Lecture 15: women and the book, from mss circulation to novel reading

I. Harold Love, *Scribal publication in early modern England*
- author publication. E.g. poetry (John Donne), works by women (Lady Mary Wroth who was silenced after scandal of a roman a clef), for gratifications
- entrepreneurial publication: newsletters, separates, music
- user publication: personal miscellany passed on to others
- diff kinds of copying: by dictation, by pecia, serial copying

II. Women in book production and trade
Women active in printing, engraving only through a father or husband
As widows, they create important continuity in printing houses by remarrying

III. Women as dedicatees, patrons, translators
Hannay, *Silent but for the word*; Hull, *Chaste, silent and obedient*
-women as authors: often works pub’d posthumously (Marguerite de Navarre, letters from court); often rel works (mystics); some advice books; some criminal women authored self-vindications; women as translators.
-women novelists in 17th: Madeleine de Scudery, Aphra Behn

IV. Women as readers
- traditional iconography
- books identified as “for women” (often in a 2nd edition): cookbooks, behavior books, midwifery guides, on famous women, on the “woman question”
- most are small in size; written by men
- 18th ct: women as readers of novels, elicited great criticism: a vice, risk of being overcome by emotion and the world of imagination; novels foster moral looseness, social disruption and women are especially vulnerable (along with lower class men and children)
- attempts at disciplining reading: in libraries rather than alone