

Winner of the Mythopoeic Society Scholarship Award for Myth and Fantasy Studies
Winner of the Medieval Institute Otto Gründler Book Prize

"Much has been written on medieval fairies in the past twenty years or so, but in *Elf Queens and Holy Friars* Green succeeds triumphantly in bringing new insights and thoughtful analysis to their history and their metamorphoses into divergent forms, as the early modern world begins to take shape."—*Times Literary Supplement*

Richard Firth Green investigates an important aspect of medieval culture that has been largely ignored by modern scholarship: the omnipresent belief in fairyland. *Elf Queens and Holy Friars* offers a detailed account of the church's attempts to suppress or redirect belief in such things as fairy lovers, changelings, and alternative versions of the afterlife. That the church took these fairy beliefs so seriously suggests that they were ideologically loaded, and this fact makes a huge difference in the way we read medieval romance, the literary genre that treats them most explicitly. The war on fairy beliefs increased in intensity toward the end of the Middle Ages, becoming finally a significant factor in the witch-hunting of the Renaissance.

Richard Firth Green is Academy Professor of The Ohio State University. He is author of several books, including *A Crisis of Truth: Literature and Law in Ricardian England*, also available from the University of Pennsylvania Press.

THE MIDDLE AGES SERIES

Ruth Mazo Karras, Series Editor