

Response Page

The following responses were posted on the H-France discussion list in response to Elizabeth Goldsmith's review of Leah L. Chang, *Into Print: The Production of Female Authorship in Early Modern France*.

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The original review may be found on the H-France web page at:

<http://www.h-france.net/vol11reviews/vol11no59Goldsmith.pdf>

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In Elizabeth Goldsmith's review of Leah Chang's work, *Into Print: The Production of Female Authorship in Early Modern France*, there are several references to how Catherine Fradonnet, daughter of Madeleine Neveu, refashioned the image of their mother-daughter relationship after her mother's death. However, Madeleine Neveu and Catherine Fradonnet, *dames des Roches*, famously died on the same day in November 1587 from a bout of plague that had first hit Poitiers in 1586. Is there some new evidence that Catherine actually survived? Or is this an example of how "female authorship" may be understood as distinct from the life-histories of female writers?

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I confess that I was not aware of the story that Catherine and Madeleine des Roches may have died on the same day. So when I read the section in *Into Print* beginning with Catherine's letter to L'Angelier, in which she speaks of her mother's illness, followed by Chang's comment that "Madeleine's death ... would stifle the Des Roches' affective intimacy based on their biological relation (p.67)", I mistakenly assumed that Madeleine had in fact died of that illness.