

# THE MACMILLAN DICTIONARY OF WOMEN'S BIOGRAPHY



Edited by Jennifer S. Uglow

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# Foreword

This Dictionary was compiled in response to two demands I encountered in teaching women's studies and in talking to friends about the lives and work of women. The first was simply for information; discussing the struggle to enter the medical profession raised practical questions: who were the women involved, where did they qualify, what did they go on to do? The second demand was less easy to define; a desire to look at women's strength in action, rather than (as is so often done) to lament their oppression as passive victims. It could be called a request for heroines. This book aims to meet the first demand on a quite unpretentious level, by providing basic biographical information about outstanding women in a variety of fields. Perhaps, in the process, it may go some way towards meeting the second.

There can be no such thing as an 'objective' biographical dictionary of women. First, how can one select from half the human race? Second, there is no accepted criteria of excellence implicit in the category itself as there is for artists, politicians or athletes. To some extent, therefore, selection is necessarily idiosyncratic, although the criteria for inclusion can be roughly defined as follows. Women, whose role in history, or their contribution to society or use of talent would be remarkable regardless of their sex, are included. Some women are regarded as outstanding because their life or work affected the position of women directly – by their breaking into new occupational fields, or by leading campaigns to alter women's opportunities and status in law, politics, education, sexual freedom, marriage or employment. Others included have had an indirect effect – their embodying concepts of womanhood, good or bad, which condition

the attitudes of both sexes (for example, witches, domestic science writers, film stars). Finally, a large number is included because they have become legendary figures, or because the imagination is caught by their courage, cruelty, gaiety, extravagance or sheer eccentricity.

The temporal and geographical scope of the book, which may seem arbitrary at first, is dictated by the wish to represent women's achievement in different fields. The majority of entrants come from North America, Europe and the British Commonwealth in the last two centuries. Particular social factors lead to a concentration of women in certain periods or areas – revolutionaries in Eastern Europe, Latin America or China in the 19th and 20th centuries, in contrast to leisured philanthropists and reformers in the USA and the UK. The lack or the inaccessibility of documentation may have led to an emphasis on Western rather than Eastern artists or feminist leaders. The depth of coverage must also vary; in certain spheres of activity, such as opera or film, it was necessary to select as fairly as possible from a large field, while in others such as philosophy or finance, representative examples were more difficult to find. Finally, of course, cultural and personal bias in the evaluation of 'achievement' cannot be entirely ignored.

I became aware of how selection reflects values and attitudes while considering the fascinating history of women's biography, beginning with the first known collection of goddesses, queens and contemporary heroines compiled by Heliod in the 8th century BC. The medieval works, following the moralizing tradition of the encyclopedia and speculum, do not stress individual achievement but look to myth and history for representative moral examples. These

are seen in the 'boke of wikked wyves' much enjoyed by the last husband of the Wife of Bath in Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, in Boccaccio's *De claribus mulieribus* (1355-9), written deliberately to redress the poor picture presented of women in contemporary writings, and the *Cité des dames* of Christine de Pisan, 'the first European feminist', which lists women's virtues and achievements in order to combat the misogynistic views of popular writers like Jean de Meun.

Through the ages, biographies have been summoned as evidence in debates about the nature of women; and, as the grounds of debate shift, so do the examples. The heated arguments of the 16th and 17th centuries are reflected in works like Thomas Heywood's *Nine Bookes of Various Histories Concerning Women* (1640) which mixes entertainment and descriptions of public virtues with a safe didacticism: 'wives may reade here of chast virgins, to patterne their Daughters by, and how to demeane themselves in all Coniugale love towards their Husbands'. Two and a half centuries later, the burst of radical egalitarianism expressed in Mary Wollstonecraft's *Vindication of the Rights of Women* (1792) found its biographical counterpart in Mary Hays's six-volume *Female Biography* (1803) whose feminist purpose was explicit, 'My pen has been taken up in the Cause, and for the benefit, of my own sex.' At the end of the 19th century the struggle for suffrage resulted in a number of biographical collections by noted reformers, illustrating both women's capabilities and their part in serving 'the cause'. It is interesting to note that women opposing suffrage also seized on biography as a tool, for example Sarah Josepha Hale, or Charlotte Yonge, whose *Biographies of Good Women* (1862) celebrated the more traditional virtues of self-sacrifice, 'Each lived unto God; and endeavoured to act as his faithful servant; and in this - whether her task were to learn, to labour, or merely to suffer - she proved her faith and obedience and shone forth as a jewel "more precious than Rubies".'

The New Feminism of the 20th century naturally produced a variety of approaches which reflect the trends within the movement. The traditional liberal feminism, which emphasises public virtue, is exempli-

fied by two magnificent works, *Lexikon der Frau* (1953) which drew on the solidarity of the old suffrage movement, the average of contributors being around 80, and *Notable American Women* (vols i-iii, 1971; vol. iv, 1981). Radical feminism, which emphasises a separate female culture and therefore looks to representative symbols rather than to individuals who have broken into, and adopted, male criteria for success, is represented by the 39 guests and 999 women of achievement in Judy Chicago's impressionistic and stimulating exhibition and book *The Dinner Party* (1979). Socialist feminism, affected both by labour history and the growth of interest in oral history (the popular, word-of-mouth, rather than academic tradition), turns its back on the celebration of public figures and looks for heroines in ordinary workers, wives and mothers.

This Dictionary, despite its relatively straightforward educational aim, is influenced by its literary heritage, the patterns set by forebears and contemporaries. It remains a traditional work, looking to public recognition for a definition of success, but in writing it I came to realize that far from presenting a book which was representative of women's experience, I was compiling a book of deviants - independent, odd, often difficult women who had defied the expectations of their society as to what a woman's role should be. As these expectations come increasingly under attack it is important to remember the contribution of all those pioneering 'firsts', whether in engineering, politics or mountaineering.

