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The series focuses on the intellectual tradition of western medicine as related to the philosophies, institutions, practices, and technologies that developed throughout the medieval and early modern period (500-1800). Partnered with the Centre for the Study of Medicine and the Body in the Renaissance (CSMBR), it seeks to explore the range of interactions between various conceptualisations of the body, including their import for the arts (e.g. literature, painting, music, dance, and architecture) and the way different medical traditions overlapped and borrowed from each other. The series particularly welcomes contributions from young authors. The editors will consider proposals for single monographs, as well as edited collections and translations/editions of texts, either at a standard length (70-120,000 words) or as Palgrave Pivots (up to 50,000 words).

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Amalia Cerrito

Albert the Great
(c. 1193–1280)
and the Configuration
of the Embryo

Virtus Formativa



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To Enrico

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This book began life as a Ph.D. dissertation, discussed at the University of Pisa and the University of Florence in 2021. Here, a revised version is presented, which has benefited from the outstanding competence and guidance of my supervisor prof. Stefano Perfetti (University of Pisa), whom I thank for his consistent support. I also wish to express my gratitude to the members of the doctoral committee, prof. Amos Bertolacci (IMT, Lucca), prof. Alessandro Palazzo (University of Trento), and prof. Fabrizio Amerini (University of Parma) for their careful reading and insightful remarks.

The generous support of the series editors, Jonathan Barry and Fabrizio Bigotti, contributed to bring this volume to fruition. I wish to thank them for their invaluable help in realizing this project. This volume also profited from the comments of three anonymous referees, which I thank for their accurate suggestions.

In this book, I explore a significant corpus of Latin texts taken from Albert the Great's works. For a smooth reading, I decided to present them in English translations (most of which are mine, except where otherwise indicated, and offered here for the first time). When a conflict arose between maintaining the style and tone of the original or offering its contents in a clear form to the contemporary reader, I chose the second option without hesitation. Of course, the corresponding Latin texts will be given in the footnotes.

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Amalia Cerrito (Siracusa, 1993) obtained her Ph.D. in Philosophy at the University of Pisa and the University of Florence (2021). She has published on the interaction between natural philosophy and biblical exegesis in Albert the Great and on commentary techniques in his *De vegetabilibus et plantis*. Her recent publications are mostly devoted to the theoretical background of Albert's natural philosophy and to the influence of Neoplatonism on Albert's zoology, botany, and embryology. In 2021, her Ph.D. research was awarded a *Santorio Award for Excellence in Research*. Since 2018, she is a member of S.I.S.P.M. (Italian Society for the Study of Medieval Thought) and a “cultore della materia” in the History of Medieval Philosophy at the University of Pisa. Since 2022, she is an Associate Member of the *Centre for the Study of Medicine and the Body in the Renaissance* (CSMBR) of Pisa.