



## Discover Women Printers in Early European Books

**Women played a far more important role** in the early modern book trade than is acknowledged by the imprint data on surviving books. Since almost all print shops were a family business, the wife would frequently act as a business manager. If they outlived their husband, women had the chance to step out of the shadows and print under their own name. But when the opportunity presented itself, women master printers frequently went on to build careers in their own right of great distinction, as the collections of Early European Books allow us to demonstrate.

From the summer of 2021, Early European Books will launch a new feature that will bring women authors, publishers, and printers to light and honor the achievement of those who wrote, published, and printed some of the most significant and technically proficient works of the age.

When Margareta van Bancken (1628-1695) married Abraham Casteleyn of Haarlem, she married the foremost newspaper publisher of the Netherlands; some said even all of Europe. When Abraham died in 1681, Margareta took over the publication of the tri-weekly *Oprechte Haerlemse Courant*, as well as Abraham's position as city printer. It is noteworthy that Margareta printed city ordinances, schoolbooks, and other literature under her own name (an otherwise rare occurrence in the seventeenth-century Dutch Republic) but maintained her husband's name on the newspaper that he had founded in 1656.

Women like Margareta van Bancken stand at the heart of ProQuest's new analytical search function that allows women authors, publishers, and printers to be identified in Early European Books. They range from well-known names like Marguerite of Navarre to the indefatigable Maria de Quiñones, a Madrilene printer who was abandoned by her husband but ran one of Spain's most important print shops independently. To explore more examples of women printers found across the Early European Books collection, see the backside of this flyer.



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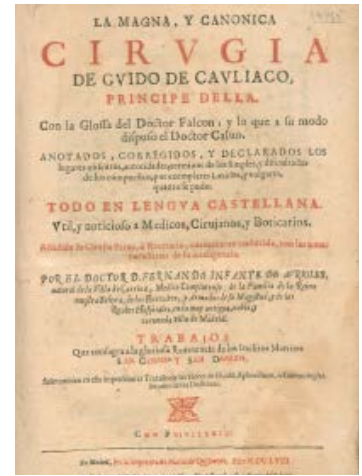


## Women as Printers in Spain

We see more female printers at work in northern Europe than the Mediterranean countries. Nevertheless, women still played an important role in the book trade in Italy and Spain. A substantial surgical handbook, by the French author Guy de Chauliac (1300-1368) and translated into Castilian by Juan Calvo, was printed in 1658 in Madrid by Maria de Quiñones. In 1627, Maria had inherited her print shop not from a husband or father, but from her aunt, Maria Rodriguez Ribalde, the widow of Pedro de Madrigal. Maria de Quiñones was married to Jan de la Cuesta, who abandoned her, moving to Seville, when Maria was pregnant. Undeterred, Maria continued to manage the print shop herself.

It is noteworthy that Maria continued to place her husband's name on her books until 1634. This was a common, pragmatic choice: once the brand identity had been established, it was sometimes too valuable to be cast off.

*An example of the work of the indefatigable Maria de Quiñones, a substantial surgical work in folio (1658).*



## Women in Printing The Netherlands

Mercy Browning is also a wonderful case; an Englishwoman in the Netherlands, she married the printer Joseph Bruyning (in English, Browning). Bruyning died in 1672 and at this point, Mercy was already 65 years old, but continued to print under her own name until the late 1680s, when she was 80 years old.

Given her background, she specialised in publishing English books, and tracts in Dutch about British affairs. For example, she played a critical role in reporting British events during the Third Anglo Dutch War (1672-1674) and exporting Dutch propaganda in English translation to the British Isles. In this work she publishes as "The widow Mercy Bruyning" (1680).

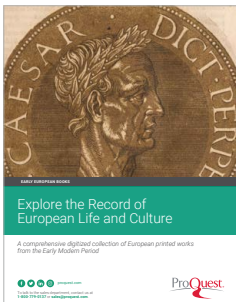
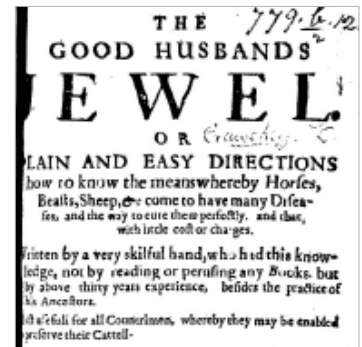
*Richardson, Edward, approximately 1677 (Richardson, E.). (1680). Godts wonder-werck, voor en in de weder-gheboorte. Amsterdam, Bruyningh, Mercy.*



## Printers in Early English Books Online

Sometimes, opening up new markets provided opportunities for entrepreneurial women. London was an unwelcoming environment for newcomers: Alice Broade was one of the first printers of York, following in the footsteps of her husband Thomas Broade, who had printed in York briefly during the English Civil Wars. She became the only printer in York upon the Restoration of Charles II (1660) and ensured that a printing press would remain permanently active in York. One of the first works that she printed was the *Good Husbands Jewel* (1661): not a tract on marriage advice, as the title might indicate, but a text on veterinary medicine, by John Crowshey.

*The fifth edition of the Good Husbands Jewel, printed by Alice Broade in York (1661).*



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