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# MEDIEVAL WOMEN AND THEIR SPIRITUAL TEXTS: HELFTA WRITINGS, MARGERY KEMPE, AND BEYOND

## Essays in Honour of Naoë Kukita Yoshikawa

Edited by Anne Mouron, Marleen Cré, and Mami Kanno

*This volume combines new approaches on Margery Kempe and cutting-edge research on the thirteenth-century Helfta mystics, Mechthild of Hackeborn and Gertrude the Great, in a Festschrift to celebrate and honour the distinguished career of Professor Naoë Kukita Yoshikawa (Shizuoka University, Japan).*

This volume offers essays at the cutting edge of research to honour and reflect on the distinguished career of Professor Naoë Kukita Yoshikawa and her numerous publications on medieval religious women, notably the German nun Mechthild of Hackeborn (1241–1298), as well as the English mystic Margery Kempe (1373–1438) whose *Boke* she translated into Japanese with Mikiko Ishii.

If interest in Margery's text has long been established, the same is not true of Mechthild's *Liber specialis gratiae*, especially in the English-speaking world. The new edition of its Middle English translation, *The Boke of Gostely Grace: The Middle English Translation: A Critical Edition from Oxford, MS Bodley 220* by Yoshikawa and Mouron with the assistance of Atherton, and the accompanying volume, *A Companion to the Boke of Gostely Grace: The Middle English Translation and its European Vernacular Contexts*, have gone some length to redress the situation, and to acknowledge the importance of Mechthild of Hackeborn and her fellow nun, Gertrude the Great, in medieval European mysticism.

The present publication, written by both seasoned and early-career scholars, builds on these two volumes. It provides further insights into Mechthild and Gertrude; it offers new approaches to Margery Kempe; and it considers their influence on later writers.

It is hoped that this Festschrift will inspire further interest and innovative research on works written and dictated by medieval women.

# Table of Contents

Preface: Some Reflections on Naoë  
Kukita Yoshikawa's Scholarship and  
Contribution to the Field of Medieval  
Studies  
DIANE WATT

Introduction  
ANNE MOURON, MARLEEN CRÉ,  
AND MAMI KANNO

## Part I. Helfta Writings

1. Sickness and Suffering in Texts  
Associated with Gertrude the Great of  
Helfta  
ALEXANDRA BARRATT

2. 'A sowne of preysyng and thankyng in  
þe syzt of God': Music in Mechthild of  
Hacheborn's *Boke of Gostely Grace*  
ANNE MOURON

3. The Fourth Woman of Liège: Lutgard  
in Fourteenth-Century England  
CHRISTIANIA WHITEHEAD

4. The Appropriation of Mechthild  
of Hacheborn in Two Middle English  
Compilations: British Library, MS Harley  
4012 and Lambeth Palace, MS 3597  
SATOKO TOKANUGA

5. Florence Nightingale's Reception of the  
Medieval Mystics, with Special Reference  
to Gertrude the Great of Helfta and  
Catherine of Siena  
YOSHINOBU KUDO

## Part II. Margery Kempe

6. Translating Jesus's Voice in *The Book of  
Margery Kempe*  
DENIS RENEVEY

7. Becoming 'hool a-zen': Grains of  
Integrity and Nourishment in *The Book of  
Margery Kempe*  
LAURA KALAS

8. Margery Kempe and Saint Audrey of  
Ely: Reading *The Book of Margery Kempe*  
with Narratives of a Local Saint  
MAMI KANNO

9. Pilgrimage Descriptions in *The Book  
of Margery Kempe*: A Comparison with  
Medieval Travel Journals, Pilgrim Guides,  
and Maps  
FUMIKO YOSHIKAWA

10. Late Medieval Female Communities  
in *The Book of Margery Kempe* and the  
Sister-Book of Master Geert's House  
DIANA DENISSEN

11. Women on the Move: Asynchronous  
Feminisms and *The Book of Margery  
Kempe*  
LIZ HERBERT MCAVOY

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Postscript: Medieval English Studies in  
Japan and Naoë Kukita Yoshikawa  
TAKAMI MATSUDA

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