



Early Modern Women: An Interdisciplinary Journal

announces the winner of the
Best Article Prize for Volume 10 (2015–16)

Susan Wiseman

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Elizabeth Delaval's *Memoirs and Meditations*: Textual Transmission and Jacobite Context

In its examination of the actual production and transmission of Elizabeth Delaval's *Memoirs and Meditations*, this article makes the familiar strange. It takes a text that is well known in social history for its comments on marriage negotiations, in literary studies for its life-writing and plotting, in cultural history for its devotional commentary, and in women's and gender studies for its self-examination, and argues that it is, indeed, all of these and much more—as its author ferries through years of exile and political intrigue. Employing a wide range of manuscript and printed sources along with close examination of the actual handwritten text, Wiseman skillfully pieces together the long and fascinating life of the woman who was “Elizabeth Delaval” for only a small part of this. She analyzes how the complex political and confessional developments in which Delaval was involved over many decades may have shaped the way she crafted her story. Wiseman thereby presents us with an author who consciously and carefully reframes the experiences and thoughts of her much younger self for political purposes, thus adding new facets to our understanding of this text and the woman who created it.

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