The years between 900 and 1200 saw transformative social change in Europe, including the creation of extensive town-dwelling populations and the proliferation of feudalized elites and bureaucratic monarchies. In England these developments were complicated and accelerated by repeated episodes of invasion, migration and changes of regime. In this book, scholars from disciplines including history, archaeology and literature reflect on the major trends which shaped English society in these years of transition and select key themes which encapsulate the period. The authors explore the landscape of England, its mineral wealth, its towns and rural life, the health, behaviour and obligations of its inhabitants, patterns of spiritual and intellectual life and the polyglot nature of its population and culture. What emerges is an insight into the complexity, diversity and richness of this formative period of English history.

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Numerous pendants have been unearthed in recent years with metal detectors. They are difficult to date, because they were presumably lost from horses on the move and are not usually found in datable layers of archaeological sites. The earliest pendants sometimes have the kind of decoration which was incorporated into early heraldry and which might be interpreted as armorial; but heraldry itself was in its infancy and it is impossible to be certain that personal association was intended. These examples (and photographs) are from the collection of Sir John Baker (JHB) and they are reproduced with his kind permission.

1. **Chequy or and [tincture]**. This may represent the arms of Warenne (Chequy or and azure), though in later times a chequered field would be represented with more squares. Warenne shield-pendants become common in the thirteenth century, the incised squares being filled with blue enamel. From a Yorkshire collection. JHB 512

2. **A cross**. The cross is indicated merely by raised lines, incised in the mould, and there is no cutting away for enamel as in later times. A cross occurs in numerous early coats of arms, but could perhaps have religious significance. Found in East Anglia. JHB 268

3. **Bendy of fourteen argent and azure**. These arms were on the seal of Amaury de Montfort (d. 1213), count of Evreux, earl of Gloucester jure uxoris, the same tinctures as here being recorded in thirteenth-century rolls: *Dictionary of British Arms*, ii. 125–7. Found at North Owersby, Lincs., in 1999. JHB 465

4. **Argent, a cross formy azure**. These arms are not recorded. There appear to be traces of whitish enamel in the field, and of blue in the cross. Found in Yorkshire. JHB 510

5. **Or, a fret [tincture]**. The fret was used as an armorial device by several early families, but it may not here be heraldic. This example retains much of the gilding. Found at Great Wakering, Essex. JHB 543

6. **Barry of six, a bordure**. These arms occur on the seal of Reynold, count of Boulogne: *Dictionary of British Arms*, ii. 194. Found in Essex. JHB 126
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Abbreviations

ANS  Anglo-Norman Studies
ASC  Anglo-Saxon Chronicle
ASE  Anglo-Saxon England
BHL  Bibliotheca Hagiographica Latina, Antiquae et Mediae Aetatis, Subsidia Hagiographica 6 (2 vols., Brussels, 1898–99); with Novum Supplementum, H. Fros, ed. (Subsidia Hagiographica 70; Brussels, 1986)
BL   British Library
EcHR  Economic History Review
EEA  English Episcopal Acta
EETS  Early English Text Society
EHR  English Historical Review
JEH  Journal of Ecclesiastical History
JMH  Journal of Medieval History
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