Contents

Acknowledgements *page* viii
List of Abbreviations ix

Introduction: Middle English Debt and the Spirit of Capitalism 1

1 Counterfeit Money: Debt and Form in the Middle English Charter Lyrics 25

2 Secret Debts: Credit and Faith in the Spendthrift Knight Romances 50

3 Home Economics: The Marriage Debt in *The Wife of Bath's Prologue* and *Tale* and *The Merchant's Tale* 82

4 "What is ynogh to mene": Measuring Debt in Langland's *Piers Plowman* 112

5 *Piers Plowman* and the Inappropriable 136

Epilogue 172

Notes 177
Bibliography 224
Index 248

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 13 Nov 2026 at 10:53:25, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009385947