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The Palgrave Macmillan

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DICTIONARY OF  
WOMEN'S BIOGRAPHY

FOURTH EDITION



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*Editor of Third and Fourth Editions*

MAGGY HENDRY

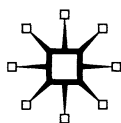
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palgrave  
macmillan



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## Contents

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FOREWORD TO FIRST EDITION .....	vii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS TO FIRST EDITION .....	ix
A NOTE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS TO THIRD EDITION .....	ix
A NOTE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS TO FOURTH EDITION .....	x
ADDITIONAL REFERENCE SOURCES .....	xi
A NOTE ON PRESENTATION .....	xix
<b>THE DICTIONARY</b> .....	<b>i</b>
SUBJECT INDEX .....	644



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## Foreword to First Edition

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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 criterion 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 whose 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 – by 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 are 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 Hesiod 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 in 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 chaste 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 Woman* (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 emphasizes public virtue, is exemplified by two magnificent works, *Lexikon der Frau* (1953), which drew on the solidarity of the old suffrage movement, the average age of contributors being around 80, and *Notable American Women* (vols i-iii, 1971; vol iv, 1981). Radical feminism, which emphasizes 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 a 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

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## Acknowledgements to First Edition

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The advice, assistance and criticism I have received from many people have 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.

I would like to thank several other people who provided material on women in whom they were especially interested, notably: Maria Moore, Greek women; Derek Meteyard, actresses; Priscilla Sheringham, French authors; Melly Lewin, 20th-century British writers; Ann and Mike Caesar, Italian socialists; Sharmila Mukerjee, third world nationalists; Penny Brooke, contemporary Chinese leaders.

In addition, Frances and I would like to express our gratitude to everyone who responded so generously to our appeals for advice, including Hermione Lee, Hilkka Helevno, Roisin Batten, Autumn Stanley, Janet Sayers, Anne Seller, Thea Sinclair, Gaie Davidson, Jean Stockdale, Nanneke Redclift, Mary Woodman, Mike Driver and Alan Beck, and especially to David Doughan of the Fawcett Library.

There were, of course, a number of people involved in the thankless task of turning yards of scribbled manuscript into a book and I should like to thank them all, particularly Vivien Lucey, my typist, but also my Editor, Māra Vilčinskā, the copy editors, Audrey Twine and Alison Mansbridge, and Juliet Brightmore.

Finally, there are two people whose unfailing practical and moral support carried me through times when the whole project seemed impossible: at Macmillan the hard-working and unshakeable Penelope Allport, and above all, always, Steve.

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## A Note and Acknowledgements to Third Edition

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This Dictionary is a broad survey, a pointer to a host of lives, at once representative and idiosyncratic. Every time I return to it I am amazed and moved by the variety of women's lives and achievements, in different times and

different places. When I prepared the second edition in 1988 I felt that the subject could be infinite, and the problem of choice almost insurmountable. This time I have had the great good luck to be helped by Maggy Hendry, who

shared all the list making and agonizing over exclusions and admissions, updated the existing entries and wrote many new ones. I am extremely grateful for her patience, expertise and great good humour. We would both also like to thank Maureen Ritchie, who updated the bibliography again, as she did for the second edition. Only Maureen's wizardry could keep us up to date with the increasing spread of reference works, biographical sources and electronic media.

Finally, I would like to thank the many people who have responded to the Dictionary since it first appeared, making it seem a collective rather than an individual project. Once again, I hope that readers will forgive its inevitable oddities and lapses and will find it as stimulating and enjoyable to use, as I have found to write.

*J.U.*

*December 1997*

## — A Note and Acknowledgements to Fourth Edition —

I was surprised but pleased to be asked to work on another new edition of this popular dictionary. Surprised because there is now so much biographical information available on the Internet, but pleased that a good solid reference book still appeals in spite of this. I was also pleased because I enjoy the process of making lists – ultimately an outrageously subjective and idiosyncratic process – and having the opportunity to get together with Jenny to discuss them and shape them to fit in with the constraints of

space and time. We would like to thank Luciana O'Flaherty at Palgrave Macmillan for collecting suggestions on both new and previously omitted women, and Christine Ranft for her tireless editing. I would also like to thank the many friends who have made contributions, and my dear husband, Michael Rundell, whose acerbic comments and suggestions I have completely ignored.

