

# CONTENTS

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	viii
------------------------	------

## PART ONE: THE BACKGROUND

1 Women in History	3
2 Women in the Early Middle Ages	13
3 Women and Feudalism	27
4 Eve and Mary	37

## PART TWO: THE WOMEN

5 An Abbess: Hildegarde of Bingen	63
6 A Reigning Queen: Blanche of Castile	97
7 A Great Lady: Eleanor de Montfort	120
8 Piers Plowman's Wife	143
9 A City Working Woman: Agnes li Patiniere of Douai; Women and the Guilds	165
10 Margherita Datini: An Italian Merchant's Wife	184
11 Margaret Paston: A Fifteenth-Century Gentlewoman	210
12 The Middle Ages and After	229
<i>Notes</i>	233
<i>Bibliography</i>	246
<i>Index</i>	261

# INDEX

abortion, 6, 15, 157  
Adelaide, empress, wife of Otto I, 23  
Adelaide, queen, wife of Louis VI, 103  
adultery, attitudes toward, 6, 13, 15, 18,  
  19, 42-46  
Aethelbert of Kent, king, code of, 19  
Aethelflaed, daughter of King Alfred, 23  
Alberti, Leon Battista, 193, 197, 229  
Albertus Magnus, 50-51, 52  
Albigensian heresy. *See* Cathar heresy  
ale-tasters, 161, 177  
Alfred, King, 20, 23  
Alphonse of Poitiers, 100, 109, 111,  
  113-114, 116, 118  
Amalasuntha, queen, 22  
anchoresses, 92  
Andreas Capellanus, 46  
Anna Comnena, 24, 25  
annulment. *See* divorce  
Aregund, queen, 17  
Aristotle, 49-50, 51, 80  
Arte di Calimala, 179, 198  
Augustine, Saint, 53, 79  
  
Barons' War, 136-140  
Beaumanoir, Philippe de, 120-121, 125  
beguines, 91-92  
Benedictine Rule, 65, 66  
Benyt, Alice, 147, 150, 155, 159-160,  
  161-162, 164

Benyt, Robert, 146, 147, 149, 159  
Berkeley, Lady Isabel, 213  
Bernard of Clairvaux, Saint, 81, 82, 87  
Bernardine of Siena, Saint, 34, 55, 204,  
  231  
betrothal, 31-32, 152, 210  
birth control. *See* contraception  
Black Death, 157, 181, 194, 201, 205,  
  206  
Blackstone, William, 3-4, 30  
Blanche of Castile, 97-119 (*101, 108*),  
  188, 231; marriage, 98-100; children,  
  100-101; coronation, 102; first re-  
  gency, 104-110; as dowager queen,  
  110-115; second regency, 115-118,  
  119; death, 118-119  
Boinebroke, Jehan, 166-168, 170-173,  
  174  
Bonaventure, Saint, 36  
brewing, 161, 175-177  
Brunhild, queen, 22  
Bullough, Vern, 13  
Busch, Johann, 71  
Byzantium, women in, 24-25  
  
Caesaria, abbess, 65  
Caesarius, bishop of Arles, rule of, 65  
Caister Castle, 218, 219, 222, 223, 226  
Calle, Margery Paston, 223, 224-225  
Calle, Richard, 215, 223, 224-225

