

# Contents

*Editor's Note*    *vii*

*Preface*    *ix*

*Chronology*    *xiii*

## *Chapter One*

Wise Virgins: Authority and Authorship    1

## *Chapter Two*

"Busie in my Clositt": Letters,  
Diaries, and Autobiographical Writing    26

## *Chapter Three*

Negotiating a Place in "Eruditions garden"    47

## *Chapter Four*

"Some inspired stile": Mary Sidney, Countess of Pembroke    72

## *Chapter Five*

"This worke of Grace": Elizabeth Middleton,  
Alice Sutcliffe, Rachel Speght, and Aemilia Lanyer    101

## *Chapter Six*

"By publike language grac't":  
Elizabeth Cary, Lady Falkland    124

## *Chapter Seven*

"To beg their fees": The Emergence  
of the Professional Woman Writer    146

## *Chapter Eight*

"This strang labourinth": Lady Mary Wroth    170

## *Chapter Nine*

"The lasting lampe"    191

*Notes and References*    203

*Selected Bibliography*    243

*Index*    255