In contrast to the widespread view that the Middle Ages were a static, unchanging period in which attitudes to women were uniformly negative, D. H. Green argues that in the twelfth century the conventional relationship between men and women was subject to significant challenge through discussions in the vernacular literature of the period. Hitherto, scholarly interest in gender relations in such literature has largely focused on French romance or on literature in English from a later period. By turning the focus on the rich material to be garnered from Germany – including *Erec*, *Tristan* and *Parzival* – Professor Green shows how some vernacular writers devised methods to debate and challenge the undoubted antifeminism of the day by presenting a utopian model, supported by a revision of views by the Church, to contrast with contemporary practice.

D. H. Green is Professor Emeritus in the University of Cambridge and a Fellow of Trinity College.
This series of critical books seeks to cover the whole area of literature written in the major medieval languages – the main European vernaculars, and medieval Latin and Greek – during the period c.1100—1500. Its chief aim is to publish and stimulate fresh scholarship and criticism on medieval literature, special emphasis being placed on understanding major works of poetry, prose, and drama in relation to the contemporary culture and learning which fostered them.

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WOMEN AND MARRIAGE IN GERMAN MEDIEVAL ROMANCE

D. H. GREEN
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Preface

In the preface to *Women Readers in the Middle Ages* I wrote that the present companion volume was under active preparation. I was able to say this because the research and collection of material for both volumes were conducted at the same time and with an eye to what I originally, and optimistically, thought might be their joint appearance. If I have been able to complete the present book so relatively soon after its predecessor this is also because, when one has advanced well into one’s eighties, one is more than ever conscious of the pressure of time exerting its own urgency. The converse of this is that retirement gives one the freedom for uninterrupted research which our political masters, for all their talk of research assessment exercises, are loath to grant to academics, especially in the humanities, before they retire.

As previously, I owe a number of debts of gratitude. Foremost amongst these I thank Mark Chinca and Nigel Palmer for reading through the chapters of this book in their first shape and for giving me their detailed comments, most of which I have accepted. I have made considerable demands on the patience and readiness to help of members of the Cambridge University Library, which they have uniformly met with courtesy and efficiency. It is also a pleasure to thank once more Laura Pieters Cordy, and assisting her Hansa Chauhan, for transposing my handwriting into a print-ready text and for the helpful suggestions on style and wording which this elicited. Further, I acknowledge with gratitude the financial support from my University and my College which made a number of research stays in Germany possible.

My greatest debt is to Sarah, for her unflagging help, encouragement and willingness to talk over my many questions with me. Without her this book would not have been written.
### Abbreviations

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<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tr>
<td>ABäG</td>
<td><em>Amsterdamer Beiträge zur älteren Germanistik</em></td>
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<td>AfK</td>
<td><em>Archiv für Kulturgeschichte</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCM</td>
<td><em>Cahiers de Civilisation Médiévale</em></td>
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<td>CN</td>
<td><em>Cultura Neolatina</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DVjs</td>
<td><em>Deutsche Vierteljahresschrift</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EG</td>
<td><em>Études Germaniques</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ep.</td>
<td>Epistola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FMLS</td>
<td><em>Forum for Modern Language Studies</em></td>
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<td>FMS</td>
<td><em>Frühmittelalterliche Studien</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>FS</td>
<td>Festschrift</td>
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<tr>
<td>GRM</td>
<td><em>Germanisch-Romanische Monatsschrift</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>IASL</td>
<td><em>Internationales Archiv für Sozialgeschichte der Literatur</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>LiLi</td>
<td><em>Zeitschrift für Literaturwissenschaft und Linguistik</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>MÆ</td>
<td><em>Medium Äevum</em></td>
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<td>MF</td>
<td><em>Minnesangs Frühling</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>MGH</td>
<td><em>Monumenta Germaniae Historica</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MHG</td>
<td>Middle High German</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIÖG</td>
<td><em>Mitteilungen des Instituts für Österreichische Geschichtsforschung</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MLR</td>
<td><em>Modern Language Review</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>MSSt</td>
<td><em>Mediaeval Studies</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NML</td>
<td><em>New Medieval Literature</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>OL</td>
<td><em>Orbis Litterarum</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>PBB</td>
<td><em>Paul und Braunes Beiträge</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PL</td>
<td>J. P. Migne, <em>Patrologia Latina</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
List of abbreviations

PMLA  Publications of the Modern Language Association
RBPH  Revue Belge de Philologie et d'Histoire
RG    Recherches Germaniques
RPh   Romance Philology
RR    Romanic Review
SG    Studia Gratiana
SMRH  Studies in Medieval and Renaissance History
ZfdA  Zeitschrift für deutsches Altertum
ZfdPh Zeitschrift für deutsche Philologie
ZfRG (GA) Zeitschrift für Rechtsgeschichte (Germanistische Abteilung)