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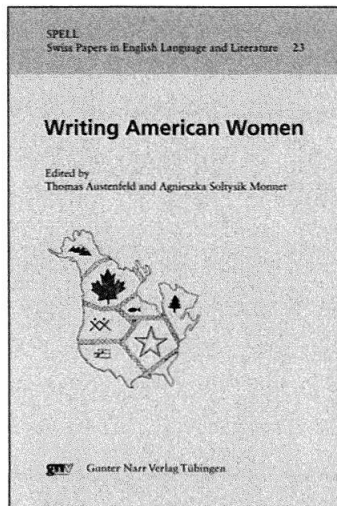
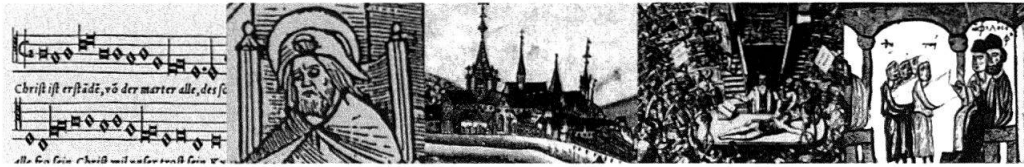
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Thomas Austenfeld
Agnieszka Soltysik Monnet
(eds.)

Writing American Women

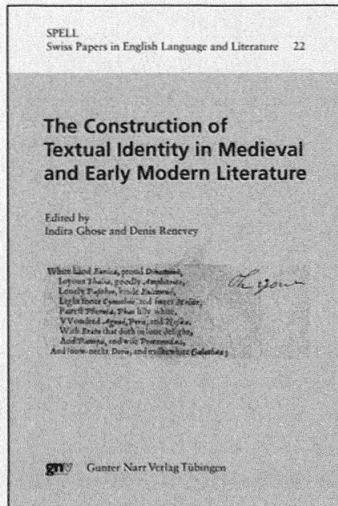
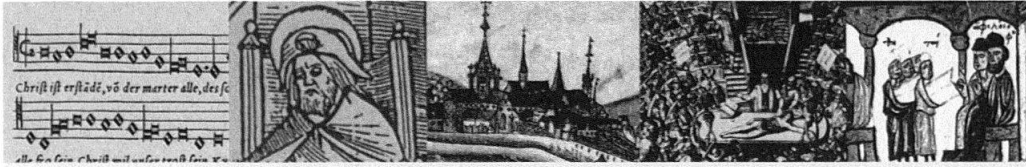
Swiss Papers in English Language and Literature 23
2009, 232 Seiten,
€[D] 49,00/SFr 81,00
ISBN 978-3-8233-6521-1

The essays in *Writing American Women* offer a sustained investigation of what writing has meant for North American women authors from the earliest captivity narratives to Kym Ragusa's acclaimed recent memoir, *The Skin Between Us* (2006). By focusing on women rather than the more porous category of gender, contributors offer a meaningful survey of the issues that have shaped women's writing in America. Some of the questions that emerge with particular force include the fraught relationship of women authors to the institutions of literary production, their complex geographical and cultural self-definition, and the special place of autobiography in their work. Combining historical, literary, institutional, and theoretical considerations, this volume brings into focus the rich nuances and heterogeneity of contemporary American studies as well as the vital contributions of women writers to American literature.

Writers discussed in this book include Mary Rowlandson, Lucy Larcom, Amy Lowell, Louisa May Alcott, Edith Wharton, Kay Boyle, Nancy Huston and Lois-Ann Yamanaka.

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Indira Ghose
Denis Renevey (eds.)

The Construction of Textual Identity in Medieval and Early Modern Literature

Swiss Papers in English Language and
Literature, 22
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€[D] 49,00/SFr 81,00
ISBN 978-3-8233-6520-4

This volume sets out to bridge the gap between medieval and early modern literary studies. It contains a selection of essays by both distinguished experts and young scholars in either field, and marks the foundation of the Swiss Association of Medieval and Early Modern English Studies. The contributions address the crucial issue of how texts engage with other texts. They do so in a variety of ways, focusing on pretexts, paratexts, and marginalia. What emerges is an insight into the way texts shape identity – be it that of the author, the readership, or the texts themselves.

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Performing the Self offers a cross-disciplinary dialogue about fundamental issues related to identity construction and identity performance. Written by linguistic and literary scholars, the present collection of essays argues against an essentialist view of the self and demonstrates in various ways how identities – whether they are defined as national, sexual, gendered, cultural, professional, virtual, linguistic or in some other way personal – are the products of multiple constructions and interconnected performances. Indeed, ‘performing the self’ is shown to be an act of constant questioning and staging, a relentless process which one perpetually revises and readjusts.

ISBN 978-3-8233-6613-3



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