

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-08810-7 - The Royal Saints of Anglo-Saxon England: A Study of West
Saxon and East Anglian Cults

Susan J. Ridyard

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge studies in medieval life and thought

THE ROYAL SAINTS OF
ANGLO-SAXON ENGLAND

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-08810-7 - The Royal Saints of Anglo-Saxon England: A Study of West Saxon and East Anglian Cults

Susan J. Ridyard

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge studies in medieval life and thought
Fourth series

General Editor:

J. C. HOLT

*Professor of Medieval History and**Master of Fitzwilliam College, University of Cambridge**Advisory Editors:*

C. N. L. BROOKE

*Dixie Professor of Ecclesiastical History and**Fellow of Gonville and Caius College,**University of Cambridge*

D. E. LUSCOMBE

Professor of Medieval History, University of Sheffield

The series *Cambridge Studies in Medieval Life and Thought* was inaugurated by G. G. Coulton in 1920. Professor J. C. Holt now acts as General Editor of a Fourth Series, with Professor C. N. L. Brooke and Professor D. E. Luscombe as Advisory Editors. The series aims to bring together outstanding work by medieval scholars over a wide range of human endeavour extending from political economy to the history of ideas.

Titles in the series

- 1 The Beaumont Twins: The Careers of Waleran Count of Meulan and Robert Earl of Leicester
D. B. CROUCH
- 2 The Thought of Gregory the Great
G. R. EVANS
- 3 The Government of England under Henry I
JUDITH A. GREEN
- 4 Charity and Community in Medieval Cambridge
MIRI RUBIN
- 5 Autonomy and Community: The Royal Manor of Havering, 1200–1500
MARJORIE KENISTON MCINTOSH
- 6 The Political Thought of Baldus de Ubaldis
JOSEPH CANNING
- 7 Land and Power in Late Medieval Ferrara: The Rule of the Este, 1350–1450
TREVOR DEAN
- 8 William of Tyre: Historian of the Latin East
PETER W. EDBURY and JOHN GORDON ROWE
- 9 The Royal Saints of Anglo-Saxon England: A Study of West Saxon and East Anglian Cults
SUSAN J. RIDYARD
- 10 John of Wales: A Study of the Works and Ideas of a Thirteenth-Century Friar
JENNY SWANSON

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-08810-7 - The Royal Saints of Anglo-Saxon England: A Study of West Saxon and East Anglian Cults

Susan J. Ridyard

Frontmatter

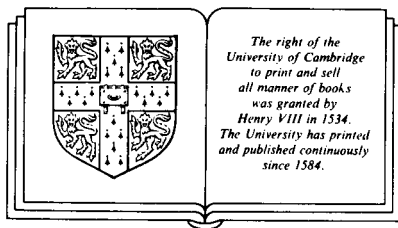
[More information](#)

THE ROYAL SAINTS OF ANGLO-SAXON ENGLAND

*A study of West Saxon
and East Anglian cults*

SUSAN J. RIDYARD

Fellow of Lucy Cavendish College, Cambridge



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

CAMBRIDGE

NEW YORK NEW ROCHELLE MELBOURNE SYDNEY

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-08810-7 - The Royal Saints of Anglo-Saxon England: A Study of West Saxon and East Anglian Cults

Susan J. Ridyard

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi

Cambridge University Press
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521307727

© Cambridge University Press 1988

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 1988

This digitally printed version 2008

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

Ridyard, Susan J. (Susan Janet), 1957–

The royal saints of Anglo-Saxon England: a study of West Saxon and East Anglian cults / Susan J. Ridyard.

p. cm. – (Cambridge studies in medieval life and thought: 4th ser., 9)

Bibliography.

Includes index.

ISBN 0-521-30772-4

1. Christian saints – Cult – England – History. 2. Anglo-Saxons – Kings and rulers. 3. Great Britain – Kings and rulers. 4. England – Church history – Anglo-Saxon period, 449–1066. 5. Anglo-Saxons – Princes and princesses. 6. Great Britain – Princes and princesses.

