## Contents

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	
RODUCTION	1
knowledge and the vision in the middle ages	13
I. Active Understanding and the Rhetoric of Passivity	13
II. Knowing in the Middle Ages: Ratio and Intellectus	19
III. Education and Revelation as Paths to Dream Knowledge: Three Case Studies	23
MARGUERITE D'OINGT: ACTIVE READING AND THE LANGUAGE OF GOD	49
I. The Pagina Meditationum: Active Reading as Devotional Practice	51
II. The Speculum: Spiritual Imitation as Textual Emendation	55
III. Vehemens: Linguistic Understanding and Divine Truth	61
THE WILL TO KNOW: VOLITION AND INTELLECT IN GERTRUDE OF HELFTA	69
I. Liturgical Practice and the Union with God	71
II. The Role of the Will: Validating Intellectual Enquiry	89
THE VISION IS NOT ENOUGH: ACTIVE KNOWING IN JULIAN OF NORWICH	96
I. Un-Gendering Knowledge: Affect and Intellect	99
II. "And yet I merveyled": Reason's Inadequacy and the Limits of Revelation	109
III. Knowing and the Body	115
	KNOWLEDGE AND THE VISION IN THE MIDDLE AGES  I. Active Understanding and the Rhetoric of Passivity  II. Knowing in the Middle Ages: Ratio and Intellectus  III. Education and Revelation as Paths to Dream Knowledge:     Three Case Studies  MARGUERITE D'OINGT:     ACTIVE READING AND THE LANGUAGE OF GOD  I. The Pagina Meditationum: Active Reading as Devotional Practice  II. The Speculum: Spiritual Imitation as Textual Emendation  III. Vehemens: Linguistic Understanding and Divine Truth  THE WILL TO KNOW: VOLITION AND INTELLECT IN GERTRUDE OF HELFTA  I. Liturgical Practice and the Union with God  II. The Role of the Will: Validating Intellectual Enquiry  THE VISION IS NOT ENOUGH:     ACTIVE KNOWING IN JULIAN OF NORWICH  I. Un-Gendering Knowledge: Affect and Intellect  II. "And yet I merveyled": Reason's Inadequacy and the Limits of Revelation

## viii • Contents

5	WORLDLY ATTACHMENT AND VISIONARY RESISTANCE IN <i>PEARL</i>	122
	I. Materiality, Desire, and the Limits of Reason	126
	II. The Jeweler's Language of Resistance	133
	III. The Will as Obstacle	139
	IV. Mystical Renunciation and the Jeweler's Desire	143
6	THE CRITIQUE OF REVELATION IN PIERS PLOWMAN	152
	I. Language and Sapientia in the Quest for Dowel	159
	II. Allegories of the Faculties: The Trouble with Reason	171
	III. Becoming a Fool: Unknowing to Know God	179
7	DISCREDITING THE VISION: THE HOUSE OF FAME	184
	I. Unstable Authority: The Revelation that Never Comes	186
	II. Uncertain Meanings: The Power of the Reader	196
	III. Anxieties of Interpretation in Fame and the Visionary Tradition	203
8	KNOWLEDGE IS POWER: NEGOTIATING AUTHORITY IN THE BOOK OF MARGERY KEMPE	208
	I: Fact or Fiction: Generic Considerations	210
	II: "To answer euery clerke": Margery's Problems with Authority	214
	III: The Doubting Saint: Affirmations of Holiness and the Audience of the <i>Book</i>	224
EPI	LOGUE	232
BIB	LIOGRAPHY	245
INI	NDEX	