



After the War Women in Physics in the United States

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This book is about women in physics in America in the immediate aftermath of World War II. Physics has always been a male-dominated field that has posed challenges for women working in the profession. This was especially true in the United States after World War II when the U.S. government sought to make more job openings available for war veterans by undertaking a publicity campaign that encouraged women who had entered the workplace during the war to leave their jobs and return to their homes to care for their husbands and families.

But a number of remarkable women managed to continue working by developing and using a wide variety of strategies to maintain their careers in the diverse environments that supported physics research. In this new book, we tell many of their stories and demonstrate the strategies they used to survive as physicists...strategies which are still applicable today.

Their stories range from Nobel Laureates who engaged in outstanding scientific research to women who were instrumental in developing physics education in the United States. They worked in the new National Laboratories, the rapidly growing research universities, smaller colleges (including particularly women's colleges), new industries, astrophysics and the birth of space science and NASA, and led the new area of health physics.

The book is aimed first at younger women who may be interested in becoming physicists, particularly high school students, undergraduates and junior employees in their first jobs after completing their degrees. It will also be of interest to more senior women and senior male physicists who wish to develop a friendly climate for women in their research groups or departments. In addition, it will be of special interest to professionals in the study of women scientists and the history of science.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction. The Setting for Women in Physics After World War II
2. Women Physicists in the National Laboratories
3. Women Physicists in Research Universities
4. Women Physicists in Industry
5. Women Physicists in the Women's Colleges
6. Women in Astrophysics and Early NASA Space Science
7. Other Women Physicists
8. Epilogue: Some Final Thoughts

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