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Anthony Faulkes, Viktor Kalyguine and Kristján Árnason made available to me proof copies of works still in print, thus enabling me to incorporate research as yet

unpublished. These are now cited in their published versions in notes and Bibliography.

The Diagrams in the Introduction and the accompanying text first appeared in *Studia Celtica Japonica*; my thanks to the editors for permission to re-use them.

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Basel/Jena, March 1996

S. Tranter

Note

The thesis manuscript on which this book is based was completed in all essential details in June, 1992. I have not been aware of any major publications subsequently in areas directly bearing on this topic, with the possible exception of M. Gasparov's history of European metre, and Kari Ellen Gade's work on *dróttkvætt*, neither of which I have been able to incorporate. Chapters 6-8 would have benefited from a consideration of developments in the theory of Old English metre; those interested would be advised to consult the works of Thomas Cable, Robert Fulk, Howard Kendall, Andy Orchard and Geoffrey Russom cited in the Bibliography. Revision for publication has been confined to cutting and minor reformulation, with some additions to bibliography and footnotes.