

(continued from front flap)

fully than before and their use to be brought into clearer focus. Established opinions are challenged when, from a study of forty-eight manuscripts and an exhaustive examination of the Orpheus metre in particular, it is argued that King Alfred and his helpers did not use a Latin commentary on Boethius's text at all when composing their vernacular prose version of the *De consolatione philosophiae* but instead drew on a range of authors known in their circle. Two penetrating and comprehensive contributions are made to *Beowulf* studies: the hundred or so nominal compounds or genitive combinations referring to warriors are individually examined in context, and the scale and quality of the pioneering achievement of textual critics in the first half of the nineteenth century are systematically plotted.

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The contributors are CARL T. BERKHOUT, MARTIN BIDDLE, the late CAROLINE BRADY, T. J. BROWN, M. L. CAMERON, PETER A. CLAYTON, C. R. E. COUTTS, MICHAEL J. ENRIGHT, ALLEN J. FRANTZEN, BIRTE KELLY, A. G. KENNEDY, SIMON KEYNES, ELISABETH OKASHA, D. W. ROLLASON and JOSEPH S. WITTIG

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