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.

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The series Cambridge Studies in Medieval Life and Thought was inaugurated by G. G. Coulton in 1921; Professor Rosamond McKitterick now acts as General Editor of the Fourth Series with Dr. Christine Carpenter and Dr. Jonathan Shepard as Advisory Editors. The series brings together outstanding work by medieval scholars over a wide range of human endeavor extending from political economy to the history of ideas.

For a list of titles in the series, see end of book.
To my three mentors

Owen Carroll,
Robert Brentano
and especially
Amos Funkenstein
Contents

Acknowledgments

INTRODUCTION: VISION AND VISUAL ANALOGY DURING THE LATER MIDDLE AGES 1
1 PONDERARE STATERA MEDITATIONIS: SELF AS SELF-PRESENTATION IN EARLY DOMINICAN RELIGIOUS LIFE 19
2 THE DEVIL IN HUMAN FORM: CONFESSION, DECEPTION AND SELF-KNOWLEDGE 39
3 PETER OF LIMOGES, PERSPECTIVIST OPTICS AND THE DISPLACEMENT OF VISION 75
4 NORMALIZING ERROR: PETER AUREOL ON THE IMPORTANCE OF APPEARANCES 117
5 PROBABILITY AND PERSPECTIVE: NICHOLAS OF AUTRECOURT AND THE FRAGMENTATION OF VISION 137
CONCLUSION: VISION, PROMISE, DEFERRAL 169

Bibliography 181
Index 197
This book began as a dissertation that I had hoped to write under the direction of Amos Funkenstein. Although Amos passed away just weeks before my oral examinations and, therefore, just weeks before I began that dissertation, this completed book still bears his imprint everywhere and would not exist without his influence and kindness. After Amos’ passing, Robert Brentano enthusiastically agreed to direct my work. What doesn’t bear Funkenstein’s imprint certainly bears his. If I have succeeded at all, it is in finding a way to combine their very different styles of thought. I miss them both.

As I worked to complete this book I came in contact with other scholars, other specialists, all of whom were more than happy to lend me their support, and some of whom have since become friends. In particular I would like to thank Richard Newhauser for his many kindnesses and Katherine Tachau for her close reading of various versions of this work. In France, Christophe Grellard kindly shared copies of his own work on Nicholas of Autrecourt. At Berkeley, during those first enthralling seminars with Funkenstein, I made a number of friends, Greg Moynahan, Mike Whitmore, Jonathan Sheehan and Isaac Miller, each of whom contributed to the ideas that have finally found their way into this book. My colleague here at Bowdoin College, Stephen Perkinson, commented on drafts of this work and suggested ideas from his own vantage point as a scholar of medieval art history.

Before I came to Bowdoin College, Stanford University proved a valuable way station. Phillip Buc was unstinting in his support. Carolyn Lougee Chappell and the Stanford History Department made it possible for me to conduct final revisions for this book during the Summer of 2003. Hester Gelber, Paula Findlen, Brad Gregory and Meg Worley all contributed to making my time there profitable and pleasurable.

At Cambridge University Press, William Davies, Simon Whitmore and Alison Powell made the process of transforming this work from typescript into book something of a joy. Several anonymous readers provided useful feedback on earlier versions of the work. David Luscombe, then editor of
Acknowledgments

this series, read these pages with care and made many valuable suggestions (not to mention corrections), and this work is much the better for his attention.

My parents, my sister Celia and my brother John have all helped me in innumerable and important ways. Finally, there is my wife Lorry and our son Keegan, who likes to walk into the room when I am sitting at the computer and ask, “Are you still working Daddy?” When I respond, “That’s what they call it,” he laughs saying, “That’s not what they call it!” And so to the two of them, and especially to Lorry, who has somehow put up with all these years of preoccupation and weekends with me off in some library, buried in some book, telling her I don’t have the time to see a movie, go for a walk, go to the store, clean the house, wash the car (the unspoken academic perks finally revealed), thank you for allowing me to do whatever it is they call this thing I do (Keegan so far having chosen not to tell me) and now have done.