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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.

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