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978-1-107-03653-6 - Kingship and Consent in Anglo-Saxon England, 871–978: Assemblies and the State in the Early Middle Ages

Levi Roach

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## KINGSHIP AND CONSENT IN ANGLO-SAXON ENGLAND, 871–978

This engaging new study focuses on the role of assemblies in later Anglo-Saxon politics, challenging and nuancing existing models of the late Anglo-Saxon state. Its ten chapters investigate both traditional constitutional aspects of assemblies – who attended these events, where and when they met, and what business they conducted – and the symbolic and representational nature of these gatherings. Levi Roach takes into account important recent work on continental rulership, and argues that assemblies were not a check on kingship in these years, but rather an essential feature of it. In particular, the author highlights the role of symbolic communication at assemblies, arguing that ritual and demonstration were as important in English politics as they were elsewhere in Europe. Far from being exceptional, the methods of rulership employed by English kings look very much like those witnessed elsewhere on the continent, where assemblies and ritual formed an essential part of the political order.

LEVI ROACH is a lecturer in Medieval History at the University of Exeter.

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KINGSHIP AND CONSENT  
IN ANGLO-SAXON  
ENGLAND, 871–978

*Assemblies and the State in the Early Middle Ages*

LEVI ROACH

*University of Exeter*



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## ABBREVIATIONS

## GENERAL ABBREVIATIONS

<i>AfD</i>	<i>Archiv für Diplomatik</i>
<i>AfU</i>	<i>Archiv für Urkundenforschung</i>
<i>ANS</i>	<i>Anglo-Norman Studies</i>
<i>ASC</i>	<i>Anglo-Saxon Chronicle</i>
<i>ASE</i>	<i>Anglo-Saxon England</i>
Asser, <i>VE</i>	Asser, <i>Vita Ælfredi regis</i> , ed. W. H. Stevenson with an introduction by D. Whitelock, <i>Asser's Life of King Alfred</i> (Oxford, 1959)
B., <i>VD</i>	B., <i>Vita S. Dunstani</i> , ed. M. Winterbottom and M. Lapidge, <i>The Early Lives of St Dunstan</i> , OMT (Oxford, 2012)
BAR	British Archaeological Reports
<i>BEASE</i>	<i>The Blackwell Encyclopaedia of Anglo-Saxon England</i> , ed. M. Lapidge, J. Blair, S. Keynes and D. Scragg (Oxford, 1999)
Byrhtferth, <i>VE</i>	Byrhtferth of Ramsey, <i>Vita S. Ecgwini</i> , ed. M. Lapidge, <i>Byrhtferth of Ramsey: The Lives of St Oswald and St Ecgwine</i> , OMT (Oxford, 2009)
Byrhtferth, <i>VO</i>	Byrhtferth of Ramsey, <i>Vita S. Oswaldi</i> , ed. M. Lapidge, <i>Byrhtferth of Ramsey: The Lives of St Oswald and St Ecgwine</i> , OMT (Oxford, 2009)
<i>CCM</i>	<i>Cahiers de civilisation médiévale</i>
CSASE	Cambridge Studies in Anglo-Saxon England
CSMLT	Cambridge Studies in Medieval Life and Thought
<i>DA</i>	<i>Deutsches Archiv für Erforschung des Mittelalters</i>
EEMF	Early English Manuscripts in Facsimile
EETS	Early English Text Society
<i>EHR</i>	<i>English Historical Review</i>

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<i>EME</i>	<i>Early Medieval Europe</i>
<i>FMS<sup>t</sup></i>	<i>Frühmittelalterliche Studien</i>
HBS	Henry Bradshaw Society
<i>HSJ</i>	<i>Haskins Society Journal</i>
<i>HZ</i>	<i>Historische Zeitschrift</i>
<i>JEH</i>	<i>Journal of Ecclesiastical History</i>
<i>LÆth</i>	<i>Libellus Æthelwoldi episcopi</i> (cited from edition within <i>LE</i> )
Lantfred, <i>Translatio</i>	Lantfred of Winchester, <i>Translatio et miracula S. Swithuni</i> , ed. M. Lapidge, <i>The Cult of Saint Swithun</i> , Winchester Studies 4.ii (Oxford, 2003)
<i>LB</i>	<i>Liber benefactorum</i> of Ramsey Abbey, ed. W. D. Macray, <i>Chronicon abbatiæ Ramesiensis</i> , Rolls Series 83 (London, 1886)
<i>LE</i>	<i>Liber Eliensis</i> , ed. E. O. Blake, Camden Society 3rd ser. 92 (London, 1962)
MGH	Monumenta Germaniae Historica:
Dip. regum	Diplomata regum et imperatorum Germaniae
Epp.	Epistolae
Fontes	Fontes iuris Germanici antiqui in usum scholarum
Leges nat. Germ.	Leges nationum Germanicarum
SRG	Scriptores rerum Germanicarum in usum scholarum
SRG n.s.	Scriptores rerum Germanicarum: series nova
SS	Scriptores
<i>MIÖG</i>	<i>Mitteilungen des Instituts für Österreichische Geschichtsforschung</i>
<i>NCMH</i> II	<i>The New Cambridge Medieval History</i> , vol. II, c. 700–900, ed. R. McKitterick (Cambridge, 1995)
<i>NCMH</i> III	<i>The New Cambridge Medieval History</i> , vol. III, c. 900–c. 1024, ed. T. Reuter (Cambridge, 1999)
<i>ODNB</i>	<i>Oxford Dictionary of National Biography</i> , ed. H. C. G. Matthew and B. Harrison, 60 vols. (Oxford, 2004)
<i>OE Handbook</i>	<i>OE Handbook</i> , ed. A. Frantzen, <i>The Anglo-Saxon Penitentials: A Cultural Database</i> ( <a href="http://www.anglo-saxon.net/penance/">www.anglo-saxon.net/penance/</a> , accessed 1 May 2010)
<i>OE Introduction</i>	<i>OE Introduction</i> , ed. A. Frantzen, <i>The Anglo-Saxon Penitentials: A Cultural Database</i> ( <a href="http://www.anglo-saxon.net/penance/">www.anglo-saxon.net/penance/</a> , accessed 1 May 2010)

