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Her mon mæg giet gesion biora swæð

ANGLO-SAXON ENGLAND

2

Edited by
PETER CLEMOES

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By permission of the Trustees of the British Museum the design on the cover is taken from the obverse of a silver penny issued to celebrate King Alfred's occupation and fortification of London in 886

Permission to publish a photograph or photographs has been granted by the Cleveland Museum of Art (pl. Ia), the Trustees of the British Museum (pls. Ib, c, d and e, IIa, b and f and IVa), the Trustees of the British Museum and the Moyse's Hall Museum, Bury St Edmunds (pl. IIIg), Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris (pl. IIc), St Godehard's, Hildesheim (pl. II d), the Lambeth Palace Library, London (pl. IIe), the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (pl. IIg), the University of Glasgow (pl. IIIa), Kongelige Bibliotek, Copenhagen (pl. IIIb), the Pierpont Morgan Library, New York (pl. IIIc), Musée de Saint-Omer (pl. III d), Bibliothèque Royale, Brussels (pl. III f) and the Dean and Chapter of Westminster Abbey (pl. IV b)

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Preface

This second volume, like its predecessor, seeks to foster cooperation between scholars in the various branches of Anglo-Saxon studies. Its aims are to promote those qualities of fundamental research that are of common concern to all – a power of original enquiry, an understanding of the primacy of evidence and of its opportunities and limits, skill in technical analysis and logic in reasoning – and to encourage a manner of presentation that will make plain an author's methods and results beyond the immediate circle of his fellow experts. We hope to show that contacts between the disciplines can lead to a better sense of proportion as well as to an enlarged field of vision.

Place-names, charters and coins are among the forms of historical evidence studied in this issue. Manuscripts – illustrated, liturgical and vernacular – are also examined. The topics treated range from the course of English settlement in the south-east to the power and influence wielded by one of the leading aristocratic families of southern England in the tenth century and to the possible presence of Jews in England in the eleventh. An important liturgical manuscript, the Bosworth Psalter, is more securely localized than ever before (at either Christ Church, Canterbury, or, most interestingly, Westminster Abbey), while the exemplars used for the Vercelli Book, one of our main codices of vernacular literature, and the area in which it is likely to have been written are greatly clarified. Several motifs in Old English prose and poetry are elucidated and the influence of Christian doctrine on the poetry is considered in an article reviewing the present state of knowledge and opinion and in a lively discussion about *Beowulf*. It is fitting too that in the year in which the thirteen hundredth anniversary of his birth is being observed there is a survey of Bede's achievements as an outstanding representative of early medieval culture and as a teacher who exerted a decisive influence on the civilization of the Middle Ages. The bibliography for 1971 continues the annual series inaugurated in volume 1, and, as mentioned in that volume, there will be an index to *Anglo-Saxon England* 1–5 in the fifth issue.

As before, I am grateful to my fellow editors, to the contributors – not forgetting the compilers of the bibliography – and to the Cambridge University Press for their ready cooperation. Mrs Janet Godden has again given invaluable help with preparing the typescript and checking the proofs.

PETER CLEMOES
for the editors

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CONTRIBUTIONS FOR FUTURE EDITIONS ARE INVITED

Material should be submitted to the editor most convenient regionally, with these exceptions: an article should be sent to John Blair if concerned with archaeology, to Mark Blackburn if concerned with numismatics, to Richard Gameson if concerned with art history, to Simon Keynes if concerned with history or onomastics, and to Michael Lapidge if concerned with Anglo-Latin or palaeography. Whenever a contribution is sent from abroad it should be accompanied by international coupons to cover the cost of return postage. A potential contributor is asked to get in touch with the editor concerned as early as possible to obtain a copy of the style sheet and to have any necessary discussion. Articles must be in English.

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