

THE MARY BAKER EDDY LIBRARY

Mary Baker Eddy: awards and recognitions

Mary Baker Eddy (1821–1910) was an American religious leader widely known as the discoverer of Christian Science. A lifelong Bible student, Eddy wrote *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, first published in 1875. Four years later she founded the Church of Christ, Scientist. Today it has branches around the world and *Science and Health* has been in continuous publication for over 150 years.^{1 2}

1899: The *Christian Science Sentinel* reprints Susan B. Anthony's praise of Eddy as a religious leader: "What of Mrs. Eddy? No man ever obtained so large a following in so short a time.... Since she found her voice and her tongue, fifty years ago, she has been too busy rising to her own level and adjusting her life to new conditions to do more than recognize the great need of humanity — fewer creeds and more of the divine Spirit. When woman does write her creed, it will be one of right actions, not of theological theories."^{3 4}

1907: An advertisement in *Human Life* magazine proclaims Eddy "the most famous, interesting and powerful woman in America, if not in the world, today."⁵

1907: Christian Scientists attending the National Arbitration and Peace Congress in New York City present Eddy with one of two "Peace Flags" hung during the Congress, in honor of her support of peace. She then gives the flag to The First Church of Christ, Scientist.^{6 7}

1907: While Mark Twain's book *Christian Science* is largely negative in its comments on Eddy and her discovery, it also includes positive statements such as these: "In several ways she is the most interesting woman that ever lived and the most extraordinary. ... When we do not know a person — and also when we do — we have to judge his size by the size and nature of his achievements, as compared with the achievements of others in his special line of business — there is no other way. Measured by this

¹ "Mary Baker Eddy — Deep read," The Mary Baker Eddy Library,

<https://www.marybakereddylibrary.org/mary-baker-eddy/mary-baker-eddy-deep-read/>

² See also "The 140th Anniversary of *Science and Health*," The Mary Baker Eddy Library, 1 October 2015,

<https://www.marybakereddylibrary.org/research/the-140th-anniversary-of-science-and-health/>

³ Susan B. Anthony, "The Work of Mrs. Eddy," *Christian Science Sentinel*, 14 December 1899,

<https://sentinel.christianscience.com/shared/view/a54quy8sfa?s=copylink>

⁴ See also "Women of History: Susan B. Anthony," The Mary Baker Eddy Library, 13 January 2015,

<https://www.marybakereddylibrary.org/research/women-of-history-susan-b-anthony/>

⁵ *Human Life*, February 1907.

⁶ "Behind the Conservation of the Peace Flag," The Mary Baker Eddy Library, 23 September 2015,

<https://www.marybakereddylibrary.org/research/behind-conservation-peace-flag/>

⁷ See also "Letters to our Leader," *The Christian Science Journal*, June 1907,

<https://journal.christianscience.com/shared/view/y7fmn10dwi?s=copylink>

standard, it is thirteen hundred years since the world has produced any one who could reach up to Mrs. Eddy's waistbelt."⁸

1907: Eddy is given a Diploma of Honor by the International Books and Paper Exposition in Paris, as recognizing her as the Founder of Christian Science.⁹

1907: Eddy is honored by the French government for "her distinguished literary achievements as discoverer and founder of the belief" and awarded the decoration of *Officier d'Académie*.^{10 11}

1908 January 6: Clara Barton praises Eddy in an article by Viola Rodgers printed in the *New York American*.^{12 13}

1910: Shortly after Eddy's passing, *The Boston Globe* writes, "She did a wonderful—an extraordinary work in the world and there is no doubt that she was a powerful influence for good."¹⁴

1932: Eddy is voted the greatest woman leader in a nationwide poll of women to ascertain the top twelve women "who have made the most valuable contributions to American progress in the last 100 years."¹⁵

1966: The National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C., receives a bust of Mary Baker Eddy from Frances Thompson Hill, a Christian Scientist.^{16 17}

1992: *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* is included in the list of "75 Books by Women Whose Words Have Changed the World" by the Women's National Book Association.¹⁸

⁸ Twain, *Christian Science* (New York; London: Harper & Brothers, 1907), 102–103.

