

Women Adventurers



School Library Journal
March 2006

WEATHERLY, Myra. *Women of the Sea: Ten Pirate Stories*. 160p. maps. reprints. bibliog. chron. glossary. index. notes. Web sites. CIP. Morgan Reynolds. 2005. PLB \$26.95. ISBN 1-931798-80-X. LC 2005022631.

Gr 5-8 –This is essentially a reissue of the author's *Women Pirates: Eight Stories of Adventure* (Morgan Reynolds, 1998). Two additional pirates, Lady Killigrew and Lai Choi San, have been added, as have source notes that were lacking in the previous edition. Alternative names are not mentioned, so someone seeking information on Alwilda may not suspect Alfhild is the same person, or that Cheng I Sao is also known as Ching Yih Saou and Ching Shih. A distinct improvement is the use of spot color and colorized images. New visuals include line drawings, maps, and details from paintings, and time lines have been added. An inherently interesting subject. Appendixes include an extensive bibliography and a short list of children's books. —Janet S. Thompson, Chicago Public Library



Booklist
November 15, 2005

Weatherly, Myra. *Women of the Sea: Ten Pirate Stories*. Feb. 2006. 160p. illus. index. Morgan Reynolds, lib. ed., \$26.95 (1-931798-80-X).

Gr. 6-9. This collective biography is a revised and enlarged edition of Weatherly's *Women Pirates: Eight Stories of Adventure* (1998). Though some sections of the older book have survived intact, other parts have been edited or rewritten to good effect. Additions include a chapter on the aristocratic English pirate Lady Killigrew, eventually imprisoned by Queen Elizabeth I, and a section on Lai Choi San, whose band of pirates terrorized ships along the South China coast in the 1920s and 1930s. Also new to the edition are a glossary, source notes for the many quotes, a lengthier bibliography, and an annotated list of Web sites. Significant improvements in this edition may justify purchase for a number of libraries. —Carolyn Phelan



Tri State Young Adult Book Review Committee
Women of the Sea: Ten Pirate Stories

By Myra Weatherly
ISBN 1-931798-80-X
2006
160p
Quality: VG-BN (Outstanding)

Mention pirates to most people and their first response may be Pirates of the Caribbean. Ask them to name pirates from history or literature and they may come up with Blackbeard or Long John Silver. Chances are they won't be able to name many female pirates, yet in their time some female swashbucklers were as notorious and feared as the male counterparts. Weatherly presents the background and careers of ten women pirates, including the more well known such as Grace

O'Malley, Mary Read and Anne Bonny, and the lesser known, such as Cheng I Sao and Lai Choi San. Each biography lists what is known factually and what is myth and legend. Paintings, maps and woodcuts illustrate the chapters and are used to good effect. The personalities and leadership qualities of the women are brought to life, although at times the author does embellish the biographies with what she presumes to have happened, as in the case of Mary Read falling in love with a soldier: "Strange new emotions stirred within her as she galloped beside him in battle." Nonetheless, each biography is well researched and sourced, with the original source information to be found in end notes. Includes a bibliography, index and glossary. Devotees of Meyer's *Bloody Jack* and Ree's *Pirates* will want to read the real life exploits of these daring women.

Recommendations: *Recommended for collective biography collections.*—Rosanne Zaiko earlier book. —Janet S. Thompson, Chicago Public Library



School Library Journal

January 2006

ANEMA, Durlynn. *Ynes Mexia: Botanist and Adventurer*. 144p. maps. photos. reprints. bibliog. chron. glossary. index. notes. Web sites. CIP. Morgan Reynolds. 2005. Tr \$26.95. ISBN 1-931798-67-2. LC 2005010694.

