

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-12176-7 - Women and Islam in Early Modern English Literature
Bernadette Andrea

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

WOMEN AND ISLAM IN EARLY MODERN ENGLISH LITERATURE

In this innovative study, Bernadette Andrea focuses on the contributions of women and their writings in the early modern cultural encounters between England and the Islamic world. She examines previously neglected material, such as the diplomatic correspondence between Queen Elizabeth I and Safiye, the Ottoman queen mother, at the end of the sixteenth century, and resituates canonical accounts, including Lady Mary Wortley Montagu's travelogue of the Ottoman empire at the beginning of the eighteenth century. Her study advances our understanding of how women negotiated conflicting discourses of gender, orientalism, and imperialism at a time when the Ottoman empire was hugely powerful and England was still a marginal nation with limited global influence. This book is a significant contribution to critical and theoretical debates in literary and cultural, post-colonial, women's, and Middle Eastern studies.

BERNADETTE ANDREA is Associate Professor of English at the University of Texas, San Antonio.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-12176-7 - Women and Islam in Early Modern English Literature

Bernadette Andrea

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

WOMEN AND ISLAM IN
EARLY MODERN
ENGLISH LITERATURE

BERNADETTE ANDREA



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-12176-7 - Women and Islam in Early Modern English Literature

Bernadette Andrea

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore,
São Paulo, Delhi, Dubai, Tokyo

Cambridge University Press

The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521121767

© Bernadette Andrea 2007

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception
and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,
no reproduction of any part may take place without the written
permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2007

This digitally printed version 2009

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-0-521-86764-1 Hardback

ISBN 978-0-521-12176-7 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of
URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication, and
does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or
appropriate.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-12176-7 - Women and Islam in Early Modern English Literature

Bernadette Andrea

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Contents*

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	<i>page vii</i>
Introduction: “The borrowed veil”: reassessing gender studies of early modern England and Islam	1
1 Early modern queens and Anglo-Ottoman trade	12
2 The imaginary geographies of Mary Wroth’s <i>Urania</i>	30
3 Early Quaker women, the missionary position, and Mediterraneanism	53
4 The female wits and the genealogy of feminist orientalism	78
5 The scandal of polygamy in Delarivier Manley’s <i>roman à clef</i>	105
Coda: Arab women revisit Mary Wortley Montagu’s <i>hammam</i>	118
<i>Notes</i>	131
<i>Index</i>	180

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-12176-7 - Women and Islam in Early Modern English Literature

Bernadette Andrea

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Acknowledgments

A project that incubated for over ten years would require a companion volume to acknowledge all sources of professional and personal support. Hence, I begin with my apologies to those whose names could not fit into the space of a page, since so many have shared their insights and energies over the past decade of research, writing, and revising.

This project began during my time as a PhD candidate at Cornell University, where I pursued “parallel tracks” in the Departments of English and Near Eastern Studies. In the former, I answered the question I had broached while completing my master’s thesis at the University of Calgary on Milton’s representation of the mediated woman: what did women in seventeenth-century England have to say for themselves? When I began this investigation fifteen or so years ago, modern editions of early modern women’s writing were scarce (though many were in the works) and access to early modern texts on the World Wide Web was scarcely a dream. Hence, much of my work was archival, which involved a commitment to establishing the textual basis for an investigation of women’s writing in the period rather than privileging representations of women in books written by men. Without such archival work, as my assessment of the continuing absence of sustained attention to women’s writing in studies of early modern England and Islam underscores, women continue to be left out of this discussion as speaking subjects. Many of the groundbreaking scholars who toiled to make early modern women’s writing accessible in modern editions are acknowledged in my endnotes.

While delving into the archives of early modern women’s writing for my doctoral dissertation, I also pursued the study of Arabic, which is a heritage language for me, with generous teachers such as Munther Younes, Samer Alatout, and David Powers of Cornell’s Near Eastern Studies Department. At that time, incredibly, a graduate student from English in an Arabic class was a curiosity, with most students linking western European literature and Islam coming from Romance language departments. Although I did not

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-12176-7 - Women and Islam in Early Modern English Literature

Bernadette Andrea

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

viii

Acknowledgments

have the opportunity to work directly with Ross Brann or Leslie Peirce of the Near Eastern Studies Department at Cornell, my contact with them through study groups, lectures, and other settings influenced me immensely. Leslie Peirce's generosity in writing a letter of recommendation for the postdoctoral fellowships I ultimately received, even though she did not know me well, undergirds this study, as does the generosity of Mary Nyquist, of the University of Toronto, in writing a similar letter. Walter Cohen, of Cornell's Department of Comparative Literature, sustained an interest that led first to an Ottoman exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City, and has culminated in this publication. I acknowledge him with much appreciation, as well as the faculty in the Department of English who read my doctoral dissertation: Laura Brown, Barbara Correll, Jonathan Culler, and Timothy Murray. Ironically, little of that dissertation found its way into this book. The flexibility of Cornell's doctoral program, however, enabled the "parallel tracks" that ultimately crossed during my postdoctoral year at the University of British Columbia (UBC).