Recent surveys have shown that despite increasing opportunities, women rarely reach the top of their chosen professions because they lack the 'thorough-going domestic support' available to men. (Do all successful careerists need a wife at home?) In presenting the biographies in this volume I have attempted to show how crucial their private life (the accepted women's sphere) has been, whether as an advantage or constraint in the extent of women's achievement. The influence of parents, the support of husbands, lovers, friends, the existence of close groups of women colleagues, the sudden turns of fortune which force women to become breadwinners and reveal hidden talents, have all been

considered. The added energy so often required to combine the roles of career woman or campaigner and mother, or to face the ridicule and hostility which so often greeted their abandonment of traditional duties, has been given its due.

Every day I find more women whom I wish I had included, and much regret the constraints of time and space. Finishing the book has therefore been frustrating, but

researching and writing it was immensely challenging and exciting. I hope that those who read and use it will find that they share some of that excitement, and will write to me with details of any women they consider overlooked.

J.U.

18 May 1982

## Acknowledgements

The advice, assistance and criticism I have received from many people has made me feel, to some extent, that this is a collective work. I owe a special debt of gratitude to my Assistant Editor, Frances Hinton, who chose and wrote the entries on science and medicine, and who also contributed work on many athletes, explorers, mountaineers and aviators. I am also much indebted to the substantial contributions of Ruth Thackeray on musicians, Debbie Derrick on religious leaders and Richard Kwietnowski on film directors, and to Maureen Ritchie who checked and amended the Bibliography.

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# Additional Reference Sources

## A. General Works

1. ENCYCLOPEDIAS
2. GENERAL BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARIES
3. NATIONAL BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARIES: HISTORICAL
4. NATIONAL BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARIES: CONTEMPORARY
5. ENCYCLOPEDIAS AND BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARIES BY SUBJECT
6. INDEXES

## B. Biographical material on women

1. BIBLIOGRAPHIES AND INDEXES
2. INTERNATIONAL BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARIES
3. NATIONAL BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARIES
4. BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARIES BY SUBJECT AND COLLECTIVE BIOGRAPHIES BY SUBJECT

The notes below give a brief indication of the types of reference works which may act as starting points for readers seeking biographical information about individual women, or about women from particular countries or whose achievements fall into particular fields. Unfortunately a comprehensive bibliography of biographical collections and individual biographies of women does not yet exist and so one must look to a wide variety of sources. Section A notes general works which contain data on both sexes and Section B considers works on women alone.

## A. General Works

### 1. ENCYCLOPEDIAS

These obvious sources should not be overlooked if one needs quick information about women whose fame is already very well-established. To take two contrasting examples, the *Encyclopedia Britannica* (London, 15/1974) has entries ranging from

a few lines to several pages, and while the single volume *New Columbia Encyclopedia* (New York, 4/1980) has extremely brief entries they are often accompanied by two or three useful bibliographic references. The multi-volume foreign language encyclopedias found in most large reference libraries are also useful initial sources.

### 2. GENERAL BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARIES

The well-known single-volume works, such as *Chambers' Biographical Dictionary*, (London, rev. 1974) or *Webster's Biographical Dictionary* (Springfield, Massachusetts, rev. 1972), are of limited use since their entries are brief, the people very well-known, and the proportion of women extremely low. Among the few multi-volume international biographical works published, the *McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of World Biography* (New York and London, 1973) contains a number of articles on famous women in American and world history, with short bibliographies. The great

19th-century French *Biographie universelle* in 45 volumes edited by M. Michand (Paris, 1843–65) is still very useful, especially for information on 18th-century women.

### 3. NATIONAL BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARIES: HISTORICAL

Such works as the *Dictionary of National Biography* (London, 1885–1901; suppl., 1901–60), or the *Dictionary of American Biography* (New York, 1928–37; suppl., 1944–77), need no introduction. They are generally reliable, although the criteria for inclusion may seem idiosyncratic and earlier volumes should always be checked against more recent sources. Most large libraries have a selection of such dictionaries from different countries. The most useful of these are listed below in alphabetical order by country.

*Australian Dictionary of Biography* (Melbourne, 1966–)

*Dictionary of Canadian Biography* (Toronto, 1966–)

*Eminent Chinese of the Ching Period, 1644–1912* (Washington, DC, 1944)

*Biographical Dictionary of Republican China*, (New York, 1967–71, suppl. 1979)

*Dictionnaire de biographie française* (Paris, 1933–)

*Allgemeine deutsche Biographie* (Leipzig, 1875–1912)

*Neue deutsche Biographie* (Berlin, 1953–)

*Indian Dictionary of National Biography* (Calcutta, 1972–)

*Dizionario biografico degli Italiani* (Rome, 1960–)

*Japan Biographical Encyclopedia and Who's Who* (Tokyo, 1958–)

*Great Soviet Encyclopedia* (London and New York, 1973–)

Several countries also have concise one-volume works.

### 4. INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARIES: CONTEMPORARY

The *International Who's Who* (London, 1935–) contains biographies of women prominent in politics, business and the arts. A more selective but far more detailed and livelier source is *Current Biography* (New York, 1940–). This is a monthly serial incorporating information drawn largely from the American press, with a bound annual cumulation. It contains over 300 biographies, and gives references for further information, but unfortunately is found only in very large reference libraries.

Many countries have an annual or biennial directory along the lines of *Who's Who* (London, 1849–) or *Who's Who in America* (Chicago, 1899–). The women they include tend to be of high birth, social position, political, cultural or scholarly status. These works and their retrospective *Who Was Who* collections (usually produced about every ten years) are useful for checking dates, educational qualifications, official positions, decorations etc.

