

Family & Friends Weekend Production: 19 & 20 October, 2007

# Dramaturgical Packet: *The Two Margarets*



30 September 2007  
Researched and Compiled by Kylie McCormick '08

## **Birth Control**

Birth control is a general term that refers to contraceptives. For many centuries, one of the most widely used contraceptives was *the pulling out method*, where the penis is removed from the vagina during sex before ejaculation, seriously limiting the probability of pregnancy. Abstinence was another contraceptive, and it was often taught as the *only* contraceptive, as it is the only one that has a 100% success rate.

Historically, blocking the entrance to the urethra was a popular method of birth control. The way in which they are blocked (for instance, by a diaphragm, or by a sticky jell, etc.) varies from culture to time period. However, the idea was that same: block the entrance of sperm into the urethra (and, ultimately, the fallopian tubes) and prevent pregnancy.

Today, there is "the pill", which provides hormones that prevent ovulation and limit the lining of the uterus to prevent any zygotes (newly formed sperm/egg) from attaching and growing as well as condoms. Birth control can also be administered through patches and shots. The variation in types and usage of birth control methods can provide "strengths" and "weaknesses". Condoms can prevent STIs and pregnancy, but they must be used *every time* to ensure this. "The Pill" is a great method of preventing pregnancy, but it can have adverse effects on the woman's body and must be taking *at the same time* each day.

Many couples in the United States "mix and match" various birth control methods to ensure the prevention of pregnancy (eg—condoms and the birth control pill).

## **Birth Control Review**

Began in February 1917, the Birth Control Review (BCR) sought to promote "voluntary" and "smart" motherhood. For the first year it had to operate off of subscription funds and donations from wealthy benefactors. In 1918, Sanger, with the help of Rublee, put together the New York Women's Publishing Company which officially financed BCR. It also did reprinting of older versions of BCR.

Source: [http://www.nyu.edu/projects/sanger/secure/aboutms/organization\\_bcr.html](http://www.nyu.edu/projects/sanger/secure/aboutms/organization_bcr.html)

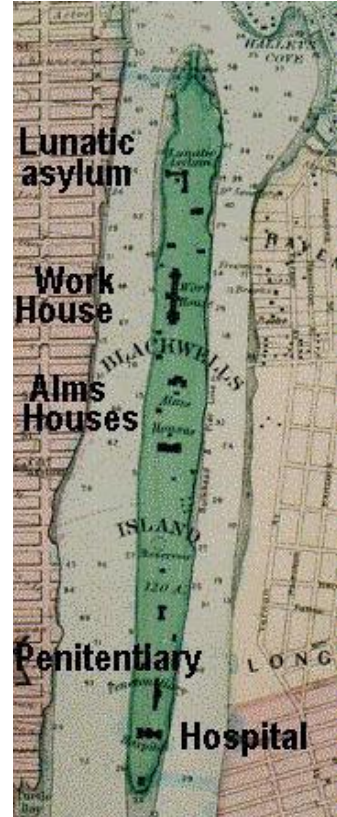
## **Blackwell Island**

The Penitentiary at Blackwell was first established in 1832. Blackwell housed nearly one thousand inmates, almost all of whom had been found guilty of misdemeanors.

However, all Blackwell inmates must perform some kind of labor while in jail. The tasks are based upon an inmate's strength if he is male; women often did the same jobs: sewing, knitting, and nursing the crippled and weak. Infirm women were not required to work.

Margaret Sanger, while working, was also said to have spoken about birth control and her work to the inmates in Blackwell island.

Blackwell Island is now known as Roosevelt Island.



Source: <http://www.bklyn-genealogy-info.com/Manhattan/Blackwell.html>

Further Reading (NY Times Article):

<http://query.nytimes.com/gst/abstract.html?res=980DEEDC173AE433A25756C2A9679C946696D6CF>

## **Birth Control Clinical Research Bureau (BCCRB)**

The Birth Control Clinical Research Bureau became the first legal birth control clinic in the country in 1923. Margaret Sanger started it in New York City, under the control of the American Birth Control League (ABCL), of which she was president. For the most part, the clinic gave out contraceptives and worked as a research laboratory.

