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Encountering Medieval Textiles and Dress
edited by Désirée G. Koslin
and Janet E. Snyder

ENCOUNTERING MEDIEVAL
TEXTILES AND DRESS

OBJECTS, TEXTS, IMAGES

Edited by

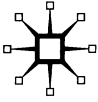
Désirée G. Koslin

and

Janet E. Snyder

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To Our Parents



ENCOUNTERING MEDIEVAL TEXTILES AND DRESS

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SERIES EDITOR'S FOREWORD

The *New Middle Ages* contributes to lively transdisciplinary conversations in medieval cultural studies through its scholarly monographs and essay collections. This series provides new work in a contemporary idiom about precise (if often diverse) practices, expressions, and ideologies in the Middle Ages. This volume, the thirty-first in the series, continues a concern expressed in an earlier series volume, *Robes and Honor*, edited by Stewart Gordon, with ways that material culture, in this case ceremonial dress, encodes but also ambiguates significant cultural symbolics. That volume invited us to think about robing as a “ceremonial metalanguage,” but they also remind us that robes themselves as well as robing ceremonials have particular, local resonance. In *Encountering Medieval Textiles and Dress: Objects, Texts, Images*, editors Désirée Koslin and Janet Synder have assembled a rich range of surviving examples of dressing—across time, in different media, up and down the social ladder, across professions, and between genders—and the essays in this volume delineate the details while also interrogating the relation of the represented to the “real.” We see keenly how in clothing alone the users/representers embody cultures, with a touch of the antique here, a foray into the foreign exotic there, and a constant consciousness of the body as the basic site for human display.

Bonnie Wheeler
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We bask in the warmth of special friendships, sorely tried while growing stronger, that have carried us through to the finish. Lastly, but decidedly foremost, we applaud our talented authors who worked with dispatch and diligence on their contributions, making this book everything we wished for at the outset.

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