⁹ "Diplôme d'honneur and Officier d'Académie Pin," The Mary Baker Eddy Library, 1 September 2013, <https://www.marybakereddylibrary.org/research/diploma/>

¹⁰ "France Honors the Rev. Mary Baker G. Eddy by Conferring Decoration," *The Christian Science Journal*, December 1907, <https://journal.christianscience.com/shared/view/dj1of0rsoe?s=copylink>

¹¹ "Diplôme d'honneur and Officier d'Académie Pin," The Mary Baker Eddy Library, 1 September 2013, <https://www.marybakereddylibrary.org/research/diploma>

¹² "Christian Science Most Potent Factor in Religious Life, Says Clara Barton," *Christian Science Sentinel*, 18 January 1908, <https://sentinel.christianscience.com/shared/view/12p4py4htja?s=copylink>

¹³ See also "Women of History: Clara Barton," The Mary Baker Eddy Library, updated 14 April 2025, <https://www.marybakereddylibrary.org/research/women-of-history-clara-barton/>

¹⁴ "Mrs Eddy's Life and Achievement," *The Boston Globe*, 5 December 1910, 4.

¹⁵ "Mary B. Eddy Voted 'Greatest Woman,'" *The New York Times*, 21 December 1932, 21.

¹⁶ "Mary Baker Eddy," National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, accessed 24 February 2026, https://npg.si.edu/object/npg_NPG.66.72

¹⁷ See also "Madame Luella A. Varney Serrao Bust of Mary Baker Eddy," 1 September 2012, The Mary Baker Eddy Library, <https://www.marybakereddylibrary.org/research/madame-luella-a-varney-serrao-bust-of-mary-baker-eddy/>

¹⁸ "Mrs. Eddy Honored by Women's National Book Association," *The Christian Science Journal*, January 1992, <https://journal.christianscience.com/shared/view/134o683m40a?s=copylink>

1993: Eddy is cited as top in the religion category of the Siena Research Institute's list of influential American women of the twentieth century.¹⁹

1994: New Hampshire Public Television produces the documentary, "Soul of a Woman: The Life and Times of Mary Baker Eddy."²⁰

1994: Garry Wills, in his book *Certain Trumpets: The Call of Leaders*, states regarding American Christian church leaders that "the most influential may have been Mary [Baker] Eddy."²¹

1995: Eddy is inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame for her "indelible mark on society, religion and journalism."²²

1998: Robert Abernethy's *Religion and Ethics NewsWeekly*, PBS television, names Eddy among "the top 25 most influential religious figures of the 20th Century."^{23 24}

1998: *Mary Baker Eddy*, a major biography by scholar Gillian Gill, is published as part of the Radcliffe Biography Series. This series is dedicated to documenting the varied lives of extraordinary women.²⁵

1998: The Women's Rights National Historical Park features a multi-media exhibit in Seneca Falls, NY, titled, "'This is Woman's Hour...': The Life of Mary Baker Eddy—Reformer." During the next two years, the exhibit visits several venues, including the National Press Club, the Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Library, and George Washington University's Gelman Library, in Washington, D.C.; the Philadelphia Free Library; the Rhode Island State House; the Boston Public Library; and the Museum of New Hampshire History.^{26 27}

¹⁹ "Mary Baker Eddy cited in survey of influential American women," *Christian Science Sentinel*, 5 July 1993, <https://sentinel.christianscience.com/shared/view/48g4d8xz9u?s=copylink>

²⁰ "Soul of a Woman: The Life and Times of Mary Baker Eddy," New Hampshire Public Television, 1994, <https://www.pbs.org/video/soul-of-a-woman-the-life-and-times-of-mary-baker-eddy/>

²¹ Garry Wills, *Certain Trumpets: The Call of Leaders* (Simon & Schuster, 1994), 174.

²² "Mary Baker Eddy," National Women's Hall of Fame, accessed 2/24/2026, <https://www.womenofthehall.org/inductee/mary-baker-eddy/>

²³ Robert Abernethy, *Religion and Ethics NewsWeekly*, PBS Television, 4 September 1998.

²⁴ See also "What's been happening at Seneca Falls and Why?," *The Christian Science Journal*, March 1999, <https://journal.christianscience.com/shared/view/28hg2o42n02?s=copylink>

²⁵ Gillian Gill, *Mary Baker Eddy* (Cambridge, Massachusetts: Perseus Books, 1998).

