

Nestlé

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The amazing double life of Enriqueta Favez

For people in 19th century Baracoa, Cuba, their Swiss doctor was a highly respected figure. Imagine their shock when "he" was scandalously revealed to be a "she".

Enriqueta Favez practised medicine and even served in Napoleon's army before her true identity was discovered. Her extraordinary story has been documented in a book entitled "For Dressing Like a Man" (Por andar vestida de hombre). The book was written by Cuban historian Julio Cesar González Pagés, and supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). It involved around ten years of research and there are moves to make it into a film.

It's about this Swiss lady who turned into a man to become a doctor because women were not allowed to study medicine. Not much is known about Enriqueta's beginnings, other than that she was born into a bourgeois family in Lausanne in around 1791. At 15 she married a French soldier who served in Napoleon's army. Enriqueta was widowed three years later and lost her baby daughter. How and why she came to study medicine in Paris remains a mystery.

Once qualified, she worked as a military surgeon at the height of the Napoleonic wars. She was eventually captured in Spain by Wellington's troops. Enriqueta ended up in Baracoa in eastern Cuba. A city plagued by pirates and sweltering under a tropical climate, it was not the easiest of postings.

As Dr Enrique Favez, she soon built up a list of clients, which included the poor, whom she also taught to read and write. It was in Baracoa that she fell in love and married a local girl, Juana de León.

Juana knew about Enriqueta's real sexual identity... But we don't know whether it was a conscious relationship between two Lesbian women or whether it was just an arrangement where Juana, a poor Cuban woman, was financially supported.

At some point after her marriage, people became suspicious about their doctor's real identity. Eventually she was arrested. Catholic bourgeois society was scandalised and at her trial, Enriqueta faced the full wrath of the male ruling elite.

At first she insisted on her male identity. But after a degrading physical examination and evidence from Juana, Enriqueta was forced to admit the truth. She was sent to prison in Havana, before being sent to live with relatives in New Orleans, in the United States, aged 33. On Enriqueta's arrival in the US, her relatives, protective of the family name, swore her to secrecy and packed her off to a nunnery. As Sister Magdalena she continued to offer her medical services to the poor and eventually became a missionary in Mexico. Enriqueta died in 1856, aged 65.

from swissinfo

Nestlé

Today, Nestlé S.A. is one of the largest food and nutrition companies in the world, founded and headquartered in Vevey. Here is how it all began:

In September 1867 Henri Nestlé developed a milk based baby food and began marketing it. And from the following year onwards, Daniel Peter began seven years of perfecting his invention, the milk chocolate. Henri Nestlé was crucial in solving the problem of removing all the water from the milk added to Peter's chocolate.



Henri Nestlé retired in 1875, but his business retained his name. By the early 1900s, the company was operating factories in the United States, United Kingdom, Germany and Spain. World War I created new demand for dairy products in the form of government contracts; by the end of the war, Nestlé's production had more than doubled.

After the war, government contracts dried up and consumers switched back to fresh milk. The 1920s saw Nestlé's first expansion into new products, with chocolate the company's second most important activity.

Nestlé felt the effects of World War II immediately. Profits dropped from US\$20 million in 1938 to US\$6 million in 1939. But later on, the war boosted Nestlé's profits: Nescafé ("Nestlé's Coffee"), became a staple drink of the US military.

The end of World War II was the beginning of a dynamic phase for Nestlé. Growth accelerated and companies were acquired: Maggi in 1947, Crosse & Blackwell in 1950, followed by Findus, Libby's and Stouffer's.

In 1984, Nestlé acquired American food giant Carnation, and the British confectionery company Rowntree Mackintosh in 1988. Further acquisitions followed, including San Pellegrino (1997), Spillers Pet foods (1998), Ralston Purina and Chef America (2002). Another recent purchase included the Jenny Craig weight loss program for US\$600 million.

In December 2005, Nestlé bought huge ice cream producers, thus becoming the world's biggest ice cream maker with a 17.5% market share.

Nestlé has 6,000 brands, with a wide range of products across a number of markets including coffee, bottled water, other beverages, chocolate, ice cream, infant foods, performance and healthcare nutrition, seasonings, frozen and refrigerated foods, confectionery and pet food.

In 2009, consolidated sales were CHF 107.6 billion and net profit was CHF 10.43 billion. Research and development investment was CHF 2.02 billion. The company operates in 86 countries and employs 283,000 people.

from the internet