The BCCRB was the predecessor of Planned Parenthood. After Sanger's resignation from ABCL in 1928, the clinic became an autonomous research facility, while still maintaining its status as a clinic, until 1939. For a brief time, the BCCRB reunited with the ABCL until the title Birth Control Federation of America, which changed its name in 1942 to Planned Parenthood. Meanwhile, the BCCRB changed its name to the Margaret Sanger Research Bureau in 1940.

Source: [http://www.nyu.edu/projects/sanger/secure/aboutms/organization\\_bccrb.html](http://www.nyu.edu/projects/sanger/secure/aboutms/organization_bccrb.html)



*Ethel Byrne and Margaret Sanger*

### **Ethel Higgin Byrne**

Ethel was Margaret Sanger's younger sister by two years. She followed in Margaret's footsteps and became a nurse. Ethel was sentenced to thirty days in jail and nearly died during a hunger strike before the governor pardoned her. At the time, women who were petitioning for suffrage (known as "suffragettes") often used hunger strikes as a method of shortening sentences and further protest. However, Ethel was the first person to undergo this treatment, for which became headline news for many days.

Ethel became the mother of two children before leaving her husband.

Sources: [http://www.nyu.edu/projects/sanger/research/image\\_credits.html](http://www.nyu.edu/projects/sanger/research/image_credits.html)  
<http://law.jrank.org/pages/10002/Sanger-Margaret-Higgins.html>  
<http://www.plannedparenthood.org/about-us/who-we-are/1914-1929-9923.htm>

### **Anthony Comstock**

**Born:** New Canaan, CT in 1844

**Died:** New York, NY in 1915

Served in the US Army during the Civil War

Managed to push through a law in 1864 that prohibited distribution of "obscene" publications and images through the U.S. mail. "Obscene" was poorly defined, although Comstock, being raised a Puritan, applied the terms to various books and images. Authors such as D. H. Lawrence and Theodore Dreiser quickly became targets of Comstock.

The Comstock Act of 1873 built upon the previous measure, making it a crime to circulate or in any way trade "obscene" items, including literature and "articles of immoral use". He was giving special rights in the New York Post Offices, and he had the ability to inspect and seize the mail as well as arrest the senders.



### **Books by Comstock**

1880

*Frauds Exposed: or How the People are Deceived and Robbed, and Youth Corrupted*

1883

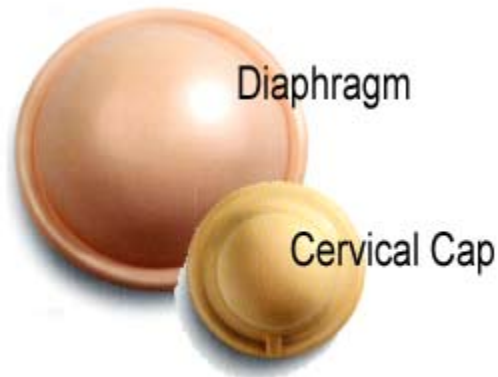
*Traps for the Young*

Art work involving nudity, medical text on abortion and contraception, and even some physiology textbook's sections on women were all banned by him during his forty-year reign of censorship.

1887  
*Gambling Outrages*

1888  
*Morals Versus Art*

Source: <http://www.nndb.com/people/230/000117876/>



### **Diaphragm**

Although various methods of birth control were possible, such as the pulling-out method, they were not widely practiced nor were they very effective. It was not until the 1840s, when the advent of rubber vulcanization made it possible to produce rubber products, that the diaphragm was designed. In the 1880s, a German gynecologist made a suggestion of how to design a circular rubber object to cover the cervix to prevent pregnancy.

A diaphragm is a small, circular rubber cap that is put over the cervix. It must be fitted to the woman before she uses it, as a too-small diaphragm is ineffective and a too-large diaphragm can cause issues with the bladder.

Unlike condoms, which came later, diaphragms are reusable. After the man's last ejaculation, the diaphragm could be removed from the vagina after six hours. It had to be washed in warm, soapy water. To reinsert it, the woman would generally apply spermicidal before placing back over her urethra. They can last two years, but they have to be inspected for holes and other issues and replaced as necessary.

Compared to condoms, diaphragms perform moderately well. The difficulty with inserting the diaphragm in the right spot, and *making sure it is used each time, and removed a full six hours after the last ejaculation* are major factors in the diaphragm's ability to prevent pregnancy.

