FOREWORD

This translation of the *Annals of Fulda* complements the *Annals of St-Bertin*, published last year as the first of the new MUP series of translated medieval sources. Both volumes of *Ninth-century histories* continue the story told in earlier Frankish historical writings. The eastern and western Carolingian successor-kingdoms were continuations of Charlemagne's Empire, variations on a theme. It seems entirely appropriate that the *Annals of Fulda* should appear in English in 1992: as diverse Western European countries move closer to political unity, their common starting-point in a world dominated by the heirs of Charlemagne needs, more than ever, to be appreciated. It is equally appropriate that the translator should be a historian who in the past decade or so has done more than anyone to make medieval German history, and its modern German historiography, accessible to English-speaking students. Tim Reuter's translation of the *Annals of Fulda* takes its place alongside, most recently, his brilliant account of *Germany in the Early Middle Ages* (Longman, 1991). If in that book he showed how Germany was created, he presents in this one some of the basic materials from which the creation was put together. That story has its analogue in the making of France. Between them, the two volumes of *Ninth-century histories* will allow readers to form their own assessments of the distinctive variety, as well as the unity, of early medieval Europe.

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