

Aspects of the Performative in Medieval Culture

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Edited by
Manuele Gagnolati · Almut Suerbaum

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Preface

The current volume is the result of close collaboration between a group of colleagues who discovered in the course of college lunches that we shared more than day-to-day responsibility for undergraduate teaching. Indeed, once we started discussing our research interests in a series of informal and more structured workshops and colloquia, it became evident that notions of performance had a bearing on what at first sight seemed quite diverse subjects and disciplines. Somerville College provided the framework in which these discussions took shape, and we are grateful for many different forms of support: the Rosalind Countess of Carlisle and Constance Ann Lee fund provided a travel grant which allowed us to invite those who had moved abroad back for a colloquium; Anne Wheatley and Dave Simpson made sure we had a congenial meeting room and sandwiches which fuelled the discussions; the college library provided all-day access to books and materials. We are grateful to Professor Heiko Hartmann and the editors of the series for accepting the volume, and for their encouragement. The volume would not have been possible without the support of friends and colleagues, in particular Christoph Holzhey and Peter West. Finally, we owe a debt of gratitude to our predecessors in Somerville College: Barbara Harvey, Christina Roaf, Olive Sayce. Their distinguished scholarly record has set us high standards to emulate, their wise counsel has helped us along, and this volume is dedicated to them.

Manuele Gagnolati

Almut Suerbaum