Diaphragms *do not prevent against STIs* because the sperm is released into the vagina during intercourse; fluids are still exchanged both ways. Today, fewer than 0.2% of American couples use the diaphragm, although it was very popular in the beginning of the birth control movement.

In Europe, the smaller cervical cap was much more popular in the early 1900s than the diaphragm.

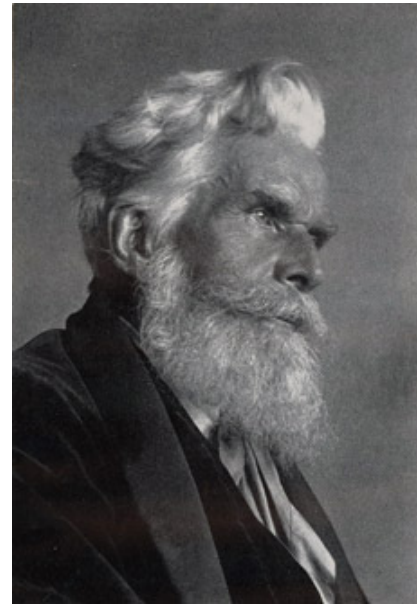
Source: [http://www.kidshealth.org/teen/sexual\\_health/contraception/contraception\\_diaphragm.html](http://www.kidshealth.org/teen/sexual_health/contraception/contraception_diaphragm.html)

### **Havelock Ellis**

**Born:** Croydon, London in 1859

**Died:** Hintlesham, Suffolk in 1939

Ellis was a biologist and was the first to study sex in an objective, detached manner (rather than in a pathological manner like Freud). He published his findings in *Studies in the Psychology of Sex* (Volume 1 – 1897; Volume 6 – 1910; Volume 7 – 1928). The study focused on multicultural views of sex and biology, making it unique at the time. One of his major statements was that masturbation would not lead to major illness (a common fallacy at that time). His other work focused on hygiene, nationalization of health, and philosophy.



Sources: <http://www.nndb.com/people/646/000103337/>  
<http://www.kirjasto.sci.fi/havelock.htm>

### **Eugenicists**

The Eugenicists believed in making an *ubermachen*, or superhuman, from intervening in reproduction of people. The Eugenicists wanted to apply what was known about human health and genetics to make the entire population strong, healthy, beautiful, and intelligent. They believed it was natural for humans to apply the knowledge they obtained through the study of genetics to improve the human race, which would form a truly egalitarian society.

Eugenicists wanted to target people who were classified as the potential parent of a socially inadequate offspring and then sterilize them. The legal effort involved eventually led to the discrediting of the Eugenicist movement due to their pseudo-science.

Some Eugenecists were also racist, anti-immigrant, or anti-Semitic. Oftentimes, Sanger's name is conflated with the Eugenecists because they wanted to use her research on birth control to their own ends.

Sources: <http://www.onelife.com/ethics/eugenics.html>  
<http://www.healthsystem.virginia.edu/internet/library/historical/eugenics/index.cfm>

### **First Birth Control Clinic in USA**

Opened 16 October 1916

Ground Floor, 46 Amboy Street in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn, New York

With a \$50 donation, Margaret Sanger, Fania Mindell, and Ethel Byrne opened the first birth control clinic. It was opened for 10 days before the police shut it down. In that short time span, however, some 500 women had come to the clinic looking for help.

Source: <http://law.jrank.org/pages/13290/New-York-v-Sanger.html>

### **Forced Feeding for Hunger Strikes**

Unfortunately for people who use hunger strikes to make a point, they are often force fed. Although other artificial means of feeding people are available, forced feeding is incredibly unpleasant, almost unnecessarily so. Tubes can be inserted through the nose to the stomach to force a person to eat. Oftentimes, people are also forced in a restraining chair to prevent them from forcing themselves to vomit afterwards. Unfortunately, people undergoing this treatment are not given sedatives, and it can be extremely painful. The Petagon now officially endorses this form of forced feeding, although not the restraining chairs.