### 5. ENCYCLOPAEDIAS AND BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARIES BY SUBJECT

These can provide helpful basic data, especially when accompanied by good bibliographies. Useful multi-volume works in particular areas include works such as *The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians* (London, 1980) and the *Dictionary of Scientific Biography* (New York, 1970–80). There is also a proliferation of single-volume works, especially in literature, theatre, dance and film, which vary from very well-documented sources, like *Contemporary Artists* (New York, 1977) to those with only a scanty listing. Current directories, revised at irregular intervals, exist in a few areas, such as the single-volume, biennial *The Writer's Directory* (London, 5/1981) or *American Men and Women of Science* (New York, 14/1979)

## 6. INDEXES

A variety of comprehensive American bibliographies and indexes are published, such as:

*Analytical Bibliography of Universal Collected Biography* (Detroit, 1980), [indexes 3000 works of collected biography]

*Bio-base* (Detroit, 2/1981) [index to 'nearly 4 million citations to biographical entries appearing in 375 biographical dictionaries']

*Biographical Books 1950-1980* (New York and London, 1980). A listing of over 42,000 titles.

*Biographical Dictionaries and Related Works: an International Bibliography* (Detroit, 1967, suppl. 1972, 1978)

*Biography and Genealogy Master Index*. (Detroit, 2/1980)

*Biography Index* (New York, 1946-). A quarterly index covering current books, periodicals, obituaries etc with annual and three-yearly cumulations.

*Current Biography Cumulated Index 1940-1970* (New York, 1973)

## B. Biographical Material on Women

### 1. BIBLIOGRAPHIES AND INDEXES

(a) The general bibliographies on women usually contain a section on biography, but in almost all cases this is disappointingly short. Among the more useful are:

*Resources for Feminist Research/Documentation sur la recherche féministe* (Toronto, 1972-) [until 1978 known as *Canadian Newsletter for Research on Women*]. An unparalleled resource guide covering research, recent publications, bibliographies, reports, periodicals etc.

M.B. Rosenberg and L.V. Bergstrom: *Women and Society: A Critical View of the Literature with a Selected Annotated Bibliography* (Beverly Hills, 1975, suppl. 1978 by J.D. Een and M. Rosenberg-Dishman)

*Women's Studies Abstracts* (Rush, N.Y., 1972-). Issued quarterly, it covers

reviews of new books and a wide range of periodical literature.

(b) More specific bibliographies now abound (see M. Ritchie: *Women's Studies: A Check List of Bibliographies* (London, 1980)). Some works which contain a large number of biographical references are:

D. Bachman and S. Piland: *Women's Artists: an historical, contemporary and feminist bibliography* (Metuchen, N.J., 1978)

S. Chaff: *Women in Medicine: an annotated bibliography of the literature on Women Physicians* (Metuchen, N.J., 1977)

A.B. Davis: *Bibliography on Women, with special emphasis on their roles in Science and Society* (New York, 1974)

*Les Femmes: Guide Bibliographique* (Paris, 1974)

L. Goodwater: *Women in Antiquity: an annotated bibliography* (Metuchen, N.J., 1978)

C. Harrison et al: *Women in American History: A Bibliography* (Santa Barbara, 1980)

P. Hauck: *Sourcebook on Canadian Women* (Ottawa, 1979)

D. Hixon and D. Hennessee: *Women in Music: a bio-bibliography* (Metuchen, N.J., 1975)

S.E. Jacobs: *Women in Perspective: A Guide for Cross Cultural Studies* (Urbana, 1974)

M. Knaster: *Women in Spanish America: An annotated bibliography from Pre-conquest to Contemporary Times* (Boston, 1977)

M. Remley: *Women in Sport* (Detroit, 1980)

(c) There is only one contemporary index to biographical collections on women:

N.O. Ireland: *Index to women of the world from ancient to modern times: biographies and portraits*, (Westwood Mass, 1970). This surveys many biographical collections and lists nearly 2000 women, giving name, dates of birth, category (e.g. 'artist'), nationality and key to source. It is particularly useful for American history.

A useful earlier work is A. Ungherini: *Manuel de Biographie Bibliographique et de*



*l'Iconographie des Femmes Célèbres* (1892–1905/R1968)

(d) Subject catalogues to specialist library holdings, document collections and archives are invaluable guides to biographical information. Examples include:

M. Barrow: *Women 1870–1928: A Select Guide to Printed and Archival Sources in the United Kingdom* (London, 1981)

*Bibliofem: the joint library catalogues of the Fawcett Library, London, and the Equal Opportunities Commission, Manchester, together with a continuing bibliography of Women* (1978–)

*Herstory: Microfilm collection of documents on women in history* (Berkeley, California and Chicago).

*The Gerritsen Collection of Women's History, 1543–1945* (Sanford, N.C.) A collection of books and periodicals from many European countries as well as North America.

A Hinding & C.A. Chambers: *Women's History Sources* (New York, 1979)

*Women in Australia: An Annotated Guide to Records* (Canberra, 1977)

The huge G.K. Hall series of library catalogues includes a few special collections of women, for example that of the Schlesinger Library at Radcliffe College, the Sophia Smith Collection (Smith College) and the International Archive for the Women's Movement in Amsterdam. More and more libraries are producing lists of their women-related holdings, particularly in America, but also in the UK. Government department libraries can be contacted for latest compilations. The Women's Research and Resources Centre Library, 190 Upper Street, London, includes an accessions list in their bi-monthly newsletter, which is useful for modern material.

