Contents

Alphabetical List of Authors and Works x
List of Illustrations xii
Preface and Acknowledgements to the First Edition xiii
Preface and Acknowledgements to the Second Edition xiv
Preface and Acknowledgements to the Third Edition xv
Chronology of Events and Literary Landmarks xvi
Introduction xix

Bede’s Ecclesiastical History 1

Cædmon’s Hymn 1

The Settlement of the Angles, Saxons and Jutes; The Life of Cædmon 2

Alfred 13

Preface to the Translation of Gregory’s Pastoral Care 13
Translation of Boethius’s Consolation of Philosophy 16

The Accounts of the Journeys of Ohthere and Wulfstan 24

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle 33

Annal 755: Cynewulf and Cynheard; Annal 855–78: The Death of Edmund; Alfred’s Battles with the Vikings 33
The Reign of Æðelstan and The Battle of Brunanburh 42

The Exeter Book 48

Advent Lyrics VII and VIII 49
The Wanderer 54
The Seafarer 60
The Whale  66
Deor  70
Wulf and Eadwacer  74
Exeter Book Riddles 5, 7, 12, 26, 29, 30, 43–6, 55  76
The Wife’s Lament  86
The Husband’s Message  90
The Ruin  94

The Vercelli Book  100
The Fates of the Apostles  101
Vercelli Homily X  108
The Dream of the Rood  118

Ælfric  129
Old English Preface to his First Series of Catholic Homilies  129
Homily on the Nativity of the Innocents  134
Old English Preface to his Lives of Saints  142
Passion of Saint Edmund  144

The Battle of Maldon  155

The Beowulf-Manuscript  171
The Wonders of the East  173
Beowulf  182
Judith  224

The Junius Manuscript  243
Exodus  243

Wulfstan’s Sermo Lupi ad Anglos  259
King Cnut’s Letter to the English of 1020  269
Apollonius of Tyre  275
The Peterborough Chronicle  301
The Life of Saint Margaret  308
The *Hymns* of Saint Godric 324

The *Orrmulum* 326

Cambridge, Trinity College B. 14. 52 335

Poema Morale, edited by Carla M. Thomas 336

Trinity Homily 33 354

Worcester Cathedral Library, F. 174 363

The First Worcester Fragment 363

*Hali Meiðhad* 366

*Ancrene Wisse* 382

*Sumer is Icumen In* 409

Oxford, Bodleian Library, Digby 86 412

Ubi Sount Qui Ante Nos Fuerount? 413

Stond Wel, Moder, Ounder Rode 415

The Fox and the Wolf 417

Dame Sirîf 423

Love is Softt 434

Arundel 292: *The Bestiary* 435

Oxford, Jesus College 29 437

The Love-Ron of Friar Thomas Hales 437

The Proverbs of Alfred 443

London, British Library, Cotton Caligula A. ix 456

Laʒamon’s Brut 456

The Owl and the Nightingale 468

Lyrics from Cambridge, Trinity College B. 14. 39 506

Of One That Is So Fair and Bright 507

When I Think on Domesday 508

When the Turf is Thy Tower 509
A Saying of Saint Bernard 509
I Sing of One That Is Matchless 509
An Orison to Our Lady 510

**The South English Legendary** 512
The Life of Saint Wulfstan 513

**Cursor Mundi** 519

Robert Mannyng of Brunne 525
The Chronicle 525
Handlyng Synne 534

**The Land of Cockayne** 545

The Auchinleck Manuscript 550
Sir Orfeo 550
The Four Foes of Mankind 563

London, British Library, Harley 2253 567
Earth upon Earth 567
Alysoun 568
Spring 569
Advice to Women 570
An Old Man's Prayer 571
Blow, Northerne Wynd 574
The Death of King Edward I 576
I Syke when Y Singe 578
An Autumn Song 580
King Horn 582

**The Ayenbite of Inwit** 615

Richard Rolle 619
Ego Dormio 620
Ghostly Gladness 626

Kyng Alisaunter 627
Contents

Ywain and Gawain 642
Athelston 656
Wynne and Wastoure 675
William Langland 688
  Piers Plowman 688
Geoffrey Chaucer 728
  The Canterbury Tales 728
  The General Prologue 729
  The Wife of Bath’s Prologue and Tale 748
Sir Gawain and the Green Knight 776
Julian of Norwich 801
  A Vision 801
The Book of Margery Kempe 809

Select Bibliography 826
Glossary of Common Hard Words 845
Index of Manuscripts 848
General Index 850