

RELIGIOUS TRANSFORMATIONS IN NEW COMMUNITIES OF INTERPRETATION IN EUROPE (1350–1570)

Bridging the Historiographical Divides



Edited by
Élise Boillet and Ian Johnson

BREPOLS

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NEW COMMUNITIES OF INTERPRETATION

This series concerns religious culture in late medieval and early modern Europe, a period traditionally depicted as one of great cultural discontinuity and binary oppositions between learned (Latin) and unlearned (vernacular), and between the ecclesiastical hierarchy and lay believers. Challenging stereotypical descriptions of the exclusion of lay and non-Latinate people from religious and cultural life, the series concentrates on the process of emancipation of the laity and the creation of new 'communities of interpretation'. Patterns of social inclusion and exclusion and shifts in the relations amongst groups, individuals, and their languages will be examined, casting new light on themes of seminal relevance to present-day societies.

RELIGIOUS TRANSFORMATIONS IN NEW COMMUNITIES OF INTERPRETATION IN EUROPE (1350–1570)

BRIDGING THE HISTORIOGRAPHICAL DIVIDES

This volume brings together medievalist and early modernist specialists, whose research fields are traditionally divided by the jubilee year of 1500, in order to concentrate on the role of the laity (and those in holy orders) in the religious transformations characterizing the 'long fifteenth century' from the flourishing of the *Devotio Moderna* to the Reformation and Counter-Reformation.

Recent historiography has described the Christian church of the fifteenth century as a world of 'multiple options', in which the laity was engaged with the clergy in a process of communication and negotiation leading to the emergence of hybrid forms of religious life. The religious manifestations of such 'new communities of interpretation' appear in an array of biblical and religious texts which widely circulated in manuscript before benefiting from the new print media.

This collection casts a spectrum of new yet profoundly historical light on themes of seminal relevance to present-day European society by analysing patterns of inclusion and exclusion, and examining shifts in hierarchic and non-hierarchic relations articulated through religious practices, texts, and other phenomena featuring in the lives of groups and individuals. The academic team assembled for this collection is internationally European as well as interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary in its methodology.

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Detail from The Malermi Bible, vol. II (Venice: Lucantonio Giunta).

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