



Widows Can Marry Again

England, 1100: In one of his first acts as king, Henry has signed the Charter of Liberties, which grants a number of rights not previously available. Of particular interest to women is the provision that widows, either with or without children, are permitted to keep their dowries, and are free to marry again if they so choose. They are also allowed to be guardians of any land left by their husbands.

Another section of the new Charter of Liberties guarantees the independence of the Church.



Henry I's Charter of Liberties allows widows to remarry.

Henry became king earlier this year following the death of his brother, William II. The Charter of Liberties, which makes the king theoretically subject to the rule of law, is understood to be in response to demands from the nobility, who are seeking a more centralized approach to government.

New Texts Focus on Women's Health

Salerno, Italy, 1100: Three new texts, their subject the ailments and conditions

suffered by women, have been released. They are believed to have been written by Trotula of Ruggiero, a professor of medicine at Salerno and a woman much admired for her innovative approaches to traditional problems. She is said to have written the works in order to teach male physicians about female anatomy.

Her major work is *Passionibus Mulierum Curandorum*, which covers menstruation, conception, pregnancy, and childbirth, including discussion of breech births and cesarean sections. She advocates the use of herbal opiates to alleviate the pains of childbirth, a controversial notion among the medical fraternity.

In this work, Trotula also describes the most effective ways of repairing the tears that many women experience during the process of childbirth.

Trotula has become an important figure in the educational community in Salerno, which has been accepting female students and teachers for some time. She is known both locally and abroad as a wise and sensitive healer, and her work on pre- and post-natal care is being taught in other institutions. Her students are instructed to put the comfort of their patients first—she recommends herbal baths and plenty of rest, arguing that this speeds the healing process.

Although the authorship of some of the material is in doubt, it is clear that the detailed discussion of women's health issues breaks new ground.

Last Judgment for Ava

Melk, Austria, February 1127: Ava of Melk, the poet often referred to as Frau Ava, has died, aged about 66. Not much is known about her life, beyond the facts that she lived as a recluse, and that she had two sons, Hartmann and Heinrich, who probably led monastic lives. She refers

to herself as “the mother of two sons” in her last poem. But Ava will be remembered for her religious poetry, and because she was the first woman known to write in the German language.

Ava's five great poems all have spiritual subjects; her inspiration for her poetry appears to result from *lectio divina* (divine reading). The imagery she employs comes from both the scriptures and from German religious tradition. Her familiarity with the gospels and the liturgy has provided her with a wealth of material with which to embellish her verse.

Her first poem was *Johannes* (John the Baptist), followed by *Leben Jesu* (Life of Jesus), which praises the Savior's work in saving human souls. *The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit* lists wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of God as essential characteristics for leading a good life. Ava's last two poems are *Antichrist* and *The Last Judgment*, which describe the end of the world, and the final judgment of the good and the evil.

Matilda Loses Crown

England, November 1141: After months of imprisonment, Stephen again wears the



Matilda rejected Stephen's wife's pleas for his release.

time out

The Toltec queen Xochitl fell in battle in 1116 while leading an army of women. She is credited with discovering a fermentation process for the agave plant and producing the alcoholic beverage, pulque (tequila).



Bernard of Clairvaux's visions inspired many to join the Crusades.

English crown. It has been a tumultuous few years—Matilda, the daughter and heir of the late King Henry, has a legitimate claim to be queen, and has been trying to remove Stephen from the throne for some years.

Before Henry died in 1135, he had secured Matilda's right to the succession when the barons pledged allegiance to her. However, when the time arrived, Stephen of Blois, Henry's nephew, seized the throne for himself, thus sparking the civil war between the cousins. Matilda, who has been married twice—first to Henry V, the Holy Roman Emperor, and next to Geoffrey of Anjou—based herself and her forces at the castle of her half-brother, Robert of Gloucester, and has the support of a large group of barons.

In February this year, Matilda's forces captured Stephen at the Battle of Lincoln and had him incarcerated. Having finally gained the upper hand, Matilda swept into London and took control of the country. However, she had not reckoned with the Londoners, disenchanted with

her arrogance, who refused to crown her as their queen. Capitalizing on this setback, Matilda of Boulogne, Stephen's wife, gathered together a large contingent to oust Matilda from her base in Winchester. Matilda managed to escape, but while leading the rearguard, Robert was taken prisoner. This month, Matilda was forced to exchange Stephen for Robert, and now Stephen has returned triumphant to the throne of England.

The Visions of Hildegard

Bingen, Germany, c. 1151: Abbess Hildegard, the Benedictine nun, visionary, theologian, and composer, has completed her monumental work *Scivias* (*Know the Way*), which she began in 1142.

Scivias is a detailed account of some 26 visions that Hildegard has experienced, some of which are said to explain the meaning of certain religious texts. Hildegard, who has been receiving divine visions since childhood, was anxious to have official sanction from the Church to write her work. Some of her writings were submitted to church officials in Mainz and after careful scrutiny, they were found to be valid, so permission to continue writing down accounts of her visions was granted.

Since then, Hildegard of Bingen has been attracting a wide audience of people keen to hear her wise words and her guiding messages. So respected is she that even bishops and kings are said to seek her advice on both spiritual and worldly matters. She is sometimes called the “Sybil of the Rhine.”

Hildegard's other great passion is music. She has composed many hymns

and plays, often in plainchant, which utilizes just a single line of vocal melody.

Hildegard, who was born in 1098, entered the convent at the age of 15 and became superior of the abbey at Disibodenberg upon the death of her mentor and teacher, Jutta the anchoress. In about 1147, she and a group of her nuns left for Rupertsberg near Bingen to found a new convent, where Hildegard continued to write down her visions and tend to her many duties as abbess.

Scivias contains prophetic visions and cautions about sinful living. The work is divided into three main parts, the first book describing six of her visions, the second describing seven visions, and the third book explaining 13 visions. It is not an easy work to read, but scholars and theologians will find it an invaluable addition to the literature.



Hildegard of Bingen



Key Events

Hampshire, England, August 2, 1100: King William II (William Rufus) dies while on a hunting trip, aged about 44. He is succeeded by his brother, Henry.
England, 1100: King Henry signs the Charter of Liberties, allowing widows the right to an enforced marriage, and protecting the independence of the Church.
Salerno, Italy, c. 1100: Three texts on women's health are written, possibly by a female doctor of medicine named Trotula.

Japan, c. 1108: Fujiwara no Nagako (Lady Sanuki) writes *Sanuki no Suke nikki*, a memoir of the Emperor Horikawa.
Tripoli, Middle East, July 12, 1109: After surviving a number of years under siege, the city of Tripoli finally falls to the Crusaders.
Beijing, China, 1115: Jurchen warriors from Manchuria defeat the Khitan Liao dynasty, and establish the Jin dynasty in northern China.
Melk, Austria, February, 1127: Frau Ava, religious poet, dies aged about 66.

Bordeaux, France, July 25, 1137: Fifteen-year-old heiress Eleanor of Aquitaine marries Louis, heir to King Louis VI of France.
England, November 1141: Princess Matilda loses the fight to her rival for the English throne, Stephen of Blois.
Portugal, October 5, 1143: Portugal becomes an independent kingdom.
Europe, 1147: The Second Crusade begins.
Constantinople, Byzantium, c. 1148: Anna Comnena completes *Alexiad*, a 15-volume work on her father, Emperor Alexius Comnenus.

Angkor, Cambodia, 1150: Suryavarman II, great leader of the Khmer Empire, dies in battle.
Hangzhou, China, 1151: Li Qingzhao, distinguished exponent of ci poetry, dies, aged about 67.
Bingen, Germany, c. 1151: Hildegard of Bingen completes *Scivias* (*Know the Way*), a chronicle of her visions.
Bayeux, France, 1152: Eleanor of Aquitaine's marriage to Louis VII of France is annulled.
Jerusalem, Middle East, 1152: Queen Melisende is forced to share the kingdom with her son, Baldwin.

Clairvaux, France, August 20, 1153: Bernard of Clairvaux, Cistercian monk, scholar and preacher, dies, aged about 63. He advocated the veneration of Mary, the Mother of Christ, although regarding women as an “inferior sex.”
Tibet, c. 1153: Machig Labdron, Buddhist philosopher and mystic, dies.
London, England, December 1154: Eleanor of Aquitaine and her husband of 2 years, Henry, Count of Anjou, are crowned king and queen of England.

Sri Lanka, c. 1156: Sugala Devi is captured when her army of rebellion is defeated by King Parakramabahu.
Constantinople, Byzantium, 1161: Manuel I Comnenus marries Maria of Antioch.
Schonau, Germany, c. 1161: Benedictine nun Elisabeth of Schonau records her visions with the help of her brother, who makes them widely known.
Ngent-sur-Seine, France, May, 1164: Héloïse, abbess, and former lover of Peter Abelard, dies, aged about 62.

Rouen, France, September 10, 1169: Princess Matilda, one-time ruler of England, dies, aged about 68.
Canterbury, England, December 29, 1170: Archbishop Thomas Becket is murdered in Canterbury Cathedral.
England, c. 1170: French poet Marie de France writes rhyming fables and plays for the royal court.
Khandahar, Afghanistan, 1173: Mohammad Ghor becomes the Sultan of Afghanistan and plans the conquest of India.

