Contents

List of contributors		page ix
Acki	nowledgements	xii
A note on references		xiii
Chro	onology: women and literature in Britain, 1500–1700	xv
Intr	roduction Helen Wilcox	I
PAF	RT I CONSTRUCTING WOMEN IN EARLY MODERN BR	ITAIN
I	Humanist education and the Renaissance concept of woman Hilda L. Smith	9
2	Religion and the construction of femininity Suzanne Trill	30
3	Advice for women from mothers and patriarchs Valerie Wayne	56
4	Women reading, reading women Jacqueline Pearson	80
5	Women/'women' and the stage Ann Thompson	100
6	Feminine modes of knowing and scientific enquiry: Margaret Cavendish's poetry as case study Bronwen Price	117
	RT II WRITING WOMEN IN EARLY MODERN BRITAIN	
7	Renaissance concepts of the 'woman writer' Margaret W. Ferguson	143

8	Courtly writing by women Helen Hackett	169
9	Women's poetry in early modern Britain Elizabeth H. Hageman	190
V10	Women's writing and the self Elspeth Graham	209
11	The possibilities of prose Betty S. Travitsky	234
12	The first female dramatists Ros Ballaster	267
	Further reading Index	291 295