I continued my study of Arabic under the direction of Hannah Kassis of the Department of Religious Studies at UBC during a postdoctoral year made possible by the generous support of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and the Izaak Walton Killam Foundation. In subsequent years, I benefited from grants from the Folger Shakespeare Library, the Mellon Foundation, the William Andrews Clark Library/Center for Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-Century Studies, and the National Endowment of the Humanities, as well as research support from West Virginia University (WVU) and the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA). I first presented material on early modern English women and the Ottoman empire at Green College's Comparative Literature Colloquia (UBC). I thank Anthony Dawson and John Michael Archer for their attendance at the lecture, with the latter attending my lecture at Harvard University's Humanities Center as this project drew to a close. I also presented portions of this material at the International Conference on Medieval Studies, the Modern Language Association, the Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies, the West Virginia Shakespeare and Renaissance Association, the Folger Shakespeare Library, the South Central Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, the Renaissance Society of America, the South Central Modern Language Association, the Shakespeare Association of America, Attending to Early Modern Women, and the South Central Renaissance Conference. I thank the journals *English Literary History*, *In-between: Essays and Studies in Literary Criticism*, and *The Muslim World*,

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-12176-7 - Women and Islam in Early Modern English Literature

Bernadette Andrea

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Acknowledgments*

ix

as well as the collection on the Mediterranean and early modern England, edited by Goran Stanivukovic, for providing forums for my work on women and Islam in early modern England. I am grateful for their permission to include portions of these articles, much revised, in this book.

I am most appreciative of Bob Markley's support, which began while I was at my first post as an assistant professor at WVU. I further acknowledge Mona Narain, a colleague at my current post as an associate professor at UTSA, who read an early draft of the entire manuscript. Bindu Malieckal, of St. Anslem College, also read the entire draft of the manuscript in its penultimate form. Su Fang Ng, of the University of Oklahoma, helped with the cover image. David Estrin and Kay McKechnie provided copyediting. I value the ongoing support of Ray Ryan (senior commissioning editor), Maartje Schelens (assistant editor), Jodie Barnes (production editor), and others at Cambridge University Press who have helped usher this book through publication. Of course, I bear full responsibility for all that appears therein.

My colleague and *compañero*, Ben Olguín, who has commented on countless drafts over the past decade, remains my best reader and supporter. And without Ross, I would not have had the courage or cheer to continue. My father, Bernard Anthony Andrea, always has a place in my heart. If, as Virginia Woolf writes, "we think through our mothers if we are women," all my efforts return to Mary Diane Andrea, may she rest in peace. She, along with my sisters Jennitta, Jacquie, and Kerri, model all that women can be. With them, I continue to acknowledge mothers and grandmothers – stretching from the south of England, the colonies of France, the isle of Malta, the coast of Lebanon, and the plains of Syria – whose lives resonate in these pages.

Portions of the following articles, with revisions, appear in this book by permission of the following copyright holders:

Andrea, Bernadette, "The Missionary Position: Seventeenth-Century Quaker Women and Global Gender Politics," *In-between: Essays and Studies in Literary Criticism* 11.1 (2002), 71–87. Reprinted with permission of the editor.

Andrea, Bernadette, "Pamphilia's Cabinet: Gendered Authorship and Empire in Lady Mary Wroth's *Urania*," *ELH* 68.2 (2002), 335–58. © The Johns Hopkins University Press. Reprinted with permission of The Johns Hopkins University Press.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-12176-7 - Women and Islam in Early Modern English Literature

Bernadette Andrea

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

x

Acknowledgments

Andrea, Bernadette, "Lady Sherley: The 'First' Persian in England?" *The Muslim World* 95.2 (2005), 279–95. © Hartford Seminary. Reprinted with permission of Blackwell Publishing on behalf of Hartford Seminary.

Andrea, Bernadette, "From Invasion to Inquisition: Mapping Malta in Early Modern England," *Remapping the Mediterranean World in Early Modern English Writings*, ed. Goran V. Stanivukovic (Palgrave Macmillan, 2007), 245–71. © Palgrave Macmillan. Reprinted with permission of Palgrave Macmillan.