

# Early Modern Women

## Resource Guide

Early modern editions of books by and about women in the Special Collections of the Sheridan Libraries, and related material

### This guide is in four parts:

1. Books about Women
2. Conduct Literature
3. Commonplace Books
4. Literary works by women in the early modern period
5. Illustrated works on women in the early modern period
6. Artifacts and specialized teaching resources
7. Selected bibliography of secondary materials
8. Relevant Electronic Resources and Web sites

### Books about women

**The womans priviledges above the man** : and that continual provision God in his mercy hath provided for her, suitable to her present condition : humbly presented to all vertuous matrons and virgins in and about the city of London. by John Humphryes. London : Printed for Henry Million, 1680.

*George Peabody Library Rare Books: 396 H928 1680 Duodecimo*

**A present for the ladies: being an historical vindication of the female sex.** To which is added, the character of an accomplish'd virgin, wife, and widow, in verse. Nahum Tate. London : Printed for Francis Saunders, at the Blue Anchor in the New Exchange in the Strand, 1692.

*Special Collections: HQ 1201 .T327 1692*

**La nobilta delle donne.** Lodovico Domenichi. Venice : G. Giolito di Ferrarii e fratelli, 1551. Longest Renaissance dialogue in praise of women.

*Special Collections: HQ 1201 .D66 1551. (1<sup>st</sup> edition: 1549).*

**Die heimlichkeiten der weiber.** Includes 3 texts, German translations of the original Latin:

*Secreta mulierum* ("Women's secrets", on obstetrics and women's diseases; largely filled with popular beliefs, astrology and superstition; enjoyed great popularity. Falsely attributed to Albertus Magnus)

*Der Buch Trotula* (the most influential compendium on women's medicine in medieval Europe)

*De curis mulierum* ("On treatments for women").

*Special Collections: MSB 20*

**De nobilitate et praecellentia foeminei sexus**, ejusdem supra virilem eminentia libellus, hac postrema editione recognitus & emendatus. [The glory of women: or, A treatise declaring the excellency and preheminance of women above men, which is proved both by scripture, law, reason, and authority, divine, and humane.] by Cornelius Agrippa.

Ce livre qui fut traduit dans toutes les langues européennes dès sa parution connut un succès considérable et durable. Dans un siècle peu favorable aux femmes, Agrippa renoue avec les idées de Christine de Pisan en faveur de son sexe. Il renverse la hiérarchie traditionnelle des valeurs entre hommes et femmes, et dresse « un acte d'accusation virulent contre l'arbitraire et l'arrogance des hommes, mais aussi contre une situation juridique qui les favorisaient clairement »

*Institute for the History of Medicine:* Vault A279dn 1609

**Dissertatio, de ingenii muliebris ad doctrinam, & meliores litteras aptitudine : accedunt quaedam epistolae, ejusdem argumenti.** Anna Maria van Schurman. (Leiden: Elsevier, 1641)

Probably the most celebrated *femme savante* of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. In this book, she deals with the issue of the fitness of the female mind for the study of the arts and sciences. See also below (Section 4: Books by Women)

*George Peabody Library Rare Books:* 371.822 Sch868 1641

**An essay in defence of the female sex.** London : Printed for A. Roper, and R. Clavel, 1697.

*Special Collections:* PO 3409.D9 E7 1697

**Curiose, lustige und artige Beschreibung der regiersüchtigen eigennützigten bösen Weiber, allen und ieden Männern zu nothwendiger** Warnung und Unterricht auf vieler Begehren ans Liecht gebracht durch V. O. J. Gedruckt im Jahr da die bösen Weiber regierten. Johannes Sommers.

*Special Collections:* PM 5757.P75 C8 1664

**Disputatio perjucunda, qua anonymus probare ninitur mvlieres homines non esse: cui opposita est Simonis Gedicci ... Defensio sexvs mvliebris, qua singula anonymi argumenta distinctis thesibus proposita viriliter enervantur.** Hagae-Comitus, I. Burchornius, 1638. Discusses the question : are women human ? See [article in JSTOR](#)

*Special Collections:* HQ 1122 .D5 1638C

**Tableav historique des rvses et svbtillitez des femmes** : où sont naïfvement représentées leurs moevrs, humeurs, tirranies, cruautez, desseins, inventions, feintises, tromperies, & generalement leurs artifices & pratiques ; le tout confirmé par histoires arrivées en France de nostre temps, non moins veritables que tragiques & prodigieuses. by L.S.R. [i.e. le sieur Rolet] A Paris : Chez Pierre Billaine, 1623.