Barking, England, c. 1176: Clemence of Barking writes *Vie de Sainte Catherine*, adapting an earlier Latin biography of Catherine of Alexandria, in Anglo-Norman verse.
Bingen, Germany, 1179: Hildegard of Bingen, visionary, writer, and composer, dies, aged about 81.
Acre, Middle East, c. 1184: Agnes of Courtenay, adviser to Baldwin IV of Jerusalem and Queen Sibylla of Jerusalem, dies, aged about 50.
Hattin, Middle East, July 1187: The Battle of Hattin is a resounding victory for Saladin's forces.

Japan, 1188: Shikishi Naishinno, imperial princess, priestess, and poet, has some of her work published in *Senzai-shu*.
Europe, May 1189: The Third Crusade begins.
London, England, July 1189: Eleanor of Aquitaine becomes regent for her son, Richard, while he fights in the Third Crusade.
Hohenbourg, Alsace, c. 1190: Abbess Herrad von Landsberg completes the major part of the *Horulus Deliciarum* (*Garden of Delights*).

Worms, Germany, 1196: Eleazar of Worms writes an elegy describing the virtues of his wife, who was murdered in her home along with her daughters.
Meaux, France, March 1198: Marie of Champagne, proponent of courtly love, dies, aged about 53.
India, 1100s: Akka Mahadevi, Bhakti poet, dies, aged about 20.
Iraq, 1100s: Saffiya al-Baghdadiyya, poet, writes of the relationships between men and women.



Eleanor of Aquitaine

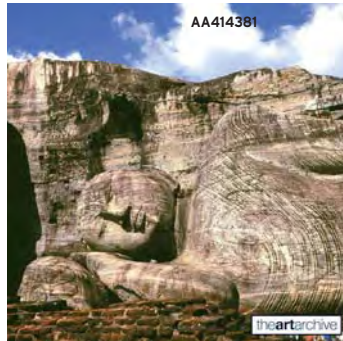
Rebellious Princess Defeated

Sri Lanka, c. 1156: Rebel princess Sugala Devi has been captured by the forces of King Parakramabahu and escorted out of Rahuna. The king, who has reigned since 1153, has brought a large measure of economic prosperity to the country, and he has long been insisting that all the regions of Lanka accord him sole leadership. But Sugala, mother of Manahbarana, has consistently refused to accept the king's overriding authority.

In addition, since the death of her son, she has held possession of some sacred relics, among them the Tooth Relic of the Buddha, and Parakramabahu wanted that relic in the capital, Polunnaruwa.

Rahuna's defiant princess gathered together a force of rebel soldiers, and led her army in a long-running battle against the most powerful man in the country. Unfortunately she was no match for the royal forces. Many of her men have been executed, but Sugala Devi herself has been spared. Some reports suggest she has been taken to the king's palace, others say she has been sent to Pulattinagara.

Whether her actions are considered heroic or simply foolhardy, it is certain that Princess Sugala Devi's feisty rebellion will become an important story in Sri Lankan history.



Reclining Buddha from the palace of King Parakramabahu in Sri Lanka.

Death of a Legend

Nogent-sur-Seine, France, May 1164: Héloïse, abbess of the Oratory of the Paraclete, has died, aged around 62. A nun since the age of about 18, Héloïse's intellect quickly led to her appointment as a prioress, responsible for the education of the nuns. In about 1129, she moved to the Paraclete and soon became abbess. Her erudition and leadership skills were highly regarded

in France, and she was instrumental in establishing a number of other priories.

Héloïse is also known for her controversial relationship with one of the greatest philosophers of our times, Peter Abelard, whom she met while still a girl of 17. Her guardian and uncle, Canon Fulbert, had arranged for his niece to have the best possible education, and word of her intelligence soon reached Abelard's ears. He became her private tutor, and soon after, her lover. When Héloïse discovered she was pregnant, Abelard, some 20 years her senior, asked for her hand in marriage. But Héloïse rejected the idea, pointing out that because married men are not permitted to be teachers, she did not wish to deprive others of his vast knowledge. However, to protect her good name, she did marry Abelard in secret, following the birth of their son. After this, Héloïse immediately went into a convent.

Unfortunately, Fulbert found out about the marriage and became so enraged that he arranged for Abelard to be castrated, which led to Abelard entering monastic life. Abelard died in 1142, aged about 63, and is buried at the Paraclete.

What interests scholars and students is the correspondence between Héloïse and Abelard, exchanged while both served God in their respective religious houses. In their letters, they discuss a range of philosophical and theological issues. It

would seem that these two brilliant thinkers had a true marriage of minds—and a tragic love affair. Héloïse is also to be laid to rest at the Paraclete.

King Baldwin's Mother Dies

Acre, Middle East, c. 1184:

Agnes of Courtenay, the mother of King Baldwin IV of Jerusalem and Sibylla of Jerusalem, has died, aged about 50. Since Baldwin IV took the throne in 1174 at the age of 13, Agnes has acted as one of his closest and most trusted advisers.

Daughter of Joscelin II of Edessa, Agnes was born about 1136. She married Amalric, count of Jaffa and Ascalon, and heir to King Baldwin III, in 1157. Agnes's fortunes changed, however, when Baldwin III died in 1162 and the high court of Jerusalem named Amalric as king, on condition that he have his marriage to Agnes annulled on the grounds that they were distantly related. The court, however, recognized the succession rights of her children. In 1170, Agnes married Reginald of Sidon.



When Amalric died in 1174 and Baldwin IV came to power, Agnes of Courtenay returned to court to work for her son, who soon came to trust her judgment. It is said that Agnes advised her son to marry his widowed sister off to Guy de Lusignan, who was briefly regent last year. Sadly, the intelligent Baldwin suffers from leprosy and is not expected to live much longer. Because he has no male heirs, the king has been trying to select a successor, his five-year-old nephew being one of the candidates.

Agnes had been in poor health recently and she died peacefully at her home.

Eleanor Leads Kingdom for Richard

London, England, July 1189: With the death of Henry II, his son Richard has ascended the throne, but as Richard is eager to set off for the Third Crusade, responsibility for the kingdom has been placed in the hands of his mother, Eleanor of Aquitaine. Eleanor is intelligent, powerful, and capable, and will be certain to look after Richard's interests in his absence.

Eleanor is no stranger to power. She inherited Aquitaine and Poitiers when her father died in 1137, and she married her first husband, Louis VII of France, when she was 15. The marriage produced two daughters. Inspired by the writings of Bernard of Clairvaux, she went with Louis on the Second Crusade, taking a group of women with her. But her marriage to Louis, already shaky, did not last and it was dissolved in 1152.

A few months later, Eleanor married Henry Plantagenet, count of Anjou, who in 1154 inherited the throne of England and became Henry II. She had gone from being queen of France to being queen of England. Eleanor bore Henry five sons



Eleanor of Aquitaine and her daughter-in-law Isabelle are led into captivity after rebelling against Henry II.

and three daughters. That marriage was also unhappy—Henry is known to have been regularly unfaithful.

Eleanor returned to Aquitaine in 1168 to attend to her interests there, among them music and literature, interests she inherited from her grandfather William IX of Aquitaine, who was well known as a troubadour and soldier.

By 1172, Eleanor was back in England, and a year later she devised a plan to rid herself of her husband, even pitting his sons, Henry, Richard, Geoffrey, and John against him. When they fled to France to avoid retribution, Eleanor attempted to follow them, but was imprisoned by Henry for some 15 years. She was only released recently.

Because her oldest son Henry is dead, Richard is the new king, and has ordered

A page from the *Hortus Deliciarum* by Herrad von Landsberg.

that while he is away at the Crusades his mother's word should be taken as law.

Herrad's "Garden of Delights"

Hohenbourg, Alsace, c. 1190: Herrad von Landsberg, abbess of the convent at St Odile, has finally completed her *Hortus Deliciarum* (*Garden of Delights*), a massive illustrated encyclopedia she has been working on since about 1165. Its scope is impressive—it covers biblical and theological material, as well as all the known sciences. It describes the history of the world from its creation and explains the meaning of the scriptures. Herrad is a champion of culture and education, and she wants the book to be used primarily as a teaching text for nuns.

Written in Latin, *Hortus Deliciarum* also includes occasional German explanations of words and phrases to aid in comprehension. The work contains about 340 beautifully presented illustrations, some symbolic of various philosophical concepts, some historical depictions, some representations of biblical stories, all of which complement the text. There is a self-portrait of the abbess and a portrayal of the sisters at the convent. The manuscript also contains a number of religious songs and poems complete with musical notation.

Herrad, who was born at Landsberg in Alsace around 1130, entered the convent while still in her teens, and was made abbess in 1167. Well educated and with finely honed artistic skills, Herrad brings a wealth

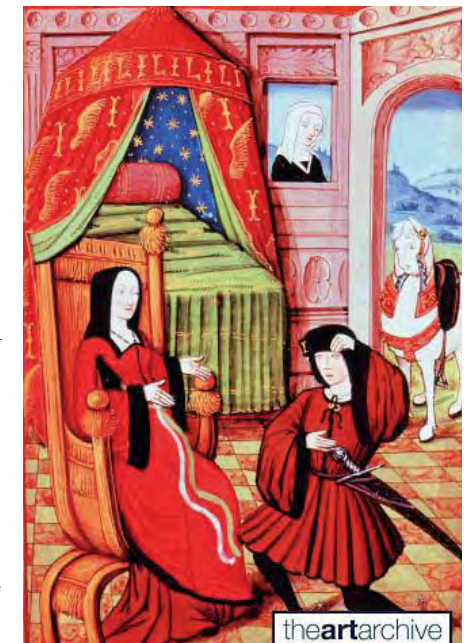
of knowledge to this amazing compendium. She is a respected teacher and illuminator, and *Hortus Deliciarum* will serve students well for years to come.

