

FROM CARMEN BURGOS SEGUÍ TO EMILIA PARDO BAZÁN: A REVIEW OF NINETEENTH-CENTURY SPANISH WOMEN TRAVELLERS

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ABSTRACT

Nineteenth-century Spanish women travellers have mostly remained in oblivion for almost two centuries. Nine women travellers bent the strict rules of the Catholic Spanish tradition, travelled abroad, became pioneers in their disciplines and left written accounts of their achievements. Carmen Burgos, Eva Canel, Sofía Casanova, Teresa Escoriza, Emilia Serrano, Carolina Coronado, Concepción Gimeno, Eulalia de Borbón and Emilia Pardo Bazán developed their careers mainly in journalism and literature. Their accomplishments include being the first Spanish female editor, the first female professional journalist, the first woman traveller to cross a whole continent on her own, the first female war correspondent, or the first female member of the *Ateneo de Madrid*. This paper sheds light on their individual stories so that their memory is not forgotten.

KEYWORDS: Women, Travellers, Nineteenth century, Spain, Travel literature.

RESUMEN

Las viajeras españolas decimonónicas han permanecido en el olvido durante casi dos siglos. Nueve mujeres desafiaron la tradición católica imperante en la España del siglo XIX, estudiaron, se labraron una profesión y viajaron al extranjero. Muchas de ellas fueron pioneras en sus disciplinas: la primera corresponsal de guerra española, la primera redactora española, la primera periodista profesional, la primera mujer en ser aceptada como miembro del Ateneo de Madrid. Estas nueve mujeres, Carmen Burgos, Eva Canel, Sofía Casanova, Teresa Escoriza, Emilia Serrano, Carolina Coronado, Concepción Gimeno, Eulalia de Borbón y Emilia Pardo Bazán, que desarrollaron su carrera profesional principalmente en la literatura y el periodismo, tienen una historia que merece ser contada. Este artículo vierte luz sobre su trayectoria y sus circunstancias individuales para que sus hazañas no permanezcan en el olvido.

PALABRAS CLAVE: Literatura de viajes, mujeres, viajeras, España, siglo XIX.



1. INTRODUCTION

Studies on European travellers to Spain, and the perception of Spain from the British or French —to mention the most relevant— points of view are large in number; there is vast bibliography on the subject. Studies on Spanish travelling have traditionally centred on male peregrinations, exploration and expedition journeys to exotic lands. In the nineteenth century, however, the delicate Spanish economic and political situation motivated that travelling abroad was an unusual tendency.

Despite the difficult situation, a small group consisting mainly of journalists and writers continued to travel either on official missions or for pleasure (Nadales 2009, 59). Due to the strict traditional values still fiercely settled in Spain, very few women were part of this group. They broke the norms and pioneered in their fields, becoming role models for other women in the period. Nine different women with varied personalities and living experiences, most of them shared a passion for travelling, writing and advocating for women's rights. This chapter portrays these singular women in depth: Carmen Burgos, the first Spanish female editor and, along with Sofía Casanova, the first Spanish female war correspondents; Eva Canel, considered the first Spanish woman professional journalist; Teresa Escoriaza, an avid traveller, war correspondent, journalist and language teacher in North America; Emilia Serrano crossed the American continent from Canada to the Patagonia and became the only woman who travelled across the whole hemisphere in the 19th century, and the only Spanish woman who travelled on her own along the western hemisphere in that century; Carolina Coronado was a prominent Romantic writer and was considered “a female Bécquer,” which was a singular characteristic of her emotional European trips; Concepción Gimeno de Flaquer devoted most of her literary efforts to writing articles to disseminate her ideas in defence of women, and she was the founder and editor of several publications in Spain and South America where she expressed her political and social opinion; Princess Eulalia de Borbón was an avid traveller who bent the rules of the Spanish royal family not only by travelling incessantly but also by criticising the court in her polemic publications on education, the defence of women's independence and social affairs; finally, Emilia Pardo Bazán, probably the most famous of the nine women discussed in this chapter, was the most popular woman and acclaimed writer in the intellectual sphere of the nineteenth and first quarter of the twentieth century. She travelled through Europe, wrote poetry, essays, newspaper articles, books and novels, taught contemporary literature at university and she was the first female member of the *Ateneo de Madrid*.

