PREFACE

When it was first suggested that a volume of essays be put together in honour of Jinty Nelson, the editors were inundated with requests from colleagues who wished to be involved. So many people feel a strong sense of gratitude to Jinty for her work, and for the help that she has given them, that we could have filled several volumes, each with a different theme, or even nationality. In the end it seemed most appropriate to give the volume a London basis, with contributions from colleagues and from former students, all of whom have shared with Jinty the rich experience of participating in the Early Middle Ages seminar at the Institute of Historical Research. The editors chose the title 'Frankland. The Franks and the world of the early Middle Ages' to celebrate the way in which Jinty has used her profound understanding of Frankish history as a frame for reflecting upon the nature of early medieval culture and society in general. Each contributor was asked, accordingly, to write an essay on a theme that made connections between the Frankish world and the world beyond, in terms of either time or place, or both.

The volume includes a *tabula gratulatoria* of those very many others who wish to express their appreciation of Jinty's work and their warm personal gratitude to her. The editors recognize that there will be far more who should have been invited. That they were not, merely reflects the fact that Jinty has helped and encouraged more people than anyone can remember. We are grateful to Manchester University Press for supporting this publication from the outset. Jinty has had a long association with the MUP as the series advisor to the *Manchester Medieval Sources* series, which she got off to such a good start with her own *Annals of St Bertin*. Finally, for the record, Jinty likes to be known as Jinty Nelson. She is in fact, Dame Jinty Nelson, but the editors have elected to use 'Janet Nelson' to refer to her in each essay, for they wished to retain a certain academic formality for what is a

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series of substantial essays which have an importance in their own right. We recognize that this famously unceremonious honorand may be irritated by the formality, but we trust that she will be equally impressed by the substance.

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