- Calpurnia, wife of Pliny the Younger, 14  
 canonesses, 91  
 Canossa, 23  
 Cathar heresy, 94–96, 103, 123  
 Charlemagne, 18–19  
 Charles of Anjou, 100, 116, 118–119  
 Chaucer, Geoffrey, 52, 58–59, 75, 162,  
     165, 214; son Thomas, 214  
 Chenduit, Ralph, 144  
 childbirth, 5–6, 9, 34, 42, 100, 101, 112,  
     157, 207–209  
 churching, 9, 128  
*Ciompi*, 169–170  
 Cistercians, 87, 88, 113, 118, 132, 231  
 Clare, Saint, 72, 89–90  
 class conflict, 169–174  
 clothing, 127, 155, 156, 188–191, 206,  
     230  
 cloth-making, 155–156, 165–175, 179,  
     180, 181  
 Clovis, 17, 22  
 Cnut, king, code of, 20–21  
 common law, status of women under, 30,  
     31–32, 175  
 consanguinity, 33, 35  
 contraception, 6, 15, 54, 55–56, 157  
 corody, 157  
 cottagers, 145, 146, 155–156, 157, 158,  
     160  
 courtly love, 41–42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47,  
     48, 106, 120–121  
 courtship, 33–34  
 crafts, women in, 156, 165–181  
*Customs of Beauvais*, 46, 120  
 Cuxham, 144–147, 149, 154–157, 158,  
     159, 160, 161, 164  
 Damietta, battle of, 116  
 Dante Alighieri, 79, 231  
 Dati, Gregorio, 207–209  
 Datini, Francesco, 184–188, 189, 191–  
     194, 196, 197–202, 205–207, 230  
 Datini, Ginevra, 201–202, 206  
 Datini, Margherita, 184–207, (195), 212,  
     228, 229, 230, 231, 232; marriage,  
     185–187; house, 184, 187–189, 191;  
     childlessness, 185, 186–187, 201;  
     household management, 185, 192,  
     193–197, 205–206; letters, 184–185,  
     199–200, 201; widowhood, 206; death,  
     206  
*De amore*, 46  
 Dia, countess of (Beatriz de Dia), 45  
*The Diseases of Women*, 5–6  
 Disibodenberg, abbey of, 63–64, 68, 76,  
     81  
 "The Divided Horsecloth," 150  
 divorce, 6, 13, 18–19, 33  
 Dominicans, 39, 88, 90–91, 112–113,  
     140  
 Douai, 166–174, 187  
 double monastery, 66, 87–88  
 double standard, 6, 13, 46, 48  
 Dover Castle, 138–140  
 dower, 31–32, 98, 113, 122, 136, 140–  
     141, 158–159, 223, 232  
 dowry, 6–7, 13, 15, 31, 98, 113, 122,  
     129, 154, 185–186, 201, 202, 223  
 Drayton, manor of, 220, 221  
 Dryver, Henry le, 146, 155  
*Dulcetius*, 67–68  
 Durazzo, battle of, 24  
 Edict of Chilperic, 18  
 Edith Matilda, queen, 105  
 education of women, 7, 10, 14–15, 22,  
     23, 63, 64, 66–67, 100–101, 112–113,  
     185, 198–199, 201–202, 212–213,  
     217, 223, 230, 231  
 Edward I, king of England, 140, 141  
 Edward IV, king of England, 222, 226  
 Einhard, 19  
 Eleanor of Aquitaine, 84, 97–98, 99, 105  
 Elizabeth of Schönau, 85  
 Engels, Friedrich, 7  
*Epistre au dieu d'amour*, 10–12  
 equity, legal doctrine of, 30–31  
 Esclarmonde de Foix, 95–96  
 Eugenius III, pope, 81  
 Euphemia, abbess of Wherwell, 68  
 Eve, 37, 38, 40, 41  
 Evesham, battle of, 139  
 fabliaux, 37, 42  
 family, size of, 100, 157, 215  
*famuli*, 154–155, 156  
 Fastolf, Sir John, 219, 220, 222  
*femme sole*, 175  
 Fontevrault, abbey of, 87, 99  
 food, 71, 131, 155, 157, 158, 161–162,  
     186, 191–193, 202, 215–216, 230  
 Fortunatus, 22  
 Franciscans, 39, 72, 88, 89, 91, 132  
 Francis of Assisi, Saint, 88  
 Fredegund, queen, 22  
 Frederick I (Barbarossa), emperor, 84  
 Frederick II, emperor, 115, 116, 129, 135  
 Fugger, Barbara Baesinger, 183