Patron of Poets and Courtly Love Is Dead

Meaux, France, March 1198: Marie of Champagne, who spent much of her life promoting ideals of love and chivalry, has died, aged 53. She was the daughter of Louis VII of France and his first wife, Eleanor of Aquitaine.

Marie was married to Henry I of Champagne in 1164, and upon his death in 1181 she assumed the role of regent for her son, Henry II.

However, it is as a supporter and sponsor of literature that Marie will be best remembered. She encouraged such gifted writers as Chrétien de Troyes, as well as Andreas Capellanus, who wrote *De amore* (*On Love*), which described the ideals of courtly love. The admirable notion of courtly love places woman at the very core of morality and as such, it is an inspiration for noblemen both in battle and in their personal lives.



Marie of Champagne supported the ideal of courtly love.



Héloïse

"RICHES AND
POWER ARE
BUT GIFTS OF
BLIND FATE,
WHEREAS
GOODNESS IS
THE RESULT OF
ONE'S OWN
MERITS."

HÉLOÏSE (1100–1164)
FRENCH ABBESS
AND SCHOLAR



“I’M NOT HERE FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT / YOU DON’T REALLY WANT TO MESS WITH ME TONIGHT.”
PINK, AMERICAN SINGER

Major Coup for Chinese Tennis Duo

Melbourne, Australia, January 31: China’s Zheng Jie and Yan Zi have made tennis history today, becoming the first Chinese players to win a major tournament with their 2-6, 7-6 (9-7), 6-3 win over top seeds Lisa Raymond of the United States and Australia’s Samantha Stosur in the women’s final of the Australian Open in Melbourne. The victory caps off a remarkable 12 months for the two long-time friends and playing partners that has seen them claim two doubles titles—in Hobart and Hyderabad—as well as reaching the quarter-finals of the US Open. Last season saw Zheng and Yan each win career-first singles titles.

Seeded twelfth in Melbourne, they displayed tenacity and a fighting spirit which saw them claw their way back from a set down only to weather two match points in the pivotal second set, before using a back-court strategy of



Jie Zheng and Zi Yan win China’s first grand slam.

passing shots and lobs to neutralize the serve-volley tactics of their more fancied rivals in a match lasting just on 2 hours and 15 minutes.

Although compatriots Li Ting and Sun Tiantian created history by winning the gold medal in women’s doubles at the 2004 Athens Olympics, this is the first time a Chinese player has even reached the final of a major tournament.

Chile Turns Left, Elects Woman

Santiago, Chile, March 11: Chile took a dramatic turn to the political left today with the swearing in of Michelle Bachelet as President in a ceremony at the national congress in Valparaíso. The 54-year-old pediatrician, single mother, and self-proclaimed agnostic defeated billionaire Sebastián Piñera in run-off elections in January, winning 53.51 percent of the vote to become the country’s first woman president—and the first popularly-elected female leader in Latin America whose political rise occurred independently of her spouse.

The Chilean right failed in the end to distance itself from the atrocities committed during the 17-year rule of Augusto Pinochet. Piñera tried in vain to portray himself as a “Christian humanist,” but was unable to gain the confidence of the poor and the working class whose votes swept Bachelet and her Coalition for Democracy to an emphatic victory.

Bachelet was born in Santiago on September 29, 1951, the daughter of an Air Force general who was tortured to death in 1974 by the Pinochet regime for his close association with the former Allende government. Bachelet was herself imprisoned and tortured before spending five years in exile in Australia and East Germany. Returning to Chile in 1979, she worked as a doctor treating the children of families suffering political repression. In the late 1990s she served on the Socialist



Michelle Bachelet is sworn in as Chile’s president.

Party’s commission on military affairs, and went on to hold the health and defense portfolios in the government of President Ricardo Lagos before being approached late last year to become her party’s presidential candidate.

Iraqi Captors Free Kidnapped Journalist

Baghdad, Iraq, March 30: Jill Carroll, the freelance journalist kidnapped 82 days ago by an obscure group known as the Brigades of Vengeance, has walked into the offices of the Iraqi Islamic Party today after being released by her captors.

On January 7 Carroll, her driver, and interpreter Allan Enwiya were on their way to interview the Sunni leader Adnan al-Dulaimi in a western Baghdad suburb when gunmen seized her, killing her

interpreter. The driver managed to escape unharmed. Her release was a high priority for the Bush administration, with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice expressing her relief and delight at Carroll’s release at a press conference in Berlin today. In Iraq on assignment for the *Christian Science Monitor*, Carroll said that she was permitted to watch television, interact with Iraqi women and children, and also read newspapers during her captivity. But frosted windows in her room made it impossible to determine where she was being held. At no point was she threatened with violence.

Support for Carroll, who was in Iraq as part of a humanitarian aid mission, came from some unlikely sources. The militant group Hamas lobbied for her release, describing Carroll as a person sympathetic to the needs of the Iraqi people, who observed and was sensitive to Arab and Islamic traditions.

Scottish Literary Titan Muriel Spark Dies

Florence, Italy, April 13: The most acclaimed Scottish novelist of the modern era, Dame Muriel Spark, died today in a Florence hospital, aged 88. Spark was a true literary giant, often spoken of in the same breath as Beckett or Joyce. She wrote 24 novels as well as many short stories and three biographies, and is best remembered for her masterful 1962 account of a narcissistic Scottish teacher, *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*. Muriel Spark was, however, far more than just Jean Brodie.

Born on February 1, 1918, as Muriel Sarah Camberg, she was educated at Edinburgh’s James Gillespie’s High School for Girls where, at the age of 12, she won the first of many literary awards. She married in 1937 and traveled to South Africa, only to divorce in 1944



The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie by Muriel Spark was filmed in 1969, starring Maggie Smith.

and return to a battle-scarred, war-weary London where she wrote anti-Nazi propaganda for the British foreign office. Spark burst onto the literary scene in 1951 when her story *The Seraph and the Zambezi* won the *Observer* newspaper’s short story competition. A conversion to Catholicism in 1954 brought her into contact with some of Britain’s most high-profile Catholic authors such as Evelyn Waugh and Graham Greene. In 1957 she found critical acclaim and some measure of financial independence with her novel *The Comforters*.

She moved to Italy in 1967 and lived in a converted thirteenth-century church in the nondescript Tuscan village of Civitella della Chiana. Spark was twice nominated for the Booker Prize, and her final novel *The Finishing School* was published in 2004.

time out

Almost 10 years after the death of Princess Diana comes Stephen Frears’ film *The Queen*, starring Helen Mirren. With a script seeming to defy legal restrictions, the private and public ordeal of Diana’s death is explored with candor.

Men Barred from Rio Train Carriages

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, April 24: Recent legislation to curb sexual harassment on Rio de Janeiro’s metro and suburban train routes came into effect today, with one railway carriage on each of Rio’s 33 trains bearing a pink stripe painted across its doors and windows signifying the carriage is for women only. Supervia, the company responsible for running carriages, has also installed symbols similar to those for female restrooms.

State legislators were forced to act in the face of mounting complaints from female passengers about sexual harassment on carriages during crowded peak hour services. But some Brazilian women’s groups have called the move a giant leap backwards in the fight for equal rights, whilst men have reportedly complained of discrimination after being forcibly removed from carriages.



Reese Witherspoon wins Oscar for *Walk the Line*.

Key Events

Monrovia, Liberia, January 6: Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf is inaugurated as President.

Ramallah, January 25: Celebrations erupt after radical group Hamas wins the Palestinian elections.

Finland, January 29: Tarja Kaarina Halonen is re-elected President.

New York City, USA, January 30: Playwright and feminist Wendy Wasserstein dies, aged 55.

Melbourne, Australia, January 31: Zheng Jie and Yan Zi win China’s first major tennis tournament in women’s doubles at the Australian Open.

Washington DC, USA, February 4: Feminist and author Betty Friedan dies, aged 85.

London, England, February 17: German-born novelist and non-fiction writer Sybille Bedford dies, aged 94.

Worldwide, February 18: The Muslim world reacts with anger to a cartoon in a Danish newspaper ridiculing the prophet Mohammed.

Germany, February 22: Poet Hilde Domin dies, aged 96.

Santiago, Chile, March 11: Michelle Bachelet is sworn in as Chile’s first female president.

Hollywood, California, March 11: *Brokeback Mountain* is awarded Oscar for best adapted screenplay. The screenplay, based on a story by E. Annie Proulx, was written by Larry McMurtry and Diana Ossana. Reese Witherspoon wins Best Actress for her role in *Walk the Line*.

Israel, March 28: Ehud Olmert’s Kadima Party wins the elections.

Jamaica, March 30: Portia Simpson-Miller is elected Prime Minister.

India, March 30: A doctor is jailed for two years for disclosing the sex of a fetus to a couple and offering to terminate the pregnancy. It is the first prosecution of its kind since the implementation of legislation to stop the abortions of unwanted females.

Baghdad, Iraq, March 30: American reporter Jill Carroll is released after being kidnapped and held for over two months.

Israel, April 12: PM Ariel Sharon is declared inept, as he has not regained consciousness since his January stroke.

Florence, Italy, April 13: Scottish writer Muriel Spark dies, aged 88.

