PREFACE

Although Archbishop Wulfstan's *Sermo lupi ad Anglos* is familiar to every first-year Old English student, his other works have not garnered the same level of attention, even among Anglo-Saxonists. In compiling an anthology of his political writings, many of which are translated here for the first time, my goal has been to make Wulfstan's works accessible to a wider audience of students and professional scholars, both those specialising in Old English and those engaged in the study of medieval legal and political history more generally. A volume of this sort does not have a 'thesis' *per se*, but I do hope that readers will come away from this collection with a greater appreciation for Wulfstan's significance in the history of medieval political theology and, more broadly, for the theoretical sophistication of early English social thought.

If this volume proves to be a useful contribution to the study of Wulfstan and his times, it will be because of the help and support of a large number of people. I am especially grateful to Lisi Oliver, Stefan Jurasinski, Jay Gates, Stephen Harris, Tom Hall, Nicole Marafioti, Bryan Carella, and Bruce O'Brien for sharing their views on Wulfstan, providing clarification on points of law, and suggesting new or better ways of translating problematic passages. At my home institution, the University of Louisville, special thanks are due to Pamela Beattie, Tom Byers, Susan Griffin, Karen Hadley, Aaron Jaffe, Tom Maloney, Glynis Ridley, and Tatjana Soldat-Jaffe, all of whom served as sounding boards for my frequently off-kilter ideas and offered invaluable advice as the project developed. This book is infinitely better for their help; the errors that remain are, of course, my own.

Finally, thanks are due to my parents, Alan and Ellen Rabin, and most especially to my wife Shira and my sons Ari and Eli for their love and patience as this book was written. They've had to share far too much of their time with an eleventh-century archbishop, but without them, this project would never have come to fruition. It is to them that this book is dedicated.