Narratives Unseen

A GLOBAL YOUTH MAGAZINE CENTERING THE STORIES, ISSUES, AND COMMUNITIES THAT SOCIETY OVERLOOKS

ISSUE 01 · VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1

FEATURE · THE BEYOND VISION INTERVIEW

What is it really like *to be blind?*

Tracy Compton is an elite amateur blind tennis player representing Great Britain, a mother of four, and a grandmother of seven. The founder's profile from her Beyond Vision podcast interview, plus five Stereotype-Breakers history entries: Admiral Yi Sun-sin, Ada Lovelace, Hypatia of Alexandria, Chien-Shiung Wu, and Admiral Keumalahayati.

Edited by Hayley X. · Surrey, England

SEVEN FOUNDING TEAM MEMBERS DESIGNED PDF · PLAIN-TEXT READER · AUDIO EDITION

Contents

p.03 UP FRONT · FOUNDER'S NOTE

Founder's *Note*

Hayley X., founder and editor

p.04 FEATURE · THE BEYOND VISION INTERVIEW

What Is It Really Like *to Be Blind?*

Tracy Compton, profiled by Hayley X.

p.06 STEREOTYPE-BREAKERS · THE HISTORY COLUMN

Admiral Yi Sun-sin

By Jonas X, 13

p.07 STEREOTYPE-BREAKERS · THE HISTORY COLUMN

Ada Lovelace

By Anya, 15

p.08 STEREOTYPE-BREAKERS · THE HISTORY COLUMN

Hypatia of Alexandria

By Amy P and Abigail P, 15

p.09 STEREOTYPE-BREAKERS · THE HISTORY COLUMN

Chien-Shiung Wu

By Susie C

p.10 STEREOTYPE-BREAKERS · THE HISTORY COLUMN

Admiral Keumalahayati

By Anya B

A Closing Note, and Who Made This

The masthead, the colophon, and how to join

Narratives Unseen is produced accessibly from the start. It is edited on a refreshable braille display and a screen reader, and published three ways at once: this designed edition, a plain-text reader that works with assistive technology, and an audio edition. Readership will be counted from online page views and reported without inflation.

FROM THE FOUNDER

Founder's *Note*

Narratives Unseen is a magazine designed to bring hidden stories to light: the endless power of human beings who affect society but are often overlooked.

BY HAYLEY X., FOUNDER AND EDITOR · Surrey, England

When I hear inspiring stories of people going against societal norms and shattering the expectations of everyone around them, often, it is a reminder of the fascinating resilience and talent of all individuals. From historical change to modern campaigns, countless individuals have played key roles in the society we live in today. Yet, their stories are rarely told.

Narratives Unseen is a magazine designed to bring hidden stories to light. From historical figures such as Edmonia Lewis to modern trailblazers, we focus on the endless power of human beings who affect society but are often overlooked. And here, I hope to highlight the personal experiences of people from all backgrounds, demographics and eras.

As a blind person navigating the challenges of daily life, I often hear incredible and heart-warming narratives of countless people overcoming their barriers and showing that human power is limitless. When I become overwhelmed with uncertainty about the possibility of my dreams, these stories remind me of the great power of humankind. By creating a platform where everyone may share unique stories of people who have impacted society and not been duly recognized, I hope to create a place of hope, resilience, celebration.

Do you know of anyone whose stories deserve to be heard by even more people? Please contact me with any suggestions or questions!

I am looking forward to seeing Narratives Unseen prosper and uncover many unique stories hidden in the world!

Thank you,

Hayley

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FEATURE · TRACY COMPTON

What Is It Really Like *to Be Blind?*

Tracy Compton is an elite amateur blind tennis player representing Great Britain, a mother of four, and a grandmother of seven. A profile drawn from her interview on the Beyond Vision podcast.

BY HAYLEY X., FOUNDER AND EDITOR · from her Beyond Vision podcast interview with Tracy Compton

Readers, when you think of the word blind, what do you see? Perhaps you see a person with a white cane, holding on to a companion and living in a world of darkness. But in reality, blindness is not always darkness; it is sometimes nothing.

Tracy Compton is an elite amateur blind tennis player representing Great Britain. But aside from her athletic achievements, she is also a loving mother of four and devoted grandmother of seven. As Tracy grew up, she was not always blind. Before 2010 Tracy was visually impaired, but her sight deteriorated due to glaucoma. She describes her vision loss as being like an eclipse, saying, “It was like an eclipse. I still had vision in my right eye and then, from the outer edge of my eye, going into the nose like a ball, it became blank.”

