

Encyclopedia of German Women Writers

A Survey of the Works of Women Authors Published since the Year 1840

together with

Biographies of Contemporary Women Writers

and a

Listing of their Pseudonyms.

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Sophie Pataky, *Lexikon deutscher Frauen der Feder* (Berlin S.: Verlagsbuchhandlung von Carl Pataky, 1898), p. 219:

Förster, Miss Luise, pseudonym Ada Linden, [residence:] Wickrathberg, close to Düsseldorf, the daughter of a mining deputy at the Glücksthal mine by Adenau in the Eifel region [in North Rhine Westphalia] was born on October 1st, 1847. The characteristically somber beauty of the landscape around her home and the various legends of the miners made a lasting impression on her as a child and occupied her lively mind to such a degree that even then the perceptions she received on her way to school or while looking after the goats on the mountainside were then transformed into tales, which she told the village children, or into verse, which she wrote on the blackboard at school. After her father's death, she stayed without means with her mother and her only sister, and soon after confirmation both sisters were obliged to earn a living taking outside employment. Thanks to the preparatory instruction which Luise had received at the hands of Rev. Dörrien, she was able to qualify for a teaching post as an elementary school teacher. She was first employed in Hopkers by Jüchen, then in Hammickeln by Wesel, and, since 1876, at the village school of her present place of residence, where she together with her mother and sister keep up a satisfactory household. Luise's sister has undertaken responsibility for chores while caring for their mother, who has for many years been an invalid. Due to a deep yearning and also because the salary of a teacher was insufficient to make ends meet, Luise F. began to write folktales and stories for children, or she dictated them to her sister. Since their mother's death, the writer has contracted a heart complaint, which compelled her in 1893 to give up her teaching post. Since that time – in so far as her health permits - she has devoted herself exclusively to her profession as a writer.