*M.H.*

*August 2004*

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## Additional reference sources

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### A GENERAL WORKS

- 1 ENCYCLOPEDIAS
- 2 GENERAL BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARIES
- 3 NATIONAL BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARIES
- 4 INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL LISTS OF CONTEMPORARY BIOGRAPHY
- 5 ENCYCLOPEDIAS AND BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARIES BY SUBJECT
- 6 BIBLIOGRAPHIES AND INDEXES

### B BIOGRAPHICAL MATERIAL ON WOMEN

- 1 BIBLIOGRAPHIES AND INDEXES
- 2 INTERNATIONAL BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARIES
- 3 NATIONAL BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARIES
- 4 BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARIES AND COLLECTIVE BIOGRAPHIES BY SUBJECT
- 5 BIOGRAPHY ON THE INTERNET

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. Section A notes general works which contain data on both sexes. Section B lists works which focus on women.

### 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. Many of these are now available on CD-Rom including *Hutchinson*, *Grolier*, *Encarta* and the *Encyclopedia Britannica*. Most of them also have regular on-line updates.

#### 2 General biographical dictionaries

The well-known single-volume works, such as *Chambers Biographical Dictionary* (London, 1974, 1997, 2002) or *Webster's Biographical Dictionary* (Springfield, Mass., 1972, 1996), are of limited use since their entries are brief, the people very well-known, and the proportion of women extremely low. Worth a look is the *Hutchinson Encyclopedia of Biography* (Oxford, 1996). The

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

#### 3 National biographical dictionaries

Such works as the *Dictionary of National Biography* (London, 1885–1901; suppl., 1901–60, and the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* 2004), or the *Dictionary of American Biography* (New York, 1928–37; suppl., 1944–77, updated 2001), 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.

*Encyclopedia of American Biography* (Harper, 2/1996)

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

*Canadian Who's Who. Index, 1898–1984: Incorporating Men and Women of the Time* (Toronto, 1986)

*Dictionary of Canadian Biography* (Toronto, 1996–)  
*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–)  
*Biographical Dictionary of the Soviet Union 1917–1987* (London, Munich, New York, Oxford and Paris, 1988)

Several countries also have concise one-volume works.

#### 4 International and national lists of contemporary biography

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 Encyclopedias 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), of which

there is now a women's version, see section B.4(d), and the *Dictionary of Scientific Biography* (New York, 1970–85). 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, 4/1995 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, 12/1998) or *American Men and Women of Science* (New York, 1995).

#### 6 Indexes

*The Biography and Genealogy Index (BGMI)* is available online from the British Library, and contains over 13.3 million references to biographical sketches in over 3,400 English language biographical dictionaries and subject encyclopedias.

A variety of comprehensive bibliographies and indexes have been published, such as:

- Analytical Bibliography of Universal Collected Biography* (Detroit, 1980) [indexes 3000 works of collected biography]  
*Anglo-American Historical Names Database* (Cambridge, UK, and Alexandria, VA, 1986–)  
*Bio-base* (Detroit, 2000). Index to biographical entries appearing in biographical dictionaries in 500 microfiches.  
*Biographical Books 1876–1949* (New York and London, 1983)  
*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, 2/1986)  
*Biographical Services: a guide to dictionaries and reference works* (Phoenix, AZ, 1986)  
*Biography and Genealogy Master Index* (Detroit, 2/1980)  
*Current Biography Cumulated Index 1940–1990* (New York, 1993)  
*German Biographical Archive* (London, New York, Munich, Oxford and Paris, 1982–5). A huge collection of biographical works on microfiche. Similar archives for France and Italy are currently being issued.

