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In early modern Europe, the concept of ‘friendship’ was applied to allegedly equal relationships, as the words cliens, patronus, clientela were not in use any more, but clients were described as amici, or friends by their patrons. The paper analyzes the correspondence of several Russian aristocrats with their clients as social inferiors. This is further evidence that the semantics of the words ‘friend’ and ‘friendship’ underwent a transformation in 18th century Russia. Paradoxically, at the very time of these epistolary exchanges, a new sentimental comprehension of friendship had been emerging under the influence of Rousseau who identified friends as the opposite of protégés on the base of their mutual attachment etc.15 Neither flattery. Early Modern Studies Journal (EMSJ) formerly Early English Studies (EES) is an online... This week’s featured review article of Patricia Pender’s book, _Early Modern Women’s Writing and the Rhetoric of Modesty_, written by Elizabeth McCutcheon. In Early Modern Women’s Writing and the Rhetoric of Modesty, Patricia Pender challenges assumptions and attitudes about early modern women writers that accompanied their recovery and discovery in and after the 1980s. She argues that, for the most part, Read More. earlymodernstudiesjournal.org. Pender, Patricia. Early Modern Women’s Writing and the Rhetoric of Modesty. New York: Palgrave.