

MARGARET CAVENDISH

Margaret Cavendish's prolific and wide-ranging contributions to seventeenth-century intellectual culture are impossible to contain within the discrete confines of modern academic disciplines. Paying attention to the innovative uses of genre through which she enhanced and complicated her writings both within literature and beyond, this collection addresses her *oeuvre* and offers the most comprehensive and multidisciplinary resource on Cavendish's works to date. The astonishing breadth of her varied intellectual achievements is reflected through elegantly arranged sections on History of Science, Philosophy, Literature, Politics, and New Directions, together with an Afterword by award-winning novelist Siri Hustvedt. The first book to cover nearly all of Cavendish's major works in a single volume, this collection brings together a variety of expert perspectives to illuminate the remarkable ideas and achievements of one of the most fascinating and prolific figures of the early modern period.

LISA WALTERS is Senior Lecturer at the University of Queensland. She is author of *Margaret Cavendish: Gender, Science and Politics* (Cambridge University Press, 2014). She coedited the Restoration section of the *Palgrave Encyclopaedia of Early Modern Women Writers* and has published articles on Cavendish, Shakespeare, Milton, and early modern women.

BRANDIE R. SIEGFRIED was the Nan Grass Professor at Brigham Young University. She won the Josephine Roberts Award for the Best Scholarly Edition of 2018, awarded by the Society for the Study of Early Modern Women and Gender, for her edition of Cavendish's *Poems and Fancies*. She also coedited two volumes, including *World-Making Renaissance Women* (Cambridge University Press, 2021).

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Frontmatter
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An Interdisciplinary Perspective

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Brandie R. Siegfried was the Nan Grass Professor of English at Brigham Young University. Her edition of Cavendish's *Poems and Fancies with the Animal Parliament* (Iter Press, 2018) won the Society for the Study of Early Modern Women and Gender's Josephine Roberts Award for the Best Scholarly Edition of 2018. She also coedited *God and Nature in the Thought of Margaret Cavendish* (with Lisa T. Sarasohn, Ashgate, 2014) and coedited *World-Making Renaissance Women: Rethinking Early Modern Women's Place in Literature and Culture* (with Pamela S. Hammons, Cambridge University Press, 2021). She sadly passed away before the present volume went to press.

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Notes on Contributors

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In Memoriam

Brandie R. Siegfried

Before this volume went to press, Brandie R. Siegfried passed away after her fight with cancer. Her wide-ranging intellect, generosity, brilliance, kindness and vitality were an inspiration for many scholars, including myself. She published widely on Margaret Cavendish, becoming a formative influence upon the field and helping to establish Cavendish's significance for literature, Western philosophy, science, and political thought. I am honored to have worked as coeditor with Professor Siegfried on this volume, which is her concluding contribution to scholarship.

She was a bright, blazing light.

Lisa Walters

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I would also like to thank Brandie R. Siegfried's husband, Mitch Harris. My deepest condolences for his loss.

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