

Female Writers' Contributions in Enriching the English Literature

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Abstract: The theme of this paper focuses on the woman authors in the English literature and their influential writing as well. A brief overview of the woman writers .The most important women authors will be represented. The paper will also explore the economic, social, political and other circumstances that determined their writing and try to represent their lives, their struggles, their writing and the styles they used.

On the other hand , Gender plays an important role in the lives of human beings, starting at the moment of their birth when they are given a blue blanket or a pink blanket as well as whether to play with a ball or a doll and sent forward on a path that will turn them into what their culture considers proper men or women. From the very first breaths, humans were taught to follow a strict code of behavior that differs depending on their sex. In a patriarchal society, this often means that a male will lead a privileged life in which he has thought to be the standard for human experience and the female will lead a subjugated, subservient life in which she is defined only in relation to males.

Moreover , The opinion on the feminine issues depended on the economical and living conditions that women writers went through, their education, opinions on the civilization, social environment, the attitude toward tradition and the issue of women's independence.

Keywords: civilization, social environment, Female Writers' Contributions.

1. INTRODUCTION

The aim of this essay is to take a closer look at selected women writers of the English history and at the society that influenced, shaped/restricted their writing. It is impossible to give the exact number of women writers that published then because there were so many of them. Some are known worldwide, some only to the experts in the field of literary studies, and for many other writers any records of their life and their works simply did not survive. The rise of the female novelist began in the 18th century, but it was not until the middle of the 19th century that their writings emerged on the literary market. For Elaine Showalter, the nineteenth century was the Age of the Female Novelist (Showalter, 1977, pp. 3-4). She believes that with appearance of Jane Austen, Charlotte Brönte, and George Eliot, the question of women's aptitude for fiction had been answered (Showalter, 1977, pp.3-4).

Situation for women writers was very difficult. With almost no formal educational background and little job opportunities, they had no other choice but to immerse themselves in writing novels as their way to escape from the dominant patriarchal society. Importantly, in doing so, some of them would paradoxically appropriate another masculine genre (Showalter, 1977, pp.3-4). It has to be taken into consideration that writing, and especially the novel genre, was for many of them the only way to comment critically on some of the social ills, including women's oppression.

They regarded the novel as a powerful tool to raise awareness about restrictions that affected women in the 19th century. Naturally, the messages that they wanted

to convey were carried out under a veil of different literary devices. Their resistance would be manifested on the level of plot, characterization or style.

Men held almost all the positions concerned with the writing, they were novelists, editors, publishers and in some aspect

they felt threatened by the entrance of women in the field of literature. As Sandra M. Gilbert and Susan Gubar point out, —to many late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century men, women seemed to be agents of an alien world that evoked anger and anguish, while to women in those years men appeared as aggrieved defenders of an indefensible order. Thus both male and female writers increasingly represented women’s unprecedented invasion of the public sphere as a battle of the sexes, a battle over a zone that could only be defined as a no man’s land (Gilbert, & Gubar.1988, p. 4).

2. THE ROLE OF THE WOMEN WRITERS IN ENGLISH LITERATURE

—Literature is not only a mirror. It is also a map, a geography of the mind. Literature has always held a faithfully mirror to the society under investigation and men and women are among the subjects of an extraordinary study in literature whether as victors or victims, as protagonist or mere creatures of a plot. Present literature comprises the multitudinous aspects of society, the complex, demanding, and far diverse arrangements that men and women make with one another.

Women find literature the most expressive form of art, which is true to women’s experience. Women’s writing falls as a separate category, which articulates the gender specific concerns of women – feminist viewpoint. Women’s literature is intimate, confessional, and autobiographical. Victimized as women are by male cruelty and indifference, the identity of women is formed out of pain and suffering. Celebration of femininity is a collectively identity of the female world. The collective identity is constructed on their collective oppression, which is a shared experience.

Women’s literature provides role-models. Individual women find their identity. It was the pen of male writer that the image was created as we see in literature today. It is the male writer who has painted with words her image in the mould of his whims, fancies, and dreams, love and hate, sometimes with regard and at other times with venom. Women were dominated by men in every fields. It is only after the 19th Century that their lot has improved to some extent. Till then, the image of women in Indian literature has been the creation of dominantly male writers. So we may say that it is the male writers who have opened the door for women to fight for their rights and equal position in society. Gradually the women writers have come to the force and claimed their rightful place in Indian literature.

