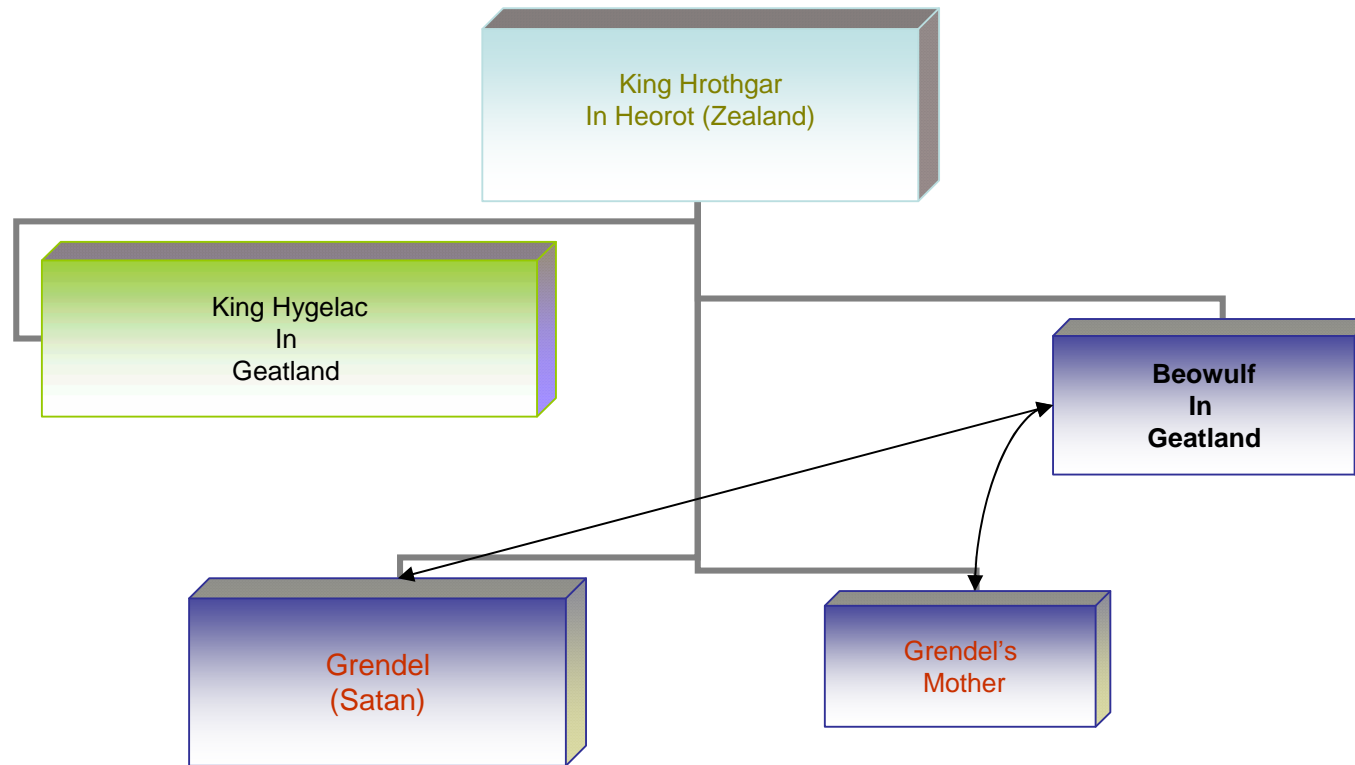


A mythical figure

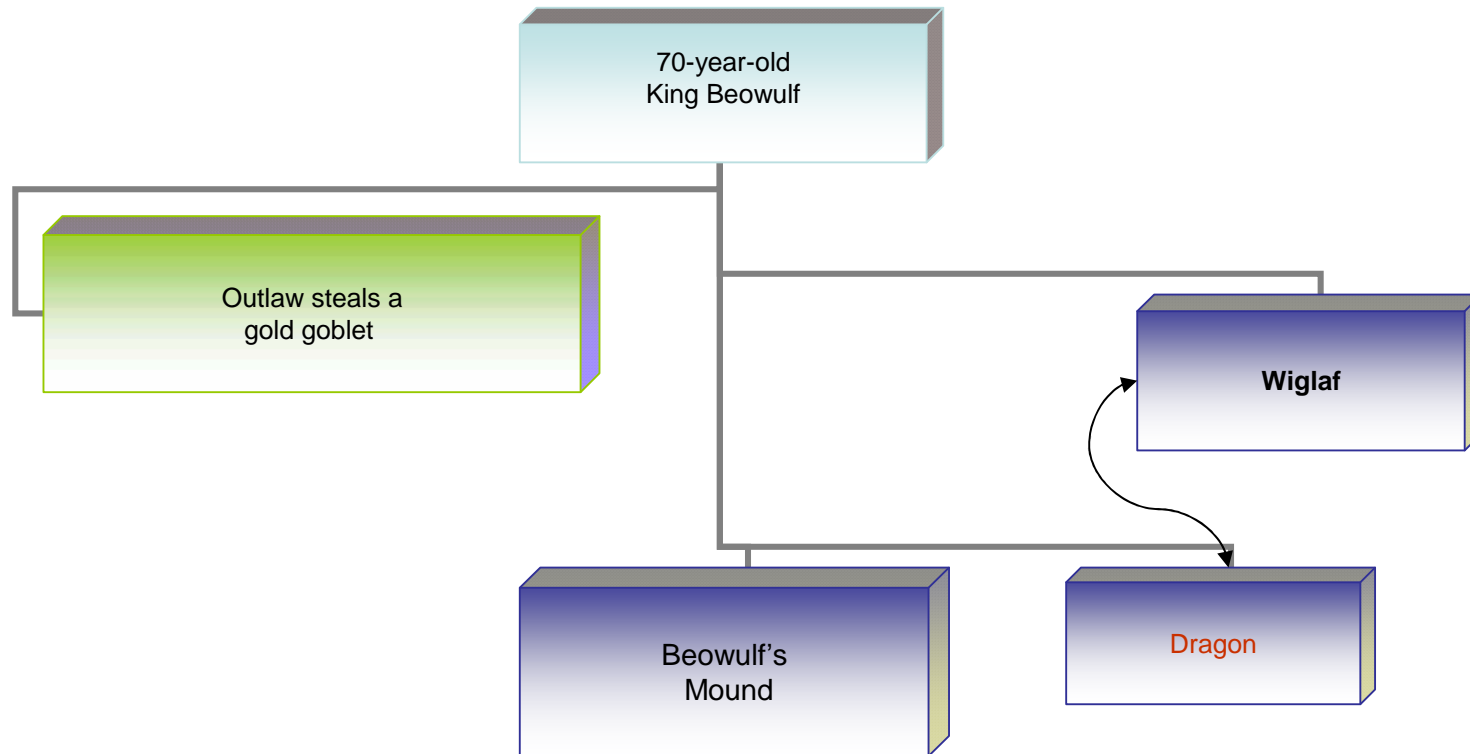
The founder of the tribe of the Scyldings long before Beowulf's story begins

