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THIRTEENTH CENTURY

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PREFACE

THIS BOOK is intended to bring together recent ideas about the thirteenth century. The period is one which after some years of relative dormancy is now attracting a great deal of attention, as a new generation of historians question the conclusions of their predecessors. My debt to the various scholars working in this area is therefore a huge one, as I hope the notes reveal. Special thanks are due to Dr Peter Coss and Dr Simon Lloyd, for organising a very stimulating series of conferences for historians of the thirteenth century. I am grateful to the many students whom I have taught for this period; I owe them more than they realise. I would like to give warm thanks to Dr Robin Frame for reading an initial print-out of this book, and providing extremely helpful suggestions and corrections. My wife has provided invaluable help at all stages of the preparation of this book; without her support and assistance it could not have been written.

Durham, November 1989

MICHAEL PRESTWICH