Notes of the lesson 05/02/14

The Anglo-Saxons Chronicle is the first form of history because it records the main events that happened in the land of the Anglosaxons.

The Anglo-Saxons brought with them Nordic religion, a strong organization and a code of values based on a high sense of honour and fidelity to their chief. They also brought with them farming and fishing matters that allowed them to survive in the difficult weather of Northern country.

Their social structure had the family has its centre, which branched out to the clan and the tribe. Their society was ruled by a chief or a king who was generally the military leader.

MILITARY LEADER Earls: who were (nobile) by birth

 Thegns: who were the personal companion of the king

 EARLS

 THEGNS

All the other people were “free-men”. They were obliged to help maintain roads, bridges and forts and to provide military service when necessary.

People lived in country villages were the farmland, woods, pastures and meaows were owned communally.

First of all the Anglo-Saxons imposed their language later known as OLD ENGLISH which became through several modifications the English spoken today. The Celtic languages of the native Britons survive only in Wales, Ireland and north-west of Scotland.

Christianity which began to spread throughout pagan Anglo-Saxon Britain. ???? From the end on the 6th century proved a driving force in uniting the kingdom and it opened the country to the influence of Europe. When the Danish king Cnut (1016-35) became Christian he took pains to reconcile the Anglo-Saxons and the Danish. The Church was also very influence on aspects of culture because it introduce the raiting of documents.

The Anglo-Saxons culture was ended out orally from generation to generation. Oral culture is based on people’s ability to remember.

Beowulf is one of the most important example of Anglo-Saxon culture. Beowulf is an epic poem. It is a poem celebrating the grate gestures and the deeds of Anglo-Saxon civilization. We don’t know the origins of Beowulf. We don’t know who compose Beowulf. We don’t know when the poem was written exactly.