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## PREFACE

This book is one of the outcomes of a research project on this topic (P.I. Helena Sanson) co-funded by the Leverhulme Trust (in the form of a Philip Leverhulme Prize) and an Isaac Newton Trust Research Grant<sup>1</sup>. The editors would like to express their thanks to the Leverhulme Trust and the Newton Trust for their generous support.

Some of the essays in this volume were presented in earlier versions at the international conference held on this topic in Cambridge (20-21 March 2014), but further contributions by other scholars working in the field were also included to broaden the scope of our book.

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Helena SANSON  
and Francesco LUCIOLI

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- 1 The aim of the research project was specifically to examine the vast body of works concerned with female conduct in Italy throughout the period indicated, with particular reference to printed works written in the vernacular and meant explicitly for lay women.
  - 2 We would like to extend our thanks to Letizia Panizza for the paper she offered at the conference on “Shaping the Ideal Wife: A Man’s Neverending Task, 1470-1650”, which, for personal reasons, she was unable to submit for inclusion in this volume. We are very grateful for her support for our research project from its very beginning. Thank you also to Lucy Hosker for her help with revising some of the essays from a linguistic perspective.