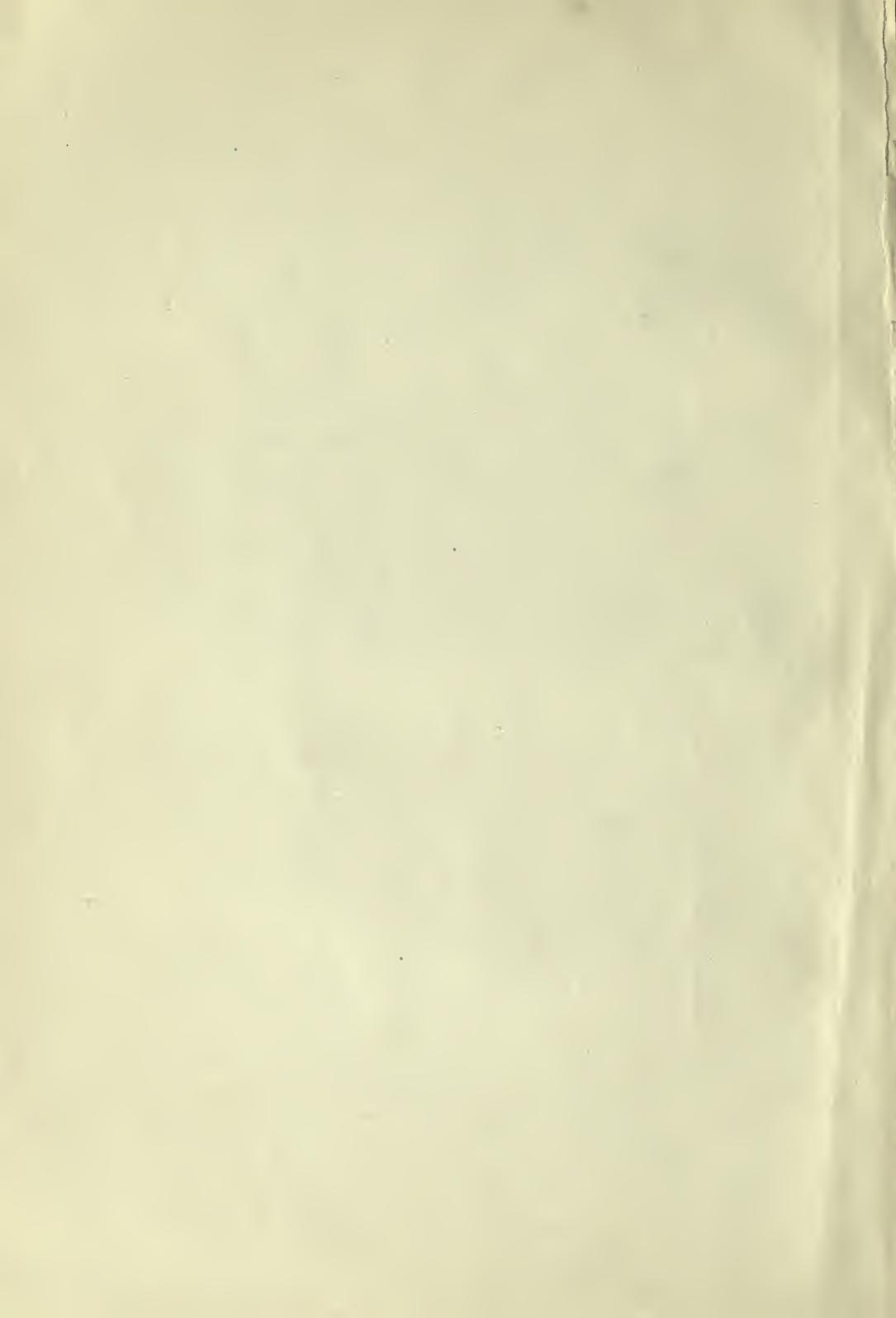


EX LIBRIS







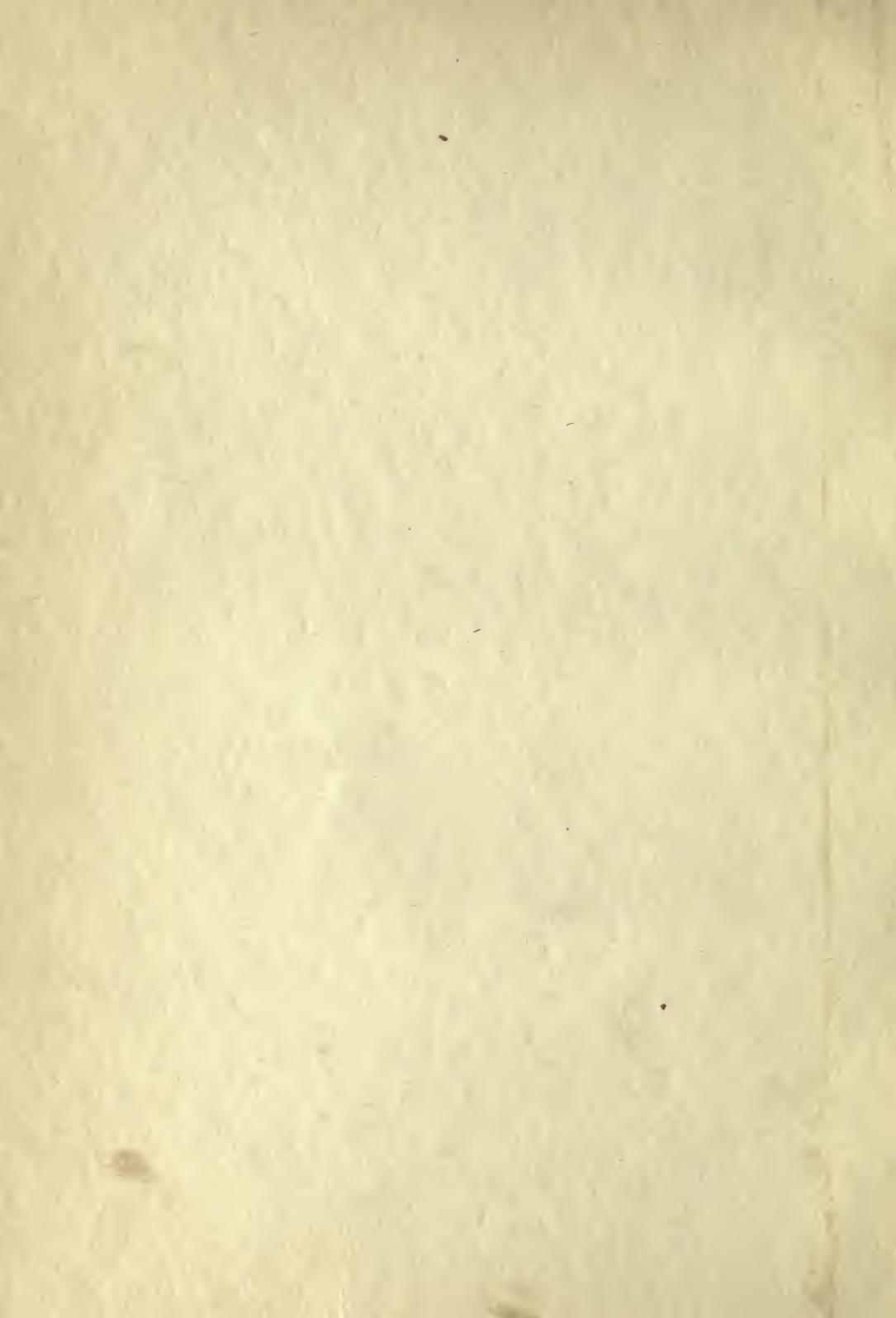


*Bind*

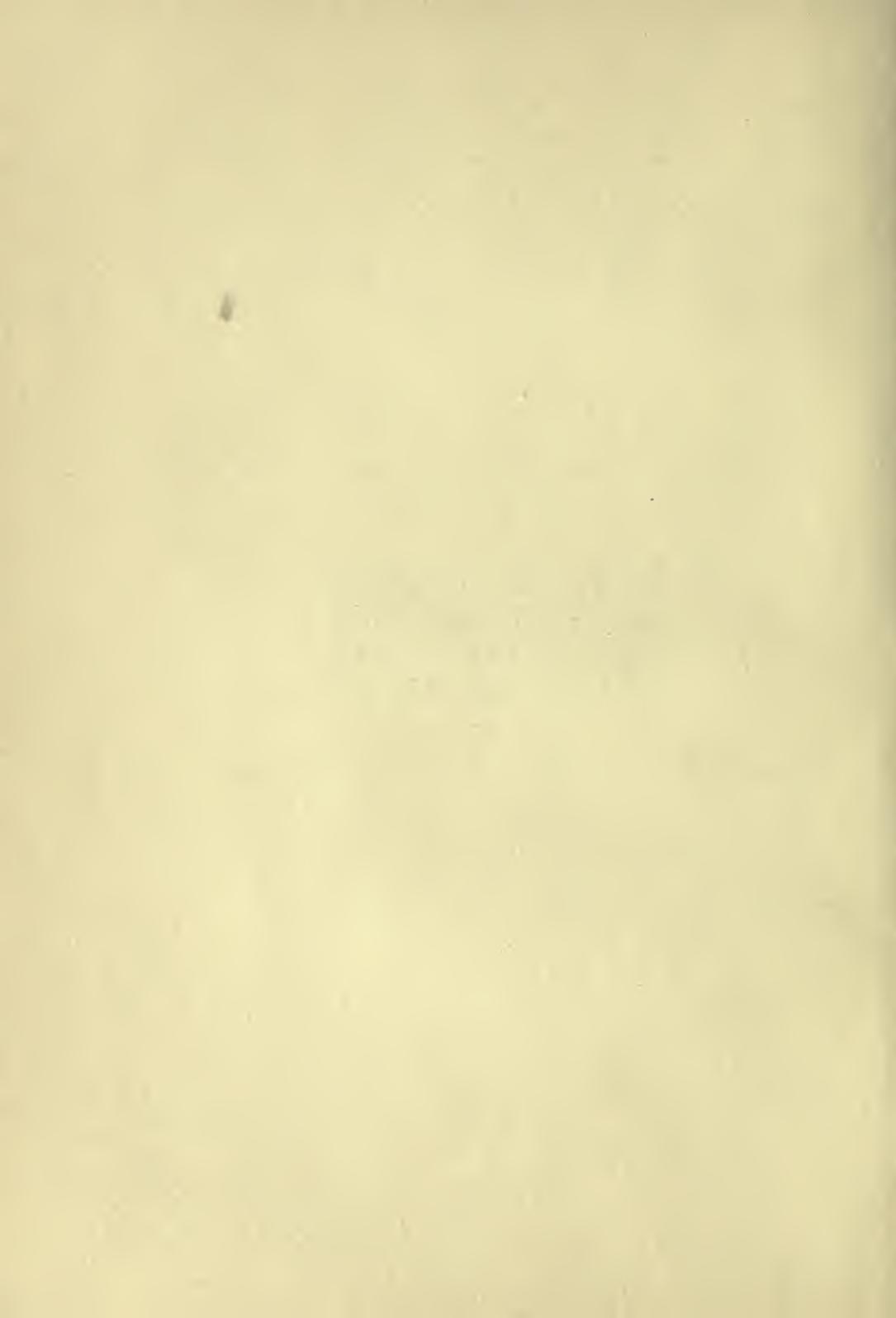
MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT  
AND THE BEGINNINGS OF  
FEMALE EMANCIPATION  
IN FRANCE AND ENGLAND



J. BOUTEN



MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT  
AND THE BEGINNINGS OF  
FEMALE EMANCIPATION  
IN FRANCE AND ENGLAND



MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT AND  
THE BEGINNINGS OF FEMALE  
EMANCIPATION IN FRANCE  
AND ENGLAND

UNIVERSITY OF  
CALIFORNIA

ACADEMISCH PROEFSCHRIFT TER VER-  
KRIJGING VAN DEN GRAAD VAN DOCTOR  
IN DE LETTEREN EN WIJSBEGEERTE AAN  
DE UNIVERSITEIT VAN AMSTERDAM OP  
GEZAG VAN DEN RECTOR-MAGNIFICUS  
DR P. ZEEMAN, HOOGLEERAAR IN DE  
FACULTEIT DER WIS- EN NATUURKUNDE,  
IN HET OPENBAAR TE VERDEDIGEN IN  
DE AULA DER UNIVERSITEIT OP VRIJDAG  
17 NOV. 1922 DES NAMIDDAGS TE 4 UUR  
DOOR

