Representing Race in the Early Modern Archive

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The Women Writers Project is a long-term research project devoted to early modern women's writing and electronic text encoding. Our goal is to bring texts by pre-Victorian women writers out of the archive and make them accessible to a wide audience of teachers, students, scholars, and the general reader. We support research on women's writing, text encoding, and the role of electronic texts in teaching and scholarship.
Process

• Recruit team and select sample texts
• Develop framework
• Locate additional texts
• Expand metadata and encoding practices
• Share results
Team

Sarah Connell  Elizabeth Maddock Dillon
Nicole Aljoe  Nedda Mehdizadeh
Julia Flanders  Kirsten Mendoza
Ash Clark  Jennifer Morgan
Patricia Akhimie  Jennifer Park
Rebecca Y. Bayeck  Cassander Smith
Susan Brown  Jacqueline Wernimont
to be alone—eternally alone in
the world!

It would be impossible for me
to describe the effect these few
words produced upon me; light-
ning could not have been more
prompt. I discovered the extent
of my misery. I saw what I was
—a black girl, a dependant, with-
out fortune, without a being of
my own kind to whom I could
unite my destiny; belonging to
nobody; till now, the plaything
of my benefactress, but soon an
dren, she resolved to show off my talent in a quadrille, representing the four parts of the world, in which I was to perform Africa. Travellers were consulted, books of costume resorted to, and works read upon African music and dancing: at last the Comba, a national dance of my own country, was fixed upon. My partner put a crape over his face. Alas! I had no need of any to blacken mine; but this was far from my thoughts, they were wholly engrossed by the pleasures of the great earnestness: he entreated, he conjured me to renounce it. "Hinder me not, Charles," cried I; "let me seek the only asylum where my prayers for you will be equally pure with the friend-ship I have ever entertained for you."

Here the young Nun abruptly ended her narrative. I continued