Growing up, Tracy didn't meet many other visually impaired people in high school. She attended a mainstream school and she experienced bullying from children, describing it as “demoralising”. Tracy went on to explain, saying, “It was very rare for a person to be with a pair of glasses. I got name called. Children can be cruel but honest.” Luckily, despite the struggles she faced at school, her parents treated her the exact same way they did her siblings, offering support and encouragement which helped her thrive under the challenges she faced. Although Tracy struggled at school with constant bullying, she found an outlet with ice skating, describing it as “the one thing I was good at”. On the Beyond Vision podcast, Tracy reveals how she found a supportive community at the ice rink where she made many friends, providing a stark contrast to her school life.

> ***Blindness is not always darkness; it is sometimes nothing.***

Beyond the tennis courts, Tracy has some delightful hobbies such as knitting. She creates scarves and hats for her friends' children, using her sense of touch to create beautiful works of art. Tracy goes on to mention how blind people may be independent, but there should never be shame in asking for help. Ultimately, Tracy reminds us that although independence is essential, connection is just as important. By being open, friendly and welcoming, we can ask questions directly. With open communication, we can truly break down barriers and foster deeper understanding of visual impairment.

A lifelong dream for Tracy Compton is for Wimbledon to showcase blind tennis during the Wimbledon fortnight. But aside from Wimbledon, Tracy's aim is also to allow blind tennis to be featured in the Paralympic

Games. Her dreams and story serve as a powerful encouragement to never lose hope. Despite her challenges growing up as a visually impaired person, she has gone on to achieve remarkable success both as an incredible tennis player and a dedicated mother and grandmother. Her journey is a true testament to resilience. By leaping over hurdles, anyone can overcome barriers and achieve their dreams.

ABOUT THE WRITER

Hayley is a 15-year-old blind advocate for the visually impaired. She loves playing classical music on the piano and violin. Alongside music, reading novels from the 19th century is one of her many hobbies. Jane Austen is her favourite author, with Pride and Prejudice outranking all the other books! She is also the founder of this magazine — Narratives Unseen. Hear Tracy Compton in her own words on the Beyond Vision podcast, on Apple Podcasts.

STEREOTYPE-BREAKERS · ADMIRAL YI SUN-SIN

Admiral *Yi Sun-sin*

The Korean commander who invented the feared turtle ship, and who held a narrow strait against an armada of over 130 vessels with only twelve ships of his own.

BY JONAS X, 13 · Stereotype-Breakers, the history column

Admiral Yi Sun-sin was a Korean commander known for his invention of the feared turtle ship. This ship was feared for its agility and ability to turn on the spot using a combination of oars and sails. Furthermore, the dragon's head at the front was usually either used to spew out poisonous smoke or to hold another sea cannon, of which the turtle ship had 27.

EARLY LIFE

He was born in Geoncheon-dong, present-day Seoul. His mother was Lady Byeon, who came from the Chogye Byeon clan. Her family was based in Asan, which is why the future admiral moved there during his youth. Meanwhile, his father was Yi Jeong, who belonged to the aristocratic Deoksu Yi clan. Disillusioned by a political purge that affected his own father, he chose to steer clear of government service and did not hold public office. They initially raised Yi Sun-sin to follow the family tradition of literary scholarship and Confucian classics, though he eventually chose the military path instead.

THE TURTLE SHIPS

The feared turtle ship had 2 masts and 2 sails, as well as oars for increased speed. It had 10 oars as well as 10 cannon portholes on each side. Usually, there were 2 on the back and front as well as one in the dragon's head. Some of the cannons would use special wooden bolts several feet in length with iron fins. The crew comprised 60 marines and 70 oarsmen as well as the captain. The most advanced type of sea cannon was used by the Koreans against the Japanese pirate ships in the 13th century. The Koreans had 4 different cannon types, namely, Cheonja, Jija, Hyeonja and Hwangja. These cannons could fire ordinary shot as well as long wooden bolts fitted with iron fins, akin to primitive wooden missiles. Turtle ships were a rarity during the Imjin war, with only 1 to 3 deployed by the Joseon navy in any single engagement.

BATTLE OF MYEONGNYANG

Following his reinstatement after the disastrous Joseon defeat at Chilcheollyang, Admiral Yi Sun-sin faced a desperate crisis with only 12 remaining panokseon ships to counter a massive invading Japanese armada of over 130 combat vessels. Refusing to surrender the capital, Yi strategically positioned his tiny fleet at the narrow Myeongnyang Strait, utilizing its treacherous bottlenecks and roaring, unpredictable tidal currents to bottleneck the enemy's numbers. As the Japanese fleet squeezed into the strait, Yi's flagship bravely held the line alone before the tide turned violently against the invaders, causing their ships to collide and founder in the chaotic waters. Exploiting this chaos, the Joseon forces launched a ferocious counterattack that destroyed over 30 enemy warships and killed the

Japanese commander without losing a single ship of their own, miraculously halting the naval advance toward the capital.

