

Acknowledgements

As will surprise no readers of a work focused on participation, its production involved the support and contributions of many members of my family, friends, and communities of colleagues. I would like to thank them for their aid and contributions, great and small.

To Mary Erler, Martin Chase, Mary Bly, and Jocelyn Wogan-Brown, who read and commented on the nascent version of this book when it began life as a dissertation, most sincere thanks. My grateful appreciation goes to James Sutton, Nathaniel Cadle, Jason Pearl of the Department of English at Florida International University for welcoming me when I arrived, and supporting me in the years that have followed as I laboured to bring this book to fruition. Jason and Nathaniel, to you, Nandini Dhar, Martha Schoolman, Wanda Raiford, and Vanessa Sohan, I offer my heartfelt thanks for wise counsel, helpful feedback, and timely prodding. I would also like to thank Tovah Bender for critical insights on the framing of this book, and Mary Flannery and Carrie Griffin for their suggestions on a chapter, and the encouragement their interest provided to my work on the whole. To other colleagues and friends, Janice McCoy, Erika Harlitz Kern, Rhona Trauvitch, Allison Adair, Mary Kate Hurley, and Sarah Noonan, thank you for wading through drafts early and late, and offering the insights and suggestions that improved it immeasurably. My appreciation to Elizaveta Strakhov for her enthusiasm over my naming of ‘extra-codexical texts’, which inspired me to engage in the timely and necessary revision needed to incorporate it here. To Lois Swales, who worked with me on a project that became the seed that led me to study medieval reading practices, thank you. Maija Birenbaum assisted me with some tricky bits of the French of England, for which I’m very appreciative. For brief, but influential comments at conferences that encouraged me to continue work at pivotal

moments, I thank Robert Yeager, Michael Sargent, Holly Crocker, Martin Foys, Julia Boffey, and Christopher Baswell.

My appreciation extends to the staff members who assisted me at the Morgan Library & Museum, the Newberry Library, the British Library, the Bodleian Library, and the Special Collections department at the University of Chicago. Finally, to the editors and anonymous readers at Manchester University Press, my thanks for your feedback, which helped to make this a better book.

An early version of [Chapter 4](#) appeared in *Spaces for reading in later medieval England*, ed. Mary C. Flannery and Carrie Griffin (London: Palgrave MacMillan, 2016), as ‘Mapping the Readable Household’.

