Table of Contents

| Acknowledgments | vii |
|--|-----|
| INTRODUCTION | |
| Figuring Friendship | I |
| CHAPTER ONE | |
| Contexts for Friendship in Mid-Tang Literary Culture | 25 |
| The Discourse of Friendship | 29 |
| Historical Patterns | 48 |
| Social and Cultural Contexts | 61 |
| CHAPTER TWO | |
| Building Networks: Friendship, Patronage, and Celebrity | 82 |
| Seeking a Patron: Writing for the zhiji | 95 |
| Selling Meng Jiao: Friendship and Patronage | IOI |
| Becoming Bai Juyi: Friendship and Celebrity | 115 |
| CHAPTER THREE | |
| Responding in Kind: Friendship and Poetic Exchange | 133 |
| Mid-Tang Perspectives on Poetic Exchange and Friendship | 142 |
| Collaboration and Competition: The Linked Verses of Han | |
| Yu and Meng Jiao | 159 |
| Contesting the Past: The Nostalgic Exchanges of Bai Juyi | |
| and Yuan Zhen | 173 |
| CHAPTER FOUR | |
| To Know and Be Known: The Epistemology of Friendship | 200 |
| Epistemological Dimensions of Letters to Friends | 205 |
| Understanding: Using the Knowledge of Friendship | 214 |
| Misunderstanding: Negotiating Criticism and Conflict | 239 |
| Coda: In the Absence of Knowledge | 256 |

| CHAPTER FIVE | |
|--|-----|
| For the Dead and the Living: Performing Friendship | |
| after Death | 269 |
| Funerary Inscriptions for Friends | 273 |
| Offering Texts and the Performance of Friendship | 285 |
| Writing the Life and Death of Han Yu | 310 |
| CONCLUSION | 330 |
| Selected Bibliography | 339 |
| Index | 357 |