## 2. INTERNATIONAL BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARIES

### (a) Pre-20th-century sources.

Not only are the earlier works fascinating for what they reveal about the attitudes and motivation of the compilers, but many 19th-century collections are the result of laborious research and contain information not found elsewhere. Some examples of these works, often written by dedicated feminists, are:

H.G. Adams: *Cyclopedia of Female Biography: Consisting of Sketches of all Women who have been Distinguished by Great Talents, Strength of Character, Piety, Benevolence or Moral Virtues of any Kind* (London, 1869). A condensation of Hale (below).

*Biographium Feminum. The Female Warriors: or Memoirs of the Most Illustrious Ladies of All Ages and Nations* (London, 1766)

W.H. Browne: *Famous Women of History: Containing nearly 3000 Brief Biographies and 1000 Female Pseudonyms* (Philadelphia, 1895)

S.J. Hale: *Woman's Record, or Sketches of All Distinguished Women from the Creation to AD 1854* (New York, 1855)

M. Hays: *Female Biography: or Memoirs of Illustrious and Celebrated Women of All Ages and Countries* (London, 1803)

J.P. Proudhomme: *Répertoire Universel, Historique, Biographique des Femmes Célèbres* (Paris, 1826–7)

### (b) 20th-century works

*Biographical Encyclopedia of Women* (Chicago, 1975)

J.C. Chiappe: *Le Monde au Féminin* (Paris, 1976)

*Contemporary Women* (Detroit, 1975)

V. Giglio: *Donne Celebri* (Milan, 1950)

R. Guimaraes: *Mulheres Celebres* (Sao Paulo, 1960)

E. Kay: *Two thousand Women of Achievement* (Totowa, N.J., 1970)

M.E. Kulkin: *Her Way: Biographies of women for young people* (New York, 1976)

*Lexikon der Frau* (Zürich, 1953–4)

- A. Weir & S. Raven: *Women in History* (London, 1981)  
*The World Who's Who of Women* (Totowa, N.J., 1973, 6/1982)

There are also some general works which are not strictly biographical dictionaries but which list women in terms of their achievements in various fields. Examples are:

- J. Chicago: *The Dinner Party: A Symbol of our Heritage* (New York, 1979)  
 J. & K. Macksey: *The Guinness Guide to Feminine Achievements* (London, 1975)  
 L.D. O'Neill: *The Women's Book of World Records and Achievements* (New York, 1979)

### 3. NATIONAL BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARIES

(a) *Historical*. We have discovered no general historical reference works apart from ones relating to the USA, by far the best of which are:

- E.T. and J.W. James: *Notable American Women, 1607-1950: A Biographical Dictionary* (Cambridge, Mass., 1971)  
 B. Sickerman and C.H. Green: *Notable American Women: the Modern Period, 1951-1975* (Cambridge, Mass., 1980).

An interesting earlier work is:

- F. Willard and M. Livermore: *A Woman of the Century: 470 biographical sketches accompanied by portraits of leading American women in all walks of life* (Buffalo, 1893).

(b) *Contemporary*. Current dictionaries of the 'Who's Who' type have been produced spasmodically for several countries but have rarely had a long or continuous run. When found they can be useful for checking detail. Examples from North America, Britain, Africa and India include:

- American Women: the Official Who's Who* (Los Angeles, 1935-9)  
*Who's Who of American Women* (Chicago, 1960-)  
*Woman's Who's Who of America: a biographical dictionary of contemporary*

*women of the United States and Canada 1914-15* (New York, 1914)

- The Women's Who's Who* (London, 1934-5)  
*The Lady's Who's Who* (London, 1938-9)  
*Women's Who's Who* (Croydon, 1975-7)  
*The Suffrage Annual and Women's Who's Who* (London, 1913)  
*Directory of African Women* (New York, 1963)  
*Who's Who of Indian Women* (Madras, 1977)

### 4. BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARIES BY SUBJECT, AND COLLECTIVE BIOGRAPHIES

The most common type of reference work on women is the collection of lives, ranging from 5-500 subjects, arranged around a particular theme, from women's wickedness to female heroism; or around a particular region or subject. Some collections are basic entertainments, but others are clearly didactic, or are offered as stirring examples of women's achievement. There are hundreds of examples, and selections can be found listed in N.O. Ireland, and in *Bibliofem* (see section B1 above) as well as in most general bibliographies on women. The lists below are intended to give a taste of the variety of such works, and in a few cases, the range of contents is noted as well as the title. Also included below are a few A-Z biographical dictionaries relating to special subjects. Other useful sources, which do not fall strictly within our brief, are general surveys or histories of women in individual countries, occupations or feminist movements.

#### (a) *General, moral, domestic themes*

- W.H.D. Adams: *The Sunshine of Domestic Life* (London, 1891). Portraits to illustrate particular virtues include Anne Askew, Elizabeth Inchbald, Lady Jane Grey, Jeanne d'Albret etc.  
 R. Armour: *It all started with Eve* (Boston, 1976). Satirical sketches from Eve to Mata Hari.  
 R. Baxter: *Guilty Women* (London, 1941)  
 L.M. Child: *Biographies of Good Wives* (Boston, 1850)  
 M.C. Clarke: *World-noted Women; or*

