Contents

List of Illustrations xi

Introduction 1

Prologue: The Alchemy of Parchment 21

One: DISCOVERIES 29

Two: NEAR-DISASTERS 59

Three: PATRONS 89

Four: ARTISTS 121

Five: SCRIBES 153

Six: SCRIBES AND AUTHORS 189

Seven: HIDDEN AUTHORS 221

Epilogue: The Decline of the Manuscript 263

Afterword: The Use and Misuse of the Past 269

Glossary 283

Timeline 293

Bibliography 301

Acknowledgements 329

Notes 333

Index 361