

# Anglo- Saxon England 21

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

## Anglo-Saxon England 21

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This volume demonstrates once again the vitality which currently characterizes the field of Anglo-Saxon studies. This vitality is reflected here both in the continuing acquisition of new knowledge and in the fresh perspectives gained from the combination of disparate but complementary skills and disciplines.

Evidence presented here for the first time reveals unsuspected aspects of the influence of Aldhelm's Latin poetry in early medieval Spain. The many non-runic inscriptions which have been discovered since 1980 are catalogued and analysed. Comprehensive analysis of a little-understood Latin source of the Old English medical treatise known as Bald's *Leechbook* throws new light not only on the English text itself but also, surprisingly, on the transmissional history of the Latin source.

The related disciplines of art history, architecture and archaeology receive their due share of attention. The decoration of an important manuscript from the early tenth century, the Tanner Bede, is set in the context of tenth-century developments in manuscript illumination. Analysis of the *Regularis concordia* from an architectural point of view permits fresh understanding of the layout of monastic churches in the later Anglo-Saxon period, and a recently discovered wall-painting in Winchester is argued to contain an illustration of a famous lost reliquary originally commissioned by King Edgar for the shrine of St Swithun in Winchester.

The two principal prose authors of the later Anglo-Saxon period attract detailed analysis: Ælfric's debt to the lectionary of Smaragdus is investigated for the first time in a way which will compel reconsideration of his scholarly working methods while, on the contrary, close study of Wulfstan's handling of earlier prose sources (such as Ælfric himself) shows that Wulfstan was indebted to an oral technique of composition still used by the preachers of today.

The volume concludes with the invaluable annual bibliography, providing a comprehensive listing of 1991 publications in all branches of Anglo-Saxon studies.

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*Her mon mæg giet gesion hiora swæð*

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## 21

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 **CAMBRIDGE**  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Published by the Press Syndicate of the University of Cambridge  
The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RP  
40 West 20th Street, New York NY 10011-4211, USA  
10 Stamford Road, Oakleigh, Victoria 3166, Australia

© Cambridge University Press 1992

First published 1992

Typeset by  
Servis Filmsetting Ltd  
Manchester

Printed in Great Britain by  
Dotesios Ltd Trowbridge

ISBN 0 521 41904 2  
ISSN 0263-6751

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SUBSCRIPTIONS: Anglo-Saxon England (ISSN 0263-6751) is an annual journal. The subscription price (including postage) of volume 21 is £56 for institutions (US\$96 in USA and Canada), £41 (US\$60 in USA and Canada) for individuals ordering direct from the Press and certifying that the annual is for their personal use. Copies may be sent airmail where applicable for £7.50 extra (orders to Cambridge only – dollar subscription price *includes* air delivery to North America). Orders, which must be accompanied by payment, may be sent to a bookseller, subscription agent, or direct to the publishers: Cambridge University Press, The Edinburgh Building, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 2RU. Orders from the USA or Canada should be sent to Cambridge University Press, 40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211, USA.

Back volumes: £52.00 (US\$96.00 US and Canada) each available from Cambridge or the American Branch of Cambridge University Press.

*A catalogue record of this book is available from the British Library.*

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*Abbreviations listed before the bibliography (pages 266–7) are used throughout the volume without other explanation*