- Types of Womanly attributes of All Lands and Ages* (New York, 1867)
- N. Crouch: *Female Excellency; or the Ladies Glory* (London, 1728)
- S. Dark: *Twelve More Ladies; Good, Bad and Indifferent* (Freeport, N.Y., 1932/R1969)
- A. Ewart: *The World's Most Wicked Women* (London, 1964)
- H.K. Hosier: *Silhouettes: Women behind Great Men* (Waco, 1972)
- E. Jenkins: *Ten Fascinating Women* (London, 1955)
- C.E. Maine: *World-famous Mistresses* (Feltham, 1970)
- D.S. Rosenfelt: *Strong Women* (Old Westbury, N.Y., 1978)
- P.W. Sergeant: *Dominant Women* (London, 1929/R1964)
- A. Vincent: *Lives of Twelve Bad Women: illustrations and reviews of feminine turpitude set forth by impartial hands* (Boston, 1897). Includes Moll Cutpurse, Elizabeth Chudleigh etc.
- (b) *Historical: particular periods, countries, regions.*
- J.M. Bannerman: *Leading Ladies, Canada 1639-1967* (Dundas, 1967)
- E.O. Blackburne: *Illustrious Irishwomen from the earliest ages to the present* (London, 1877)
- H. Buckmaster: *Women who shaped history* (New York, 1966). 19th-century biographies.
- M. Cole: *Women of Today* (London, 1938)
- E. Coxhead: *Daughters of Erin* (London, 1965)
- L. Crane: *Ms Africa: Profiles of modern African Women* (Philadelphia, 1973)
- H.S. Drago: *Notorious Ladies of the Frontier* (New York, 1969)
- M.G. Fawcett: *Some Eminent Women of Our Time* (London, 1889)
- M.L. Fava: *Cincuenta mujeres de nuestro tiempo* (Barcelona, 1975)
- G. Frink: *Great Jewish Women* (New York, 1978)
- G.A. Gollock: *Daughters of Africa* (New York, 1932/R1969)
- M.E. Gridley: *American Indian Women* (New York, 1974)
- H.A. Guy: *Women in the Caribbean* (Port of Spain, 1966)
- M.S. Hartman: *Victorian Murderesses* (New York, 1977)
- J.D. Henderson: *Ten notable women of Latin America* (Chicago, 1978)
- C. Hernandez: *Mujeres celebres de Mexico* (San Antonio, 1919)
- P. Hogrefe: *Women of Action in Major England: Nine biographical sketches* (Ames, 1977)
- M. Hume: *Queens of Old Spain* (London, 1906)
- M.Q. Innis (ed.): *The Clear Spirit: Twenty Canadian Women and their Times* (Toronto, 1966)
- G.F. Jackson: *Black Women, Makers of History: a portrait* (Sacramento, 1975)
- A. Kempe Welch: *Of Six Medieval Women* (London, 1913)
- E. Longford: *Eminent Victorian Women* (London, 1981)
- B. Pusat: *Heroines of Indonesian History* (Jakarta, 1974)
- E. Richey: *Eminent Women of the West* (Berkeley, 1975)
- M. Roberts: *Select female biography: comprising memoirs of eminent British ladies. By the author of 'The Wonders of the Vegetable Kingdom displayed'* (London, 1829)
- A. Rodrigo: *Mujeres de España* (Barcelona, 1979)
- L. Samuel: *Les françaises célèbres* (Paris, 1972)
- T.P. Saxena: *Women in Indian history: a biographical dictionary* (New Delhi, 1979)
- H.B. Stowe et al: *Our Famous Women* (Hartford, 1888)
- A. Volonterio: *Profili di donne svizzere* (Lugano, 1946)
- C.D. Votow: *Puerto Rican Women: some biographical profiles* (Washington, 1978)
- P.B. Watson: *Some Women of France* (Freeport, N.Y., 1936)
- (c) *Public life, politics, religion, the professions etc.*
- H.F. Blunt: *The Great Magdalens* (Freeport, N.Y., 1928)
- Women in Public Office: a Biographical Directory and Statistical Handbook* (New York, 1976, 2/1978)
- J. Cahappell: *Noble Workers* (London, 1910). 19th-century reformers.

- G. Evans: *Women in Federal Politics: a bibliography* (Ottawa, 1975)
- M.L. Goldsmith: *Seven Women Against the World* (London, 1935). Revolutionaries.
- F.C. Griffin: *Women as Revolutionary* (New York, 1973). Social reformers.
- R.A. Liston: *Women who Ruled: Cleopatra to Elizabeth II* (New York, 1978)
- M. Hasan: *Daughters of Islam: short biographical sketches of 82 famous Muslim Women* (Lahore, 1976)
- B.J. Love: *Foremost Women in Communications: a biographical reference work* (New York, 1970)
- G.H. Macurdy: *Hellenistic Queens* (Baltimore, 1932)
- M. Stern: *We the Women: career firsts of 19th-century America* (New York, 1963)
- Women Saints of East and West - Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity and Sufism* (London, 1955)
- World Who's Who of Women in Education* (Ely, 1975)
- (d) *Cultural Life*
- J.R. Brink (ed.): *Female Scholars: a tradition of learned women before 1800* (Montreal, 1980)
- A. Cohen: *International Encyclopedia of Women Composers* (New York, 1981)
- W. and C. Jerrold: *Five Queer Women* (Norwood, P.A., 1929/R1976). 17th/18th-century writers.
- P. Migel: *The Ballerinas: From the Court of Louis XIV to Pavlova* (London, 1972)
- J.W. Le Page: *Women composers, conductors and musicians of the 20th century: selected biographies* (Metuchen, 1980)
- O.S. Opfell: *The Lady Laureates: Women who have won the Nobel Prize* (Metuchen, 1978)
- A.I. Prather-Moses: *The International Dictionary of Women Workers in the Decorative Arts, from the distant past to the early 20th century* (Metuchen, 1981)
- K. Petersen and J.J. Wilson: *Women Artists: Recognition and Reappraisal from the early Middle Ages to the Twentieth Century* (New York, 1976)
- S. Smith: *Women who make Movies* (New York, 1975)
- S. Stern: *Women Composers: a Handbook* (Metuchen, 1978)
- E. Tufts: *Our Hidden Heritage: five centuries of women artists* (New York and London, 1963)
- A. Wallace: *Before the Bluestockings* (London, 1929)
- E.R. Wheeler: *Famous Bluestockings* (New York, 1910)
- (e) *Science and medicine*
- L. Haber: *Women Pioneers of Science* (New York, 1980)
- C. Hacker: *The Indomitable Lady Doctors* (Toronto, 1974)
- E.P. Lovejoy: *Women Doctors of the World* (New York, 1954)
- H.J. Mozans: *Woman in Science* (New York, 1913)
- L.M. Osen: *Women in Mathematics* (Boston, 1974)
- T. Perl: *Maths Equals: biographies of women mathematicians and related activities* (Menlo Park, Calif., 1978)
- E. Yost: *American Women of Science* (Philadelphia, 1955)
- (f) *Sport, physical exploits, military adventures etc.*
- E. de Beaumont: *Women and Cruelty* (London, 1905). Duellists and soldiers.
- F.G. Gribble: *Women in War* (New York, 1917)
- W. Hargreaves: *Women at Arms*
- P. Hollander: *100 Greatest Women in Sport* (New York, 1976)
- H.H. Jacobs: *Famous American Women Athletes* (New York, 1964)
- J. Laffin: *Women in Battle* (London and New York, 1967)
- H. Lanwick: *Heroines of the Sky* (London, 1960)