- Fugger, Jacob, 183  
 furniture, 155, 156, 188, 216
- Galen, 51-52  
 Germain, Saint, 21  
 Gerson, Jean, 55  
 Gilbert of Sempringham, Saint, order of (Gilbertines), 87, 88, 142  
 Gilles d'Orléans, 39  
 Goodman of Paris (*Ménagier de Paris*), 190-191, 205-206  
 Gratian, 58  
 Gregory VII, pope, 23  
 Gregory IX, pope, 58  
 Gregory, bishop of Tours, 21-22  
 Grene, Matilda ate, 145, 155, 164  
 Grene, Robert ate, 145  
 Grosseteste, Robert, bishop of Lincoln, 91, 132  
 Guibert of Nogent, abbot, 52-53  
 guilds, women in, 178-181  
 gynaeceum, 6, 13, 24
- Harvey, William, 51  
 Hedwig, Saint, 56  
 Helfta, convent of, 85-86  
 Henry II, king of England, 26-27, 84, 97, 99  
 Henry III, king of England, 104, 107, 109, 115, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 131, 134-136, 137, 140, 141  
 Henry IV, emperor, 23  
 Henry of Almain, 141  
 Henry of Susa (Cardinal Hostiensis), 52  
 heriot, 159  
 Herlihy, David, 25-26  
 Herrad of Landsberg, 85  
 Hilda of Whitby, 66  
 Hildegarde of Bingen, 63-65, 68, 76-85 (77, 82, 83), 87, 231; birth, 63; education, 63; profession, 63; as abbess, 76-85; at Rupertsberg, 78-85; writings, 76-81, 82, 83, 85; as sage and prophet, 81-84; letters, 83-84; death, 85  
 household management, 131-132, 137-138, 185, 192, 193-197, 215-216, 228, 229, 232  
 houses, 68, 102, 113, 124-125, 126, 129-131, 133, 155-156, 166-167, 184, 187-188, 189, 191, 218, 221, 230  
 Hroswitha of Gandersheim, 67-68  
 Hugh, bishop of Lincoln, 100  
 Hugh de Lusignan, count of La Marche, 105, 114, 115

- Huguccio, bishop, 53-54  
 Humbert de Romans, 39-41  
 Hundred Years' War, 219
- infanticide, 6  
 Ingund, queen, 17  
 inheritance, women's rights of, 14, 18, 19, 27-30, 122, 147-150, 158-159, 161-162, 211, 227, 232  
 Innocent IV, pope, 115, 116, 117  
 Irene, Byzantine empress, 25  
 Isabella of Gloucester, 33  
 Isabelle of Angoulême, 136, 140  
 Isabelle of Bavaria, queen of France, 10, 11
- Jehan et Blonde, 120-121  
 Jenney, William, 219-220  
 Jerome, Saint, 14-15, 112  
 Joan of Arc, 229  
 John, king of England, 28-29, 33, 97, 98, 101, 104, 115, 121, 124-125, 135  
 Joinville, Jean de, 48, 100-101, 111-112, 113-115  
 Justinian, Byzantine emperor, 24  
 Jutta, abbess of Disibodenberg, 63, 64, 68, 76  
 Juvenal, 14
- Kempe, Margery, 92-94, 177  
 Kenilworth Castle, 126, 127, 129-131, 133, 135, 136, 137, 139, 140, 188
- Langland, William, 162-164, 177  
 Las Huelgas, abbey of, 88  
 law codes, women in; Anglo-Saxon, 20-21; Burgundian, 18; English, 46; Frankish, 17-19; French, 46; Lombard, 17, 18; Saxon, 17; Spanish, 46; Visigoth, 18  
 legal rights of women, 7, 13-14, 27-30  
 Lewes, battle of, 137  
 life expectancy, 100, 157, 230, 231  
 Lioba, abbess of Bischofsheim, 66-67  
 literacy, 7, 14-15, 64, 66-67, 143, 184-185, 198-199, 202, 210, 212-213, 230, 231  
 Lothar I, king of the Franks, 16, 17, 18, 21-22  
 Louis VI, king of France, 103  
 Louis VII, king of France, 97  
 Louis VIII, king of France, 97, 100-102, 103-104, 105, 118