ABOUT THE WRITER

An avid french horn player, I enjoy researching unsung heroes and those who are undervalued by society. Besides my interests in music and history, I also enjoy reading in my spare time. I believe that shedding light on untold figures is extremely important, as history often teaches us our mistakes, yet we continue to make them because we don't concentrate on the main morals acquired.

STEREOTYPE-BREAKERS · ADA LOVELACE, 1815 TO 1852

Ada *Lovelace*

The English mathematician and writer commonly known as the first ever computer programmer, for seeing that Charles Babbage's Analytical Engine had uses beyond just calculating.

BY ANYA, 15 · Stereotype-Breakers, the history column

Ada Lovelace was an English mathematician and writer. She was born on 10th December 1815 and died on 27th November 1852 (at only 36 years old). She is commonly known as the first ever computer programmer for recognizing that Charles Babbage's analytical engine (also known as the first computer) had uses beyond just calculating.

ADA LOVELACE'S EDUCATION

Lovelace's father was famed poet Lord Byron and her mother was Annabella Milbanke Byron. They legally separated when Lovelace was only 2 months old, with her father leaving Britain; he died when she was only 8. Her mother insisted that Lovelace was taught science and mathematics throughout her childhood, despite this being very rare for women during the early 1800s and Lovelace not having a good relationship with her mother.

One thing that Lovelace deeply valued growing up was her education. Given that her mother enforced maths, science and logic on Lovelace at such a young age, it is no surprise that Lovelace had the best mathematicians and tutors teaching her, creating a foundation for her career as an adult. This makes Lovelace's childhood a very strong preparation for what she goes on to do when she gets older.

WHAT LOVELACE WAS FAMOUS FOR

In 1833, Lovelace met Charles Babbage, the inventor of the Analytical Engine, which was considered to be the world's first computer, and collaborated with him (despite her only being 18 years old). In the early 1840s, Babbage was working on his Analytical Engine, and the Analytical Engine's only function and purpose was to perform accurate mathematical calculations to prevent human error.

When Lovelace and Babbage first met, Babbage was working on his other project: the Difference Engine, a mechanical calculator for mathematical tables. Lovelace was very intrigued by Babbage's work and so they became acquaintances. When looking at the Analytical Engine, Lovelace saw more potential than Babbage did. She believed that the computer could be used to perform many more general tasks than mathematical ones, like playing music. In 1843, Lovelace was able to translate a French paper written about the Analytical Engine. After this she realised that the Analytical Engine had potential to carry out an algorithm (a step-by-step computer program). She wrote a sequence on how to calculate Bernoulli numbers. This is what is considered to be the first ever computer program.

Therefore, Ada Lovelace is considered to be the world's first computer programmer by creating the first algorithm. Because of this, a common name for her is also 'Mother of Computing'. She made a very large impact on how we use technology today; her discovery almost 200 years ago became the foundation to what people could do now.

FUN FACTS ABOUT ADA LOVELACE

- Lovelace's name was Augusta Ada Byron. This changed when she married William King, who was the 1st Earl of Lovelace, making her Augusta Ada King, Countess of Lovelace. The name Lovelace was picked as she was a descendant of the Baron Lovelaces.
- Lovelace was constantly ill during her childhood; this included paralysis from measles which left her stuck continuously in bed for a year. This links to how Lovelace died; she died from an illness: cervical cancer (then known as uterine cancer) at only 36 years old.
- Lovelace had an affair with one of her tutors in 1833. She was caught by the tutor's relatives and the affair had to be kept secret to avoid any damage to her family's reputation. This nearly happened again with a man after Lovelace was married, but she recognised what was happening and stopped it before anything happened.
- Lovelace had 3 children: Byron, Anne Isabella (often known as Annabella) and Ralph Gordon. They were born in 1836, 1837 and 1839. The man that tried to have an affair with Lovelace was assigned by Lovelace's mother to teach the children, but the man became interested in Lovelace and fell in love with her.
- Ada Lovelace has a day commemorated to her. The second Tuesday of October was considered to be Ada Lovelace Day. This day also celebrates women in STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths), showing just how much of an impact Ada Lovelace has on the modern world.

ABOUT THE WRITER

My name is Anya, I am 15 years old and I wrote this piece about Ada Lovelace. As a young woman currently studying STEM subjects, I found it very intriguing and inspiring to learn about how Lovelace was a key foundation for women in STEM and how she greatly impacted lives today, not only for her inspiration for young women like me but also how her findings as the first computer programmer heavily impacted how we all use technology today.

