

Charlotte Lennox: *The Lady's Museum*

Dr. Karenza Sutton-Bennett ©

Agenda:

18c Women's Education

Short bio of Charlotte Lennox

Popularity of Periodicals

DH Interview with Kelly Plante

Lennox's Lady's Museum

The Rights for Education

A highly contested topic, whether girls should receive a comparable education to that of boys.

Female theorists argued for a rational and practical education for girls

Some questioned how women could effectively fulfill their roles as educators and mothers if they were not properly educated themselves.

Key Terms

Didactic [?] 1. A writer or piece of writing having instruction as a primary or ulterior purpose. Also: an instruction, a direction.

2. With *the*. Esp. in literature: instruction as a primary element or tendency; instructive purpose.

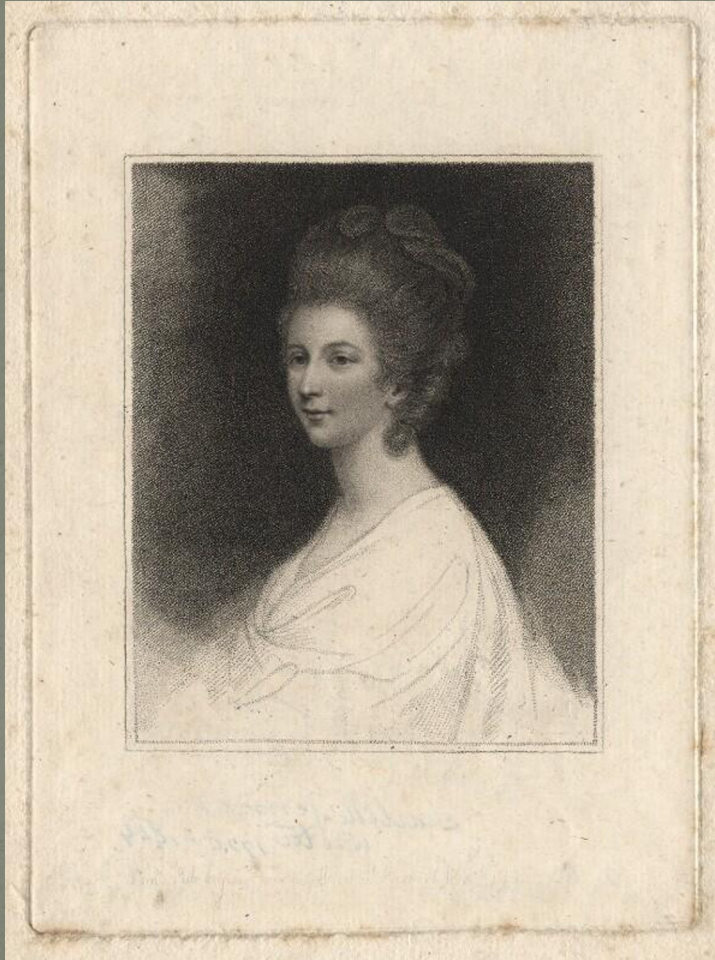
Proto-feminists [?] term used for women considered to be “feminists” before the term was established in the early twentieth century.

Bluestockings ⓘ a. Of, belonging, or relating to a series of assemblies or salons held c1750 by a group of London society ladies, notable for the informal dress worn by the male attendees and for the intellectual conversation engaged in by women and men equally.

b. Hence, of a woman: having or affecting literary tastes in a manner originally associated with the women of the bluestocking circle; that is a bluestocking; literary, scholarly, intellectual; as *bluestocking female*, *bluestocking lady*

(www.oed.com)

Charlotte Lennox



- Charlotte Ramsay born in 1730
- Actress, playwright, novelist, periodicalist & translator
- Married Alexander Lennox
- Died in 1804

The Rise of Periodicals & Newspapers

Reasons behind their popularity:

Public accessibility

Periodicity

Timeliness

Universality



Writing 6000 yrs * Moveable Type 500 yrs * Periodicals 400 yrs

DH Interview with Kelly Plante
Lady's Museum Project

Manushag Powell, *Performing
Authorship in Eighteenth-Century
Periodicals* (2012)

“An eidolon in the Platonic sense is a projected image, the double, phantom, or simulacrum of a person. But, the role being played by a periodical eidolon is always the same: that of the author; ‘eidolon’ is more specific, and thus a better fit than persona”
(Powell 24)

THE
Female QUIXOTE;
OR, THE
ADVENTURES
OF
ARABELLA.
by Charlotte Lennox (1720-1804)
In TWO VOLUMES.
VOL. I.