Sources: <http://www.commondreams.org/headlines06/0606-01.htm>

Perhaps a more accurate description can be found in this, from Emily Davison in 1909:

In the evening the matron, two doctors, and five or six wardresses entered the cell. The doctor said "I am going to feed you by force." The scene, which followed, will haunt me with its horror all my life, and is almost indescribable. While they held me flat, the elder doctor tried all round my mouth with a steel gag to find an opening. On the right side of my mouth two teeth are missing; this gap he found, pushed in the horrid instrument, and prised open my mouth to its widest extent. Then a wardress poured liquid down my throat out of a tin enamelled cup. What it was I cannot say, but there was some medicament, which was foul to the last degree. As I would not swallow the stuff and jerked it out with my tongue, the doctor pinched my nose and somehow gripped my tongue with the gag. The torture was barbaric.

Source: <http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/Whunger.htm>

### **"Fish Wife"**

According to Urban Dictionary Online, a fish wife takes the gossip of others and spreads it around. This could be a man or a woman.

### **John Freschi**

When initially arrested for opening the first birth control clinic, Sanger faced charges of trafficking obscene materials. The trial was judged by Judge John Freschi, who did not see birth control as being "sociologically practical". As such, birth control devices of all kinds were considered obscene, and Sanger was giving a sentence of thirty days in Blackwell Island Female Facility for her work in the clinic.

However, Sanger appealed the decision to a higher court, and the later case was judged by Judge Crane. His decision, which would later be referred to as *the Crane Decision*, did not address the question of women's rights, which he thought better to leave to the legislation. He maintained the courts original punishment, but he did affirm the usefulness of birth control in the case of preventing disease. He defined the term "disease" with Webster's dictionary, and it was broad that it would cover both venereal diseases and "dangerous" pregnancies. In the end, doctors were able to provide birth control to married couples without the threat of being "obscene".

Sources:

Tone, Andrea. *Devices and Desires: A History of Contraceptives in America*. Available online at Google Books.

<http://law.jrank.org/pages/13290/New-York-v-Sanger.html>

### **Galatea**

In Greek mythology, Galatea was one of the fifty Nereids, of the daughters of the sea god Nereus and the Oceanid Doris. The Nereids were known for delighting sailors with their dances and helping people who were distressed at sea.

Polyphemus, a Cyclops famous for trying to kill Odysseus and his men before he was blinded by them, courted Galatea. The story of Galatea and Polyphemus vary, although the most unusual one ends with Galatea giving in to the Cyclops and bearing him a son. In another version, Acis, the son of a nymph, gained Galatea's love, and a jealous Polyphemus killed him. Galatea then made Acis into a river god.

The many variations of Galatea's story make it a "hot topic" in Hellenistic mythology.

Source: Burr, Elizabeth. *The Chiron Dictionary of*



## *Greek & Roman Mythology.*

### **Archbishop Patrick Hayes**

**Born:** November 1867

**Died:** September 1938

Born in New York, Hayes was ordained a Catholic Priest in 1892 and became a bishop in 1914.

Hayes became the Archbishop of New York in 1919 before being elevated to Cardinal in 1924.

In the Catholic Church, bishops oversee a diocese while the title "Archbishop" is an elevated title, usually owing to a particular area's size or history.



Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patrick\\_Cardinal\\_Hayes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patrick_Cardinal_Hayes)

### **Malthusians**

People who believed in or followed the ideas of population as set out by Thomas Malthus. He said that the population, if unchecked, would soon outgrow the food supply. He believed this would happen by the mid-nineteenth century.

He also stated that humankind could not become better unless some checks were put on the birthrate, since the unchecked population would always tend to rise about the food supply. He suggested things such as later marriage to limit the population growth.



**Thomas Malthus**

This later became known as the Malthusian theory of population.

Source: <http://cepa.newschool.edu/het/profiles/malthus.htm>

### **Fania Mindell**

Fania Mindell spoke Yiddish, which is why she was important to the first birth control clinic, which often helped immigrants who did not speak English as a first language. She was tried with Margaret Sanger in January 1917 for distributing obscene materials, and the court fined her \$50 for selling Sanger's article *What Every Girl Should Know*.

Source: <http://law.jrank.org/pages/13290/New-York-v-Sanger.html>

### **New York World**

Founded in 1860 and published until 1931, the *New York World* newspaper had a major impact on American newspapers. Before 1883, the newspaper was losing money, and it was bought by Joseph Pulitzer. Then the newspaper turned to sensational material, such as scandal and human-interest stories, including one about Margaret Sanger and her studies with Havelock Ellis. One of the major contributors of investigative journalism to the newspaper was Nellie Bly. She even feigned insanity to get into Blackwell's Asylum (related to the female facility in which Margaret Sanger was forced to stay after her arrest). After her report, reforms were instituted.

