

Sources for Writing the Self in Early Modern Europe

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Below you'll find a (growing) list of sources for Writing the Self in Early Modern Europe. This list represents only a *tiny* fraction of the sources available on the topic.

The symbol † indicates a source available at the Christopher Center. Other sources can be ordered through interlibrary loan.

Primary Sources

England

Barros, Carolyn A., and Johanna M. Smith, eds. *Life-Writings by British Women, 1660-1850: An Anthology*. Boston: Northeastern University Press, 2000.†

Boswell, James. *The Journals of James Boswell, 1762-1795*. Ed. John Wain. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1991.†

Browne, Sir Thomas. *Works*. Ed. Geoffrey Keynes. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1964.†

Bunyan, John. *Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners*. Ed. Roger Sharrock. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1962.†

Defoe, Daniel. *Robinson Crusoe*. New York: Norton, 1975.†

- The classic novel of early modern “individualism.”

Evelyn, John, and William Bray. *The Diary of John Evelyn*. London: Dent, 1925.†

Graham, Elspeth, ed. *Her Own Life: Autobiographical Writings by Seventeenth Century Englishwomen*. London: Routledge, 1989.†

Hoby, Margaret Dakins, and Dorothy Mary Meads. *Diary of Lady Margaret Hoby, 1599-1605*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1930.†

Josselin, Ralph. *The Diary of Ralph Josselin 1616-1683*. Ed. Alan Macfarlane. Records of social and economic history, new ser., 3. London: Oxford University Press for the British Academy, 1976.

- An electronic edition of this source is available here.

Martin, Randall. *Women Writers in Renaissance England*. Longman annotated texts. London: Longman, 1997.†

Pepys, Samuel. *The Diary of Samuel Pepys*. Ed. Robert Latham and William Matthews. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1970.†

Pepys, Samuel. *The Illustrated Pepys: Extracts from the Diary*. Ed. Robert Latham. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1978.†

Shepard, Thomas. *God's Plot; The Paradoxes of Puritan Piety; Being The Autobiography and Journal of Thomas Shepard*. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 1972.†

France

Pascal, Blaise. *Pensees*. Penguin classics. Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1966.†

Rousseau, Jean-Jacques. *The Confessions of Jean Jacques Rousseau*. New York: Modern Library, 1945.†

Saint-Simon. Louis de Rouvroy. *The Memoirs of the Duke of Saint-Simon on the Reign of Louis XIV. and the Regency*. Trans. Bayle St. John. New York: J. Pott & Co, 1901.†

Germany/Switzerland

Glückel of Hameln. *The Memoirs of Glückel of Hameln*. New York: Schocken Books, 1977.

Petersen, Johanna Eleonora. *The Life of Lady Johanna Eleonora Petersen Written by Herself: Pietism and Women's Autobiography in Seventeenth-Century Germany*. Ed. Barbara Becker-Cantarino. The Other Voice in Early Modern Europe. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005.†

Platter, Thomas. *The Autobiography of Thomas Platter: A Schoolmaster of the Sixteenth Century*. B. Wertheim, 1839.

- Full text available via Google Books

Platter, Thomas. *Journal of a Younger Brother: The Life of Thomas Platter As a Medical Student in Montpellier at the Close of the Sixteenth Century*. London: F. Muller, 1963.†

Sastrow, Bartholomäus. *Social Germany in Luther's Time: Being the Memoirs of Bartholomew Sastrow*. Trans. Albert D. Vandam. Westminster: A. Constable, 1902.

- Public domain: Available for download at the Internet Archive

Italy

Cellini, Benvenuto. *The Autobiography of Benvenuto Cellini*. Trans. John Addington Symonds. Illustrated by Salvador Dali. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday & Co, 1946.†

Ferrazzi, Cecilia, and Anne Jacobson Schutte. *Autobiography of an Aspiring Saint. The Other Voice in Early Modern Europe*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996.†

Modena, Leone, and Mark R. Cohen. *The Autobiography of a Seventeenth-Century Venetian Rabbi: Leon Modena's Life of Judah*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1988.

Petrarch, Francesco. "Letter to Posterity." The Internet Medieval Sourcebook. <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/petrarch1.html>

Spain

Cervantes, Miguel de. *Don Quixote*. Trans. Edith Grossman. New York: Ecco, 2003.†

- Though not an autobiography, this seminal novel is nonetheless offers abundant material for reflecting on selfhood and writing in early modern Europe.

Ignatius of Loyola. *The Autobiography of St. Ignatius Loyola, With Related Documents*. New York: Harper & Row, 1974.†

Secondary Sources

General works

Ariès, Philippe. *The Hour of Our Death*. New York: Knopf, 1981.†

- A sweeping account of attitudes towards death in European history. Offers insights into the emergence of ideas of individuality, especially as they relate to confession and the fear of death.