These are the protagonists of this paper, a selection of the few women travellers who challenged the social, political and cultural tradition, fought for women's rights and pioneered in their field. Their history, their travels, their moves, and their written records deserve to be remembered.



2. TRAVEL IN NINETEENTH-CENTURY SPAIN

The concept of travelling existing in Spain in the second half of the nineteenth century could be synthesised in this quote from Emilia Pardo Bazán (1892, 220), famous Spanish writer and well-known traveller, as already mentioned: “Viajar por vocación se considera aquí índice de extravagancia; algo que se acerca a la manía. Y es porque, en concepto del español, todo viaje representa una suma de contrariedades y de gastos muy superior a los goces que puede reportar.”

As Ford also stated, there was not a love of travel in nineteenth-century Spain, and just a few could afford travelling by pleasure. He travelled more than three thousand kilometres throughout Spain and stated (2004, 81, 194) that “El español, criatura rutinaria y enemiga de innovaciones, no es aficionado a viajar; apegado a su terruño por naturaleza, odia el movimiento tanto como un turco” and also “los indígenas [los españoles], que rara vez viajan como no sea por necesidad, y nunca por divertirse.”

However, with the industrialisation and improvement of the means of transport, nineteenth century marked the beginning of travelling for pleasure, the will to visit already explored places and add a personal vision (the recently popular *Impressions*). Besides, among certain intellectual spheres there was a need to construct and reinforce a positive Spanish national identity.

In line with this, the readers of travel literature increased, and aside from the personal accounts and impressions, it was common to find different travel guides aimed at different types of travellers. In fact, one of the women travellers analysed, Emilia Serrano, published in 1860 a travel guide in encyclopaedic format of England, Scotland and Ireland for Americans (*Manual, o sea guía de los viajeros en la Inglaterra, Escocia e Irlanda para uso de los americanos*).

Overall, although few people travelled for pleasure in Spain, dozens of journalists, scientists, writers, diplomats, among other professions, left written records of their professional trips and journeys. All those publications contributed to feed and create a travel literature reader, who was essential for the development of the genre as we know it today.

3. WOMEN TRAVELLERS IN NINETEENTH-CENTURY SPAIN

While there were some previous exploration journeys and pilgrimages, not until mid-nineteenth century did women travellers leave meaningful written records of their journeys. This coincides with the period in Europe when female travel and travel writing underwent a dramatic increase led by the British (Jenkins 4).

Before going into the lives of the travellers, it is necessary to briefly remind the reader that in the nineteenth century women from Europe—and, in fact, from all over the world—faced strong restrictions due to their gender, which, of course, affected their opportunities to travel. The situation was even more difficult for Spanish women due to the strong influence of the Catholic Church, according to which women should have a subordinate role, their role being that of mother and



their only domain their house. Their subordinate condition was still established as such in the Spanish Civil Code of 1889, where is stipulated that “a married woman must obey her husband” and, thus, husbands were legally in control of women’s finances, independence and even their children. Not until the Second Republic in the second quarter of the twentieth century did these stipulations change.

Concepción Arenal and Rosario de Acuña, two of the first Spanish feminists constantly criticised the situation of the 19th-century woman in Spain in their articles and statements. Rosario Acuña repeatedly referred to their situation as “slavery” and Concepción Arenal, in her work *La mujer del porvenir* (56-57), summarised the situation of Spanish women in the last half of the 19th century as follows: “The most virtuous and enlightened woman is considered by law inferior to the most depraved and ignorant man; not even a mother’s love, when she is widowed inspires confidence in the legislator that she will do as much for her children as a man. An incredible absurdity! Such is the force of custom, that we greet all these injustices with the name of right.”

4. SELECTED SPANISH WOMEN TRAVELLERS (1820-1891)

In order to illustrate the situation of women travellers in the nineteenth century, I have selected nine Spanish travellers born between 1820 and 1891 who wrote about their travel experiences and published them along the nineteenth and early twentieth century.

Spain was undergoing a difficult economic and political situation and thus travelling was a limited option both for men and women, especially for the latter due to social conventions. As we will see in the bios of the women, only privileged upper-middle class women could afford travelling. Most of them were journalists and writers, and the odd one out is a member of the Spanish Royal family, Eulalia de Borbón, worth being included in the selection due to her passion for travelling and her unconventional life.