Writing was considered unworthy of women, and only if she had a good reason for it (if she was the sole breadwinner in the family) it wasn’t frowned upon. They wrote about various topics, mostly in the form of a three decker novel and in different genres like the governess, detective, sentimental, religious, divorce, children’s literature, New Woman etc. The courage that took women novelists to write, to publish, to publicly admit the authorship of their works was something that today most of women cannot imagine. Though many of them today are judged according to the stance they took on the issue of womanhood, it would be unjust to put them only into categories of radicals or conservatives (take into consideration that what we consider conservative for today’s point of view was radical in theirs) Their writing, their struggle, their courage, their opposition opened doors for new generations of women writers.

The analysis of world women writers’ literary works would depict the changes referred to women’s right to take part in public life between the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century. In the 19th century women were hardly engaged in the activities outside the family duties. The 19th century was the beginning of women’s engagement into public matters concerning charity activities and education. In the 20th century they started to be interested into political matters as well as to set up their feminist organizations without the participation of men.

Women writers dominated the vast novel market in Victorian England, yet twentieth-century criticism has, until now, been chiefly concerned with a small number of canonical novelists. Women's contributions were clearly obvious in many fields of life during the Victorian age .

Science:

There were very few women in the field of science, since they had no access to formal education and they were only allowed to listen to public speeches. Mary Somerville is one of the few who was famous for her work in mathematical and physical science: she was the author of the first scientific article penned by a woman for the Royal Society of London.

Religion:

Church made it possible for women to leave the house and do some work outside of it. And it also gave their writing a sense of purpose that nobody could deny. Some of the women writers who dealt with the problem of religion in their novels are Charlotte Elizabeth, Georgiana Fullerton, Adelaide Procter and Mary Howitt, all of whom converted to Roman

Catholicism.

Education:

—In the 1860s women were allowed to take examinations given by the University of London, and in 1869 the first university college for women and the first lectures for women began at Cambridge. These developments gradually altered the shape of the arguments about woman's abilities, but they came too late to benefit the major Victorian writers (Mermin, 1993, p. 50)

Novels:

The success of women's literature coincided with a strong opposition on the part of men writers. They did not appreciate that women exhibited unwomanly force in their works, but again there is a paradox because male writers criticized women writers when they displayed woman weakness in the novels. There were many anti-feminists who believed that the only place for women was their home. The most famous amongst them were Charlotte M. Yonge, Eliza Lynn Linton, Mary (Mrs. Humphry) Ward, Margaret Oliphant.

3. THE WOMAN IN MODERNISM

Modernism embraced the issues of class, gender, the struggle for knowledge, and the senselessness and alienation of the time. The movement was a response to an international sense of depression, the helpless feeling held by many at that time that nothing was concrete or reliable anymore. It dealt with the way human personality seemed to change, as Virginia Woolf once stated in 1910, and it embraced disruption and rejection to move beyond the simplistic. Gender issues have always been a topic in society as well as in literature, so naturally gender became a major focus of the modernist movement.

Women, their intelligence and their judgment had always been regarded with contempt by a male oriented society (Marsden). Women had been seen and treated more as complements to the men in their lives than as individuals or spiritual entities; they were depicted in literature as womanly, weak, dutiful, and stupid. Most authors continued to write with the misguided perception that women were always inferior to men.

For centuries, women were defined by men; the world was male-centered and male-dominated. Male philosophers and social theorists were the ones who identified woman with disorder, savagery, chaos, unreason, and the excluded —other.

This collection is focusing attention on some of the women writers popular in their own time but forgotten or neglected by literary history.

4. FEMALE AUTHORS IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

Sappho (c 570 BC) One of the first published female writers. Much of her poetry has been lost, but her immense reputation has remained. Plato referred to Sappho as one of the great 10 poets.

von-bingen Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179) Mystic, author and composer. Hildegard of Bingen lived in a convent, but her writings, poetry and music were revelatory for the time period.

Mirabai Mirabai (1498-1565) – Bhakti poet. Mirabai wrote many devotional poems and bhajans to Lord Krishna. She left her privileged lifestyle to live as a wandering ascetic. Her poetry and bhajans remain influential today.

