

# Anglo- Saxon England 5

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# Anglo-Saxon England 5

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Several aspects of Anglo-Saxon England and several of its external relationships, incoming and outgoing, are investigated afresh in this volume.

Manuscripts are the form of evidence most studied: the likely seventh- and eighth-century English ownership of a fifth-century copy of a Hieronymian commentary is meticulously reconstructed; an edition and full discussion of the eighth-century Anglian collection of royal genealogies and regnal lists (and their various accretions) advance our understanding of this difficult material further than ever before; it is shown that most of the drawings in the Junius codex of Old English poetry (as well as some of its text) probably derived from an illustrated copy of an Old Saxon poem on Genesis which came to this country in the middle of the ninth century; an analysis of the Parker manuscript of the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* throws revealing light on historiography at Winchester in Alfred's time and during the following century; the most influential of all present-day aids to research in Anglo-Saxon manuscripts, N. R. Ker's *Catalogue of Manuscripts Containing Anglo-Saxon*, is brought up to date by a supplement. Vernacular literature is well represented also: two leading features of narrative technique are examined, one in *Beowulf*, the greatest surviving poem of the age, and the other in the works of Ælfric, perhaps its greatest writer of prose; the background of a distinctive motif in *The Battle of Maldon* is discerned, and so too is the pervasive influence of Caesarius of Arles on both prose and poetry; a clear and balanced account of the main work on prose during the last ten years should prove useful to those in related studies as well as to those directly concerned. A wide-ranging survey of some of the main problems in the present-day study of Anglo-Saxon coinage

*(Continued on back flap)*

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*Her mon mæg giet gesion hiora swæð*

# ANGLO-SAXON ENGLAND

5

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*Abbreviations listed before the bibliography (pp. 245-7) are used throughout the volume without other explanation*