Seoul, South Korea, April 19: Han Myung-sook becomes Prime Minister.

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, April 24: Women-only train carriages are introduced to curb sexual harassment and assault.

London, England, May 6: Margaret Beckett is appointed Foreign Secretary.

Dublin, Ireland, May 16: Novelist Clare Boylan dies, aged 58.

Cornwall, England, May 18: Dee Caffari becomes the first woman to sail solo and nonstop around the world the “wrong way,” or east to west.

New York, USA, June 8: The 61st session of the UN General Assembly elects Bahraini Sheikhha Haya Rashed al-Khalifa President.

Baghdad, June 8: Al-Qa’eda’s leader in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, is killed in a US air raid.

Mumbai, India, July 11: Two hundred people die when a terrorist bomb explodes on a train.

Southern Lebanon, July 12: Israel invades Lebanon in response to the kidnapping and killing of two Israeli soldiers by Hezbollah.

Turkey, July 30: Best-selling author Duygu Asena dies of a brain tumor.

Chile, July 31: Fidel Castro appoints his brother, Raoul, as caretaker president while he recovers from a stomach operation.

Prague, Czech Republic, August 24: The International Astronomical Union votes to rescind Pluto’s status as a planet. It becomes a dwarf planet.

Tokyo, Japan, September 6: The royal family announces that Princess Kiko gave birth to a boy today.

Thailand, September 19: Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra is overthrown in a bloodless coup by the military while he is at UN headquarters in New York.

Space, September 28: Iranian-born US citizen Anousheh Ansari becomes the first woman space tourist when she blasts off for the International Space Station for an eight-day stay.

Moscow, Russia, October 15: Journalist Anna Politkovskaya is found dead in her apartment building, shot in the head. She had been a vocal critic of the Russian government.

Turkey, November 6: Academic Muazzez Ilmiye Cig, aged 92, is acquitted of inciting religious hatred by making sexual references to the Islamic headscarf in her classroom.

Paris, France, November 17: Ségolène Royal is elected leader of the Socialist Party before next year’s general election.

Pakistan, November 24: The Protection of Women Bill is passed, enabling adultery and sexual assault cases to be tried under civil law, rather than Islamic law.

Milan, Italy, December: In an attempt to combat eating disorders, organizers of Fashion Week state that at next year’s event, models must have a Body Mass Index of at least 18.5.

Baghdad, Iraq, December 30: Former dictator Saddam Hussein is executed. His final moments are broadcast on public television.



Margaret Beckett

“HATE IS TOO GREAT A BURDEN TO BEAR. IT INJURES THE HATER MORE THAN IT INJURES THE HATED.”

CORETTA SCOTT KING (1927–2006), HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATE AND WIDOW OF MARTIN LUTHER KING

Emma Brown Author Dies

Dublin, Ireland, May 16: Irish-born award-winning novelist and journalist Clare Boylan, famous for her evocative and erudite prose, has died of ovarian cancer in Dublin, aged 58. She is best remembered for her brilliant completion of a 20-page unfinished manuscript by Charlotte Bronte.

Boylan’s completion of the novel *Emma Brown* brought her worldwide recognition. Despite failing to emulate the deep theological and moral themes so common to Bronte’s writing, Boylan nevertheless merged her famous co-author’s voice seamlessly into her own in a convincing, daring, and plausible expansion of Bronte’s work. Boylan was born in Dublin in 1948. Her novels included *Holy Pictures* (1983), *That Bad Woman* (1995), and *Beloved Stranger* (1999), in which she examined the depression, jealousy, and madness inherent in her parents’ marriage.

Dee Caffari Completes Historic Circumnavigation

Cornwall, England, May 18: Yachtswoman and former schoolteacher Dee Caffari became the first woman to complete a solo circumnavigation of the globe against the prevailing currents and winds when she crossed the finish line off Cornwall’s Lizard lighthouse after a journey lasting 178 days, 3 hours, 5 minutes, and 34 seconds. Caffari, 33, completed her marathon 29,100 mile



The Japanese royal family presents the new prince to the waiting media. He is third in line to the imperial throne.

(49,000 km) journey in her yacht *Aviva*, a 72 ft (22 m) vessel designed to be sailed by a crew of 18. Upon arrival in Cornwall she was greeted by crowds of cheering supporters including Sir Chay Blyth—the first yachtsman to complete the “backwards” voyage in 1971—the Princess Royal, and Caffari’s mother.

Circumnavigating from east to west involves a straight-line course of about 24,500 miles (41,000 km), to which she was forced to add a further 4,600 miles (7,700 km) as the merciless Southern Ocean storms forced continual course changes that put her yacht under considerable strain and danger.

Other obstacles included having to navigate iceberg fields in the dead of night, overcome equipment failures, climb up her mast after a lightning strike to repair damaged wind instruments, and simply cope with the mental challenges created by exhaustion, isolation, and lack of sleep.

Caffari was born in Hertfordshire, England in 1973, and sailed with her father as a child before becoming a dinghy instructor. She attended Leeds Metropolitan University in Yorkshire where she gained a bachelor degree in human movement studies.

After watching the 2000–2001 BT Global Challenge race, her thoughts turned to ocean racing. She joined a yacht charter company and entered the 2004–2005 Global Challenge as the only female skipper in the field. It was at the halfway point of that race, deep in the Southern Ocean, that Caffari first determined to sail her own solo voyage from east to west around the world.

Princess Kiko’s New Son may Spark Baby Boom

Tokyo, Japan, September 6: After more than four decades of waiting patiently for an imperial heir, Japan was rejoicing and breathing a sigh of relief today at the news that Princess Kiko has given birth to a 5 lb 10 oz (2.6 kg) boy, thus ending the intense succession crisis that has been plaguing the oldest hereditary monarchy in the world.

Women’s advocates are ruing the fact that the birth of Princess Kiko’s third child—and only son—will probably put an end to the debate as to whether a woman should be allowed to become emperor. With no direct male heir, government legislation was being framed to end a 1947 ban on female succession, but this is now likely to be put aside.

The last female to take the royal throne was in 1762. Japan has had eight reigning empresses over the centuries, but many conservatives are quick to point out that they served in interim capacities only until a suitable male ruler could be found. The new prince was born this morning at 8.27 a.m. local time at Aiiku Hospital in Tokyo’s Minato Ward, and both mother and baby are reported to be in good health. The child is third in line to the throne after Crown Prince Naruhito and Prince Akishino.

A naming day will be held in a week and the child’s name will be inscribed upon the Imperial family member list. Share prices in baby-goods companies have been rising in recent weeks in anticipation that the royal birth will lift the nation’s stagnant birth rate.

Last Frontier Has First Tourist

Space, September 18: Anousheh Ansari, an Iranian-born US citizen and entrepreneur, has become the world’s first female space tourist, blasting into orbit aboard a Russian Soyuz TMA-9 rocket launched from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan today. She will spend eight days aboard the International Space Station (ISS), performing experiments for the European Space Agency that will include measuring the effects of space radiation on crew members and



Anousheh Ansari, the first woman space tourist.

the various species of microbial life that call the ISS home. Her fellow expedition astronauts include the veteran shuttle astronaut Michael Lopez-Alegria and the Russian cosmonaut Mikhail Tyurin. They will be only the second three-person team to visit the space station since the 2003 *Columbia* space shuttle disaster. Originally training as a backup for Japanese business executive Daisuke Enomoto, Ansari was promoted to the primary crew when Enomoto was disqualified on medical grounds.

Born in the religious center of Mashhad in northeastern Iran on September 12, 1966, Ansari was a first-hand witness to the Iranian revolution in 1979 that saw the rise to power of the Ayatollah Khomeini and establishment of Iran’s Islamic theocracy.

Ansari moved to the United States with her parents in 1984, gaining a bachelor degree in electronics and computer engineering from Virginia’s George Mason University and a master’s degree in electrical engineering from George Washington University. She will return to Earth on September 29 with US astronaut Jeff Williams and Russian cosmonaut Pavel Vinogradov.

Ségolène Royal Wins French Socialist Candidacy

Paris, France, November 17: Ségolène Royal, a political outsider and mother of four, has won an extraordinary victory over her two Socialist party rivals to become the party’s candidate in next April’s presidential elections.

Initially dismissed as a lightweight contender and maligned by critics who continually asked: “Who would mind the children?,” Royal romped home with a staggering 60 percent of the vote—three times that of her nearest rival. Her

undeniable beauty and chic taste in clothes leave her conservative male contemporaries in the shade and make her the most photogenic politician in recent French history. Her socialist rivals Dominique Strauss-Kahn and Laurent Fabius have declared their support for Royal, recognizing the recent polls that clearly indicate she is the only one of the three capable of defeating the center-right’s likely candidate, Nicolas Sarkozy.

Royal was born in Dakar, Senegal in 1953 and studied politics at the Institute of Political Studies in Paris.

She has served as a magistrate to the administrative court and was an adviser to President Francois Mitterrand. She has also held a succession of government posts including environment minister and vice-minister for family and childhood. Her quest to occupy the Elysée Palace will bring Royal face to face with centuries of ingrained sexism in a country where women could not vote until 1944, and where only 71 of the country’s 577 MPs are women.

