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Issue Editor: Roy Eriksen

The third issue of *Early Modern Culture Online*, fulfills the journal's aim to be an interdisciplinary open access journal dedicated to the study of a diversity of artistic and cultural expressions of Early Modern society.

The wide range of the articles printed in this volume therefore reflects the diversity and vitality of the field of Early Modern Studies with contributions to Italian literary history, Spanish intellectual history, education and gender studies, English sixteenth-Century Drama and gender studies, and Sixteenth- and Seventeenth Century Rhetoric. The authors treated come from several major powers of Early Modern Europe and their cultures of knowledge and art are present, illustrating the connections their works, ideas, and techniques form across centuries and national boundaries.

At the same time the journey across Europe and religions undertaken by Sweden's Queen demonstrate the deep divisions present and how her "gran rifiuto" was construed in terms of official propaganda and religion, which is the topic of Stefano Rota's contribution: "Queen Christina's heroic virtue and its religious implications." Being the daughter of the Lion of the North and Protestant hero, King Gustavus Adolphus II, her chosen image became that of a heroic female warrior and virtuous champion of the Catholic faith. Through her academy, which was dedicated to heroic virtue, she played an active part when opposing Protestantism in her emphasis on Platonic philosophy and Catholic mysticism.

Differently from Rota, Stephen Derek Kolsky focuses not only on the image-making techniques used to present women to and in a society not thoroughly their own, but also on the process of shaping women to occupy specific roles in a world where education became increasingly important. He approaches a classic in Early Modern education theory and methodology: "Making Examples of Women: Juan Luis Vives's *The Education of a Christian Woman*," a work of considerable impact in its time and for decades to come in its attempt to diminish the autonomy of women and restricting them

to the domestic sphere. Larisa Kocic-Zámbóné on the other hand discusses another Early Modern “classic” when she discusses the language question and *Imitatio* in relation to the impact of *copia* from Erasmus’s influential works on Milton’s language style and metaphors more than a century later. While so doing she questions some of the conclusions made by Richard Waswo on Renaissance language. The title of her article “To turn one idea into more shapes than Proteus”: The copious use of words in Erasmus and Milton,” fully indicates the dynamic afterlife of e.g. Erasmus’s *De Copia* in Milton’s language.

The fourth contribution of the present issue is by Tina Takapoui, who discusses “Kristevan Femininity and Negative Theology in Christopher Marlowe’s *Tamburlaine I and II*.” Hers is the third article to focus on the construction of women by male authors in their works and doing so from the view-point of Julia Kristeva’s theories of femininity. Thus she offers a novel study of the semiosis of Marlowe’s metaphorical language that allows her to place Marlowe’s protagonist and his often criticized female characters in a thought-provoking and perhaps unexpected framework in which Tamburlaine actions mark a “return to the dark Feminine melange of disorder” and a break with the norms of Elizabethan patriarchal Law.” In sum, the variety and reach of the articles in this issue go a long way towards explaining the increasing international interest for the journal.

During the long and intermittent work on this issue *EMCO*’s Managing Editor, Mr. John-Wilhelm Vinje, has been a force to be reckoned with during his stay at UC, Berkeley in 2012. I thank Mr. Svern-Arve Myklebost for the cover design. I thank my Co-Editor Professor Stuart Sillars, University of Bergen, and Mr. Vinje for their continued willingness to keep this much needed channel of publishing open.

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