Acknowledgments

I have incurred debts of both friendship and scholarly assistance to so many people over the years it has taken to move this project from idea to dissertation to book. My first and happiest thanks are owed to J. N. Hillgarth, who has supported my studies from the beginning. He has read every word I have ever written on Rodrigo, from the first tentative seminar papers and the dissertation to later articles and, finally, this book. My gratitude to him as a reader and adviser is matched, however, by my thanks to him for introducing me to the world of medieval Spanish studies. Little did I think when I enrolled in his early medieval Spain seminar that I would plan to spend so much of my life there.

At an early stage in my research, Peter Linehan set me on the path of Rodrigo's *Dialogus libri uite*, and Francisco Hernández introduced me to the rich documents of Toledo. Ramón Gonzálvez in the archive and library of the cathedral of Toledo was generous and welcoming to a shy graduate student with little Spanish and has continued to be helpful over the years. Michael I. Allen believed in my abilities and gave me concrete help in so many ways. Roberta Frank has been a wonderful mentor, as all those who have the fortune to have been graduate students somewhere in her orbit know. Fellowship support from the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies and the Centre for Medieval Studies at the University of Toronto, as well as an Ontario Graduate Scholarship and a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRCC) doctoral fellowship, allowed me to complete the research for the dissertation out of which this book grew.

A postdoctoral fellowship from the SSHRCC brought me to the University of Michigan and then the University of Chicago. The Divinity School has kept me in Chicago and provided a wonderful intellectual home. The example of excellence and integrity of my colleagues at the Divinity School has pushed and stimulated me beyond what they can know, and I thank all of them, especially my two deans, W. Clark Gilpin and Richard Rosengarten. In my early years at the Divinity School, Willis Johnson was a wonderful partner in crime and a thoughtful reader of

sections of the manuscript. I have relied on my research assistants, Seonaid Valiant, Sharon Albert, who checked the Hebrew sources in chapter 4, and Julian Hendrix, who made the two maps and the bibliography. A sojourn at the Hill Monastic Manuscript Library supported by a Heckman stipend allowed me to explore its wonderful microfilm collection. A talk I presented there gave me an early forum to try out some of the ideas that later found their way into the book. I am very grateful to Alan Deyermond for inviting me to give a talk at Queen Mary and Westfield College at which I could present my thoughts on the *Auto de los Reyes Magos* before committing them to paper. David Raizman very kindly loaned me his photograph of Ildefonsus of Toledo debating with a Jew, from BNM MS 21546. Rachel Barney, Tamar Herzog, and Ann Kuzdale always provided badly needed distraction.

I would also like to thank those who read the entire manuscript in its various different stages, Thomas Burman, Rachel Fulton, Sabine Mac-Cormack, Bernard McGinn, David Nirenberg, Jim Robinson, and Barbara Rosenwein, for their universally thoughtful and helpful comments. The generosity of spirit and sheer time it takes to enter into an author's thought world, not as a reviewer or critic but in order to improve and make plain what already lies within a text, is truly humbling. The collective wisdom of all of my readers has freed me in the end to write the book I wanted to write, rather than the book I thought I should write.

I would like to conclude by thanking some people who may not have advised me about medieval Spain but have a share in this project nonetheless. My professors as an undergraduate at Queen's University, especially D. Catherine Brown, Paul Christianson, and Roberta Hamilton, introduced me to historical study and helped me pose the larger questions I am still trying to answer today. I want to thank my mother, Sheila O'Connor, and sister, Elizabeth, for their support through my long years of study. Finally I thank my son, Leo, to whom this book is dedicated, for always reminding me that truth, though elusive, is important.