Did the laity have a part in the Carolingian Renaissance? If so, how were lay elites, and through them the laity at large, affected? This wide-ranging volume examines these questions through a study of lay involvement in literary and artistic activity in early medieval Europe. Leading historians explore a diverse range of Latin and vernacular texts written by secular authors and use richly drawn case studies to illuminate such key issues as the extent of lay literacy, the contexts in which learned laity could flourish, the transformative impact of the Carolingian Renaissance, and the interaction of ‘lay’ and ‘clerical’ values on both sides of the English Channel. This volume demonstrates that the learned laity, both women and men, contributed much more as writers and patrons to early medieval culture than was previously thought, and it will be essential reading for scholars of Carolingian and Anglo-Saxon history.

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Preface

Patrick Wormald invited nearly all the papers in this book for delivery at sessions he conceived and organised at the annual International Conference on Medieval Studies at Kalamazoo, Michigan, in 1999 and 2000; the concluding paper was commissioned shortly afterwards. He wanted the book to be published as soon as possible after the contributions were written, read and revised, and he worked very hard to achieve that end. He died in September 2004. Despite the inevitable delay in getting this collection into print, it is the hope of all the contributors that their efforts have not dated. In fact it is their fervent belief that this book is every bit as timely as Patrick’s original project. Their collective wish is to assure readers that this book is as Patrick intended it to be – with one exception: it lacks the introduction he planned to write. The one I have written can be no substitute for what is lost. It attempts merely to situate this project in Patrick’s career and within the intellectual preoccupations of what proved, alas, to be his final years. In making final preparations for the book’s publication, I have incurred debts of gratitude: to Cambridge University Press, and, above all, to the contributors, for their help and patience, to Rachel Stone for preparing the Index, and most of all, to Jenny, Tom and Luke Wormald for their moral support throughout.

La Marteille,  
August 2006

JINTY NELSON
Abbreviations


AHR  American Historical Review

ARF  Annales Regni Francorum, ed. F. Kurze, MGH SRG 6 (Hanover, 1895)

ASC  Anglo-Saxon Chronicle

ASE  Anglo-Saxon England

Astronomer  Astronomer, Vita Hludowici imperatoris, ed. E. Tremp, MGH SRG 64 (Hanover, 1995)

CCCM  Corpus Christianorum, Continuatio Medievalis (Turnhout, 1966–)

CCSL  Corpus Christianorum, Series Latina (Turnhout, 1952–)

DA  Deutsches Archiv für Erforschung des Mittelalters


EHR  English Historical Review

EME  Early Medieval Europe
<table>
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<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FMS</td>
<td>Frühmittelalterliche Studien</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HJ</td>
<td>Historisches Jahrbuch</td>
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<tr>
<td>HZ</td>
<td>Historische Zeitschrift</td>
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<tr>
<td>JEH</td>
<td>Journal of Ecclesiastical History</td>
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<tr>
<td>JMH</td>
<td>Journal of Medieval History</td>
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<tr>
<td>KL</td>
<td>S. Keynes and M. Lapidge, eds., <em>Alfred the Great. Asser’s Life of King Alfred and other Contemporary Sources</em>, translated with introduction and notes (London, 1983)</td>
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<tr>
<td>LM</td>
<td>Lexikon des Mittelalters</td>
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<tr>
<td>MGH</td>
<td>Monumenta Germaniae Historica</td>
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<tr>
<td>AA</td>
<td>Auctores antiquissimi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capit. episc.</td>
<td>Capitularia episcoporum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capit.</td>
<td>Capitularia regum Francorum</td>
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<tr>
<td>MGH Conc.</td>
<td>Constitutiones et acta publica imperatorum et regum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Const.</td>
<td>Diplomata regum et imperatorum; Die Urkunden der deutschen Könige und Kaiser</td>
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<tr>
<td>DD</td>
<td>Epistulae III–VII (= Epistulae merovingici et karolini aevi, Hanover, 1892–1939)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Epp.</td>
<td>Epistulae der deutschen Kaiserzeit</td>
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<td>Epp. DK</td>
<td>Epistulae selectae in usum scholarum</td>
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<td>Fontes</td>
<td>Fontes iuris germanici antiqui in usum scholarum</td>
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<td>Form.</td>
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<td>Poet.</td>
<td>Poetae latini aevi carolini</td>
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<td>Quellen</td>
<td>Quellen der deutschen Kaiserzeit</td>
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<tr>
<td>MGH Schriften</td>
<td>Scriptores rerum Germanicarum in usum scholarum separatim editi</td>
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<tr>
<td>SRG</td>
<td>Scriptores rerum Langobardorum</td>
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<tr>
<td>SRL</td>
<td>Scriptores rerum Merovingicarum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRM</td>
<td>Scriptores in folio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSDM</td>
<td>Scriptores des deutschen Mittelalters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIÖG</td>
<td>Mitteilungen des Instituts für Österreichische Geschichtsforschung</td>
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List of abbreviations


Notker Notker, Gesta Karoli magni imperatoris, ed. H. F. Haefele, MGH SRG n.s. 12 (Berlin, 1959)

P&P Past and Present

PBA Proceedings of the British Academy


QFIAB Quellen und Forschungen aus italienischen Archiven und Bibliotheken

S. (with number) P. H. Sawyer, A Hand-List of Anglo-Saxon Charters, Royal Historical Society Guides and Handbooks 8 (London, 1968); a revised edition by S. E. Kelly is ongoing and available online at www.trin.cam.ac.uk/chartwww/

SC Sources Chrétiennes

SCH Studies in Church History

Settimane Spoleto Settimane di Studio del Centro italiano di studi sull’alto medioevo

Thegan Thegan, Gesta Hludovici imperatoris, ed. E. Tremp, MGH SRG 54 (Hanover, 1995)

TRHS Transactions of the Royal Historical Society


VK Einhard, Vita Karoli Magni, ed. O. Holder-Egger, MGH SRG 25, 6th edn (Hanover and Leipzig, 1911)


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<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>ZRG, GA</td>
<td>Zeitschrift der Savigny-Stiftung für Rechtsgeschichte, germanistische Abteilung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZRG, RA</td>
<td>Zeitschrift der Savigny-Stiftung für Rechtsgeschichte, römanistische Abteilung</td>
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