- Louis IX, king of France (St. Louis), 48, 56, 57, 100–101, 103–104, 107, 108, 111, 114, 115–116, 118, 119, 121, 136, 141
- Magna Carta, 28, 121, 122
- Mandeville, Geoffrey de, Earl of Essex, 28
- manorial courts, 141, 143, 152, 159, 161–162
- manorial system, 4, 75, 141–147, 159–161
- Mansourah, battle of, 48, 116
- Marbode, bishop of Rennes, 38–39
- Margaret, Countess Marshal, 232
- Marguerite of Provence, queen of France, 55–56, 110–112 (111), 116, 119
- Marie de Bourbon, prioress, 90
- Marozia, 22–28
- marriage, 6, 13, 15, 18, 27–36 (32), 41, 97, 98, 110–112, 125–126, 150–154, 185–187, 199–200, 202, 203, 210, 211, 212, 213, 223–226, 232; age at, 98–99, 122, 150, 185; consent in, 6, 13, 20, 98
- Marsh, Adam, 132–134
- Marshal, Richard, 122
- Marshal, William II, 122, 125
- Mary, worship of, 37, 40–41, 42
- Master of Hungary, 117
- Matilda, abbess of Quedlinburg, 66
- Matilda, countess of Tuscany, 23
- Matilda, queen of England, 105
- Mazzei, Ser Lapo, 198, 204
- Mechtild of Magdeburg, 86–87
- medical ideas about women, 7–9, 48–52
- menstruation, 8–9, 51
- merchants, women as, 182–183
- merchet, 150
- Merton College, 144–145, 150
- Michael IV, Byzantine emperor, 57
- Minnesingers, 37, 43, 44, 47
- misogyny, 7–12, 37–50, 58–59, 87–88
- Montfort, Amaury de, 132, 141, 142
- Montfort, Eleanor de, Countess of Leicester, 120–142, 162, 188, 216, 231; birth, 121; first marriage, 122; second marriage, 125–126; household, 131–132; seal, 127; dower litigation, 136, 140–141; in command of Dover Castle, 139–140; banishment, 140–141; death, 141
- Montfort, Eleanor de (daughter), 135, 140, 142
- Montfort, Simon de, Earl of Leicester, 121, 123–139
- Montfort, Simon de (son), 128, 139, 140, 141
- Montfort-l'Amaury, castle of, 128, 130
- Morgengabe (male dowry), 15
- mysticism, women and, 63, 76–87, 92–94
- Notre-Dame-aux-Nonnains, Troyes, abbey of, 89
- Notre-Dame-de-Paris, 111, 117–118
- nunneries, 63–92, 154; buildings of, 68; claustration in, 75–76; community and poverty in, 73, 74–75, 89–91; daily routine, 70, 71, 73; early history of, 65–68; officers of, 68–79 (69)
- Odiham Castle, 124–125, 131, 132, 137
- Oxford University, 100–110, 144–145, 212, 217, 222, 223
- Paris, Matthew, 91, 115, 116–117, 118, 126, 128, 129, 144
- Paston, Agnes, 210, 211, 212, 217, 225–226
- Paston, Clement, 211
- Paston, John I, 210, 212, 213, 214–215, 217, 220
- Paston, John II (Sir John), 212, 222, 226, 227
- Paston, John III, 222, 223, 224, 226, 227
- Paston, Margaret, 210–228, 229, 230, 231, 232; marriage, 210, 212; education, 212; character, 212; defense of Paston property, 215, 219, 220; household management, 215–217; children, 215–217, 223–226; death, 227
- Paston, Margery Brews, 226
- Paston, Justice William, 210–212, 214
- Patiniere, Agnes, 166, 170–172
- Paul, Saint, 9, 37, 38, 52
- peasant women, 143–164; marriage of, 150–154; property rights of, 147–150, 158–160, 161–162; unmarried, 154; wages of, 154; work of, 146–147, 148, 149, 151, 153, 154–155, 164
- Peter Lombard, 34
- Peter Mauclerc, count of Brittany, 104, 105, 107, 109, 114
- Philip II (Augustus), king of France, 28, 97, 98, 101–102, 103
- Philip III (le Hardi), king of France, 119
- physiology of women, 7–9, 48–52
- Piers Plowman, 162–164, 177
- Pisan, Christine de, 10–12 (11), 90–91, 162, 198
- Pliny the Elder, 7–8

