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	of the Female Household / Rosalind K. Marshall Clients and Friends: The Ladies-in-Waiting at the Court of Anne of Austria (1615–66) / Oliver Mallick Perceptions of Influence: The Catholic Diplomacy of Queen Anna and Her Ladies, 1601–1604 / Cynthia Fry The Goddess of the Household: The Masquing Politics of Lucy Harington-Russell, Countess of Bedford / Nadine Akkerman The Female Bedchamber of Queen Henrietta Maria: Politics, Familial Networks and Policy, 1626–40 / Sara J. Wolfson Living in the House of Power: Women at the Early Modern Swedish Court / Fabian Persson The Politics of Female Households: Afterthoughts / Jeroen Duindam Bibliography Index.
Sommario/riassunto	The Politics of Female Households is the first collection that seeks to integrate ladies-in-waiting into the master narrative of early modern court studies. Presenting evidence and analysis of the multifarious ways in which 'women above stairs' shaped the European courts of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, it argues for a re-assessment of their political influence. The cultural agency of ladies-in-waiting is viewed in the reflection of portraiture, pamphlets and masques: their political dealings and patronage are revealed through analysis of letters, family networks, career patterns, gift exchange and household structures, as well as their activities in the fields of intelligence- gathering and espionage. By concentrating on a previously neglected area of female agency, this collection demonstrates clearly that the political climate of Europe was often shaped outside the male- dominated institutions of government and administration. Contributors include: Helen Graham-Matheson, Hannah Leah Crummé, Katrin Keller, Vanessa de Cruz, Birgit Houben, Dries Raeymaekers, Janet Ravenscroft, Una McIlvenna, Rosalind K. Marshall, Oliver Mallick, Cynthia Fry, Nadine Akkerman, Sara J. Wolfson, Fabian Persson, and Jeroen Duindam.