

HUMOUR VERSUS DOMINATION – MECHTILDE LICHNOWSKY, A FEMALE KNIGHT AGAINST WINDMILLS?

Anne Martina Emonts

University of Madeira, Portugal , ame@uma.pt [ORCID: 0000-0002-1163-4653](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1163-4653)

Abstract:

There is nothing more serious than speaking about humour. Different senses of humour have separated cultures, for example the cultures of women and men, depending on the Erkenntnisinteresse of a specific research area. However, a common sense of humour has also unified people.

Humour in the forms of satire and caricature, has always been the strongest weapon to attack power. Mechtilde Lichnowsky (1897-1958), a multi-talented and intercultural character, aristocrat and enemy of any kind of domination, was a public figure and a well-known writer on the eve of World Wars I and II. Despite her importance, she has been overlooked in the literary canon because she used humour as a weapon in such a form, at that time considered inappropriate for an aristocratic Lady.

In my brief paper, I shall present a relevant œuvre in the European cultural context which has divided but also unified opinions.

Keywords: *Power; Gender; Humour; Satire; Caricature; Interculturalism.*