Source: <http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/USAnyworld.htm>

### **Pygmalion**

Pygmalion was the King of Cyprus. As a misogynist, he turned away from women and refused to marry. He sculpted a beautiful woman out of ivory, and for a long time he had to touch her to prove to himself that she was not real. He often gave her presents, like jewels, as one would give to a young woman lover.

At the festival of the gods, Pygmalion asked the gods to give him someone like this sculpture for a wife, and Aphrodite gave life to the statue. Pygmalion married the newly living woman, and together they had a son, Paphos.

Sources: <http://www.loggia.com/myth/galatea.html>

Burr, Elizabeth. *The Chiron Dictionary of Greek & Roman Mythology*.

### **Walter Roberts**

Walter Roberts was the editor of *American Parade* and a popular journalist. He contributed to the New York Women's Publishing Company, which funded the Birth Control Review, as a literary editor. Sanger had a love affair with Roberts, as documented in her biography published in 1992 by Ellen Chesler, who used Sanger's own papers from Smith College.

Source: <http://www.newoxfordreview.org/article.jsp?did=0906-gardiner>  
[http://www.nyu.edu/projects/sanger/secure/aboutms/organization\\_bcr.html](http://www.nyu.edu/projects/sanger/secure/aboutms/organization_bcr.html)

## Juliet Rublee



**Born:** 1875 in Chicago

**Died:** 1966

George Rublee, her husband, was a lawyer and political advisor as well as an appointee to the Federal Trade Commission by Wilson.

Juliet was a modern dancer in the 1900s. Her interest in birth control came to fruition in 1916 when the police arrested Sanger. She became a close friend of Sanger and financially supported the movement to promote birth control.

Sources:

[http://asteria.fivecolleges.edu/findaids/sophiasmith/mnsss285\\_bioghist.html](http://asteria.fivecolleges.edu/findaids/sophiasmith/mnsss285_bioghist.html)

[http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/h?ammem/mnwp:@field(DOCID+@lit(mnwp000445)))

[bin/query/h?ammem/mnwp:@field\(DOCID+@lit\(mnwp000445\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/h?ammem/mnwp:@field(DOCID+@lit(mnwp000445)))

## **Margaret Sanger**

**Born:** September 1879 in Corning, NY

**Died:** September 1966 in Tucson, AZ

Margaret Sanger (born Higgins) has been named one of the Time 100-People of the Century. She was the daughter of Anne Higgins and Michael Higgins.

She was educated as a nurse, and she worked with poor women on the Lower East Side of New York as a nurse. She was well aware of the effects of unplanned pregnancies in her own family, but she also saw them reflected in others as well. She is credited with inventing the term "birth control", which she pursued for the entirety of her life. She gave up her job as a nurse in 1912 to continue her work of distributing birth control information.

In 1873, the Comstock Act prevented the distribution of birth control, both devices and information. She wrote *What Every Girl Should Know* (1916) and *What Every Mother Should Know* (1917) and *Family Limitation*. She also wrote many articles for various papers and distributions. She also founded a paper known as *Woman Rebel* in 1913.

She fled to Europe after being charged with "mailing obscenities", a federal offense, and she stayed there until the charges were dropped.

In 1916, Sanger set up the first birth control clinic in the United States with the help of her sister Ethel Pryne, a nurse, and Fania Mindell, a social worker and translator. She was sent to Blackwell Island for "public nuisance" charges. The government arrested her and prosecuted her multiple times, which ironically led to the laws giving doctors the right to distribute birth control advice. (Eventually, they were also allowed to distribute devices.)

She was first married to William Sanger in 1900, and she had three children with him. She deserted him when he did not give her a divorce until 1921. She remarried Noah Slee in 1922, although she kept her name because she had become popular by it.



