## Contents

## PREFACE xi

INTRODUCTION: THE PROBLEM OF MECHTHILD'S AUTHORSHIP I

- 1. CHOOSING THE VERNACULAR: THE POLITICS OF LANGUAGE AND THE ART OF DEVOTION 17
  - 2. VISIONS OF AUTHORSHIP: CLOAKING THE BODY IN TEXT
    57
  - 3. TRANSMISSION LESSONS: GENDER, AUDIENCE, AND THE MYSTICAL HANDBOOK 79
    - 4. PRODUCTIVE CONSUMPTION: WOMEN READERS AND
      THE PRODUCTION OF LATE MEDIEVAL
      DEVOTIONAL ANTHOLOGIES 132
  - 5. HISTORICIZING CANONICITY: TRADITION AND THE INVISIBLE TALENT OF MECHTHILD OF MAGDEBURG 173

APPENDICES 205

NOTES 215

BIBLIOGRAPHY 289

INDEX 315

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS 331