This volume investigates the ways in which people in western Europe between the fall of Rome and the twelfth century used the past: to legitimate the present, to understand current events and as a source of identity. Each essay examines the mechanisms by which ideas about the past were subtly (and sometimes not so subtly) reshaped for present purposes.

As well as written histories, also discussed are saints’ lives, law-codes, buildings, biblical commentary, monastic foundations, canon law and oral traditions. The book thus has important implications for how historians use these sources as evidence: they emerge as representations of the past made for very special reasons, often by interested parties. This is the first volume to be devoted fully to these themes, and as such it makes a significant contribution to our understanding of the role of the past within early medieval societies.

Yitzhak Hen is Lecturer in Medieval History, University of Haifa. His previous publications include Culture and Religion in Merovingian Gaul, AD 481–751 (1995) and The Sacramentary of Echternach (1997).

Matthew Innes is Lecturer in History, Birkbeck College, University of London. His publications include State and Society in the Early Middle Ages: The Middle Rhine Valley, 400–1000 (2000).
THE USES OF THE PAST IN THE EARLY MIDDLE AGES

EDITED BY
YITZHAK HEN AND MATTHEW INNES
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Contributors

Dr Catherine Cubitt  Department of History and Centre for Medieval Studies, University of York

Dr Marios Costambeys  Department of History, University of Manchester

Professor Mayke de Jong  Department of History, University of Utrecht

Dr Mary Garrison  Department of History and Centre for Medieval Studies, University of York

Dr Yitzhak Hen  Department of General History, University of Haifa

Dr Matthew Innes  Department of History, Birkbeck College, University of London

Dr Dominic Janes  Department of History, King’s College, London

Professor Cristina La Rocca  Department of History, Università degli Studi di Padova

Professor Rosamond McKitterick  Faculty of History, University of Cambridge, and Fellow of Newnham College, Cambridge

Dr Rob Meens  Department of History, University of Utrecht

Professor Walter Pohl  Forschungsstelle für Geschichte des Mittelalters, Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Vienna
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This book could not have been published without the help and advice of many friends and colleagues. We wish to express our warmest thanks, first and foremost, to our contributors for their labour, enthusiasm and patience, and to those who participated in the discussions at the Leeds gathering. Special thanks should also go to Rosamond McKitterick and Mayke De Jong who constantly provided us with helpful advice and encouragement. We are equally indebted to William Davies and the staff of the Cambridge University Press for their interest in this book and for seeing it through the press. Finally, we should like to thank our wives, Racheli and Jayne, for their support and encouragement throughout.

Yitzhak Hen and Matthew Innes
### Abbreviations

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<th>Abbreviation</th>
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<tr>
<td>CCCM</td>
<td>Corpus Christianorum continuatio medievalis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCSL</td>
<td>Corpus Christianorum series latina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSEL</td>
<td>Corpus Scriptorum Ecclesiasticorum Latinorum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGH</td>
<td>Monumenta Germaniae Historica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AA</td>
<td>Auctores antiquissimi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cap.</td>
<td>Capitularia regum Francorum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Epp.</td>
<td>Epistolae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LNG</td>
<td>Leges nationum Germanicarum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLAC</td>
<td>Poetae Latini aevi Carolini</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRG</td>
<td>Scriptores rerum Germanicarum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRL</td>
<td>Scriptorum rerum Langobardicarum et Italicum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRM</td>
<td>Scriptorum rerum Merovingicarum</td>
</tr>
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<td>Scriptorum</td>
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<td>SC</td>
<td>Sources chrétiennes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Settimane</td>
<td><em>Settimane di Studio dell Centro Italiano di Studi sull’alto Medioevo</em> (Spoleto, 1953– )</td>
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