STEREOTYPE-BREAKERS · HYPATIA, C. 355 TO 415 AD

Hypatia *of Alexandria*

Mathematician, astronomer and Neoplatonist philosopher: in a world where women were expected to be silent and obedient, Hypatia became an exception to the rules.

BY AMY P AND ABIGAIL P, 15 · Stereotype-Breakers, the history column

Ancient Greek women were expected to be silent and obedient. They were largely denied citizenship and property rights. However, in Alexandria, women were allowed to own land, businesses and property, and this is what enabled Hypatia to become who she was: an exception to the rules.

Hypatia was born around 355 AD, and she was a mathematician, astronomer and Neoplatonist philosopher. She lived in Alexandria, where she taught philosophy and astronomy.

Hypatia was widely beloved by pagans and Christians alike and she established great influence with the political elite in Alexandria. She was, in her time, the world's leading mathematician and astronomer, the only woman for whom such claim can be made, and the first female mathematician whose life is fairly well recorded. Hypatia was also a popular teacher and lecturer on philosophical topics of a less-specialist nature, attracting many loyal students and large audiences, up until the time of her death.

Hypatia was killed in 415 AD, when a mob of Christian fanatics pulled her from her carriage on a street in Alexandria and dragged her to a church. They then went on to brutally murder her and burn her remains. Hypatia's death made her a powerful feminist symbol and a figure of intellectual perseverance in the face of prejudice.

Hypatia of Alexandria was renowned as a great teacher and wise counsellor — her work influenced mathematicians and astronomers for centuries after her death. She shows us the importance of sticking to your principles, despite living in a society where, according to the views of Aristotle, women were inferior to men.

ABOUT THE WRITERS

Hello, our names are Amy and Abigail and we are identical twins. We enjoy learning languages, such as Latin, French and Welsh. We also like ancient history and we are passionate about reading.

STEREOTYPE-BREAKERS · CHIEN-SHIUNG WU, 1912 TO 1997

Chien-Shiung Wu, *the First Lady of Physics*

Madame Wu, the Chinese Marie Curie: the experimental physicist who worked on a secret wartime project and whose Cobalt-60 experiment overturned a law that physicists had believed could not be broken.

BY SUSIE C · Stereotype-Breakers, the history column

Chien-Shiung Wu earned herself many names in her lifetime, including "the First Lady of Physics", "Madame Wu" and "the Chinese Marie Curie". She was most famous for her secret project during the Second World War, and for her Cobalt-60 experiment, which challenged the law of conservation of parity — the rule holding that the mirror images of two physical interactions are the same.

A FATHER WHO INSISTED ON HER EDUCATION

She was born on 31 May 1912 in Liuhe, China, a small town near Shanghai, and she was the middle child, with two brothers. Her mother was a teacher and her father was an engineer, and he was the one who encouraged her to pursue her education as far as she could, at a time when women were not usually encouraged to pursue an education at all. She then went to a boarding school in Suzhou and graduated at the top of her class in 1929. She attended National Central University in Nanking and graduated in 1934 with a degree in physics. A doctor named Dr Jing-Wei Gu encouraged her to go to the United States to earn an advanced degree, and in 1936 she went.

BERKELEY, AND THE MOVE EAST

Wu studied nuclear physics at the University of California, Berkeley, where she was advised by a leading physicist. She worked in the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory, learning alongside other physicists and students who went on to become experimental physicists themselves. Wu graduated in 1940 with her PhD. In 1942 she married Luke Chia-Liu Yuan, a fellow physicist she had met at Berkeley, and the two of them moved to the east coast when she took a teaching job at Smith College. She moved to Princeton University the following year, where she became the first female instructor in the Physics Department.

RECOGNITION, AND A GREAT DEAL OF IT

The scope of her contributions touched numerous disciplines, and she was recognised for many of her achievements within her own lifetime. She received the Comstock Prize in Physics in 1964, the National Medal of Science in 1975 and the Wolf Prize in Physics in 1978, and she was the first woman to serve as president of the American Physical Society. In total she received more than fifteen major awards and honorary degrees, and held at least a dozen memberships in learned societies. She

worked at Columbia until she eventually retired in 1981.

THE HERO OF HER FIELD

She is regarded as a hero in the field of physics, and as the greatest female Chinese scientist of twentieth-century China. She has inspired many people with her work and her achievements, and the Nanjing Zijinshan Observatory of the Chinese Academy of Sciences named an asteroid after her. After she retired, Wu encouraged young women to pursue careers in science, just as her father had done with her. She did this through educational programmes, and by talking openly about the struggle to obtain recognition for her work. She hoped to inspire women across both the United States and China.

