Contents

Introduction 1

Part I Acceding to Royal Dignity 9

1 Marrying the King 11
Matrimonial Strategies 15
Royal Weddings 22
Love and Separation: The Royal Couple 30

2 Marrying the Monarchy: The Queen's Coronation 41
The Body in All Its Majesty: The Coronation of Joan of Bourbon 42
'God Save the Queen': The Symbolism of the Queen's Coronation 45
The Forgotten Coronation?: Queens of the Fifteenth Century 47

3 Bearing the Blood of France 53
The Indispensability of Motherhood 54
The Purified Woman: Lying-In and Child Rearing 59
The Mother as Educator 63

Part II A Woman in Politics: The Power of the Queen 75

4 The 'Profession' of Queen 77
Capetian Queens and Salic Law 78
Transformations in Reginal Power: Acting in Politics 84
Heiress Queens and Dowager Queens: The Territorial Inscription of Reginal Power 100

5 The 'Government of Women': Delegating Power and Regency 109
Regency 'Orders': Female Power? 110
Female Regency in Action: Seats of Power and Governance of the Kingdom 118
The Historiographical Posterity of Women in Power: 'Bad' Queens 126

6 The 'Queen of Ceremonies' 131
The Queen's Public Body: The Role of Representation 132
The Queen's Allegorical Body: Entry Ceremonies 135
The Queen's 'Final Triumph': Death and Funerals 141

Part III The Symbolic Government 151

7 Courtly Society: The Queen in Her *Hôtel* 153
The Queen's Apartments 154
The 'Court of Ladies': The Queen's Hôtel 156
Courtly Life 161

8 The Road to Eternity: Devotions and the Divine 169
The Mirror of Christian Perfection 170
The Queen as 'Mother of the Poor' 172
Religious and Sacred Foundations 176

9 **The Queen's Treasury: Art, Literature and Power** 187
Art and Politics: The Queen's Treasury 188
Books and Culture: The Queen's Library 193
Queens as Cultural Advocates and Patronesses 198

Conclusion 203

Sources and Selected Bibliography 209

Index 219