

# Contents

Acknowledgements . . . . .	vii
Textual Conventions . . . . .	ix
1. Introduction	
1.1 Seraphicks as Early Modern Platonic Friends: The Scope of this Study . . . . .	1
1.2 Double-portraits and Constellations: Seraphicks in Biographical and Philosophical Context . . . . .	20
2. Robert Boyle's <i>Seraphick Love</i> and Christian Platonism	
2.1 Seraphic Dynamics: Devotional Discourse, Friendly Offices, and the Circulation of Divine Love . . . . .	43
2.2 "Amorous Controversies": Robert Boyle's and John Evelyn's Ideals of Seraphic Love and Friendship . . . . .	60
3. Seraphic Love and the Early Modern Discourse of Friendship	
3.1 "There is a freindship beyond what I have fancied": Seraphic Friendship between Platonic Love, Classical Amity, and Christian Charity . . . . .	67
3.2 "Contracting the souls of two in one": Choice Relations, Virtuous Union, and Affectionate Excess . . . . .	84
3.3 "A more sweete, tender, and particular amitie": Friendships between the Sexes . . . . .	101
4. Seraphic Discourse and the Poetics of Friendship	
4.1 "Thus, friends absent speak": Early Modern Epistolary Culture and its Tropes of Intimacy . . . . .	119
4.2 "Letters as ligaments the World do tie": Social Codes, Postal Routes, and Themes of Epistolary Communication . . . . .	130
4.3 "How to supply the defect of my absence from you": Epistolary Union and Friendly Affection . . . . .	144
4.4 "Sacred instructions: and fervent prayer": Devotional Practices as Offices of Friendship . . . . .	155
5. Seraphic Friends between Heaven and Earth	
5.1 "Placed in the middle between heaven and earth": Man's Composite Nature . . . . .	169
5.2 Margaret Blagge Godolphin and John Evelyn: Devotional Exercises, Debates on Holiness, and Saintly Exemplarity . . . . .	177
5.3 Elizabeth Gauden and Simon Patrick: Religious Melancholy, Prescriptive Prayers, and Shared Philosophical Wanderings . . . . .	193

5.4 Anne Conway and Henry More: Intellectual Debate, Spiritual Consolation, and Philosophical Companionship .....	211
6. Postscripts .....	239
Bibliography .....	253
Index of names .....	277