*Special Collections:* HQ 1201 .R65 1623

**The anatomie of absurditie: contayning a breefe confutation of the slender imputed prayeses to feminine perfection, with a short description, of the severall practises of youth, and sundry follies of our licentious times.** No less pleasant to be read, then profitable to be remembered, especially of those, who live more licentiously, or addicted to a more nice stoycall austerity.

Comp. by Thomas Nashe. London : Printed by I. Charlewood for Thomas Hacket, 1589.

*Special Collections:* PO 2724 .A5 1589

**Syluae nuptialis libri sex : in quibus ex dictis moder. materia matrimonij, dotium, filiationis, adulterij, originis, successione, & monitorialium plenissimè discutitur : vnà cum remedijs ad sedandum factiones Guelphorum & Giebelinorum : item modus iudicandi & exequendi iussa principum : ad haec, de autoritatibus doctorum, priuilegiisque miserabilium personarum : quae omnia ex quaestione, an nubendum sit, vel non, desumpta sunt.** Giovanni Nevizzani. Lyon : Apud Bartholomaeum Vincentium, 1572. On marriage.

*Special Collections:*                    *HQ 731 .N4 1572*

**Le fort inespugnable de l'honneur du sexe femenin.** by Francoys de Billon. Paris : chez Ian d'Allyer ... , 1555.

*Special Collections:*                    *PH 3605 .B47 1555*

**The Discoverie of Witchcraft.** Reginald Scot. London, 1584.

Scot's work was intended as a sensible argument disputing the existence of witches, and also as a reaction to and a protest against the rising tide of the persecution of innocents by a superstitious clergy.

*Special Collections:*                    *BF 1565 .S42 1584*

**The Feminist controversy of the Renaissance: facsimile reproductions.** Introduction by Diane Bornstein.

Includes:

Alexis, Guillaume, d. 1486? Debat de l'homme et de la femme. English. 1980.

Elyot, Thomas, Sir, 1490?-1546. Defence of good women. 1980.

Agrippa von Nettesheim, Heinrich Cornelius, 1486?-1535. Declamatio de nobilitate et praecellentia foeminei sexus. English.

*B Level:*                                    *HQ 1122 .F451 1980*

**To find more early modern books on women in Special Collections :**

- do an Advanced Keyword search in the catalog
- search on “women” as a Subject Keyword
- limit your search to Eisenhower Special Collections and Archives, George Peabody Library, and Garrett Library
- you can also limit dates to < 1800, for example

## Conduct Literature

**L'oeconomie spirituelle et temporelle. De la vie, et maison, noblesse, & religion des nobles & des grands du monde.** Dressée sur la vie, pieté et sage économie de Louise de Lorraine, reine de France et de Pologne. Par M. Antoine Malet . Paris, Chez Evstache Fovcavlt, 1619.

*Special Collections:*    *DC 119.7 .M24 1619C*

**La Dame accomplie.** 1684. A rare educational and moral manual for young ladies, written in the form of a dialogue between a widow and her daughter. Various dangers which threaten a young lady are described, including: balls, the theater, gifts, walks, conversation, gallantry.  
*Special Collections: Newly acquired*

**Mundus muliebris, or, The ladies dressing-room unlock'd, and her toilette spread** : in burlesque : together with the fop-dictionary, compiled for the use of the fair sex. Mary Evelyn, (1665-1685). London : Printed for R. Bentley, 1690.  
*Garrett Library: PO 3433 .E6 M9 1690*

**Conduct literature for women 1500-1640.** 6 volume set of primary literature from the period, including facsimile images of the original texts.  
*B Level: BJ 1609 .C66 2000*

**The ladies calling, in two parts.** (With his **The gentlemen's calling.** London, 1696)  
*Special Collections: BJ 1551 .A43 1696*

**Conduct literature for women 1640-1710.** 6 volume set of primary literature from the period, including facsimile images of the original texts.  
*B Level: BJ 1609 .C67 2002*

### **To find more books on conduct in Special Collections :**

- do an Advanced Keyword search in the catalog
- search on “conduct of life” as a Subject Keyword
- limit your search to Eisenhower Special Collections and Archives, George Peabody Library, and Garrett Library
- you can also limit dates to < 1800, for example

### **Commonplace Books**

**C17 English commonplace books** May not have belonged to women, but give a good idea of the genre. 5 examples in Special Collections, including:  
*MS 336*

*P 8245 .C73:* Fat tall octavo in fascicles loosely bound together in paper boards; boxed. Latin headings with many texts in English; blanks, ownership inscriptions on several fascicles. Faint but nearly legible hand.