- Pliny the Younger, 14  
 Plumpton, Dorothy, 217  
 Poissy, abbey of, 90-91  
 politics, women in, 7, 14, 21-23, 24-25,  
     65-66, 97-119, 161, 231  
 polygamy, 16, 17, 18-19  
 Poor Clares, 73, 88, 89-90  
 Pougy, Odette de, abbess, 89  
 Poynings, Elizabeth Paston, 217, 226  
 Poynings, Robert, 226  
 Prato, 184, 187, 196, 197, 200, 201, 202,  
     205, 206, 228  
 Premonstratensians, 87-88  
 Procopius, 22  
 property rights of women, 6-7, 13, 18,  
     26, 27-31, 147-150, 157-159, 161-  
     162  
 prostitution, 56-58  
 Provisions of Oxford, 135-136  
 putting-out system, 166, 169-170, 173-  
     175
- Quinze Joyes de Mariage*, 42-45
- Radegund, Saint, 21-22, 71  
 Raymond Berenger IV, count of Prov-  
     ence, 110  
 Raymond, count of Toulouse, 109  
 regents, women as, 23, 25, 66, 104-110,  
     115-119, 230  
 religion, role of women in, 7, 14, 21-22,  
     63-96  
 Richard, earl of Cornwall, 126, 129, 136,  
     141, 145  
 Rigaud, Eudes, archbishop, 72-73, 76  
 Robert Guiscard, 24  
 Robert of Artois, 100, 110, 113, 114,  
     116, 118  
*Roman de la Rose*, 42, 46  
 Romanus, Cardinal, 109, 110  
 Rome, women in, 13-15, 230  
 Rules of Marriage (*Regole matrimoniale*),  
     48  
 Rupertsberg, convent of, 78, 81, 84-85
- Ste. Croix, abbey of, Poitiers, 22, 71  
 Salic law, 18  
 Salimbene, Fra, 38-39  
 Sandford, Cecily de, 123  
 servants, 73, 131-132, 154, 181-182,  
     193-194, 197, 206  
 sex, attitudes toward, 7-9, 34, 36, 48-59,  
     94  
 Sichelgaita of Salerno, 24  
 Singer, Charles, 79  
 slaves, 193-197, 201, 206
- Tacitus, 15  
 Taillebourg, battle of, 115  
 Tertullian, 37-38, 41  
 Theodora, Byzantine empress (d. 548),  
     wife of Justinian, 24-25  
 Theodora, Byzantine empress (1050-  
     1052), 25  
 Theophano, mother of emperor Otto III,  
     23  
 Thibaut IV (le Chansonnier), count of  
     Champagne, 104, 105-107, 114  
 Thomas Aquinas, Saint, 34-36, 41, 50,  
     51  
 troubadours and trouvères, 37, 41-42,  
     45, 46, 106
- University of Paris, 50, 84, 109-110  
 Urban IV, pope, 89, 119  
 Urraca, queen of Portugal, sister of  
     Blanche of Castile, 97, 114
- Villani, Giovanni, 231  
 villeins, 146, 160, 164  
 Vincent of Beauvais, 112-113  
 Vitry, Jacques de, 57, 75, 91
- wages, women's, 154, 181, 182  
 wardship, 13, 27-29  
 Wars of the Roses, 214, 222, 226-227  
 weddings, 31-33 (32), 98, 110-112,  
     125-127, 152, 186, 202, 203  
*wergild*, 17  
 wet nurses, 202-204  
 widows, 28-29, 122, 149-150, 157-161,  
     174, 178, 179, 182, 231, 232; sale of  
     remarriage of, 28-29  
 wife-beating, 46, 48, 49  
 Wife of Bath, 52, 58-59, 165  
 William of St. Pathus, 56  
 wills, women's, 6, 19-21, 29, 225, 227-  
     228  
 working women, city, 165-183; and class  
     conflict, 169-172; in crafts, 165-181;  
     in guilds, 178-181; housing of, 166-  
     168; as merchants, 182-183; as ser-  
     vants, 181-182; wages of, 181, 182;  
     working conditions of, 168-169  
 Wycliffe, John, 94, 207
- Yelverton, Anne Paston, 226  
 Yelverton, Judge William, 219-220, 226  
 Yelverton, William (grandson), 226
- Zoe, Byzantine empress, 25