Combining historical, literary and linguistic evidence from Old English and Latin, *Becoming a Poet in Anglo-Saxon England* creates a new, more complete picture of who and what pre-Conquest English poets really were. It includes a study of Anglo-Saxon words for ‘poet’ and the first list of named poets in Anglo-Saxon England. Its survey of known poets identifies four social roles that poets often held – teachers, scribes, musicians and courtiers – and explores the kinds of poetry created by these individuals. The book also offers a new model for understanding the role of social groups in poets’ experience: it argues that the presence or absence of a poetic community affected the work of Anglo-Saxon poets at all levels, from minute technical detail to the portrayal of character. This focus on poetic communities provides a new way to understand the intersection of history and literature in the Middle Ages.

**EMILY V. THORNBURY** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of English at the University of California, Berkeley.
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BECOMING A POET IN ANGLO-SAXON ENGLAND

EMILY V. THORNBURY
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Abbreviations

Abbreviations for Old English texts are those of the Dictionary of Old English.

ACMRS Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies
AH Dreves and Blume (ed.), Analecta hymnica
ASC Anglo-Saxon Chronicle
ASE Anglo-Saxon England
ASPR Krapp and Dobbie (eds.), Anglo-Saxon Poetic Records
BL London, British Library
BN Paris, Bibliothèque nationale
Bodleian Oxford, Bodleian Library
CCCL Cambridge, Corpus Christi College
CCSL Corpus Christianorum Series Latina. Turnhout: Brepols
CUL Cambridge, University Library
DAM Bede, De arte metrica, ed. Kendall
DDI Bede, De die iudicii, in CCSL 122, ed. Fraipont
Dümmler Dümmler (ed.), MGH PLAC 1
EEMF Early English Manuscripts in Facsimile. Copenhagen: Rosenkilde & Bagger
EETS Early English Text Society. Oxford University Press
OS Original Series
SS Supplementary Series
Ehwald Ehwald (ed.), Aldhelmi Opera
CdV Carmen de virginitate
CE Carmina ecclesiastica
Enig Enigmata
ES Wulfstan Cantor, Epistola specialis. In Lapidge, Cult
G Gneuss, Handlist of Anglo-Saxon Manuscripts (references by catalogue number)

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Abbreviations

HE  Bede, Historia ecclesiastica, ed. Colgrave and Mynors.
JEGP  Journal of English and Germanic Philology
JML  Journal of Medieval Latin
Ker  Ker, Catalogue of Manuscripts Containing Anglo-Saxon
MGH  Monumenta Germaniae Historica. Berlin: Weidmann
AA: Auctores antiquissimi
Ep: Epistolarum
PLAC: Poetae Latini aevi Carolini
OEB  Godden and Irvine (eds.), Old English Boethius
PL  Patrologia Latina
Tangl  Tangl (ed.), Briefe des heiligen Bonifatius
Vatican  Rome, Vatican City, Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana
VC  Bede, Vita metrica S. Cuthberti, ed. Jaager
VW  Stephen of Ripon, Vita S. Wilfridi, ed. Colgrave