*P 8245 .C6:* Tall octavo. Latin headings, typical Latin authors; a few letters, some in English, interspersed. Fairly legible hand.

## Literary, and other, works by women

**The Mirrouer of Princely Deedes and Knyghthood** Margaret Tyler (trans.) of Diego Ortunez de Calahorra, (London, 1578). Tyler translates a Spanish romance, and in the prefatory material articulates a defense of women writers in a masculine literary culture.

*George Peabody Library Rare Books:* 823 O78 1578 DUODECIMO

**Opuscula hebræa, græca, latina, gallica, prosaica & metrica.** Anna Maria van Schurman. (Leiden: Elsevier, 1650). Probably the most celebrated *femme savante* of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of a collection of letters and poems to and from Van Schurman in Latin, Greek, Hebrew and French, compiled at the request of a friend of hers, the theologian Fridericus Spanheim Sr. Includes 2 pieces not in the 1<sup>st</sup> edition.

*George Peabody Library Rare Books:* 839.318 S394 DUODECIMO

*Also the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition (1652):* 839.318 S394a

**Poems by the most deservedly admired Mrs. Katherine Philips, the matchless Orinda.**

Philips, Katherine. London, H. Herringman, 1678. (1<sup>st</sup> edition).

Best known female poet of her generation, author of refined poetry, often written for her female friends and associates. She was given the nickname "The Matchless Orinda", by poet Henry Vaughan.

*Special Collections:* PO 3619 .P4 1678Q

*George Peabody Library Rare Books:* 821 P555 1678 QUARTO

**The revenge: or, A match in Newgate. A comedy.** As it was acted at the Dukes theatre. Aphra Behn, supposed author. London, Printed for W. Cademan, at the Pope head in the New Exchange, 1680.

*Special Collections :* PO 3318 .B35 R4 1680

**Histoire générale des insectes de Surinam et de toute l'Europe** : contenant leurs descriptions, leurs figures, leurs différentes métamorphoses, de même que les descriptions des plantes, fleurs & fruits, dont ils se nourrissent . Maria Sybilla Merian. 1771

1647-1717. A naturalist and scientific illustrator who studied plants and insects and made detailed paintings about them. Best known for her detailed observations and documentation of the metamorphosis of the butterfly and other insects, the result of her travels to Surinam with her daughter, where she studied the world of South American tropical flora and fauna.

*George Peabody Library Rare Books:* 500 X27 FOLIO

**Tutte le rime della illustriss. et eccellentiss. Signora Vittoria Colonna.** a 1558 edition of her poetry.

1490-1547. Italian poet, known for her love poems written to her husband and for religious poetry written later in her life, she drew on Petrarchan models. After her husband's death, she became a close friend of Michelangelo, exchanging letters with the artist.

*George Peabody Library Rare Books:* 851 C719T

**Emblematum christianorum centuria, cum eorundem latina interpretatione = Cent  
emblemes chrestiens.** de damoiselle Georgette de Montenay. Book of emblems, 1584.

Earliest (or one of earliest) emblem books by a woman; earliest (or one of earliest) Protestant emblem books. Frontispiece engraved portrait of Montenay. Her merit and contemporary success lay in the merging of several literary and iconographic traditions. A poet specializing in pious and meditative verse, she followed the example set by other well-educated and aristocratic women authors such as Marguerite de Navarre. An author of emblematic verse in the vernacular, she adopted (and transformed) a highly successful humanist literary tradition in order to convey a didactic Calvinist message in palatable form. Finally, an emblem author who directed the engraving of the plates that illustrated her moral and religious poems, she also drew upon 2 artistic traditions: emblematic allegory and Christian iconology.

*Special Collections: NE 218 .G5 1584*

**Nobilissima virginis Annae Mariae a Schvrman Dissertatio, de ingenii muliebris ad  
doctrinam, & meliores litteras aptitudine.** Anna Maria van Schurman.

