

Mary Mapes Dodge

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Mary Mapes Dodge (26 January , 1831–21 August 1905) was an American children's writer and editor, best known for her novel *Hans Brinker*.



Mary Mapes Dodge

Mary was born Mary Elizabeth Mapes to

James Jay Mapes and Sophia Furman in New York City. In 1851 she married the lawyer William Dodge. Within the next four years she gave birth to two sons, James and Harrington. In 1857, William faced serious financial difficulties and left his family in 1858. A month after his disappearance his body was found dead from an apparent

drowning, and Mary Mapes Dodge became a widow. In 1859 she began writing and editing, working with her father to publish two magazines, the *Working Farmer* and the *United States Journal*. Within a few years she had great success with a collection of short stories, *The Irvington Stories* (1864), and a novel was solicited. Dodge responded with *Hans Brinker*, an instant bestseller.

Later in life she was an associate editor of *Hearth and Home*, edited by Harriet Beecher Stowe. She became an editor in her own right with the children's *St. Nicholas Magazine*, for she was able to solicit stories from a number of well-known writers including Mark Twain, Louisa May Alcott, and Robert Louis Stevenson. *St. Nicholas* became one of the most successful magazines for children during the second half of the nineteenth century, with a circulation of almost 70,000 children.

Dodge is buried in the Evergreen Cemetery, at 1137 North Broad Street, Hillside, New Jersey.

Principal Works

Prose

- *Irvington Stories*, 1864
- *Hans Brinker; or, The Silver Skates*, 1865
(another famous edition is illustrated by René Follet)
- *A Few Friends and How They Amused Themselves*, 1869
- *Baby Days*, 1876
- *Donald and Dorothy*, 1883
- *Baby World*, 1884
- *The Land of Pluck*, 1894

Verse

- *Rhymes and Jingles* 1874
- *Along the Way* 1879
- *When Life Is Young* 1894

References

"Dodge, Mary Elizabeth (Mapes)" *American Authors 1600-1900* The H. W. Wilson Company, New York, 1938

External links

- Works by Mary Mapes Dodge at Project Gutenberg

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