

# Writing women in Jacobean England

Harvard University Press - Jacobean Era Duchess Of Malfi



Description: -

- Women and literature -- England -- History -- 17th century.  
 English literature -- Women authors -- History and criticism  
 English literature -- Early modern, 1500-1700 -- History and criticism  
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 Notes: Includes bibliographical references (p. 323-411) and index.  
 This edition was published in 1993



Filesize: 49.16 MB

Tags: #Writing #Women #in #Jacobean #England #— #Barbara #Kiefer #Lewalski

## Jacobean age

Eliot, whose long poem The Waste Land 1922 was a watershed in both American and English literary history. Given that Henry VI was both a minor and a half-wit, Gloucester was the one whose consent was actually required. Despite these efforts to assert her independence, her work is undone by her controlling brothers.

### **Arbella Stuart, Catherine of Valois, and The Duchess of Malfi by Nanci Lamb Roider**

Two of the most important Elizabethan prose writers were John Lyly 1553 or 1554 - 1606 and Thomas Nashe November 1567 - c.

### **Serpents Sting: Female Transgressive Sexuality and Metaphors of Syphilis in Elizabethan and Jacobean England**

The role of Ben Jonson is also regarded as significant in literature as he invented the sub-genre of masque.

### **Shakespeare and gender: the ‘woman’s part’**

At the end of the play, the Duchess is strangled at the request of her brothers. The lifting of Puritan restrictions and the reassembling of the court led to a relaxation of restraints, both moral and stylistic, embodied in such figures as the Earl of Antonio's unease with his new role is also evidenced by his self-deprecating humor.

### **Writing Women in Jacobean England — Barbara Kiefer Lewalski**

Because these men not only were familiar with classical models but also were trendsetters in developing a distinctively English literature, they lent to the evolving drama both a form and dignity borrowed from the Aristotelian mold and an immediacy in language and idea sparked by an awareness of the political, social, moral, and economic problems of sixteenth century England.

### **English literature: The Jacobean Era, Cromwell, and the Restoration**

An even closer parallel to the Duchess's life can be found in the case of Catherine of Valois 1401-37 and Owen Tudor 1400-61.

## **William Shakespeare's Life and Times: Women in Shakespeare's England**

Much of the practical prose of the early Elizabethan is energetic, and it is possible from a dozen writers to select brief passages of extreme magnificence ; but it is difficult to perceive that they wrote upon any system, or that it had ever crossed their minds that prose should be given, and could deserve, no less sustained technical attention than verse itself. Donne's poetry is distinctive for its passionate intellect, Jonson's for its classicism and urbane guidance of passion.

### **Macbeth**

The Duchess of Malfi offers a range of women that challenge female stereotypes. Setting out to show how these women wrote themselves into their culture, Lewalski rewrites Renaissance history to include some of its most compelling - and neglected - voices. Another feature of at this time, however, was the development of the extravagant courtly entertainment known as the , which reached its literary peak in the works of Jonson and Inigo Jones.

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