Matchstick Models Banned from Milan Catwalk

Milan, Italy, December: In Milan—the capital of Italian fashion—organizers have bowed to international pressure and are promoting a healthier image by prohibiting models under the age of 16, and any model with a body mass index (BMI) lower than 18.5, from participating in next February’s fashion week. The ban follows a move by the Spanish government earlier this month to ban models with a BMI lower than 18. Brazil also supports the ban—in an industry that has seen the death of at least three anorexic models over the past year alone.

Models in Milan will be compelled to carry medical certificates, and young models will have to be accompanied by a guardian or tutor, indicating that the officials are no longer prepared to tolerate the exploitation of vulnerable and naïve teenagers intent on pursuing a modeling career at any cost. The BMI formula represents the ratio of weight to the square of height. It achieved prominence in the 1980s as a tool for measuring obesity rates. A healthy BMI reading is considered to be anywhere from 18.5 through to 24.9, although its ability to determine precise levels of body fat can be distorted by variables such as bone structure, muscle mass, and a person’s general level of fitness.

Milan’s influence as one of the world’s premier fashion centers is set to put enormous pressure on venues such as Paris and New York to follow suit. But some models have complained that banning someone from doing their job because of their weight is discriminatory, and likely to make the model—rather than the clothes—the center of attention.

The move by Milan is also likely to dramatically cull the number of models available for the Milan show and possibly others. Only 68 models tried out for Madrid’s Pasarela Cibeles show last month, down from the 300 originally expected to apply.



Muazzez Ilmiye Cig



Models must have a Body Mass Index of 18.5 or higher.



Tallulah Bankhead

New Play Outfoxes Playwright's Family

Broadway, USA February 16: Lillian Hellman's new play, *The Little Foxes*, opened last night on Broadway. It stars the notorious actress Tallulah Bankhead in the lead role of Regina. The title of the play is taken from chapter 2, verse 15 of the Old Testament book, Song of Solomon:

Take us the foxes, the little foxes that spoil the vines: for our vines have tender grapes.

A story of avarice and a woman who knows no boundaries when it comes to achieving her ends, *The Little Foxes* promises to be one of this season's successes. Hellman makes no secret of the fact that the play's characters are based on her family; it is thought that Regina is modeled on her grandmother, Sophie.

Lillian Hellman's previous successes include *The Children's Hour* (1934), a play about the revenge that a rebellious girl wreaks on the two headmistresses of her boarding school when she announces they are lesbians; and *The Dark Angel*, Hellman's adaptation of the Guy Bolton novel for the movie that stars Frederic March and Merle Oberon.

First Lady's Protest Concert

Washington DC, USA, April 10: A decision by the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) in January to deny world-renowned African-American opera star, Marian Anderson, an engagement at Constitution Hall so enraged First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt that she resigned from the DAR. Then she set about arranging for one of the world's greatest contraltos to sing for her thousands of fans.

Yesterday, Marian Anderson sang to an audience of 75,000 on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. Anderson began the concert singing "America," which she followed with an Italian aria. Next came



"Ave Maria," composed by Franz Schubert, and then three of her favorite African-American spirituals, "Gospel Train," "Trampin'," and "My Soul Is Anchored in the Lord." She also included "Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen."

Anderson's illustrious career began in 1925 when, at the age of 28, she won first prize in the New York Philharmonic voice competition. The following year she left for Europe and returned in 1930 to perform at Carnegie Hall. Since then she has toured Europe, Africa, and South America where she was a box-office sensation. It was her manager, impresario Sol Hurok, who decided it was time that Anderson sang at a major hall in the nation's capital. But he had not reckoned with the clause in the contract that stipulated that the hall was for concerts by "white artists only, and for

no other purpose." The resignation of Mrs. Roosevelt from the Daughters of the American Revolution was followed by those of other prominent women.

Star of Marta of the Lowlands Dies

New York, USA, April 19: The Polish-born actress Bertha Kalich, star of New York's Yiddish theater scene, died yesterday, at the age of sixty-four. Kalich, who was born in Lemberg, was known for her roles as women of the world on both stage and screen. Her most famous parts were in Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*, Sardou's *Fedora*, Maurice Maeterlink's *Monna Vanna*, and Angel Guimerà's *Marta of the Lowlands*. In the latter she starred in both the original stage version and the film alongside Wellington A. Player as the love interest Manelich.

Described as a "dramatic actress of exceptional talent," Kalich also won great acclaim for her role as Ophelia in Shakespeare's *Hamlet*.

Bertha Kalich will be buried at the Mount Hebron Cemetery, in New York.

Billie Holiday's Powerful Protest Song

New York, USA, April: Billie Holiday first sang her new song "Strange Fruit" at Barney Josephson's Café Society, New York's first integrated nightclub, in March. However, her record company, Columbia, refused to record her singing it. Now, 24-year-old Holiday has persuaded Milton Gabler, the owner of a small record label, Commodore Records, to put out the song. Since it was first heard, this protest song, written by Lewis Allan, has caused a great deal of controversy, partly because the composer and lyricist,

time out

The movie of Clare Booth Luce's play *The Women* is finally released. The screenplay for this hilarious exposé of women's maneuvers and manipulations was written by Anita Loos.



Garrod Breaks Tradition

Cambridge, England, May 6: Cambridge University has today appointed the first woman, Dorothy Garrod, to a professorship in the Disney Chair of Archeology. Although women are still not admitted as full members to the university, the board has chosen Garrod because of her qualifications.

Women scholars are said to be particularly excited about the choice of Garrod and are planning a feast in her honor at Newnham College, Garrod's alma mater. It is hoped that women will be admitted to the university as full undergraduates in the not too distant future. Garrod is well known for her excavations in Gibraltar,

whose real name is Abel Meeropol, is a known member of the Communist Party. Meeropol wrote his song about the lynching of African-Americans after seeing a distressing photograph of one of the thousands of mob hangings that have taken place in America in the last 50 years. The first four lines of this disturbing song describe an unnerving scene:

Southern trees bear a strange fruit,
Blood on the leaves and blood at the root,
Black body swinging in the southern breeze,
Strange fruit hanging from the poplar trees.

Then "The bulging eyes and the twisted mouth," are juxtaposed with the "Scent of magnolias, sweet and fresh."

Many prominent members of the American intellectual and theatrical world have spoken out against lynching since the song was first sung. However, it is unlikely that the song will be played on the radio because of its powerful anti-racist message, and the fact that its author is a communist. Records, and places such as the Café Society (which is billed as "the wrong place for the right people" and is known for its leftist sympathies) are where protest songs such as "Strange Fruit" will get their airing.



Billie Holiday

southern Kurdistan, Palestine, Anatolia, and Bulgaria. Among her work is the finding of the skull of a Neanderthal child, known as Abel, in Gibraltar, and the long-term excavation of Mt Carmel, where she unearthed a female Neanderthal skeleton that will provide archeologists with a great deal of information about the period.

Garrod's role at Mt Carmel was complex, as she was responsible for designing excavation strategies, analyzing the archeological finds, as well as organizing finances, setting up and running the camps, dealing with officialdom, and maintaining relationships with the local community.

A popular teacher, Garrod has also served on a number of committees.

Chosen from illustrious contenders including prehistorian Miles Burkitt, a pioneer in the teaching of prehistoric archeology at Cambridge University, and Tom Lethbridge, an Anglo-Saxon archeologist, Garrod's appointment has not raised a hint of controversy.

Key Events

Paris, France, January 12: Romanian-born soprano Herculie Darcle dies, aged 78.
Melbourne, Australia, January 29: Writer, scholar, and feminist Germaine Greer is born.
Washington DC, USA, January: The Daughters of the American Revolution refuse to let African-American singer Marian Anderson perform at Constitution Hall.
New York, USA, February 15: Lillian Hellman's new play *The Little Foxes* opens on Broadway with Tallulah Bankhead in the lead role.

Hollywood, USA, February 23: Bette Davis wins the Academy Award for Best Actress in the 1938 film *Jezebel*, co-starring Henry Fonda.
Czechoslovakia, March 16: The German army occupies Prague, and Czechoslovakia becomes a Nazi protectorate.
Spain, April 1: Franco declares the end of the Civil War.
New York, USA, April 18: Polish-born actress Bertha Kalich, a star of the city's Yiddish theater scene, dies, aged 64.

Oslo, Norway, April 20: Gro Harland Brundtland, later prime minister of Norway and director of the World Health Organization, is born.
New York, USA, April: Jazz singer Billie Holiday records "Strange Fruit," an anti-lynching song written by Lewis Allan (Abel Meeropol).
Cambridge, England, May 6: Dorothy Garrod is appointed the Disney Professor of Archeology at Cambridge University, the university's first woman professor.

Rome, Italy, May 22: Mussolini signs a military pact with Hitler, obligating Italy to fight alongside Germany.
Florida, USA, June 4: The USA denies entry to the St Louis, a ship carrying 907 Jewish refugees, after it is turned away by Cuba.
Sheffield, England, June 5: British novelist Margaret Drabble is born.
Britain, July: The Women's Land Army is re-formed after disbanding at the end of the Great War.
New York, USA, July 22: Jane M. Bolin is the first African-American woman to be appointed as a judge.

Europe, September 3: Britain and France declare war on Germany in accord with treaty obligations to Poland, followed by Australia, New Zealand, and India.
Fukushima Prefecture, Japan, September 22: Mountaineer Junko Tabei, the first woman to reach the top of Mt Everest, is born.
Poland, September 29: The Nazis and Soviets divide up Poland. More than 2 million Jews reside in Nazi-controlled areas, and 1.3 million in the Soviet area. Warsaw surrenders.

