

Catharine Macaulay (1731-1791)

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She was one of the few female celebrities of the time who gained her fame, not through sexual antics, but through the venom of her pen.

- ◆ 8 volume, 3,500 page History of England (1763-1783)
- ◆ The History of England, from the Revolution to the Present Time in a Series of Letters to the Reverend Doctor Wilson (1778)
- ◆ A Treatise on the Immutability of Moral Truth (1783)
- ◆ The Letters on Education, with Observations on Religious and Metaphysical Subjects (1790)

Her education consisted of little more than being let loose in her father's library, where she read many works , including Roman History

- ❖ Her education emphasized Roman History and as a result became imbued with ideas of Liberty and democracy.
- ❖ These early readings may have sown the love of history in the young Catharine and encouraged her commitment to republican values.
- ❖ Her reading of Greek and Roman histories instilled in her a lifelong republican and libertarian leanings.

Encouraged by the success of her History of England, Macaulay became increasingly political.

- She loved the idea of Republicanism and was not afraid to tell Edmund Burke where to shove it.... Repeatedly.
- She openly supported the American Revolution and regularly corresponded with George Washington.
- 1760's and 1770's became a prominent speaker for Republican values.
- Macaulay became England's first female pamphleteer.

IN HER OLD AGE CATHARINE FINALLY
CAUSED SCANDAL, NOT IN HER
WRITING, BUT WITH A MAN

Her failing health led her to try some of the wacky treatments of Dr. Graham. The treatments seemed to work for her so she thoroughly endorsed him, which the public found to be the craziest thing she ever did.

Then she shocked everyone by marrying the Dr.'s younger brother William. He was 21 and she was 52. The age gap as well as the relationship to a known quack caused the press to go crazy. The two were seen together often up until Catharine's death in 1791.

Catharine was now out of the public's favor. Her actions at the end of her life left a sour taste in people's mouth for so many years that she was unrecognized for her accomplishments.



LETTERS ON EDUCATION



While critics today are largely silent on many of the societal reforms Macauley advocated in *Letters on Education*, all concur that it should be remembered as one of the earliest examples of political literature fighting for equal treatment of women.