PREFACE

During the Sixteenth International Congress on Medieval Studies, which was held at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo in May of 1981, a group of scholars interested in the life and thought of Nicholas of Cusa (1401-1464), under the leadership of Professor H. Lawrence Bond of Appalachian State University, started an informal organization called the Cusanus Society of America. Every year since its inception, the Society has sponsored at Kalamazoo sessions dealing with the many aspects of Cusanus' life, thought, and influence on later thinkers. Formally reorganized in 1983 as the American Cusanus Society, this Society has continued to sponsor sessions at Kalamazoo; but it also has held two "working conferences" at Gettysburg Lutheran Seminary, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The first, held in 1986, focused on Cusanus' *De pace fidei*; the second, in 1988, focused on his *De ludo globi*.

The articles presented in this collection have been chosen from among the papers which have been delivered in Kalamazoo or in Gettysburg. The Society hopes that these studies not only shed light on Cusanus' ideas and activities, but that they will stimulate, especially in English-speaking countries, further work on the famous German theologian, philosopher, lawyer, and ecclesiastical reformer, one of the leading figures of the fifteenth century. The comprehensive bibliography of all works in English, both studies on Cusanus and translations of his works, was compiled by Professor Thomas M. Izbicki, The Wichita State University, to help advance research on topics related to this rapidly expanding field of study.

It is my pleasant duty, as President of the American Cusanus Society, to thank Professor Heiko Oberman, the editor of this distinguished series and a "forerunner" of the current renaissance in late medieval scholarship, for accepting this volume for inclusion, and to salute Professor Gerald Christianson, Gettysburg Lutheran Seminary, and Professor Izbicki for their sustained and selfless efforts to bring this first publication of the Society to successful completion.

Morimichi Watanabe