

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface	XI
Introduction	3

PART I: HISTORY

Chapter One. <i>Perdite Vixi: Life as Failure</i>	21
---	----

PART II: A WAY OF WRITING

Introduction	47
--------------------	----

Chapter Two. <i>Literary Timidity: The Twenty-Third Sermon on the Song of Songs</i>	51
---	----

1. Arrival and withdrawal	51
2. Reading and writing	54
3. Puppets on a string	60
4. Further retreat	74

Chapter Three. <i>Configurations: The Treatise on the Steps of Pride and Humility</i>	85
---	----

1. Places and images	85
2. Downhill all the way	91
3. Ascent: every man is a liar	108
4. 'The order of my descent'	115

PART III: A WAY OF LIVING

Introduction	125
--------------------	-----

Chapter Four. <i>Love. Shadows and Fog: The Sermons on the Virgin Mary</i>	134
--	-----

1. Introduction	134
2. The Song of Songs and love-lyric	135
3. Courtly love and religious prose	138
4. The Virgin Mary by day: the Sermons on the Praise of the Virgin Mother	145
5. The Virgin Mary by night: the Sermon on The Nativity of the blessed Virgin	150
Chapter Five. Death. A Passage to Paradise: Sermon 26 on the Song of Songs	163
1. The last of the Fathers	163
2. Narrative order and disorder	165
3. Rhetorical order and disorder	167
4. Monastic order and disorder	180
5. From dust to dust	201
PART IV: A WAY OF CELEBRATING	
Introduction	209
Chapter Six. Gems and Glitter: Suger of St. Denis and Bernard of Clairvaux on Art	215
1. Respectability and philosophy: the case of Erwin Panofsky	215
2. Wildness and precision	222
Chapter Seven. The Gems of Christmas: the Sermons on the Nativity and Abstract Art	233
1. Introduction	233
2. The text: <i>Sermones in nativitate domini</i>	234
3. The scene	244
4. The geometry of Christmas	247
5. Paradise as <i>verbum abbreviatum</i>	251
6. Christmas à la hausse	257
7. Christmas à la baisse	263
8. Scherzo	269
9. Finale	272

Chapter Eight. Resurrection	275
1. Prelude to the Resurrection in the Sermons on the Song of Songs	275
2. The tale of the angel: the Sermons on the Resurrection	293
Chapter Nine. From Resurrection to Pentecost	314
1. 'Return' she says: the mystery of change	314
2. <i>Tristes tropiques</i> : Sermon 4 on the Resurrection . . .	329
List of Abbreviations	336
Latin Appendix	337
Bibliography	370