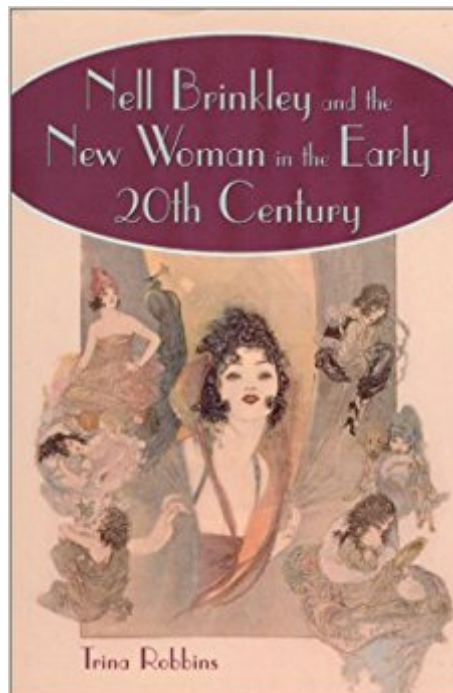


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# Nell Brinkley And The New Woman In The Early 20th Century



## Synopsis

The art and commentary of Nell Brinkley (1886-1944) ran in American newspapers from 1907 through the 1930s. At the height of her popularity, "The Brinkley Girl" appeared in the Ziegfeld Follies and inspired poems and popular songs. Brinkley's name even sold hair curlers, and her delicate pen work influenced later women cartoonists. As early as 1913, Brinkley was drawing working women, from farm and factory workers to those pursuing careers, using her art to encourage decent pay, pensions, and housing for thousands of young women working for the war effort. This work covers her life and her work, which might upon first glance show pretty girls but on a closer inspection reveals a post-Victorian feminism. It also looks at her rise to popularity, the innocent sexuality of her Brinkley girls, the sugary and sentimental Betty and Billy series, and the beauty of her line drawings.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Excellent...enthusiastically brings Brinkley's story and the world of her era to brilliant life...engaging...fun to read" --Sequential Tart  
"The first comprehensive, book-length study of the pioneering feminist cartoonist." --Journal of the American Association of School Librarians  
"A story well worth checking out." --examiner.com

Writer and women's comics historian Trina Robbins lives in San Francisco, California.

In her day, Nell Brinkley and her cartoon women were hugely popular, the subject of mass advertising campaigns and stage show parodies, yet today she, and her 'Brinkley Girls', are almost forgotten, while less accomplished artist's creations, such as the "Gibson Girls", are fondly remembered. Comics historian Trina Robbins goes some way towards redressing the balance with this intriguing history and analysis of Brinkley's career, copiously illustrated by the artist's lush, heavily-detailed work. If remembered at all by most critics now, Brinkley tends to be dismissed as "fluff" or "chocolate-boxy", but while her style is, admittedly, heavily romantic and unashamedly sentimental, it also has a power and sense of adventure - and often, a biting, mordant wit - that has long been ignored. Robbins selects the illustrations well; one problem with reproducing Brinkley's work in a form that does it justice is the fact that the newspaper comics pages of her heyday, in the 1910's and 1920's, were huge, and often in colour, and a small, black & white paperback isn't able to reproduce full pages without reducing it to a muddy blur. Robbins circumvents this skillfully by focussing on Brinkley's editorial and commentary cartoons, and reproducing smaller insets from the larger pages which enable readers to appreciate the complexity and richness of Brinkley's material. Yes, the book could have used a snappier title, but don't let the "academic tome" name deter you; this is a fascinating and refreshing look at an artist whose work is long overdue for a reappraisal.

Artist and Author Trina Robbins tells us the delightful life story of NELL BRINKLEY (once famous, forgotten women's hero). Look for Trina's new book of NELL BRINKLEY in c o l o r ! Also see over 200 illustrations as about 8-1/2 x 11" from 'NELL Brinkley - 1917 "Love Letters"' and 'NELL BRINKLEY - 1918 "Love Letters"' and 'NELL BRINKLEY - 1919 "Love Letters"' at [www.nellbrinkley.net](http://www.nellbrinkley.net) or at [stores.lulu.com/nellbrinkleydenver99](http://stores.lulu.com/nellbrinkleydenver99). . . by LOIS e. & TOM j. COLLINS. Buy copies of all the books for your local LIBRARY, so that Nell will be remembered!

Author Trina Robbins, once also an artist, shows an undying admiration for the work of the late Nell Brinkley in this book. She delivers the story with such beautiful that the reader enters in. Included in the book is actual art by Nell Brinkley, and this is a breathtaking book!

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