Anna Maria von Schuman (1607-1678) can be described as one of the earliest feminists - speaking of the position of women as their "cause". In this work Van Schurman deals with the issue of the fitness of the female mind for the study of the arts and sciences. She was a Dutch poet and scholar, highly educated woman by seventeenth century standards. She excelled in art, music, and literature, and became proficient in 14 languages including contemporary European languages, Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Arabic, Syriac, Aramaic, and Ethiopian. She was well versed in geography, astronomy, philosophy, the sciences, theology and was an accomplished poet. This is one of her most famous works, translated into English as *The learned maid, or Whether a maid be a scholar?* in 1659. In this she argues that women are capable of profiting by an education and have a right to the benefits of liberal studies (3 other 17<sup>th</sup> century works by Van Schurman in the George Peabody Library)

*George Peabody Library Rare Books : 371.822 Sch868 1641*

**Les memoires de la royne Margverite.** Marguerite, Queen, consort of Henry IV, King of France.

*Special Collections : DC 122.9 .M2 A15 1629 C*

**Lettere** . Isabella Andreini,,1612.

*Special Collections : PG 1562.A72 L4 1612*

\_\_\_\_\_. **Lettere** ., 1627.

*Special Collections : PG 1562.A72 L4 1627*

1562-1604, née **Isabella Canali** celebrated leading lady of one of the early commedia dell'arte companies. Married Francesco Andreini, an actor. they helped form the Gelosi troupe, with which she toured Italy and France until her death. A brilliant and beautiful woman, she was the subject of adoring verse by both French and Italian poets. At a Roman festival, given by her admirer Cardinal Cinzio Aldobrandini, her portrait was hung, crowned with laurels, between those of Torquato Tasso and Plutarch. Isabella was herself a minor poet and author of a pastoral play, *Mirtilla*. A book of songs, sonnets, letters, and other verse was published after her death by her husband and Scala. Her death prompted her husband's retirement from the stage and was the inspiration of numerous elegies. Her son Giovambattista was a commedia dell'arte actor and a prolific author.

**Semplice ingannata**, Arcangela Tarabotti, 1654.

Simplicity deceived, a revision of La tirannia paterna: Paternal Tyranny is a passionate indictment not only of her family who dumped her in a convent but also of the convent system in which young women were shunted aside to wither uneducated and unappreciated

*George Peabody Library Rare Books : 853 T758 1654*

## Illustrated Works

**Costumes**. Jost Amman. Miscellaneous collection of costumes (woodcuts) 16<sup>th</sup> century.

*Special Collections : 390 X2 FOLIO*

**Theatrv Mvliervm, sive Varietas atq.** : Differentia Habituum Foeminei Sexus dinersorum Europæ Nationum hodierno Tempore vulgo in vsu a Wenceslao Hollar, etc. 1643. 48 numbered plates without separate text. With Latin inscription below (and English above in some cases). All but three are signed by Hollar and most of them dated 1642-44. The first 13 represent the dress of English women: 14-44, that of other nationalities ; 45-48 (dated 1663) that of religious orders.

*George Peabody Library Rare Books: 760.91 H737 1643 DUODECIMO*

**La gallerie des femmes fortes**. Par le Pere Le Moyne de la Compagnie de Iesus. 1667.

*Special Collections : PH 2145.8 .W7L5 1667 C*

**British costume during XIX centuries (civil and ecclesiastical)**. by Mrs. Charles H. Ashdown.

Illustrated with 459 engravings in the text, 110 plates, and 9 coloured reproductions, from original costumes and from illuminated mss., missals, brasses, effigies, etc., from original research in the Manuscript department of the British museum and in various national collections.

*George Peabody Library : 391.942 A823*

**History of feminine costume: tracing its evolution from the earliest times to the present.**

*George Peabody Library : 391.09 L695 DUODECIMO*

## Artifacts and specialized teaching resources

### Leaves of 16<sup>th</sup> century books

Single leaves from books printed in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, showing handmade paper (some with watermarks), early typography and illustrations.

*Artifact Collection: MS 479*

### Full parchment skin

*Artifact Collection: MS 479*

**L'esprit de L'encyclopédie, ou, Choix des articles les plus agréables, les plus curieux et les plus piquans de ce grand dictionnaire.** A set of 12 volumes from 1798, all in **original paper wrappers**, with paper spine labels. A striking illustration of the physical state of books as they were sold and bought before the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

*AE 4 .E56 1799*

### **Copper engraved plates.**

Examples of how most book illustrations were made in the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> centuries:

- John Knox's house, early c20. Line-engraved.
- Reliquary of St Martha/Holy family, French, c18. Line-engraved.

*Artifact Collection: MS 479*

### **Type and Composing Sticks / Galley tray and Furniture**

Artifacts from hand-press printing, illustrating how books were printed before the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

*Artifact Collection: MS 479*

### **Handmade Paper in full sheets**

Ordonnance concernant la censure & police des livres. Dec. 1768. Full sheet of handmade laid paper, showing deckle edge, watermark (no countermark), and vatman's tears. Imposed in **folio**.

