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Letters and Poems to and from Her Mentor and Other Members of Her Circle.

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The Other Voice in Early Modern Europe: The Toronto Series 81. Toronto: Iter Press, 2021, Pp. xxiii, 408 + 6 col. plates, 2 halftones. ISBN 978-1-64959-012-1 (paperback) US\$65.95.

The Dutch *femme savante* Anna Maria van Schurman (1607–78) was, in more than one aspect, an unconventional woman in her own lifetime. As a gifted scholar in many ancient and modern languages, as well as in theology and philosophy, she corresponded with other learned men and women all over Europe in Latin, Greek, Hebrew, French, and Arabic. She achieved international renown for her defence of scholarly activity of women. However, in 1669 she decided to cut ties with her former worldly life and move into the sectarian community of Jean de Labadie.

The present volume is the second edition of writings by Anna Maria van Schurman in The Other Voice in Early Modern Europe Series. In 1998, Joyce Irwin published an edition in the Chicago Series, entitled *Anna Maria van Schurman. Whether a Christian Woman Should Be Educated, and Other Writings from Her Intellectual Circle* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press), based on published works of Van Schurman. This new volume by Anne R. Larsen and Steve Maiullo presents more than a hundred letters and about thirty poems, most of which have never been published before. Larsen, who is a Van Schurman scholar par excellence, published a monograph on her in 2016, entitled *Anna Maria van Schurman, The “Star of Utrecht”: The Educational Vision and Reception of a Savante* (New York: Routledge). While working on this monograph she got help from Maiullo in translating some of Van Schurman’s Latin and Greek writings. This edition of Van Schurman’s letters and poems is the fruit of their collaboration.

During the first part of her life, Van Schurman had different mentors who directed her learning processes. The first and most important mentor when it comes to the issue of women’s education was the one to whom the title of this volume refers: the Calvinist theologian and governor of the young Prince William of Orange, André Rivet (1572–1651). The intellectual alliance with “father” Rivet, who was to play a key role in her thinking on the education of women, started in 1631 and continued until his death in 1651. The edition

includes fifty-three extant letters from Van Schurman to Rivet written over a period of twenty years. These letters offer new insights into her intellectual development and in particular into her involvement in the theological polemics of her time.

In part 1 of the volume, the editors have supplemented Van Schurman's letters and poems to Rivet (of which the autographs are kept in the Koninklijke Bibliotheek [KB] in The Hague) with the only two extant letters that Rivet wrote to her and with other relevant letters and poems that are preserved elsewhere in manuscript or published in Van Schurman's *Opuscula* (of which editions appeared in 1648, 1650, and 1652). It concerns letters from and to Marie de Gournay, to Madame de Coutel, to Charles du Chesne, to Salmasius, and to Marie du Moulin. Part 2 contains the translations of the poems and letters that Van Schurman and Constantijn Huygens (1596–1687) exchanged between 1633 and 1669. Huygens was a remarkable figure. He was secretary to Stadtholder Frederik Hendrik, had a talent for languages, wrote poetry, was a composer, musician, and art connoisseur, and maintained a vast international correspondence network.

The tone and content of Van Schurman's correspondence with Huygens is different from her correspondence with Rivet. Huygens seems initially to have been interested in the young woman as a curiosity but must later have discovered that she was much more intelligent and scholarly than he had initially thought. He repeatedly asked her for her opinion on his poems and other works. Van Schurman's eight extant letters to Huygens and the poems she sent him offer interesting insights into the way in which she presented herself as an unmarried woman in and to an intellectual man's world and managed to acquire her own undisputed position there.

The translated letters and poems are preceded by an excellent introduction. It outlines the political, religious, and cultural context of the Dutch Republic, presents a short biography of Van Schurman, explains her relationship with Rivet and with Huygens, and reflects on the history of Van Schurman's reception in various countries in Europe. It also includes a discussion of her contacts with female members of her circle, her role in various intellectual debates and polemics, the features of her Latin, the materiality of her autographs, and the provenance of the collection of Van Schurman's letters and poems to Rivet that are housed in the KB.

In both parts of the book, the letters and poems are printed in chronological order, complete with salutation and signature. The translation of each letter is preceded by a short summary. The original (Latin, French, Dutch, or Italian) version of each poem is also included. Appendix A offers a schematic overview of the letters and poems with date and brief summary, and graphs of the number of letters per year. Of Van Schurman's original letters and poems, three autographs are printed in this edition. Appendix E contains the transcribed version of the first (Latin) letter from Van Schurman to Rivet and the last (French) letter from Van Schurman to Marie du Moulin, Rivet's niece and her close friend, for whom she in turn became a mentor.

Thanks to this edition by Larsen and Maiullo, all of Van Schurman's letters to two key figures in the Republic of Letters have now been made accessible to a wide audience. This is an important new step in opening up Van Schurman's writings to a new generation. However, what we also really need is a critical edition of Van Schurman's original letters, not only to gain direct access to her own voice but also to understand the challenges the editors faced in translating her Latin writings into English.

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