Women Travelers: An Exhibition

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Georgetown University Library
Special Collections Research Center
Washington, D.C.
Women Travelers

Is it lack of imagination that makes us come
to imagined places, not just stay at home?
Or could Pascal have been not entirely right
About just sitting quietly in one’s room?
   Continent, city, country, society:
the choice is never wide and never free.
And here, or there...No. Should we have stayed at home,
   Wherever that may be?
from Questions of Travel by Elizabeth Bishop

This exhibition showcases the collections of a handful of remarkable women who traveled the world for a multitude of reasons - both personal and professional - and their often groundbreaking accomplishments. Journals, letters, photographs, published works and printed ephemera highlight the women’s careers - many of which focused on humanitarian issues – and the internationally renowned individuals they encountered in the course of their travels.

Women have traveled the world for centuries with their families, husbands, and teachers; however it has only been within the last two hundred years or so that they began increasingly to travel alone. Motivated by the desire to escape family or social obligations; curiosity and hunger for adventure; or need to contribute to improving the human condition, especially for underprivileged women and children, women traversed the globe in various roles including artist, diplomat, explorer, humanitarian, scientist and writer.

During the nineteenth century the growth of British and European imperialism, as well as the advent of rail and steamship transportation paved the way for expanded and safer travel. A primarily Western middle-class phenomenon, travel was facilitated often by familial contacts with commercial or government officials at home and abroad. Travel was also considered an integral part of the education of middle-class youth of both genders. The Grand Tour of Europe, begun in the mid-seventeenth century exclusively for society’s wealthiest, became de rigeur for the well-educated middle-class individual of the 1800s. It was defined by an itinerary encompassing works from classical antiquity and the Renaissance, including art, architecture and music.

Literacy had become widespread in northern Europe by the nineteenth century. Moreover, there were more educated middle-class women who often learned second and third languages. Unlike their upper-class sisters born with a generous inheritance and eligible to marry into additional wealth, middle-class women were more likely to consider a career and remain unmarried in
order to retain control of their finances. Travel and work abroad presented an alternative to the stigma of becoming a pitiable spinster at home.

Until well into the middle of the twentieth century, religion was the only acceptable purpose for women to travel unaccompanied, often as pilgrims or missionaries. As demonstrated by Margery Kempe in the fifteenth century whose autobiographical Book of Margery Kempe chronicles her pilgrimages to holy sites in Europe and Asia, many women bravely followed their religious vocations to the far reaches of the globe. Mother Teresa must certainly be included as one of these, along with others whose collections are introduced in this exhibition.

Humanitarian work also afforded women the opportunity to travel and reside abroad, as well as to contribute to the welfare of Third World countries unpopular with leisure-seeking tourists. These women often founded charitable organizations to perpetuate their good work.

Comprising a different category altogether, are the women explorers and pioneers who broke not only social barriers as solitary traveling women, but crossed cultural and geographical frontiers. Freya Stark trekked some of the wildest territory in Iran which no Westerner had ever accomplished. Gertrude Bell brokered an arrangement with the British government that ended British protectionism in Iraq and established King Faisal as the country’s first head of state.

To be the wife or daughter of a diplomat ensured secure travel for women. During the twentieth century, however, women had become diplomats themselves acting in official capacity for their governments. In addition to the material included in this exhibition, there are transcriptions of interviews of many women appointed to the U.S. Foreign Service as ambassadors and diplomats, available at the website Frontline Diplomacy created as part of the Foreign Affairs Oral History Collection by the Association for Diplomatic Studies

http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/diplomacy/

Journalism, writing and other sorts of literary undertakings represent a more traditional motivation for women’s travel. The exhibition showcases several exemplary women journalists and writers who found their inspiration far from home. Many of them were privileged to interview, and often befriend, internationally significant figures including Chiang Kai Shek; Martin Luther King, Jr.; Pope John Paul II; George S. Patton; and Eleanor Roosevelt. Sylvia Beach demonstrated a tenacious entrepreneurial ability by opening and maintaining the famous bookshop Shakespeare and Company in Paris, in 1919. This became a magnet for literary luminaries such as Simone de Beauvoir, T.S. Eliot, Ezra Pound, and Gertrude Stein, among others.

Artists and performers were permitted generally unchallenged means of travel under educational and cultural auspices. This is one of the reasons that Mata Hari could move freely around Europe during World War I; although in doing so she also attracted the attention of spy hunters and unwittingly laid the path to her tragic end.
Women travelers as a phenomenon and genre invite more in-depth study. Some specific areas not covered by the exhibition include the scientific explorations of women travelers. With the development of interest in natural science, from 1820 to 1870, women found a niche in satisfying a demand for the collection and study of exotic natural materials and life forms. Nature study, whether at home or abroad, was considered an acceptable field for women and it was one in which they were permitted a modicum of recognition from male peers.

Another category of traveler was the woman travel writer. Almost without exception, traveling women recorded their experiences in writing ranging in form from personal correspondence and diaries to published works. Women’s travel writing, according to Mary Morris in her book *Maiden Voyages: Writings of Women Travelers* (1993), differs from that by men because “women...move through the world differently from men. The constraints and perils, the perceptions and complex emotions women journey with are different from those of men. The fear of rape, for example, whether crossing the Sahara or...just...a city street at night, most dramatically affect the ways women move through the world.”

Women’s travel writing tended to describe an inner journey, whereas men “explored a world that is essentially external and revealed only glimpses of who and what they are, whom they long for, whom they miss. The writers’ own inner workings in most cases...are obscured...[I]ndeed, for many women, the inner landscape is as important as the outer, the beholder as significant as the beheld. The landscape is shaped by the consciousness of the person who crosses it. There is a dialogue between what is happening within and without.”

Lawrence Durrell’s comment on Freya Stark may be applied to all travelers: “A great traveler is a kind of introspective as she covers the ground outwardly, so she advances inwardly.”
Tourists: Casual and Compelled

Hawthorne, Nathaniel. Transformation, or, The romance of Monte Beni (Leipzig : B. Tauchnitz, 1860). In two volumes. The first American edition was published by Ticknor and Fields in 1860 under the title, The Marble Faun. A romance set in a fictional Italy, the novel was heavily illustrated with postcard photographs of Roman antiquities and points of interest, and became a popular travel guide. (Rare Book Collections)

Photograph of the Roman Forum and Coliseum reproduced from Volume One.

Two delightful accounts by nineteenth-century women travelers, one for health and the other as a companion to her brother. Bound together in a single volume. (Rare Book Collections)

Matilda Charlotte Houstoun (1815?-1892), was born into the British upper class. Her mother was the daughter of a wealthy baronet and her father was Deputy Surveyor of Royal Parks. Houstoun wrote over twenty books, including novels and travel literature. Texas and the
The Gulf of Mexico is an account of the year she spent sailing around the Americas with her husband on their yacht.

*Texas and the Gulf of Mexico or Yachting in the New World* by Mrs. Houstoun (Philadelphia: G.B. Zieber & Co., 1845).

Who has not seen and admired the remarkable and interesting coup d’oeil from the windows of the Trafalgar Hotel at Blackwall? It was on a bright afternoon early in September that I was seated in one of its cheerful rooms looking out on the broad river, and the busy steamers passing to and fro. It was my last evening before leaving England. We were about, if I may so express it, to take up our abode for the next twelve months on the bosom of the Ocean; our intention being to cross the Atlantic, and to visit a large part of the American Continent.

I always feel, before setting out on a long land journey, something approaching to depression of spirits; but on this occasion the entire novelty of the expedition prevented the attack, and my pleasurable anticipations were almost unalloyed. It was a voyage undertaken principally in search of health for me, and I was bound to be pleased with the arrangements made for my comfort. The sun had nearly set when I walked to the East India dock, in which the Dolphin was lying; I could scarcely make her out in the dusky twilight, and this was my first introduction to my future home... (p.2)

**Sophia Poole** was the sister of British orientalist and lexicographer, Edward William Lane (1801-1876). Best known for his book *Manners and Customs of the Modern Egyptians* (1836), which established his reputation in the field, Lane was stymied by the fact that he could obtain no first-hand information about the life of Egyptian women until he was able to persuade his sister to travel to Egypt. As a woman she gained access to harems and bathhouses prohibited to Lane. Her eye-witness accounts were duly published in the book on display.

*The Englishwoman in Egypt; Letters from Cairo written during a residence there in 1842,3 & 4, with E.W. Lane, Esq., author of “The Modern Egyptian,” by his sister [Sophia Poole](Philadelphia: G.B. Zieber & Co., 1845).

The desire of shortening the period of my separation from a beloved brother, was the first and strongest motive that induced me to think of accompanying him to the country in which I am now writing, and which he was mainly preparing to visit for the third time. An eager curiosity, mainly excited by his own publications, greatly increased this desire; and little persuasion on his part was necessary to draw me to a decision; but the idea was no sooner formed than he found numerous arguments in its favour. The opportunities I might enjoy of obtaining an insight into the mode of life of the higher classes of the ladies in this country, and of seeing many things highly interesting in themselves, and rendered more so by their being accessible only to a lady, suggested to him the idea that I might both gratify my own curiosity, and collect much information of a novel and interesting nature, which he proposed I should embody in a series of
letters to a friend. ...The present selection[s]...are the notes of one for whom Egypt has become almost as familiar as England... (pp.v-vi)

Elizabeth Craven (1750-1828) was an English author and outré socialite for her time, best known for her travelogues. After thirteen years of marriage, six children, and numerous affairs, she separated from her husband, William Craven, in 1780, and moved to France thereafter traveling extensively on the Continent. In 1791, Craven married Alexander, Margrave of Brandenburg-Ansbach and Bayreuth, after a lengthy affair and the death of his wife, Princess Friederike of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld, as well as the death of William Craven. The couple settled opulently in England, dividing their residence between Hammersmith, London and Benham Park at Speen in Berkshire. When the Margrave died in 1806, Craven returned to the Continent and lived out her days at Craven Villa in Posillipo. She was buried in the English cemetery in Naples. In England she is commemorated by roads named Margravine Gardens and Margravine Road.

Elizabeth Craven. A Journey through the Crimea to Constantinople: in a series of letters from the Right Honourable Elizabeth Lady Craven, to His Serene Highness the Margrave of Brandenbourgh, Anspach, and Bareith / written in the year 1786 (London: G.G.J. and J. Robinson, 1789.)(Rare Book Collections)

Craven writes to her husband of her travels and arrival in Pera (now Beyoğlu, a district on the European side of Istanbul).

