

## WOMEN AND RELIGIOUS WRITING IN EARLY MODERN ENGLAND

This study challenges critical assumptions about the role of religion in shaping women's experiences of authorship. Feminist critics have frequently been uncomfortable with the fact that conservative religious and political beliefs created opportunities for women to write with independent agency. The seventeenth-century Protestant women discussed in this book range across the religio-political and social spectrums and yet all display an affinity with modern feminist theologians. Rather than being victims of a patriarchal gender ideology, Lady Anne Southwell, Anna Trapnel and Lucy Hutchinson, among others, were both active negotiators of gender and active participants in wider theological debates. By placing women's religious writing in a broad theological and socio-political context, Erica Longfellow challenges traditional critical assumptions about the role of gender in shaping religion and politics, and the role of women in defining gender and thus influencing religion and politics.

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## *Abbreviations*

CSPD	<i>Calendar of State Papers, Domestic</i>
CSPI	<i>Calendar of State Papers, Ireland</i>
DNB	<i>Dictionary of National Biography on CD-ROM</i> (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1995)
ELH	<i>English Literary History</i>
ELR	<i>English Literary Renaissance</i>
HMC	<i>Historical Manuscripts Commission Reports</i>
LIT	<i>LIT: Literature, Interpretation, Theory</i>
MLQ	<i>Modern Language Quarterly</i>
OED	<i>Oxford English Dictionary Online</i> (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000)
PRO	Public Record Office (now the National Archives)
STC	A. W. Pollard <i>et al.</i> , eds., <i>A short-title catalogue of books printed in England, Scotland &amp; Ireland and of English books printed abroad, 1475–1640</i> , 2nd edn (London: Bibliographical Society, 1991)
Wing	Donald Wing, ed., <i>Short-title catalogue of books printed in England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, and British America and of English books printed in other countries, 1641–1700</i> , 2nd edn, New York: Modern Language Association, 1994

## *Note on transcription and citation*

Quotations from early modern texts retain the original spelling and punctuation; only the long 's' has been regularised. In transcriptions from manuscript, brackets pointing inward >< indicate insertions above the line of text, while brackets pointing outward <> signify deletions. Square brackets [] indicate the expansion of an abbreviation or editorial interpolations. The footnotes indicate where manuscript corrections have been silently omitted or incorporated. In transcriptions from early printed books, italicisation, underlining and in some cases capitalisation have been ignored where these are used to distinguish a line or block of text (such as on title pages), but retained where they indicate emphasis.

For the ease of anyone wishing to locate a particular edition, I have included STC and Wing numbers and the names of printers, publishers and booksellers in references to all early modern books. I have followed STC convention in using short titles and capitalising only the first letter of a title.

All quotations from scripture are from the Authorised Version of the Bible.