Mary Wollstonecraft (1759-1797) – Feminist and author. Her work, A Vindication of the Rights of Woman (1792) was an early and influential defence of women's rights.

Jane Austen (1775 – 1817) English author who wrote romantic fiction combined with social realism. Her novels include: Sense and Sensibility (1811), Pride and Prejudice (1813) and Emma (1816).

Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806 – 1861) A popular English poet of the Victorian age. Many of her poems carry religious / spiritual images. Important poetry collections included The Seraphim and Other Poems (1838) and Poems (1844).

Margaret –fuller Margaret Fuller (1810-1850) An American women's rights advocate. Her book Women in the Nineteenth Century (1845) was influential in changing perceptions about men and women, and was one of the most

important early feminist works.

Elizabeth Gaskell (1810–1865), British novelist and biographer. She wrote novels depicting life in Victorian Britain, including *Cranford* (1851–53), *Ruth* (1853) and *North and South* (1854–55). She also wrote the first biography of Charlotte Brontë.

Harriet Beecher Stowe (1811-1896) – Harriet Beecher Stowe was a lifelong anti-slavery campaigner. Her novel —*Uncle Tom’s Cabin* (1852) was a best seller and helped to popularize the anti-slavery campaign. Other works include *Palmetto Leaves* (1873) and *The Minister’s Wooing* (1859).

Charlotte Brontë (1816 – 1855) – English novelist from Haworth, Yorkshire. Eldest of the three Brontë sisters, Charlotte is best known for her novel *Jane Eyre* (1847). She also wrote *Shirley*, (1849) and *Villette* (1853).

Emily Brontë (1818 – 1848) One of the Brontë sisters, Emily is best known for her only novel *Wuthering Heights* (1847). *Wuthering Heights* is considered a classic of English literature. Emily also wrote poetry.

George Eliot (1819 – 1880) English novelist who was one of the leading writers of the Victorian period. She wrote under a male pseudonym because she felt it would help her to be taken more seriously. Important works include *The Mill on the Floss* (1860), *Middlemarch* (1871–72), and *Daniel Deronda* (1876).

Emily Dickinson (1830 – 1886) American female poet. During her life, she wrote many short vivid poems, often on the themes of death and immortality. During her lifetime only a few poems were published. But, after her death, they gradually became popular and influential on modern poetry.

Christina Rossetti (1830–1894), English poet. Rossetti wrote a variety of devotional and romantic poetry. Her best known works include the long poem *Goblin Market* (1862), and the poem *Remember*. She also wrote the words to the Christmas carol *In the Bleak Midwinter*.

Louisa May Alcott (1832 – 1888) American novelist. Alcott is best known for the novel *Little Women* (1868) and the follow up novels, such as *Little Men* (1871) and *Little Women, Jo’s Boys* (1886).

Beatrix Potter (1866 – 1943) English conservationist and best known as the author of *Tales of Peter Rabbit* (1902) and other books in the series, such as *The Tale of Squirrel Nutkin* (1903). Potter also drew the illustrations to accompany the stories.

Sarojini Naidu (1879–1949), Influential Indian author and Indian independence activist and poet. She has been referred to as the ‘The Nightingale of India’. She published her first collection of poems ‘The Golden Threshold’ in 1905. Famous poems include: ‘To a Buddha Seated on a Lotus’, ‘Suttee’, and ‘In the Bazaars of Hyderabad’.

Virginia Woolf (1882 – 1941) English modernist writer, and member of Bloomsbury group. Famous novels include: *Mrs Dalloway* (1925), *To the Lighthouse* (1927) and *Orlando* (1928),

Gabriela Mistral (1889-1957) Chilean poet, diplomat and educator. Mistral was the first Latin American woman to win the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1945.

Agatha Christie (1890 – 1976) British crime writer. Many of her books focused on series featuring the detectives ‘Poirot’ and Mrs Marple.

Vera Brittain (1893 – 1970) British writer best known for her autobiography – *Testament of Youth* – sharing her traumatic experiences of the First World War. **Enid Blyton** (1897 – 1968) British childrens writer, known for the popular children's books – *The Famous Five*, and *The Secret Seven*. Blyton wrote an estimated 800 books over 40 years.

