

PREFACE

MY MATILDA BOOK, as I have been calling it over the years, has accompanied me from Amsterdam to Madrid, only to be finished in Berlin. It was my former PhD supervisor and dear friend Wendelien van Welie who introduced me to Duchess Matilda when I was her student in Amsterdam. Her interest in Matilda has never ceased and I am happy that she read some of my findings. My scholarly journey would have been impossible without my mentor, good friend, and eagle-eyed editor Therese Martin, with whom I closely cooperated in Madrid. She has inspired and supported my research from the start, and generously offered to read my manuscript, for which I am immensely grateful. I sincerely hope that one day I will be able to reciprocate all that she has done for me.

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