4.1. JOURNALISTS: CARMEN BURGOS, EVA CANEL, SOFÍA CASANOVA, TERESA ESCORIAZA, EMILIA SERRANO

The most frequent profession among travellers in the 19th century was that of journalists. It was a conflictive period and journalism blossomed thanks to the improvement of means of transport and the increase of newspapers, journals and independent magazines. A few women challenged the Spanish restrictions and pioneered not only in their writings, but also in their travelling abroad.



4.1.1. *Carmen Burgos Seguí (1867-1932)*

Carmen Burgos y Seguí was one of the strongest voices defending women's rights during her life. As a journalist, she is considered the first female editor, and one of the first female war correspondents.

She left her hometown and her husband after the death of one of her sons, and moved to Madrid with her daughter. There she studied, became a teacher, and worked long hours teaching and writing for as many publications as she could manage. She entered into the literary circles and soon her work and her modern, progressive ideas became well known.

She worked for *El Heraldo de Madrid* and travelled to Morocco in 1909 to inform about the war. She especially travelled through Europe and America starting in 1905 when she was awarded a grant. She gave talks and lectures in Europe, America and Spain defending gender equality, suffrage, pacifism, and speaking against death penalty. She also wrote for *La Correspondencia de España*, *El País*, *ABC*, and as an editor in *El Heraldo* and *Nuevo Mundo de Madrid*. During the First World War she travelled through Europe and published her itinerary and impressions in her book (1916) *Peregrinaciones. Suiza, Dinamarca, Suecia, Noruega, Inglaterra, Portugal* (Nadales 61). Before that, she had published *Por Europa* (1909) and *Cartas sin destinatario* (1910).

She also travelled across the Atlantic, to Argentina, where she gave lectures on Spanish art (*Impresiones de Argentina* [1914]) and in the first quarter of the twentieth century she went to Mexico and Cuba, and wrote several articles about it in *La Esfera*.

She was a prolific writer and wrote both fiction and non-fiction about very diverse topics under the pseudonym Colombine; she used her works to express her strong opinion on the issues concerning the situation of women. She lived long enough to see all her efforts advocating for female suffrage succeed in 1931, when The Constitution gave women the right to vote during the Second Republic.

4.1.2. *Eva Infanzón Canel (1857-1932)*

Agar Eva Infanzón Canel is considered one of the first Spanish women professional journalists. She left her hometown in Asturias when she was very young and moved to Madrid with her mother after the death of her father. Her relationship with journalism began after meeting her husband, Eloy Perillán y Buxó, a journalist, writer and playwright, who edited the satirical journal *La Broma*. He was banished due to his subversive writing and he exiled to Montevideo. Eva Canel stayed in Madrid and became the editor of the journal. She also started writing under different pseudonyms so as to avoid the same fate as her husband. A year later she joined him in Uruguay and both founded a new cultural magazine, *El Petróleo*. By then, she was a professional journalist. Years later they moved to Peru, where they edited *Las Noticias* and also collaborated in other existing journals and magazines. In one of those publications, *El Semanario del Pacífico*, she collaborated with Emilia Serrano —another Spanish traveller included in this paper.



After a short period back in Madrid, her husband left for Cuba, where he died. She moved to Havana and established a satirical review called *La Cotorra*. According to Catharina Vallejo, she was soon employed as a newspaper writer and was sent to Chicago to the 1893 Columbia World Exhibition as an official correspondent for several peninsular newspapers (*El Día* from Madrid, and *La Ilustración Artística* from Barcelona), as well as the Havana Chamber of Commerce. Apart from her work as an editor, journalist and correspondent, Eva Canel wrote several volumes on travel writing, including a collaborative work on her experiences as a war correspondent and also as a secretary of the Spanish Red Cross during the Cuban-Spanish-American war of 1895-1898, in which she strongly supported Spain's position (Vallejo). Once the Cuban war was over, she travelled again, first to Spain and then to Argentina. There, in Buenos Aires, she resumed her active role: she published several novels, memoirs, and essays; gave talks and lectures all through Central and South America (Argentina, Chile, Peru, Mexico, Panama, Brasil, Uruguay), collaborated with a few newspapers and founded two periodicals, *Kosmos* and *Vida Española*, where she wrote two series of travel articles, "Cartas fluviales" and "Por las Pampas." Her final trip was to Cuba, in 1914, where she published her impressions from her travels in postcolonial Cuba in *Lo que vi en Cuba* (1916).

