Contents

List of figures and tables page vi
Acknowledgements viii
Abbreviations x

Introduction: How can we know about Anglo-Saxon poets? 1
1 What was a poet? 11
2 Who became poets? 37
3 The poet in the community 95
4 The poet alone 161
5 Spectral communities 199
Afterword: A way of happening 239

Appendix I A handlist of named authors of Old English or Latin verse in Anglo-Saxon England 243
Appendix II Skalds working in Anglo-Saxon England 248
Notes 250
Bibliography 290
Index 316