## B. BIOGRAPHICAL MATERIAL ON WOMEN

### 1. Bibliographies and indexes

#### (a) General bibliographies

S. Carter and M. Ritchie: *Women's Studies, a guide to information sources* (London and Jefferson, NC, 1990)

*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.

S. Searing: *Introduction to Library Research in Women's Studies* (Boulder and London, 1985)  
*Studies on Women Abstracts* (Abingdon, UK, 1983-)

*Women's Studies Abstracts* (Rush, NY, 1972-). Issued quarterly, it covers reviews of new books and a wide range of periodical literature.

#### (b) Specific bibliographies

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

S.F. Bailey: *Women and the British Empire: an annotated guide to sources* (New York and London, 1983)

P.K. Ballou: *Women: a bibliography of bibliographies*, 2nd ed. (Boston, 1986)

D. Bass and S.H. Boyd: *Women in American Religious History: an annotated bibliography and guide to sources* (Boston, 1986)

C.G. Bindocci: *Women and Technology: an annotated bibliography* (New York, 1996)

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

B. Coven: *American Women Dramatists of the Twentieth Century: A Bibliography* (Metuchen, NJ, 1983)

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

L. Frey, M. Frey and J. Schneider: *Women in Western European History: a select chronological, geographical and topical bibliography*, 3 vols (Westport, CT, and Hassocks, UK, 1982, 1984, 1987)

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

R. Green: *Native American Women: a contextual bibliography* (Bloomington, Ind., 1983)

L.S. Grinstein and P. J. Campbell: *Women of Mathematics: A Bibliographic Sourcebook* (London, 1987)

J. Hannam *et al.*: *British Women's History: A Bibliographical Guide* (Manchester, 1996)

C. Harrison *et al.*: *Women in American History: A Bibliography*, 2 vols (Santa Barbara, 1980, 1986)

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

Hesung Chun Koh: *Korean and Japanese Women: an analytic bibliographical guide* (Westport, CT, 1982)

D. Hixon and D. Hennessee: *Women in Music*: (Metuchen, NJ, 1994)

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)

C. LeRoy Jordan: *A Bibliographical Guide to African-American Women Writers* (Westport, CT, 1993)

L. Paravasini-Gebert and O. Torres-Seda: *Caribbean Women Novelists: an annotated critical bibliography* (Westport, CT, 1993)

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

M. Shoebridge: *Women in Sport: A Select Bibliography* (London 1987)

P.E. Sweeney: *Biographies of British Women: An Annotated Bibliography* (London, 1993)

E. Tufts: *American Women Artists past and present: a selected bibliographic guide* (New York 1984)

K. Wei: *Women In China: a selected and annotated bibliography* (Westport, CT, 1984)

M.C. Weitz: *Femmes: recent writings on French Women* (Boston, 1985)

#### (c) Indexes

P.K. Addis: *Through a Woman's I; an annotated bibliography of American Women's Autobiographical Writings 1946-1976* (Metuchen, NJ, 1983)

A. Echols and M. Williams: *Annotated Index of Medieval Women* (Oxford, 1992)

K. Herman: *Women in Particular: an index to American women* (Phoenix, AZ, 1984)

N.O. Ireland: *Index to women of the world from ancient to modern times: biographies and portraits*, (Westwood, Mass., 1970). Supplement (Metuchen, NJ, 1989). This surveys about 900 biographical collections and lists nearly 13,000 women, giving names, dates of birth, category (e.g. 'artists'), nationality and key to source. It is particularly useful for American history.

B. Manning: *Index to American Women Speakers, 1828–1978* (Metuchen, NJ, 1980)

D. Robinson: *Women novelists 1891–1920: an index to bibliographies and autobiographical sources* (New York, 1984)

A. Ungherini: *Manuel de Biographie Bibliographique et de l'Iconographie des Femmes Célèbres* (1892–1905/R1968)

#### (d) Catalogues and source lists

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* (1978–86)

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

*The Gerritsen Collection of Women's History, 1543–1945* (Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1983). A 3 vol guide to material now mainly in the libraries of the University of Kansas, and of N. Carolina (Greensboro), but originally started in Amsterdam in the late 19th century. Contains much European material as well as American.