Sources: <http://www.time.com/time/time100/leaders/profile/sanger.html>  
<http://www.nndb.com/people/896/000031803/>  
[http://womenshistory.about.com/library/bio/blbio\\_margaret\\_sanger.htm](http://womenshistory.about.com/library/bio/blbio_margaret_sanger.htm)  
<http://homicide.northwestern.edu/context/timeline/1916/179/>  
<http://www.msu.edu/course/mc/112/1920s/Sanger/>

### **Hugh de Selincourt**

**Born:** June 1878

**Died:** January 1951 in Sussex, England

Selincourt was an English journalist and author, best-known for *The Cricket Match*. He worked as a drama critic of *Star* and a literary critic of *The Observer*, where he resigned his post in 1914.

Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hugh\\_de\\_Selincourt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hugh_de_Selincourt)

### **James Henry Noah Slee**

Noah Slee was the inventor of Three-in-One-Oil, which made him a millionaire. In 1922, he married Margaret Sanger and became a major supporter of all of her work. He used his company to smuggle in diaphragms, which were illegal in the United States, and had his factories produce spermicides. When Sanger died in 1966, she was buried next to Slee.

Source: <http://www.neh.gov/news/humanities/1998-09/sanger.html>

### **Spermicide**

Along with the diaphragm, spermicide became a popular birth control product in the early 1900s. Generally, a person would put spermicide jelly as both a form of lubricant and a form of birth control onto a diaphragm before inserting it into the vagina. Spermicides were especially popular with diaphragms because during frequent, sequential sex acts, it could be easily reapplied increasing its effectiveness.

Spermicides have a history that dates back to some 1800 B.C. in the form of various jellies and mixes. The idea behind spermicide is to prevent the sperm from entering the urethra, and therefore the fallopian tubes, so that none can fertilize the egg.

While spermicides are popular because they are cheap and easy to get, they are not very effective means to prevent pregnancy. They also cannot prevent STIs.

Source: <http://www.epigee.org/guide/spermicides.html>

### **Hannah Stone**

Hannah Stone worked with her husband, Abraham, pioneering sex education and birth control along with marriage counseling. Stone met Sanger in 1921 during the first international birth control conference. In 1925, Stone became the medical director of Birth Control Clinical Research Bureau, where she stayed until her death in 1941. Thereafter, her husband took her post.

In 1921, at the first international birth-control conference, the Stones met Margaret Sanger. Four years later, Hannah became medical director of the Margaret Sanger Research Bureau, a post she held for the rest of her life. When she died in 1941, Abraham took her place.

Source: <http://www.trivia-library.com/b/sexual-teachings-of-abraham-and-hannah-stone-part-1.htm>

### **Triangle Shirtwaist Fire**

On 25 March 1911, over 146 workers (mostly immigrants) died in a horrific fire in lower Manhattan. Many people jumped out of the building to escape the fire and were killed on impact of the fall. There was no adequate escape measures for a fire, and many people tried using elevators or the stairs to escape. Even for those who did manage to get out, it was reported that when they escaped the building, much of their clothing had been burned off already.

To make it worse, when the fire trucks came, the chaos that had started made it hard for them to get close (not wanting to trod on dead bodies). The fire hose didn't reach past the seventh floor, which is a major issue since the fire started on the *eighth* floor.

Twenty-three of the families who lost people in the fire sued the two owners of the building and were awarded \$75 each.

The appalling event made the New York Legislature rethink the sweatshop industry, and they created a commission in 1911 to investigate sweatshops to prevent a similar event like this from happening. This eventually led to reforms in fire safety codes.

Source: <http://www.historybuff.com/library/refshirtwaist.html>

### **Union League Club**

The Union League Club was founded during the Civil War, in 1863. The aim was to help preserve the Union through distinguished services to the USA. For example, the club was instrumental in starting the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the American Red Cross. Prominent leaders of the state and nation were a part of the ULC, including Theodore Roosevelt, J. Morgan, John Jay, William Bryant, Chester Arthur, and Thomas Nast. Some fifteen presidents and other important business people have been members of this league.

Source: <http://www.unionleagueclub.org/>

### **W. W. Norton**

A popular publishing company that publishes general interest, professional, and college books. The company started in 1923, and it was well-known for being Sigmund Freud's primary principle in the United States.

Source: <http://www.wwnorton.com/area4/about.htm>

### **Mike Wallace**

**Born:** Brookline, MA in May 1918  
Served in the US Navy 1943-46

Wallace studied broadcasting at the University of Michigan and worked in radio announcements and shows. In 1955, he began nightly newscasts for Dumont network in New York. A year later, he was given the show Night-Beat, which consisted of live, late-night hour interviews. Celebrity guests would be grilled each week night with questions developed from strong research. He would probe the person and ask provocative questions and/or disturbing, often not leaving time for a complete answer. Guests would often be filmed close-up to reveal their discomfort. Night-Beat became a popular show because of its edge.