Anna Akhmatova (1899–1966), Russian / Soviet poet. She lived through the Stalinist purges in the Soviet Union. Her longest work *Requiem* (1935–40) refers to the tragedy of the political turmoil under Stalin.

Barbara Cartland (1901 – 2000) One of most prolific and best selling authors of the romantic fiction genre. She wrote 700 books, and is estimated to have sold close to 1 billion books.

Daphne du Maurier (1907–1989) English author. She wrote novels and plays. Famous works include *Rebecca* (1938). Some of her works were made into films, including *Jamaica Inn* (1936) and the short story ‘Birds’ which was famously made into a film by Alfred Hitchcock.

Doris May Lessing (1919 – 2013) British author. Lessing was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2007. Significant works include *The Grass is Singing* (1950), *Children of Violence* (1952–69), *The Golden Notebook* (1962), and *The Good Terrorist* (1985).

Wisława Szymborska (1923 – 2012) Polish poet, essayist. She received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1996. She has been described as the ‘Mozart of Poland’. Her poetry was noted for its ironic precision, irony and ambiguity.

Maya Angelou (1928 –) – Modern American poet and author. Angelou is best known for her autobiographical works, such as *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* (1969).

Anne Frank (1929 – 1945) German Jewish diarist. Known for her diary ‘*Anne Frank*’ published after her death recalling life hiding from the Gestapo in Amsterdam.

Toni Morrison (1931 –) American novelist. She received the Pulitzer Prize in 1988 and the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1993. Her best known works include *The Bluest Eye* (1970), *Sula* (1973), *Song of Solomon* (1977) and *Beloved* (1987).

Sylvia Plath (1932 – 1963) American poet and novelist. Plath is best known for her poetry, which advanced a confessional style of poetry. Two of her best known published collections include: *The Colossus and Other Poems* (1960) and *Ariel* (1965). She was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1982.

Margaret Atwood (1939 –) Canadian poet and novelist. Atwood is best known for her poetry and novels. Influential poetry collections include: *The Circle Game* (1964). Booker prize nominated novels include *The Blind Assassin* (2000) and *Oryx and Crake* (2003)

Alice Walker (1944 –) American author. Walker is best known for her critically acclaimed *The Color Purple* (1982). The book focuses on the experiences of coloured women in the Deep South during the 1930s. The book was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1983.

Danielle Steel (1947 –) One of the best selling authors of all time. Steel has sold over 800 million copies of her Romance genre novels. Since her first book was published, every book has entered into best seller lists for paperback and hardback.

Arundhati Roy (1961 –) Indian author and political activist. She is best known for her novel. *The God of Small Things* (1997), which was awarded the Booker Prize for Fiction in 1998. The book tells of two fraternal twins whose lives are affected by the smallest of things.

J.K. Rowling (1965 –) British author of the Harry Potter Series – one of bestselling books of all time. Since the 7th and last in the series – *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* (2007), Rowling has branched out into adult books – *The Casual Vacancy* (2012) and *The Cuckoo’s Calling* (2013)

5. WOMEN WRITERS' PROMINENT LITERARY WORKS AND QUOTES

Aphra Behn (1640-1689) was a British playwright, poet, translator and fiction writer from the Restoration era. As one of the first English women to earn her living by her writing, she broke cultural barriers and ..

Her famous quotes are :

-“Love ceases to be a pleasure when it ceases to be a secret”.

-“Money speaks sense in a language all nations understand”.

-“Each moment of the happy lover's hour is worth an age of dull and common life”. **Anna Laetitia Barbauld** (1743-1825) was a prominent English poet, essayist, literary critic, editor, and children's author.

Her famous quotes are :

-“The dead of midnight is the noon of thought”.

-“When one by one our ties are torn, and friend from friend is snatched forlorn; when man is left alone to mourn, oh! then how sweet it is to die”!

-“The most characteristic mark of a great mind is to choose someone important object, and pursue it for life”.

Mary Wollstonecraft (1759- 1797) was an English writer, philosopher, and advocate of women's rights. During her brief

career, she wrote novels, treatises, a travel narrative, a history of the French Revolution, a conduct book, and a children's book.

Her famous quotes are :

- "No man chooses evil because it is evil; he only mistakes it for happiness, the good he seeks".

- "The divine right of husbands, like the divine right of kings, may, it is hoped, in this enlightened age, be contested without danger".

