

**ABNORMAL WOMAN, A SOCIOLOGIC  
AND SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF YOUNG  
WOMEN, INCLUDING LETTERS OF  
AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN GIRLS IN  
ANSWER TO PERSONAL  
ADVERTISEMENTS, WITH A BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649114467

Abnormal woman, a sociologic and scientific study of young women, including letters of American and European girls in answer to personal advertisements, with a bibliography by Arthur MacDonald

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**ARTHUR MACDONALD**

**ABNORMAL WOMAN, A SOCIOLOGIC  
AND SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF YOUNG  
WOMEN, INCLUDING LETTERS OF  
AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN GIRLS IN  
ANSWER TO PERSONAL  
ADVERTISEMENTS, WITH A BIBLIOGRAPHY**



to Dr. Allen Snow,  
with compliments of the author

9023

# ABNORMAL WOMAN,

A SOCIOLOGIC AND SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF  
YOUNG WOMEN, INCLUDING LETTERS OF  
AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN GIRLS  
IN ANSWER TO PERSONAL  
ADVERTISEMENTS,

WITH A

BIBLIOGRAPHY.

BY

ARTHUR MacDONALD,

AUTHOR OF "ABNORMAL MAN," "CRIMINOLOGY," AND "LE CRIMINEL-TYPE."

WASHINGTON, D. C.

COPYRIGHT, 1895, BY THE AUTHOR.

---

*Registered at Stationers' Hall, London, England, 1895.*

---

**604363**

---

**21.3.55**

## PREFACE.

A large number of letters were received from the correspondents. Those selected are the most typical or representative. Border-line abnormality, or that which is nearest the normal, is mainly illustrated.

About five per cent. of the letters received were from persons of questionable reputation. These documents, in connection with the deeper forms of sociological abnormality, will be considered in another volume. It would be out of place to discuss such questions in this volume, which is intended for the general reader.

Any reader who may desire to send criticisms can do so by addressing the author :

P. O. Lock Box 273, Washington, D. C.

## Other Works by Author.

---

**ABNORMAL MAN**, being essays on Education and Crime and related subjects, with digest of literature and a bibliography. 1893. Published by U. S. Bureau of Education, Washington, D. C. 445 pages, 8°.

---

**CRIMINOLOGY**, a psychological and scientific study of criminals; with introduction by Lombroso. Bibliography. (Second edition.) New York, 1894. Funk & Wagnalls, publishers. 416 pages, 12°. Price, \$2.00.

---

**LE CRIMINEL-TYPE** dans quelques formes graves de la criminalité. Bibliographie de sexualité pathologique. (Troisième édition.) Un volume en 8°, illustrait de Portraits. Publié par A. Storck, Lyon, et G. Masson, Paris. 1895. 300 pages. Prix, 5 fr.

*This work is not published in English.*

---

---

**ABNORMAL WOMAN** may be obtained by sending \$1.25 to the Author, P. O. Lock Box 273, Washington, D. C., or may be ordered through booksellers.



## CONTENTS.

PREFACE, . . . . .	iii
INTRODUCTION, . . . . .	vii
Personal advertisements.	
CHAPTER I, . . . . .	1
American Correspondents.	
CHAPTER II, . . . . .	119
European Correspondents: Letters in English, in French, and in German.	
CHAPTER III, . . . . .	170
Love psychologically and pathologically consid- ered.	
CHAPTER IV, . . . . .	180
Conclusion.	
CHAPTER V, . . . . .	185
Bibliography.	

## INTRODUCTION.

The abnormal person of society is in the minority and conforms less to the customs of the community than the average or normal person. The word "abnormal" has therefore come to imply, in the minds of the public, something wrong, or at least uncomplimentary. But, as used by the author, it has no reference to moral qualities; it simply signifies deviation from the normal. An abnormal person might be one of the best or one of the worst citizens.

In the case of man the term "abnormal" refers to crime, pauperism, drunkenness, etc.; insanity, great talent, and genius. In this sense abnormal woman varies little from abnormal man, except in those differences that exist between the sexes in general. In applying the word "abnormal" to woman, therefore, it will refer more to social standards and to woman in her special function as woman.\*

An empirical inquiry has to do primarily with what *is*, rather than what *ought* to be, or *shall* be, however important these two latter questions may be considered. It has not only to make an inventory of the facts, but seek out the causes. In pursuing an investigation in a laboratory a selection and arrangement of material and the conditions under which experiments are to be made are a necessary preliminary. But when human beings in society constitute the laboratory, the difficulties are greatly increased.

---

\* This latter question will be considered in another volume. See Preface.

The present work is an attempt to make an original and scientific study of abnormal woman outside of institutions—that is, in society at large.

The question arises as to how it is possible to find abnormal women in society. After some consideration, it occurred to the author that the most convenient and perhaps the best method would be through the "personal" column of the newspaper. The following advertisement was accordingly inserted:

GENTLEMAN OF HIGH SOCIAL AND UNIVERSITY POSITION DESIRES CORRESPONDENCE (ACQUAINTANCE NOT NECESSARY) WITH YOUNG EDUCATED WOMAN OF HIGH SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL POSITION. NO AGENTS; NO TRIFLERS; MUST GIVE DETAILED ACCOUNT OF LIFE; REFERENCES REQUIRED. ADDRESS, LOCK BOX —.

The above "personal," with slight variations, appeared in a number of the principal newspapers in the large cities of our country. It was in different papers at different times for a period of about three or four months.

Considering the use to which the "personal" column is generally put, the author did not think it wrong to make it serve as the means of sociological investigation.

A woman who answers a public advertisement cannot expect her correspondence with a total stranger to be of a very confidential nature. It has been the author's desire, however, not to reveal in any way the identity of any of his correspondents. All names of persons, therefore, and most names of places occurring in the letters have been omitted.

Since the correspondents live in all parts of our country, and mostly in large cities, and some in Europe, the probability of any of them being identified is practically *nil*.

It is difficult to see any serious reason why people in gen-