## A Note on Presentation

**ENTRIES.** In order to cover women's activities in a wide sphere in a single volume, entries are concise. They begin with a resume of basic facts – name, dates, nationality and reason for inclusion, followed by a brief biography. Many entries are accompanied by a reference to a biography or autobiography, or very occasionally to an article or collective work.

**DATES.** In a tiny proportion of cases it has proved impossible to check dates of birth or death. This is usually represented by (?) but for some contemporary women who appear to wish such information to remain private, the date has been omitted.

**TITLES.** Entries appear under the most familiar name, even if it is a pseudonym or nickname, with cross references from other titles. Parentheses and brackets in name headings have specific meanings. Parentheses enclose some forenames: where names are not normally used; where a maiden name is often incorporated into the usual form of address; where a nickname or

shortened version is preferred. Brackets enclose the alternative form of a name; pseudonyms; maiden name.

As a very general principle, we have tried to place each entry where the majority of users of the Dictionary will expect to find it. Common sense and established usage are important factors. Unless there are reasons that dictate otherwise, names incorporating prefixes in the Romance languages are alphabetized under the prefix when it includes the definite article: thus, for French names, those beginning 'L', 'La' and 'Le' are placed under L and 'Du' under D, but those beginning 'De' are placed under the following word (as are many beginning 'D', though here established usage demands that some be under D). The reader of the Dictionary who looks in the wrong place will be led to the right one by a cross-reference.

**SUBJECT INDEXES.** These indexes have been limited to a few general categories for ease of reference but women may be entered in two or three categories if a single description is inadequate.

# A

**Abbott, Berenice** (1898–). American photographer. Born in Springfield, Ohio, at the age of 22 she left to study sculpture in New York, Berlin and Paris where she worked as assistant to the photographer Man Ray from 1923 to 1925. During her stay in Paris her subjects included Joyce, Gide, Cocteau and MARIE LAURENCIN. In 1929 she returned to the USA and began to photograph New York City, its architecture, its people and the disappearing life of the old townscape, which was scheduled for demolition; this resulted in the publication of *Changing New York* (1937). From 1934 to 1958 she taught in New York at the New School for Social Research. Her other great interest has been the use of photography in illustrating the laws of physics, and several of her books concentrate on this highly specialized technical concern.

A. Culfogienis, ed.: *Recollections: Ten Women of Photography*

**Abbott, Maude (Elizabeth Seymour)** (1869–1940). Canadian cardiologist and promoter of medical education for women in Canada. Maude Abbott failed to gain admission to the medical school of McGill University, Montreal, from which she had her first degree, and instead trained at Bishop's College. Her goal, eventually achieved, was to join the medical faculty at McGill.

After three years in Europe, in 1898 she was appointed Assistant Curator of the medical museum at McGill. Here she developed the *Osler Catalogue of the Circulatory System*. In 1900 she became Curator, and in 1907 organized and edited the *Bulletin of the International Association of Medical Museums*. In 1923 she took a two-year appointment as Visiting Professor of Pathology and Bacteriology at the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania, returning

as a Lecturer in Pathology to McGill. Among other works is her *Atlas of Congenital Cardiac Disease*. She received both an honorary MD and LLD from McGill.

H.E. Macdermot: *Maude Abbott* (1941)

**Abdel Rahman, Aisha** (c1920–). [pseud.: Bint-al-Shah]. Egyptian academic and writer. She was born at Damietta, an old port at the mouth of the Nile, from which she took her pen-name Bint-al-Shah (Daughter of the Beach). Educated at Cairo University, where she became an Assistant Lecturer in 1939, she then acted as Inspector of the teaching of Arabic language and literature for the Ministry of Education from 1942. From 1950 to 1957 she taught at Ain Shans University, where she was Assistant Professor (1957–62) and since then she has been Professor of Arabic literature at the University College for Women. She is best known for her literary criticism which includes *New Values in Arabic Literature* (1961) and *Contemporary Arab Women Poets* (1963), and she has also written novels and short stories, and six books on famous women of Islam. Fascinated by Mohammed, her research into the women who surrounded him resulted in *The Wives of the Prophet* (1959), *The Daughters of the Prophet* (1963) and *The Mother of the Prophet* (1966).

