Acknowledgements

My thanks are due to Cathy Shrank, who thought my work on the Burley manuscript should become an edition of that marvellous collection for a PhD thesis, to Dennis Flynn, who would not be satisfied until it became a book, and to Steve May, who showed me how such a book should work. Without the encouragement of these three scholars, and the ungrudging help of others like the late Ian McKillop, Marcus Nevitt, Philip Shaw, and Tom Lockwood, the book would never have happened.

Thanks are owed, too, for their courtesy and co-operation, to the staffs of many libraries and similar institutions, to the British Museum, and in particular to Margaret Bonney and her successors at the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland, custodians of the Burley manuscript.

I am grateful as well for the care and kindness bestowed on this project by Matthew Frost and his team at Manchester University Press, and especially Julian Lethbridge, who has ever been a source of encouragement and cheer.

All these, and others too numerous to name individually, have helped me on the way; any errors in transcription, translation or other blemishes that remain are my fault entirely.

Finally, it is to the assembler of the collection, William Parkhurst, that my last debt of gratitude is owed.

Peter Redford