

## 啓蒙の時代の女性と向上心

メタデータ	言語: ja 出版者: 静岡大学人文社会科学部 公開日: 2020-03-09 キーワード (Ja): キーワード (En): 作成者: 鈴木, 実佳 メールアドレス: 所属:
URL	<a href="https://doi.org/10.14945/00027098">https://doi.org/10.14945/00027098</a>

## Improvement and a Woman Exceptionally Privileged in the Age of Enlightenment

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Margaret Georgiana, Countess Spencer (1737-1814), was an example of affectionate and intelligent parent the culture of the Enlightenment helped to mold. In Amanda Foreman's biography (1998) of Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire (1757-1806), the mother, the countess, is represented as one of the crucial factors to make the daughter a pathetic performer in the society. The problem was the mother's aspiration for rectitude which is supposed to have driven the daughter to more troubles due to the lack of self-confidence than to achievements and happiness. This paper discusses Lady Spencer's ideas about herself.

She was socially very well-placed and considerably happy in her married life. In friendship she was also fortunate in having long-term intimate confidantes. Maintaining the status quo seems to be good enough for her, but she was diligently trying to involve herself in looking for improvements in her daily life by regulating herself. Her correspondence, diaries and other records tell the values she learned from books, letters, conversation with others and her own meditation. Her detailed written records provide the process of her thoughts, the changes and the struggles of an eighteenth-century lay woman active in society. They enable us to see what an intellectual woman in society in the age of Enlightenment tried to assign herself in her own life and how the print culture worked on an individual. She was a sort of a hub of information who relied on the newly developed media of circulation of information, that is, printed books and periodicals as well as correspondence.