- "If women be educated for dependence; that is, to act according to the will of another fallible being, and submit, right or wrong, to power, where are we to stop?" **Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley** (1797-1851) was an English novelist, short story writer, dramatist, essayist, biographer, and travel writer, best known for her Gothic novel *Frankenstein: or, The Modern Prometheus*.

Her famous quote is

- " Nothing contributes so much to tranquilize the mind as a steady purpose - a point on which the soul may fix its intellectual eye".

Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806- 1861) was one of the most prominent English poets of the Victorian era, popular in Britain and the United States during her lifetime.

Her famous quotes are :

- "I love thee to the depth and breadth and height my soul can reach".

- "Earth's crammed with heaven, And every common bush afire with God; And only he who sees takes off his shoes; The rest sit round it and pluck blackberries".

- "Who so loves believes the impossible".

Charlotte Brontë (1816 – 1855) was an English novelist and poet, the eldest of the three Brontë sisters who survived into adulthood and whose novels have become classics of English literature. She first published her works under the pen name Currer Bell.

Her works are : Jane Eyre, Shirley, Sandil, Woman and Wife Her famous quotes are :

- I am no bird; and no net ensnares me; I am a free human being with an independent will.

- Conventionality is not morality. Self-righteousness is not religion. To attack the first is not to assail the last.

- Life appears to me too short to be spent in nursing animosity, or registering wrongs.

Louisa May Alcott (1832- 1888) was an American novelist and poet best known as the author of the novel *Little Women* and its sequels *Little Men* and *Jo's Boys*.

Her Movies: *Little Women*, *The Inheritance*, *An Old Fashioned Thanksgiving*, *The March Sisters At Christmas*, *Little Men*.

Her famous quotes are :

" I'm not afraid of storms, for I'm learning how to sail my ship". "Love is a great beautifier".

Charlotte Perkins Gilman (1860 – 1935) was a prominent American feminist, sociologist, novelist, writer of short stories, poetry, and nonfiction, and a lecturer for social reform.

Her famous quotes are :

- "There is no female mind. The brain is not an organ of sex. As well speak of a female liver".

- "Death? Why this fuss about death? Use your imagination, try to visualize a world without death! Death is the essential condition of life, not an evil".

- "The first duty of a human being is to assume the right functional relationship to society - more briefly, to find your real job, and do it".

Adeline Virginia Woolf, (1882 - 1941) known professionally as Virginia Woolf, was an English writer and one of the foremost modernists of the twentieth

century. Her masterpieces are : Orlando, Mrs. Dalloway, To the Lighthouse, Waves, Simple Gifts, A Room of One's Own.

Her famous quotes are :

-One cannot think well, love well, sleep well, if one has not dined well.

-You cannot find peace by avoiding life.

-A woman must have money and a room of her own if she is to write fiction.

Dame Agatha Mary Clarissa Christie, Lady Mallowan, DBE (1890- 1976) was an English crime novelist, short story writer and playwright.

Her Movies: Murder with Mirrors, The Mirror Crack'd, Murder, She Said, more Her Plays: The Mousetrap, Spider's Web, The Unexpected Guest.

Her famous quotes are :

- "An archaeologist is the best husband a woman can have. The older she gets the more interested he is in her.

- "It is a curious thought, but it is only when you see people looking ridiculous that you realize just how much you love them.

Zora Neale Hurston (1891 -1960) was an American novelist, short story writer, folklorist, and anthropologist. Of Hurston's four novels and more than 50 published short stories, plays, and essays, she is best known for her 1937 novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.

Her plays: Mule Bone, Color Struck

Her movies: The Gilded Six Bits, Their Eyes Were Watching God Her famous quotes are :

- " Love makes your soul crawl out from its hiding place " .

- " There are years that ask questions and years that answer".

Doris May Lessing (1919- 2013) was a British novelist, poet, playwright, librettist, biographer and short story writer. Wikipedia

Her Movies: Adore, Killing Heat, My Friend Victoria, Memoirs of a Survivor Her Awards: Nobel Prize in Literature, Somerset Maugham Award, more

Her famous quotes are :

- "That is what learning is. You suddenly understand something you've understood all your life, but in a new way".

- "In university they don't tell you that the greater part of the law is learning to tolerate fools".

