

BOOK REVIEWS

Women Reformers of Early Modern Europe: Profiles, Texts, and Contexts. Edited by Kirsi I. Stjerna. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2022. xxviii + 395 pp.

This wonderful and important collection shares the stories and writings of many women who worked to reform European Christianity in the early modern era. The majority of the thirty-three articles focus on a single woman or community each, describing their subjects' respective historical contexts and enduring significance. The primary source material that concludes many entries further enriches contemporary understandings of Reformation-era values and perspectives.

The book's organization is clear and easy to follow. After a general introduction by editor Kirsi Stjerna, the text begins with studies of women who were either published writers or who worked in publishing in the early Reformation, including Katharina Schütz Zell and Argula von Grumbach. Sections on female leaders in different parts of Europe follow. These include political figures like Dorothea Susanna of the Palatinate, Queen Elizabeth I of England, and Marguerite of Navarre, along with local leaders like Katharina von Bora, Anne Askew, and women who influenced the Reformed and Anabaptist movements.

Two later sections provide contextual analysis, with essays on women as biblical interpreters, readers, and authors during the Reformation and on topics like marriage in Protestant Europe, Luther's view of women's roles, and women's professional efforts to address poverty as midwives, nurses, and deaconesses. The final section studies the experiences of women who navigated complex social and political situations, for instance, those in Protestant areas who resisted the Reformation, those who attempted to balance Catholic and Protestant perspectives, and those whose families—like that of

Katarina Jagiellon, a Catholic Queen in Protestant Sweden—were internally diverse.

Both the close study of individuals and the careful analysis of wider themes contribute to the book's effectiveness. The entry on Katherine Parr (1512–1548) by Micheline White provides a good example of the biographical sketches. It begins by describing Parr's early educational and religious background and then discusses her publications and activities during the reigns of Henry VIII and Edward VI. Parr defended her call to write as being "inspired by God who promised to 'pour his spirit upon all flesh'" (145). In articles addressing that common reality of women needing to justify their publishing, G. Sujin Pak and Kate Narveson each examine what it meant "for a sixteenth-century woman to take up a book and a pen, especially as a person excluded from grammar school and university education" (259). On topics like this, both the historical subject and the scholarly attention to issues of early modern women's authorship successfully provide content and context.

This volume merits appreciation as a reference work in the still-growing study of women in the Reformation. Even more valuable, however, is the way that the essays consistently invite and guide readers into the best of Reformation history and scholarship. Throughout, the historical profiles and primary sources tell stories full of rich personal experience, deep religious concern, and complicated social settings, in which women of diverse backgrounds expressed their faith with courage and conviction. Readers will find themselves welcomed into the lively events and ideas of Reformation-era Europe and well-prepared to get better acquainted with the people and perspectives of this fascinating time.

Such narrative unity and thematic cohesion testify to the great achievement of the book's editor and authors, whose individual and collective contributions to Reformation history and theology will bear good fruit for generations to come. An incomplete list of scholars whose work appears here includes Elsie McKee, Peter Matheson, Mary Jane Haemig, Irene Dingel, Jennifer Powell McNutt, Else Marie Wiberg Pedersen, Merry E. Wiesner-Hanks,

Esther Chung-Kim, Austra Reinis, and Beth Plummer. In every case, this book's contributors succeeded in sharing their knowledge in crisp and concise articles that lift up key topics and provide good directions for further reading and research.

This book more than meets its goals of engaging women's perspectives of and contributions to the Reformation. With both historical acuity and contemporary insight, it is an excellent example of how the field of Reformation research remains a rewarding, enriching, and exciting area of study.

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Wilhelm Löhe Tagebuch 1828 Berlin. Edited by Dietrich Blaufuß and Gerhard Philipp Wolf. Nuremberg: Verein für bayerische Kirchengeschichte/Neuendettelsau: Freimund Verlag, 2020. 251 pp.

From April to August 1828, the twenty-year-old Wilhelm Loehe devoted himself to study in Berlin. A native of Fürth, his immersion offered a wide array of formative experiences as reflected in his diary. This excellent edition of Loehe's 1828 Berlin Diary is of scholarly interest because of his many later contributions to theological reflection, church affairs, liturgical study, pastoral practice, mission in North America, and the development of diaconal institutions. The editors provide a transcription of the entire diary with entries from April 21 through August 15 and an elaborate scholarly apparatus.

Although located as an Afterword, readers should first consult this section as an introduction to the volume and the indices. The editors note how the poor condition of the manuscript made production of this text very challenging, as also reflected in their footnotes on specific passages. They provide information on the manuscript's physical state, transmission, and previous users. The diary entries are organized according to the Sundays and following week of the church year. Typically, Loehe wrote his reflections in the evening of a given day