**Abiertas, Josepha** (1894–1929). Filippina lawyer and feminist. Born in Capiz, Josepha and her brother became orphans at a very early age. She went to school in Capiz after which she enrolled to study law in the Philippine Law School. The first woman to graduate from the Law School, she delivered a speech called 'The New Age for Women', and actively campaigned for the

vote. Josepha devoted her life to the welfare of her people, campaigning for better conditions for poor farmers, until she died of tuberculosis in 1929. After her death a welfare home, the Josepha Abiertas House of Friendship, was named after her.

**Abzug, Bella (Savitzky)** (1920–). American lawyer and politician. Born in New York, she is the daughter of Russian-Jewish émigré parents. She was educated at public schools in the Bronx, then Hunter College, New York, where she took her BA in 1942. As a student she protested against Fascism, and in support of the Republicans during the Spanish Civil War. In 1944 she married the businessman Martin Abzug (with whom she has two daughters), and a year later took her LLB at Columbia. She was admitted to the New York Bar in 1947 and practised in New York from 1944 to 1970. During the 1950s she defended civil rights cases in the South and writers accused of un-American activities. In the 1960s she was active in the peace, anti-nuclear and women's movements; founder and National Legislative Director of Women Strike for Peace (1961–70); and founder and former Chairman of the National Women's Political Caucus.

In 1971 Bella Abzug won a seat in the House of Representatives, and for six years campaigned tirelessly for welfare rights, full employment, job-producing public works programmes, consumer and environmental protection, and aid to Israel. She was also co-author of the *Freedom of Information and Privacy Acts*. Her flamboyant style won her the name 'Bellicose Bella', and in 1977 a hurricane was named after her. In 1976 she left Congress to run against Daniel Patrick Moynihan for a Senate seat, and after losing by a narrow margin, campaigned in 1977 for Mayor of New York. She is a member of many committees and pressure groups, including NOW, the American Civil Liberties Union and the Americans for Democratic Action. She is a commentator and writer on politics and women's issues, as well as a columnist for *Ms Magazine* (1979–).

B. Abzug: *Bella: Ms Abzug goes to Washington* (1972)

**Acarie, Barbe (Jeanne Avrillot)** [Marie de l'Incarnation] (1566–1618). French

Carmelite and mystic. The daughter of wealthy, bourgeois parents, Barbe was educated at the Convent of Longchamps, where she showed signs of exceptional piety. She married Peter Acarie, Vicomte du Villemare, in 1584 in obedience to her parents although she wanted to become a nun. Known as 'La Belle Acarie', Barbe was popular and respected both in Paris society and by the poor and sick for whom she cared. When her husband had his property confiscated and was exiled she dedicated herself to the education of their six children.

Barbe was greatly impressed by the work of TERESA OF AVILA and believed she had a vocation to introduce the reformed order of the Carmelites into France: this she succeeded in doing in 1603. She also assisted Madame de Sainte-Beuve in establishing the Ursulines. After the death of her husband in 1613 she was received into the Carmel at Amiens, taking the religious name of Marie de l'Incarnation. Later she was transferred to Pontoise and died there, having acquired a reputation for holiness. Marie de l'Incarnation was beatified in 1794.

Her influence on this period of French Catholicism was enormous because of her social position, her personality and spirituality and her connections with the elite of the French religious establishment.

L.C. Sheppard: *Barbe Acarie, Wife and Mystic* (1953)

**Acton, Elizabeth** (1799–1859). English cookery writer. Born near Hastings, she was the daughter of a brewer. After an inconclusive engagement to a French officer, she began writing poetry, some of which was published during the 1820s and 1830s. She lived in Tonbridge, where she kept house for her mother. In 1845 Longman's published her *Modern Cookery* which became an instant classic, going through five editions in two years, much plagiarized in standard Victorian cookery books and continuing in print until 1914. She published her last book, *The English Bread Book*, in 1857.

**Adams [née Smith], Abigail** (1744–1818). American political figure and letter writer. Born in Weymouth, Massachusetts, Abigail was one of three daughters of a Congregational minister William Smith and his wife Elizabeth, a member of the

influential Quincy family. A delicate child, she was educated largely by her grandmother at Mount Wollaston. In October 1764 she married John Adams, who sprang to the forefront of nationalist politics with his opposition to the Stamp Act the following year. They had five children and while John spent long periods in Philadelphia and then in Europe during the Revolution, Abigail ran the farm and brought up the family, describing their experience of siege, epidemic and daily life in vivid letters. An independent character, she supported the education of women and upheld the rights of wives in marriage.

After the Treaty of Paris in 1783 which ended the War of Independence, she joined her husband in Paris for eight months, and then in England where he was the American representative. Her letters from Europe are full of caustic comments on characters she encountered. After their return to the USA they shared many of the official duties after John was elected Vice-President in 1787 and then President in 1797. She was the First Lady in the White House after its completion in 1800, although the following year Adam was defeated and they retired to the family home at Quincy. A vehement Federalist, she was reputed to exercise considerable political influence over her husband, and over her son, John Quincy, who became a senator in 1803, and was eventually made President in 1824, six years after her death. The final years of her life were spent running the farm and acting as an informal political consultant. Her famous letters continued until her death from typhoid at the age of 74. Many were collected by her grandson Charles, and published in two volumes, *Letters of Mrs Adams and Familiar Letters of John Adams and his Wife during the Revolution*.

