

Citation metadata

Author: David Roberts
Date: June 1998
From: Notes and Queries(Vol. 45, Issue 2)
Publisher: Oxford University Press
Document Type: Book review
Length: 597 words

Main content

Article Preview :

KATHERINE M. QUINSEY (ed.). Pp. ix + 244. Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 1996. Hardbound \$39.95 (ISBN 0-8131-1945-6); paperbound \$17.95 (0-8131-0871-3).

This is a useful and well-organized collection which fills a gap in undergraduate reading lists and offers something more besides. There are three sections: Restoration plays by women, plays about women by men, and, most promising of the three, theory and the history of performance. The procedures and conclusions of the first section are, it must be said, somewhat predictable. Rebecca Merrens identifies 'scientific' and 'tragic' species of anti-feminism in Bacon and Congreve, whose *Mourning Bride* offers women as a scapegoat for male instability (of what male-authored seventeenth-century play has that not been said, I wonder?); Mary Manley and Catherine Trotter, by contrast, draw characters who evade patriarchal 'dualisms'. The essays on Behn by Dagny Boebel and Peggy Thompson, nimble and detailed readings both, rest similarly satisfied...

[Access from your library](#)

This is a preview. Get the full text through your school or public library.

Source Citation

Source Citation

Roberts, David. "Broken Boundaries: Women and Feminism in Restoration Drama." *Notes and Queries*, vol. 45, no. 2, 1998, p. 255. Accessed 14 Nov. 2020.

Gale Document Number: GALE|A20927796

Explore

This is a preview. Get the full text through your school or public library.

[Access from your library](#)

Footer

- [About](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Terms of Use](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)
- [Accessibility](#)

In Katherine Quinsey's book *Broken Boundaries: Women & Feminism in Restoration Drama*, Peggy Thompson points out that during the time that Behn wrote, male relatives often negotiated marriage contracts for the women in their family, but did so "not to protect their wards' autonomy and property, but to enhance familial and dynastic interests" (Quinsey 73). Despite their increasing agency in choosing a marriage partner, women in the Restoration were nonetheless valued as commodities. Angellica Bianca is an example of this as her struggles stemmed from social perspectives of value within the marketplace. The Staves article mentions that Behn was intrigued by the "value' of women in her society and experiment[ed] with dividing and isolating elements of conventional female value" (21).
Broken Boundaries: Women and Feminism in Restoration Drama. 2015 - The University Press of Kentucky - Kentucky. In-text:

(Quinsey, 2015). Your Bibliography: Quinsey, K., 2015. Broken Boundaries: Women And Feminism In Restoration Drama. 1st ed. Kentucky: The University Press of Kentucky. Broken Boundaries book. Read reviews from world's largest community for readers. This volume of twelve original essays is the first comprehensive study... Start by marking "Broken Boundaries: Women and Feminism in Restoration Drama" as Want to Read: Want to Read saving... Want to Read. Currently Reading. Read. Other editions. Enlarge cover.