

**99-B09-198**

*European immigrant women in the United States* : a biographical dictionary / Judy Barrett Litoff ; Judith McDonnell, ed. - New York ; London : Garland, 1994. - XIV, 357 S. : Ill. ; 24 cm. - (Biographical dictionaries of minority women ; 3) (Garland reference library of social science ; 651). - ISBN 0-8240-5306-0 : \$ 55.00

[2926]

[Bestand im SWB / Bibliographische Beschreibung](#)

This collection brings together 239 short biographies (typically one to two pages) of prominent women who emigrated from Europe to the United States from the post-Revolutionary era to the present. Since many of them came over at a young age, the common fact of their European birth has a rather arbitrary aspect. Certainly, few of the biographies elucidate the significance of their European birth in their lives or work, so in the end this seems simply a group of women (successful women, to be sure) who happen not to have been born in the U.S.

In a sample of almost fifty entries, over 60 % were also carried in the landmark biographical dictionary *Notable American women*.<sup>[1]</sup> Many of the remaining (a third in the sample) are nuns. The articles in the collection reviewed here are considerably shorter and less informative than in the earlier title, and even the bibliographies which conclude each article often contain no new information.

Among the 96 contributors are both seasoned scholars and many graduate students. The entry on *Hannah Arendt* does not inspire confidence. Her birthday is not October 4, as listed here, but October 14; her mother's maiden name is misspelled (Coen instead of Cohn); and her husband's profession is incorrectly given as art historian (he taught philosophy). Virtually nothing is said of her ideas, or of the impact on her work of her experience in the U.S. as a German-born Jewish intellectual: of her immigrant experience, in other words.

In the section of photographs over half the women depicted are nuns in habit. A listing of entries by career includes among its categories anarchist, clubwoman, and saint.

Only libraries collecting exhaustively in US women's history need to consider this volume.

Stephen Lehmann

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[1]

*Notable American women* : 1607 - 1950 ; a biographical dictionary / ed. by Edward T. James. - Cambridge, Mass. : Belknap Press, 1971. - 1 - 3. - Now available as a one volume paperback: Cambridge, Mass. : Belknap Press, 1973. - 2141 S. - ISBN 0-674-62734-2 (pb) : \$ 45.00

*Notable American women* : the modern period ; a biographical dictionary / ed. by Barbara Sicherman ... - Cambridge, Mass. : Belknap Press, 1980. - XXII, 773 S. - Now available as a paperback: Cambridge, Mass. : Belknap Press, 1983. - ISBN 0-674-62733-4 : \$32.00. ([zurück](#))

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