Chartier, Roger, ed. *A History of Private Life*. Vol. 3. *Passions of the Renaissance*. Cambridge, Mass.: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1989.

Duby, Georges, ed. *A History of Private Life*. Vol. 2. *Revelations of the Medieval World*. Cambridge, Mass: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1988.

Elbaz, Robert. *The Changing Nature of the Self: A Critical Study of the Autobiographic Discourse*. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1987.†

Goodwin, James. *Autobiography: The Self Made Text*. Studies in literary themes and genres, no. 2. New York: Twayne Publishers, 1993.†

Jelinek, Estelle C. *The Tradition of Women's Autobiography from Antiquity to the Present*. Boston: Twayne Publishers, 1986.†

Olney, James. *Metaphors of Self: The Meaning of Autobiography*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1972.†

Olney, James. *Studies in Autobiography*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1988.†

Spengemann, William C. *The Forms of Autobiography: Episodes in the History of a Literary Genre*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1980.†

Sturrock, John. *The Language of Autobiography: Studies in the First Person Singular*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993.†

Taylor, Charles. *Sources of the Self: The Making of the Modern Identity*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1989.†

Weintraub, Karl Joachim. *The Value of the Individual: Self and Circumstance in Autobiography*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1978.†

Early Modern

- Amelang, James S. *The Flight of Icarus. Artisan Autobiography in Early Modern Europe*. Stanford: Stanford UP, 1998.
- Bedford, Ronald, Lloyd Davis, and Philippa Kelly, eds. *Early Modern Autobiography: Theories, Genres, Practices*. Ann Arbor: U of Michigan P, 2006.
- Bedford, Ronald, Lloyd Davis, and Philippa Kelly. *Early Modern English Lives: Autobiography and Self-Representation, 1500-1660*. Aldershot, England: Ashgate, 2007.
- France, Peter. *Rousseau, Confessions*. Landmarks of World Literature. Cambridge [Cambridgeshire]: Cambridge University Press, 1987.†
- Grossman, Marshall. *The Story of All Things: Writing the Self in English Renaissance Narrative Poetry*. Post-contemporary interventions. Durham [N.C.]: Duke University Press, 1998.†
- Hindmarsh, D. Bruce. *The Evangelical Conversion Narrative: Spiritual Autobiography in Early Modern England*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.
- Ibsen, Kristine. *Women's Spiritual Autobiography in Colonial Spanish America*. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1999.†
- John N. Morris. *Versions of the Self: Studies in English Autobiography from John Bunyan to John Stuart Mill*. New York: Basic Books, 1966.
- Mascuch, Michael. *Origins of the Individualist Self: Autobiography and Self-Identity in England, 1591-1791*. Stanford, Calif: Stanford University Press, 1996.†
- Nicholas D. Paige. *Being Interior: Autobiography and the Contradictions of Modernity in Seventeenth-Century France*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2001.
- Seaver, Paul S. *Wallington's World: A Puritan Artisan in Seventeenth-Century London*. Stanford, Calif: Stanford University Press, 1985.
- Seelig, Sharon Cadman. *Autobiography and Gender in Early Modern Literature: Reading Women's Lives, 1600-1680*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2006.
- Sherman, Stuart. *Telling Time: Clocks, Diaries, and English Diurnal Form, 1660-1785*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996.†

- Spadaccini, Nicholas, and Jenaro Talens. *Autobiography in Early Modern Spain*. Minneapolis, MN: Prisma Institute, 1988.
- Spufford, Margaret. "First Steps in Literacy: The Reading and Writing Experiences of the Humblest Seventeenth-Century Spiritual Autobiographers." In *Literacy and Social Development*. Ed. Graff, pp. 125-150.† (JSTOR)
- Webber, Joan. *The Eloquent "I": Style and Self in Seventeenth-Century Prose*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1968.†
- Whelan, Ruth. 'Writing the Self: Huguenot Autobiography and the Process of Assimilation'. In *From Strangers to Citizens: The Integration of Immigrant Communities in Britain, Ireland and Colonial America, 1550-1750*, 463-77. Ed. Randolph Vigne and Charles Littleton. Brighton and Portland (OR): The Huguenot Society of Great Britain and Ireland and Sussex Academic Press, 2001.
- Zemon Davis, Natalie. *Women on the Margins: Three Seventeenth-Century Lives*. Cambridge: Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1995.

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Encyclopedias

- Boynton, Victoria, and Jo Malin. *Encyclopedia of Women's Autobiography*. Westport, Conn: Greenwood Press, 2005.†

Bibliographies

- British Autobiographies; An Annotated Bibliography of British Autobiographies Published or Written Before 1951*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1955. †