

Society Women and Enlightened Charity in Spain

The Junta de Damas de Honor y Mérito, 1787–1823

Edited by CATHERINE M. JAFFE and ELISA MARTÍN-VALDEPEÑAS YAGÜE

In original essays drawn from a myriad of archival materials, *Society Women and Enlightened Charity in Spain* reveals how the members of the Junta de Damas de Honor y Mérito, founded in 1787 to administer charities and schools for impoverished women and children, claimed a role in the public sphere through their self-representation as civic mothers and created an enlightened legacy for modern feminism in Spain.

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Praise for Society Women and the Enlightened Charity in Spain:

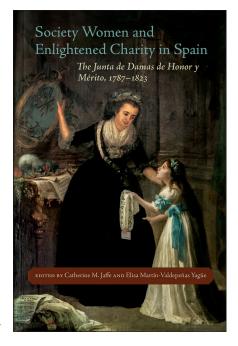
"A comprehensive and meticulously researched study of women's contributions to intellectual life in eighteenth-century Spain."—Roberta Johnson, coeditor of *A New History of Iberian Feminisms*

"This book offers the first English-language study of an association of women whose pioneering initiatives in the public sphere and personal stories define a new perspective on the social transformation of Spain from the ancien régime to the Restoration."—

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"Society Women and Enlightened Charity in Spain focuses on the members of Madrid's Junta de Damas (part of the Madrid Royal Economic Society) and their pathbreaking work undertaken to improve the lives of poor women and children. For the first time in English, readers will discover the practical effects of Spanish women working together to forge a more equitable and just society."—David T. Gies, editor of Dieciocho: Hispanic Enlightenment



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