

The *King's Bishops* is the first detailed, comparative study of patronage as an instrument of power in the relations between kings and bishops in England and Normandy during the century and a half after the Conquest. In particular, it has as its main concern an analysis of the way in which men from different social groups were appointed to episcopal office by royal influence and how they, in turn, used their position to promote many of their own relatives. Through a careful examination of the background and career of each of the bishops in the seventeen sees in England and the seven sees in Normandy, Everett U. Crosby provides the basis for a new consideration of several of the fundamental assumptions and practices, including royal prerogative, clerical independence, papal authority, and family claims, which underlay the structures of power in this period of vigorous and significant growth in Anglo-Norman government.



EVERETT U. CROSBY is Professor of History in the Corcoran Department of History at the University of Virginia, USA. His teaching and research interests focus on the institutional history of medieval Europe and his publications include *Bishop and Chapter in Twelfth-Century England*, *Medieval Warfare*, and *The Seventeenth-Century Restoration*.