

**PARTS OF THE BODY
IN OLDER GERMANIC
AND SCANDINAVIAN**

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Parts of the Body in Older Germanic and Scandinavian by Torild W. Arnoldson

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PREFACE

The following investigation, begun in 1906, is concerned with Gothic, Old and Modern Norse, Old English, Old Frisian, Old Saxon, Old Low German, Old High German, and Middle High German. It is not meant to furnish an etymological dictionary of words denoting parts of the body in these dialects, for it traces, not the origin of words, but the origin of certain ideas. Given a particular part of the body, the question is to find the primary meanings from which this idea developed through the various words used to express it. For example the idea 'hand' is found to go back to first meanings like 'grasp, clutch; hook, bend; projection; lump, bunch,' etc.

The words are arranged according to the respective parts of the body in the order given under the caption "Contents," first those of the head, then the upper and lower limbs, the trunk, the inner organs, pudenda, miscellaneous, including skin, blood, flesh, bone, hair. Under each part the words are grouped according to primary (generally descriptive) meanings, each paragraph forming an etymological unit.

The works from which material has been collected are mentioned in the bibliography.

The author is indebted to his esteemed friend and teacher, Professor Francis A. Wood, of the University of Chicago, for inspiration and generous criticism. A "(W.)" after an explanation indicates an explanation furnished by him from unpublished notes.

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