
Second Edition
Edited by MICHAEL LAPIDGE, JOHN BLAIR, SIMON KEYNES & DONALD SCRRAGG

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This new edition has been thoroughly updated to include the latest scholarship, and features 52 brand-new entries and a new appendix detailing English archbishops and bishops from 597 to 1066. As in the first edition, the Encyclopedia includes maps, line drawings, photos, a table of rulers of the English from 450 to 1066, and a comprehensive classified index of headwords. With an accessible layout and authoriative content, this is indispensable reading, both for specialists in this interdisciplinary field and for students looking for a thorough grounding in key topics.

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Second Edition

Edited by

Michael Lapidge, John Blair, Simon Keynes, and Donald Scragg

WILEY Blackwell
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Preface to the Second Edition

During the fifteen years which have elapsed since the publication of the first edition, this Encyclopedia has remained constantly in print, and has sold in satisfying numbers. But inevitably there have been changes: Blackwell Publishers have become Wiley Blackwell Publishers; the volume of publication in the field of Anglo-Saxon studies has continued unabated; and many new discoveries, particularly in the field of archaeology – one thinks especially of the Prittlewell princely burial and the Staffordshire Hoard – have brought many new Anglo-Saxon artifacts to light. And there have been huge advances in fields relating to archaeological discovery, notably archaeobotany and palaeopathology. A number of large-scale publications, such as the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (ODNB) and the Oxford Handbook to Anglo-Saxon Archaeology (OHASA), have facilitated research on many aspects of the wider field. Developments such as these suggested to Wiley Blackwell, and to Tessa Harvey in particular, that there was a strong case for producing a second, revised, edition of the original Encyclopedia.

In some ways the undertaking was relatively straightforward: the original team of four general editors (John Blair, Simon Keynes, Donald Scragg and myself) all agreed on the merits of a new edition and all were willing to devote their time and energies to achieving it. But there were problems. There were some 150 contributors to the first edition; during the intervening fifteen years, a number of these have changed institutions, making it difficult to locate their present whereabouts, and many have left the field altogether; some, indeed, have left this life. We made a concerted effort to contact all the original contributors, and succeeded in contacting some 115 of them; and, with a very few exceptions, all were willing to undertake revision and updating of their original entries. (In the case of the thirty-five or so unlocatable or deceased contributors, the general editors have supplied updated references to obvious secondary sources, such as ODNB or OHASA, but have not thought it appropriate to undertake more extensive revision without the original authors’ permission.) The general editors have also written or commissioned some fifty-two new entries, so as to fill perceived lacunae in the first edition, and to provide coverage of new and important subjects (notably the Prittlewell princely burial and the Staffordshire Hoard). And Simon Keynes has compiled a comprehensive list of all Anglo-Saxon archbishops and bishops as a new, second, appendix, to accompany the (now lightly revised) Appendix of Rulers of the English which formed part of the first edition.

In many ways it is more difficult to revise a work on this scale than it would be simply to begin afresh. Particularly in the business of contacting original contributors, we have had excellent help and support from the desk editors at Wiley Blackwell, especially Anna Maria Mendell and Sally Cooper. At the copy-editing stage, the volume has had the benefit of the acute and intelligent attention of Janet Moth, to the great improvement of its layout and stylistic consistency. Throughout the several years of discussion, negotiation, and production, Tessa Harvey has been
a wonderful pillar of support (as she was fifteen and more years ago with the first edition), and that the revised edition appears at all is largely due to her unflagging enthusiasm for the project. Finally, I am very grateful for the support which I have had throughout from my three co-editors, each of whom has many other academic commitments, but has somehow found time to help bring this revised edition of the *Encyclopedia* to completion.

Michael Lapidge
(for the Editors)
January 2013
The past generation has seen enormous advances in all aspects of Anglo-Saxon studies. Archaeology has brought to light hundreds of sites and thousands upon thousands of artifacts (including countless coins, which often provide indispensable evidence for dating) and revolutionary new techniques have evolved to assist the analysis of this unfathomable wealth of evidence; architectural historians have identified innumerable new buildings, secular and ecclesiastical; refinements in palaeographical method have made it possible for the first time to identify, list, and date all the manuscripts likely to have been written or owned in Anglo-Saxon England; historians have developed and perfected new skills in analysing the surviving documentary evidence; many new Anglo-Latin authors and texts have been discovered; and even the relatively stable corpus of literature in Old English has undergone waves of reassessment as new critical approaches gain ascendancy. The burgeoning of knowledge – and ipso facto the vitality of the subject – are witnessed by that fact that each year some 1,000 publications are recorded in the annual bibliography, covering all aspects of the subject, which is printed in Anglo-Saxon England.

The need for a single handbook which would provide such orientation has long been felt. Some fifteen years ago, Blackwell Publishers took steps to address the need by establishing an editorial committee under the direction of R. I. Page, with the aim of producing a single-volume companion to all aspects of Anglo-Saxon studies. The editorial board consisted (at various times) of R. I. Page as general editor, together with Catherine Hills, Christine Fell, Simon Keynes, Malcolm Godden, Fred Robinson, and myself. Many hours’ work went into devising a list of head-words, drawing up guidelines for contributors, drafting specimen entries, and commissioning articles from specialists. Although many invitations were sent out to contributors in 1984–5, and although a number of contributions were received, the project faltered, perhaps because of its comprehensive scope, perhaps because the editors had underestimated the amount of energy which would be required to see it to completion.

A number of years later, on the occasion of the ISAS meeting in Oxford (July 1993), I happened to find myself in conversation with John Davey (then chief editor of Blackwell Publishers, and one of the initiators of the original conception of a companion to Anglo-Saxon studies). We reiterated our mutual conviction that the conception of the single-volume companion was an excellent one, and lamented that it had been abandoned. After some discussion I agreed to try to resuscitate the project, on the condition that a new editorial team could be appointed, which would have the single-minded determination necessary to see the project through to completion.