TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	IX
GERT MELVILLE / JAMES D. MIXSON	
Elites, Religious Life, and Medieval Culture: An Outline of a Theme and its Possibilities	1
Eva Schlotheuber	
The Role of the sponsa Christi, the "Bride of the highest King", in the social and Sacral Hierarchy of Medieval Society: Assumptions, Potential and Reinterpretation	19
Steven Vanderputten	
Monastic Elites and Narratives of Distinction in the High Middle Ages	29
Kai Hering	
Elites under Attack. Criticism of Monastic Life in Latin Satirical Poetry of the Later Middle Ages	41
Nicoangelo D'Acunto	
The Hermits of Medieval Italy: An Otherworldly Elite (XI-XIII centuries)	63
Alexander Röske	
The prayer pro pace et stabilitate mundi. Reflections on the tension between escaping the world and turning to the world in Cistercian monasticism in the 12 th century	73
Jonathan R. Lyon	
A Different Set of Rules: Aristocratic Elites and the Monastic Life in Twelfth-Century Europe	85

JENS RÖHRKASTEN	
Monastic Elites Between the Struggle for Perfection and the Management of Economic Affairs	109
Martin Kintzinger	
Learned Clerics as Intellectuals: Educated Elite – University Party Supporters – Competent Powerbrokers	135
ROBIN VOSE	
Books, Damned Books, and Heretics: Censorship and Dominican inquisitors in Nicholas Eymeric's Directorium inquisitorum	151
Sean L. Field	
Isabelle of France, Alexander IV, and the 1259 Rule for the Order of Humble Maidservants of the Blessed Glorious Virgin Mary: An Elite Framework for Female Franciscan Life	171
Hans-Joachim Schmidt	
Power through Poverty. Mendicant Friars at the Imperial Courts in the 14 th Century	189
Jürgen Sarnowsky	
Military Orders and their Members as Elites	209
Timothy J. Johnson	
Franciscans as Therapists of Commitment: Reflections on Philip Rief's Theory of Cultural Elites and Pre-Modern Religious Life	219
Pierantonio Piatti	
A Humble Elite: Monastic Sainthood and Ecclesiastical Recognition	227

Table of Contents	VII
KLAUS-DIETER MATHES Elites of Tibetan Buddhism – With a Particular Focus on the Role of Tantric Masters: The Reception of Indian Subcultural Tantrism as Tibetan Feudal State Tantrism	257
DAVID A. MICHELSON The Hidden Excellence of Lectio Divina: The Ambiguities of Reading as an Elite Marker in East Syrian Monasticism of the Sixth and Seventh Centuries	285
GUILLERMO WILDE Forging the Catholic Monarchy. Religious Orders as Elites in the Iberian Transatlantic World (16 th Century)	303
Index	321