I refer you to Mr. Gibbons, Sir, for his account of the singular situation of Constantinople, my pen will repeat feebly what he has described in language majestic as the subject deserves --- But I am certain no landscape can amuse or please in comparison with the varied view, which the borders of this famed Straight compose --- Rocks, verdure, ancient castles, built on the summit of the hills by the Genoese --- modern Kiosks, Minarets, and large platane-trees, rising promiscuous in the vallies --- large meadows – multitudes of people, and boats swarming on the shore and on the water; and what was particular, nothing to be seen like a formal French garden – The Turks have so great a respect for natural beauties, that if they must build a house where a tree stands, they leave a large hole for the tree to pass through and increase in size, they think the branches of it the prettiest ornament for the top of the house; in truth, Sir, contrast a chimney to a beautiful foliage, and judge if they are right or wrong – The coast is so safe that a large fleet of Turkish vessels is to be seen in every creek, masts of which are intermingled with the trees, and a peaceful confusion and variety make this living picture the most poignant scene I ever beheld. (pp.198-199)

Mary Eleanora O'Donnell Hinckley (1861-1934) was born in Baltimore, Maryland. She was the daughter of Edward Columbus O'Donnell and Mary Caroline Jenkins. In 1885, Eleanora O'Donnell married portrait artist Robert Hinckley and moved from her Baltimore family home
to live in Washington, D.C. During her life, Hinckley was involved in numerous social and charitable organizations. She was also an avid traveler as evidenced by the numerous travel journals she kept from 1913 through 1927.

Mary Eleanor O'Donnell Hinckley. Journal entry, China 1913. Itemization of activities in Peking. (Hinckley-Werlich Family Papers, 9:5)

Mary Eleanor O'Donnell Hinckley. Journal entry, Vienna, August 1914. Written during the height of World War I. (Hinckley-Werlich Family Papers, 9:5)

_The American Ambassador has made inquiries for a steamer to sail from Trieste conveying the Americans 900 [sic] in Hungary & Austria to the U.S.A. – Spain may have to supply coal on the journey – the danger of running over mines in the Thames causes much concern – the Channel we learn is clear..._

Rose Hawthorne Lathrop (1851-1926). Born in Lenox, Massachusetts to Nathaniel Hawthorne and Sophia Peabody, Lathrop received her education in London, Paris, Rome, and Florence. She married author George Parsons Lathrop in 1871 and both converted to Roman Catholicism in 1891. After the death of their son, Francis, at the age of five, Lathrop separated from her husband in 1895. She attempted unsuccessfully to follow in her father's footsteps as a writer. Eventually Lathrop discovered her true calling caring for others, founding St. Rose's Free Home for Incurable Cancer in New York City, established under the auspices of the Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne, a religious community created by Lathrop. St. Rose's ceased operations in 2009. In 2003, Edward Egan, Cardinal Archbishop of the Archdiocese of New York approved a movement for Lathrop's canonization and she was given the titled “Servant of God” in the Catholic Church.

Rose Hawthorne Lathrop. Autograph manuscript describing a visit to Rome, undated. (Theodore Maynard Papers, GTM.Gamms329, 2:10.)

_The great arches of triumph...seemed to me too premeditated & unnecessary. Not so the Coliseum, haunted by wild beasts, of whom lions leapt in hobgoblin array from the cavernous entrances pointed out to me..._ (p.3)

_The circular form of the ruin is full of eloquence – what would be grace in a smaller structure is tragedy in so immense a sweep, which melts into vagueness, or comes momentously upon you, or swirls before you in a retreating curve..._ (p.4)

_The tomb of Caecilia Metella, & other tombs beyond the walls, gave me my first impression of death that really was death...I believe I never should have been half an heretic for some years of my life, if it had not been for the effects of those down-dragging Roman tombs..._ (ibid)
Frances Maria (Bissell) Patterson (1854 - ?) was born in Greenwich, Connecticut. Her father was the Reverend Samuel Burr Sherwood Bissell, and her mother was Frances Maria Havens. Patterson was married to Theodore Cuyler Patterson. The journals in this collection document Patterson's social life, as well as domestic and international trips with her family and husband from 1892 to 1911. They provide a perspective on the experiences of an educated woman traveling for leisure securely under the auspices of her family. The journals were transcribed by Patterson's granddaughter Helen Howe West (originals not extant).

Photograph of Frances Patterson (left) with traveling companion (unidentified). Undated. (Frances Patterson Papers, GTM.Gamms281, 1:61) Reproduced from original

Frances Patterson. Journal entry for visit to the Grand Canyon on March 16, 1909: Could not sleep, so after reading in bed – got up at 6 o’clock & watched the sunrise – such a wonderful sight – the great chasm filled with mountains of rose colored rock! First all upper ledge of yellow & looking like a medieval castle, caught the light, then a lower mountain of rose colour. A never-to-be-forgotten sight... (Frances Patterson Papers, GTM.Gamms281, 1:33)

Frances Patterson. Journal entry for a trip through the English countryside, stopping at Romsey and Salisbury, dated July 6, 1899: We rested all Thursday & yesterday (Fri.) went to Salisbury, driving thro’ the New Forest to Romsey where we visited the beautiful old abbey & saw Lord Palmerston’s place. We went 3rd class to Salisbury – one only companion being a decent old man who recommended castor oil for Marie’s eyes when she got a cinder in one of them. At Salisbury we drove first to the bank where I drew for the first time on my letter of credit, then to the pastry cook’s where we had lunch upstairs in a little room which had been occupied by Queen Elizabeth. I tried to copy the old text on one of the old rafters. “Have God before thy eies who
trieth hearts & raines.” From there we walked thro the old gateway to the beautiful cathedral & sat in the cloisters for nearly an hour. I do not think the cathedral or the close quite as interesting as Winchester but the cloister, with its quadrangle of turf & the 2 grand cedars in the middle, the view through the door to the Bishop’s Palace & grounds. Nothing can be lovelier. We rejoined our coachman at Romsey & had again the beautiful drive thro the Forest... (Frances Patterson Papers, GTM.Gamms281, 1:20)

Norah Tracey (1903 - ?) was a popular English socialite whose circle of acquaintances included many who shared her penchant for travel. Lacking in personal fortune or the support of a spouse, Tracey endeavored to support herself through entrepreneurial ventures such as making travel garments for fellow women travelers, and refurbishing rented apartments. Correspondence and journals record trips to France, Spain, and South Africa; as well as to California and Washington, D.C.

Norah Tracey. Correspondence advertising services as travel garment maker. Tracey charged an average rate of 35 shillings to £2 for a frock. (Norah Tracey Papers, 1:29.)

Dear Madam: I have noticed in the P[ost?] that you are going to Cairo & it struck me that you might like a few good but inexpensive linen frocks...

Dear Madam – I am sending you by insured Parcel Post four linen frocks for you to judge the quality of my work. I made these for myself & my sister & they have been washed many times so you will see that linen is a good one – I had it direct from Ireland. You will understand that I cannot sell any of these but will make you anything to order at the greatest possible moment in whatever material you like...

Mary Wollstonecraft (1759-1797), is best known for her treatise on women’s equality, A Vindication of the Rights of Woman with Strictures on Moral and Political Subjects (1792). From a young age, Wollstonecraft was personally aware of the conflict between middle and upper classes: her father having made only a moderately successful attempt to transfer the family livelihood from London master weavers and small-scale renters to gentleman farmer before profits were squandered by his over-extravagance and alcoholism. Consequently, meager family resources were reserved for preparing Wollstonecraft’s older brother, Edward, for a profession in law while everyone else was left to fend for themselves.

In 1778, not yet twenty, Wollstonecraft left the family home in Yorkshire to make her way independently in the world, aware that there were few respectable vocations for middle-class women other than wife, companion or governess. After an unhappy attempt as a companion to the widow Sarah Dawson in Bath, Wollstonecraft, together with her sisters and friend Fanny Blood, established a school in Newington Greene, incidentally home to various Dissenting
academies. This venture dissolved a year later in 1785 after Blood left for the Continent with her new husband and died in childbirth.

In 1787, having given up on a year’s trial as governess to the Kingsborough family in Ireland, Wollstonecraft wrote to her sister Everina of her decision to become “the first of a new genus” of self-supporting female authors. Under the auspices of the liberal publisher Joseph Johnson in London, Wollstonecraft translated French and German texts, wrote reviews of novels for Johnson’s periodical the Analytical Review, and attended dinners hosted by Johnson whose guests included many intellectual luminaries of the day including Thomas Paine and William Godwin.

Wollstonecraft did not marry Godwin until 1797. In the intervening time, she became involved with the artist Henry Fuseli whose ultimate rejection led to her decision to travel to revolutionary France ostensibly to participate in the events about which she had written in A Vindication of the Rights of Men (1790), a work that placed her in the company of Edmund Burke, Thomas Paine and Joseph Priestley.

In Paris Wollstonecraft met and fell passionately in love with Gilbert Imlay, an American adventurer. She gave birth to his daughter in 1794 and although he never married her, Imlay registered Wollstonecraft as his wife in order to protect her and the child since Britain had declared war on France in 1793. Wollstonecraft settled in Le Havre, the birth place of her daughter Fanny, where Imlay finally abandoned her having tired of the domestic circumstances.

When Wollstonecraft returned to England in 1795 Imlay rejected her outright at which point she attempted suicide by laudanum only to be stopped by Imlay. In a desperate attempt to win back his affection, Wollstonecraft agreed to embark on a business trip for Imlay to recoup some of his financial losses in Scandinavia.

Wollstonecraft traveled with only her young daughter and maid, recording the journey and her experiences in Letters Written During a Short Residence in Sweden, Norway and Denmark published in 1796. The work proved Wollstonecraft’s most popular during her life and was well reviewed. Godwin would eventually write: “If ever there was a book calculated to make a man in love with its author, this appears to me to be the book. She speaks of her sorrow, in a way that fills us with melancholy, and dissolves us in tenderness, at the same time she displays a genius which commands all our imagination.”

On returning to England and finding Imlay unchanged in attitude, Wollstonecraft made another suicide attempt but was rescued from drowning in the Thames by a stranger. She gradually returned to literary life in London, resuming work with Johnson, as well as becoming friends with members of his circle which included Mary Hays, Elizabeth Inchbald and Sarah Siddons. At this time she also revived her acquaintance with Godwin.

After marriage, Wollstonecraft and Godwin moved into adjoining houses known as The Polygon in order to maintain their independence, often communicating by letters. Wollstonecraft died of
puerperal fever after giving birth to her famous daughter, Mary Godwin, future wife of the poet
Percy Bysshe Shelley and the author of *Frankenstein*.

Mary Wollstonecraft. *Letters written during a short residence in Sweden, Norway, and
Denmark* (Wilmington, Del.: J. Wilson & J. Johnson, 1796). First American edition. (Rare Book
Collections)

[Wollstonecraft’s] account of her travels in Scandinavia is an important test for understanding
the appeal of the travel narratives for nineteenth-century women who were looking for new
vocations that would be open to them. The book established the travel genre as a form women
could use to present themselves authoritatively in a narration and within a vocation. In essence,
Wollstonecraft’s writing offered an invitation for women to also participate in a narration of
exploration, one very different from the traditional narration that required that a woman hold a
fixed position and wait for experience to come to her. (Lila Marz Harper)
Explorers and Pioneers

Few such moments of exhilaration can come as that which stands at the threshold of wild travel. The gates of the enclosed garden are thrown open...with a wary glance to right and left you step forth, and, behold! The immeasurable world...” Gertrude Bell, 1907.