Maya Angelou (1928 – 2014) was an American poet, memoirist, and civil rights activist. She published seven autobiographies, three books of essays, several books of poetry, and was credited with a list of plays, movies, and television shows spanning over 50 years.

Her literary contributions are Movies and TV shows: Down in the Delta, Roots, Poetic Justice,

Her famous quote is

- "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel".

Toni Morrison (1931-) is an American novelist, editor, and Professor Emeritus at Princeton University. Her novels are

known for their epic themes, vivid dialogue, and richly detailed characters.

Her works are : Beloved, A Moment in Time: Conversations with Legendary Women: African American Women of Achievement.

She has got many awards such as Nobel Prize in Literature, Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Her famous quote is

- "If there is a book that you want to read, but it hasn't been written yet, you must be the one to write it".

Margaret Eleanor Atwood (1939) is a Canadian poet, novelist, literary critic, essayist, and environmental activist.

Her best Short stories are : Happy Endings, Rape Fantasies, The Resplendent Quetzal, Free-for-all, Unearthing Suite.

Her novels : The Handmaid's Tale, Payback, Margaret Atwood: Once in August, The Robber Bride, In the Wake of the Flood, Yes no . She was influenced by: William Shakespeare, Alice Munro and Doris Lessing .

Her famous quote is

-"Another belief of mine: that everyone else my age is an adult, whereas I am merely in disguise".

Angela Olive Carter-Pearce (1940- 1992) who published as Angela Carter, was an English novelist, short story writer and journalist, known for her feminist, magical realism, and picaresque works.

Her Movies: The Company of Wolves, The Magic Toyshop . Her famous quotes are :

-"Comedy is tragedy that happens to other people".

-"The notion of a universality of human experience is a confidence trick and the notion of a universality of female experience is a clever confidence trick".

Joanne "Jo" Rowling, OBE, FRSL, pen names J. K. Rowling and Robert Galbraith (1965) is a British novelist, screenwriter and film producer best known as the author of the Harry Potter fantasy series.

Her famous plays are : Harry Potter and the Cursed Child

Her famous novels are : Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them, more Her famous quote is

-"We do not need magic to transform our world. We carry all the power we need inside ourselves already. We have the power to imagine better".

6. GREAT WOMEN WRITERS IN SPECIFIC FIELDS

Children's Books

Edgeworth, Maria, 1767-1849.

Moral tales for young people by Maria Edgeworth. London (St. Paul's Churchyard)

: printed for J. Johnson, 1801, ([London], Paternoster-Row) : G. Woodfall).

Martineau, Harriet, 1802-1876.

The sellers at home by Harriet Martineau. London ; New York : G. Routledge, 1856 (London : Savill and Edwards).

Edgeworth, Maria, 1767-1849.

Waste not, want not, or, Two strings to your bow by Maria Edgeworth ; with illustrations from original designs.

Philadelphia: Geo. S. Appleton, ; New York : D. Appleton & Co., 1847. Illustrations engraved by W. Roberts and Herrick W. Croome.

Rosse Christina Georgina, 1830-1894. Sing-song: a nursery rhyme book by Christina G. Rosse1 ; with one hundred and twenty illustrations by Arthur Hughes ; engraved by the brothers Dalziel. London : George Routledge and Sons, 1872 ([London] : Camden press ; Dalziel Brothers).

Lamb, Mary, 1764-1847.

Mrs. Leicester's school: or, The history of several young ladies, related by themselves. 1st American ed. George Town Va. Published by Joseph Milligan, 1811 (George Town? : W.Cooper). Three of the tales (The witch aunt, First going to church, and The sea voyage) are by Charles Lamb, the remaining seven by Mary Lamb.

Lamb, Mary, 1764-1847. Poetry for children, entirely original by the author of Mrs. Leicester's [sic] school. Boston, West and Richardson, and E. Colton, 1812.

Craik, Dinah Maria Mulock, 1826-1887. Little Lizzie and the fairies: and, Sunny Hair's dream by Dinah

Maria Mulock ; with other tales ; illustrated with twentyfour engravings. Boston: Crosby, Nichols & Co., [1852].

Craik, Dinah Maria Mulock, 1826-1887. Our year: a child's book in prose and verse by the author of —John Halifax, Gentleman; illustrated by Clarence Dobell. Cambridge; London : Macmillan and Co., 1860 (London :

Richard Clay).