South Africa and Canada, September: South Africa (September 6) and Canada (September 10) declare war on Germany.
Germany, October: The Nazis begin a program to euthanize the sick and disabled in Germany.
Ottawa, Canada, November 18: Canadian writer and literary critic Margaret Atwood is born.
Finland, November 30: The USSR attacks Finland after strategic negotiations of November 12 fail.

Atlanta, Georgia, USA, December 15: *Gone With the Wind* premieres. African-American co-star Hattie McDaniel and other African-American cast members are prevented from attending.
Georgia, USA, December 22: Blues singer Ma Rainey (Gertrude Pridgett), known as "Mother of the Blues," dies, aged 57.
Buenos Aires, Argentina: Actress Eva Duarte is given a starring role in a radio program.
El Salvador: Women are granted the right to vote.

London, England: South African-born composer Priaux Rainier writes her *First String Quartet*.
England: Actress Anna Neagle stars in a film version of the life of nurse and war heroine Edith Cavell.
Paris, France: Chemist Marguerite Perey discovers the element francium.
London, England: The record-setting Irish aviatrix Lady Sophie Mary Heath dies, aged 43.
Paris, France: French-born writer Anais Nin, now an American citizen, publishes *The Winter of Artifice*.

Mexico City, Mexico: Artist Frida Kahlo paints *The Two Fridas*, a double self-portrait conveying her anguish over her divorce from artist Diego Rivera.
Hollywood, USA: This year was an exceptional one for quality motion pictures. Some notable women's roles include Judy Garland in *The Wizard of Oz*, Vivien Leigh in *Gone With the Wind*, Merle Oberon in *Wuthering Heights*, and Bette Davis in *Dark Victory*.

Michigan, USA: Doctors Pearl Kendrick and Grace Eldering publish the results of their trials with a vaccine against pertussis (whooping cough).
New York, USA: German-born psychoanalyst Karen Horney publishes *New Ways in Psychoanalysis*, suggesting that environmental factors have an influence on personality.
New York, USA: Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings is awarded the Pulitzer Prize for her bestselling 1938 novel *The Yearling*.



Anna Neagle

"Queen of the Air" Lobbies US First Lady

Washington DC, USA, September: With America's involvement in the war against Germany looking ever more likely since the recent fall of Warsaw, Jacqueline Cochran, the country's leading aviatrix, has decided to use her position to propose a vital contribution to her nation. This month, Miss Cochran, who has formed friendships with many influential people, wrote to First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, suggesting the formation of a squadron of female pilots to fly military aircraft on support missions, thereby releasing men for combat duty, should such an eventuality arise.

While fate will decide what will become of her noble idea, Miss Cochran continues to amaze us all with her aerial achievements. In March this year she capped off a brilliant spate of world records, flying at an altitude of 30,052 feet 5 inches (about 9,160 m) over Palm Springs, California, in a Beechcraft Model 17.

In spite of a childhood of poverty in the South, Miss Cochran has fashioned a rich life as head of a successful cosmetics company, and as one of the most prolific record setters in aviation history, either male or female.

In 1937 she set a national air speed record, flying from New York to Miami in 4 hours 12 minutes 27 seconds, and a women's air speed record, soaring across the sky at 203.895 miles per hour (approximately 328 kph). She received the Clifford Harmon Trophy as the year's most outstanding woman pilot; and the General Billy Mitchell award for her contribution to the progress of aviation in the United States.

She took up flying in 1932 to cover enough territory to beat her competition in the beauty business, obtaining her private pilot's license in three weeks. In 1935, she was the first woman to enter the prestigious Bendix transcontinental air race, placing first in the women's division. Last year she won the race outright.

While still maintaining her business, Miss Cochran has said, "At the moment when I paid for my first lesson, a beauty operator ceased to exist and an aviator was born." For this extraordinary woman, even the skies have no limit.

Old South Snubs Actor at Première

Atlanta, Georgia, USA, December 15: The City of Atlanta tonight played host to the much-anticipated première of the film version of Margaret Mitchell's Southern epic *Gone With the Wind*. For the last two days the town has been abuzz as the film's



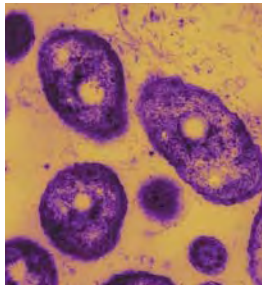
The pioneering aviatrix Lady Sophie Mary Heath, seen here in her own De Havilland Moth, died this year.

stars arrive for the glittering event and associated public engagements. A crowd of 300,000 people gathered to witness the parade of celebrities down Peachtree Street. Apparently, everyone who is anyone was invited.

However, at both last night's "Gone with the Wind ball," and this evening's gala at Loew's Grand theater, there were noticeable absences: neither the film's African-American co-star Hattie McDaniel (Mammy) nor other major African-American cast members including Butterfly McQueen (Prissy) were welcomed by Atlanta's white elite.

Vaccine Developed Against Deadly Disease

Michigan, USA: Whooping cough kills thousands of babies and children every year, so the announcement by Doctor Pearl Kendrick and Doctor Grace Eldering that they have developed a vaccine



The bacterium that causes whooping cough.

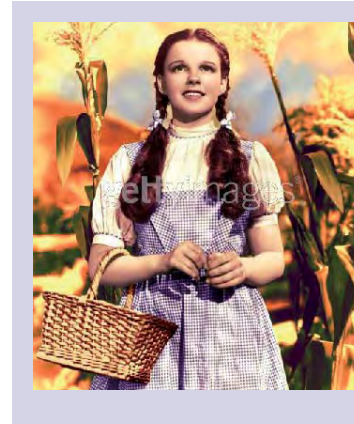
against the disease is a godsend. Whooping cough (the medical term is pertussis) is characterized by a prolonged fit of coughing followed by a whooping sound. The spasm which creates the whoop closes off the larynx and the oxygen supply to the lungs. Vomiting, dehydration, and often pneumonia are also associated with this deadly disease.

For the past three years Doctors Kendrick and Eldering have been testing the vaccine on over 5,800 children from the Grand Rapids area. Working at a time when America's economy is in dire straits, the women brought together a coalition of government and private agencies to fund the trials. Up until this time, more than 6,000 children under five have been dying each year in the United States alone from whooping cough.

Previous vaccines have not produced consistent results and as the disease kills more children than diphtheria, scarlet fever, or measles, it is to be hoped that this vaccine will eliminate fatalities.

Kendrick and Eldering are bacteriologists with the Michigan Department of Health, one of a few public health departments in the United States that are developing vaccines. Neither had any previous experience working on clinical trials; instead, they developed their methods as their research progressed. They were assisted in their work by Wade Hamilton Frost, professor of epidemiology at Johns Hopkins University, who has worked on prevention of influenza, tuberculosis, and polio. The results have been published in the prestigious *American Journal of Hygiene*.

Kendrick and Eldering say they are keenly aware of the misery that diseases



such as whooping cough bring to families, especially the poor who are not able to afford medical help. They will continue to work in the field developing vaccines that help prevent childhood diseases.

New Element Identified

Paris, France: After a number of false claims by other scientists, it appears that Marguerite Perey of the Curie Institute in Paris has discovered a new element. It has been known until now as element 87, and while Perey at first thought to call it catium, she has now decided it will be given the name francium and assigned the symbol Fr. This element is the first naturally occurring element to have been discovered since rhenium in 1925.

Perey isolated francium when studying the radioactive decay of the element actinium. Actinium and other radioactive elements break apart spontaneously, and when this happens they give off energy and particles, thus forming new, simpler elements. Perey's research showed that while 99 percent of actinium atoms decay into thorium, the remaining one percent decays into a different element. Chemists in Russia, England, the United States, and France have claimed the discovery of this element over the years; however, all these claims were found to be erroneous.

There is debate about how rare this element is. Some say it is the second rarest element in the crust after astatine; others that is the rarest element found on Earth's surface and that there may be only about half an ounce (15 g) of it in existence.

Perey has been working at the Radium Institute, founded by Marie Curie and her husband Pierre Curie, for many years.

Kahlo's Self-Portrait

Mexico City, Mexico: Frida Kahlo, the renowned Mexican artist who painted her first self-portrait in 1926, has painted a double self-portrait which she calls *The Two Fridas*. Kahlo paints in the style of Mexican ex-voto, a Catholic tradition in which the painting is done as an offering of thanks for salvation from adversity. However, Kahlo's paintings are not expressions of gratitude, rather they are depictions of traumatic events in her own life.

The Two Fridas conveys Kahlo's anguish over her divorce from her husband, artist Diego Rivera. The Frida on the right sits in traditional Mexican costume, holding a picture of Diego as a child. Her exposed heart is whole.

The Frida on the left is dressed in a Victorian lace wedding dress and holding a pair of scissors, her bisected heart dripping blood onto her lap. The painting has also been described

as representing the conflict felt by those known as *mestizos* whose heritage is a mix of Mexican and European. Kahlo's father is German and her mother has a mixed Mexican-Spanish background.

Kahlo has painted *The Two Fridas* for the International Exhibition of Surrealism, to be held in Mexico City next year.

