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**Bourgeois, Louise. Midwife to the Queen of France: Diverse Observations. Trans. Stephanie O'Hara. Ed. Alison Klairmont Lingo.**

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**Bourgeois, Louise.**

*Midwife to the Queen of France: Diverse Observations.* Trans. Stephanie O'Hara. Ed. Alison Klairmont Lingo.

The Other Voice in Early Modern Europe: The Toronto Series 56 / Medieval and Renaissance Texts and Studies 520. Toronto: Iter Press / Tempe: Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, 2017. Pp. xix, 451 + 14 ill. ISBN 978-0-86698-576-5 (paperback) US\$59.95.

Louise Bourgeois's contribution to the exclusively male domain of medical publications in the early seventeenth century continues to resonate with current research focused on women's writing traditions and the history of science and medicine. Stephanie O'Hara and Alison Klairmont Lingo add to an important series of editions that continues to recover and recontextualize women's writing in medieval and early modern periods. Both the translation and the editorial apparatus of Bourgeois's text from the edition published in 1626 are thorough and impeccably researched, and serve to offer modern readers and researchers a detailed and carefully annotated English version of a text that influenced the medical world and the professional debate around midwifery as a profession in the early modern period.

Bourgeois (1563–1636) was the midwife to the French queen Marie de Médicis, a position that she secured as a result of being a successful and experienced professional. The first woman to write a medical text on the art of midwifery, she published a text that literally and figuratively opened previously very firmly closed doors to the spaces, bodies, and processes involved in reproduction. In fact, Bourgeois let the text itself speak to the reader:

An honor caused me to be written  
 A malicious liar almost had me suffocated  
 A slanderer had me scolded,  
 Of the three, honor made me triumph. (103)

This final entry into the dedicatory material of Bourgeois's first volume spoke to more than the book itself; it addressed, as well, the heavily censored legacy of women's writing, the problematic place of midwifery as an art that was also a medical profession, and the complex politics and fluid dynamics of writing about reproduction and women's bodies in published and public spaces.

The three volumes of Bourgeois's text employed a variety of rhetorical strategies that are highlighted by this modern edition. The first volume, published in 1609, included dedicatory poetry to the queen and other aristocrats, both men and women, to preface the unprecedented publication, by a woman, of a book of anatomy and physiology regarding conception, pregnancy, childbirth, and post-partum care. The key term to Bourgeois's title for her text underscored her reliance on her extensive experience, allowing her to provide "observations" or case histories, much like any contemporary medical manual on reproduction, such as those written by surgeon Ambroise Paré and physician Laurent Joubert. In addition, the term "observations" functioned to place midwifery in a context that was scientific and driven by careful collection and analysis of data; as such, Bourgeois provided material for further study that referenced scientific theories and resulted in the publication of a manual to be used for the better education of midwives in France. The second volume of Bourgeois's text (added to the edition published in 1617), further pointed out the need for Bourgeois to shore up her authority as experienced midwife and professional, including a letter of "Advice to [her] Daughter," which addressed appropriate female conduct and professionalism in midwifery, pointing out concerns raised by a lack of ethical and moral conduct. Once again, Bourgeois demonstrated her awareness of the professional rivalry between the art of midwifery and the medical practice of men-midwives who, despite the continued efforts of midwives to protect and improve their profession, progressively encroached upon their domain, aided by the emphasis on scientific training, the use of obstetrical and surgical instruments, and the development of a rhetorical campaign that painted midwives as uneducated and immoral creatures to be pushed out of the birthing chamber and lying-in room. The third volume of the text appeared alongside the previous two volumes in 1626; the shortest of the three, this volume emphasized the relevance of experience over textbook learning, marking yet again the dividing lines between the practices of midwives and men-midwives respectively.

Bourgeois's text invites readers (both then and now) to enter into a heavily contested intellectual space. Her writings are highlighted by their translator, Stephanie O'Hara, and their editor, Alison Klairmont Lingo, for their place in the history and tradition of women's writing in the early modern period. Not only did women have limited access to education and face censorship whenever they did publish, but the contents of their texts were viewed through a gendered

lens that deemed their publications problematic, sexualized, and scandalous. O'Hara and Lingo carefully point out the relevance of a midwifery text written by a woman who was aware of and anticipated the upcoming battle over the management of childbirth. They unfold and unravel the hierarchies (historical, political, and professional) that informed Bourgeois's place at the French court and the noble patronage tradition that freed her to write a text which, in three volumes, served to address midwifery conduct, training, and ethics, in order to produce an erudite manual that discussed female anatomy, theories of conception, reproductive processes, childbirth management, associated illnesses, and post-partum care for both mother and child, along with several recipes for remedies and treatments. Of particular note in this edition is the extensive glossary of medical terminology used during the early modern period that facilitates access to Bourgeois's text and to the medical milieu within which her text operated. O'Hara and Lingo's thoughtful and well-researched edition of Louise Bourgeois's *Observations diverses* provides access to further research on early modern midwifery and the gendered aspects of women's contributions to midwifery, medicine, and the history of science.

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Mount Royal University

**Burn, David J., Grantley R. McDonald, Joseph Verheyden, and Peter De Mey, eds.**

*Music and Theology in the European Reformations.*

Turnhout: Brepols, 2019. Pp. 500 + 33 b/w ill., 31 b/w tables, 10 music examples. ISBN 978-2-503-58226-9 (paperback) €100.

This volume brings together the work of twenty scholars with affiliations in Europe, North America, and Australia. The premise of the book is that periods marked by realignment and change in doctrine are also marked by a reassessment of doctrine's relationship to music—the European Reformations (plural) being one of “the most crucial such junctures” (25). All those who took on the mantle of reformer had to address matters of music—either positively or sceptically—in the service of worship, education, evangelization, and discipline; “no reformer considered music inconsequential” (58). At the same