A. Hinding and 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. Many libraries produce lists of their women-related holdings and government department libraries can be contacted for latest compila-

tions. The Fawcett Library in London is the oldest and most comprehensive research library on all aspects of women and society. Its website is at <http://www.lgu.ac.uk/phil/fawcett.htu>

## 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 Femininum. 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) Later works

*Biographical Encyclopedia of Women* (Chicago, 1975)  
*Chambers Biographical Dictionary of Women* (Edinburgh, 1996)

J.C. Chiappe: *Le Monde au Féminin* (Paris, 1976)  
*Contemporary Women* (Detroit, 1975)

*Europa International Who's Who of Women 1997* (London, 2002)

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

- Foremost Women of the Twentieth Century* (Cambridge, 1987)
- B.E. Golemba: *Lesser-known Women: A Biographical Dictionary* (Boulder, CO, 1992)
- R. Guimaraes: *Mulheres Celebres* (Sao Paulo, 1960)
- International Who's Who of Professional and Business Women* (Cambridge, 1989)
- E. Kay: *Two Thousand Women of Achievement* (Totowa, NJ, 1972)
- Lexikon der Frau* (Zürich, 1953–4)
- R. Roded: *Women in Islamic Biographical Collections: From Ibn Sa'd to Who's Who* (Boulder, CO, 1993)
- P. Rose: *Penguin Book of Women's Lives* (London, 1995)
- A. Weir and S. Raven: *Women in History* (London, 1981)
- M. Weiser and J. Arbeiter: *Womanlist* (New York, 1981)
- The World Who's Who of Women* (Totowa, NJ, 1973, 6/1982)
- World Who's Who of Women* (Cambridge, 1994, 1995)

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, 1978, London, 1996)
- J. and 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)

And lastly a dictionary of quotations:

- E. Partnow: *The Quotable Woman: vol 1, From Eve to 1799: vol 2, 1800–1981* (New York, 1982, 1985)

### 3. National Biographical Dictionaries

- American Women: the Official Who's Who* (Los Angeles, 1935–9)
- O. Banks: *The Biographical Dictionary of British Feminists*, vol 1, 1800–1930 (London, New

- York, 1985). Vol 2, 1930–present (London, New York, 1990)
- J. Carnie: *Notable Black American Women* (Detroit, 1990)
- Directory of African Women* (New York, 1963)
- The Europa Biographical Dictionary of British Women: over 1000 notable women from Britain's past* (London, 1985)
- G. Fenwick: *Women and the 'Dictionary of National Biography': A Bibliography of DNB Volumes 1885–1985 and 'Missing Persons'* (Aldershot, 1994)
- J. Kemble (ed.): *American Women in the Twentieth Century* (Eccles Centre for American Studies, 2003)
- E.T. and J.W. James: *Notable American Women, 1607–1950: A Biographical Dictionary* (Cambridge, Mass., 1972)
- The Lady's Who's Who* (London, 1938–9)
- R. McHenry: *Famous American Women: A Biographical Dictionary from Colonial Times to the Present* (Mineola, NY, 1987)
- K.O'Ceirin and C.O. Ceirin: *Women of Ireland: A Biographic Dictionary* (Tir Eolas, 1996)
- D.S. Salem: *African American Women: a biographical dictionary* (New York, 1994)
- 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, 1993).
- L. Yanguang and K. Foster, tr.: *100 Celebrated Chinese Women* (Asiapac, Singapore, 1994)
- The Suffrage Annual and Women's Who's Who* (London, 1913)
- Who's Who of American Women* (Chicago, annually from 1960)
- Women'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)
- Women's Who's Who* (Croydon, 1975–7)
- Who's Who of Indian Women* (Madras, 1977)
- L. Xiao Hong Lee: *Biographical Dictionary of Chinese Women 1912–2000* (USA, 2003)

### 4. Biographical dictionaries and collected biographies by subject

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.

