## Contents

Acknowledgments	vii
Illustrations	ix
Introduction	1
The Other Voice	1
A Midwife's Life and Work	11
Who Was Marie Baudoin?	11
Marie Baudoin as a Jansenist Woman	24
Clermont-Ferrand: Hospitals and Jansenists	28
Mme Baudoin's Career at the Hôtel-Dieu in Clermont-Ferrand	34
Communities: Religious, Scientific, Financial, and Emotional	39
A Physician, a Midwife, and Their Jansenist Networks	42
A Woman of Means: Mme Baudoin's Credit Networks and	
Financial Acumen	52
Midwifery in Early Modern France	59
Midwifery Texts in Seventeenth-Century France	59
Midwifery Training in Mid-Seventeenth-Century France	63
Midwifery Work and Practice in Seventeenth-Century France	71
Surgical Instruments and the Performance of Expertise	79
The Treatise in a Letter	99
Epistolary Midwifery	99
The Letter as Material Object	104
Unseen and Unpublished: The Hidden Treatise	110
Vallant's Portefeuilles: Record-Keeping and Archival Afterlives	110
Why Did the Treatise Remain Unpublished?	117
Reception and Afterlife of the Treatise	125
Notes on the Transcription and Translation	129
Transcription	129
Translation	131
Key to Transcription and Translation	131
Translation of Mme Baudoin's Epistolary Treatise	133
Transcription of Mme Baudoin's Epistolary Treatise	177
Bibliography	211
Index	229