



## A Satire on Female Education in Gilbert and Sullivan's comic opera *Princess Ida* (1884)

Publication type: Article from a collective work

Collective work: [Femmes et le Savoir / Women and Knowledge / Frauen und Wissen](#)

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Abstract: Gilbert and Sullivan's comic opera *Princess Ida or Castle Adamant* (1884) develops the themes of Lord Tennyson's narrative poem *The Princess: A Medley* of 1847, using the central image of an all-female university as a pretext to pour mockery on feminist ideas. There is, however, another way of reading Gilbert and Sullivan's operetta – as a comical commentary on the generation gap rather than gender issues, with the young protagonists striving to overcome the influence of their aggressive and warlike parents.

Pages: 363 to 378

Collection: [Encounters](#), n° 450

Series: Convergences in literature, n° 4

CLIL theme: 3378 -- HISTOIRE -- Histoire générale et thématique

EAN: 9782406096818

ISBN: 978-2-406-09681-8

ISSN: 2261-1851

DOI: 10.15122/isbn.978-2-406-09681-8.p.0363

Publisher: Classiques Garnier

Online publication: 04-22-2020

Language: English

Keyword: Comic opera, Savoy operas, female education, Victorian culture, women's university

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