(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.
- L. Baldwin: *Women of Strength: Biographies of 106 Who Have Excelled in Traditionally Male Fields, 61 AD to the Present* (Jefferson, NC, 1997)
- 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, NY, 1932, 1969)
- A. Ewart: *The World's Most Wicked Women* (London, 1964)
- H.K. Hosier: *Silhouettes: Women behind Great Men* (Waco, 1972)
- C.E. Maine: *World-famous Mistresses* (Feltham, 1970)
- D.S. Rosenfelt: *Strong Women* (Old Westbury, NY, 1978)
- P.W. Sergeant: *Dominant Women* (London, 1929/R1964)
- M. Unterbrink: *Funny Women: American Comedienne, 1860–1985* (Jefferson, NC, 1988)
- 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. Adams, *Notable Latin American Women: 30 artists, scholars, leaders, religious figures and educators, 1500–1900* (Jefferson, NC, 1995)
- J.M. Bannerman: *Leading Ladies, Canada 1639–1967* (Dundas, 1967)
- G.M. Bataille: *Native American Women: a biographical dictionary* (New York, 1996)
- E.O. Blackburne: *Illustrious Irishwomen from the earliest ages to the present* (London, 1877)
- C.E. Claghorn, *Women Patriots of the American Revolution: a biographical dictionary* (Metuchen, NJ, 1992)
- 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, 1969)
- M.E. Gridley: *American Indian Women* (New York, 1974)
- H.A. Guy: *Women in the Caribbean* (Port of Spain, 1966)
- N. Haniff, *Blaze a Fire: profiles of contemporary Caribbean women* (Sister Vision Press, 1989)
- M.S. Hartman: *Victorian murderesses* (New York, 1977)
- C. Hernandez: *Mujeres celebres de Mexico* (San Antonio, 1919)
- 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)
- D. Jafe: *Ingenious Women, from Tincture of Saffron to Flying Machines* (Strand, 2003)
- F. Mernissi: *The Forgotten Queens of Islam* (Oxford, 1993)



- 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)
- T.P. Saxena: *Women in Indian history: a biographical dictionary* (New Delhi, 1979)
- H.B. Stowe et al: *Our Famous Women* (Hartford, 1888)
- D. Sweetman: *Women Leaders in African History* (Oxford, 1984)
- C.D. Votow: *Puerto Rican Women: some biographical profiles* (Washington, 1978)
- P.B. Watson: *Some Women of France* (Freeport, NY, 1936)
- (c) *Public life, politics, religion, education, the professions etc.*
- V. Bullough, O. Church and A. Stein: *American Nursing: a biographical dictionary* (New York, 1988)
- M.J. Deegan: *Women in Sociology: A Bio-bibliographical Sourcebook* (London, 1991)
- G. Evans: *Women in Federal Politics: a bio-bibliography* (Ottawa, 1975)
- K. Foerstel: *Biographical Dictionary of Congressional Women* (Westport, CT; London, 1999)
- U. Gacs et al.: *Women Anthropologists: A Biographical Dictionary* (London, 1988)
- M.L. Goldsmith: *Seven Women Against the World* (London, 1935). Revolutionaries.
- F.C. Griffin: *Women as Revolutionary* (New York, 1973). Social reformers.
- G.J. Hardy: *American Women Civil Rights Activists: Biobibliographies of 68 Leaders, 1825-1992* (Jefferson, NC, 1993)
- M. Hasan: *Daughters of Islam: short biographical sketches of 82 famous Muslim Women* (Lahore, 1976)
- M. Kaufman: *Dictionary of American Nursing Biography* (Westport, CT, 1988)
- J.A. Leavitt: *American Women Managers and Administrators: A Selective Biographical Dictionary of Twentieth-century Leaders in Business, Education and Government* (London, 1985)
- B.J. Love: *Foremost Women in Communications: a biographical reference work* (New York, 1970)
- S. Oldfield: *Women Humanitarians: a biographical dictionary of British women active between 1900 and 1950* (London, 2001)
- S. Scanlon and J. Cosner: *American Women Historians, 1700s-1900s: A Biographical Dictionary* (London and Westport, CT, 1996)
- M.S. Seller: *Women Educators in the United States, 1820-1993: A Bio-bibliographical Sourcebook* (London, 1994)
- E. Stineman: *American Political Women: contemporary and historical profiles* (Littleton, Col., 1980)
- 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: arts, music, literature, media etc.*
- J.R. Brink: *Female Scholars: a tradition of learned women before 1800* (Montreal, 1980)
- C.E. Claghorn: *Women Composers and Songwriters: a concise biographical dictionary* (Metuchen, NJ, 1996)
- A. Cohen: *International Encyclopedia of Women Composers* (New York, 1981)
- E. Frederiksen: *Women Writers of Germany, Austria and Switzerland: An Annotated Bio-bibliographical Guide* (London, 1989)
- S. Fuller: *Companion to Women Composers: Britain and the United States 1630 to the Present* (London, 1994)
- C. Galerstein: *Women Writers of Spain: an annotated bio-bibliographical guide* (Westport, CT, and London, 1986)
- V.L. Grattan: *American Women Songwriters: A Biographical Dictionary* (London, 1993)
- A.D. Handy: *Black Women in American Bands and Orchestras* (Metuchen, NJ, 1981)
- W. and C. Jerrold: *Five Queer Women* (Norwood, PA, 1929/R1976). 17th/18th-century writers.
- E. Kersey: *Women Philosophers: A Bio-critical Sourcebook* (London, 1989)
- D.P. Jezic and E. Wood: *Women Composers: The Lost Tradition Found* (New York, 1994)

