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“The Dial and the Women of the New England Transcendental Club”

This thesis investigates the role of women in the New England Transcendental Club. All too often men, such as Henry David Thoreau, Ralph Waldo Emerson or Bronson Alcott come to mind when thinking of the Transcendentalist. This was not solely a male group, however, in fact a number of influential women held serious clout and stakes in this literary movement. Despite the emphasis on the male gender in Transcendentalism, women soon began to carve a niche for themselves. These nineteenth century female impresarios, such as Margaret Fuller, Caroline S. Tappan, Ellen Hooper and Elizabeth Peabody Palmer, were educators and writers, abolitionists and publishers. By studying the transcendental publication *The Dial*, the important roles of these impressive women, as editors, contributors, and publishers, is greatly explored. This begs the question, if these women were so integral in *The Dial*, which is undoubtedly true, as the editor was a female, then why have these women been largely lost to history while their male counterparts are the first to come to mind when thinking of the Transcendental movement? It is this question that will ultimately drive this thesis. This project will hone in on the involvement of these women shaping this movement, as well as explores how their inclusion in the “club” was an outlet for the female voice.