

Short Biography Elizabeth Main (1861-1934)

- 1861 Elizabeth Alice Frances Hawkins-Whitshed is born in London. Her father, Sir St. Vincent Hawkins-Whitshed, 3rd Baron of Killimcarrick, dies early. Elizabeth is raised and educated by her mother, daughter of Reverend Sir J. Handcock, and a nanny, which she later describes as a handicap. She spends most of her childhood and teen-age years at Killimcarrick House, Greystones, C. Wicklow in Ireland.
- 1878 Introduced to London society.
- 1879 Marries Captain Fred Burnaby. Considerably older than his bride, he has made a name for himself as an adventurer and seasoned soldier.
- 1880 Birth of a son, Arthur St. Vincent.
- c. 1882 Elizabeth Burnaby is sent to Switzerland by her doctor because of her health. She stays in Interlaken at first. The following winter, from Chamonix, she climbs the Mont Blanc and other peaks.
- 1884 From this year onwards, regular visits to St. Moritz, staying at Hotel Kulm. In winter, failed attempt at a first ascent of Piz Roseg.
- 1885 Captain Fred Burnaby falls in battle on January 17 in Abu Klea in the Sudan.
- after 1885 She lives in the Engadine most of the time. She donates prints of her photographs as prizes for sports competitions. She establishes the St. Moritz Charity Fund, financed in part through the sales of her photographs.
- 1886 Marries Dr. sc. J.F. Main, a natural scientist.
- Between 1889-1891 Several first ascents in winter, e.g. in the Bernina region (eastern peak of Piz Palü; Disgrazia). She causes a stir by undertaking climbs with a party of women and no guide.
- 1892 Death of her husband, Dr. sc J.F. Main.
- 1897 She meets Giovanni Segantini in Promontogno, where she has been sent by the Chamber of Commerce to seek his agreement to paint the Engadine Panorama (World Fair 1900). He accompanies her to the Upper Engadine, where she photographs him on the black ice of Lake Silser.
- 1900 Marries Francis Bernard Aubrey Le Blond. Le Blond is an enthusiastic collector of china. Elizabeth travels through Asia with him. On departing from the Engadine, she leaves a suitcase behind at Hotel Kulm in St. Moritz, containing several hundred prints. In 1999, these prints are transferred to the Cultural Archive of the Upper Engadine in Samedan.
- 1907 Elizabeth Le Blond founds the Ladies Alpine Club, over which she presides until 1934.
- 1928 Publishes her autobiography, *Day in, Day out*.
- 1934 Elizabeth Aubrey Le Blond dies at the age of 73.