WOMEN OF THE BOOK
A Conference on the Spiritual Lives of Early Modern Women

SEPTEMBER 6-7, 2019, JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY, HOMEWOOD CAMPUS

From psycho-spiritual autobiographers, bi-locating nuns, and rock-star-status mystics, to the hidden careers of women printers and engravers and miracle-makers—this interdisciplinary conference explores JHU’s recently acquired “Women of the Book” collection of over 425 rare books and manuscripts on early modern nuns, 1450-1800. Together they illuminate lives actively and creatively lived by early modern women religious within and beyond the cloister. Free from traditional family and spousal constraints, and wed to a spiritual life of the mind, these women changed the world and, through their unique access to print, permanently preserved their contributions to history.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6
Steven Muller Space Telescope Bldg. Auditorium, 3700 San Martin Drive, Homewood Campus
8:45-9 a.m., Coffee reception
9-10:30, BOOKS & LIBRARIES
(Chair: Earle Havens, JHU)
Kelsey Champagne (Yale), “Women, Catholicism and Print Culture: Themes and Materials in the Women of the Book Collection”
Johan Oosterman (Radboud U. Nijmegen), “Reading with Leave: Private Readers in the Augustinian Convent Library of Soeterbeeck”
10:30-10:45, Coffee break
10:45-12:15, LIVES & LEARNING
(Chair, Maria Portuondo, JHU)
Simon Ditchfield (York), “Texts in Motion: Saints’ Lives in the Making of Roman Catholicism as a World Religion”
Charlene Villaseñor Black (UCLA), “Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz and the Dangers of Intellectual Desire”
12:15-2, Lunch break
2-3:30, MODELS & MIRACLES
(Chair, Erin Rowe, JHU)
Alison Weber (UVA), “Catherine of Siena and Teresa of Avila: (Re)Modeling a Saint”
Carlos Eire (Yale), “Maria de Agreda and Her Miraculous Otherworldly Book”
3:30-3:45, Coffee break
3:45-5:15, IMAGES & NETWORKS
(Chair, Aaron Hyman, JHU)
Cristina Cruz González (Oklahoma State), “Mystics, Miracles, and Mimesis: Female Piety and the Hagiographic Image in the Spanish World”
Marilyn Dunn ( Loyola, Chicago), “Sor María Isabella Colonna, Women’s Spiritual Networks, and the Convent of SS. Rosario in Marino”

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7
Gilman Auditorium, Room 50, Gilman Hall, Homewood Campus
8:45-9 a.m., Coffee reception
9-10:30, PERFORMANCE & CONVERSION
(Chair, Anne Lester [JHU])
Mita Choudhury (Vassar), “Visitandine Convents and the Performance of Faith in Early Modern France”
Daniella Kostroun ([IUPU, Indianapolis]), “Converting Protestants and Indians: The Rouen Ursulines in the Atlantic World”
10:30-10:45, Coffee break
10:45-12:15, POLEMIC & PROPHECY
(Chair, Elizabeth Patton, JHU)
Victor Houliston (U. of the Witwatersrand), “Words for Women Perhaps: Robert Persons and his Female Readers”
12:15-12:45, FINAL ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION
(Earle Havens, Aaron Hyman, Anne Lester, Erin Rowe)

This conference has been generously co-sponsored by the Charles S. Singleton Center for the Study of Premodern Europe, the Alexander Grass Humanities Institute, the Department of History; and the Winston Tabb Special Collections Research Center, Sheridan Libraries, Johns Hopkins University. For additional information, please contact: earle.havens@jhu.edu.

Image: Detail of Barbara Moreel with 11 of her 13 daughters and St. Barbara, from Huns Memling, Moreel Triptych, 1484, Groeningemuseum, Bruges.