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Attachment A **Identification of Content** 

Title of Content: Power and Piety: discretio spirituum in the paratexts of early modern English

women translators

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Description of Content: M.Div. Honors Thesis

Abstract: The use of modesty topoi by early modern women writers has frequently been studied, but very

rarely have these literary devices been explicated in light of the theological traditions which dictated their

use. This study argues that the ways of addressing and appealing to religio-political authorities in the

English Reformation remained largely continuous with the pre-Reformation tradition of discretio

spirituum as a source of spiritual and literary authorization, even as evangelicalism and humanism

differentiated the theologies and educations of these women from their visionary predecessors. By

looking at the paratexts of Anne Cooke Bacon, Elizabeth I, Anne Locke, and Mary Sidney Herbert, this

study examines the continuities of discretio spirituum in the work of evangelical translators during the

Tudor Reformations. Recognizing discretio spirituum as an ongoing source of religious and political

legitimation in early modern England complicates the study of female discourse, and allows for a more

complete picture of the self-fashioning of women writers across the Reformation.

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