

Sophie von La Roche: The Bourgeois Woman Writer (1799)

Abstract

Sophie von La Roche (1730–1807) was one of the first women to achieve financial independence as a professional author and publisher. Her greatest success was her first novel, *Geschichte des Fräuleins von Sternheim* from 1771 (which was translated into English as *History of Lady Sophia Sternheim*); it is considered to be the first German-language novel written by a woman. She also published several other books, including *Mein Schreibetisch* (or *My Writing Desk*) of 1799, the title page of which appears below. The page features a profile portrait of La Roche, who is seated at her desk (i.e., her workstation), plume in hand, and surrounded by her books. Like the book itself, the title page testifies to La Roche's conception of herself as a female writer and novelist.

Source



Source: Sophie von La Roche. *Mein Schreibetisch*. Leipzig: Gräff, 1799, title page. Österreichische Nationalbibliothek. Online verfügbar unter: <https://onb.digital/result/1054C9CB>

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