²⁶ "'This is woman's hour...,'" *Christian Science Sentinel*, 4 May 1998, <https://sentinel.christianscience.com/shared/view/2kuoko1xuk6?s=copylink>

²⁷ "New England 'Homecoming,'" *The Christian Science Journal*, June 2000, <https://journal.christianscience.com/shared/view/27hzzay0jlu?s=copylink>

1999 March 11: Eddy is honored by the Rhode Island House of Representatives for her numerous contributions to humanity.²⁸

1999: *Investor's Business Daily* profiles Eddy, focusing on her business acumen and work ethic in their "Leaders & Success" series.^{29 30}

1999: Eddy is honored with a Media Award by the National Foundation for Women Legislators for her outstanding contribution to journalism.³¹

1999: She is the subject of at least 241 print articles in this year's Women's History Month.³²

1999: Eddy is profiled in *Boston Business Journal* as one of Boston's "100 most influential business people of the 20th century."³³

1999: *Editor & Publisher* includes Eddy on a list of "25 More" of the 25 "most influential newspaper people of the 20th Century."^{34 35}

1999: *Australian Magazine* names Eddy one of 100 women who have made a lasting impression on the world.³⁶

2000: The Massachusetts legislature honors Eddy with a resolution recognizing her for "the many contributions she has made to the Commonwealth as a Christian healer, an author, an educator, a religious leader, and a publisher."³⁷

2000 November 17: *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* receives the "Grand Gold Eagle" award from the Association of Social Communicators (ADECOS) in Buenos Aires, Argentina. This award is given in acknowledgment of media efforts to promote peace and understanding among people.³⁸

²⁸ "House Resolution honoring Mary Baker Eddy for her Many Outstanding Contributions to Women During the Celebration of National Women's History Month," State of Rhode Island General Assembly, accessed 24 February 2026, <https://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText99/HouseText99/H6261.htm>

²⁹ Peter Krass, "Christian Science's Mary Baker Eddy," *Investor's Business Daily*, 25 September 1998.

³⁰ See also "What's been happening at Seneca Falls and Why?," *The Christian Science Journal*, March 1999, <https://journal.christianscience.com/shared/view/28hg2o42n02?s=copylink>

³¹ "Annual Meeting 2000," *The Christian Science Journal*, June 2000, <https://journal.christianscience.com/shared/view/2agc9eg90ne?s=copylink>

³² "The spiritual leaven at work in the sciences," *The Christian Science Journal*, July 1999, <https://journal.christianscience.com/shared/view/1a0sseo0cbm?s=copylink>

³³ Andrew P. McCloy, "100 Years, People," *Boston Business Journal*, October 1999, 14–17.

³⁴ Greg Mitchell and Steve Yahn, "Top 25 Movers and Shapers," *Editor & Publisher* 132, no. 44 (1999): 3.

³⁵ "'25 More' Who Made a Difference," *Editor & Publisher* 132, no. 44 (1999): 57.

³⁶ Miriam Cosic, "Millenium Women," *Australian Magazine*, 18–19 December 1999, 19, 23.

³⁷ "New England 'Homecoming,'" *The Christian Science Journal*, June 2000, <https://journal.christianscience.com/shared/view/27hzzay0jlu?s=copylink>

³⁸ "Celebrating 125 years of exploring practical spirituality," *The Christian Science Journal*, May 2001, <https://journal.christianscience.com/shared/view/2ee4mv4ko1y?s=copylink>

2002 March 15: Maryland posthumously awards Eddy with the Governor's Citation, "in recognition of the legacy of a leader and the outstanding contribution she made to the advancement of women."³⁹

2002 September 24: The United States Congress passes a resolution that "Recognizes and commends Mary Baker Eddy for her outstanding achievements and contributions, particularly her contributions to the advancement of women's rights as a public figure and role model in the early stages of the women's rights movement," as well as the Mary Baker Eddy Library, which opened that month. She is recognized as "the first woman in the United States to found and lead a religion that became an international movement."⁴⁰

2006: *The Atlantic Monthly* lists Eddy as one of the 100 Most Influential figures in American History.⁴¹

2014: Eddy is named one of the "100 Most Significant Americans of All Time" by *Smithsonian* magazine.⁴²

³⁹ State of Maryland to Mary Baker Eddy, "Governor's Citation," 15 March 2002, Church Archives, Box 544097, Folder 543203.

⁴⁰ "H.Con.Res.458 - Recognizing and commending Mary Baker Eddy's achievements and the Mary Baker Eddy Library for the Betterment of Humanity," Congress.gov, Library of Congress, accessed 2/24/2026, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/107th-congress/house-concurrent-resolution/458>

⁴¹ "The 100 Most Influential Figures in American History," *The Atlantic*, December 2006.

⁴² T. A. Frail, "Meet the 100 Most Significant Americans of All Time," *Smithsonian* magazine, Smithsonian Institution, 17 November 2014, accessed 25 February 2006. <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonianmag/meet-100-most-significant-americans-all-time-180953341/>



Luella Varney Serrao, Bust of Mary Baker Eddy, 1899, National Portrait Gallery.⁴³

⁴³ https://npg.si.edu/object/npg_NPG.66.72