Gertrude Bell (1868-1926), travel writer, archaeologist, explorer, and ex officio diplomat, was born in Durham, England, the daughter of wealthy industrialist Sir Hugh Bell, and Maria Shield. Bell was one of the first women accepted into Oxford University, and the first to take a “First” in the history examination. After graduation, Bell, at the age of twenty-three, soon gave up on marriage prospecting to accompany an aunt and uncle to Persia, the latter having been appointed British envoy to the Shah. There, Bell met and fell in love with Henry Cadogan, a young diplomat, whom she might have married had it not been for her father’s objection.

From 1898 to 1905, Bell traveled widely and intensively: twice circling the globe, mountain climbing in Switzerland, and visiting India. Already facile in languages including French, German, Italian, Farsi and Turkish, she learned Arabic in Jerusalem and studied Byzantine, Egyptian, Greek, and Roman art and archaeology.

In 1905, Bell met Scottish archaeologist Sir William Mitchell Ramsay (1851-1939), Oxford University’s first faculty member of classical archaeology and a pioneer in the study of Turkish antiquity. Together, Bell and Ramsay authored several books on Turkish art and architecture. Working with Ramsay on archaeological excavations, Bell made meticulously detailed drawings of findings and presented them to the Royal Geographical Society in London with the result that the astonished members offered her training in astronomy and cartography in order that her future expeditions might assist in further research into the Arabian Peninsula.

In 1913, Bell made her final expedition across the Arabian desert, now northern Saudi Arabia, withstanding numerous raids and brief imprisonment in Hayil. During World War I, Bell’s insight into the region’s tribal relations acquired during her travels proved invaluable to the British government in securing Arab support against the Turks who were allied with Germany. With the support of T.E. Lawrence (well-known as Lawrence of Arabia), Bell became liaison between the British government offices in Delhi and Cairo providing both with information she garnered from Arab sources.

After the war ended, Bell’s knowledge of the land and people of Persia (Iran), Syria, Kuwait and the Mesopotamian region, was again sought by the British government to assist with drafting territorial boundaries for Iraq. Ultimately, Bell recommended that there should be an Arab head of state in Iraq, rather than a British protectorate. It was largely due to her efforts that King
Faisal was crowned king in 1921. In addition to advising Faisal, Bell spent her remaining years as founder and director of the Iraq Museum of Antiquities. Bell died of an overdose of sleeping pills at her home in Baghdad.

Gertrude Bell, *The Arab War: confidential information for general headquarters from Gertrude Bell, being despatches from the secret “Arab bulletin.” Introduction by Sir Kinahan Cornwallis* (London: Golden Cockerel Press, 1940). Number 63 of a limited edition of 500 copies. Includes a facsimile reproduction, printed by collotype process, of a holograph manuscript of an essay on romance in Iraq by Bell, which accompanies the first 30 limited copies. (Rare Book Collections)

Typed carbon of letter from Gertrude Bell to Cornelius Van Engert, Second Secretary to the U.S. Legation in Teheran, dated September 25, 1921, from Baghdad, reporting on the political situation in Mesopotamia. Bell was appointed by the British government to act as mediator between British and Arab interests in the region. (Cornelius Van Engert Papers, GTM.Gamms169, 2:18)

*We have a hard six months work before us, the Assembling of the Congress, the passing of a reasonable organic law, and the framing of a workable treaty between the two Governments – one which will allow us to give the Arabs a very free hand and yet enable us to fulfill our international obligations, that is how I should define workable – and then I think we may feel that the foundations are firmly established with promise of endurance...*

Autograph letter signed, undated, from Gertrude Bell to Cornelius Van Engert, on stationery of the Office of the High Commissioner, Baghdad. (Cornelius Van Engert Papers, Acq. 9/1/1997)

Isabella Bird Bishop (1831-1904). As a child Bishop often struggled with various ailments that biographers have surmised were largely psychogenic considering her hardiness during her many travels across the globe, although she was not precluded from suffering some serious injuries including frostbite, broken bones, cholera, burns from volcanoes, near drowning in Malaysia and a concussion in China at the age of sixty-three. Her first journey was taken in 1854 when she spent a £100 gift from her father on a visit to relatives in America, the result of which was her first book *The Englishwoman in America* (1856). This was followed by trips to Canada and Scotland. In 1872 Bishop traveled to Australia and then to Hawaii. Her next destination was Colorado because of its reputation for healthy air. Fearless on horseback, Bishop covered over 800 miles through the Rocky Mountains recounting her experiences in letters to her sister, later published as *A Lady’s Life in the Rocky Mountains* (1881). It was in the Rockies that Bishop fell in love with Jim Nugent, a one-eyed outlaw. Nugent was shot dead a year after Bishop departed. In 1881, Bird married John Bishop, an Edinburgh physician, although her chronic ill health soon drove her out of England and she was soon traveling to Asia which included visits to China, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, and Vietnam. After her husband’s death in 1886, Bishop resolved to journey to India, arriving in 1889. She also traversed Tibet and proceeded through Persia,
Kurdistan and Turkey. In 1890, Bishop accompanied British soldiers traveling from Baghdad to Tehran, remaining with the unit making surveys of the region. By 1892, Bishop had become a household name and was the first woman inducted into the Royal Geographical Society. Her final journey was up the Yangtze and Han rivers in China and Korea, respectively. She died in 1904 just before her seventy-third birthday while planning a second trip to China.


**Lady Hester Stanhope** (1776-1839), daughter of Charles Stanhope, 3rd Earl Stanhope and Lady Hester Pitt, grew up at her father's seat of Chevening. In 1803 she became hostess and private secretary for her uncle, British Prime Minister William Pitt the Younger (1759-1806) and was known for her beauty and wit. In gratitude for her company, Pitt bequeathed to Stanhope £1200 per annum for the rest of her life. Devastated by the deaths of both uncle and purported fiancé Sir John Moore, Stanhope fled England in 1810, sailing for Gibraltar accompanied by her brother James, physician Charles Meryon and maid Elizabeth Williams. After an eight-month stay in Constantinople, Stanhope embarked for Egypt in 1811. A shipwreck en route caused the loss of all of her property including money, at which point Stanhope donned the Turkish men's attire she would be famous for wearing all her life. Landing in Alexandria in 1812, Stanhope proceeded adventurously and boldly through Cairo, Jaffa, the Holy Land and Damascus, impressing viceroys and sheikhs wherever she traveled. In 1813, Stanhope embarked on an expedition to Palmyra, once ruled by Queen Zenobia and where no European woman had visited since Roman times. Costs were extravagant for the five-day journey, amounting to over £1000 (the equivalent of £33,000 today), and Stanhope caused a sensation dressed as a Bedouin and her immense entourage of forty camels. From Palmyra, Stanhope proceeded to Latakia, Baalbek, Sidon, and finally to Mar Antonius, a Maronite monastery prohibited to women, which possibly provoked Stanhope to ride her donkey into the hall and host dinner for the bewildered monks. After an unsuccessful treasure hunt among the ruins of Ascalon, in 1815, Stanhope's party dissolved, beginning with the departure of Dr. Meryon. Stanhope's traveling career ended in 1817 when she settled into an abandoned monastery in Djoun becoming absorbed in the study of fortune telling and prophecy. From that time, travelers came to her doorstep to marvel and have an audience with the English woman who had traversed the Ottoman Empire. Stanhope continued to live alone in Djoun until her death, her maid, Mrs. Williams having died of fever in 1828. In 1839 she had her house walled up and died in penury at the last.

* ¶ Autograph letter signed, circa 1815, by Lady Hester Stanhope to James Silk Buckingham (1786-1855). 8 pages. Written from Egypt with references to France and Napoleon. (On loan from the Nicholas B. Scheetz Collection, Washington, D.C.)

*The plague is at Rhodes & I fear I must give up going there, the state of France is also quite shocking, but all parties try to keep the truth a secret, but I have means of knowing every thing.*
feel very serious alarm about England, for Alexander is a treacherous friend, & the reputation of Napoleon rises with our army in proportion as they have opportunities of witnessing how vastly contemptible the other party make themselves, & how universally they are detested in France. The French ministers themselves have made serious complaints of the avidity with which every thing which ever belonged to the Emperor, & every description of Statue or picture of him has been bought up by the English, particularly the soldiers. All this thereafter will I fear have its consequences.”

Freya Stark (1893-1993) was born in Paris, the daughter of Flora and Robert Stark, the latter an English painter. As one of the first women to travel in the Middle East, Stark became famous in her lifetime for writing of her travel experiences and cartography in the region. Her earliest introduction to the Middle East was a gift of the One Thousand and One Nights on her ninth birthday which engendered a life-long obsession. Stark studied Arabic, Persian and history at the University of London and the School of Oriental and African Studies. In 1927 she boarded a ship for Beirut and began her Middle East travels. By 1931, Stark had trekked some of the wildest territory in western Iran, an accomplishment no Westerner had ever achieved. She also located the fabled Valley of the Assassins or Hashishin (a tenth- and eleventh-century militant order of renegades organized by Hassan-i Sabbah) in the hills of northern Iran. Stark’s extensive experiences are chronicled in over two dozen autobiographical books. “The typical Freya Stark book combines traditional travel writing with practical hints and a tough-minded personal philosophy some have called ‘old-fashioned’ because it emphasizes the lessons man can learn from history (particularly Roman history)” (Contemporary Authors Online). During World War I, Stark served as a nurse in Italy. As a staff member of the British Information Ministry during World War II, she assisted in the creation of the Ikhwan al Hurriya (Brotherhood of Freedom), a propaganda network to persuade Arabs to support the Allies or remain neutral. Stark was awarded the title “Dame of the British Empire in 1972. She died in Asolo, Italy.


My writing is over, I think & every little bit of work feels heavier than it should be; but the joy is still deep, set off by some loveliness with which this poor old world is blessed, & I am spending my last years reading history from the earliest I happen on (& am now with the Romans), & wondering if I shall come upon what & why we are here...
Twentieth Century
Women in the Middle East

Credit: Dorothy Miller

The following three women traveled and resided in the Middle East. Their work represents the unique perspective of each as photographer, and artist.

Dorothy Miller arrived in Saudi Arabia in 1947 to work in the law department of the oil company Aramco. She became interested in photography after meeting chief Aramco photographer Tommy Walters in Dhahran, in 1949. Eventually, Miller learned to do her own developing and by 1959 had garnered enough attention for her hobby that she decided to take an intensive six-week professional photography course at the Brooks Institute in San Francisco.
Miller returned to Aramco in 1967 as treasurer. Her passion for photography unabated, she continued to take hundreds of stunning photographs ranging from Aramco staff and facilities to the people and countryside of Saudi Arabia. Locations depicted include Abquaiq, al-Khobar, Dhahran, Dammam, Hofuf, and Qatif. Miller retired from Aramco and returned to the U.S. in 1977. Since then her photographs have been exhibited at Georgetown University Library in 2007 and at the Saudi Aramco Heritage Gallery in Dhahran in 2008.

