

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my gratitude to all without whose support this volume would not have taken the shape it has –

first, to my wife, Maria, for the continuous inspiration and professional advice of a fellow scholar, as well as the understanding, kindness and patience of a lifetime companion,
to my daughter, Emily, for the constant intellectual and emotional stimulus her presence has always been to me,
to all those fellow members of Academia who have, at various times, expressed their support for the project and ventured some crucial constructive criticism.

God quite hem ther mede!

I would also like to acknowledge that some parts of the argument included in the *Introduction* echo the analysis contained in the Polish article “Dialog z przeszłością w wysokiej fantastyce” included in the volume titled *Karły na ramionach olbrzymów? Kultura niemieckiego obszaru językowego w dialogu z tradycją, Vol. II* (eds. J. Godlewicz-Adamiec, Piotr Kocumbas, Ewelina Michta), Warsaw: Institute of German Philology of the University of Warsaw, 2016.

Also, a preliminary version of the argument in *Chapter I* was published in the Polish article “Elendil i Nymeria. O micie heroicznym w światach wtórnych”, published in the volume entitled *Epos: od Homera do Martina* (eds. B. Błaszkiwicz, J. Godlewicz-Adamiec), Gdańsk: Katedra 2019.