I. Title. II. Series.

BR754.A1R53 1988

274.2'03—dc 19 88-3659 CIP

ISBN 978-0-521-30772-7 hardback

ISBN 978-0-521-08810-7 paperback

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-08810-7 - The Royal Saints of Anglo-Saxon England: A Study of West
Saxon and East Anglian Cults

Susan J. Ridyard

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	page vii
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	ix
1 The royal saints of Anglo-Saxon England: some problems of interpretation	1
2 The sources	8
3 Royal birth and the foundations of sanctity: theoretical interpretations	74
4 The cult of St Edburga at Winchester and Pershore	96
5 The children of Edgar	140
6 The royal cults of Ely	176
7 The cult of St Edmund	211
8 Piety, patronage and politics: towards an understanding of the Anglo-Saxon royal cults	234
<i>Appendix 1: The Life of St Edburga of Winchester by Osbert of Clare, prior of Westminster</i>	253
<i>Appendix 2: Two items concerning St Edburga of Winchester from Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS Bodley 451</i>	309
<i>Bibliography</i>	311
<i>Index</i>	327

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-08810-7 - The Royal Saints of Anglo-Saxon England: A Study of West
Saxon and East Anglian Cults

Susan J. Ridyard

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

For my mother

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-08810-7 - The Royal Saints of Anglo-Saxon England: A Study of West Saxon and East Anglian Cults

Susan J. Ridyard

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I should like to express my gratitude to the many individuals and institutions without whose support this book could not have been written.

My first and greatest debt is to Professor Christopher Brooke, who has guided this project with unfailing patience, unflagging interest and stimulating advice drawn from his own wide-ranging and sensitive knowledge of the *legenda sanctorum*.

For access to and permission to cite manuscripts in their possession I am grateful to the Librarian of Trinity College, Cambridge, to the Master and Fellows of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, to the Keeper of Manuscripts and Printed Books at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, to the Keeper of Western Manuscripts at the Bodleian Library, Oxford, and to the British Library, Department of Manuscripts. The University Library in Cambridge and the Henry E. Huntington Library, San Marino, California, have each in their turn provided for me a pleasant and stimulating academic home.

For invaluable comments and advice I should like to thank my doctoral examiners, Dr Marjorie Chibnall and Dr Henry Mayr-Harting, and the general editor of Cambridge Studies in Medieval Life and Thought, Professor J. C. Holt, together with his colleague (with Christopher Brooke), Professor David Luscombe. I am grateful to Michael Lapidge for advice on the cults of the Winchester saints, to Martin Brett for palaeographical advice, to Diana Greenway for information on the work of Henry of Huntingdon, to Mark Blackburn for numismatic advice and to Stanley West and Glenys Putnam for introducing me to the fascinating and difficult world where history and archaeology meet. With Antonia Gransden and Cynthia Hahn I have enjoyed lively and interesting discussions of the cult of St Edmund: each has been generous in

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-08810-7 - The Royal Saints of Anglo-Saxon England: A Study of West
Saxon and East Anglian Cults
Susan J. Ridyard
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Acknowledgements

permitting me to cite her as yet unpublished contribution to the 1986 Conference of the Charles Homer Haskins Society. Meryl Foster, Michael Franklin, Simon Keynes and Katharin Mack have likewise been generous with support and advice. To Eleanor Searle, my colleague and mentor at the California Institute of Technology in 1986–7, I owe a special debt: I have benefited greatly from her friendship and her knowledge. It is never easy finally to part with a book with which one has lived for years: I was helped to do so by the warm support and astute criticism of Professor Searle, Professor Warren Hollister and Mrs Phyllis Hetzel. For help in the preparation and checking of the typescript I am grateful to Catherine Heising, Joy Hansen and Flora Lewis. For both their patience and their expertise I am deeply indebted to William Davies and his colleagues at Cambridge University Press.

Some material from chapters six and seven of this book has been published in *Anglo-Norman Studies* (1987): it is here reproduced by kind permission of Boydell and Brewer.

Finally, I offer my special gratitude to my colleagues, the President and Fellows of Lucy Cavendish College: without their support and their friendship the story of the Anglo-Saxon royal saints would have remained untold.

My mother has lived long with this book: it is dedicated to her in love and in gratitude.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-08810-7 - The Royal Saints of Anglo-Saxon England: A Study of West Saxon and East Anglian Cults

Susan J. Ridyard

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

ABBREVIATIONS

AASS	<i>Acta sanctorum Bollandiana</i> (Brussels and elsewhere, 1643–)
AB	<i>Analecta Bollandiana</i>
ASC	<i>The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle</i> , tr. D. Whitelock, D. C. Douglas and S. I. Tucker (London, 1961); also <i>Two of the Saxon Chronicles parallel</i> , ed. C. Plummer, 2 vols. (Oxford, 1892–9)
ASE	<i>Anglo-Saxon England</i>
B	<i>Cartularium Saxonicum</i> , ed. W. de Gray Birch, 3 vols. and index (London, 1885–99)
BHL	<i>Bibliotheca hagiographica latina antiquae et mediae aetatis</i> , 2 vols. and supplement (Brussels, 1891–1901; supplement, 1911)
BL	British Library
BSS	<i>Bibliotheca sanctorum</i> , 12 vols. and index (Rome, 1961–70)
CCC	Corpus Christi College, Cambridge
CS	<i>Councils and synods, with other documents relating to the English church, I, A.D. 871–1204</i> , ed. D. Whitelock, M. Brett and C. N. L. Brooke, 2 vols. (Oxford, 1981)
DB	<i>Domesday book, seu liber censualis Willelmi primi regis Anglie</i> , ed. A. Farley, 2 vols., Record Commission (1783)
EETS	Early English Text Society
EHR	<i>English Historical Review</i>
GP	William of Malmesbury, <i>De gestis pontificum Anglorum</i> , ed. N. E. S. A. Hamilton, RS 52 (London, 1870)
GR	William of Malmesbury, <i>De gestis regum</i>