J. Whitney: *Abigail Adams* (1949)

**Adamson** [née Gessner], Joy (1910–80). Austrian conservationist and writer. Born into a wealthy family in Troppau [now Opava], Silesia, and brought up in Vienna, she studied the piano. Unable to make a career as a concert pianist, she turned to crafts such as dressmaking, bookbinding and drawing; she was also interested in archaeology. She eventually decided to study medicine, but did not sit her

examination to qualify for university entrance and in 1935 married Victor von Klarwill. In 1937 she met Peter Bally, a botanist, while travelling to Kenya. After her husband joined her there, they were divorced and she subsequently married Bally in 1938. She accompanied him on his field trips and painted over 700 studies of flowers, trees and shrubs. Their marriage also ended in divorce and she then married George Adamson, the British game warden in the North Frontier District.

Joy began painting illustrations of animals and people as well as plants, and was commissioned by the colonial government of Kenya to paint portraits of members of 22 tribes whose culture was vanishing. Her 600 paintings now belong to the National Museum of Kenya. In 1956 she began her association with Elsa, a tame lion-cub whom she was determined to teach to return to the wild. Her book on the experiment, *Born Free* (1960), was a worldwide success; it was followed by *Living Free* (1961) and *Forever Free* (1962). In 1964 she also retrained Pippa, a cheetah described in *The Spotted Sphinx* (1969), and worked with other animals. From the 1960s she was a leading conservationist, beginning with her launching of the World Wildlife Fund in the USA in 1962. In 1980 she was found dead in northern Kenya, supposedly mauled by a lion, but later a man was charged with her murder.

J. Adamson: *Autobiography* (1978)

**Addams, Jane** (1860–1935). American settlement founder and social reformer. She was born in Cedarville, Illinois, and brought up by her widowed father, a banker, state senator, abolitionist and friend of Abraham Lincoln. She was educated at Rockford Female Seminary until 1877, and after her father's death in 1881 she attended the Women's Medical College, Philadelphia, but withdrew due to severe spinal illness which reached a crisis in 1882. In 1883, while touring Europe with her stepmother, she described her reactions to urban poverty and on returning to the USA was baptized into the Presbyterian church, for which she undertook charity work. Unhappy and frustrated she paid a second visit to Europe in 1887. She then decided to found a settlement, taking Toynbee Hall, London,



as an example, and in 1889 with Ellen Starr she bought Hull House in Chicago's immigrant 19th ward. Her aim to create a human community to offer protection against the anonymous city gradually changed into more active policies to overcome class barriers and campaign for social justice and equal rights. Hull House was instantly successful and by 1893 was running 40 local clubs, including a nursery, a dispensary, and a boarding house. The helpers included women like FLORENCE KELLEY, Grace Abbott, and ALICE HAMILTON.

In 1895 the *Hull House Maps and Papers* were published (a detailed study of local conditions), and the settlement exerted an influence both locally and nationally on protective legislation, union recognition, and treatment of juvenile crime in cities. During this period she wrote *Democracy and Social Ethics* (1902) and *The Spirit of Youth and the City Streets* (1909). In 1909 Addams became first woman President of the National Conference of Charities and Corrections, in 1911 first head of the National Federation of Settlements, and in 1912 she campaigned in support of Roosevelt. At the same time she was active in the suffrage movement, being Vice-President of the National American Women Suffrage Alliance (1911–14), and in the peace movement. During World War I she aroused hostility by speaking against American involvement. In 1915 she was Chairman of the Women's Peace Party and President of the first Women's Peace Congress at The Hague, and in 1919 presided over the second Women's Peace Congress in Zurich, and raised funds for war victims. In 1920 she became a founder member of the American Civil Liberties Union. She continued to campaign on behalf of negroes, immigrants and disadvantaged groups and, although in the 1920s called 'the most dangerous woman in America today' by the Daughters of the American Revolution, she gradually won acclaim, sharing the Nobel Peace Prize in 1931.

J. Addams: *Twenty Years at Hull House* (1910)

A.F. Davis: *American Heroine, the Life and Legend of Jane Addams* (1970)

**Adelaide** (931–99). Italian queen and empress. The daughter of Rudolf II of

Burgundy, after her father's death she was betrothed to Lothair, the son of her stepfather, Hugh of Arles, King of Italy. Three years after their marriage in 947 Lothair died and in the ensuing turmoil over the Italian succession in 951 Adelaide was imprisoned at Garda, then rescued by and married to Otto I of Germany. In 962 she was crowned Empress with him in Rome, and after his death in 973 her power was maintained. She remained influential for 20 years during the reigns of her son Otto II and grandson Otto III, sharing and eventually competing for power with her daughter-in-law Theophano until the latter's death in 991. She also helped her nephew Randolph III pacify the nobles during the rebellion of 999, just before her death. Towards the end of her life she turned from politics to devote herself to the monastery she had founded at Selz in Alsace. Her influence on monastic development, especially in supporting the spread of the Cluniac rite, was considerable. After her death the abbey became a place of pilgrimage and she was canonized in 1097.

M. Hopkirk: *Queen Adelaide* (1946)

**Adilburga.** See BERTHA.

**Adivar, Halide (Edib)** (1883–1964). Turkish nationalist. She was born in Istanbul into a traditional family. In 1901, after graduating from the American College for Girls at Üsküdar (Scutari), the first Muslim Turkish graduate, she worked in lycées as an inspector and teacher, and married the scholar Salih Zeki Bey. Involved in the formative years of the nationalist struggle, she wrote for the liberal paper *Tanine*. Her articles on women's emancipation, especially those advocating education, were met with bitter opposition by the Conservatives so that when the Unionists were overthrown in 1909 Halide had to flee for her life. In 1910 she divorced her husband. At this stage she also began to write novels and autobiographies. She returned to Turkey and began a busy career lecturing and campaigning for the education of women. In 1912 she was the only woman to be elected to the Ojak, the Turkish nationalist club, with country wide organizations. In the same year she won fame with *Handan*, the love story of a young woman dominated by a socialist intellectual,