## Acknowledgements

Even more so than my other publications, this book was born out of many years of conversation, very frequently of the informal, spontaneous variety, with colleagues, mentors, students, friends and family. Any list of those to whom I owe thanks will thus necessarily be hopelessly incomplete, but of course what always follows that caveat in this context is just such a list. Mine includes Charlotte Artese, Sarah Buss, Ardis Butterfield, Chris Cannon, Seeta Chaganti, Ruth Evans, Matthew Giancarlo, James Goldstein, Frank Grady, Lee Kahan, Kathryn Kerby-Fulton, Ashby Kinch, David Matthews, Gabriel, Jackson and Lucas Meyer-Lee, Mark Miller, Cathy Sanok, Kyoko Takanashi, Peggy Thompson, Peter Travis and Claire Waters. To all the rest of you who have helped to make this book a reality, I am sorry that my memory fails me. And, obviously, none of those named deserves blame for any of the book's dubious opinions or faulty thinking.

Meredith Carroll of Manchester University Press has been a great pleasure to work with. I am thrilled to join the other authors in the Manchester Medieval Literature and Culture series, and I am grateful to the series editors and the exceptionally perceptive and helpful anonymous readers for supporting this somewhat odd bird of a book.

Initial work on the book was facilitated by financial support from Indiana University's New Frontiers in the Arts & Humanities Program. Its completion was made possible by a sabbatical granted by Agnes Scott College and the support of the college's Miriam Francis Smith Scholar fund.

An earlier version of Chapter 1 appeared as 'Manuscript Studies, Literary Value, and the Object of Chaucer Studies', *SAC*, 30 (2008), 1–37. © 2008 New Chaucer Society.

An earlier version of Chapter 2, as well as portions of the introduction and Chapter 3, appeared as 'Toward a Theory and Practice of Literary Valuing', *NLH*, 46:2 (2015), 335–55. © 2015 Johns Hopkins University Press.