

Anglo- Saxon England 19



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Anglo-Saxon England 19

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The principal emphasis of this volume is a subject of prevailing interest in Anglo-Saxon scholarship: the relationship between England and its neighbours in the pre-Conquest period. It brings together new information and new perspectives on our understanding of England's place in the early medieval world, with essays concentrating on finance and trade, travel, learning and education.

A detailed analysis of the Old English vocabulary for money and wealth shows that different usage over two centuries reflects a developing awareness, particularly on the part of Ælfric, of the relationship between wealth and power. Medical recipes in Bald's *Leechbook*, which stipulate the use of exotic spices from Arabia, have stimulated a fascinating essay on how these ingredients may have made their way from Arabia and the Mediterranean to England. Trade of a different sort is discussed in an essay on the production of lavish illuminated manuscripts from early eleventh-century England which, it is argued, were produced under the patronage of King Cnut and his queen.

A detailed study of the itinerary of Archbishop Sigeric's journey to Rome gives an insight into the life of a tenth-century traveller. The very considerable evidence for links between England and Aquitaine, especially in the late period, is also brought together for the first time here.

Other essays in this wide-ranging volume examine the Old English *Rune Poem* in the context of its two later Scandinavian analogues; the use in England of Jerome's *Hebraicum* translation of the psalter; and the study in English schools of the difficult verse of Abbo of Saint-Germain-des-Prés.

The volume concludes with the invaluable annual bibliography, providing a comprehensive listing of 1989 publications in all branches of Anglo-Saxon studies.

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Her mon mæg giet gesion hiora swæð

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Edited by
MICHAEL LAPIDGE

University of Cambridge

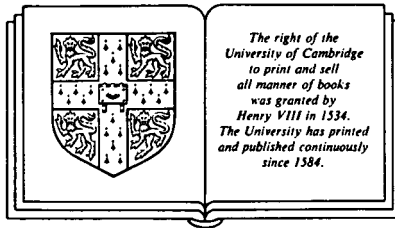
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Versions of the six items immediately following the record of the fourth conference of the International Society of Anglo-Saxonists were read at that conference

Abbreviations listed before the bibliography (pages 247–9) are used throughout the volume without other explanation