4.1.3. *Sofía Pérez Casanova (1861-1958)*

Sofía Pérez Eguía y Casanova is considered one of the first Spanish female war correspondents. Born in A Coruña, she soon moved with her family to Madrid, where she grew up, studied and entered the literary circles of the capital. In those intellectual circles she met her husband-to-be, a Polish diplomat and philosopher, Vicente Lutoslawski, with whom, after getting married in 1887, she moved to Poland. Despite the distance, she kept close contact with Spain and her hometown, where she would spend every summer. Thanks to the diplomatic career of her husband and, above all, her personal and professional interests, Sofía travelled through Europe, learnt several foreign languages and worked as a journalist, becoming—as previously mentioned—one of the first Spanish women war correspondents.¹ She informed of the suffragist movement in Britain, the development of the bolchevique party in Russia, both the First and the Second World Wars, and the Soviet occupation. She wrote chronicles and gave her unique perspective of the major European historical events of the first half of the twentieth century writing for the most important national and international newspapers and periodicals: *ABC*, *La Época*, *El Liberal*, *El Mundo*, *El Imparcial de Madrid*, *Galicia*, from Spain, and the

¹ Carmen Burgos had been the first Spanish female correspondent when she covered the war in Morocco in 1909, but Sofía Casanova reported both the I World War and the Russian revolution, among other events.



international newspapers *Gazeta Polska*, from Poland, and *The New York Times*, from The United States of America.

She was a long-time correspondent for the newspaper *ABC*, and she wrote hundreds of reports on the tragic events. Due to her language skills, she managed to interview Trotski, Minister of Foreign Affairs at the time. She publicly declared herself as a pacifist, anti-war woman, and she worked as a Red Cross nurse in Warsaw, where she experienced the war horror in first person. She used to say she was both a victim and a witness.

Her career was acknowledged by the intellectual circles, where she gave numerous talks and lectures on international affairs and the situation of the women; her home also valued her trajectory and the Galician Royal Academy appointed her a member as early as 1906.

Being proficient in several foreign languages, she translated classical works from Polish and Russian into Spanish. She voiced the importance of education, foreign language learning and acquisition in every lecture and public event she participated in.

A prolific writer, she published poetry, novels, short stories, children's books, a play, a collection of social, cultural and political essays, and more than a thousand articles in newspapers, magazines and periodicals. Some of her most relevant articles published in *ABC* between 1915 and 1936 include "La mujer española en el extranjero" (Madrid, 1910), "De la Revolución Rusa" (Madrid, 1918), "Impresiones de una mujer en el frente oriental de la guerra europea" (Madrid, 1919), "La revolución bolchevista. Diario de un testigo" (Madrid, 1920) and "El martirio de Polonia" (Madrid, 1946). Her extensive collection of works, considered an excellent source of research material, is nowadays being studied and thoroughly analysed.

4.1.4. *Teresa Escoriaza y Zabalza (1891-1968)*

Teresa María de la Concepción Escoriaza y Zabalza was also a woman ahead of her time. She was raised in an upper-middle class family and received a higher education both in Spain and abroad (she studied in France and England).

Her strong personality, non-conformist character and will to improve the life style and situation of women, increased her passion for travelling. In 1917 she went to the United States, and started to make a living as a foreign (Spanish and French) language teacher in Connecticut, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. During that time she collaborated in several Spanish grammar books and learning methods. Her life changed in 1919 when she started working for the newspaper *La Libertad*, where she wrote very successful chronicles entitled "Desde Nueva York" under the pseudonym Félix de Haro. In them she described different aspects of the American society and lifestyle. By 1920, she was sent as a war correspondent to Morocco to report the Spanish-Moroccan war. Her chronicles were compiled and published in the volumen *Del dolor de la guerra (Crónicas de la campaña de Marruecos)*. Her name started to be notorious, and she continued writing for other media: *Informaciones*, where she started writing about women's rights and the defence of female intelli-



gence; *Radio Ibérica*, where she participated in several conferences for women and a French course (that would later be published as *Curso elemental de francés*). Due to her success in the radio, she soon became not only one of the first female voices in the Spanish radio but also one of the first radio defenders of women's rights; she is also a pioneer in the use of radio for educational means. Just as Sofía Casanova, she also worked as a translator and translated several novels from French into Spanish. She also wrote a few introductions on women writers, —including one about Carolina Colorado, another traveller included in this selection— and a novel set in New York depicting social contrasts and her own vision of the Russian revolutionary ideological trends (*El crisol de las razas*, 1929).