*Z 658.H3 H3 1768 QUARTO*

Franciscus Josephus of Buessmanshausen. Actus Interni (1691) – **duodecimo** format in uncut sheets *BX 2160 .A2 F73 1691 Folio*

Prima elementa historiae urbis Augustae Vindelicorum. Augsburg, 1763. Uncut **octavo** sheets with copper-engraved map for insertion *DD 901 .A92 P95 1763*

**Examples of many styles of binding, as well as unbound books, from the early modern period.**

## **Selected bibliography of secondary materials**

Amussen, Susan Dwyer. Attending to Early Modern Women. Newark; London: University of Delaware Press; Associated University Presses, 1998.

*D Level Blue Labels : PN 721 .A88 1998*

Campbell, Julie D. Literary Circles and Gender in Early Modern Europe: A Cross-Cultural Approach. Aldershot, Hants, England ; Burlington, VT: Ashgate, 2006.

*D Level Blue Labels : PN 731 .C36 2006*

Demers, Patricia. Women's Writing in English: Early Modern England. Toronto ;Buffalo: University of Toronto Press, 2005.

*D Level Blue Labels : PR 113.D46 2005.*

Donawerth, Jane. **Crossing Boundaries: Attending to Early Modern Women**. Newark, DE; London ;Cranbury, NJ: University of Delaware Press; Associated University Presses, 2001.  
*D Level Blue Labels :* PN 721 .C76 2000

Erdmann, Axel. **My Gracious Silence: Women in the Mirror of 16th century Printing in Western Europe**. Luzern : Gilhofer & Ranschburg, c1999.  
*D Level :* Z 124 .E73 1999

Ferguson, Margaret W. **Dido's Daughters: Literacy, Gender, and Empire in Early Modern England and France**. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003.  
*D Level Blue Labels :* PN 471 .F45 2003

Hammons, Pamela S. **Poetic Resistance: English Women Writers and the Early Modern Lyric**. Aldershot: Ashgate, 2002.  
*D Level Blue Labels :* PR 535 .W6H36 2002

McManus, Clare. **Women and Culture at the Courts of the Stuart Queens**. Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire ;New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2003.  
*B Level:* DA 380 .W66 2003

Salzman, Paul. **Reading Early Modern Women's Writing**. Oxford ; New York: Oxford University Press, 2006.  
*D Level Blue Labels :* PR 113 .S32 2006

Snook, Edith. **Women, Reading, and the Cultural Politics of Early Modern England**. Aldershot, Hants, England ;Burlington, VT: Ashgate Pub., 2005.  
*D Level Blue Labels :* PR 113 .S57 2005

Stephenson, Barbara. **The Power and Patronage of Marguerite de Navarre**. Aldershot, Hants, England ;Burlington, VT, USA: Ashgate, 2004.  
*B Level:* DC 112 .M2S74 2004

Urban, Marsha. **Seventeenth-Century Mother's Advice Books**. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2006.  
*D Level Blue Labels :* PR 408 .D49U73 2006

Voaden, Rosalynn, and Diane Wolfthal. **Framing the Family: Narrative and Representation in the Medieval and Early Modern Periods**. Tempe, Ariz.: Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, 2005.  
*B Level:* HQ 611 .A24 2005

**Strong voices, weak history: early women writers & canons in England, France & Italy**. Pamela Joseph Benson and Victoria Kirkham, editors.  
*D Level Blue Labels :* PN 715 .S76 2005

**A companion to early modern women's writing.** edited by Anita Pacheco.  
*D Level Blue Labels : PR 113 .C66 2002*

## **Relevant Electronic Resources and Web sites**

### **Early Modern Women Database**

<http://www.lib.umd.edu/ETC/LOCAL/emw/emw.php3>

### **Society for the Study of Early Modern Women**

<http://www.ssemw.org/>

### **Brown University Women Writers Project**

<http://www.wwp.brown.edu/>

### **Early Modern Resources : Gender**

<http://www.earlymodernweb.org.uk/emr/index.php/category/themes/gender/>



### **Other Resource Guides available:**

Encyclopedism of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Centuries

Surrealism

The Scholar's Bookshelf : The Middle Ages

Manuscript Books in The Sheridan Libraries

French Theater Collections

Italian Theater Collections

Samuel Johnson and his Dictionary

*Revised: 17 February 2011*