READING MATTERS

Historical Linguistics: Some Introductions

There are lots of textbooks: Compare and take your choice. There are many more, but those listed are specially recommended. More specialised books and articles will be mentioned as we go along.

spr 51/j68

lbs 230/d/t71


spr 51/c15

spr 51/h61a

spr 50:n/c76

spr 51/b96

spr 5:n/a69(2)

spr 51/j23

spr 50:k/l24

spr 50:k/k24

spr 5:f/l24
Histories of English (introductions and handbooks)

Though they may differ in terminology, style, orientation, emphasis, width and depth of coverage, and quality of analysis and explanation, the works under this rubric are bound to be very similar in content. I recommend that you look at more than one and compare — especially those listed here: there are many which I intentionally do not list and which you may only look at at your own risk. If you are asking me which single one to add to your own library (and a good history of English is as essential for English students to own as are a solid grammar and various dictionaries), Lass 1987 and/or van Gelderen 2006, would be safe recommendations.

eng 78/118a
[warmly recommended as a linguist’s history]

[though simpler than Lass’s, also recommended as a linguist’s history — notwithstanding Fig. 1.1 on page 2 coming with the wrong legend, or the legend with the wrong map. Also see the accompanying website: http://www.historyofenglish.net/]

[derivative of *The Cambridge History of the English Language*, below]


[plus a workbook]

(9th edn., 1972.)
[a classic, and concise]

eng 50/n/p26

eng 51/p95(4)
[plus a workbook]

eng 51/b59

[emphasis on sociolinguistics]

eng 51/b19
eng 51/ s97a  
[everything backwards — chronologically, that is]

eng 51/b19

eng 51/ b16b

***

[essential for reference: few people are known to have read all volumes in one go.]

[single volume, to distinguish itself from the six of the Cambridge history of the same language; also less "linguistic"]

eng 78/ t60, eng 51/ b79  
[also a good reference work, though from a single perspective]

***

[and the BBC programme of the same name; lighter entertainment: well-done as regards external history, next to nothing on internal history; somewhat Anglocentric even for a history of that particular language]

[came with an exhibition at The British Library: for the general public]

### History of English Phonology, Morphology, Syntax

eng 78/ i18

eng 87/ e59

eng 116/ j66a


Early Germanic times (and before):


germanic writing systems


Elliott, R. W. V. (1959 etc.). *Runes*. Manchester: MUP.