"The Muses Females Are"

*Martha Moulsworth and Other Women Writers of the English Renaissance*

edited by

Robert C. Evans and Anne C. Little

LOCUST HILL PRESS
West Cornwall, CT
1995
# Contents

Acknowledgments • ix  
Contributors • xi  
Preface • xv  
Introduction (Anne C. Little) • xix  
"Moulsworth or Molesworth?: A Note on Names, Spellings, and Editorial Principles" (Robert C. Evans) • xxvii  

## Biographical Approaches

**Germaine Greer:** "Backward springs": The Self-Invention of Martha Moulsworth • 3  
**Isobel Grundy:** Identity and Numbers in Martha Moulsworth’s “Memorandum” • 9  
**Robert C. Evans:** The Life and Times of Martha Moulsworth • 17  

## The Poem Itself

**Anthony Low:** Martha Moulsworth and the Uses of Rhetoric: Love, Mourning, and Reciprocity • 77  
**Anne Lake Prescott:** Marginally Funny: Martha Moulsworth’s Puns • 85  
**Mary Ellen Lamb:** The Poem as a Clock: Martha Moulsworth Tells Time Three Ways • 91  
**Matthew Steggle:** “The Memorandum,” Sacraments, and Ewelme Church • 101  
**Anne C. Little:** “By him I was brought vpp”: Evoking the Father in Moulsworth’s “Memorandum” • 107  
**Susie Paul:** Martha Moulsworth’s “Memorandum”: Crossing the Climacteric • 113  
**Robert C. Evans** and **Neil P. Probst:** Biblical Resonance in Moulsworth’s “Memorandum” • 117
Autobiographical Approaches

Josephine A. Roberts: "My inward House": Women's Autobiographical Poetry in the Early Seventeenth Century • 129

Curtis Perry: "My muse is a tell clocke": The Paradox of Ritual Autobiography in Martha Moulsworth's "Memorandum" • 139

Karen Worley Pirnie: Research Sources on Seventeenth-Century Women's Autobiography • 149

Gender Issues: Education, the Muses, and Widowhood

John T. Shawcross: "The Muses Females Are": Renaissance Women and Education • 163

Frances Teague: Early Modern Women and "the muses ffemail" • 173

Jean R. Brink: Educating Women and the Lower Orders • 181

Esther S. Cope: "The Widdowes Silvar": Widowhood in Early Modern England • 189

Appendices

Appendix 1: Old- and Modern-Spelling Versions of the Yale Text of Moulsworth's "Memorandum," with Photographic Reproductions • 203

Appendix 2: Transcripts of the Wills of Martha Moulsworth and Her Three Husbands • 243

Appendix 3: Thomas Hassall's Funeral Sermon on Martha Moulsworth (with notes prepared by Ann Depas-Orange) • 243

Appendix 4: More Poems by Martha Moulsworth? (by Robert C. Evans) • 263

Appendix 5: "A Suter for My Sealfe": A Letter, 1610, from Ane Lawraunce to Thomas Sutton" (transcribed and Edited by Joseph P. Crowley; introduction by Patricia N. Hill) • 267

Appendix 6: Women Writers of the English Renaissance: A Chronology of Texts and Contexts" (with index) (prepared by Eric Sterling) • 281

Index • 311