

BETWEEN THE COVERS RARE BOOKS

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Atomic Bomb!

(Sarah J. Bennett)

[Printed certificate, caption title]: Manhattan District. This is Certify that Sarah J. Bennett, University of California has participated in work essential to the production of the Atomic Bomb, thereby contributing to the successful conclusion of World War II...

Washington, D.C.: United States of America War Department - Army Service Forces - Corps of Engineers 1945

United States of America
WAR
DEPARTMENT

ARMY SERVICE FORCES ~ CORPS OF ENGINEERS
Manhattan District

This is to Certify that

SARAH J. BENNETT
University of California

has participated in work essential to the production of the Atomic Bomb, thereby contributing to the successful conclusion of World War II. This certificate is awarded in appreciation of effective service.

6 August 1945



Henry L. Stimson
Secretary of War

Washington, D. C.

Approximately 11" x 8½". Slight age-toning, still about fine. the certificate bears the (almost certainly) printed signature of Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson and is dated on 6 August 1945, the day of the bombing of Hiroshima. Bennett's name and institution have been typed in, otherwise the entire certificate appears to be printed. Partially for reasons of secrecy, and partially because of then contemporary social attitudes, the participation of women in the Manhattan Project in a wide variety of roles, has been much of overshadowed. Although many of these roles were clerical, administrative, medical, or otherwise secondary to the invention process, women did serve in scientific roles as physicists, chemists, and cryptographers. While we can not find much about Sarah J. Bennett, the fact that her affiliation with the University of California, would seem to indicate she was employed in a scientific role (as other copies of the certificate we have seen usually indicate either a military or commercial affiliation. Needless to say, all of the women were underpaid comparative to their male counterparts. The assumption must be that many of these certificates were issued, but this is the only example we can find made out to a woman. An interesting artifact commemorating the participation of women in the invention of the atomic bomb. [BTC#397440]