Anatomy of a Primo Record

1. **Author:** Fonte, Moderata, 1555-1592.
2. **Editor:** Cox, Virginia.
3. **Subjects:** Women -- Early works to 1800
   Women -- Social conditions -- Early works to 1800
   Women -- History -- Renaissance, 1450-1600
4. **Description:** Introduction to the series --
   Acknowledgments -- Moderata Fonte and "The worth of women" --
   Introduction -- Life and early works -- Structure and arguments -- The
   question of unity -- "The worth of women" and Renaissance literary tradition -- Fortunes and
   influence...

   **Gender equality** and the responsibility of husbands and fathers: issues that loom large
today had currency in Renaissance Venice as well, as evidenced by the publication in 1600 of The worth of
women by Moderata Fonte. Moderata Fonte was the pseudonym of Modesta Pozzo (1555-92), a Venetian
woman who was something of an anomaly. Neither cloistered in a convent nor as liberated from prevailing
codes of decorum as a *courtesan* might be, Pozzo was a respectable, married mother who produced literature in
genres that were commonly considered "masculine"--the chivalric romance and the literary dialogue. This work
takes the form of the latter, with Fonte creating a conversation among seven Venetian *noblewomen*. The
dialogue explores nearly every aspect of women's experience in both theoretical and practical terms. These
women, who differ in age and experience, take as their broad theme men's curious hostility toward women and
possible cures for it. Through this witty and ambitious work, Fonte seeks to elevate women's status to that of
men, arguing that women have the same innate abilities as men and, when similarly educated, prove their
equals. Through this dialogue, Fonte provides a picture of the private and public lives of Renaissance women,
ruminating on their roles in the home, in society, and in the arts. A fine example of Renaissance vernacular
literature, this book is also a testament to the enduring issues that women face, including the attempt to
reconcile femininity with ambition.

**Publisher:** Chicago, Ill.: University of Chicago Press

**Related Titles:** Series: Other voice in early modern Europe

**Creation Date:** 1997
**Format:** xxvii, 290 p.: port. ; 24 cm.

5. **Availability and location:**
   University of Guelph Library Guelph McLaughlin Book Stacks (HQ1148 .F65)
   Wilfrid Laurier University Library WLU Book Shelves (HQ1148 .F6513)
   University of Waterloo Library St Jerome's (UW). Stacks (HQ1148 .F6513 1997)

The **author** is from the "early modern world". Her work "transports" you to the 16th century. -Great primary source.

The **editor** provides analysis and context. -Convenient secondary source.

The **subject heading** links take you to records of similar works. -Easy way to identify more material on your topic.

The **description**, aside from telling you about the book, reveals terms you can search for in Primo and other databases. E.g., gender equality; courtesan; noblewoman ...

There are 3, easily obtainable copies within the Library system. Request now.