

## PREFACE

**M**ORE than twenty years ago Rosemary Cramp published the first volume of the British Academy's Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Stone Sculpture and subsequently co-authored the second. Now — having served as General Editor for the intervening volumes — she has herself produced the seventh volume in the series. On behalf of the committee which oversees the work of these publications for the Academy, I can only express our thanks and admiration for the way in which Professor Cramp, ably assisted by the project's Research Fellows, Derek Craig and Ken. Jukes, has maintained standards, drive and initiative through the many vicissitudes which inevitably assail such a long-term project. An indicator of her success is the continued funding and support for the project from the Arts and Humanities Research Council, together with the British Academy and many private funds, which allow us to plan the continuation of the series. All these funding bodies are to be thanked, as, particularly, must Durham University which has been an ungrudging supporter of the Corpus and its archive for many years. This great project is now well past the half-way mark and the committee are confident that the momentum will be maintained in the course of the next four years.

The Corpus is a great and enduring tool of scholarship; it has shed much light on the period during which the English nation was taking shape — and will shed more. As one volume succeeds another, we add immeasurably to an understanding of our past and of the influences which formed us. In a period when scholarly communication is made easier through the internet, it becomes clearer that the ferment of ideas concerning the humanities which appear in that medium can only be discussed and confirmed if they are based on the foundation of such permanent and complete records as that provided by this Corpus. It is for this reason that we receive the backing of the Academy, which has never faltered in its support.

DAVID M. WILSON

*Chairman, British Academy Committee for  
the Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Stone Sculpture, 2005*