

THE NEW MIDDLE AGES

LIVING WITH DISFIGUREMENT
in
EARLY MEDIEVAL EUROPE

Patricia Skinner



The New Middle Ages

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For LHM and JP, and all campaigners for equality

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The academic profession, particularly in the UK, does not easily accommodate the non-traditional career pattern. Institutions are wary of appointing people whose age profile, or career history, do not meet certain, unwritten, criteria relating to a smooth and preferably continuous progress from doctoral study to first post and uninterrupted employment. It is a pleasure, therefore, to record my gratitude to the Wellcome Trust for the three-year fellowship (Grant number 097469) that enabled me to return to the profession after a five-year gap, and to the College of Arts and Humanities at Swansea University where I held most of it. So many people have supported the writing of this book in different ways: at Swansea, Liz Herbert McAvoy, Roberta Magnani and other colleagues within the Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Research, and Elaine Canning, Nathan Roger and the staff of the Research Institute for Arts and Humanities. I should also like to thank Peter Biller, John Henderson and Peregrine Horden, whose challenging questions helped me shape a better project; David H. Jones and colleagues at Exeter for welcoming a pre-modern specialist into their discussions on facial disfigurement in the past two centuries; James Partridge and Henrietta Spalding at Changing Faces, for their inspiration and guidance as the project progressed well beyond its original, medieval parameters; Suzannah Biernoff, Mark Bradley, Emily Cock, Luke Demaitre, Guy Geltner, Chris Mounsey, Kat Tracy, David Turner, Wendy Turner, Garthine Walker, Michelle Webb and Edward Wheatley for their insightful comments and interventions along the way; Elisabeth van Houts for her continuing friendship and support (and advice on the Normans); colleagues participating in the IMEMS seminar of Welsh universities;

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