Writing in the Duchess of Devonshire’s ‘Works’

Mika SUZUKI

This paper mainly examines autobiographical pieces allegedly written by Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire (1757-1806), with a brief look at the other kinds of her writings as well as her mother’s papers. It draws attention to the education she was given at home and a different climate she experienced after her marriage. Although her father was immensely rich and earned an earldom after she was born, the family’s educational principle in learning and virtues was not quite aristocratic. Indeed, especially after her marriage to the Duke of Devonshire, a chasm opened between her liberal education and the traditional aristocratic approaches. Georgiana tried to solve the problem by letting her ideas flow in the created world of the novel. But the method itself was born in the context of the rise of the middle class. Either the bourgeois-like cause or the method of the novel was unacceptable, or possibly both were. Incidentally Georgiana and people around avoided mentioning it in their papers.