

Writing women in Jacobean England

Harvard University Press - Elizabethan Era Women's Roles



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Widows were free to remarry or to remain single. Patronage came not just from James, but from James' wife Anne of Denmark. And yet it is not the whole story.

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

Was he, in fact, a feminist himself or was he creating a warning to those that dared to challenge their role in society? Theatre wasn't the only form of art to flourish during the Elizabethan Era.

Shakespeare's Era: What Life Was Like In Shakespeare's Time?

Painter's version of the story does not favor the Duchess at all, and blames her solely for the ruination of herself and Antonio: Thus I say because a woman being as it were the Image of sweetnesse, curtesie and shamefastnesse, so soone as she steppeth out of the right tracte, and leaueth the smel of hir duetie and modestie, besides the denigration of hir honor, trusteth hir self into infinite troubles and causeth the ruine of such which should be honored and praised, if womens allurement solicited them no to follie. In short, the notion that society and literature often mirror one another is evident here. They agreed, but later defied him and were married that year at Greenwich.

Writing Women in Jacobean England

As an important innovative writer of specialized literary works, Ben Jonson developed the genre of masques during the Jacobean Era. The court neither condemned nor defended them, but adopted an air of tolerance and acceptance of their relationship. This was grated with the stipulation that she not marry any foreign prince.

Role of Women

One of the primary ways this has been achieved is through the written word.

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