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Basil Blackwell

(continued from front flap)

Anglo-Saxon church celebrated an exceptionally large number of Marian feasts and seems to have owed some of them to direct influence from the Byzantine church. Close examination of a group of manuscripts produced at Exeter in the third quarter of the eleventh century reveals the characteristics and purpose of the musical, neumatic, notation they contain. By application of fibre-optic light three to four hundred letters or parts of letters are identified as still surviving in the *Beowulf* text though covered by paper frames, paste or tape. Textual critics are alerted to the possibility of intrusive glosses incorporated in our extant vernacular poetic texts. A detailed codicological examination of the Junius manuscript of Old English biblical poems leads to rejection of some recent theories and to fresh understanding of the relationship between its contents. How Christian material was selected, disposed, made meaningful and adjusted in *Beowulf* is soberly reappraised. The distinctive *a*-spelling in *waldend*, regular to poetry, is seen as reflecting the 'poetic potential' of an agent noun in the 'man', 'warrior', 'ruler' class rather than the status of a *nomen sacrum*. Systematic distinctions in syntactic and rhetorical features are attributed to the poet of *The Dream of the Rood*.

The record of the ISAS conference contains the text of the Society's constitution agreed at that meeting. The bibliography embraces all types of study during 1983.

The contributors are ALFRED BAMMESBERGER, CARL T. BERKHOUT, MARTIN BIDDLE, MARK BLACKBURN, NICHOLAS BROOKS, MILDRED BUDNY, MARY CLAYTON, C. R. E. COUTTS, DAVID N. DUMVILLE, CHRISTINE FELL, MARGARET GELLING, STANLEY B. GREENFIELD, EDWARD B. IRVING, JR, DOUGLAS JOHNSON, SIMON KEYNES, KEVIN S. KIERNAN, ANGELIKA LUTZ, AUDREY L. MEANEY, CAROL BRAUN PASTERNAK, SUSAN RANKIN, BARBARA C. RAW, DOMINIC TWEDDLE and JOHN H. WILLIAMS

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Anglo-Saxon England

'There is no doubt that *Anglo-Saxon England*, in the main, stimulates by offering new information or by presenting speculative argument which causes reaction, and that it has contributed greatly in recent years to the health of Anglo-Saxon studies.'

Notes and Queries

'Par-delà le haut niveau d'érudition de tous les travaux qui le composent, la caractéristique frappante de ce recueil [vol. 9] est la volonté constante de faire appel à tous les domaines du savoir et de la recherche sans exclusive, pour contribuer à une connaissance plus complète du monde anglo-saxon.

Historiens, archéologues, philologues, linguistes, spécialistes de littérature contribuent tous à ce même objectif et c'est cette convergence de leurs efforts qui, par-delà la diversité des sujets abordés, fait l'unité de l'ouvrage.'

Études anglaises

Volume 12

The contribution to knowledge made by this volume is as substantial and diverse as that of any previous issue in this series. Four very different kinds of Anglo-Saxon thinking are clarified – traditions, learned and oral, about the settlement of the country, study of foreign-language grammar, interest in exotic jewels as reflections of the glory of God, and (surprisingly, no doubt, to some) a mainly rational attitude to medicine. Publication of no fewer than three recent discoveries augments our corpus of manuscript evidence. The nature of Old English poetry is illuminated – as a variety of oral expression and as exemplified in a particular poet's treatment of a particular Latin source. A useful summary of the present state of editorial treatment of textual problems in *Beowulf* is provided. As usual there is a systematic bibliography of the preceding year's publications in all branches of Anglo-Saxon studies – on this occasion those of 1980.

The contributors are CARL T. BERKHOUT, MARTIN BIDDLE, MARK BLACKBURN, T. J. BROWN, M. L. CAMERON, C. R. E. COUTTS, JOHN MILES FOLEY, M. T. GIBSON, EDWARD B. IRVING, JR, BIRTE KELLY, SIMON KEYNES, PETER KITSON, M. LAPIDGE, VIVIEN LAW, C. PAGE, M. B. PARKES, MICHAEL ROPER and PATRICK SIMS-WILLIAMS

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