Craik, Dinah Maria Mulock, 1826-1887. The adventures of a brownie as told to my child by the Author of —John Halifax, gentleman; illustrated by Mrs.

Allingham. New ed. London: Macmillan and Co., 1881 (Edinburgh : R. & R. Clark). Fenwick, E. (Eliza).

Six stories for the nursery: in words of one and two syllables: intended as a sequel to

—Baby tales. I by a mother, for the use of her own children. London: Printed for M. J. Godwin and Co. at the City Juvenile and School Library, 41, Skinner Street ..., 1819 (London : Printed by R. and A. Taylor, Shoe-Lane).

Yonge, CharloDe Mary, 1823-1901.

The little duke, or, Richard the Fearless by the author of —The heir of Redclyffe, I

—Kings of England; with illustrations drawn and lithographed by J.B. London: John

W. Parker and Son, 1854.

Yonge, CharloDe Mary, 1823-1901.

The history of Sir Thomas Thumb by the author of —The heir of Redcliffe, I

—Heartsease, I —The little duke, I &c.; illustrated by J. B. Edinburgh : Thomas Constable and Co. ; London : Hamilton, Adams, and Co., 1855.

Yonge, CharloDe Mary, 1823-1901.

Countess Kate by the author of —The heir of Redclyffe. I London: J. and C. Mozley: Masters and Co., 1862.

Ewing, Juliana Horatia Galy, 1841-1885. The brownies and other tales by Juliana Horatia Ewing ; with illustrations by George Cruikshank. London: Bell and Daldy, 1871 (London : William Clowes and Sons).

Procter, Adelaide Anne, 1825-1864.

The angel's story by Adelaide Anne Procter ; with eight illustrations by Charles O. Murray. London : George Bell and Sons, [1881?] ([London] : Chiswick Press ; C. Whittingham and Co.).

Havergal, Frances Ridley, 1836-1879. The four happy days by Frances Ridley Havergal. London : James Nisbet and Co., 1874 (Edinburgh : Murray and Gibb). **Havergal, Frances Ridley**, 1836-1879. Morning bells, or, Waking thoughts for the little ones by

Frances Ridley Havergal. London : James Nisbet & Co., 1880 (Edinburgh : Morrison & Gibb).

Harris, Amanda Bartle, 1824-1917. Pleasant authors for young folks by Amanda

B. Harris. Boston : D. Lothrop and Company, c1884.

Including Chapters on Mary Russell Mitford – Jane Austen — Dinah Mulock-Craik

— Charlotte Brontë — and more.

EllioD, Mary, 1794?-1870.

Living and moving, or, How we travel by the author of -Plain

things for little folk. London : Darton and Co., [1874?]. Tentatively attributed to

Mary Ellio1 by Osborne Coll., p. 186. However, Mary Elizabeth Southwell Dudley Leathley 1818-1899 (a contemporary of Mary Ellio1) also nan author of book entitled: —Plain things for little folk published by Darton in 1851.

EllioD, Mary, 1794-1870.

The modern Goody Two-Shoes : exemplifying the good consequences of early mention to learning and virtue by Mary Belson. London (58, Holborn Hill) : William Darton, 1815 (London : William Darton).

EllioD, Mary, 1794-1870.

The little mimic by Mary Ellio1. New York : John McLoughlin, c1856.

7. ILLUSTRATED TEXTS

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11. CONCLUSION

The prevalence of difference in the literary works of men and women is a topic for much further research. However the success of women writings is highly acclaimed that it has won international recognitions breaking the barriers of Gender, Race and Region. The imbalance between women writing in poetry prose and Drama still exists.

The society in which women authors in the 19th century lived was in a constant flux. New towns were emerging, people moved from the country to the cities looking for new jobs; factories and networks of railways were building all around the country. Education was in the men's area but schools started to open for girls who previously had only access to books through circulating library or maybe library in their own homes. Before the Victorian period, woman's roles in art were very different. She was either men's muse, his inspiration, or she helped in his composing but only a few women dared to write. The first great literary works by Victorian women were Charlotte Brontë's Jane Eyre and Emily Brontë's Wuthering Heights in prose fiction, Barrett Browning's Sonnets from the Portuguese and Aurora Leigh in verse. Upon the publication of their works, first era for women writers was born.

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