When the Spanish Civil War broke, Teresa Escoriza decided not to go back to Spain. Fully aware that her republican and liberal ideology would have no place in her home country, and she stayed in New Jersey. She obtained the North American citizenship and made a living as a Spanish and French teacher at Montclair State Teachers College, where she became one of the most popular and admired teachers of the institution.

Aside her chronicles, some of her most relevant articles include “La mujer vale tanto como el hombre,” “Desde Nueva York,” and “Del dolor de la guerra.”

4.1.5. Emilia Serrano García (*Baronesa de Wilson*) (1843-1922)

Emilia Serrano García, also known as Emilia Serrano de Wilson or Baronesa de Wilson, was a writer, a journalist and, above all, a traveller. She was raised in an upper-middle class family and lived most of her youth in Paris, where she made acquaintance with the most relevant writers and intellectuals of the second half of the nineteenth century. Her economic situation allowed her to be a prominent traveller. She married the Baron of Wilson but she soon was widowed and decided to focus on travelling. In 1865 she went to America and travelled from Canada to the tip of South America, Patagonia. She was the only woman who travelled across the whole hemisphere in the 19th century, and the only Spanish woman who travelled on her own along the western hemisphere in that century. She recorded her American travelling experiences in three comprehensive volumes: *América y sus mujeres* (1890), which is considered the first comprehensive study of the American woman; *América en el fin de siglo* (1897) and *Maravillas americanas* (1910). She also travelled through Europe and wrote a travel guide in encyclopaedic format, of England, Scotland and Ireland for Americans (*Manual, o sea guía de los viajeros en la Inglaterra, Escocia e Irlanda para uso de los americanos* (1860) (Jenkins 19)).

As regards her writing aside travelling, she wrote the first anthology of American writers including both masculine and feminine voices (1903) (Nadales 62-63). She also wrote poetry, essays, and collaborated in newspapers and periodicals of the time, both as a writer and as an editor.

Emilia Serrano spent most of her life travelling on her own for the joy of travelling. She could thus be considered the paradigm of true traveller.



4.2. WRITERS: CAROLINA CORONADO, CONCEPCIÓN GIMENO DE FLAQUER, EULALIA DE BORBÓN, EMILIA PARDO BAZÁN

In this section I have included those women travellers whose main professional interest was writing and literature, the exception being princess Eulalia de Borbón, since, although she wrote profusely, her professional career was not such for obvious reasons.

4.2.1. *Carolina Coronado Romero de Tejada (1820-1911)*

Unlike the previous travellers discussed, Carolina Coronado Romero de Tejada was neither a chronicler nor a passionate traveller —at least not at first— but, as Jenkins states, “a melancholy traveller” (Jenkins 14). During the Romantic period, the therapeutic benefits of travel encouraged women to leave home and rely on travel as a cure for their poor physical or emotional health. Carolina travelled through Europe, as suggested by her father, to alleviate her depression and improve her knowledge of the world. As it was common for Romantic writers, she was attracted by landscapes and places associated to death, and these places would be dominant in her written accounts. She started writing poetry as a child, and has been considered “a female Bécquer,” as Pato concludes.² Her progressive political views affected her work, since it was censored by the Spanish conservative powers. Her home, nonetheless, was one of the refuges of the liberal literary intellectuals of the country and she was acquainted with the well-known authors of the period. She managed to publish some of her work and acquire relative popularity. Her poems were published in 1843 and later editions included more of her verses. Regarding her prose, she wrote fifteen novels and a few theatre plays.

As regards her travelling accounts, her most relevant works include *Un paseo del Tajo al Rhin descansando en el Palacio de Cristal* (1851), *Anales del Tajo: Lisboa, descripción en prosa* (1875), and a series of articles in epistolary form published in *La Ilustración*.

