## Contents

## Preface 11

Introduction: Holy Things and the Problem of Likeness

A Plethora of Things 17

Approaches to the Power of Things:

Historical, Art Historical, and Anthropological 40

What These Case Studies Suggest 48

- 1 Holy Beds: Gender and Encounter in Devotional Objects
  from Fifteenth-Century Europe 59
  Scholarly Approaches: Praesepe versus Cunabulum 62
  The Beguine Cradle: Gender and the Tactility of Devotion 66
  Burgundian Crèche: Why Two Beds? 75
  Beds in Medieval Devotion 81
  Like and Unlike Heaven 94
- "Crowned with Many Crowns": Nuns and Their Statues in Late Medieval Wienhausen 97
   The Madonnas at Wienhausen 99
   Crowns in the Devotion and Formation of Northern German Nuns 110
   On Earth and in Heaven 119

The Sacrality of Things: An Inquiry into Divine Materiality in the Christian Middle Ages 129

Recent Approaches to Christian Images 130

The Eucharist as Divine Materiality:

The Relics of Johannes Bremer 135

Dissimilitude and Divine Materiality 138

Christian Materiality in Comparative Perspective 145

The Presence of Objects: Medieval Anti-Judaism in Modern Germany

149

The Commemoration of Objects:

Sternberg, Iphofen, Deggendorf, and Poznań 152

The Judensau 160

The Heiligengrabe Panel Paintings and the Jewish Museum in Berlin 163

The Medieval Background 170

Objects and Images Today 175

V Avoiding the Tyranny of Morphology: Or, Why Compare? 183
 Scholarly Treatments of Comparison 183
 A Comparison of Goddess Processions 188
 The Problem of Pseudomorphism: When Are Shapes Really Alike? 198

VI Footprints: The Xenophilia of a Medievalist 221

A Better Question: Where Is Presence? 211

Comparative Footprints 222

Christ's Footprints on the Mount of Olives: A Brief History 227

Iconic and Aniconic Representations of Christ's Footprints 235

The Iconography of the Footprint and the Gap 244

Conclusion: The Footprint as a Model of What and How We Study 253

Notes 259

Index 329

Image Credits 341