New Theory on Neuroses

New York, USA: Psychoanalyst Karen Horney has published *New Ways in Psychoanalysis*, following on from her highly successful *The Neurotic Personality of our Time*, published two years ago. In this new book Horney describes the ways that neuroses function as a peculiar struggle for life under adverse conditions. Horney continues to expand on her theory that diverges from Freud's biological orientation and places emphasis on culture and interpersonal relationships. She explains that neuroses are a result of adverse conditions in the environment as a whole, and especially in the family, which, she says, create a basic anxiety against which a child defends itself by developing strategies of defense that are self-alienating, self-defeating, and in conflict with each other.

As Karen Horney continues to work in the field of psychoanalysis and explores these theories, we can expect that she will produce more works of great interest.



Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings

Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera, with Kahlo's painting *The Two Fridas* hanging on the wall in the background.



Martha Washington

"THE EDUCATION OF WOMEN MUST BE ENTIRELY FREE. WHEREVER OUR GENIUS LEADS US, THERE WE MUST BE ALLOWED TO WANDER IN THE FIELD OF KNOWLEDGE."

AMALIE HOLST,
GERMAN FEMINIST,
c. 1802

Can a Woman Ride to Victory?

York, England, August 25, 1804: Alicia Meynell, the first female jockey ever to compete in a horse race, today managed enough speed to stay in the lead for the first three-quarters of the four-mile York course, a feat she achieved despite the fact that she was riding sidesaddle.

Miss Meynell wore leopard and buff colors with blue sleeves and a riding cap. She was riding Colonel Thornton's horse, Ving-arillo, against Captain Flint on his horse, Thornville. Alicia is rumored to be the Colonel's mistress, and he is said to have bet heavily on her success, helping to make her the pre-race favorite.

After the race, she accused Captain Flint of discourtesy, and threatens to take her complaint to the newspapers. Alicia

Meynell has not been deterred from the sport, however, and hopes to compete again next year.

A Rooster, a Sheep, a Duck, and a Woman

Paris, France, 1805: Madame Sophie Blanchard has been appointed Chief Air Minister for Ballooning by Napoleon.

time out

Swiss-born Marie Tussaud, having escaped the guillotine herself, was commissioned to create wax death masks of many of those who had been executed in France during 1792. Her wax-works became popular in Britain.

It was only in 1783 that the first human beings flew in a balloon, safely tethered, at Versailles, and Monsieur Blanchard was the first person to fly untethered in Paris in 1784.

Madame Sophie Blanchard is the first professional female balloonist, but she is not the first female balloonist: a tethered balloon ascent was made back in May 1784, by four intrepid women, and an untethered ascent was made later the same year.



Emperor Napoleon with his wife, Josephine.

Sophie tells a romantic story of how her husband-to-be visited an inn more than a decade ago and was charmed by her mother. If she had a daughter, he said, he would return and marry her. In 1796, a year after his pioneer balloon crossing of the English Channel, he did indeed return to marry Sophie.

The Blanchards keep displaying acrobatic and pyrotechnic displays to amuse and amaze the paying public. How far can such risky displays be taken, however, before a fatal accident occurs? The pair's bravado refutes the belief held in the early 1790s that balloon passengers would die from ascending to the heights they achieve. Some of Madame Blanchard's admirers still remember the first balloon flight with living passengers, undertaken at Versailles in 1783. The world's first balloonists—a rooster, a sheep, and a duck—all survived.

Vive La Veuve's Champagne!

Champagne, France, 23 October 1805: The death of François Clicquot leaves his widow Nicole Barbe, la veuve Clicquot, in charge of a company with interests in banking, wool trading, and champagne production. Madame Clicquot already has plans to divest the business of its

banking and wool-trading activities and to focus her energies on champagne.

She hopes to expand the acreage of the Clicquot vineyards and believes that she can take commercial advantage of the wars in Europe, once blockades are lifted, if she can move her goods quickly enough to make the first shipments of her quality champagne to her clients.

She also hopes to improve the wine's manufacture. Currently, champagne is sold cloudy in the bottle and must be decanted before drinking. It has so far been a problem how to remove the deposits that accumulate in the bottle as the champagne ages. Madame Clicquot is said to be experimenting with a new device that gradually tilts the bottles so that the deposits settle below the cork.

Marketing is another of her concerns. According to La Veuve, it is important not only to produce a great wine but also to render it instantly recognizable as coming from the house of Clicquot. She has not

yet decided whether an identifying mark should be put on the cork, on the bottle itself, or perhaps on a label.

Sacagawea Paid Nothing

Hidatsa village, North America, August 17, 1806: After 16 months of journeying with explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, it was revealed that Sacagawea, their Shoshone Indian interpreter, whose contribution to the expedition has been invaluable, has been paid nothing!

Sacagawea, whose name means "bird woman," joined the expedition team as the wife of its French-Canadian member Toussaint Charbonneau. Communications with the Shoshone passed via Sacagawea to Charbonneau, and then in French to François Labiche, who then translated the information into English.

Sacagawea was heavily pregnant when the expedition arrived at the Hidatsa village where she dwelt, looking for an interpreter, and on February 11, 1805, she gave birth to a son. Lewis assisted her through the pains of labor with a concoction made of crushed rattlesnake.

According to the expedition leaders, she showed "great courage and fortitude" when a boat was nearly overturned, saving "most of the light articles which were washed overboard." Sacagawea was the expedition's best help in communicating with the tribes they encountered and assuring them that they came in peace. She also advised on the best routes for the expedition.

The expedition ended for her today. Charbonneau was handsomely paid for doing very little, yet Sacagawea, without whom the expedition could not have succeeded, received nothing at all.



Sacagawea acts as interpreter for Lewis and Clark.

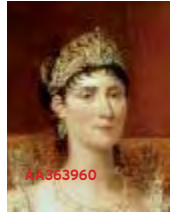
Little Star Twinkles Brightly

Colchester, England, 1806: Writing for the enjoyment of small children is a task that many think easy and effortless but very few do well. Writing good poetry for children is a still rarer talent.

Rhymes for the Nursery, by Jane and Ann Taylor, is one of the most successful collections of poems for young children ever published. Possibly the most outstanding poem in the collection is the nursery rhyme "The Star," whose first line is "Twinkle, twinkle, little star." The poem is so simple and evocative that it is likely to enter the world treasury of best-loved nursery rhymes.

The sisters began writing verses for their family's enjoyment when they were very young. First Ann, and then Jane began to publish poems in *The Minor's Pocket Book*. The publisher enjoyed these contributions well enough to ask for more, and he published *Original Poems for Infants* by the Taylor sisters and other contributors in two volumes, in 1804 and 1805, followed by this 1806 publication.

The Taylor sisters' next project is reported to be writing enough hymns for a new book of hymns for children. Jane is also keen to try her hand at writing novels.



Empress Josephine of France



A display of hot-air balloons marks the coronation of Emperor Napoleon and Empress Josephine.



Charity Steel achieves freedom on her second attempt to escape slavery.

Key Events

Connecticut, USA, September 6, 1800: Catherine Esther Beecher, American educator, is born.
Old Windsor, England, December 26, 1800: Writer and actress Mary Darby Robinson dies.
Virginia, USA, 1800: Martha Dandridge Custis Washington, the widow of George Washington, sets free all her slaves.
Madrid, Spain, c. 1800: Francisco Goya paints *La Maja Desnuda* (The Nude Maja), one of his best-known works.

Philadelphia, USA, 1800: William Young designs shoes specifically for left and right feet.
South China Seas, 1801–09: Pirate Cheng I Sao, also known as Shi Xinggu, commands about 80,000 men and women as she terrorizes shipping in the South China Seas.
United Kingdom, January 1, 1801: The Act of Union between Ireland and Great Britain comes into effect.
St Petersburg, Russia, March 23, 1801: Paul I, Tsar of Russia, is assassinated and succeeded by his son Alexander.

Mexico City, Mexico, September 12, 1802: Antonio de León y Gama, Mexico's first archaeologist, and the first European to record Aztec archeology, dies, aged about 67.
Germany, 1802: German writer Amalie Holst, a campaigner for specialist girls' schools, publishes *On the Capacity of Women for Higher Education*.
Paris, France, April 30, 1803: The French government sells its Louisiana Territory to the USA.

Ecuador, 1803: Rebel leader Lorenza Avemanay leads a revolt against Spanish forces.
Haiti, January 1, 1804: Jacques Dessalines declares Haiti a free republic after slaves mount a successful revolution against France.
Merthyr Tydfil, Wales, February 21, 1804: Richard Trevithick's steam locomotive begins operating.
York, England, August 25, 1804: Alicia Meynell becomes the first female jockey to compete in a horse race.

Paris, France, December 2, 1804: Napoleon Bonaparte crowns himself Emperor of France at Notre Dame Cathedral.
Malmesdon, France, 1804: The Empress Josephine, wife of Napoleon, begins to collect rose plants, stimulating broad interest in the cultivation of roses.
Cape Trafalgar, Spain, October 21, 1805: Admiral Horatio Nelson leads the British Royal Navy to victory against France and Spain at the Battle of Trafalgar. He is fatally wounded.

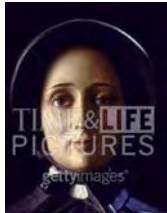
Champagne, France, October 1805: Champagne maker François Clicquot dies. His widow, La Veuve Clicquot, takes over the business.
France, 1805: Madeleine-Sophie Armand Blanchard flies solo in gas-powered balloon flights, and then on makes her living as a balloonist. Napoleon later appoints her official Aeronaut of the Empire.
London, England, October 7, 1806: Ralph Wedgwood patents "duplicate paper" (carbon paper), to be used with his "stylographic writer" to help blind people write.

