Vice and Tyranny in 16th Century Italian Pro-Women Works

The Equality and Superiority in Renaissance and Early Modern Pro-Women Treatises Project aims to unveil and analyze the pro-women works of authors who contributed to the ‘querelle des femmes’ debate about the worth of women in 16th and 17th century Europe. The research consisted in transcribing and correcting pro-women works of Italian feminist writers and poets of the late 16th century and early 17th century as well as writing short biographies of the dedicatees chosen by the authors.

STUDY PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

TRANSCRIPTIONS

Dialogo della Signora Tullia D’Aragona della infinità di amore, Tullia D’Aragona (1547)
La semplicità ingannata, Arcangela Tarabotti (1654)

CORRECTIONS

Lucrezia Marinella, La nobiltà et l’eccellenza delle donne : co’ difetti, et mancamenti degli huomini [The Nobility and Excellence of Women, and the Defects and Vices of Men] (1601)
Torquato Tasso, Discorso della virtù femminale e donnesca [On Feminine and Womanly Virtue] (1582)

BIOGRAPHIES

ELEONORA OF NAPLES - Duchess of Ferrara, dedicatee of Bartolomeo Gogio
GIOVANNI VINCENZO BELRATO - Literary man, dedicatee of Lodovico Domenichini
LEONORA DI MEDICI DI TOLEDO - Duchess of Florence, dedicatee of Domenico Bruni
LIVIA FELETRIA DELLA ROVERE - Duchess of Urbino, dedicatee of Moderata Fonte
LUCIO SCARANO - Philosopher and literary man, dedicatee of Lucrezia Marinella
MARGHERITA CANTELMO - Duchess of Sera, dedicatee of Agostino Strazzii and Mario Equicola
MARGHERITA GONZAGA D’ESTE - Duchess of Ferrara, dedicatee of Torquato Tasso
VINCENTO APONFINI - Tuscan Merchant, dedicatee of Lodovico Domenichini

METHODOLOGY

The transcriptions of pro-women texts and the biographies are used for the website of the research (querelle.ca) for the public domain. The texts were taken from digital manifestations of early editions available on the Internet. In most of the cases, the texts are transcribed from their original version published.

The biographies concern people of the nobility, who, as patrons, commissioned some specific pro-feminine works, or dedicatees, who are the people to whom the authors decided to dedicate their work. The biographies mainly include the milestones of the life of the dedicatee, their political positions and their ties with the author.

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“Their conduct leads one to believe that they truly imagine that happiness lasts forever in this temporary, precarious life”, Paternal Tyranny, Arcangela Tarabotti