



TWO OF AKHENATEN'S DAUGHTERS

"The elder is chucking the younger affectionately under the chin."

*From the tomb of Nebamun, Thebes, Egypt, and in the British Museum. See the
Illustrations in the book "The Art of Ancient Egypt" by E. A. Rawlinson.*

TO
MY SEVEN GIRL FRIENDS
AVERIL, BARBARA, CECILY, DENISE, DIANA, MARGARET,
AND MARY

FOREWORD

WHEN after the publication of *The Boy through the Ages* my publishers, my critics, and my friends united in urging me to do for his little sister what I had just done for him the idea did not appeal to me very strongly. I feared that a certain amount of overlapping and duplication would be inevitable, and I had no wish to serve up what the Romans called *crambe repetita* and the Scots call "cauld kail het again." However, I was soon convinced that this was an ill-founded fear. In the course of miscellaneous historical and antiquarian studies covering a fairly wide field I encountered such multitudes of picturesque and engaging little girls that I decided that *The Girl through the Ages* would be quite as good a subject as *The Boy*—perhaps even better!

It has been no part of my purpose to trace the early years of famous women: this thing has already been done more than once, and done well; but whenever it has seemed to me desirable to illustrate some point by a personal example I have introduced actual historical figures, both familiar and obscure. Whenever possible I have quoted *verbatim* from the documents concerned, and I have given especial attention to the little girls in literature, a numerous and charming company. As in the case of *The Boy through the Ages*, my chief aim has been to give a vivid and faithful picture of the typical child in each age and setting, outward aspect, early environment, sports and studies, the influences brought to

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bear upon upbringing by the events and movements of the time. After leaving Babylonia, Egypt, and ancient Greece behind I excluded all non-European countries from my survey, concentrating upon England, though with frequent excursions to Italy and France. The mass of materials at my disposal was so enormous that my greatest problem has been to avoid overcrowding. Much has of necessity been left out that I should have liked to put in.

My most grateful thanks are due to Lord Rennell of Rodd, for permission to quote from his *Love, Worship, and Death*; to Miss F. Melian Stawell, for the extracts from her translation of the *Iphigenia in Aulis* of Euripides; to the literary executors of the late Arthur S. Way, for an extract from his *Antigone*; to Professor A. H. Sayce, for details concerning the Babylonian tablets discovered at Kul-Tépé; to Mr C. J. Gadd and Mr S. R. K. Glanville, of the British Museum, for their kind assistance in tracking down little girls of ancient Egypt and Sumeria; and to the Chief Librarian of the London Library and his staff for their constant interest and help.

D. M. S.

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