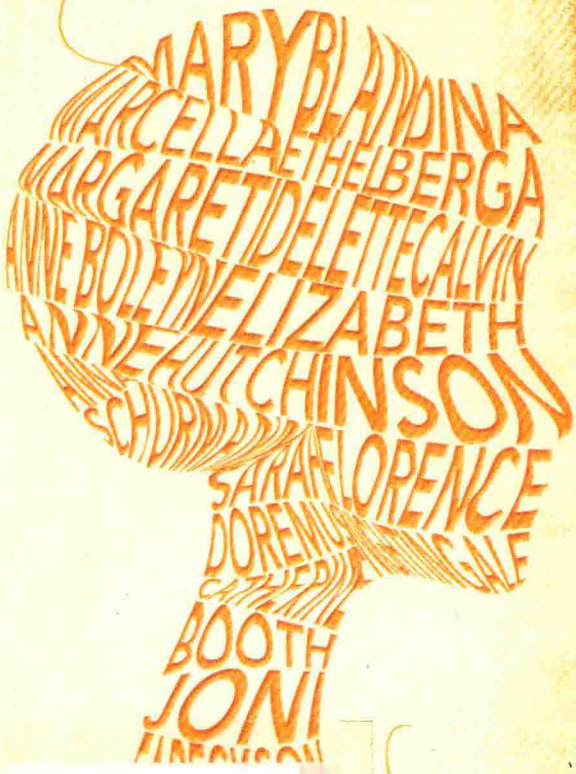


Diana Lynn Severance



Feminine Threads

Women in the Tapestry of Christian History

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Tapestry of Christian History

DIANA LYNN SEVERANCE

CHRISTIAN
FOCUS

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Diana Lynn Severance (PhD, Rice University, Houston, Texas) is Director of the Dunham Bible Museum at Houston Baptist University and an historian with broad experience teaching in universities and seminaries. Her work has been published by Christianity Today, Inc., and Christian History Institute. Her books include *Against the Gates of Hell: The Life and Times of Henry T. Perry, a Christian Missionary in a Moslem World* and *A Cord of Three Strands: Three Centuries of Christian Love Letters*. Diana and her husband live in Texas.

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Few such intricate and complex historical tapestries of words have ever been woven, and this unique piece is marked by the beauty and grace godly women bring to every setting of which they are a part! Though I would not agree theologically with every woman documented in this volume, I would affirm the accuracy of this extraordinary historian, Diana Severance. Not only does she reject any popular revisionism, but she also approaches the stage of history with amazing perception and sensitivity, pulling from the shadows some dedicated and gifted women who have often been overlooked. This volume will be the centerpiece for our Women in Church History course and is a book I recommend every woman read and study and keep within reach for reference and inspiration! No woman should graduate from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary without a copy in her personal library!

Dorothy Kelley Patterson

Professor of Theology in Women's Studies
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
Fort Worth, Texas

'What women these Christians have!' exclaimed Libanius, the fourth century teacher of rhetoric. His words are amply underscored and vividly illustrated in this deeply researched and highly readable survey of the last 2,000 years – an appraisal that Diana Severance invariably places against the enduring touchstone of Scripture.

Richard Bewes

OBE, Author and retired rector of All Souls Church
Langham Place, London

Feminine Threads is a must-read for men and women alike, but especially so for young women who need to have a clear view of the contributions that women before them have made to the Christian faith. Dr Severance has written a volume that is both comprehensive and engaging. She wipes away the dust of history to clear many false claims and popular misconceptions, leaving a clear view of the inspiring efforts of women in the life of the church for the past 2,000 years. A much needed resource for the church at large!

Carolyn McCulley

Author of *Radical Womanhood: Feminine Faith in a Feminist World*
Arlington, Virginia

In *Feminine Threads* Diana Severance has given us an extraordinary and valuable blend of biography, church history and biblical teaching on Christian womanhood. Whilst running counter to the feminism of our own day, together with its revisionist agenda, Dr Severance traces the remarkable story of the role and influence of women in the life of the church from the time of Christ to our present generation. Unafraid to include and evaluate the mixed and

occasionally confused contribution of some, she has provided us with a record packed with spiritual insights and one that is both timely and significant.

Faith Cook

Author

Derbyshire, England

Christian historians in the past have not always been as faithful in their calling as they could have been, for frequently they forgot one half of the story of God's Church, namely, the role of women in it. Diana Severance's study is therefore a welcome one, for with lively prose and scholarly care she has given us an excellent overview of the various ways in which Christian women have sought to live for Christ. A must read for all who are interested in the riches of Christian history.

Michael A. G. Haykin

Professor of Church History and Biblical Spirituality

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Louisville, Kentucky

I sat down to dip into this for half an hour and ended up reading it for three! It is a 'magnum opus' of heart-warming and inspirational testimonies. All the usual women of faith are here: Mary the mother of Jesus, Monica, Katie Luther, Susanna Wesley, Selina Hastings and Sarah Edwards, but so too are the less well known ones. I cried at the courage of Blandina, was rebuked by the single-mindedness of Leoba and challenged by the godliness of Margaret of Scotland. No-one reading this book can fail to be encouraged by the faith of these ordinary women who, in their own generation, humbly trusted the Word of God and lived to serve the Lord of whom it speaks. It left me wondering if there are any women in my own generation who trust and serve like this, and moved me to pray that there would be - and that, by the grace of God, I might be one of them.

Carrie Sandom

Author and Coordinator of Women's Ministry at *The Bible Talks*

Mayfair, London

This is a wonderful book about how God has used so many women in the history of the church to fulfill his purposes of grace and bring honor to the cause of Christ. Well researched and well written, this study of 'feminine threads' in Christian history makes for a tapestry of inspiration and instruction for all who love the Lord and his church - men and women alike.

Timothy George

Founding Dean of Beeson Divinity School

Samford University

Birmingham, Alabama

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Women in the

Tapestry of Christian History

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