Contents

Introduction xi
Acknowledgements xiii
List of abbreviations xv

I Historiography and methodology 1

1 The historiography of grammar in the early Middle Ages 4

2 Notes on the dating and attribution of anonymous Latin grammars of the early Middle Ages 28

II Cultural transfer: ancient grammar in the British Isles 51

3 Late Latin grammars in the early Middle Ages: a typological history 54

4 Linguistics in the earlier Middle Ages: the Insular and Carolingian grammarians 70

5 The study of Latin grammar in eighth-century Southumbria 91

III Grammar and dialectic: the Carolingian contribution 125

6 The study of grammar under the Carolingians 129

7 Carolingian grammarians and theoretical innovation 154
Contents

iv Grammarians at work

8 An early medieval grammarian on grammar: Wynfreth-Boniface and the Praefatio ad Sigibertum 169

9 Grammars and language change: an eighth-century case 188

10 Ælfric's Excerptiones de arte grammatica anglice 200

11 Learning to read with the oculi mentis: the word-play of Virgilius Maro Grammaticus 224

v Ideas about language

12 From aural to visual: medieval representations of the word 250

13 The terminology of Medieval Latin grammar 260

vi Bibliography

14 Grammar in the early Middle Ages: a bibliography 273

Index of manuscripts 298

General index 300