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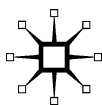
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ATLANTIC

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## PREFACE

The Atlantic Ocean has been the “elephant in the room” of medieval history, where Europe was transformed after Imperial Rome yielded to the new kingdoms of the Middle Ages. The shift is reflected in the written records, when the infrequent references to the Atlantic in classical reports give way to repeated mentions/allusions in medieval records. Rarely, however, is the ocean considered in a historical context outside specific regions. A hesitancy to engage the topic on the part of historians is understandable since the physical immensity of the Atlantic encourages investigation of narrowly defined areas. Ironically, the interconnectivity provided by this gigantic waterway was one of its compelling attractions. The sea was a highway for merchants, missionaries, settlers, and warriors; where population movement and military confrontation jostled with commercial adventurism and religious conversion. This environment provided a place for cooperation and communication as well as conflict. As European kingdoms began the systematic exploration and exploitation of the islands in the Atlantic region by the Renaissance, they used the methods pioneered in the earlier period and continued the competitions.

The genesis of this collection of essays was at the conference *Sailing the Western Sea: The Atlantic Ocean in a Medieval Perspective*, which was held at the Pennsylvania State University on March 28, 2009, under the auspices of the Center for Medieval Studies. The contributors wish to thank Professor Steven Walton for his assistance and gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Center and the Institute for the Arts and Humanities at Penn State.



## ABBREVIATIONS AND SHORT TITLES

<i>ca.</i>	<i>circa</i>
CC	<i>Corpus Christianorum. Continuatio Mediaevalis</i>
Fo.(s)	folio(s)
fl.	flourished
HMSO	His/Her Majesty's Stationary Office
Íslenzk fornit	<i>Íslenzk fornit</i> (Reyjavík: Hið Íslenzka Fornritafélag, 1933–)
MGH (SS)	<i>Monumenta Germaniae historica inde ab anno Christi quingentesimo usque ad annum millesimum et quingentesimum. Scriptores rerum Germanicarum.</i> (Berlin: Weidmans, 1920–)
ON	Old Norse
PG	Migne, J.-P., ed., <i>Patrologiæ cursus completus : seu, Bibliotheca universalis, integra, uniformis, commoda, oeconomica omnium SS. patrum, doctorum, scriptorumque ecclesiasticorum. Series græca.</i> 162 vols (Paris: J.-P. Migne, 1857–1866)
PL	Migne, J.-P., ed., <i>Patrologiæ cursus completus : sive bibliotheca universalis, integra, uniformis, commoda, oeconomica, omnium SS. patrum, doctorum, scriptorumque ecclesiasticorum. Series latina,</i> 221 vols (Paris: Garnieri Fratres, 1844–1891)
Rolls Series	<i>Rerum britannicarum medii aevi scriptores; or, Chronicles and memorials of Great Britain and Ireland during the middle ages</i> (London: HMSO, 1858–1896)
s.a.	<i>sub anno</i>