

Cultural Daily

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Anne Bradstreet Who Says My Hand a Needle Better Fits?

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The struggle for women's rights and voices goes a long way back. Anne Bradstreet, America's first published female poet, wrote these lines below in 1650, as part of the Prologue to her volume *The Tenth Muse Lately Sprung Up in America*.



She lived in the Massachusetts Bay Colony and died in 1672, more than 100 years before the Revolutionary War.

I am obnoxious to each carping tongue
Who says my hand a needle better fits;
A poet's pen all scorn I should thus wrong,
For such despite they cast on female wits.
If what I do prove well, it won't advance;
They'll say it's stol'n, or else it was by chance.

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