



Missing the Breast: Gender, Fantasy, and the Body in the German Enlightenment (Hardback)

By Simon Richter

University of Washington Press, United States, 2006. Hardback. Condition: New. New. Language: English . Brand New Book. The cult of the female breast in contemporary American and European society is as pervasive as it is notorious. Our current fascination merely updates a long-standing obsession with the breast, which over the past twenty years has also become a subject of scholarly attention. Most historians and cultural theorists have focused on England and France, with virtually all research starting from the simple assumption that the breast is a signifier of the feminine and the female. With *Missing the Breast*, Simon Richter uses the texts of Enlightenment-era Germany to challenge that assumption, engaging instead the complexity of culturally constructed notions of the breast. Using the tools of medicine, literary theory, psychology, psychoanalysis, and etymology, Richter probes the breast-related fantasies underlying German culture and literature in the second half of the eighteenth century. His study reveals that, whereas in England and France and in the public imagination generally, the breast has been associated with the feminine and with abundance, the inherent logic of the breast in German culture unexpectedly pushes the breast toward masculinity and lack. Richter's tour de force of textual and cultural...



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