

Contents

<i>Preface</i>	ix
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xv
INTRODUCTION	3
1 THE POEM'S	
ELEVENTH-CENTURY PROVENANCE	13
The Historical Context of the Extant Manuscript	15
The Linguistic Tests for an Early Date	23
The Late Literary and the Early Poetic Dialects	37
The Mixture of Forms in <i>Beowulf</i>	50
Conclusion	61
2 THE HISTORY AND CONSTRUCTION OF	
THE COMPOSITE CODEX	65
Cotton Vitellius A. xv.	66
The Prefixed Leaves	71
History of the Multiple Foliations	85
The Southwick Codex	110
The Nowell Codex	120
The <i>Beowulf</i> Codex	133
The <i>Judith</i> Fragment	150
Conclusion	168
3 THE <i>BEOWULF</i> CODEX AND THE	
MAKING OF THE POEM	171
The Authority of the <i>Beowulf</i> Manuscript	172
The Proofreading of the Scribes	191
<i>The First Scribe</i>	196
<i>The Second Scribe</i>	205
The Palimpsest and the New Text of Folio 179	219
<i>Beowulf</i> in the Making	243
Conclusion	270
<i>Works Cited</i>	279
<i>Index</i>	291