Acknowledgements

This collection was born out of a conference, ‘Reading & Writing Recipe Books 1600–1800’, held at the University of Warwick on 6–8 August 2008. The editors would like to thank the American Study and Student Exchange Committee (ASSEC) of Warwick University, the Wellcome Trust and the Royal Historical Society for financial support for the conference. We would also like to thank Professors Margaret Ezell, Mary Fissell, Gilly Lehmann and Janet Theophano for delivering plenary papers at the conference, as well as all the other speakers who participated in what was a lively, fruitful and above all, friendly, event.

Michelle DiMeo would like to thank the English Department at the University of Warwick for financial support, encouragement and academic mentoring. Elizabeth Clarke first introduced me to the wealth of manuscript recipe books held in the Perdita Project’s microfilm collection – when I first arrived at Warwick she told me to ‘do something with them’, so I hope she is pleased with this volume. Influential conversations with Jayne Archer and Elaine Leong held early in my career helped me develop my own approach to these texts. Margaret Ezell, Bernard Capp, Alice Eardley and participants in the 2007 Making Publics summer seminar at McGill University have helped by answering questions, reading drafts, debating methodologies and offering continuous support. Finally, thanks to Chad Nelson and Theo Nelson DiMeo for not making me feel (too) bad when I worked evenings and weekends to complete this book.

Sara Pennell would like to thank the University of Roehampton and in particular the then School of Arts for a small grant towards

her attendance and co-convening the conference; her colleagues in the now Humanities Department, in particular Trevor Dean and William Gallois; Lauren Kassell; Elaine Leong; Margaret Pelling (who first pointed out that manuscript recipe books might be an interesting source); Richard Aspin, Ross Macfarlane and Helen Wakely of the Wellcome Library, London; Heather Wolfe of the Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, DC; Susie West, who has always been willing to read and comment on my work, and cook for me when I needed it; and of course, my artistic patron, Daniel Simon, and patron-in-the-making Raphaella Simon, who would both like me to make more use of my own recipe books rather than writing about them.

The editors would like to thank all the contributors to the book for their enthusiasm towards the project; Sally Osborn for making the index and Wellcome Images for providing several of the images reproduced here so affordably.