

Anglo- Saxon England 16



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Anglo-Saxon England 16

EXECUTIVE EDITORS

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This volume offers fundamental evidence and discussion illuminating a wide range of important subjects: possible influence of Cicero on Bede's attitude to rhetoric; probability that Theodore and Hadrian brought a glossary from Italy to England; the traditional concept of the narrator in Old English poetry; the nationality of the author of the Old English poem *Genesis B*; the conceptions of history controlling the Old English Orosius; the establishment of Square minuscule as the standard English script of the tenth century; criteria for distinguishing between Anglo-Saxon script written in England and script written by Anglo-Saxons on the continent; grounds for claiming that certain surviving pre-Conquest manuscripts were once at Glastonbury; the extent of the circulation of Prudentius's *Psychomachia* in Anglo-Saxon England; the regional distribution of names of different origins among the moneyers of the Anglo-Danish era. Early and late periods and north and south thus find a place in this searching treatment of intellectual, cultural and settlement issues. A systematic bibliography of the previous year's publications rounds all off.

Some passages in Bede's exegetical writings which reveal an approving attitude to rhetoric (not hitherto explored in this way) are taken to echo points made in Cicero's *De inventione*. Demonstration that an English family of materials common to ch. xlvii of the 'Leiden Glossary' and the Epinal-Erfurt and two other Erfurt glossaries has its closest counterpart in glossaries of southern Italian provenance leads to the convincing inference that a glossary similar to these Italian examples came to England as part of Theodore's and Hadrian's baggage. The presence of 'I heard' formulas in Old English poetry is interpreted as evidence that a concept of the narrator formed under primarily oral conditions persisted throughout the history of this poetry whether composition was actually oral or in writing. An exhaustive analysis of the metre of *Genesis B* reveals its author as an Anglo-Saxon applying his native practices with some concessions to his Old Saxon original. The Anglo-Saxons' attraction to Orosius's world history and the vernacular translator's thorough-going reworking of his source are attributed

(continued on back flap)

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Edited by
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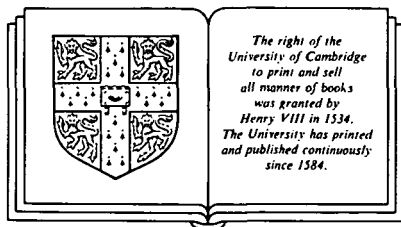
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Abbreviations listed before the bibliography (pp. 309–11) are used throughout the volume without other explanation