

PREFACE

THIS is the eleventh volume of the British Academy's Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Stone Sculpture and departs in some ways from the previous volumes. Cornwall is a special case, in that it was a British kingdom with its own ecclesiastical organisation for much of the Anglo-Saxon period. It was not until the beginning of the ninth century that it became part of the Anglo-Saxon world with its conquest by Egbert of Wessex. It was never an entirely happy member of the Anglo-Saxon community and it was not until the reign of Athelstan that it finally had to recognise the English king's overlordship. The church was central to the Anglo-Saxon power base, and an independent diocese, St Germans, was finally established by Athelstan. These events are echoed in the sculpture, which reflects two traditions — British and English.

For these reasons the Committee has included the county's sometimes ambiguous sculpture within the Corpus series under the modified title of *Early Cornish Sculpture*, because this volume includes both monuments raised under the influence of the early 'Celtic' church alongside influence from the rest of England. Some monuments are, as in much of the Celtic west, difficult to date, and the Cornish tradition continues well into the medieval period. But, their date and cultural significance having been rigorously considered, they have been included here for the sake of completeness. The early inscriptions have been treated more fully elsewhere.

The Committee is, therefore, extremely grateful to Ann Preston-Jones and Elisabeth Okasha, and their fellow authors, for their courage in tackling this complicated task so successfully. It is also grateful for major financial support from the Headley Trust, which at a time of extreme financial stress, has provided the salary of the Research Fellow, Derek Craig, whose meticulous sense of order and editorial experience accumulated over many years work on the Corpus has once again presented us with a remarkable volume. The Committee is also grateful for financial support from the Cornwall Heritage Trust and the Cornwall Archaeological Society which has enabled us for the first time in the series to include a sequence of colour photographs, many of which show the monuments in their original positions. In addition many individuals, whose names are recorded elsewhere, have given freely of their time in order to bring the project to completion. The British Academy has always been our strongest supporter and has, through its annual grant, eased the project's travelling and photographic costs. To them we are exceedingly grateful.

Finally, we must once again record the remarkable support of Durham University, and particularly the Department of Archaeology, who have housed the project and provided much discreet help from the beginning of the project. Without their help this volume and its predecessors would never have appeared. The Committee are happy to record their thanks, confident that this support will continue to the end of the project — now well within sight.

DAVID M. WILSON

*Chairman, British Academy Committee for
the Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Stone Sculpture, 2013*