LIMERICKS ABOUT WOMEN MATHEMATICIANS

M. E. Rudin has been quite a wonder.
With kids sprawling over and under
she churned out each theorem
true as truth serum
and hefty and mighty as thunder.

(Alice Turner Shafer)
From the library she was forbidden.
Did that deter her? It didn't.
From her Ph.D. gem
to AWM
and many things intermittent.

(Elizabeth L. Scott)
From the telescope she was barred.
Did that stop her work? Well, hard-
ly. She worked on topics
like spectroscopics
did joint work with Ferber and Billard.

(Ruth Aaronson Bari)
At the end of World War II
the women at John Hopkins U.
were asked to give up
-- and her mouth said yup –
but her heart said nope through and through.

(JoAnne Growney)
She retired from Bloomsbury U.
and then found more things to do
like run her blog
and go to Prague
write cento, squares, and haiku.

(Sarah Glaz)
Only a cool math lunatic
would work on rings non-commutative.
But Sarah does great.
There's a lot on her plate
and she finds it extremely nutritive.

(me, Marion Deutsche Cohen)
Her thesis on otm and potm
would not fit in Wesleyan's modem.
But in the courts
of cool Laurent Schwartz
it fit just fine, and that showed 'em.

For Italian Maria Agnesi.
math was smooth and easy.
But her interest lay more
in helping the poor.
A genuine Mother Theres-y.

(Alexandra Bellow)
She worked on theory ergodic.
Her work was cool and exotic.
She spent each s'mester in
U., Northwestern
except for breaks periodic.

(Anna Julia Haywood Cooper)
Born of a slave and her master --
But her life was far from disaster.
By age ten her plan
she quickly began
soon proceeded even faster.

(Elizabeth Street Dickerman)
She became the second female
with a math PhD from Yale.
Not your typical co-ed
she was also a poet.
You can google for more detail.

(Jacqueline Ferrand)
I am very happy to say
that her work impressed Dieudonne.
She invented, with gumption
the preholomorphic function
and she's still alive today.

(Ruth Gonzalez)
The first of U.S.-born Hispanics
with a Ph.D. in mechanics,
her parents were Mex'can
and she works for Exxon.
When she works she seldom panics.

(Goldie Printis Horton)
She used her y's and her x's
for her doct'rate at U. of Texas.
"Lim. Variation",
her thesis' foundation,
has proven immensely infectious.

(Svetlana Jitomirskaya)
Her father and also her mother
both her and her younger brother
were mathematicians
fulfilling their missions.
Will her three children be three others?

(Carol Karp)
She toured as a violinist.
(She could be in the Book of McGinnis.)
She died in anguish
'cause her book on language
of infinite length was unfinished.

(Marguerite Lehr)
Her "University on the Air"
had an interesting syllabus to share
used remarks by children
which some find bewilderin'
"to illuminate… surprise…" and snare.

(Anna Margaret Mullikin)
In '22 Mullikin's Nautilis,
became a far-reaching catalyst.
Yes, her three-segment arcs
set off a few sparks
all over our spacious Atlas.

(Hanna Neumann)
She, due to the housing failure
wrote her doctoral in a trailer.
By the light of a candle
she was able to handle
Subgroup Structure with courage and valor.

(Gloria Olive)
She was "unmistakable on her bike"
did the kind of math I like
and yoga and veggie
her disposition edgy --
She could have majored in psych.

(Raman Parimala)
She pulled a coup de grace
with a nontrivial quadratic space
o'er a plane affine.
She was out of line
and she did it with honor and grace.

(Raman Parimala again)
Counterexamples, conjectures
and plenary speaker lectures
have been her wont.
But she's non-chalant
and regal as architecture.

(Marina Ratner)
Her thesis on flows geodesic
suffices to give us the message.
It foretells how she scored
the John Carty Award
also her other successes.

(Mildred Leonora Sanderson)
She was mentioned by E. T. Bell
(and he mentions her very well).
Quickly wrote her Master's
and doctoral e'en faster
but died fast, too, sad to tell.

(Theano)
Pythagorus' wife Theano
had two daughters, one named Damo.
When he died she kept cool
and continued his school
 -- but that ain't necessarily so.

(Grace Awani Alele-Williams)
Nigeria's debutante
as a female Ph.D. savant
was, in fact, quite versed
in being the first --
and she found it cold in Vermont.

(Roxanna Hayward Vivian)
The first woman Ph.D.
from prestigious U. of P.
wrote her thesis (correct)
about poles with respect
to curves of the nth degree.

(Nina Eraltseva)
She worked in PDE's
and she got two Ph.D's.
Her honors, assorted
got her awarded
Ph.D. Number 3.

(Dusa McDuff)
In the life of Dusa McDuff
being a woman math-er was tough.
But the feminist movement
produced much improvement
although, she says, not yet enough.

(Bonnie Gold)
The latest Louise Hay recipient
she could, if she wanted, be flippant.
Her service to teaching
has been quite far-reaching
and to math philosophy zippin'.

(Pat Kenshaft)
She's teaches math at Montclair
and has done much else while there.
Her writings on women in
math make her eminent.
She has helped change unfair to fair.

(Pat Kenshaft, II)
She is host of a show, Math Medley.
Accomplishments come by her readily.
Her garden, her brother
one book after another
and she keeps it all up steadily.

(Roberta Small Wenocur)
I just googled my old friend Roberta.
She's someone whom you might o' heard o'
for her work scholastic
on processes stochastic.
I found something disconcerting:

(Roberta Small Wenocur, II)
"Shiva, obituary" –
that was sudden, and scary.
In its truth and coherence
life is a theorem.
She's now proved the corollary.