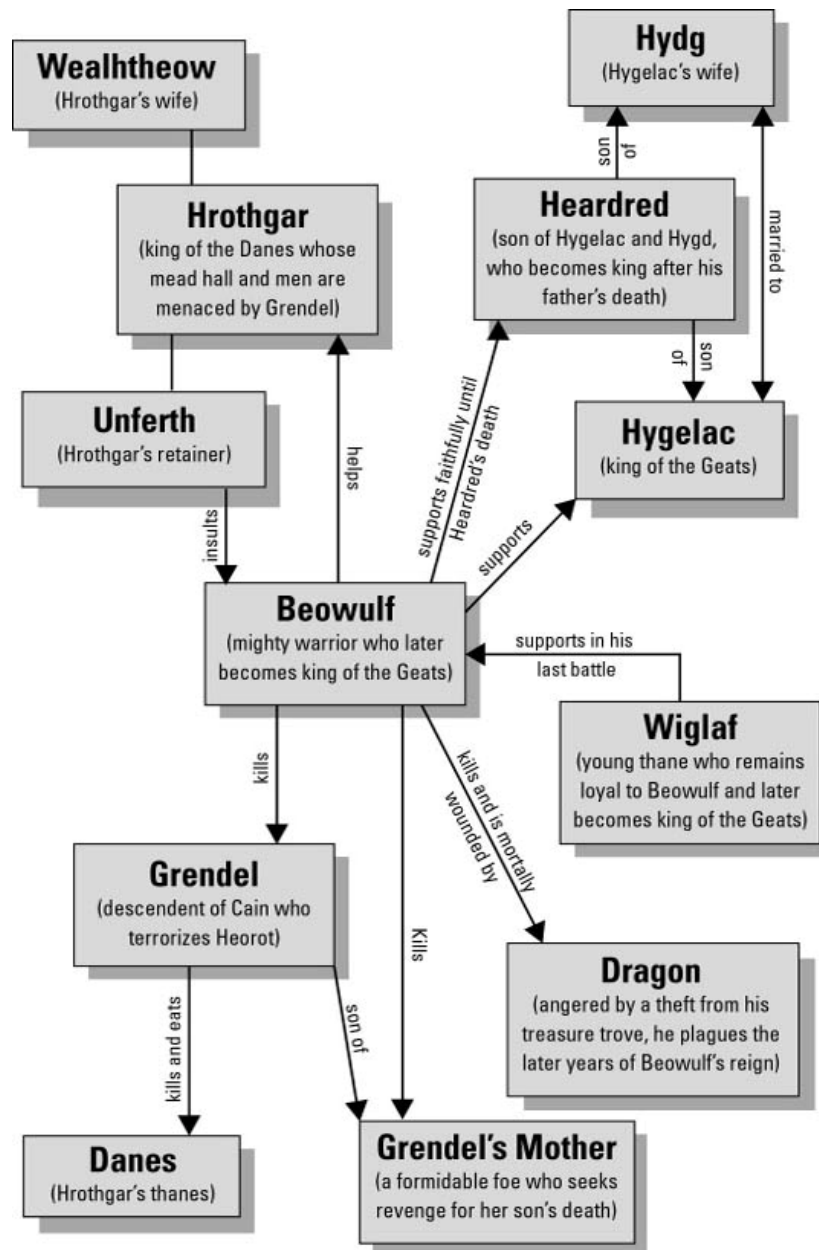
His **ship funeral** early in the poem is a significant ritual to echo Beowulf's funeral at the end.

Plot Chart: The Rise of the Hero (1)



Plot Chart: The Fall of the Hero (2)





