McAvoy LH, Watt D (2012). The History of British Women's Writing, 700-1500. 1: 296 pages. Palgrave Macmillan, Great Britain 2012. ISBN 9780230235106.

<http://www.palgrave.com/products/title.aspx?pid=369097>

Liz Herbert McAvoy and Diane Watt

This volume focuses on a period of literary history that is often marginalized in accounts of women's writing in English. It argues that the picture of women's writing in Britain in the period before 1500 is a very complex one. Britain was, then as now, multicultural and multilingual. At the same time, Britain enjoyed close links to the continent. These factors have to be taken into account in looking at the earliest women's writing. Works in Latin and French need to be considered alongside works translated into English and/or circulated in England. Furthermore a wide range of genres of writing not normally thought of as 'literary' has to be examined. Equally important in considering women's writing in this period are the dismantling of the boundaries between translation and authorship; a widening of focus to include anonymous and collaborative authorship; and a wider consideration of women's engagement with literary production and culture.

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