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Nota di contenuto	Defining English gender -- The gender shift in histories of English -- A history of gender, people, and pronouns: the story of generic he -- Third-person pronouns in the gender shift: why is that ship a she? -- Gender and asymmetrical word histories: when boys could be girls -- Implications for non-sexist language reform.
Sommario/riassunto	How and why did grammatical gender, found in Old English and in other Germanic languages, gradually disappear from English and get replaced by a system where the gender of nouns and the use of personal pronouns depend on the natural gender of the referent? How is this shift related to 'irregular agreement' (such as she for ships) and 'sexist' language use (such as generic he) in Modern English, and how is the language continuing to evolve in these respects? Anne Curzan's accessibly written and carefully researched study is based on extensive

corpus data, and will make a major contribution by providing a historical perspective on these often controversial questions. It will be of interest to researchers and students in history of English, historical linguistics, corpus linguistics, language and gender, and medieval studies.

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