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OMT	Oxford Medieval Texts
<i>P &amp; P</i>	<i>Past and Present</i>
<i>Settimane</i>	<i>Settimane di Studio del Centro Italiano di Studi sull'Alto Medioevo</i>
TRHS	<i>Transactions of the Royal Historical Society</i>
TRW	Transformation of the Roman World
Whitelock, <i>EHD</i>	<i>English Historical Documents c. 500–1042</i> , ed. D. Whitelock, 2nd edn (London, 1979)
<i>WinchLV</i>	<i>Liber Vitae of the New Minster and Hyde Abbey, Winchester</i> , ed. S. Keynes, EEMF 26 (Copenhagen, 1996)
WM, <i>GRA</i>	William of Malmesbury, <i>Gesta regum Anglorum</i> , ed. R. A. B. Mynors with R. M. Thomson and M. Winterbottom, 2 vols., OMT (Oxford, 1998–9)
Wulfstan, <i>Narratio metrica</i>	Wulfstan Cantor, <i>Narratio metrica de S. Swithuno</i> , ed. M. Lapidge, <i>The Cult of Saint Swithun</i> , Winchester Studies 4.ii (Oxford, 2003)
Wulfstan, <i>VÆ</i>	Wulfstan Cantor, <i>Vita S. Æthelwoldi</i> , ed. M. Lapidge and M. Winterbottom, <i>Wulfstan of Winchester: The Life of St Æthelwold</i> , OMT (Oxford, 1991)
ZRG	<i>Zeitschrift der Savigny-Stiftung für Reschgeschichte:</i>
GA	<i>Gemanistische Abteilung</i>
KA	<i>Kanonistische Abteilung</i>

## ABBREVIATIONS FOR ANGLO-SAXON CHARTERS

Anglo-Saxon charters are cited by their 'S number' from P. H. Sawyer (ed.), *Anglo-Saxon Charters: An Annotated List and Bibliography*, rev. S. Kelly and R. Rushforth ([www.esawyer.org.uk/](http://www.esawyer.org.uk/)). An edition is cited in parentheses in cases in which text is quoted from the document or substantial detail regarding the transaction is given. For these purposes the following abbreviations are used:

- BCS W. de G. Birch (ed.), *Cartularium Saxonicum: A Collection of Charters Relating to Anglo-Saxon History*, 3 vols. (London, 1885–93)
- KCD J. M. Kemble (ed.), *Codex Diplomaticus Aevi Saxonici*, 6 vols. (London, 1839–48)

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<i>Abing</i>	S. E. Kelly (ed.), <i>Charters of Abingdon Abbey</i> , 2 parts, Anglo-Saxon Charters 7–8 (Oxford, 2000–1)
<i>Bath</i>	S. E. Kelly (ed.), <i>Charters of Bath and Wells</i> , Anglo-Saxon Charters 13 (Oxford, 2007)
<i>Burt</i>	P. H. Sawyer (ed.), <i>Charters of Burton Abbey</i> , Anglo-Saxon Charters 2 (Oxford, 1979)
<i>CantCC</i>	N. Brooks and S. E. Kelly (ed.), <i>Charters of Christ Church, Canterbury</i> , 3 parts, Anglo-Saxon Charters 17–18 (Oxford, forthcoming)
<i>CantStA</i>	S. E. Kelly (ed.), <i>Charters of St Augustine's Abbey, Canterbury, and Minster-in-Thamet</i> , Anglo-Saxon Charters 4 (Oxford, 1995)
<i>Glast</i>	S. E. Kelly (ed.), <i>Charters of Glastonbury</i> , Anglo-Saxon Charters 15 (Oxford, 2012)
<i>LondStP</i>	S. E. Kelly (ed.), <i>Charters of St Paul's, London</i> , Anglo-Saxon Charters 10 (Oxford, 2004)
<i>Malm</i>	S. E. Kelly (ed.), <i>Charters of Malmesbury Abbey</i> , Anglo-Saxon Charters 11 (Oxford, 2005)
<i>Pet</i>	S. E. Kelly (ed.), <i>Charters of Peterborough Abbey</i> , Anglo-Saxon Charters 14 (Oxford, 2009)
<i>Roch</i>	A. Campbell (ed.), <i>Charters of Rochester</i> , Anglo-Saxon Charters 1 (Oxford, 1973)
<i>Sel</i>	S. E. Kelly (ed.), <i>Charters of Selsey</i> , Anglo-Saxon Charters 6 (Oxford, 1996)
<i>Shaft</i>	S. E. Kelly (ed.), <i>Charters of Shaftesbury Abbey</i> , Anglo-Saxon Charters 5 (Oxford, 1995)
<i>Sherb</i>	M. A. O'Donovan (ed.), <i>Charters of Sherborne</i> , Anglo-Saxon Charters 3 (Oxford, 1988)
<i>StAlb</i>	J. Crick (ed.), <i>Charters of St Albans</i> , Anglo-Saxon Charters 12 (Oxford, 2007)
<i>Wells</i>	S. E. Kelly (ed.), <i>Charters of Bath and Wells</i> , Anglo-Saxon Charters 13 (Oxford, 2007)
<i>WinchNM</i>	S. Miller (ed.), <i>Charters of the New Minster, Winchester</i> , Anglo-Saxon Charters 9 (Oxford, 2001)