Wallace is best known for his work on 60 minutes.

Source:  
<http://www.museum.tv/archives/etv/W/htmlW/wallacemike/wallacemike.htm>

### **H. G. Wells and *The Secret Places of the Heart***

H. G. Wells was an English author and historian most famous for his novel *The Time Machine*, which is considered one of the first modern-day science fiction books. He wrote over one hundred books, fifty of them being novels.

Sanger and Wells began an affair in 1920, and, despite not having much time together, they often wrote to each other about love, war, the Catholic Church, birth control, their travels, and the publicity surrounding their private lives.

In 1922, Wells published *The Secret Places of the Heart*, which is considered an autobiographical novel. Sir Richard Hardy, who is Wells' character, is traveling the countryside with a psychiatrist trying to solve his marital problems. He meets one Miss Grammount, based upon Sanger, who is an avid supporter of birth control. The novel also expresses many of the "free love" ideas and ideas related to sexuality that can be found in Sanger's writing.

By 1930, unfortunately, Wells' physical health was failing, and much of their physical love affair ended, although they maintained a close, personal friendship. Wells wrote admiringly of Sanger. After his death in 1937, Sanger wrote him an epitaph in a letter, where she declared her love for him.

Sources: <http://www.kirjasto.sci.fi/hgwells.htm>  
[http://www.kamasutraontheweb.com/ift/articles/article.ift?artid=8196&cat\\_id=73&adult=0](http://www.kamasutraontheweb.com/ift/articles/article.ift?artid=8196&cat_id=73&adult=0)

### **Mrs. Margaret Whitehurst**

A woman identifying herself as "Margaret Whitehurst" bought a sex education pamphlet at the birth control clinic on the ninth day it was opened. She claimed that she had two children and could not pay for any more of them. She was given a receipt for her purchase, but Sanger was already suspicious of her.

The next day, she returned with three police officers and arrested Sanger, Mindell, and Byrne.

Sources: <http://content.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=4969>  
<http://law.jrank.org/pages/13290/New-York-v-Sanger.html>

### **Women's Cooperative Guild**

Formed in 1883, the goals of the Women's Cooperative Guild included suffrage and equal rights to men. One of the important successes of the Guild was the Maternity Insurance Benefit. The Guild used evidence from one Dr. Armand Routh that showed that working women had a much higher chance of stillbirths than non-working women. In 1910, the Guild had over 32,000 members, making it an important force for women in politics.

Source: <http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/Wcoop.htm>

### **Modern Birth Control and Women's Reproductive Rights**

Even today, Margaret Sanger's personal life is used to combat birth control. Some groups point to her "torrid" love affairs with Lorenzo Portet or Havelock Ellis as a sign that she was a godless individual. The Eugenacists also tainted her name by associating her with the creation of *ubermachen*, or super humans by not allowing certain people to create offspring. Other anti-birth control groups point to the fact that she speaks about poor people, both native and



immigrants, as the main target for birth control, as a sign of her classism and hatred of immigrants.

Source:

<http://www.beverlylahayeinstitute.org/articledisplay.asp?id=4439&department=BLI&categoryid=femfacts>

By attacking Margaret Sanger's personal life, these groups often aim to group birth control into a racist, classist, and anti-immigrant category to make it seem sinful, evil, or otherwise undesirable. However, there have been, and will most likely be, many inventions that are created benignly to be used for ill purposes, and vice-versa. For example, the man who invented dynamite, Nobel, intended it to be used in mining. When he saw that it could be used in war and fighting, he created the Nobel Peace Prize.

Whatever the view on Margaret Sanger, however, it is undeniable that the birth control movement has greatly impacted modern day women and families. Today, the average American family has 2.3 children; whereas, Margaret Sanger's mother, Anne Higgins, had 18 pregnancies, 11 of which were live births before dying at the age of 50.

Source: <http://www.u-s-history.com/pages/h1676.html>

### **General Resources and Further Reading**

Sanger Papers Mini-Edition

<http://adh.sc.edu/ms/ms-table.html>