Photograph by Dorothy Miller of a date picker in Qatif, 1976. (Dorothy Miller Papers, GTM.060125, Box 5) Reproduced from original

Photograph by Dorothy Miller of a little girl in a black dress, Yemen, 1977. (Dorothy Miller Papers, GTM.060125, Box 6) Reproduced from original

Georgiana G. Stevens lived and traveled extensively in the Middle East since World War II. During the war she was a member of the Research and Analysis Branch of the OSS and later the Office of Intelligence Research, U.S. Department of State. She was the author of *The Jordan River Valley* (1956) and of *Egypt: Yesterday and Today* (1963); and has written for *The Middle East Journal, Foreign Policy Bulletin, Christian Science Monitor* and the *Economist* (London).

Typed memorandum, dated July 24, 1967, by Georgiana Stevens to Joseph E. Johnson concerning the Middle East water crisis. (Georgiana G. Steven’s Papers, 1:3; pp. 1-2 of 8)

Lois Wolfram was a long-time employee of Aramco in the government relations department in Dhahran, beginning in 1956. In 1960, Wolfram returned to the U.S. to work with an international investments company in New York City. She returned to Saudi Arabia with Aramco in 1970, specializing in developing educational programs for Saudi Arabian and American personnel. Wolfram remained devoted to the improvement of cultural understanding between American and Saudi Arabian people. She produced a video presentation on Saudi Arabia using photographs taken by Aramco colleague Dorothy Miller, which was used by Aramco, libraries, schools and other corporations. Wolfram met the Canadian artist Penny Williams when the latter arrived in Saudi Arabia on assignment for *Aramco World* magazine in 1971. Williams illustrated various Aramco publications including calendars, as well as children’s books focusing on Saudi Arabian culture. Some of these are exhibited.

Lois Wolfram. Typed letter, dated June 28, 1976, to Penny Williams, with reference to funding for her video presentation and working with Dorothy Miller to obtain photographs for the project. (Lois Wolfram Papers, GTM.Gamms443, 2:63)

Penny Williams. *Amina and Muhammad's Special Visitor*, written by Diane Turnage Burgoyne, with illustrations by Williams (Middle East Gateway Series, 1982). (Lois Wolfram Papers, GTM.Gamms443, 2:82)
Missionaries and Humanitarians

Mother Teresa (1910-1997), addressed the graduating class of 1982 at Georgetown University’s 183rd commencement when she also received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters. She was born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu, in Skopje, Yugoslavia. In 1927, she joined the Sisters of Loretto, later teaching for the order in Calcutta. After twenty-one years Mother Teresa left her order to work directly with the sick and poor in Calcutta. She founded the Missionaries of Charity which eventually included over two hundred foundations and missions in forty-one countries.

☞ Mother Teresa. Honorary Degree Citation, Georgetown University Commencement Program, 1982. (Georgetown University Archives, Commencement Files 13:59) Reproduced from original
Photograph of Mother Teresa giving the commencement address at Georgetown University in 1982. (Georgetown University Archives, Photographic Collection) Reproduced from original

Welthy Honsinger Fisher (1879-1980) was graduated from Syracuse University in 1900. In 1906 she traveled to China to become headmistress of the Bao Lin School in Nanchang, the only school for girls in a province of forty-five million people. Committed to women’s education and rights, Fisher encouraged her students to develop into modern independent women. Both Fisher and her husband, Frederick Bohn Fisher were friends of Mohandas Gandhi and other leaders of the Indian independence movement. In 1952, Fisher was asked by Gandhi to establish Literacy House in Allahabad, a school that combined literacy with vocational training. Throughout her life, Fisher traveled to study educational systems in Bolivia, Brazil, Mexico, the Middle East, and Peru, as well as China and India. Her focus was especially on women’s education about which she lectured extensively. Believing that the key to improving conditions for women was literacy, Fisher founded the non-profit literacy organizations World Education (1951) and World Literacy of Canada (1955). Fisher was honored by the Indian government with the issue of a commemorative stamp.


Dear Lisa: I wrote this one night...It is not poetry...but it expresses my feeling anyhow...

Photograph of Welthy Fisher (right) and Lisa Sergio, dated circa 1976/1977. (Lisa Sergio Papers, GTM.Gamms172, 1:24) Reproduced from original

First day cover commemorative stamp issued by the government of India in honor of Welthy Fisher. (Lisa Sergio Papers, GTM.Gamms172, 1:25).


Monika Hellwig (1931-2006), was an internationally known theologian who traveled the world lecturing to promote a Catholic, ecumenical, and inter-religious vision. Hellwig was born in Brelau, Germany. Her mother was a noted Dutch sculptor. In 1935, the family moved to Holland because her grandparents were Jewish and Hitler’s rise to power became an imminent threat. When Germany invaded Holland in 1939, Hellwig, together with her two sisters, was sent to foster care in Scotland under the auspices of a Jewish-Catholic humanitarian organization. Hellwig’s father had been killed by the Germans shortly after arriving in Holland. The three children were reunited with their mother in the Netherlands, in 1946, although the latter died two days after their meeting. Hellwig entered the University of Liverpool at age fifteen, receiving a law degree in 1949 and a social science degree in 1951. Wishing to combine her two passions, social work and theology, Hellwig entered the Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries as Sister
Mary Cuthbert with the intention of serving a mission in India. As it happened, the society sent Hellwig to earn Master's degrees in theology at Catholic University in Washington, D.C.; South Asian studies at the University of Pennsylvania; and linguistics at the University of Oklahoma. In 1963, Hellwig was sent to Rome as a correspondent at the Second Vatican Council. She was one of few women allowed such an opportunity. In 1965, Hellwig requested and obtained a dispensation from her religious vows so that she could pursue her intellectual goals. She returned to Washington, D.C., in 1966, to earn a doctoral degree in. A prolific author, Hellwig wrote over two dozen books on Catholic theology and education. She was visiting lecturer at eleven universities around the world, received thirty-two honorary degrees, and fifteen named awards, including the John Courtney Murray Award from the Catholic Theological Society of America in 1984; and the Reverend Theodore M. Hesburgh, CSC, Award for outstanding contribution to Catholic higher education by the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities. Hellwig taught theology at Georgetown University for eighteen years from 1967, and was president and executive director of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities (ACCU) from 1996 until 2005. Moved by an article about children in need of adoption, in the Washington Post Magazine in 1971, Hellwig would also become the single, working mother of three adopted children.

Photograph of Monika Hellwig, Department of Theology at Georgetown University. Undated. Credit: Mimi Levine, Bethesda, Md. (Georgetown University Archives) Reproduced from original

Jack DeGioia, president of Georgetown University. Typed letter signed, dated July 19, 2005, congratulating Hellwig at the end of her term as ACCU president (Monika Hellwig Papers, Box 16)
Helen Keller (1880-1968) was well-traveled and outspoken as a staunch advocate for the disabled, as well as a pacifist, suffragist, and socialist. She was cofounder with George Kessler of Helen Keller International, an organization for research in vision, health and nutrition; a founding member of the American Civil Liberties Union; and member of Industrial Workers of the World, better known as the Wobblies; as well as member of the Socialist Party of America. Keller became a world-renowned speaker and together with Anne Sullivan, her former teacher and companion until 1936, she traveled to over thirty-nine countries during her lifetime. Her acquaintances included U.S. presidents from Grover Cleveland to Lyndon B. Johnson, as well as Alexander Graham Bell, Charlie Chaplin, and Mark Twain who shared her political views. In 1964, Keller received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and in 1965, she was elected to the National Women’s Hall of Fame.


Phyllis Michaux (1922- ) was the founder and first president of the Association of American Wives of Europeans (AAWE), a non-profit volunteer organization of American women, resident in France, who share interests in bi-cultural living. AAWE provides information and education on bilingualism, citizenship, education, legal, and voting rights to American citizens living abroad. The organization is a member of the Federation of American Women’s Clubs Overseas (FAWCO). As an American citizen living in France since 1946, and raising a family with her French husband, Michaux became increasingly concerned about the implications of her children’s dual citizenship. Under Section 301(b) of the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 children born overseas of an American parent could not retain citizenship unless they resided for five consecutive years in the United States between the ages of fourteen and twenty-eight. In 1961, Michaux mobilized a group of fifty concerned mothers who brought their concerns about the citizenship law to the U.S. Department of State. A year later, organized and led by Michaux as the AAWE, the women embarked on letter-writing campaigns to Congress. Through their efforts, the citizenship law was amended in 1968 with the residence period reduced from five to two years. Michaux chronicled the history of AAWE in her book The Unknown Ambassadors: A Saga of Citizenship (1996). The AAWE is now an organization of six hundred members based primarily in France.

Phyllis Michaux. The Unknown Ambassadors: A Saga of Citizenship (Bayside, N.Y.: Aletheia Publications, 1996). (Rare Book Collections)

Princess Niloufer (1916-1989), was one of the last members of the Ottoman Empire royalty. Childless herself, Princess Niloufer's great love of children was galvanized by the death of a maid during childbirth and the lack of a specialized hospital for women and children in Turkey. As president of the Hyderabad Women and Children’s Medical Aid Society, Princess Niloufer founded the Niloufer Hospital in Hyderabad, India, in 1949. With specializations in maternal and pediatric medicine, the hospital opened in 1953. UNICEF aid provided further development of services, and nurse training programs were funded under the auspices of the World Health Organization. Today, more than a thousand children are treated per day on an outpatient basis. The hospital has a website at http://www.nilouferhospital.com/Default.aspx

Typed memorandum, dated May 2, 1953, from K.N. Waghray, Honorary Secretary, Hyderabad Women and Children’s Medical Aid Association, to Princess Niloufer, announcing the opening of Niloufer Hospital. (Princess Niloufer Papers, 8:2)

Newspaper article on the anniversary of the opening of Niloufer Hospital. Dated April 9, 1954. (Princess Niloufer Papers, 8:2)

Photograph of Princess Niloufer. Undated. Credit: Raja Deen Dayals. Nizam’s State Photographers. Secunderabad. (Princess Niloufer Papers, Box 6)

Fanny Kemble (1809-1893). British actress and author, Kemble was married to American Pierce Butler, grandson of Founding Father Pierce Butler (1744-1822), and heir to a large fortune from cotton, tobacco and rice. Kemble spent a year on Butler's Georgia plantation and was shocked by the conditions of slavery. She kept a diary of her residence in Georgia, which became a seminal work on anti-slavery published as Journal of a Residence on a Georgian Plantation in 1838-1839 (1863).


Elizabeth Fueller Spencer (1898-1973), attended Whittier College and received a Bachelor's degree from the University of Southern California before pursuing coursework toward a Master's at Columbia University Teachers College from 1924 to 1925. After working with the poor at an Episcopal settlement house in southern California, she moved to Shanghai in 1920 as a missionary teaching at St. John's School. On her second tour of China, after Columbia, she was assigned to St. Agnes School in Anjing, as principal, where she was known by her students as Deaconess Betty. From March to April of 1927, during the period of upheaval surrounding the schism between Communist and General Chiang Kai-shek’s right-wing faction of the Guomindang (Chinese Nationalist Party or KMT), Spencer kept a journal recording events at St. Agnes, including the evacuation of the school by the American military. On April 12, 1927, shortly after the journal ends, the political struggle between factions culminated in the Shanghai
Massacre, when the National Revolutionary Army under Chiang Kai-shek and the Shanghai police, massacred between 5,000 and 10,000 Communist Party leaders and supporters over the course of a week, igniting a twenty-two year civil war. Fueller returned to the United States and married her long-time correspondent, Sidney Aretas Spencer, a naval submarine and diesel engineer in 1929. Both converted to Catholicism in 1933. After marriage, Spencer did not resume teaching, but began producing religious radio programs broadcast for KSUN, now based in Phoenix, Arizona. In the early 1960’s she moved briefly to New York state, returning to Tucson, Arizona, in 1962.

