



Rhetorical Drag: Gender Impersonation, Captivity, and the Writing of History

By Lorraine A. Carroll

Kent State University Press. Hardback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Rhetorical Drag: Gender Impersonation, Captivity, and the Writing of History, Lorraine A. Carroll, In this fresh examination of seventeenth-, eighteenth-, and nineteenth-century American captivity narratives, author Lorraine Carroll argues that male editors and composers impersonated the women presumed to be authors of these documents. This "gender impersonation" significantly shaped the authorial voice and complicated the use of these texts as examples of historical writing and as women's literature. Carroll contends that gender impersonation was pervasive and that not enough critical attention has been paid to male intervention in female accounts. "Rhetorical Drag" examines the familiar territory of captivity narratives, including versions of Hannah Duston's captivity, and widens it by analyzing numerous examples, placing each in a deeply historicized context. For example, Mary Rowlandson's "The Sovereignty and Goodness of God" is viewed as a template against which later authors might differentiate their works rather than as a model. In this vein, Carroll looks at how Cotton Mather shaped the narrative of Hannah Swarton in light of Rowlandson's text (itself thought to have been edited by his father) and according to the ideals of female behavior outlined in his conduct book for...



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