JACOB BOUTEN,  
GEBOREN TE DORDRECHT

H. J. PARIS  
V<sub>H</sub> FIRMA A. H. KRUYT  
AMSTERDAM

HQ 1150

B6

NO 1915  
ANNEX 10

TO  
MY WIFE



## PREFACE.

There is something particularly fascinating about the study of the literature and philosophy of the eighteenth century, with its gradual evolution of lofty social ideals which the Revolution failed to realise. When the altered circumstances brought promotion within my reach, it completely brought me under its sway, and ultimately came to determine my choice of a subject for an inaugural dissertation. It was while engaged upon tracing the influence of Rousseau's hopebringing theories on his English disciple William Godwin, that the less boldly assertive, but all the more humanly attractive personality of the latter's first wife, Mary Wollstonecraft, attracted my attention. My admiration of her husband's intellect paled before my sympathy for her more modest, but at the same time more emotional character. Where the indebtedness of Godwin to Rousseau and the Encyclopedians has been manifested so clearly in different works, the absence of any direct attempt to prove and determine the extent of the relations between Mary Wollstonecraft and the early French philosophers struck me as an omission for which I found it difficult to account, and made me turn to a subject to which I am fully aware that a book of the size of the present little volume does but scant justice.

I wish to avail myself of this opportunity to thankfully acknowledge the valuable help and friendly encouragement received from *Professor Dr. A. E. H. Swaen*, of the University of Amsterdam, whose unceasing kindness and ever-ready interest in the preparation of this treatise I shall never forget.

*Mr. K. R. Gallas*, Lecturer on French Literature in the same University, has likewise a claim to my heartfelt gratitude for giving me the benefit of his extensive knowledge in making various suggestions with regard to the chapters dealing with the literature of France.

My best thanks are also due to *Mr. M. G. van Neck* and *Dr. P. Fijn van Draat* for guiding my reading for the B.-examination, and particularly to my first teacher of English, *Mr. L. P. H. Eijkman*, for giving me that interest in England and her language and literature which has determined my subsequent career.

*Amsterdam*, November 1922.

---

# CONTENTS

CHAP.	PAGE
I. THE MAIN THEORIES REGARDING THE POSITION OF WOMEN . . . . .	I ✓
II. THE BEGINNINGS OF A FEMINIST MOVEMENT IN FRANCE . . . . .	II ✓
III. THE POSITION OF FRENCH WOMEN IN EIGHTEENTH CENTURY SOCIETY . . . . .	52 ✓
IV. FEMINIST AND ANTI-FEMINIST TENDENCIES AMONG THE ENGLISH AUGUSTANS . . . . .	73 ✓
V. QUALIFIED FEMINISM : THE BLUESTOCKINGS . . . . .	98 ✓
VI. RADICAL FEMINISM : MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT . . . . .	128 ✓
BIBLIOGRAPHY . . . . .	183 ✓

National Education  
2714 Parkland Road  
New York

INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER.

*The Main Theories regarding the Position of Women.*

The history of the Emancipation of Women is the long and varied record of their slow and gradual liberation from that utter subjection to Man in which various circumstances beyond their control — among which the physical superiority of the latter, a form of male supremacy which has seldom been called into question, was probably the most prominent — had combined to place them. It relates how in the course of centuries — either with the support of a certain portion of the opposite sex or relying upon their own resources — they strove to cast off the shackles which bound and degraded them, and to acquire that degree of physical, intellectual and moral freedom to which they felt themselves entitled. That the movement towards complete enfranchisement met with a varied reception and was hampered and retarded by men and often by women themselves was due chiefly to the fact that in the question of female possibilities there was much diversity of opinions at different times and among different nations. The worst enemies to evolution of this kind were those women who, holding the Empire of Love and Gallantry to be their exclusive domain, in which their sway was not likely to be ever disputed, turned deliberately against those of their own sex who in trying to wrench from the hands of men the sceptre of social power, were willing to forego the privileges of sex. That women were thus divided among themselves from the first, was the natural outcome of those differences in personal attractions and in personal intelligence which have always constituted the great danger of too sweeping conclusions with regard to the inclinations and capabilities of the female sex. Individual members of the same sex may yet be radically different, and he who would prescribe for all will always find himself confronted by the bewildering problem of the disparity of individuals.

The champions of the Cause of Woman have had to overcome a great deal of stubborn opposition, nor can it be said that even at the present moment the emancipation of women is complete. Even now

## Thank You for previewing this eBook

You can read the full version of this eBook in different formats:

- HTML (Free /Available to everyone)
- PDF / TXT (Available to V.I.P. members. Free Standard members can access up to 5 PDF/TXT eBooks per month each month)
- Epub & Mobipocket (Exclusive to V.I.P. members)

To download this full book, simply select the format you desire below

