Acknowledgments ix Abbreviations xi

Introduction: Epistolary Acts and The Husband's Message 3

- 1 Reconstructing the Anglo-Saxon ars dictaminis: Form, Vocabulary, and Immediacy 24
- 2 Spreading the Word: The Sunday Letter, Mass Communication, and the Self-Replicating Document 63
- 3 Messengers, Materiality, and Transmission in the Old English
  Apollonius of Tyre, Letter of Abgar, and Life of St Mary of Egypt 106
- 4 Bodies of Record: Witnessing, Memory, and Erasure in Ælfric's Life of St Basil and the Anonymous Old English Legend of the Seven Sleepers 146

Epilogue: Epistolary Afterlives 185

Bibliography 195

Index 215