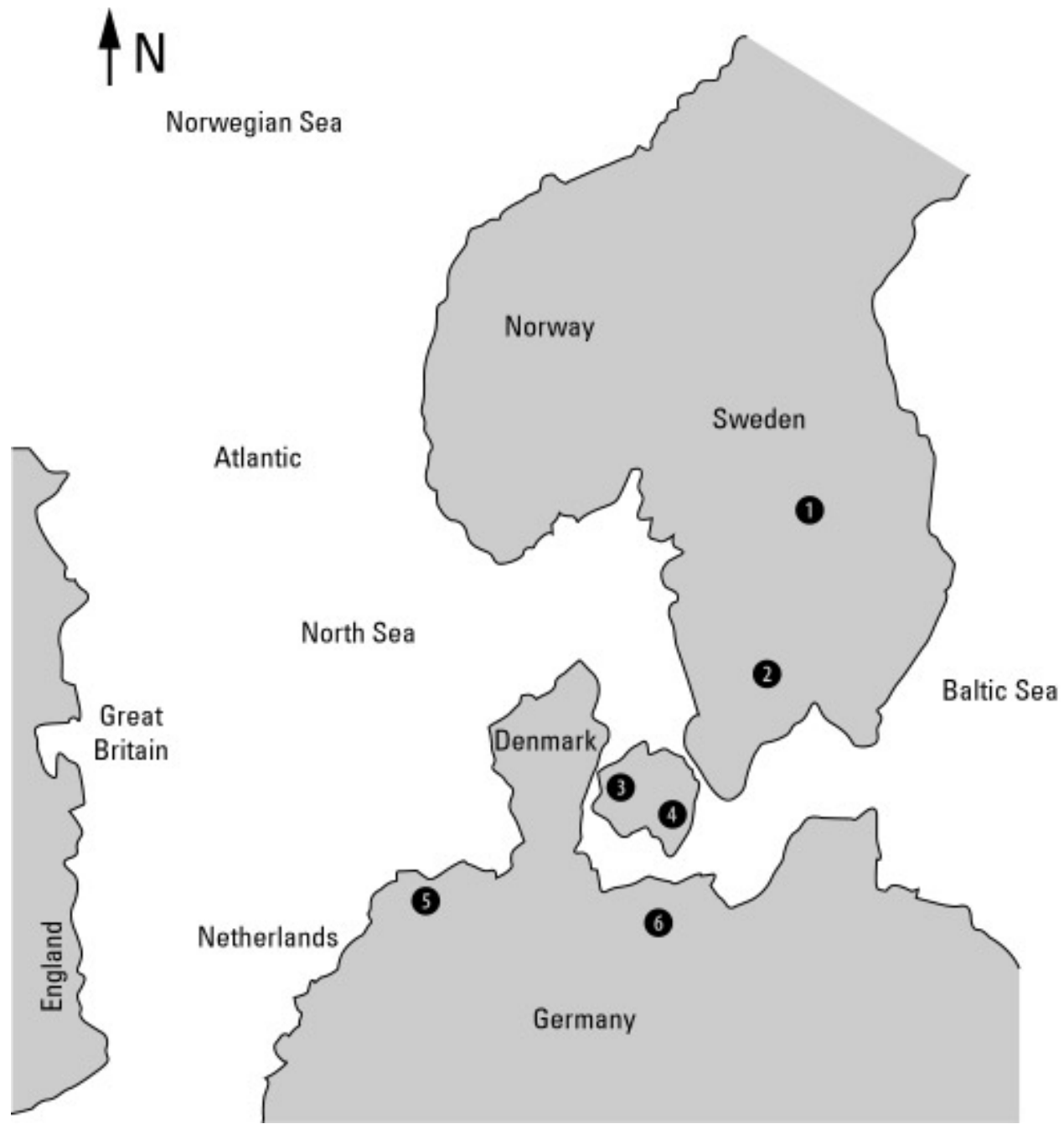
Outline

- Prologue: The Rise of the Danish Nation
- Heorot is attacked.
- The hero comes to Heorot.
- Feast at Heorot
- The fight with Grendel
- Celebration at Heorot
- Another attack
- Kbeowulf fights Grendel's mother
- Another celebration at Heorot
- Beowulf Returns Home
- The Dragon wakes
- Beowulf attacks the Dragon
- Beowulf's funeral

Map



Zealand: An Island in Baltic Sea
(between Demark and Sweden) and
Geatland
Geats and **Danes**



The Swords



Unferth lends his sword,
Hrunting, to Beowulf to kill
Grendel's mother

Naegling - Beowulf's sword
ineffectively used against the
dragon

Useful Websites

- Norton: www.wwnorton.com/nto
- Resources for the study of Beowulf
<http://www.library.unr.edu/subjects/guides/beowulf.html#poetry>
- Illustrated Beowulf
<http://www.library.unr.edu/subjects/guides/beowulf/Default.htm>
- Beowulf Graphic Novel Web Page
<http://www.thecomix.com/beowulf.html>
- Official website for the 2005 film Beowulf and Grendel
<http://www.beowulfandgrendel.com/>
- CliffNotes: <http://www.cliffsnotes.com/WileyCDA/LitNote/id-33.html>
- Star Wars Origin: The Lord of the Rings, Beowulf, and King Arthur
<http://www.jitterbug.com/origins/lotr.html>



Norton Literature on Line

Beowulf

- Oldest of the great long poems in Old English (8th Century?)
- In English, but deals not with native Englishmen.

- 3 parts:
- a. Grendel b. Grendel's mother c. dragon
- a. Beowulf 20-25, in Zealand (Rise of the Hero)
- b. Beowulf 75, in Geatland (Fall of the Hero)

Historical Characters in *Beowulf*

- Hygelac: 521 AD
- Beowulf, Wiglaf, 8th Century

Note the Literary Terms

- Synonym
- Litote
- Kenning
- Irony
- Understatement
- Caesura

Note the Christian Elements

- Could you deal with this issue by yourself?



Cain and Abel, Norton Literature on Line

Note the Pagan Elements

- Could you... by yourself?



Helmet, Norton
Literature on Line