



THE PERSUASIVE AGENCY OF OBJECTS AND PRACTICES IN ALFRED THE GREAT'S REFORM PROGRAM

by
GEORGINA PITT

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CONTENTS

List of Illustrations.....	vi
Acknowledgements.....	vii
Author's Note.....	viii
Abbreviations.....	ix
Prelude. The Enigmatic Alfred Jewel.....	1
Chapter 1. Introduction.....	11
Chapter 2. Military Innovation: Performing Alfredian Ideology.....	31
Chapter 3. Alfredian Ideology.....	51
Chapter 4. Alfredian Learning and Its Implications for Alfredian Reform.....	93
Chapter 5. Text-Bodies: A Crucial Actant.....	115
Chapter 6. Social Practices: Routinized Ways of Doing Things.....	137
Chapter 7. The Enigmatic Alfred Jewel: A Powerful Player in Alfredian Reform.....	171
Coda. Looking Forward: Alfred's Successors.....	187
Bibliography.....	195
Index.....	227

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1. Replica of the Alfred Jewel, held in a pincer grip.	x
Figure 2. Replica of the Alfred Jewel, clutched in a fist.....	x
Figure 3. Replica of the Alfred Jewel, with a rod.....	5

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AUTHOR'S NOTE

I RESTRICT THE contentious term “Anglo-Saxon” to specific contexts. First, as an archaeological classification of artifacts. Secondly, as an adjective for the kingdoms of Northumbria, Mercia, Wessex, East Anglia, and Kent, and the commonalities between those kingdoms (e.g., their governance or warfare). The peoples of these kingdoms also shared a suite of cultural norms and beliefs. I describe these as Anglo-Saxon to avoid the inference that the same beliefs and norms necessarily pertained to their Celtic neighbours. I also use the term Anglo-Saxon in relation to the concept of the *Angelcynn*. This is not an ethnic classification in the sense of race or descent. The reader is referred to a fuller discussion on page 77. The term “Old English” is used for language and literature. “Early medieval” describes the period between the end of the Roman Empire in Britain and the Norman Conquest.

ABBREVIATIONS

- ASC* *The Anglo-Saxon Chronicles*. Edited by Michael Swanton. London: Phoenix, 2000.
- Asser* *Asser's Life of King Alfred, Together with the Annals of St Neots, Erroneously Ascribed to Asser*. Edited by William Henry Stevenson. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1904. Reprint, 1959 (with article by Dorothy Whitelock).
- EHD* *English Historical Documents: Vol. 1, ca. 500–1042*. Edited by Dorothy Whitelock. 2nd ed. Abingdon: Routledge, 1979.
- Gildas* *Gildas: The Ruin of Britain and Other Works*. Edited by Michael Winterbottom. London: Phillimore, 1978.
- HE* *Bede's The Ecclesiastical History of the English People*. Edited by Judith McClure and Roger Collins. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1969.
- K & L* *Alfred the Great: Asser's Life of Alfred and Other Contemporary Sources*. Edited by Simon Keynes and Michael Lapidge. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1983.
- Pastoral Care* *The Old English Pastoral Care*. Translated by Robert D. Fulk. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2021.
- OE Boethius* *The Old English Boethius*. Edited by Susan Irvine and Malcolm R. Godden. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2012.
- S* The Electronic Sawyer. <https://esawyer.lib.cam.ac.uk>
- Soliloquies* *Augustine's Soliloquies in Old English and in Latin*. Edited by Leslie Lockett. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2022.



Figure 1. Replica of the Alfred Jewel, held in a pincer grip. © The Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, 2023.



Figure 2. Replica of the Alfred Jewel, clutched in a fist. © The Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, 2023.