Shakespeare features prominently in the book, he shares the stage with such dramatists as Marlowe, Fletcher, Webster, Elizabeth Cary, Richard Brome, and Jane Cavendish and Elizabeth Brackley. Early modern drama specialists, cultural critics, and feminist critics will find the volume provocative and compelling. The contributors to Part 1, Janet Adelman, Alan Walworth, Mary Floyd-Wilson, Joyce Green MacDonald, and R. L. Kesler, investigate the effects that epistemologies of sex, race, and subjectivity have on representations of the gendered body in drama. In Part 2, Rosemary Kegl, Alison Findlay, Michael Shapiro, Laurie E. Osborne, and Christina Luckyj consider in various ways the roles of women as authors, subjects, and objects of theatrical representation. The volume includes an extensive bibliography, notes on contributors, and an index.

Jeffrey Denton, ed. *Orders and Hierarchies in Late Medieval and Renaissance Europe*. Toronto and Buffalo: University of Toronto Press, 1999. Pp. xii, 206.

Originating from a series of papers delivered at the J. K. Hyde Centre for Late Medieval and Renaissance Studies, University of Manchester, this "coursebook" studies various social structures of Western Europe between 1300 and 1600. Since the exploration of social development demands a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approach, the contributors to this book were selected from a wide range of disciplines, including history, anthropology, art history, literature, and political theory. The tensions between the various images of social order and a heightened toleration for diversity, which play themselves out in the pre-industrial world, are analyzed by the contributors. Chapter 1 provides a useful distinction between the functionalist and Marxist conceptions of social structure. Chapter 2 compares conception of social order in the Christian West and Islamic East. Chapters 3, 4 and 5 examine such cultural expressions of the age as the works of Dante, the narratives of Froissart, and the images of English kings. Chapters 6 and 7 focus on England, and explore issues of kinship, knighthood and commons. Chapter 8 and the concluding chapter turn to governmental structures in Ragusa and order in Venice respectively. The volume includes bibliographical guides and a selective index.

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