

# CONTENTS

PREFACE	IX
INTRODUCTION: LEGENDARY ANALOGUES TO MYTH	I
1 THE EVOLUTION OF ANGLO-SAXON PAGANISM	9
2 THE CONVERSION OF ENGLAND TO CHRISTIANITY	31
3 CULTURAL ASSIMILATION IN THE ANGLO-SAXON ROYAL GENEALOGIES	51
4 THE PRESERVATION AND DECAY OF GERMANIC LEGEND IN ENGLAND	65
<i>Widsið</i>	65
<i>Hildebrandslied</i>	71
<i>The Fight at Finnsburgh</i>	77
<i>Waldere</i>	80
<i>Deor</i>	84
5 THE EXORCISM OF GRENDEL	89
6 THE FURY OF KIN-FEUD	113
7 <i>WYRD</i> AND THE WORLD-SERPENT	135
CONCLUSION: THE TWILIGHT OF THE HEROES	159
APPENDIX ONE: THE PAGAN-CHRISTIAN QUESTION	165
APPENDIX TWO: THE DATE OF <i>BEOWULF</i> 'S COMPOSITION	171
APPENDIX THREE: BEOWULF'S SIN	175
APPENDIX FOUR: BEOWULF'S SALVATION	179
BIBLIOGRAPHY	185
INDEX	231