

PREFACE

This volume of the British Academy's Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Sculpture encompasses the rich and varied material from western Yorkshire, the former West Riding. The finds include objects as diverse as architectural fragments from the cathedral church at Ripon, the important group of ninth- and tenth-century crosses from Ilkley, and Scandinavian-influenced material as dissimilar as the Burnsall hogbacks and the rare fragment of a Ringerike-decorated slab from Otley. Elizabeth Coatsworth has produced a magnificent corpus which vastly extends the content of the catalogue compiled as long ago as 1915 by W. G. Collingwood. The Corpus committee is deeply grateful to her for all her hard work and meticulous scholarship.

Great credit is also due to the General Editor, Rosemary Cramp, and her research team. Derek Craig and Ken Jukes have so developed the editorial process and the quality of the photographic images that, not only is the production process much quicker and the quality of the illustrations so much better, but the price has been kept at a much lower level than that of the earlier volumes. Their hard work and dedication must be warmly acknowledged here. The committee has welcomed Graham Lott as geological adviser to the project, taking over John Senior's uncompleted survey. His contribution to the publication is very much appreciated. It is with great sadness that we record the death of John Higgitt, who has published the non-runic inscriptions in so many volumes of the Corpus. His wise comments and painstaking advice are missed almost daily by scholars of all disciplines whose work borders on this subject, and we can only admire with gratitude the way he continued to work on his entries for this volume right up to his death. He was our friend and all involved in the Corpus mourn him. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife and family in their loss. His work is continued here by David Parsons, who has added John's burden to his own runic specialist contributions for future volumes; for this help we are most grateful.

Finally we must express our appreciation to three institutions which have supported us through thick and thin. First, we must thank Durham University for the continuing support in housing and servicing the Corpus project. The British Academy was our founding sponsor and has supported us morally and financially over many years; our gratefulness to them cannot be expressed too warmly. Finally, the Arts and Humanities Research Council funding is the generous support which powers the project. This support — a symbol of the quality of our work — is greatly appreciated and encourages the committee to look forward to the completion of the Corpus.

DAVID M. WILSON
*Chairman, British Academy Committee for
the Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Stone Sculpture, 2007*