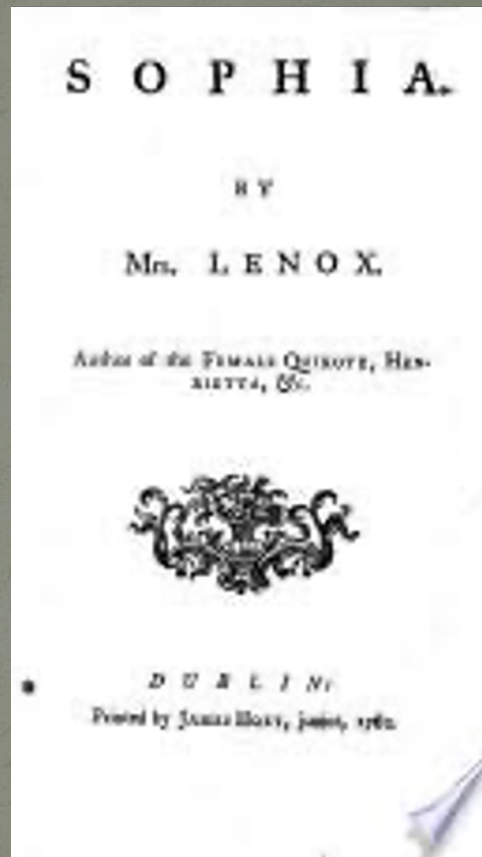


LONDON:
Printed for A. MILLAR, over-against
Catherine-street in the Strand.
M.DCC.LII.

175
2



1760-61



176
2

What is a Trifler?

To Trifle (verb)

- To act without weight or dignity; to act with levity
- To mock; to play the fool
- To indulge light amusement
- To be of no importance
- To make no importance

Trifler (noun)

- One who acts with levity; one who talks with folly
- A Dallier
- A Doodle
- A Fribbler
- Impertinent
- Simpleton
- Wanton

“the subject I propose to treat of will be such as reading and observation shall furnish me with; for, with a strong passion for **intellectual pleasures**, I have likewise a taste for many of the **fashionable amusements**, and in the disposition of my time, I have contrived to **gratify both these inclinations.**”

Charlotte Lennox, *The Lady's Museum* 1, no. 1 (1760): 4.

What is a Coquette?

COQU'ETTE.

n.s. [*coquette*, Fr. from *coqu art*, a prattler.]

- ‘To act the lover’ (Johnson); to practise coquetry, to flirt *with*. (Formerly used of both sexes, now only of a woman.) †*to coquet it*: to play the coquette.
- A gay, airy girl; a girl who endeavours to attract notice
- A woman (more or less young), who uses arts to gain the admiration and affection of men, merely for the gratification of vanity or from a desire of conquest, and without any intention of responding to the feelings aroused; a woman who habitually trifles with the affections of men; a flirt.
- Source = oed.com

John Locke “Thoughts On Education”

“the nearer they come to the Hardships of their Brothers in their Education, the greater Advantage will they receive from it all the remaining Part of their Lives”

In the same section he also encourages girls to exercise outdoors to be “stronger and healthier” alongside boys (89)

Jean Jacques Rousseau “Emile”

“...the whole education of women ought to be relative to men. To please them, to be useful to them, to make themselves loved and honored by them, to educate them when young to care for them when grown, to counsel them, to console them, and to make life agreeable and sweet to them – these are the duties of women at all times, and what should be taught them from their infancy” (263)

Girl's Education in Eighteenth Century

Formal:

Boarding Schools

Arts

Aesthetics

Amusements

Informal:

Private Tutor

Parent/Guardian

Self-directed or
guided Reading

* These options were only for upper-class & middle-class girls

“Of the Studies Proper for Women”

Written by Pierre-Joseph Boudeir de Villemert
Lennox translated into English & excerpted in
Lady's Museum

“The learning proper for women is such as best suits the soft elegance of their form, such as may add to their natural beauties, and qualify them for several duties of life” (9)

New Curriculum?

“Of the Studies” makes an argument for women to study Fine Arts:

“The mind is agreeably soothed by those images which poetry, painting, and musick trace out to it, especially if they are sound to agree with the purity of manners” (14)

BUT also, History and Natural Philosophy (Science):

“will banish languor from the sober amusements of the country, and repair that waste of intellect which is caused by the dissipations of the town.” (12)

Benefits of Reading:

“If ladies of the first rank would condescend to form their taste upon our best authors, and collect ideas from their useful writings, conversation would take another cast: they acknowledge merit would banish that swarm to noisy impertinents who flutter about them, and who endeavour to render them as contemptible as themselves: men of sense and learning would then frequent their assemblies, and form a circle more worthy of the name of good company.” (Of the Studies, 15)

Trifling with Education

The Trifler is an example of informal education

She reads the books left behind by her brother

She is criticized for her love of learning:

Her Mom doesn't see the value of reading

Her mom claims reading hurts her eyes[?]
connection to Harry from *Sandford & Merton*

Aesop Fables:

“ An ape had twins: she doated upon one of them, and did not much care for the other. She took a sudden fright one day, and in a hurry whips up her darling under her arm, and took no heed of the other, which therefore leaped astride upon her shoulders. In this haste down she comes, and beats out her favourite’s brains upon a stone while that which she had on her back came of safe and sound” (Trifler #1, 6)