CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Forum I: The Rise of the Mercantile Economy and Early Modern Women

*Early Modern Women: An Interdisciplinary Journal (EMWJ)* invites scholars from diverse disciplines to submit to *The Rise of the Mercantile Economy and Early Modern Women*, an interdisciplinary forum slated for publication in Volume III. Contributors to the forum will explore how the rise of the mercantile economy affected early modern women and how women from different socioeconomic levels and from regions across the globe contributed and responded to the new mores, roles, and possibilities that emerged with the new economy.

Submissions should be 1300 words in length and should complement (and complicate?) such scholarship on the rise of the mercantile economy as James Murray's *The Rise of Capitalism in Bruges* (2005), Tim Park's *The Medici Money: Banking, Metaphysics, and Art in Fifteenth-Century Florence* (2005), and Lisa Jardine's *Worldly Goods: A New History of the Renaissance* (1996), as well as recent scholarship on male merchants themselves such as Dale Kent's work on Cosimo de' Medici.

Contributions to *The Rise of the Mercantile Economy and Early Modern Women* will build on these studies by focusing on how early modern *women* experienced, shaped, and adapted to their emerging roles as female participants in the mercantile economy. Submissions might consider some of the following questions: What was the new ideal for the merchant's wife in the context of the mercantile economy? How did it differ from the aristocratic ideal? Were a wife's fertility and supposed devoutness assumed to counteract the avarice and sterility of her husband’s trade? How was she represented in art and literature? How did sermons and pedagogical literature describe her role? Which skills was she supposed to have? How did these compare to those needed by her husband? What was the aristocratic wife’s place in the new class structure? How did the single woman and the nun adjust to the new mercantile ideal for women? Were women involved in money lending, money changing, investments, and bills of exchange? Did such activities and the ideal of the merchant’s wife differ according to geography, nationality, or religious affiliation? How did merchants' activities affect their mothers, wives, and daughters?

The deadline for forum submissions is October 31, 2007.