- M. McCreadie: *Women Who Write the Movies: From Frances Marion to Nora Ephron* (Birch Lane P, US, 1996)
- D.E. Marting: *Women Writers of Spanish America: An Annotated Bio-bibliographical Guide* (London, 1987)
- P. Migel: *The Ballerinas: From the Court of Louis XIV to Pavlova* (London, 1972)
- New Grove Dictionary of Women Composers*. Grove Composer S. (J.A. Sadie and R. Samuel) (London, 1994)
- J.W. Le Page: *Women composers, conductors and musicians of the 20th century: selected biographies*, 2 vols. (Metuchen, NJ, 1980, 1983)
- L. O'Brien: *She Bop: Definitive History of Women in Rock, Pop and Soul* (London, 1995)
- A.I. Prather-Moses: *The International Dictionary of Women Workers in the Decorative Arts, from the distant past to the early 20th century* (Metuchen, NJ, 1981)
- J.T. Peterson and S. Bennett: *Women Playwrights of Diversity: A Bio-bibliographical Sourcebook* (London, 1997)
- K. Petersen and J.J. Wilson: *Women Artists: Recognition and Reappraisal from the early Middle Ages to the Twentieth Century* (New York, 1976)
- A. Robinson: *Notable Women in the American theatre: a biographical dictionary* (Westport, CT, 1996)
- L.E. Roses and R.E. Randolph: *Harlem Renaissance and Beyond: Literary Biographies of 100 Black Women Writers, 1900-45* (G.K. Hall, 1990)
- R. Russell: *Italian Women Writers: A Bibliographical Sourcebook* (London, 1995)
- N. Signorielli: *Women in Communication: A Biographical Sourcebook* (London, 1996)
- J. Tick: *American Women Composers Before 1870* (Rochester, 1995)
- J. Todd: *A Dictionary of British and American women writers 1660-1800* (London, 1984, Totowa, NJ, 1985)
- J. Todd: *British Women Writers: a critical reference guide* (New York, 1988)
- E. Tufts: *Our Hidden Heritage: five centuries of women artists* (New York and London, 1963)
- A.L. Uterburger: *Women Filmmakers and their Films* (Detroit; London, 1999)
- A. Wallace: *Before the Bluestockings* (London, 1929)
- V. Watson-Jones: *Contemporary American Women Sculptors* (Phoenix, AZ, 1986)
- E.R. Wheeler: *Famous Bluestockings* (New York, 1910)
- (e) *Science and medicine*
- S. Ardis: *Inventive Women: American Female Patent Holders* (Libraries Unlimited, US, 1994)
- L. Haber: *Women Pioneers of Science* (New York, 1980)
- C. Hacker: *The Indomitable Lady Doctors* (Toronto, 1974)
- C.L. Herzenberg: *Women Scientists from antiquity to the present* (West Cornwall, CT, 1986)
- E.P. Lovejoy: *Women Doctors of the World* (New York, 1954)
- S.B. MacGrayne: *Nobel Prize Women in Science: Their Lives, Struggles and Momentous Discoveries* (Birch Lane P, US, 1995)
- H.J. Mozans: *Women in Science* (New York, 1913)
- A.N. O'Connell and N.F. Russo: *Women in Psychology: A Bio-bibliographic Sourcebook* (London, 1990)
- M. Ogilvie: *Women in Science: antiquity through the nineteenth century: a biographical dictionary with annotated bibliography* (Cambridge, Mass., 1990)
- L.M. Osen: *Women in Mathematics* (Boston, 1974)
- T. Perl: *Maths Equals: biographies of women mathematicians and related activities* (Menlo Park, CA, 1978)
- P. Proffitt: *Notable Women Scientists* (Detroit; London, 1999)
- B. and B. Shearer: *Notable Women in the Life Sciences: A Biographical Dictionary* (London, 1996)
- B. and B. Shearer, *Notable Women in the Physical Sciences: a biographical dictionary* (Westport, CT, 1997)
- P.J. Siegel: *Women in the Scientific Search: an American Bibliography 1724-1979* (Metuchen, NJ, 1985)
- O.R. Sullivan: *African American Women Scientists and Inventors* (New York, 2002)
- L. Yount: *Contemporary Women Scientists* (Facts on File, US, 1995)
- L. Yount: *Twentieth Century Women Scientists* (Facts on File, US, 1996)

