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This collection examines how Latin texts from the Middle Ages and Renaissance represent the feminine and the female body. The authors explore the ideological values encoded by the feminine in these texts, and the role of the classical tradition in communicating those values. The examination of women both as subjects and as rhetorical constructions in Medieval and Renaissance Latin literature sheds light on the larger dialogue about feminism. Among the texts included are St. Augustinem, Abelard and Heloise, Hrotswitha, female mystics, and Petrarch's Sophonisba and Laura.