4.2.2. *Concepción Gimeno de Flaquer (1850-1919)*

Concepción Gimeno y Gil de Flaquer was born in Saragossa, also in the home of an upper-middle class family, and soon moved to Madrid, where she shared literary acquaintances with Carolina Coronado. While she started writing novels, she devoted most of her literary efforts to writing articles to disseminate her ideas in defence of women. Many articles followed her first “A los impugnadores del

² PATO, Silvia. “Carolina Coronado y el Silencioso” in *Culturamas*, 2015. <<http://www.culturamas.es/blog/2014/01/12/carolina-coronado-y-el-silencioso/>>.



bello sexo,” in *El Trovador del Ebro* (1869). Her many articles were published all over the country in *La Mujer* (Madrid), *La Madre de familia* (Granada), *El Correo de la Moda* (Madrid), *El Mundo Ilustrado* (Barcelona), *Flores y Perlas* (Madrid), and *La Ilustración de la Mujer* (Barcelona). She also edited and founded several cultural magazines: *La Ilustración de la Mujer*; and edited, along with her husband, journalist and businessman, *El Álbum Iberoamericano*, where she also wrote the section “Crónica femenina y feminista.”

After living in Spain and Portugal, she travelled to Mexico, where she lived with her husband between 1883 and 1890, and there she edited *El Álbum de la Mujer*. It was a cultural magazine that connected both sides of the Atlantic, including famous female writers of the period, such as Faustina Sáez de Melgar and Josefina Pujol de Collado, among others. They also published well known texts from popular Spanish authors, such as Emilia Pardo Bazán.

Back in Spain, Concepción Gimeno directed *El Álbum Iberoamericano* between 1890 and 1892, and continued writing until 1909. It was a miscellaneous publication that included both scientific and literary articles, and also political and sociological texts.

Once settled back in Madrid, Concepción Gimeno was introduced by Juan Valera into the *Ateneo Científico y Literario de Madrid*, where she was one of the first women to give a lecture. She gave several talks and lectures between 1890 and 1903. They were published in a volume, and their titles included: *Las culturas indígenas mexicanas*, *Civilización de los antiguos pueblos mexicanos*, *Mujeres de la Revolución Francesa*, *Ventajas de instruir a la mujer y sus aptitudes para instruirse*, and *El problema feminista*. She also gave talks in other Spanish and foreign institutions: *Iniciativas de la mujer en higiene moral social*, in Spanish Hygiene Society, and *La mujer italiana en el arte y en la historia*, at the *Associazione della Stampa* in Rome, as well as other talks in Latin America.

As regards other publications, though she also published novels, her best work is considered to be a selection of her social and political essays and articles on philosophy, sociology and law. She was influenced by great literary authors such as Balzac, Zola, and Pérez Galdós. Her social and ethic commitment with the regeneration of the woman was evident along her life.

4.2.3. Princess Eulalia de Borbón (1864-1958)

Princess Eulalia de Borbón was the youngest daughter of Queen Isabel II and her position in the royal family allowed her to fulfil one of her passions: travelling. She travelled incessantly both for pleasure and on official visits as a member of the royal family. Her nomad disposition allowed her the nickname *la princesa andante* (the errant princess). She frequently represented the royal family in official trips: she went to London to Queen Victoria’s Jubilee celebration. In her published *Memoirs* (1935) she claimed that her most important trip was her diplomatic mission to the Americas in 1893. First she made an official visit to Cuba, Spain’s most—and last—important American colony, it was a delicate mission because the island was



on the verge of revolution. Princess Eulalia became the highest-ranking member of Spain's royal family ever to visit the realm's colonies in the Caribbean. The second part of her trip was a visit to North America; she represented the Spanish royal family at the 1893 World's Fair held in Chicago, an event that commemorated the four-hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America. Her impressions of that trip to America were published as a collection of letters as *Cartas a Isabel II: Mi viaje a Cuba y Estados Unidos*.

She was educated in France and her life in Paris made her an unconventional Spanish princess, but a modern cosmopolite young woman, highly educated —she spoke five languages—, literature lover, avid traveller, and defender of women independence. She strongly criticised the royal family, behaving like a progressive woman of the nineteenth century; she published her polemic thoughts on education, the independence of women, the equality of classes, socialism and tradition, among other topics. She was not interested in life at the palace and travelling became her escape. Her independent nature made her scandalise the court and the whole country when she divorced her husband in 1900. After her separation in 1902 she devoted her life to travelling, her true passion according to her Memoirs, and writing. In the first quarter of the twentieth century she travelled incessantly across Europe and published all her impressions in *Courts and Countries after the War* (1925). Some of her previous and polemic publications include *The Thread of Life* (1912) and *Court Life from within* (1915).

