

Comparative Literature  
Janet Smarr 244-2712  
Spring 1992

## Women Writers in the Renaissance

**Jan. 16** intro

**Jan. 21** Christine de Pizan *Book of the City of Ladies I* (whole)

**Jan. 23** Christine de Pizan *Book of the City of Ladies II & III*, selets.: II: 7, 12-14, 20-23, 28-32, 36, 44-55, 62, 66; III: 1, 10, 19

**Jan. 28** background readings: social roles and status

**Jan. 30** background readings: education

**Feb. 4** background readings: reformation issues & work

**Feb 6** trailblazers: humanist women's letters and orations; xerox: Cass. Fedele, Laura Cereta, Erasmus "The Abbot and the learned woman", reserve: read Albert Rabil, *Laura Cereta* (1981) intro. pp.3-28. [report: Marg. King "The Religious Retreat of Isotta Nogarola, (1418-66)" *Signs* 3:4 (summer 1978, 807-22) on reserve]

**Feb. 11** (WWRR & xerox) Helisenne de Crenne

**Feb. 13** noble women: Vittoria Colonna (WWRR & xerox)

**Feb. 18** noble women: (WWRR & Xerox) Veronica Gambaro, and Laura Terracina

**Feb. 20** Marguerite de Navarre *Heptameron I*: prologue, 1-5, 8-10, and see intro.pp.34-7 for chronology of her life and times.

**Feb. 25** MdN *Heptameron II*: prologue, 11 & 52; 16-21, 43, VI-prologue [love, men and women]

**Feb: 27** MdN *Heptameron II*: end of II & prologue of III, 23, 30, 33, 34, 41, 44, 48, 55, 65 [relig.]

**Mar. 3** MdN *Heptameron IV*: prologue, 21, 36-8, 40, 54, 61, 63, 67 [marr.]

**Mar. 5** Queen Elizabeth (WWRR) [report: Constance Jordan: "Woman's Rule in 16th-Century British Political Thought" in *Renaissance Quarterly* 40:3 (Autumn 1987), 421-51.1

### Spring break

**Mar. 17** middle-class women with salons: Des Roches (WWRR & xerox) [report: Anne Larsen, "Cath. des Roches 1542-87: Humanism and the Learned Woman" in *J.of Rocky Mtn MdvI and Ren Assocn* 8 (1987), 97-117.]

**Mar. 19** Louise Labe (WWRR & xerox); & Pernette du Guillet (WWRR) [Pernette = aristocrat but in same circle with Labe] [report: Labe's "Debate between Folly and Love" -in French in *Oeuvres completes* ed. E. Giudici (1981); in Eng. transl. by Elizabeth Farrell, *Louise Labe's Complete Works* (1986) and separately by Cox (1925)]

**Mar. 24** courtesans (=mid.cl...salons) Gaspara Stampa (WWRR &xerox)

**Mar. 26** courtesans: Veronica Franco (xerox) [report: Marg. Rosenthal in E. Goldsmith ed., *Writing, in the Female Voice* (1909), 3-24. Catherine Santore in *Renaissance Quarterly* 41:1 (spring 1908), 44-83.]

**Mar. 31** other poets (xerox): Marie de Romieu, Isabella Morra.

**Apr. 2** holy women: St. Catherine of Genoa, St. Catherine of Bologna (RRWW); St. Catherine de'Ricci (xerox). [report: Elissa Weaver "Spiritual Fun: A Study of 16th-century Tuscan Convent Theater" in Mary Beth Rose ed., *Women in the Middle Ages and Renaissance* (1986), 173-206.]

**Apr. 7** pious laywomen: Marie Dentiere, Margaret More Roper (WWRR) [report: Anne Askew *The First Examinacyon* (1546) and *The Lattre Examinacion* (1547) on microfilm in Rare Bk Rm; plus optional: Elaine Beilin "Anne Askew's Self-Portrait in the Examinations" in *Silent But For the Word*, 77-91.]

**Apr. 9** Swetnam controversy in *Half Humankind* 189-260

**Apr. 14** Elizabeth Cary, *Tragedy of Mariam*

**Apr. 16** Elizabeth Cary, *Tragedy of Mariam* [report: Fischer "Eliz. Cary and Tyranny" in *Silent But For The Word*, 225-373.]

**Apr. 21** "Mic Mulier" and "Haec Vir" in *Half Humankind*

**Apr. 23** student presentations

**Apr. 28** student presentations

**Apr. 30** student presentations

**May 5** review discussion

- Final exam 40%
- Term paper 40%
- Class participation 20%

**Books Ordered:**

Christine de Pizan, *Book of the City of Ladies*

Marguerite de Navarre, *Heptameron*

Katerina Wilson ed., *Women Writers of the Renaissance and Reformation*

Henderson and McManus ed., *Half Humankind*