On 16 February 1997 she sadly passed away at her home in New York, at the age of 84. Her ashes were buried in a courtyard of the Mingde School in China — the school her father started, and the school she attended as a young girl.

ABOUT THE WRITER

I am Susie C and I am in my third year of school. I love sports like netball, swimming and hockey. Additionally, I also love acting, reading, writing and listening to music in my free time. I am the eldest child in my family, with two siblings.

STEREOTYPE-BREAKERS · ADMIRAL KEUMALAHAYATI, 1550 TO 1615

Admiral *Keumalahayati*

Recognised by many as the first female admiral in modern history: the commander who raised the Inong Balee, an army of widowed Aceh women, held off two European fleets, and led her country's negotiations with the envoy of Elizabeth I.

BY ANYA B · Stereotype-Breakers, the history column

If you live or have lived in Indonesia, perhaps this name is familiar to you; but if you have never heard the name before, Keumalahayati (also known as Malahayati) was an admiral in the navy of the Aceh Sultanate, located in the modern-day Aceh Province in Indonesia. She is recognised by many to be the first female admiral in modern history, and in Indonesia she is regarded as a national hero.

THE INONG BALEE

Keumalahayati was born to Admiral Machmud Syah in the year 1550. She studied at the Aceh Royal Military School and became well versed in the art of war and strategy. She was bestowed the position of Admiral by the Sultan of the time, and subsequently asked permission to create an all-female army, which she was also granted to do. Initially the troop consisted of around 1,000 Aceh women who had been widowed by external conflicts and who wished to have revenge for their fallen husbands. Keumalahayati created this troop as she herself was widowed by war and wished to have her vengeance. This army was known as the "Inong Balee", its namesake a reference to the Inong Balee Fortress near the city of Banda Aceh. Later the army grew from approximately 1,000 to around 2,000, as women who simply wished to fight were also permitted to join.

GUARDIANS OF THE ACEH SULTANATE

Keumalahayati showed her capability and prowess as a leader in multiple conflicts, serving her country and her people valiantly. The first major conflict she took part in was in 1599, when some Dutch — who were initially welcomed by the Aceh warmly, in hopes of strengthening relations and trade with the Netherlands — attacked. Keumalahayati and her Inong Balee army quickly came into action and defended their homeland, and after a series of violent battles she and her soldiers came out victorious. After a few more victories, another notable win being yet again against the Dutch, Keumalahayati and her army gained the reputation of being the guardians of the Aceh Sultanate.

This very reputation is what led the British, ruled by Queen Elizabeth I at the time, to approach with diplomacy in mind and not war. The Queen sent James Lancaster as her negotiator. It was Keumalahayati herself who led the negotiations on the Aceh side, leading to a peaceful agreement being created.

A DEATH TRUE TO HER PRINCIPLES

Unfortunately, Admiral Keumalahayati, like every other mortal, had to eventually embrace

the void of death, but she did it in a way that was true to her principles. She died in battle at the age of 65, dying while defending her people against the Portuguese fleet. Her death was not in vain, though, as the fleet was warded off.

Admiral Keumalahayati left behind a legacy, one of determination and strength, one that would empower her people and lead to her being later awarded the title of 'National Hero of Indonesia' in 2017, showing how her story remained prominent even hundreds of years later. Keumalahayati is a spectacular example of unyielding even in the face of adversity and conflict.

ABOUT THE WRITER

Hello, my name is Anya B, and I'm an avid collector of fossils and such. I also adore writing and art in every form, and have dedicated an obscene number of notebooks to my writing and drawings.

A Closing Note, and Who Made This

This is the end of the first issue, and the first issue is the founding one, so it is small on purpose. One feature drawn from a real podcast interview, five history-column entries, and a founder's note, written by the founding contributors. If it feels like a beginning rather than a finished thing, good. That is the honest size of where we are.

Narratives Unseen is a non-profit digital magazine and global youth initiative. We are building a global, volunteer-run collective of passionate teenage writers, peer reviewers, artists, and creators, and because we are in our pre-launch phase, everyone who joins the collective right now has the unique opportunity to shape this movement as we grow.

If you read this and thought you could write one of these, you are exactly who the next issue is for. You do not need to have published before. You need a story the usual coverage keeps at the edge, and the patience to be peer reviewed to a real standard. Write to the editor at the address in the colophon, and tell us what you would write first.

COLOPHON · ISSUE 01

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CADENCE

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