

Preface

Most of the papers collected in this volume were presented at two symposia held in memory of Patrick Wormald in May and August 2006. The May symposium was organized by Catherine Karkov as part of the annual International Medieval Congress at Kalamazoo (Michigan), and was sponsored by the Richard Rawlinson Center for Anglo-Saxon Studies and Manuscript Research, of which Patrick was a much-valued board member. The participants at Kalamazoo included Nicholas Brooks, Scott DeGregorio, David Johnson, Lynn Jones, Sarah Larratt Keefer, John Niles, Thomas Noble, Éamonn Ó Carragáin, Lisi Oliver, David Pelteret, William Schipper and Elaine Treharne. Also participating in the symposium, but unable to include their papers in this volume, were Celia Chazelle, Mary Francis Giandrea and Paul Hyams. Patrick's former student, Shashi Jayakumar, was unable to participate in either conference, but has fortunately been able to contribute to this book.

The August symposium, held with pleasing aptness at St Hilda's College, Oxford, and organised chiefly by Stephen Baxter, was attended by some 60 people, among them Patrick's two sons, Tom and Luke. Of these participants, the following gave papers included in this book: Stuart Airlie, Stephen Baxter, John Blair, Nicholas Brooks, James Campbell, Thomas Charles-Edwards, John Hudson, Catherine Karkov, Simon Keynes, Henry Mayr-Harting, Rosamond McKitterick, Jinty Nelson, Thomas Noble, Toni Scharer, Joanna Story, Alan Thacker, Francesca Tinti, and Barbara Yorke. Also delivering papers in St Hilda's, but unable to publish here, were Lesley Abrams, Katy Cubitt, Chris Lewis and Richard Sharpe.

Since these occasions, Sarah Foot has compiled a bibliography of Patrick's writings, and has contributed this to the volume together with an appreciation of Patrick as an historian, which ill-health had prevented her from delivering in Kalamazoo. In addition, Jenny Wormald has written a memoir of Patrick from her own unique perspective of wife as well as colleague. She and Patrick enjoyed a profound relationship as fellow-historians and both contributed much to the Bucknell group in which new approaches to the pre-modern past were worked out. No one, least of all Patrick himself, was in any doubt of the intellectual stimulus Jenny gave him and the group over many years, and this is an appropriate place for other colleagues to acknowledge her work and her influence.

The papers given at Kalamazoo have been edited by Catherine Karkov and David Pelteret, and those given at Oxford have been edited by Nicholas Brooks, David Pelteret, and Jinty Nelson. We would like to register our profound gratitude to Nicholas Brooks, who secured a place for this volume in the *Studies in Early Medieval Britain* series, performed much of the editorial work, including compiling

the index, and was instrumental in managing the project through to completion with inexhaustible optimism, patience and good humour.

Patrick revelled in comparisons. He also enjoyed sparring over them, face-to-face and in print, in a spirit of friendly emulation. At the end of the day, his priorities were to connect, to engage with the past and to combine scholarly forces: the contributors hope that his qualities are reflected in this book.

Stephen Baxter, Catherine Karkov, Jinty Nelson and David Pelteret

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