## Old English Prose: Passio and Vita



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## Reviews

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(Jody Veum)

### OLD ENGLISH PROSE: PASSIO AND VITA



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GRIN Verlag. Paperback. Condition: New. 72 pages. Dimensions: 8.3in. x 5.8in. x 0.2in.Seminar paper from the year 2009 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 1, 3, University of Cologne (Englisches Seminar), course: Hauptseminar Old English Prose, language: English, comment: Kommentar des Professors: Zwar ist der historische Teil sehr umfangreich, dennoch berzeugt die Arbeit in Darstellung, Textanalyse und Argumentation. Sprachlich auf hohem Niveau. Der Text enthlt u. a. Zitate in deutscher Sprache sowie als Anhang die bersetzung der diskutierten Texte ins Deutsche. Although written in English, the paper contains quotations in German, and, as an appendix, a translation of the Old English texts discussed into Modern German., abstract: Lives of saints were a very popular genre in Christian Europe throughout the entire Middle Ages, and their popularity did not cease until the Reformation in the 16th century. Since Late Antiquity two basic concepts of saints lives had evolved, the passio (passion) and the vita (life). The passio was the literary form appropriate for a saint who had been martyred for hisher faith, whereas the vita properly pertained to a confessor (that is, a saint whose impeccable service to God constituted a metaphorical, not real, martyrdom). (Lapidge 1991: 252) Saints lives circulated widely in Anglo-Saxon England, most of which were composed in Latin. At the end of the 10th century the monk and author Ifric of Eynsham translated a collection of forty lives of saints into the Old English vernacular. Together with his Catholic Homilies, they represent the heyday of Old English prose in the late 10th and early 11th century. The overall intention of his Lives of Saints is the same, namely to commemorate a saint on his or her feast day, and to instruct and edify the reader or hearer. The particular lives, however,...



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