# CONTENTS

Preface ix
Acknowledgments xvii

#### PART ONE SMELLS IN THEORY

- 1. Introduction 3
- 2. Earth, Wind, Foul and Fragrant: The Theory of Smelling and Odors in Early South Asia 20

### PART TWO SMELLS IN THE WORLD

- 3. Lotus, Fish, and Cows: The Smellscape of Traditional South Asia 6
- 4. Flowers and Fish in the Mahābhārata 91

#### PART THREE SMELLS IN PRACTICE

- 5. Moon Juice and Uproar: Perfumery Texts 105
- 6. Allies, Enemies, and Yakşa Mud: Perfumes 135

#### PART FOUR AROMATIC MATERIALS

- 7. The Incense Trees of the Land of Emeralds: Exotic Aromatics in Medieval South Asia 159
- 8. Sandalwood: Merchants, Expertise, and Profit 180

viii Contents

## PART FIVE SMELL AND RELIGION

9. Bois des Îles 20310. The Toilette of the Gods 218Epilogue 244

Appendix: Sanskrit and Prakrit Texts on Perfume Blending and Perfumery 249
Notes 253
Bibliography 295
Index 313