

CAMDEN FIFTH SERIES

An Account of an Elizabethan Family

The Willoughbys of Wollaton
by Cassandra Willoughby (1670–1735)

Jo Ann Hoepfner Moran Cruz is associate professor of history at Georgetown University and former chair of the department. She is co-founder and former director of Medieval Studies at Georgetown and served as Dean of Humanities and Natural Sciences at Loyola University, New Orleans from 2008–2012.

Cassandra Willoughby's *Account of the Willoughbys of Wollaton* is an invaluable portrait of family, kinship, regional, and national dynamics in the Tudor and early Stuart period. Based on letters and papers Cassandra found in the family library, her *Account* focuses, for the most part, on the women of the family. No other collection of letters and account books offers anything close to the depth of understanding of sixteenth-century family dynamics, gentry culture and court connections contained in this account. Of particular interest is Elizabeth Willoughby's public refusal to obey her husband, Francis Willoughby, and their ensuing ten-year separation that saw the death of a young son and resulted in appeals to Queen Elizabeth I. We learn about the status of women, hospitality, relations with servants, the social hierarchy, interactions with the royal court, education, religious concerns, household management, marriage negotiations, love relations, literacy, inheritance struggles, interpersonal behaviour and much more.

Cover illustrations: Elizabeth Willoughby, age 27 (1573) and Francis Willoughby, age 26 (1573). Reproduced by permission of Lord Middleton and the University of Nottingham Library Manuscripts Collection.



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