Passport photo with duplicate bearing autograph note by Spencer: *The test of true love – if a man marries a girl after he sees her passport picture…*” (Elizabeth Fueller Spencer Papers, GTM.Gamms.468, 1:4)

Elizabeth Fueller Spencer. Autograph diary, dated March 12, 1927 to April 4, 1927, recording events in Anjing, Anhui Province, China, while Deaconess at the St. Agnes School for Girls. (Elizabeth Fueller Spencer Papers, GTM.Gamms.468, 1:1)

Entry: March 12, 1927, Anking, Anhui Province, China, regarding the conflict between Kuomintang and Communist parties.

*...What is it all about I ask myself. I have to confess to being rather vague as to direct causes but I think I do understand the growing movement in general. Directly, the Cantonese wish to control China as a nation and organize the now loosely organized republic along the lines drafted by Sun Yat Sen. Devotion to Sun Yat Sen has become an ism and naturally can become fanatical...Students are active in the propaganda which is the characteristic weapon of the present war. The youth of China, especially the student youth, feel themselves to be the chief promoters of this new nationalism.*

Entry: March 22, 1927.

*...Two representatives from the People’s Army called at the school last night, both charming boys. They courteously asked to speak and I urged them to do so. An extremely attractive youth then addressed the girls on the subject of the revolution...Witty, humorous, clever, he fascinated the girls. Their enthusiastic clapping and pleased laughter affected the tired boy – for he was tired, like champagne. He fairly soared. I watched the girls’ reaction and his reaction to the girls’ reaction. If he had asked for volunteers for the army under his spell the girls of St. Agnes would have all responded...An attractive youth can change the history in China as well as in America...*
well as to U.S. presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson. She was a member of the Pontifical Commission for Justice and Peace in 1967. A prolific writer some of her best-known works include The Home of Man (1976) and Progress for a Small Planet (1979), which promulgate her thesis on global cooperation in the formation of organizations above the level of nation-states in order to better distribute the world’s wealth.

Photograph of Barbara Ward, signed, undated. Credit: Dorothy Wilding Portraits, Ltd., London. (Gallery of Living Catholic Authors, GTM.Gamms211,63:78)


The first impression was to confirm a picture of Kenya’s bewildering variety. As we left Nairobi, we drove straight through the Kikuyu reserve in which people live perhaps 1800 to the acre and step on each other’s roofs as they leave their hillside huts... The plots are consolidated and demarcated with little hedges... But no consolidation or new crops can make a holding of two acres viable and I would imagine some of those tiny patchwork fields are less. This is the core of Kenya’s problem. The most forceful race has too little land. Many of the others, above all the civilization-despising Masai, standing on one leg and drinking cow’s blood, have infinitely more than they can use... At the core are the explosive Kikuyu. So far, the only “tribe” that can be dispossessed is the White tribe and this is what resettlement is about.

Indira Gandhi. Typed letter signed, dated March 20, 1975, to Barbara Ward with reference to the nomination of Mother Teresa for a Nobel Peace Prize. (Barbara Ward Papers, GTM.Gamms211, 2:42)
Diplomats’ Wives and Daughters; Women Diplomats

Aimee Ernesta Drinker [Bullitt] Barlow (1892-?) was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the daughter of Aimee Ernesta Beaux, sister of American portrait artist Cecilia Beaux (1855-1942); and of Henry Sturgis Drinker. She was also the sister of the poet and writer Catherine Drinker Bowen (1897-1973). Barlow's first marriage in 1916 was to William C. Bullitt (1891-1967), who was the first U.S. Ambassador to the Soviet Union and co-authored a book with Sigmund Freud. In 1923, Barlow divorced Bullitt and in 1928 married composer Samuel L. M. Barlow II. Barlow was a traveler, writer, and artist. She kept extensive diaries of her travels in Europe (including Yugoslavia); South America; Tunisia; and Asia (including Cambodia, India, and Pakistan). Of note are diaries written during travel with Bullitt in Germany and Austria in the midst of World War I in 1916. These provide rare first-hand accounts of war-time Germany and were eventually published as An Uncensored Diary from the Central Empires (1917). During World War II, Barlow delivered weekly patriotic broadcasts on NBC Radio as "Commando Mary." The programs were aimed at encouraging women to sign up for war work while attempting to assure husbands that their independent wives would still be available to keep house after the war. Barlow's papers include an almost complete run of unpublished mimeographed scripts of the programs from 1942 to 1945.
As for Brussels itself, it seemed to us, who had been in Berlin for six weeks, a gay and cheerful place....But this spirit of fun does not conceal the bitterness the Belgians feel toward the war and the Germans. The knowledge that they are a conquered people makes them bitter, but never kills their hope...

Cynthia Helms crosses both categories as ambassador's wife and intrepid woman traveler in the Middle East. She was born and educated in England. During World War II, she served in the Women's Royal Naval Service (WRNS). From 1969 to 1973, Helms worked for Radio Smithsonian in Washington, D.C., later becoming a member of American Women in Radio and Television. She was the co-founder of Concern Inc., an organization involved with environmental issues. From 1973 to 1976, Helms was stationed in Iran with her husband Richard M. Helms who was U.S. ambassador. During that time, she attended Tehran University and the Imperial College of Islamic Philosophy and served on the board of directors for Damavand College. Helms' book *An Ambassador's Wife in Iran* (1981) recounts her experiences not merely in her official capacity at the U.S. embassy, but also as an observant traveler throughout Iran.

...I decided that I would try to convey some of my experiences in the hope that they would bring a greater familiarity with a part of the world which seems so often in the newspapers or on television. It is rare to find two people who agree on anything about Iran; but as an American friend said to me, “Once you've lived in Iran, you're never quite the same again.” I have written this book, not as a scholar, but as a “roving stranger.” (An Ambassador's Wife in Iran, p.xi).

Helms also collected Persian children's stories, many of which she published in *Favourite Stories from Persia* (1982).
Farah Pahlavi, Queen of Iran. Typed letter signed, dated April 23, 1981, to Richard Helms. (Cynthia Helms Papers, GTM.Gamms426, 1:18.)


Matilda Sartori was the daughter of Giovanni Battista Sartori (1775-1858), a Catholic bishop and first consul to the Papal States. The autograph journal on display was kept by Matilda during a sea voyage to Leghorn (Livorno, Italy) with her father, aboard the merchant ship "Paragon," from 1832 to 1833. Included are entries written during a trip to Rome and the Vatican. Quarto. Approximately 93 pages. Purchased from Michael Brown Rare Books, 2008. (Miscellaneous Manuscripts 4, 3:7)

Matilda Sartori. Journal entry dated January 31, 1833, describes young men and women observed in Livorno:

...We are told that young ladies are not very literary, never reading but a few light Romances and seldom ever writing not being allowed any correspondence[.] [H]ow far this is true a better acquaintance with the people will enable me to judge...

...however the young men are in general handsome and appear to have very good figures – whether they are indebted to their Taylors or Nature I cannot as yet find out...

Cynthia P. Schneider, a native of Pennsylvania, studied Fine Arts at Harvard University where she received a Bachelor's and a doctorate. She was the sixty-first U.S. ambassador to the Netherlands (1998-2001). As ambassador, Schneider led several key initiatives in the fields of biotechnology, education, diplomacy and culture. She organized an international conference on biotechnology at The Hague in 2000. The Millennium Project was created by Schneider in conjunction with the White House Millennium Program, which invited Dutch high school students to gather oral histories of American veterans and Dutch survivors of World War II. Operating with a strong belief in the impact of art and culture on diplomacy, Schneider launched several cultural initiatives including the annual North Sea Jazz Festival Jam Session hosted by the U.S. Embassy; and assembled a museum-quality collection of American art at the embassy residence under the auspices of the U.S. Department of State Art-in-Embassies program. Prior to becoming ambassador, Schneider taught art history at Georgetown University.

I brought something new to the ambassadorship in the Netherlands – my emphasis on culture as a tool for diplomacy...I think culture diplomacy should be integrated into foreign policy – not subsumed by, integrated into. I tried to show how valuable hosting cultural events is in a sense
appropriating American performers, writers, musicians and actors when they come to Europe and working to show what is American about what they do. (Georgetown Magazine, Winter 2002)

Jimmy Carter. Typed letter signed, dated September 15, 1999. Thanking Schneider for hosting his visit to the Netherlands. (Cynthia P. Schneider Papers)


Cynthia – Our country could not have a more sympathetic representative. And nowhere in the world have we encountered a finer museum guide... (Cynthia P. Schneider Papers)

Rahm Emanuel. Typed letter signed, dated October 19, 1998. On White House stationery. Reference to departing from his office under the Clinton administration. (Cynthia P. Schneider Papers)

Winifred Weislogel (1927-). Born in New Jersey, Weislogel earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Barnard College in 1949 and a Master of Arts from Otago University in New Zealand in 1951. From 1951 to 1956 she worked at the Institute of International Education, eventually becoming head of its Fulbright Division. In an era when it was still rare for college-educated women to develop a career beyond that of office assistant, Weislogel was able to use her early secretarial experience at the Council on Foreign Relations in order to get a “foot in the door” in the field of diplomacy, her primary interest. Weislogel joined the U.S. Foreign Service in 1956. Over the next seventeen years, assignments took her to cities around the world including Geneva; Tripoli; Benghazi; Tangier where she studied Arabic and was the first woman in the U.S. Foreign Service to be offered language training; Rabat; and Africa where she was Deputy Chief of Mission in Lome, Togo from 1970 to 1973. Between 1973 and 1977, Weislogel served at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C., first as Libyan/Algerian Desk Officer and then as Director of North African Affairs. In 1977 she worked in the Office of the Inspector General; and in 1980 became Deputy Director of the Office of International Science Cooperation in the Bureau of Oceans, Environmental, and Scientific Affairs. Weislogel retired in 1983. Weislogel’s papers consist of correspondence to her parents replete with rich descriptions of her experiences abroad while serving in the U.S. Foreign Service. The transcript of an interview of Weislogel on her career in the U.S. Foreign Service is available at the website Frontline Diplomacy

http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/diplomacy/

Winifred Weislogel. Autograph letter signed, dated February 4, 1952, written from Benghazi, Libya. (Winifred Weislogel Papers, GTM.Gamms231, 1:14)

...there’s a howling gale out with thunder, lightning and a bit of sleet. I understand Tripoli is no better – end of Jan til end of Feb is the bad season. We’ve had rain every day since my arrival here...Often the rain lasts for 15 minutes – then the sun shines brilliantly. But it changes from one
breath to the next. And when it rains it comes down in solid masses. The streets become flooded...Benghazi is really quite pleasant tho as a city it cannot compare with Tripoli. The souh (local market) in Tripoli is much larger and varied with some fine handicrafts. Here there is little of interest in that line at the souh. There are over 800 Americans resident in Benghazi, the result of the oil company influx. The dining rooms and bars of the leading hotels remind one of gold rush boomtowns, with hairy types in from the desert for a rip roaring time...