- (f) *Sport, physical exploits, military adventures, travel, etc.*
- J. Atkins: *Wings and Rockets: the story of women in air and space* (New York, 2003)
- E. de Beaumont: *Women and Cruelty* (London, 1905). Duellists and soldiers.
- R.J. Condon: *Great Women Athletes of the 20th Century* (Jefferson, NC, 1992)
- J. Graham: *Women in Chess: players of the modern age* (Jefferson, NC, 1987)
- F.G. Gribble: *Women in War* (New York, 1917)
- 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)
- W.C. Madden: *Women of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League: a biographical dictionary* (Jefferson, NC, 1997)
- M.H. Mahoney: *Women in Espionage: A Biographical Dictionary* (Santa Barbara, CA, 1996)
- R. Markel: *For the Record: Women in Sports* (New York, 1985)
- E. Nickerson: *Golf: a Women's history* (Jefferson, NC, 1987)

- R. Pennington: *Amazons to Fighter Pilots, a Biographical Dictionary of Military Women* (Westport, CT; London, 2003)
- M. Tinling: *Women into the Unknown: Sourcebook on Women Explorers and Travellers* (London; Westport, CT, 1989)
- N. Veglahn: *Women Pioneers* (Facts on File, US, 1995)
- L. Yount: *Women Aviators* (Facts on File, US, 1995)

## 5. Biography on the Internet

Most readers will know how to access the information they need on the Internet so I will provide only one extraordinary bibliographical website containing links to a vast number of women's biographical sites. The site <http://home.earthlink.net/~sharynh/womensbiography.htm> was created in 2000 by Sharon Hushka, an American artist, and mother of two daughters, with a lifelong interest in women's rights. It is an invaluable resource for anyone with an interest in women's lives. The following is a small selection of other websites:

[www.allwomencount.net](http://www.allwomencount.net)  
[www.distinguishedwomen.com](http://www.distinguishedwomen.com)  
[www.oneworld.org/vso/pubs](http://www.oneworld.org/vso/pubs)  
[www.womeninSET.com](http://www.womeninSET.com)

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## A Note on Presentation

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**ENTRIES.** In order to cover women's activities in a wide sphere in a single volume, entries are concise. They begin with a résumé 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. Where an older source is cited this is because it remains the best, or the only complete book on the subject.

**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.