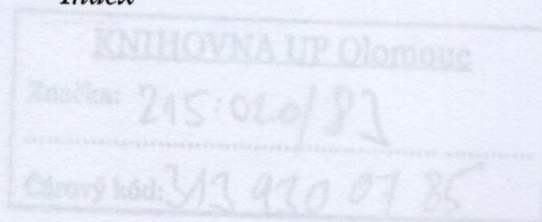


CONTENTS

<i>List of maps</i>	page vii
<i>List of tables</i>	viii
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	ix
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	xi
1 INTRODUCTION: ASSEMBLING CONSENT IN LATE NINTH- AND TENTH-CENTURY ENGLAND	1
Absent assemblies: the historiography of the Anglo-Saxon 'national assembly'	1
Assembly politics and the formation of the 'kingdom of the English', 871-978	6
Kingship, assemblies and the 'late Anglo-Saxon state'	11
Assemblies and rituals: continental contributions and anthropological approaches	14
Defining assemblies: outline and scope of the study	20
2 ASSEMBLY ATTENDANCE	27
Assembly attendance in the 'kingdom of the Anglo-Saxons', 871-909 × 925	29
Assembly attendance in the 'kingdom of the English', c. 925-978	32
Conclusions	43
3 MEETING PLACES AND TIMES OF ASSEMBLIES	45
Locating meaning: the meeting places of the <i>witan</i> , 871-978	45
'Diplomatic' meetings	48
'Legislative' meetings	53
'Dispositive' meetings	54
'Diplomatic', 'legislative' and 'dispositive' assemblies: the relationship revisited	64
Preliminary conclusions	67
Meeting times, duration and frequency of assemblies	71

Contents

4	ROYAL CHARTERS AND ASSEMBLIES	77
	Diploma production and assemblies	78
	Diplomas and assembly politics	89
	Conclusions	101
5	LEGISLATION AND CONSENT: LAW-MAKING AND ASSEMBLY POLITICS	104
	The <i>witan</i> and the law	107
	Law-codes and royal administration	113
	The <i>witan</i> and the law: preliminary conclusions	121
6	THE <i>WITAN</i> AND THE SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES	122
	Dispute settlement in Anglo-Saxon charters	124
	Dispute settlement in house chronicles	137
	Law-codes, dispute settlement and the <i>witan</i> : conclusions	143
7	THE 'FURTHER BUSINESS' OF THE <i>WITAN</i>	147
	Consensus, assemblies and the administration of the realm	148
	Conclusions	159
8	SYMBOLS IN CONTEXT: RITUAL AND DEMONSTRATION AT ASSEMBLIES	161
	Rites and rituals at assemblies	162
	Ritual and ceremony at and beyond assemblies	173
	<i>Emotional displays</i>	174
	<i>Symbolizing community and hierarchy</i>	176
	<i>Rituals of petition and intercession</i>	184
	<i>Rites de passage and the distribution of gifts and offices</i>	190
	Ritual and demonstration at assemblies: preliminary conclusions	194
9	RITUAL AND REALITY: THE PROBLEM OF THE SOURCES	195
	Ritual and symbolism beyond narrative sources	196
	The sources of ritual	202
	Conclusions	208
10	THE ROLE OF THE <i>WITAN</i> : CELEBRATION AND PERSUASION	212
	Kingship and consent: the <i>witan</i> and the late Anglo-Saxon state	213
	Rituals and assemblies in England and on the continent	227
	Assemblies and kingship in England, 871-978: final observations	235
	<i>Appendix: Meetings of the witan, 871-978</i>	239
	Locatable meetings of the <i>witan</i>	239
	Dated meetings of the <i>witan</i>	243
	<i>Bibliography</i>	244
	<i>Index</i>	292



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 1 'Diplomatic' assemblies, 871–978 page 50
- 2 'Legislative' assemblies, 871–978 55
- 3 'Dispositive' assemblies, 871–924 58
- 4 'Dispositive' assemblies, 924–39 61
- 5 'Dispositive' assemblies, 939–78 65

Since my arrival in Cambridge as a wide-eyed undergraduate in Michaelmas term 2003 and has been a pleasure and a privilege to work with and learn from the staff and students of the Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic. Thanks are similarly due to my Ph.D. advisor (and undergraduate Latin lecturer) Rosalind Love for help which often went above and beyond the call of duty. Sarah Foot and Jinty Nelson, my Ph.D. examiners, kindly encouraged me to revise what was a rather rough piece of work into the present volume and their comments have proven immensely helpful in the process. I am also grateful to the general editor of this series, Rosamond McKitterick, for her comments on successive drafts, as well as to those who have seen it through to publication: Liz Farnell-Smith, Maartje Scheltens, Chloe Dawson and Gillian Dadd at Cambridge University Press; and Jamie Hood and Christopher Feeney at Out of House Publishing. A number of institutions have likewise aided my efforts. My greatest debt in this respect is to Trinity College, Cambridge, and the Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic (also Cambridge), at which I completed my undergraduate and postgraduate study: the former generously funded my research, whilst the latter provided the ideal environment in which to undertake this. Additional thanks are due to Trinity College and the Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes, whose support enabled me to intermit my Ph.D. for a year to attend the Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg in 2008–9. This unique opportunity enabled me to immerse myself in German historiography to a degree which would have been impossible otherwise. At the closing stages of my Ph.D., I was elected to a Research Fellowship at St John's College,