To tweak the old adage, many hands make quality work. The collaborative nature of this project means that many, many hands had a part in it, and I am thankful for each of them. These hands include the early visionaries of the Society for the Study of Disability in the Middle Ages (SSDMA), who saw the need for such a volume; the contributors, who worked hard to meet the project’s goals and specifications; the copy editors, whose hands have shaped countless details; the publisher, who has graciously supported the volume; and all those who have contributed feedback and encouragement along the way.

The idea for a sourcebook on medieval disability was first conceived back in 2012 by the members of SSDMA. The concept was originally Moira Fitzgibbons’s, and those members first involved were Jonathan Hsy, Wendy Turner, John Sexton, Joshua R. Eyler, Tory V. Pearman, Will Eggers, Julie Singer, and others. I am grateful for their vision for moving medieval disability studies forward and making it more accessible to students. I inherited not just their vision but their ideas and even sample entries when I took over as General Editor. Without these foundational documents, the project would not be what it is today.

This volume boasts forty contributors, myself excluded, and each has worked diligently to make their texts as engaging and accessible to the readers as possible. The contributors hail from numerous disciplines (as well as half a dozen countries and as many languages), and has brought different perspectives and expertise to their entries. They truly were a pleasure to work with.

I am also grateful to the copy-editing skills of Anna Yates and Emma E. Duncan, whose diligence and attention to detail is to be commended.

Many heartfelt thanks must be extended, too, to Eileen Joy and punctum books for their support of the project and open access materials in general. Also, my gratitude to the initial anonymous reader, whose feedback guided the later stages of the project.

This project was several years in the making, and some wonderful colleagues have been with me through the entire journey: a tremendous round of thanks to Frank Napolitano, Kisha Tracy, Will Eggers, John Sexton, Andrew Pfrenger, Paul T. Corrigan, and Charles J. Hulin IV. I am also grateful to Dr. William Hackett, Provost of Southeastern University, who granted me release time to devote to the volume.

Lastly, I owe more thanks than I can give to Joshua R. Eyler, who not only took a chance on me and trusted me with this project but who has stood by me every step of the way. His advice, feedback, encouragement, and support have been paramount in bringing this project to fruition.

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