This ambitious book presents the first sustained analysis of the evolving representation of Cuthbert, the premier saint of northern England. The study spans both major and neglected texts across eight centuries, from his earliest depictions in anonymous and Bedan *vita*, through twelfth-century ecclesiastical histories and miracle collections produced at Durham, to his late medieval appearances in Latin meditations, legendaries and vernacular verse. Whitehead reveals the coherence of these texts as one tradition, exploring the way that ideologies and literary strategies persist across generations. An innovative addition to the literature of insular spirituality and hagiography, *The Afterlife of St Cuthbert* emphasizes the related categories of place and asceticism. It charts Cuthbert’s conceptual alignment with a range of institutional, masculine, northern and national spaces, and examines the distinctive characteristics and changing value of his ascetic lifestyle and environment – frequently constituted as a nature sanctuary – interrogating its relation to his other jurisdictions.

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THE AFTERLIFE OF ST CUTHBERT

Place, Texts and Ascetic Tradition, 690–1500

CHRISTIANIA WHITEHEAD

Universities of Warwick and Lausanne
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Abbreviations

AND  David W. Rollason, Margaret Harvey and Michael Prestwich (eds), *Anglo-Norman Durham, 1093–1193* (Woodbridge, 1994)

Bishopric of Durham  Christian Liddy, *The Bishopric of Durham in the Late Middle Ages: Lordship, Community and the Cult of St Cuthbert* (Woodbridge, 2008)

BL  British Library

Bodl.  Bodleian Library


CCC  Gerard Bonner, David W. Rollason and Clare Stancliffe (eds), *St Cuthbert, His Cult and His Community to AD 1200* (Woodbridge, 1989)

CCCM  Corpus Christianorum Continuatio Mediaevalis


CUL  Cambridge University Library

DCL  Durham Cathedral Library
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\begin{tabular}{ll}
\textit{De admirandis} & Reginald of Durham, \textit{Libellus de admirandis beati Cuthberti virtutibus}, ed. James Raine, SS 1 (1835) \\
\textit{De mirabilibus} & H. H. E. Craster (ed.), ‘The Miracles of St Cuthbert at Farne’, \textit{Analecta Bollandiana}, 70 (1952), 5–19 \\
\textit{De ortu} & \textit{Libellus de ortu Sancti Cuthberti}, in \textit{Miscellanea biographica}, ed. James Raine, SS 8 (1858), 61–87 \\
\textit{EETS} & \textit{Early English Text Society} \\
\textit{EHR} & \textit{English Historical Review} \\
\textit{Exortacio} & Richard Sharpe (ed.), ‘\textit{An Exortacio ad contemplacionem} from Farne Island’, \textit{Medium Aevum}, 54 (1985), 159–77 \\
\textit{GL} & \textit{Gilte Legende} \\
\textit{HSC} & Ted Johnson South (ed. and trans.), \textit{Historia de Sancto Cuthberto: A History of St Cuthbert and a Record of His Patrimony} (Cambridge, 2002) \\
\textit{JEGP} & \textit{Journal of English and Germanic Philology} \\
\textit{Kalendre} & \textit{Kalendre of the Newe Legende of Engleande}, ed. Manfred Görlach (Heidelberg, 1994) \\
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Metrical Life  The Life of St Cuthbert in English Verse, ed. Joseph Fowler, SS 87 (1891)

MGH  Monumenta Germaniae Historica


NLA  Nova Legenda Anglie, ed. Carl Horstmann, 2 vols (Oxford, 1901)

North-East England  Margaret Coombe, Anne Mouron and Christiania Whitehead (eds), Saints of North-East England, 600–1500 (Turnhout, 2017)

ODNB  Oxford Dictionary of National Biography online

Oswald  Clare Stancliffe and Eric Cambridge (eds), Oswald: Northumbrian King to European Saint (Stamford, 1995)


‘Rewriting History’  Sally Crumplin, ‘Rewriting History in the Cult of St Cuthbert from the Ninth to the Twelfth Centuries’ (unpublished PhD dissertation, University of St Andrews, 2004)

Rites  Rites of Durham, ed. Joseph T. Fowler, SS 107 (1903)

Saints and Animals  Dominic Alexander, Saints and Animals in the Middle Ages (Woodbridge, 2008)


SEL  The South English Legendary, ed. Charlotte D’Evelyn and Anna Mill, 3 vols, EETS 235, 236, 244 (1956–9)
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<th>List of Abbreviations</th>
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<tr>
<td>SHR Scottish Historical Review</td>
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<tr>
<td>SRM Scriptores rerum Merovingicarum</td>
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<td>SS Surtees Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>TCWAAS Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>VCA Anonymous Vita Sancti Cuthberti, in Two Lives of Saint Cuthbert: A Life by an Anonymous Monk of Lindisfarne and Bede’s Prose Life, ed. and trans. Bertram Colgrave (Cambridge, 1940), 60–139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VCM Bedas metrische Vita Sancti Cuthberti, ed. Werner Jaager (Leipzig, 1935), 57–133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VCP Bede, Prose Vita Sancti Cuthberti, in Two Lives of Saint Cuthbert: A Life by an Anonymous Monk of Lindisfarne and Bede’s Prose Life, ed. and trans. Bertram Colgrave (Cambridge, 1940), 142–307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Vita Bartholomaei</em> Geoffrey of Durham, Vita Sancti Bartholomaei Farnensis, in Symeonis monachi, Vol. 1, 295–325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Vita Godrici</em> Reginald of Durham, Libellus de vita et miraculis S. Godrici, heremita de Finchale, ed. Joseph Stevenson, SS 20 (1847)</td>
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Acknowledgements

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