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-08810-7 - The Royal Saints of Anglo-Saxon England: A Study of West Saxon and East Anglian Cults

Susan J. Ridyard

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Abbreviations*

- Anglorum*, ed. W. Stubbs, 2 vols., RS 90 (London, 1887–9)
- HBC F. M. Powicke and E. B. Fryde, *Handbook of British chronology*, Royal Historical Society Guides and Handbooks 2, 3rd edn, ed. E. B. Fryde, D. E. Greenway, S. Porter and I. Roy (London, 1986)
- HBS Henry Bradshaw Society
- HE Bede, *Historia ecclesiastica gentis Anglorum*, ed. B. Colgrave and R. A. B. Mynors, Oxford Medieval Texts (1969)
- Heads D. Knowles, C. N. L. Brooke and V. C. M. London, *The heads of religious houses: England and Wales, 940–1216* (Cambridge, 1972)
- K *Codex diplomaticus aevi Saxonici*, ed. J. M. Kemble, 6 vols. (London, 1839–48)
- KH D. Knowles and R. N. Hadcock, *Medieval religious houses: England and Wales*, 2nd edn (London, 1971)
- LE *Liber Eliensis*, ed. E. O. Blake, Royal Historical Society, Camden Third Series 92 (London, 1962)
- Letters *The letters of Osbert of Clare, prior of Westminster*, ed. E. W. Williamson (Oxford, 1929)
- LVH *Liber vitae: register and martyrology of New Minster and Hyde abbey, Winchester*, ed. W. de Gray Birch, Hampshire Record Society (London and Winchester, 1892)
- MBHA *The monastic breviary of Hyde abbey, Winchester*, ed. J. B. L. Tolhurst, 6 vols., HBS 69, 70, 71, 76, 78, 80 (London, 1932–42)
- MO D. Knowles, *The monastic order in England 940–1216*, 2nd edn (Cambridge, 1963)
- Monasticon W. Dugdale, *Monasticon Anglicanum*, revised edn, J. Caley, H. Ellis and B. Bandinel, 6 vols. in 8 (London, 1817–30; repr. 1846)
- NLA *Nova legenda Angliae*, ed. K. Horstmann, 2 vols. (Oxford, 1901)
- ODS D. H. Farmer, *The Oxford dictionary of saints* (Oxford, 1978)
- PL *Patrologiae cursus completus, series latina*, ed.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-08810-7 - The Royal Saints of Anglo-Saxon England: A Study of West Saxon and East Anglian Cults

Susan J. Ridyard

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Abbreviations*

	J. P. Migne, 221 vols. (Paris, 1844–64)
RS	Rolls Series
S	P. H. Sawyer, <i>Anglo-Saxon charters: an annotated list and bibliography</i> , Royal Historical Society Guides and Handbooks 8 (London, 1968)
SC	<i>A summary catalogue of Western manuscripts in the Bodleian Library at Oxford</i> , 7 vols. (Oxford, 1895–1953)
TCC	Trinity College, Cambridge
TCD	Trinity College, Dublin
VCH	<i>Victoria history of the counties of England</i>
WS1	F. Barlow, M. Biddle, O. von Feilitzen, and D. J. Keene, <i>Winchester in the early Middle Ages: an edition and discussion of the Winton Domesday</i> , Winchester Studies 1 (Oxford, 1976)
WS2	D. J. Keene, with a contribution by A. Rumble, <i>Survey of medieval Winchester</i> , 2 vols., Winchester Studies 2 (Oxford, 1985)
WS4.i	M. Biddle and B. Kjølbbye-Biddle, <i>The Anglo-Saxon minsters in Winchester</i> , Winchester Studies 4.i (Oxford, forthcoming)
WS4.ii	M. Lapidge, <i>The cult of St Swithun</i> , Winchester Studies 4.ii (Oxford, forthcoming)

For abbreviated titles of hagiographical works see the appropriate entry in the section headed *Vitae* etc. in the Bibliography (below, pp. 314–15)