



CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS		vii
INTRODUCTION	The Origins of Womanhood	1
CHAPTER 1	Amazons and Saints: Chaucer's Tales of Womanhood	11
CHAPTER 2	Beastly Women and Womanly Men: Gower's <i>Confessio Amantis</i>	51
CHAPTER 3	Lydgate's Lady and Henryson's Whore: Womanhood in the <i>Temple of Glas</i> and the <i>Testament of Cresseid</i>	86
CHAPTER 4	Vernacularity, Femininity, and Authority: Reinventing Motherhood in <i>The Shewings of Julian of Norwich</i> and <i>The Book of Margery Kempe</i>	114
CONCLUSION	The Evolution of Womanhood in Fifteenth-Century Discourse	149
NOTES		157
WORKS CITED		191
INDEX		205