Once again I am writing from a new country. At the beginning of January I received the good news that I had been assigned to the Departments' School of Arabic Studies in Tangier...It came as a complete surprise since I had been told two years ago that women were not being trained for specialization in this area (p.1).

Tangier is a strange city with a wide assortment of people...Still, Tangier is a refuge for beatniks (American and European), odd-balls of all kinds, some rather fringey elements. Kif smoking supposedly is illegal but the drug is easily and cheaply available and attracts a lot of human debris....The city is perfectly safe, and it is colorful. Traditional Arab and Berber dress is worn by many people...the men dressed in blue robes with yellow turbans, and the women in red and white striped garments with turkish towels draped over their heads. They ride donkeys or horses; camels are seen rarely in this part of Morocco...(p.5)

Gladys Hinckley Werlich (1891-1976), a native of Washington, D.C., was the daughter of portrait artist Robert Hinckley and Eleanor O'Donnell Hinckley. She made her Washington debut in 1909 and in 1923 married McCeney Werlich, the European representative of American Locomotive Company. When her husband joined the U.S. Foreign Service in 1925, Gladys Werlich accompanied him on travels through various diplomatic posts including Costa Rica, Latvia, Paris, and Poland. After her husband's death, Werlich continued to travel extensively until 1972 keeping detailed journals on her trips to Africa, China, Egypt, Europe, Japan and Russia.

Journal entry for visit to Hong Kong, August 1963. Includes color postcard of Hong Kong Harbor and the Kowloon peninsula with the Hong Kong central business district in the foreground. (Hinckley-Werlich Family Papers, 12:6)

Vietnam journal entry, July 1962, giving impressions of Saigon. (Hinckley-Werlich Family Papers, 12:6)

Printed travel brochure for Russia, 1958. (Hinckley-Werlich Family Papers, 12:5)

Printed travel brochure for Middle East, 1966. (Hinckley-Werlich Family Papers, 12:3)
Literary Ladies

These women were groundbreakers as journalists, writers and literary entrepreneurs.

Sylvia Beach (1887-1962). The famous bookshop and lending library, Shakespeare and Company, founded by Beach in Paris in 1919, was a literary hub between the world wars for artists and writers including Sherwood Anderson, Simone de Beauvoir, Stephen Vincent Benét, T.S. Eliot, Andre Gide, Ernest Hemingway, Wyndham Lewis, Archibald MacLeish, Ezra Pound, Gertrude Stein, Paul Valéry, Thornton Wilder, and William Carlos Williams. Born in New Jersey, Beach lived abroad from an early age, her father serving as associate pastor of the American Church in Paris from 1902 to 1905. Although the family returned to the United States in 1905, Beach traveled frequently to Europe with her mother and sisters. Between 1907 and 1916, Beach resided at various times in Florence, Paris and Madrid before settling permanently in Paris in 1916 where she would reside for the next forty-six years until her death in the apartment over her bookshop at 12, rue de l’Odéon. In 1922, Beach became the first and only publisher, for the ensuing ten years, of James Joyce’s *Ulysses*. During the 1930s, profits suffered both from the Great Depression as well as widening publication of Joyce’s work. The shop continued to survive largely through the efforts of the organization Friends of Shakespeare and Company formed by Gide, Valéry and Jean Schlumberger, who arranged for funding drives and readings by literary notables. The Nazi occupation of Paris in 1941 forced the shutdown of Shakespeare and Company, while Beach was interned for some months. In 1959, Beach held an exhibition of books, documents and papers that had been rescued by friends. These are now permanently housed at the Princeton University Library. Beach’s memoir, *Shakespeare and Company* (1956) provides a detailed account of her years at the bookshop, as well as first-hand observations of Aleister Crowley, Eliot, Gide, Hemingway, Joyce, D.H. Lawrence, Pound, Man Ray, and many others. American bookseller George Whitman renamed his Paris bookshop Shakespeare and Company in 1964 in honor of Beach.


☞ Sylvia Beach. Typed letter signed, dated January 20, 1958, to John L. Brown with reference to preparing a talk on the publication by Shakespeare and Company of James Joyce’s *Ulysses* and conflicting interest with a chapter on Joyce in the forthcoming publication of her memoirs. Includes typed carbon reply from Brown dated January 22, 1958:

...of course, as I explained to you...you were free to talk about any subject you liked. Even the printed title in the program did not oblige you to talk about Joyce -- it could have very legitimately treated your memories of French writers you knew at the period when Shakespeare
Anna M. Brady (1901-1999) was a journalist and veteran correspondent on Vatican affairs. Based in Rome for 29 years, she covered the conclaves that elected Popes John XXIII, Paul VI, John Paul I, and John Paul II; as well as all sessions of Vatican II and the early subsequent synods. During her Vatican II years, she was dubbed “dean” of the Vatican Press Corps and was a welcomed member of the daily press corps briefings at each session. Brady was the only woman to accompany Pope Paul VI on his first five pilgrimages to the Holy Land, Bombay, Fatima, the United Nations in New York, and Istanbul. She was also the only woman to travel on the papal plane on the trips to New York and Turkey. In 1928, Brady entered the Catholic Church and became the first American woman to speak on Catholic doctrine as an Evidence Guild member on street corners in Baltimore and New York City. Through Catherine De Hueck, Brady met Felix Morlion, O.P., a Belgian Dominican and founder of the Pro Deo Movement in Europe. Together, Father Morlion and Brady established the American Center Pro Deo, which sponsored seminars and courses concerned with the clarification of spiritual and religious issues in current events. They also established the Catholic International Press (CIP), a news service that circulated the newsletter CIP Correspondence. In 1943 Brady became acting director of the International Pro Deo Movement with which all CIP centers were affiliated. During the war the Movement was responsible for transmissions of underground news via CIP Correspondence and other news services. In 1945, Brady attended the opening of the International Institute Pro Deo in Rome, which became the International University for Social Studies Pro Deo, in 1948. Brady served as the university vice president and treasurer from 1952 to 1956. Brady worked as Rome correspondent for the Baltimore Sun and Long Island Catholic from 1957 until retirement in 1981.

Olga Greenlaw (1908-1983) was diarist for the 1st American Volunteer Group popularly known as the Flying Tigers which served in Burma and China during World War II from 1941 to 1942. She was born Olga Sowers in Chacala, Mexico and was named after Olga Mendez Monsanto, the wife of John Francis Queeny, founder of the Monsanto Company. The Queeny family owned a bismuth mine in Mexico. Olga emigrated with her mother and two sisters to the U.S. during the Mexican Revolution of the 1920s. They settled in Hollywood where Olga was graduated from Polytech High School in 1929. After her marriage to Harvey Greenlaw, in 1933, Olga accompanied her husband to China where he had been hired as flight instructor for the Chinese air force. From 1937 to 1941, during the Japanese occupation of China, the Greenlaws transferred to the city of Hengyang where Harvey Greenlaw was sales representative for the North American Company.
As the war progressed, the couple followed the company's operations to Hanoi, Rangoon and eventually to Hong Kong where Harvey Greenlaw met long-time friend Claire Lee Chennault who had just received sanction from President Roosevelt to form the 1st American Volunteer Group (AVG) to support the Chinese air force. Pilots were from the U.S. army, navy, and marine corps totaling a thousand with two hundred and fifty planes. Harvey Greenlaw became Chennault's executive officer. The Flying Tigers was the first unit to see combat in the Pacific theater shortly after Pearl Harbor. Annals of the legendary Flying Tigers were recorded by Olga Greenlaw, and later published as The Lady and the Tigers (E.P. Dutton & Co., Inc., 1943). Long out of print, the book is now available on Kindle.

Photograph of Olga Greenlaw. Undated. (Clare Boothe Luce Photographic Collection, GTM.Gamms265, 2:28)

Shirley Hazzard (1931- ) was educated at Queenwood College, in Sydney, Australia. In 1947 her father was appointed Australian trade commissioner to Hong Kong. Hazzard, who accompanied her parents, began work with the British Combined Services Intelligence in Hong Kong. Subsequently, she followed her family to postings in Wellington, New Zealand, working for the British High Commissioner (1949-1950); to London; and ultimately to New York, where her father became trade commissioner in 1950. Hazzard remained in the U.S. after the departure of her parents in 1951, eventually obtaining citizenship and a position at the United Nations in the general service category of Technical Assistance to Underdeveloped Countries (1952-1962). Under this auspice, she spent a year (1956/1957) in Italy working with the international supply mission. During the period in Italy, Hazzard began to write short stories, with the first published in the New Yorker. In 1962 Hazzard resigned from the U.N., in order to focus on writing. Her literary reputation was cemented with the publication of her novel The Transit of Venus (1980), for which she received worldwide recognition. Hazzard has also lectured extensively around the country, and was Boyer lecturer in Australia in 1984 and 1988. Hazzard wrote two critical books about the United Nations: People in Glass Houses: Portraits of Organization Life, (1967, 2004); and Countenance of Truth: the United Nations and the Waldheim Case, (1990); but remains best known for her novels. In 1963, Hazzard married biographer and novelist Francis Steegmuller (1906-1994). Together they cultivated a circle of significant literary friendships, not least of which included that of Graham Greene on the island of Capri, a favorite destination of Hazzard and Steegmuller during the summers of the 1960s through the 1980s. Their relationship and time spent with Greene is recollected with Hazzard’s characteristic perspicacity and appreciation of human nature in her book Greene on Capri (2000).

Photograph of Shirley Hazzard with Francis Steegmuller, Graham Greene and Yvonne Cloetta at Greene's home, Il rosaio, on Capri. Dated 1974. (Shirley Hazzard Papers, GTM.Gamms421.18:8) Reproduced from original
Photograph of Graham Greene at De Gemma restaurant on Capri. Undated. (Shirley Hazzard Papers, GTM.Gamms421, 18:5) Reproduced from original


Graham Greene. Autograph letter signed, dated May 2, 19? to Shirley Hazzard. An apology from Greene "for my evil temper last night..." at a dinner given by friend Laetitia Cerio. The incident is recounted by Hazzard in Greene on Capri (2000, pp.134-135). (Shirley Hazzard Papers, GTM.Gamms421, 4:41.1)

Ristorante De Gemma menu. (Shirley Hazzard Papers, GTM.Gamms421, 4:58)

Clare Boothe Luce (1903-1987) was an editor for such well-known magazines as Vogue in 1930, and the Condé Nast magazine Vanity Fair from 1929 until 1934. As a playwright, her most successful works include The Women (1936), Kiss the Boys Goodbye (1938), and Margin for Error (1939), all produced on Broadway. In 1935 she married publishing mogul Henry R. Luce. During the 1940s, Luce became increasingly active in politics. She was elected to the House of Representatives in 1943 and 1944. Dwight D. Eisenhower appointed her as ambassador to Italy from 1953 to 1957. Throughout her life, Luce was involved in many humanitarian organizations including the American Friends of Captive Nations, American Security Council, International Rescue Committee, and U.S. Committee for Refugees, among others. Luce also wrote Europe in the Spring (1940), an account of her travels in Europe at the onset of World War II.

