THE INSPIRATION FOR THIS VOLUME is to be found in the life and career of Thomas M. Izbicki. Tom has touched every one of the authors whose work is found herein, whether as peers, collaborators, or mentors. The appreciation by Jerry Christianson that appears in the final section of the book conveys more than adequately Tom’s professional contributions as a scholar who embodies the rare combined talents of on-the-ground rigor and visionary insight. Each of the chapters contained in this volume reflect one or another dimension of his extraordinary capacity to synthesize vast amounts of literature—primary and secondary—into a cohesive account of the transformations that occurred in Western thought between the so-called “medieval” and “modern” periods. We suspect that Tom’s greatest academic joys emerged from working with colleagues (attested to by the bibliography with which this book ends), drawing together intellectual communities in various ways, and (unbelievably!) preparing indices for books. Of course, Tom also has gathered a large group of friends who deeply appreciate him and who value his love and support (as well as his distinctive laugh and subtle sense of humor). Although he may have formally retired from his appointment at Rutgers University, he appears to be working harder and more productively than ever.

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Bettina Koch
Blacksburg, VA

Cary J. Nederman
College Station, TX

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