

*For Nelle Morton
and Jane Dempsey Douglass,
in gratitude.*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	ix
INTRODUCTION	1

PART ONE THE INSCRIPTIONAL EVIDENCE

I. WOMEN AS HEADS OF SYNAGOGUES	5
A. The Inscriptional Evidence for Women as Heads of Synagogues	5
EXCURSUS: What is an Honorific Title?	
B. The Meaning of "Head of the Synagogue"	15
1. Literary References to the Title	
2. Inscriptional References to the Title	
3. Reconstruction of the Office of Head of the Synagogue	
4. The Role of Women Synagogue Heads	
II. WOMAN AS LEADER	35
A. The Inscriptional Evidence for a Woman as Leader	35
B. <u>Archēgos</u> in Ancient Literature and Inscriptions	36
C. The Meaning of <u>archēgissa/archēgos</u> in Jewish Inscriptions	37
III. WOMEN AS ELDERS	41
A. The Inscriptional Evidence for Women as Elders	41
B. The Meaning of "Elder"	46
1. Literary References to the Title	
2. Inscriptional References to the Title	
3. Reconstruction of the Office of Elder	
4. The Role of Women Elders	
IV. WOMEN AS MOTHERS OF THE SYNAGOGUE	57
A. The Evidence for Mothers of the Synagogue	57
1. The Inscriptional Evidence	
2. The Literary Evidence	
B. The Meaning of "Mother/Father" and "Mother/Father of the Synagogue"	64
1. The Received Scholarly Opinion	
2. Further Literary References to the Title	
3. Further Inscriptional References to the Title	
4. Possible Non-Jewish Parallels	