Clare Boothe Luce. Photograph with Vincent Sheehan preparing to announce a benefit dinner for United China Relief, 1941. Attendees included Pearl S. Buck, Henry Luce, and Wendell Wilkie. (Clare Boothe Luce Photographic Collection, GTM.Gamms265, 2:23)

Clare Boothe Luce. Photograph with Chiang Kai Shek and wife in Burma, 1942 (Clare Boothe Luce Photographic Collection, GTM.Gamms265, 2:26a)

Clare Boothe Luce. Photograph with George S. Patton, 1945. (Clare Boothe Luce Photographic Collection, GTM.Gamms265, 3:33)

Janet Richards (1859-1948) was a cousin of the Rev. J. Havens Richards, former president of Georgetown University (1888-1898); and ahead of her time as a woman journalist. During the Civil War, Richards moved to Washington, D.C., to begin a newspaper column on women's clubs, eventually becoming a writer and book reviewer for the Washington Post. A visit to Oberammergau, Barvaria, where she saw the Passion Play in 1890, inspired Richards to give talks about her experience, illustrated with slides. She became a well-known speaker in lecture halls
in D.C., New York, Philadelphia, and Europe, on a variety of other topics as well, including history, literature, politics, and travel. Her audience was primarily female, Richards believing in her role as informer of world affairs to women who might not have access to the current news. In the course of her travels, Richards garnered interviews with leading political figures such as Edvard Benes, Aristide Briand, Pascual Cervera, and Benito Mussolini; as well as U.S. presidents Calvin Coolidge, Herbert Hoover, and Theodore Roosevelt. A proponent of women’s suffrage, Richards was a delegate at the International Congress of Women in 1908, 1914, and 1923. She was acquainted with Susan B. Anthony and was presented with a medal of recognition by Queen Margherita at the congress in Rome in 1914.

Elihu Root. Typed letter signed, dated June 20, 1907, on letterhead of the U.S. Department of State. Letter of introduction for Janet Richards to be presented at consular offices abroad. (Janet Richards Papers, 1:8)

International Congress of Women, May 14-21, 1914. Prospectus. (Janet Richards Papers, 1:12)

Medal presented by Queen Margherita to Janet Richards, 1914. (Janet Richards Papers, 1:12)

Lisa Sergio (1905-1989) began her professional career at seventeen as associate editor of Italian Mail a literary weekly published in English in her native Florence for the English-American community in Italy. Later the magazine was used for propaganda by Mussolini and Sergio resigned in 1928 after advancing to editorship. For the next two years she worked as a freelance writer and translator in English, French and Italian. In 1930, Sergio was general secretary and bibliographer for the Association of Mediterranean Studies, formed in 1929 under the patronage of the Italian government’s Department of Fine Arts, which sponsored an international cooperative project to excavate antiquities. Increasing government restrictions on archaeological projects in 1932, together with the urging of family friend and wireless inventor Guglielmo Marconi, led Sergio to accept an invitation from Mussolini to become news commentator for Rome’s 2RO Radio. She became known as the “Golden Voice of Rome,” and was instrumental in establishing short-wave radio programs in twenty-one languages. In addition to her work as translator of Mussolini’s speeches and government bulletins, Sergio’s broadcast programs included Italian lessons for English listeners.

In 1937, Mussolini issued an order to dismiss Sergio for her increasing criticism of the government and dispatches she was required to air. Her friendships with anti-Fascist intellectuals, views regarding the Ethiopian crisis, and wire taps formed the evidence necessary to oust her as an unreliable citizen of Fascist Italy. With the assistance of Marconi, Sergio left Italy just days before a warrant was issued for her arrest. Arriving in New York in July 1937, Sergio was already well-known to American radio men for her broadcasts. David Sarnoff, president of the Radio Corporation of America, invited her to be guest commentator for NBC. Over the ensuing five decades, Sergio was commentator for WQXR radio (1940-1947) and ABC radio (1942-
1947), in New York City; and WMAL radio in Washington, D.C. (from 1962). With the advent of television Sergio also hosted programs for NBC-TV and ABC-TV.

In 1944, Sergio was able to secure U.S. citizenship with the assistance of her friend Ann Batchelder, associate editor for Ladies Home Journal. During the late sixties Sergio began extensive lecture tours around U.S. universities in response to the anti-war movement. Her keynotes were on human rights, women's rights, the detrimental effect of war, and promoting peace. Sergio also conducted study tours to Europe and Latin America. Travels to India, Israel and Jordan focused on improvement of living conditions, especially for women; and brought Sergio in contact with both humanitarian and political leaders including Raj Kumari Amrit Kaur and Jawaharlal Nehru, India's minister of health and prime minister, respectively; King Hussein of Jordan; and Anwar and Jehan Sadat of Egypt. Sergio’s dedication to humanitarian causes garnered her recognition, as well as the friendship of eminent Americans including Jacqueline Kennedy, Martin Luther King, and Eleanor Roosevelt.


Photograph of Lisa Sergio with Helen Keller. Credit: Haas, N.Y., 1938. (Lisa Sergio Papers, GTM.Gamms172; 14:58)


Photograph of Lisa Sergio with Martin Luther King, Jr. Undated. (Lisa Sergio Papers, GTM.Gamms172; 14:38)

Dorothy Thompson (1893-1961) was noted by Time magazine, in 1939, as one of the most influential women in America. She was the first American journalist to be expelled from Nazi Germany in 1934 for her book I Saw Hitler (1932), which was expanded from an interview she
conducted in 1931. Throughout the war years, Thompson continued to protest against Nazism, especially the activities of the pro-Nazi German-American Bund. After graduating from Syracuse University in 1914, where she studied economics and politics, Thompson traveled to Europe and became involved with a Zionist group. Her first assignment as a journalist was to report on the group’s meetings for the International News Service. From 1925 to 1927, she was chief of the Central European Service for the Philadelphia Public Ledger in Vienna. In 1936, Thompson became the second female network news commentator when she was hired by NBC radio. The other was Kathryn Cravens for CBS. Thompson remained with NBC until 1938. She was commentator for the Mutual Network in 1941, and the Blue Network from 1942 to 1945. For twenty-four years, Thompson also wrote a monthly article for the Ladies Home Journal on topics such as art, children, and gardening.

Dorothy Thompson. Typed letter signed, dated March 24, 1939, from Thompson to Francis Talbot, S.J., editor of America magazine. 2 pages. (America Magazine Archives, GTM.Gamms60, 21:22)

...I am profoundly pessimistic – over the short run at least – over Europe as I see it. Nazi Germany already dominates the continent and all countries live now by her grace. And Nazism I do know, thoroughly. I think its tenets are incompatible with everything Christian, and with every conception – ethical, political and cultural, associated with civilization.

Eunice Tietjens (1884-1944). Poet, novelist and editor, Tietjens was a Chicago native whose writing reflects a lifetime of extensive travels in the Far East and North Africa. From 1913 until her death she was an editor of Poetry magazine, a seminal publication for writers of the Chicago Renaissance. Tietjens’ first and best-received work Profiles from China (1917) is a collection of free verse narratives that reveal her as a keen observer of people and culture. Her last book, an autobiography, The World at My Shoulder (1938), provides details of her itinerant career as a journalist including war correspondent for the Chicago Daily News during World War I in France; as well as accounts of her literary acquaintances with such notables as Floyd Dell, Edgar Lee Masters, Carl Sandburg, and Sara Teasdale.


Eunice Tietjens. The World at My Shoulder (New York: Macmillan Company, 1938). (Rare Book Collections)

Alice B. Toklas (1877-1967). Remembered for her life-long relationship with Gertrude Stein (1874-1946), Toklas was born in San Francisco. In the summer of 1907, she traveled with girlhood friend American writer Harriet Lane Levy (1867-1950) to Paris. Levy was an avid art collector and
traveler, as well as acquainted with Stein to whom she introduced Toklas. The latter had a prior connection through meeting Stein’s brother Michael and sister-in-law Sarah when they arrived in San Francisco to assess damage to some property after the earthquake in 1906. Their descriptions of Paris inspired Toklas to travel there. By the summer of 1908, Stein had persuaded Toklas to set up residence with her and together they hosted a salon of such writers as Sherwood Anderson, Paul Bowles, Ernest Hemingway, and Thornton Wilder; as well as avant-garde artists Georges Braque, Pablo Picasso, and Henri Matisse. The Plain Edition Press was established by Toklas exclusively for Stein who experienced difficulty publishing her writings. After Stein’s death in 1946, Toklas devoted her remaining years to preserving her memory and works. With the assistance of Thornton Wilder and Carl Van Vechten, Stein’s literary executor, Toklas was able to oversee the publication by Yale University Press of eight volumes of Stein’s unpublished works. In later years, Toklas suffered ill health and financial difficulties. She converted to Roman Catholicism, and authored a number of well-known books in order to support herself. The British edition of The Alice B. Toklas Cook Book (1954) is remembered for containing a recipe for marijuana-laced fudge, which was in fact contributed by an artist friend. Toklas was reportedly mortified to hear that readers thought that she and Stein indulged in marijuana. Toklas is buried next to Stein in the Père Lachaise Cemetery in Paris with her name engraved on the back of Stein’s headstone.

Photograph of Alice B. Toklas in Brussels. (Credit: Photo Geo, Brussels). (John L. Brown Papers, GTM.Gamms167, 3:40)

Caroline Armington (1875-1939), an artist best known for her over 551 etchings. Born in Canada, she resided in France, only returning to the U.S. at the end of her life.

*Porte de la Cour du Dragon, Paris. Etching, 2/100, 1926. (Art Collection)* Reproduced from original
Polly Hill (1900-1990), American illustrator and painter, studied at the Académie Colarossi in France.

*Rue Feron, Paris.* Etching. Edition unknown. 1928. (Art Collection) *Reproduced from original*
Helen Hyde (1868-1919), was an etcher and engraver who traveled extensively in China, India, Japan and Mexico. Hyde is best known for her color etching process and woodblock prints of Japanese women and children. Hyde studied at the California School of Design; and from 1888 to 1894 under artists Franz Skarbina (1849-1910) in Berlin and Felix Regamey (1844-1907) in Paris. The latter introduced Hyde to the Japonism movement. Two other significant mentors included American impressionist painter Emil Carlsen (1853-1932) and Kano Tomonobu, master of the Kano school of Japanese painting. Hyde was also influenced by Mary Cassatt whose paintings were inspired by Japanese art, women and children. In 1899, Hyde settled in Japan with the artist Josephine Hyde (1883-1965) whom she had met while living in California. In Japan, Hyde learned woodblock printing techniques from European expatriate artist Emil Orlik (1876-1932). Hyde resided in Japan until 1913.