4.2.4. Emilia Pardo Bazán (1851-1921)

Emilia Pardo Bazán (Countess of Bazán) was the most acclaimed Spanish woman writer of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. She was a passionate traveller, especially throughout Europe. Her father was a modern progressive man, and due to that fact, along with her thirst of independence and adventure, she was educated in a modern fashion and she could travel for her own personal satisfaction. She studied foreign languages; she had in fact studied at a French school, and lived with her family in Spain and France, which fostered her passion for travelling. She was a precocious intellectual: she started writing poems, articles and essays when she was a teenager; at 22 she had already travelled through France, Switzerland, Italy, and Austria, where she visited the International Exhibition, and had written records with her impressions. Instead of focusing on “female tasks” she learnt foreign languages, read national and foreign authors, and wrote. In 1876 she won a literary competition in Galicia and became popular. She then started writing for national newspapers, and her works got published. Soon she became the editor of *Revista de Galicia*, a cultural literary review. But her travelling passion did not diminish: she went back to Paris, met Victor Hugo and read Zola. She continued to write essays and polemic articles on realism and naturalism on conservative journals, in short becoming well known all over the country. At the same time she travelled across Europe to bring fresh ideas to Spain. Her novels *Los pazos de Ulloa* (1886) and *La madre naturaleza* (1887) were very successful; her travel articles published in *El*



Imparcial or *La España Moderna* were also very popular. She became the first female member of the *Ateneo de Madrid* and there she gave several lectures on politics and the European literary panorama. Her interests also included edition and publishing; she edited *Nuevo Teatro Crítico*, and directed a collection of volumes for women, *La Biblioteca de la Mujer*. As her trajectory suggests, she was openly concerned with the defence of women's rights and, as Pato states, another of her accomplishments on this matter was her prologue to *La esclavitud femenina*, the Spanish translation of *The Subjection of Women* by John Stuart Mill.³

Her personality and intelligence opened the doors of almost all the intellectual circles, but being a woman she could never be a full member of the Spanish Royal Academy.

Emilia Pardo Bazán was also commissioned to go abroad by a few newspapers to write chronicles of relevant events of the period, such as the World Exhibition held in Paris. Her short stories and essays on foreign newspaper and cultural magazines have been compiled and have been studied by researchers in the last decades. Her presence on the cultural arena of the 19th and 20th centuries both in Spain and France made Emilia Pardo Bazán an essential character. Her presence was also felt at university, since 1916 when the minister of Education created a post on Contemporary literature for her at Madrid Central University.

Among her travel works, it is worth mentioning the following publications: *Nuevo Teatro Crítico: De mi tierra* (1888), *Al pie de la torre Eiffel* (1889), *Por Francia y Alemania* (1889), *Cuarenta días en la exposición* (1901), *Por la Europa católica* (1902).

5. CONCLUSION

The strict norms and prevailing Catholic traditions in nineteenth-century Spain did not pave the way for a generation of women travellers. Unlike other European countries, Spanish women had to fight both their families and social conventions to be independent, have a career —other than motherhood—, and travel abroad. The few women who could do it mostly belonged to the upper-middle classes or aristocracy. Despite their privileged economic condition, most of them were in a permanent struggle to succeed in their careers and, unfortunately, their effort has been consigned into oblivion for almost two centuries.

The main objective of this paper has been to shed some light to the accomplishments of nine Spanish women travellers, most of whom were pioneers in their field. Thus, we have rescued the memory of Carmen Burgos, Eva Canel, Sofía Casanova, Teresa Escoriaza, Emilia Serrano, Carolina Coronado, Concepción Gimeno, Eulalia de Borbón and Emilia Pardo Bazán, and their achievements: the first Spanish female editor both in Spain and abroad, the first Spanish female war

³ PATO, Silvia. "Emilia Pardo Bazán: entre libros y cocinas" in Culturamas, 2015. <<http://www.culturamas.es/blog/2014/11/09/emilia-pardo-bazan-entre-libros-y-cocinas/>>.



correspondents, the first Spanish female professional journalists, the first woman traveller to cross a whole continent, America, on her own, and the only woman to have travelled across the whole hemisphere in the 19th century, a prominent Romantic female writer, and the first female member of the *Ateneo de Madrid*. All of them defended women's rights, their independence and disseminated their opinion and socio-political discomfort in their abundant publications at home and abroad.

In spite of their achievements, out of the nine travellers reviewed in this chapter, only Emilia Pardo Bazán and her work have been studied profusely. The rest have been mainly forgotten until very recently. These women and their accomplishments should not remain in oblivion.

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