Acknowledgements

I began working on this dissertation at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign under the supervision of Professor Marianne Kalinke. She is responsible for bringing 'Christus und die minnende Seele' to my attention in the first place, and I had the advantage of her capable academic guidance and support during the beginning stages of this project. I am also particularly grateful to Professor Aaron E. Wright for his insightful comments and advice.

In addition, I offer my sincerest thanks to my current thesis advisor, Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Werner Williams. His expertise as well as the timely, efficient, and thoughtful feedback he provided were a great asset and source of motivation in the process of writing this dissertation. The *Oberseminar* under his direction at the University of Augsburg also provided a valuable forum for the presentation and exchange of ideas in a pleasant, congenial atmosphere.

Access to the manuscripts containing 'Christus und die minnende Seele,' the foundation upon which this study is based, was made possible by financial support from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in the form of a University of Illinois Dissertation Travel Grant, an Ernst Alfred Philippson Graduate Research Travel Award, and a Scott A. Frey Exchange Travel Award. I am particularly grateful to P. Odo Lang, librarian at the Einsiedeln Stiftsbibliothek, for his kind assistance in allowing me access to manuscripts despite the inconvenience of library renovations, and for providing me with rubbings of watermarks. I also wish to thank Michaela Komlósy, manuscript restorer at the Badische Landesbibliothek in Karlsruhe, for her assistance in identifying watermarks in manuscripts from that library.

Thanks are also due to a number of individuals who provided assistance by answering my questions or giving me access to their unpublished work: Stefan Abel, Ulrike Bodemann, Undine Bruckner, Jeffrey Hamburger, Hildegard Keller (to whom I am also grateful for her hospitality during my research travel), Konrad Kunze, Simone Mengis, Nigel Palmer, Cornelia Penzkofer, Wolfgang Runschke, and Andrea Worm.

I want to express special thanks to the four women from the University of Freiburg i. B. who organized the seminar "Spätmittelalterliche Brautmystik am Beispiel von 'Christus und die minnende Seele'": Marlene Gerdes, Cornelia Penzkofer, Madlen Rudolf, and Cornelia Wolf. Their initiative and expert organizational skills gave us all the rare opportunity of being able to discuss the work in detail with others who know it well.

Finally I would like to offer heartfelt thanks to my parents, family, and close friends, without whose unflagging support and understanding I would never have been able to finish this project.