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Women and the written word : textual culture in court and convent during the twelfth-century Renaissance

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STELLINGEN BEHOREND BIJ HET PROEFSCHRIFT



WOMEN AND THE WRITTEN WORD: TEXTUAL CULTURE IN COURT AND CONVENT DURING THE TWELFTH- CENTURY RENAISSANCE

JULIE A. SOMERS

1. Mobility helped create common literary interests among noblewomen and nuns.
2. Power and status were important motivations for women acting as patrons to scribes and authors.
3. Twelfth-century women personalized their books.
4. Within the convent setting, women participated in all aspects of book production including copying, decorating, and binding manuscripts.
5. Women were adept in using various reading aids to guide their reading practice, including instances of selective reading. Contra: D. H. Green, *Women Readers in the Middle Ages* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007), 77.
6. Devotion was not the sole motivation for nuns to own books.
7. The study of book history must include the study of women's history.
8. Manuscripts where the scribe or owner remain "anonymous" should be re-examined for a female scribe or reader.
9. Despite a common stereotype, the inclusion of illustrations in books belonging to women does not indicate that women were illiterate and preferred books with pictures.
10. The nun artist Ende (c. 945) was at the beginning of women's contribution to manuscript production.
11. Noblewomen during the twelfth century supported the new genre of romance. Without them, there might not be pocket book romances for the train today.
12. Although many new apps specifically for museum visitors prove popular, there remains a decline in attendance which is a result of the increase in admissions prices.