



## Ernest Rutherford

A CONSUMMATE EXPERIMENTALIST, ERNEST RUTHERFORD (1871–1937) WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR A REMARKABLE SERIES OF DISCOVERIES IN THE FIELDS OF RADIOACTIVITY AND NUCLEAR PHYSICS. HE DISCOVERED ALPHA AND BETA RAYS, SET FORTH THE LAWS OF RADIOACTIVE DECAY, AND IDENTIFIED ALPHA PARTICLES AS HELIUM NUCLEI. MOST IMPORTANT, HE POSTULATED THE NUCLEAR STRUCTURE OF THE ATOM: EXPERIMENTS DONE IN RUTHERFORD'S LABORATORY SHOWED THAT WHEN ALPHA PARTICLES ARE FIRED INTO GAS ATOMS, A FEW ARE VIOLENTLY DEFLECTED, WHICH IMPLIES A DENSE, POSITIVELY CHARGED CENTRAL REGION CONTAINING MOST OF THE ATOMIC MASS.



# KATHERINE MANSFIELD

KATHERINE MANSFIELD WAS BORN ON OCTOBER 14, 1888, IN WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND. AFTER MOVING TO ENGLAND AT AGE 19, MANSFIELD SECURED HER REPUTATION AS A WRITER WITH THE STORY COLLECTION *BLISS* (1920). SHE REACHED THE HEIGHT OF HER POWERS WITH HER 1922 COLLECTION *THE GARDEN PARTY*. HER LAST FIVE YEARS WERE SHADOWED BY TUBERCULOSIS; SHE DIED FROM THE DISEASE ON JANUARY 9, 1923, AT THE AGE OF 34.

# Kiri Te Kanawa

Kiri Te Kanawa gained legendary status almost overnight after her sensational debut as the Countess in *Le Nozze di Figaro* at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden in 1971. From then, she moved rapidly into the front rank of international opera, and has become one of the most famous sopranos in the world. At the time of her operatic debut she was already an experienced concert and recording artist, and equally at home in front of the cameras as on stage. Continuing to develop as a recitalist, she is now a much sought-after singer in a wide variety of musical contexts. In the genre of opera, Kiri Te Kanawa is a familiar figure in the leading opera houses of the world - Covent Garden, the Metropolitan, the Chicago Lyric Opera, Paris Opera, Sydney Opera House, the Vienna State, La Scala, San Francisco, Munich and Cologne. Her lyric soprano heroines include the three major leading roles by Richard Strauss (*Arabella*, *The Marschallin*, and the Countess in *Capriccio*); Mozart's *Fiordiligi*, *Donna Elvira*, *Pamina* and, of course, the Countess *Almaviva*; Verdi's *Violetta*, *Amelia*, *Boccanegra*, *Desdemona*; Puccini's *Tosca*, *Mimi* and *Manon Lescaut*; Johann Strauss' *Rosalinde*, and Tchaikovsky's



# JEAN GARDNER BATTEN

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Jean Gardner Batten, a strikingly beautiful New Zealand woman, became one of the world's most popular and famous pilots when she established several individual flight distance records in the 1930s. Some of her marks would stand for almost half a century, while others she would better on her own. Batten was extremely close to her mother and thrived on parental attention. She also liked the international acclaim she received. Regardless of her public image, however, Batten possessed some dark qualities. Sometimes she used her feminine charms to manipulate men into providing her with the means to achieve her record-setting goals. She was also very eccentric and reclusive, which when coupled with her glamour and fame, was why Ian Mackersey, Batten's leading biographer, dubbed Batten "The Garbo of the Skies."

# COLIN MURDOCH

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Colin Murdoch is an understated New Zealander with the ability to see possible solutions rather than insurmountable problems. He can claim to have revolutionised medical and veterinary science. It was Murdoch's incredible creative and scientific mental dexterity combined with New Zealand's post-War environment that led to his amazing list of achievements. It was an environment with few traditions, boundaries or regulations; an environment where innovation and creativity were necessary to combat the closed post-War economy and harsh natural conditions.

