

# Contents

Preface.....	7
I. A multi-levelled text.....	8
Introduction.....	9
Hard to prove, difficult to deny .....	12
The Case.....	13
The meaningful framework .....	27
The meaning of the play .....	30
Conclusion .....	32
II. The text as cultural history .....	35
<i>Narrator ludens'</i> lines.....	35
The dialogue.....	43
III. The play as cultural history.....	53
Finnsburg versus Heorot.....	53
The scenes .....	54
The Merovingian world .....	58
IV. Conclusion .....	64
V. Appendices.....	67
Appendix 1. Instructions for <i>Quem Quaeritis</i> .....	67
Appendix 2. The dumb show in <i>Symbol Beowulfe</i> .....	68
Appendix 3. The scop's Finnsburg lay .....	69
Appendix 4. The queens monologue .....	72
VI. References.....	78
VII. Notes.....	85