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0521827841 - Seeing and Being Seen in the Later Medieval World: Optics, Theology and Religious Life

Dallas G. Denery II

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SEEING AND BEING SEEN IN THE LATER MEDIEVAL WORLD

During the later Middle Ages people became increasingly obsessed with vision, visual analogies and the possibility of visual error. Exploring the writings of Roger Bacon, Peter Aureol and Nicholas of Autrecourt in light of an assortment of popular religious guides for preachers, confessors and penitents, including Peter of Limoges' *Treatise on the Moral Eye*, Dallas Denery illustrates how this interest in vision preoccupied medieval men and women on both an intellectual and practical level. This book offers a unique interdisciplinary examination of the interplay between religious life, perspectivist optics and theology. Denery presents significant new insights into the medieval psyche and conception of the self, ensuring that this book will appeal to historians of medieval science and those of medieval religious life and theology.

DALLAS G. DENERY II is Assistant Professor of History at Bowdoin College. He was the recipient of a NEH Award for Summer 2004 and is a member of the Medieval Academy of America.

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To my three mentors

Owen Carroll,

Robert Brentano

and especially

Amos Funkenstein

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