*A Spring Poem.* Color etching, edition unknown. 1906. (Art Collection) Reproduced from original
Angna Enters (1897-1989) was an artist, dancer and writer from New York City. She began studying art and dance at the Art Students League of New York in 1919, and performed with the Japanese choreographer and dancer Michio Ito (1892-1961) in 1923. In 1924, Enters borrowed $25 to present her first solo program in the Greenwich Village Theater. The program “The Theater of Angna Enters” toured the U.S. and Europe until 1939. Enters was awarded the Guggenheim Fellowship to study Hellenistic art forms in Athens, Greece, in 1934. As a visual artist, Enters created a large body of work including landscape drawings, archeological studies, costume designs, water colors and oil portraits. The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York holds select works by Enters. In 1936, Enters married journalist Louis Kantor and together they formed an artistic and literary circle of acquaintances that included Georgia O’Keeffe, Eugene O’Neill, and George Bernard Shaw. Enters authored several books and plays, including a three-volume autobiography: First Person Plural (1937), Silly Girl (1944), and Artist’s Life (1958).

Self-portrait in ink and water color, signed by Angna Enters, 1963. (John L. Brown Papers 2, GTM.Gamms205, 2:8) Reproduced from original


Playbills (2) for dance performances by Angna Enters, 1929 and undated. (Katherine Biddle Papers, GTM.Gamms250, 58:72)

Mata Hari (1876-1917), was born Margaretha Geertruida Zelle. A native of the Netherlands, Zelle traveled to Java, Indonesia, at eighteen in response to an advertisement for marriage placed by Rudolf MacLeod an army captain from Skye. Two children ensued; however the marriage foundered eventually ending in a divorce in 1907. Zelle sought solace and escape from domestic circumstances by immersion in Indonesian culture, especially traditional dance forms. By 1897, she had joined a local company. In 1903, Zelle moved to Paris where she performed on horseback and supplemented her income by posing as a model for artists. Zelle’s specialty became exotic dancing inspired by her training in Indonesian dance. Contemporaries in dance included Isadora Duncan and Ruth St. Denis, both significant figures in twentieth-century modern dance which found inspiration in Asian and Egyptian cultures. In 1905, Zelle was invited to dance for Émile Guimet, owner of an oriental art museum. Guimet encouraged Zelle to adopt a more evocative stage name than Lady Gresha McLeod, the one she had been using. As early as 1897, she had written to a friend that she wanted to dance under the name Mata Hari, a Malay phrase for “sunrise.” Mata Hari made her debut at the Musée Guimet to a select audience, causing a sensation, not least of all because her performance included dancing nude.

During World War I, Zelle traveled freely across borders due to the neutrality of the Netherlands. Unfortunately her movements drew attention and in 1916, en route from Spain to
England, she was detained by Scotland Yard for questioning by Sir Basil Thomson in charge of counter-espionage. Zelle was eventually released. In 1917, radio messages between Madrid and Berlin reporting on activities of a German spy code named H-21 were intercepted by French intelligence which identified the spy as Mata Hari. The latter was subsequently arrested in her room at the Hotel Plaza Athénée in Paris. Zelle was accused of spying for Germany and causing the deaths of fifty thousand soldiers. She was tried, found guilty of treason, and was executed by firing squad on October 15, 1917.

In 1985, official case documents, which were to remain sealed for a hundred years under the authority of the French Ministry of Defense, were opened at the behest of biographer Russell Warren Howe who was able to reveal that Zelle was innocent of the charges of espionage. Her body was never claimed by any family members and was accordingly disposed of for medical study. Her head was embalmed at the Museum of Anatomy in Paris; however in 2000, archivists discovered that the head, as well as other body parts, had disappeared without record. Located in Zelle’s native town of Leeuwarden, the Frisian Museum exhibits a Mata Hari Room and is dedicated to collecting research materials on her life.

Mata Hari. Four autograph letters signed, to Jean Hallaure with whom Zelle was romantically involved. Date circa 1916; in French. Reference to obtaining safe passage to Vittel, a spa that Zelle frequented. Hallaure was a second lieutenant in the Deuxième Bureau (the intelligence branch) of the Ministry of War, Paris, and was responsible for bringing Zelle to the attention of his superior, Georges Ladoux, head of the Deuxième Bureau. Ladoux undertook to gather evidence against Zelle which led to her arrest under charges of espionage. Biographer Pat Shipman recounts this episode in her book *Femme Fatale: Love, lies, and the unknown life of Mata Hari* (2007), pp.199-204. (Miscellaneous Manuscripts 2, GTM.Gamms430, 3:13.1)

Johanna Maria Lind (1820-1887) was the opera singer whose household name was Jenny Lind, also nicknamed the “Swedish Nightingale.” During the 1840s, Lind was in great demand in Britain and Europe. In 1850 she was invited to America by P.T. Barnum, subsequently performing 93 concerts. The substantial proceeds were donated to charities and schools in Sweden. Eventually Lind toured independently under her own management. In 1952 she married her conductor and pianist Otto Gold Schmidt and returned with him to England where she resided for the rest of her life. Lind continued to perform at intervals throughout the 1860s and 1870s, finally retiring in 1883. In 1882, she was appointed professor of singing at the Royal College of Music. In the course of her career she became a close acquaintance of composers Frederic Chopin and Felix Mendelssohn.

Willis, Nathaniel Parker. *Memoranda of the Life of Jenny Lind.* (Philadelphia: Robert E. Peterson, 1851.) (Rare Book Collections)
Nellie Melba (1861-1931) was the stage name for Dame Helen Porter Mitchell, the world-famous opera singer. She was the first Australian to achieve international recognition as a classical musician. Melba studied singing in Paris and Brussels, eventually establishing her career as a lyric soprano at Covent Garden, London. She made her New York debut five years later in 1893. Her repertoire remained small with only twenty-five roles primarily in French and Italian. During World War I, Melba's generous donations to charities won her the honor of appointment as Dame Commander of the British Empire in 1918, and as Dame Grand Cross of the British Empire in 1927. Melba continued to perform until the end of her life giving her last performance in London in 1930. Tours took her through Europe as well as to Egypt in 1929. Melba was also a dedicated teacher at the Melbourne Conservatorium. The French chef Auguste Escoffier memorialized Melba by naming recipes for her, including “Peach Melba” and “Melba Toast.”

Charles Haddon Chambers (1860-1921). The Tyranny of Tears: A Comedy of Temperament. Leatherbound autograph manuscript. Front cover board bears autograph embossed inscription, signed by Chambers: “To Madame Melba from her Friend and Compatriot / The Author/1899.” (On loan from the Nicholas B. Scheetz Collection, Washington, D.C.)

Lucile Swan (1890-1948), painter and sculptor, was born in Sioux City, Iowa. She received her early education at Episcopal boarding school. In 1903 she moved to Chicago, and in 1908 began study at the Chicago Art Institute. Swan married artist Jerome Blum in 1912. From 1916 through 1923 she worked and traveled in China, Corsica, France, Japan, and Tahiti. In 1924 she divorced. Two years later, she closed her Chicago studio and moved to New York City. In 1929, Swan accepted a commission from the Cenozoic Laboratory in Peking. It was shortly after her arrival in China that year that she met Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, S.J., at a dinner given by Dr. Amadeus Grabau. She was later to recall that the meeting changed her life. Swan and Teilhard became lifelong friends. He was a frequent teatime guest at her house in Peking where hours passed in conversation regarding Teilhard’s philosophy. Over the years, a copious correspondence was exchanged between the two friends, most of which has only been published posthumously in The Letters of Teilhard de Chardin and Lucile Swan, edited by Thomas M. King, S.J., and Mary Wood Gilbert (1993). Among Swan's most remembered works during her time in China from 1929 to 1941, are the portrait bust of Teilhard de Chardin, now at the Museum of Natural History in Paris; and a reconstruction (nicknamed 'Nelly' by Teilhard) of one of the skulls of sinanthropus, the Peking Man, under the supervision of Franz Weidenreich, German anatomist and paleoanthropologist. In August 1941, Swan decided reluctantly to leave China in face of the Japanese occupation during World War II. She took up residence in Washington, D.C. Seven years passed before Swan and Teilhard de Chardin met again, in March 1948, during what was his sixth visit to the U.S. Over the ensuing years, the epistolary communication continued to within days of Teilhard’s death on April 10, 1955.
Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, S.J. Typed letter signed, dated December 15, 1950, to Lucile Swan. (Lucile Swan Papers, GTM.Gamms84, 2:66). "Dearest...By the same mail...I send you a copy...of my last essay, “Le Coeur de la Matiere”: a sort of history of my spiritual adventure, “the Quest of Spirit through Matter.” I wonder whether you will like it, -- but I think you will. Anyhow, these pages are an effort to express an internal evolution deeply impressed by you.”


Ellen Terry, GBE (1847-1928) was famous on stage and screen as Britain’s leading Shakespearean actress in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. She toured both England and Europe, and made her American debut in 1883 followed by six subsequent American tours.

Ellen Terry (1847-1928). Autograph letter signed, dated September 1, [1904] (1 page). Written from the Imperial Hotel in Bristol, requesting the purchase of A Channel Passage and other Poems by Algernon Charles Swinburne (Chatto & Windus, 1904): "...I leave here Sunday morning, & if only I cd have the book for my train journey it wd give me some happy hours..." Includes a postcard printed with Terry’s autumn tour schedule for 1904 (annotated by Terry). (John S. Mayfield Papers, GTM.830101, 2:6)

Photograph of Ellen Terry. Verso bears autograph note by George Bernard Shaw: "The Green Eyed Millionaire." Dated January 24, 1904. Photograph sent by Shaw to Max Reinhardt of Reinhardt & Evans to be used in the publication Ellen Terry and George Bernard Shaw: A Correspondence. (Max Reinhardt Papers, GTM.Gamms466, 1:19)

Maria Augusta von Trapp (1905-1987) was the inspiration for the well-known musical, The Sound of Music. Born in Vienna, Maria was orphaned at the age of seven. After graduation from the State Teachers College for Progressive Education in Vienna in 1923, she entered Nonnberg Abbey in Salzburg, intending to become a nun. Within a few years, however, Maria was asked to teach one of the seven children of widowed naval commander Georg Ludwig von Trapp who later married her, in 1927. In 1935, a young priest, Father Wasner, was invited to say Mass at the church where the children sang for services. He was so impressed by their performance that he undertook to give the family formal choir lessons. A year later, the family chanced to be heard by the famous German soprano Lotte Lehmann (1888-1976) who began to arrange public concerts for the newly named Trapp Family Singers. The family took first prize at the Salzburg Festival in 1936
which launched its career as the Trapp Family Choir. During World War II the Trapp family toured the United States and Canada donating concert proceeds to the Trapp Family Austrian Relief Fund. The family eventually bought a farm in Stowe, Vermont, where they settled permanently operating a lodge and music camp. *The Story of the Trapp Family Singers* by Maria von Trapp was published in 1949.

*Photograph of Maria Augusta von Trapp (right) at tea with a young woman (unidentified). Undated. (Gallery of Living Catholic Authors, GTM.Gamms472, 61:85)*

Bibliography of Works Consulted


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