

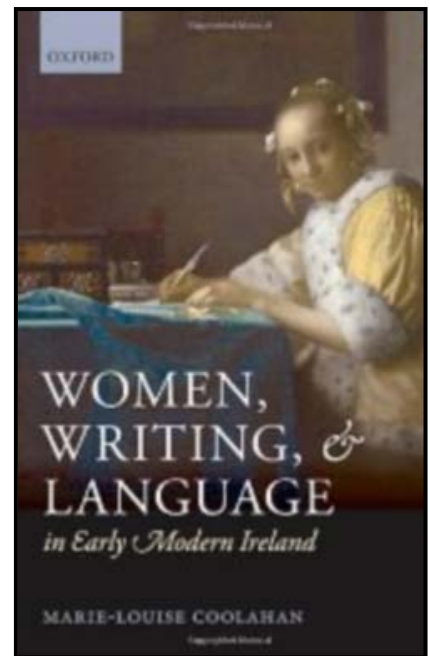
Chawton House Library Fellow's Lecture

14th October 2010

Women, Writing, and Language in Early Modern Ireland

Dr Marie Louise Coolahan, National University of Ireland

The landscape of female authorship in seventeenth-century Ireland is populated by Irish-speaking Gaelic women, Irish-born but English-speaking women, women originating elsewhere in the archipelago and settled in Ireland, and Irish women living in exile in continental Europe. It includes women as diverse as the notorious pirate-queen, Grace O'Malley; now-canonical English authors such as Katherine Philips; the exiled Irish nun, Mother Mary Bonaventure Browne; and less familiar authors of petitions and depositions. The writers of this period drew on a range of ethnic, religious and political affiliations, and these multiple poles of allegiance frequently blur the boundaries of national identity. Place of birth is one marker of 'Irishness' but place of residence can determine alternative formulations. These questions have important implications for a national approach to women's literary history. Where should we draw the lines of nation, or are they always porous? Drawing on examples of writing produced by women in Ireland, in England and in continental Europe, and citing genres as varied as Gaelic poetry, nuns' writing, coterie poetry, and autobiography, Marie-Louise Coolahan will argue for a complex understanding of the Irish woman writer in this period.



Lecture Tickets: £10 (£7.50 for students)

6.30pm Reception with wine & canapés

7.00pm Lecture



To book, or for more info, call 01420 541010 or email info@chawton.net.