

Contents

<i>List of illustrations</i>	<i>page</i> vii
<i>List of tables</i>	x
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xi
<i>Abbreviations and a note on translations</i>	xiii
Introduction	1
Part I A Social History of the Book of Hours	11
Prologue to Part I	13
1 Culture and commerce	15
The evolution of hourly prayer and the book of hours	15
The book of hours and intercessory prayer	19
Manuscripts	20
The advent of printing	26
How many printed books of hours?	37
Explaining the rise and decline of production	41
Cost and value	43
The social composition of book ownership	49
2 Owners and their books	53
A portrait of the owners	54
The <i>livre de raison</i> and the family-owned book of hours	62
“For the use of women”	71
Treasured possession and devotional object	76
3 Prayer book and primer	84
French and Latin	85
Latin, the liturgy, and the book of hours	87
A sacred language?	92
Latin and French in the book of hours	96
A primer for literacy	100
Reading the book of hours	109
Image and imagination	112
Conclusion: A book for prayer and literacy	127

Part II An Ethnography of Prayer	129
Prologue to Part II	131
4 Words and rites	139
Prayer as speech	140
The colloquy style	149
The contract style	154
Charms, blessings, and recipes	158
Prayer as rite	162
Conclusion: Oral rites	171
5 A fragment of a religion	172
Praying to the saints	173
Prayer during the mass	188
Legends and promises	198
6 Prayer to the Virgin Mary	209
The Annunciation	212
Mary's passion	218
Shrines and pilgrimage	224
Conclusion	236
<i>Bibliography</i>	242
<i>Index</i>	289