

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

I. Definition	11
II. Methodology	18
III. Chronological and regional demarcation	22

PART 1 : SOCIO-CULTURAL CONTEXTS

I. The Carolingian age as a period of religious and moral reform	27
A. Charlemagne: the indispensable infrastructure	27
B. Louis the Pious and his sons: an attempt to unify moral life	30
II. Edifying literature: authors and the public	35
A. Authors: common characteristics and points of difference	35
B. Genres and the public: the intelligibility of written Latin	40
III. The position of women in Carolingian society	45
A. Woman in the world	45
B. Woman in the Church	54

PART 2 : THE EVIDENCE FROM EDIFYING TEXTS

I. Marriage and married women	61
A. Worldly marriage and sexuality	68
A.1. General remarks on marriage and sexuality	69
A.2. Marital chastity	79
A.3. Marital fidelity	89
A.4. "Sacramental" indissolubility	92
A.5. The relationship between spouses	96
A.6. Holy spouses	109
A.7. Conclusion	110
B. Spiritual marriage and virginity	113
B.1. General remarks on virgins and virginity	115
B.2. Viduae and other formerly married women leading an ascetic life	123
B.3. Christ's brides	128
B.4. Conclusion	135
II. Motherhood and motherliness	137
A. Wordly motherhood: its physical, psychological and social implications	139
A.1. Fertility - infertility	141
A.2. Childbirth and nursing	146

A.3. Abandoning a child and child-murder	150
A.4. Education - training	152
A.5. Maternal love: its concept and its signs	161
A.6. Mothers of saints and holy mothers	167
A.7. Conclusion	170
B. Spiritual motherhood	171
B.1. The concept mater spiritualis	175
B.2. Transposition of some physical aspects of wordly motherhood	177
B.3. Loving education and training	181
B.4. Charitable motherhood and the saint as posthumous motherly patron	185
B.5. Conclusion	188
III. Woman, womanhood and femininity	191
A. Defining woman's nature	198
A.1 Some theoretical observations	199
A.2. Eve and the Fall	204
A.3. The female sex	209
B. Female characteristics: is woman The Other?	216
B.1. Female bodies	216
B.2. Female minds and activities	222
B.3. Women and morals	229
C. Virilitas: the male norm?	248
C.1. Mulier virilis	249
C.2. Age viriliter	251
D. Women about themselves	254
E. Female saints : number and types	258
F. Conclusion	261
THE SPECIFICITY OF CAROLINGIAN EDIFYING LITERATURE: CONCLUSIONS AND EXPLANATORY REFLECTIONS	265
BIBLIOGRAPHY	279