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Bookplates of women and for women
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BOOKPLATES OF WOMEN AND FOR WOMEN

On the 8th March 1960 the whole world celebrated the 50th International Women's Day. This important event gives us the opportunity to make the women artists who design bookplates known to a wider public.

A volume of bookplates appeared in the year 1955 (previous ones appeared in Germany between 1922 and 1925) and named a large number of female bookplate artists. From the German Democratic Republic came **Wilfriede André** of Hildburghausen (born 1912), with a copperplate engraving (Ex-libris **Lulu Loewe** – a “speaking” plate) and **Lieselotte Finke-Poser** of Leipzig with an etched plate (Ex-libris for the copperplate engraver **Erich Claus**). West Germany on the other hand gave us two woodcut artists: **Wiltraud Jasper** of Stuttgart (born 1915) from whom we have the Ex-libris **Inge Vollmer** and **Renate Stoltenberg** (Ex-libris **Lotte Kasten**).

Austrian women artists in particular devoted themselves to bookplates. As a prolific woodcut artist, we know **Rose Reinhold** (see figure), who died on the 17th September 1959. The following woodcut artists from Austria have become well known: **Marie Bauer-Klimbacher** (born in Vienna in 1911), whose favourite subjects are children at play, the Viennese **Hedwig zum Tobel** (born 1912) with her charming two-colour woodcuts, and **Waltraud Weissenbach** (born 1919 in Spittal-Drau) who is active in her homeland as an art teacher.

Other women bookplate artists are **Bertl Nacken** of Karlsruhe (Lino cuts) **Hanna Nagel** of Heidelberg (pen drawings), **Christine Schulze** of Lübeck (modern bookmarks), and **Lisl Steppe** of Munich (Lino cuts).

It is good to know that in the Leipzig College of Art, bookplate design is looked on as a distinct genre and several generations of women artists have turned out very beautiful examples of modern bookplates, as we can see from the Ex-libris **Dorothy Vorhaus** illustrated.

We should also mention artists whose bookplates show women exercising their profession. The copper-plate engraver and stamp designer **Heinrich Ilgenfritz** (born 1899 in Nuremberg), teacher and vice-chancellor at the State College of Art, Leipzig, created the bookplate for **Doctor Herta Uhlitzsch** (see figure). **Richard Rother** of Kitzingen/Main, produced the woodcut bookplate for **Margret Völker** showing a woman cider maker.

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