Gr 6-9—An interesting and colorful look at a Mexican-American scientist. The easy-to-read narrative draws on the woman's correspondences to relate her adventures during her collection trips throughout North and South America in the 1920s and '30s. Archival photographs, reproductions, and maps aid readers' understanding of the botanist's life and work. The author keeps the text interesting by painting a vivid picture of what happened during Mexia's various expeditions without going overboard in the details. A solid addition to biography sections.—Jamie Jennings, Wood Middle School, San Antonio, TX



Tri State Young Adult Book Review Committee

January 2006

Ynes Mexia: Botanist and Adventurer, Durlynn Anema

Ynes Mexia was the daughter of an officer in Santa Ana 's Mexican army, her mother was a Washington , D.C. rich socialite American woman. Ynes lived all of her life in boarding schools with very little family love or contact. As a young lady, she went to live with her father as his hostess but had very little in common or much of a relation with her father. She married at an early age, but the marriage failed miserably; she became a widow shortly after the marriage and remarried for a second time, but that too failed miserably. After this, she had a mental breakdown and had to be taken to find help in San Francisco . While there, she met a doctor who helped her through her crisis and encouraged her to find herself. Ynes enrolled in a college, took courses, and became a member of the Sierra Club. This opened up a new world of botany to her that she embraced with all

of her fifty years of age. She went out into the world and collected thousands of unknown plants, and had them labeled and registered. Her story is one of true adventure at any age and of women who dare to be different. Includes: index, bibliography, timeline, glossary, and footnotes. —Magna Diaz



Children's Bookwatch

January 2006

Ynes Mexia: Botanist and Adventurer, Durlynn Anema

Ynes Mexia was fifty years old and stuck in an unhappy marriage on a ranch in Mexico when she suffered a nervous breakdown, was sent to San Francisco for treatment, and joined the environmentalist movement there. Her study of botany and series of expeditions throughout South America when she was into her senior years makes for quite a different biography in Durlynn Anema's *Ynes Mexia: Botanist and Adventurer* it refutes the common notion that great scientists began early on in life.



School Library Journal

February 2006

LANGLEY, Wanda. *Women of the Wind: Early Women Aviators*. 160p. maps. photos. reprints. bibliog. chron. index. notes. Web sites. CIP. Morgan Reynolds. 2006. PLB \$26.95. ISBN 1-931798-81-8. LC 2005022951.

Gr 4-8 —This thoughtful collection captures the true spirit and strength of 20th-century women who, despite the odds against them, pursued their intellectual curiosity and became known as "Women of the Wind." Breaking down the historical gender barriers, these pioneers triumphed over diversity and tragedy while fighting the commonly held notion that women could not, or should not, be allowed to fly. The aviators featured are Harriet Quimby, Katherine Stinson, Ruth Law, Bessie Coleman, Amelia Earhart, Ruth Nichols, Louise Thaden, Anne Morrow Lindbergh, and Jackie Cochran. Archival photographs and reproductions appear throughout, as well as time lines that allow readers to keep track of each pilot's mission, milestones, and sometimes tragic demise. An extensive bibliography, including Web sites, makes for a comprehensive treatment of a topic that motivates as well as intrigues modern readers.—Hope Marie Cook, Eastern Connecticut State University, Willimantic, CN



KirkusDecember 15, 2005

Langley, Wanda. *WOMEN OF THE WIND: Early Women Aviators*. Morgan Reynolds (160 pp.) \$26.95 Jan 15, 2006 ISBN: 1-931798-81-8

Recent attention paid to pioneer women pilots, long overdue, has produced both individual and collective biographies; this salute to their enterprising spirits flies above the rest. The opening line, "Harriet Quimby started something," sets the tone as lively, readable text profiles nine women: Quimby, Katherine Stinson, Ruth Law, Bessie Coleman, Ameila Earhart, Ruth Nichols, Louise Thaden, Anne Morrow Lindbergh and Jacqueline Cochran. A chapter for each details their achievements, the obstacles they overcame and how they lived their lives at full throttle; especially useful is a blocked Timeline for each. Archival photographs, both black-and-white and colorized, put a face on these women, enhancing an attractive format—quality paper, clean type, generous white space. Related in chronological order, their stories provide documentation of their contributions, create a context

and continuum and delineate the determination of women aviators who proved the skies were open to women, where they made definitive differences in history. (sources, bibliography, websites, index) (Biography, 9-14)