

SUMMARY

The Immigration of Anglo-Saxons into the Frankish Empire from an Archaeological Viewpoint Concerning the Traces of the »Anglo-Saxon Mission« from the Late 7th to Mid-9th Century

The question as to which concrete traces the immigration of Anglo-Saxons into the Frankish Empire during the »Anglo-Saxon mission« from the late 7th to mid-9th century has left will be addressed for the first time from the viewpoint of archaeology. The immigrants comprised a small group of educated elites, who mostly belonged to the ecclesiastical class and left their homeland not for economic but religious reasons. As far as possible, all known and named persons, 70 men and 15 women, have been documented with their *curricula vitae*. Using data analysis they could be subdivided into several groups with different functions. Distribution maps illustrate where they spent time within Francia, where they founded churches and/or monasteries and where they were finally buried. As far as available, plans show the excavated remains of their buildings, as well as the sites and state of their graves. Also discussed are the oldest depictions of Anglo-Saxons from the 9th century, such as the marble(!) monument to Boniface in Mainz, and objects used by the immigrants themselves.

Moreover, we consider a large number of objects clearly or probably originating from Britain, whereby one does not know to whom they once belonged. The most striking among them are represented by works of art and craftsmanship, the majority of which have indeed been published, but occasional ones have hitherto been unknown. In some cases it is even possible to name their probable owners or donors.

For the first time completely anonymous archaeological small finds of Anglo-Saxon origin or style are also presented and evaluated. Whereas tools, such as styli and bronze combs, could theoretically have been owned by missionaries, the bearers of unique garment fasteners and pieces of jewellery should, however, be sought in completely different circles.

The Anglo-Saxons left definitive traces of their missionary work in the buildings of churches and monasteries in the northern and eastern regions of the Frankish Empire with a mainly heathen population. Thereby they substantially extended, yet also partly concentrated and, thus, considerably altered the ecclesiastical settlement structures of the land. The impressive successor buildings of later date characterise the countryside and towns up to the present day.

Translation: Clive Bridger