

## = The Lady 's Realm =

The Lady 's Realm was a British women 's magazine published from 1896 until 1914 , possibly until 1915 . It primarily targeted upper @-@ class readers as well as an aspirational middle @-@ class audience , featuring photographs , poems , fiction , and columns by popular authors such as Marie Corelli , Frances Hodgson Burnett , Jack London , and H.G. Wells . The London Season was regularly covered , with visuals of significant society figures and débutantes appearing . Fashion trends in Paris and London were frequently discussed as well , particularly by its fashion editor Marian Pritchard .

The publication 's targeted reader was the " New Woman " , with enlightened ideas on education , health , independence , and employment . More successful than many of its contemporary publications , the magazine sold reasonably well in the United States , United Kingdom , and Canada . It was a staple of women 's reading rooms in public libraries , which were widespread across the UK . Relatively little is known of The Lady 's Realm 's publishing history , as many records were destroyed during the London Blitz . Its end may have been due to the First World War .

## = = History = =

Relatively little is known of The Lady 's Realm 's publishing history , as many records of its publisher , Hutchinson , were destroyed during the London Blitz . The first issue was published in November 1896 . Its first editor was William Henry Wilkins , a mildly successful novelist who oversaw the publication 's editing from 1896 to 1902 . Though inexperienced , Wilkins was acquainted with society , being a friend of such figures as the explorer Richard Francis Burton and his wife Isabel Burton . After Wilkins ' death in 1905 , The Lady 's Realm wrote of how " the general public are little aware how much of [ the magazine 's ] early success " was due to him , and that " not a few [ contributors who ] have since made their names in the world of letters have to thank him for placing their foot on the first rung of the ladder " . Wilkins ' successor as editor is unknown , though Margaret Versteeg and colleagues , who produced an index of the fiction published in The Lady 's Realm , detect no changes in editorial judgement in the magazine 's tenure after 1902 . While the publication mainly featured women writers and feminine topics , all of its editors , most likely , were men .

When it debuted , there were more than twenty @-@ nine publications catering to women . Upon the publication of its first issue in 1896 , Review of Reviews called it " one of the most popular of the magazines that have been started this year " . The illustrated magazine was produced monthly and cost sixpence ( cheap enough for middle @-@ class readers ) . A typical issue contained 120 pages on quality glossy paper . It sold reasonably well in the United Kingdom , United States , and Canada . The magazine was available in women 's reading rooms in public libraries , locations that were well distributed across the United Kingdom .

The magazine was produced by the English printers Hazell , Watson and Viney . One of its owners , Walter Hazell , was a social reformer and supporter of women 's suffrage . A successful firm , Hazell , Watson and Viney also produced the Woman 's Signal and the Woman 's Gazette , which featured female political and economic topics . The success of The Lady 's Realm allowed it to remain published for eighteen years , from 1896 to 1915 , much longer than many other contemporary women 's periodicals . Thirty @-@ six volumes were produced , from November 1896 to October 1914 ( a final volume may have been released in 1915 ) . It is not known why it ended , though Versteeg and her colleagues speculate that World War I may have been a cause , as was the case for other contemporary publications like Young Woman ( 1891 ? 1914 ) and The Girl ? s Realm ( 1892 ? 1915 ) .

## = = Content = =

The magazine focused on an upmarket audience , targeting " aspirational middle @-@ class and

upper @-@ class readers " . It was also one of the first intended to appeal to the female homeowner . The Lady 's Realm featured poems , engravings and photographs , as well as columns by popular authors like Marie Corelli , Frances Hodgson Burnett , Violet Fane , and Mary Elizabeth Braddon . Other authors included Jack London , H.G. Wells , and Mary Eleanor Wilkins Freeman . Fiction , in the form of short stories and serialisations , was released during the magazine 's entire span and took up a sizable proportion in issues . A slightly higher percentage of these contributions were written by women . The type of fiction varied , from romances and domestic narratives to fantasies and sociopolitical stories . The publication 's targeted reader was the " New Woman " , with enlightened ideas on education , health , independence , and employment . Victorian scholar Kathryn Ledbetter notes that The Lady 's Realm was " a handbook to the New Woman then being successfully marketed in popular novels ... it provides many examples of this ideal in essays , illustrations , fiction , and poetry through the late 1890s " .

Lady 's Realm printed an assortment of Court and society news alongside articles on more daily tasks such as food , homemaking , and methods for female readers to earn money . It covered the London Season , displaying photographs of significant society figures and débutantes . It claimed to feature over 500 illustrations in each volume . Theatre was another regular topic of the magazine 's , as was fiction , poetry , and reports on fashion . The Lady 's Realm 's fashion editor Marian Pritchard regularly wrote articles on emerging fashions in London and Paris , and recommended locations where readers could buy them . While still featuring fashion and beauty , it also encouraged careers for women in music , art , business , and millinery . The magazine maintained this blend of topics relatively consistently , though it gradually made minor changes to the proportion it focused on different topics , for instance later focusing less on the nobility and more on the lives of clergymen and governors general .

The Lady 's Realm was a source of celebrity journalism . Ledbetter writes that the magazine inherited its " notions of feminine celebrity " from The Woman 's World , an earlier publication edited by Oscar Wilde . It published studio photographs of actresses as well as aristocrats , including many in the former group who married into the nobility . The British Royal Family was a frequent subject ; one of the magazine 's first issues included an article and photographs about the Princess of Wales ' childhood , and the publication regularly reported on the movements of Queen Victoria 's family .