Colchester, England, 1806: *Rhymes for the Nursery* by Ann and Jane Taylor is published; it includes "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star."
London, England, 1806: Joseph Bramah invents a machine to print successive numbers on banknotes for the Bank of England.
London, England, March 25, 1807: The Abolition of the Slave Trade Act is passed, outlawing the transport of slaves by British ships.

New Jersey, USA, 1807: The right of women to vote, granted in 1776, is revoked.
London, England, 1807: Brother and sister Charles and Mary Lamb write *Tales from Shakespeare*.
New Jersey, USA, 1807: Charity Steel achieves freedom on her second attempt to escape slavery.
USA, January 1, 1808: Congress bans the importation of slaves.
Weimar, Germany, 1808: Johann Wolfgang von Goethe publishes *Faust: A Tragedy*.

Vienna, Austria, May 31, 1809: Composer Franz Joseph Haydn dies, aged 77.
Connecticut, USA, May 1809: Mary Kies becomes the first woman to receive a US patent, for her technique of weaving straw for millinery use.
Maryland, USA, June 1809: Elizabeth Ann Seton founds the Roman Catholic Sisters of Charity of St Joseph.

Paris, France, 1809: Jean-Baptiste Lamarck publishes his *Philosophie zoologique*, outlining his theory of evolution.
Washington DC, USA, 1809: Dorothea (Dolly) Payne Todd Madison becomes the first First Lady to accompany her husband at his inauguration as President.
Parramatta, Sydney, Australia, 1809: Elizabeth Macarthur builds her absent husband's sheep farm into the biggest in the land.



Elizabeth Seton

Death of Angelica Kauffmann

Rome, Italy, November 5, 1807:

The funeral of Swiss artist, Angelica Kauffmann, promises to be as splendid as that of the great Italian artist, Raphael. The sculptor Canova is in fact using Raphael's funeral as a model for the procession of ecclesiastics and fellow artists in a fitting celebration of a long and prolific career as a historical artist and portrait painter.

Kauffmann was born in Switzerland in 1741 and grew up in Austria. A child prodigy as both artist and musician, she received her first commission as a painter at the age of eleven. Her father took her several times to Italy, where she became a popular portrait painter, especially among British visitors.

In 1776, emboldened by this success, she went to London where she developed a close friendship with Sir Joshua Reynolds. In 1786 she became a founding member of the Royal Academy of Arts, where she exhibited for over 30 years. She made an ill-judged marriage with a confidence trickster in 1767. In 1781, after his death, she enjoyed a much happier marriage with Antonio Zucchi, and moved to Rome with him.

The artist wished to win acclaim for her historical works, but her male figures were not convincingly masculine (for no respectable woman can study the nude male figure). Rather, it is expected that Angelica Kauffmann will be remembered as a fine painter of women's portraits.

Votes Denied to Women

New Jersey, USA, 1807: In a nation that prides itself on equality, how can it have happened that women, having been given the right to vote, are now to have that right rescinded?

In 1776, the State of New Jersey was a pioneer in granting women's suffrage and for the past 31 years women have enjoyed the vote with no ill effects. There has been no collapse of the State Constitution; New Jersey has not become ungovernable; husbands have not been deserted by their wives, nor have mothers neglected their children.

So, after so many years of sober success, many women are wondering why this right has now been denied them.

The American Declaration of Independence states that all "men are created equal," and many maintain that



Elizabeth Hartley in the 1805 production of *The Winter's Tale*.

it is an established rule of grammar that "man" here means "humankind," not simply members of the male sex. Additionally, if the idea of women's right to vote is so abhorrent, why did the State of New Jersey give the vote to women in the first place?

Some say that it was a mistake, that the State Constitution was poorly worded when it specified that adult "inhabitants" worth £50, who satisfied the residential requirement, could vote. Strictly interpreted, this phrasing allowed only single women the opportunity to vote, as married women are not permitted to own property in their own right.

Was it indeed a mistake, or were the New Jersey State Legislative delegates in 1776 more enlightened than their New York, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire counterparts? Were they thinking that all owners of property, as having an investment in the well-being of the State, should be entitled to vote? If women cannot be trusted with the vote, how is it that they are, and always have been, entrusted with the care and early education of their sons?

Women are calling on the legislators of New Jersey to rethink this unfair decision.

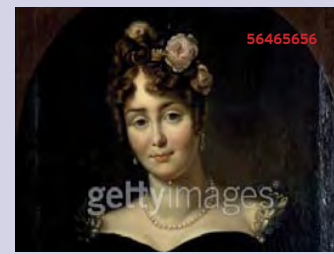
The Yorkshire Witch Hanged for Murder

York, England, March 20, 1809: Mary Bateman has been exposed as a confidence trickster, but the gullible public is clamoring to buy pieces of her skin for its supposed supernatural healing powers. The Leeds Infirmary will charge each spectator threepence to look at her corpse.

A Yorkshire farmer's daughter, she began working as a servant in the town of Thirsk in 1780 but lost many jobs for petty thievery; from 1787 she continued this pattern of behavior in York. In 1892 she married John Bateman, whom she defrauded. Operating as a fortune-teller in Leeds, she started to speak of "Mrs Moore" and "Miss Blythe," whose supposed supernatural powers she used to extract money from her victims. She also charged spectators to view eggs, supposedly laid bearing the words, "Christ is Coming."

In time most of her frauds were exposed. However, when a Mrs Perigo consulted her for "stomach flutterings," she took money from the credulous lady and her husband for over a year, eventually prescribing a powder to be taken daily with pudding. Mrs Perigo died not long after ingesting this powder. Some months later, after making more payments to Bateman, William Perigo inspected bags of "money" given to him as healing charms, discovering only rotting cabbage leaves and bad farthings.

The "Yorkshire Witch" was hanged today for the poisoning of Mrs Perigo.



Marie Walewska is the close companion of Emperor Napoleon.

A Yankee Way with Hats

Connecticut, USA, May 1809: The people of Connecticut have long enjoyed a reputation for cleverness. Now Connecticut's Mary Kies is the first American woman to have her invention recognized by the US Patent Office. She has invented a new technique of weaving straw with silk that promises a most profitable application in the manufacture of straw hats.

The absence of patents hitherto registered by women has not been caused by a bias toward men or a lack of clever women. Rather, the law in many states prohibits married women from owning property in their own right, thus many women have not thought it worth their while to make the application.

Mary Kies's achievement has brought a congratulatory letter from the First Lady.

The Rise and Rise of a Pirate Queen

South China Seas, 1809: The pirates of the South China Sea are very different from the European and American notions of what a pirate should be. There are at least 70,000 of them, they obey strict rules of conduct, and they are currently under the control of a woman.

The pirate commander Cheng I Sao, also known as Shi Xaingu, who was formerly named Ching Shih, began her adult life as a prostitute but decided on a new career after her 1801 marriage to the well known pirate, Cheng I.

Together the couple assembled a confederation of pirates, fighting on the side of the Tay-Son during their rebellion. When this cause was defeated, Cheng I and his wife moved to South China, where their piracy proved spectacularly successful. Before Cheng I died in a storm in 1807, there were said to be 400 ships and 70,000 pirates under his command. These numbers have increased, and his widow rules the crews

of 200 sea-going junks, in addition to a vast number of coastal and river craft.

Following the death of her husband, Cheng I Sao promptly maneuvered herself into the position of command and, to keep the pirate business within the family, married her adopted son, Chang Pao, leader of one of her squadrons. She has set out strict rules for her men, with the death penalty for those who

steal from friendly villages or try to defraud her treasury. Death is also the penalty for those who rape female captives, though the punishment for desertion or absence without leave is merely the loss of an ear.

So far her people have outfought all the forces that the authorities have sent against them. The only real threat that she faces, apart from the perennial dangers of the sea, is the possibility of a dispute arising within the ranks that sets pirate against pirate.

Merinos Rule!

Parramatta, Sydney, Australia, 1809: Great Britain has been sending her criminals to the Australian colonies for decades; today the colonies are sending a trouble-maker back to England.

In 1790 Lieutenant John Macarthur came to Australia with his family to join

the New South Wales Corps. He has since made a name for himself as a hothead, and the colony has had enough of his antics. Rebelling against Governor William Bligh, John Macarthur has been sentenced to indefinite exile.

This leaves his capable wife, Elizabeth, in charge of the family's business ventures. The most cultured and well-bred of the New South Wales colony's female immigrants, she must now turn her attention toward questions of sheep breeding and wool quality.

In 1796 Lieutenant and Mrs Macarthur imported a new breed of sheep into the colonies, the fine-wooled merino from Spain, which they consider far more suited to Australian conditions than English breeds. They now have several thousand merinos in their flock at Elizabeth Farm and two years ago they began exporting their high-quality wool to England. Others imported merinos, but allowed them to cross-breed, and the quality of their wool soon deteriorated.

Perhaps John Macarthur's exile will turn to his advantage, in the end, for he plans to live in London where he can oversee the selling of the wool while his wife controls the day-to-day management of the farm. She will also have to ensure the obedience of the many convicts who work for her. She has already demonstrated all of these abilities during her husband's previous enforced absence. In 1801 he was sent to England after being caught dueling. While he was not then court-martialed, he did not return to the colony until 1805.

He is indeed a fortunate man to have such a loyal, forgiving, and gifted wife.



Dolly Madison



Macao authorities are always watching out for pirates, including the notorious female pirate Cheng I Sao.