(continued from front flap)

analysis of the behaviour of verbal prefixes draws attention to a poorly understood aspect of Old English word formation. Investigation of the meanings of certain Old English colour words reveals how much remains still to be understood concerning the Old English lexicon, and how new methods of analysis may help towards that understanding. Close reading of a difficult episode in *Beowalf*, in the light of known Scandinavian parallels, shows how the best-known of all Old English poems can respond to careful critical enquiry.

Finally, two essays show us how much may yet be learned from fields of study hitherto insufficiently explored. Analysis of the wider European context in which the Anglo-Saxon missions to Scandinavia took place reveals the extremely important role which the late Anglo-Saxon church played in the shaping of modern Europe, and study of the later reflexes of a brief mass in honour of St Willibrord, an early Anglo-Saxon missionary to the Continent, shows clearly how much an understanding of the liturgy — perhaps the single most unexplored field in Anglo-Saxon studies as a whole — can contribute to our knowledge of relations between England and the Continent in the Anglo-Saxon period.

The volume concludes with the invaluable annual bibliography, providing a comprehensive listing of 1994 publications in all branches of Anglo-Saxon studies.

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[H. R. Loyn,] Journal of Ecclesiastical History

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