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Source: M.S. "Ida Friedrike [sic] Coudenhove (Mrs. Carl Görres) 1901-,"
Catholic Authors, Contemporary Biographical Sketches, 1930-1947, Matthew Hoehn,
OSB, ed. Newark: St. Mary's Abbey, 1948, 166-168. Archive.org.

Ida Friedrike [sic] Coudenhove (Mrs. Carl Görres) 1901-

In the last decade, translations have appeared from the distinguished German of Ida Coudenhove and have won acclaim. She began writing when very young. She intended to enter the convent but was convinced by Father Peter Stone, S.J. that she could do better work for the Church by her writings. Her book *The Cloister and the World* emphasizes a single perfection for all Christians. It points out that Joan of Arc gained her sanctity by the very secular job of routing the English and restoring order in France. Ida Coudenhove believes that the vocation to holiness in the world is not only real, but common rather than exceptional. If the laity are to be enticed into trying to be saints, the humanness of the <166> saints must be stressed. Modern hagiography is beginning to do this and a notable example is the discussion of Elizabeth of Hungary's humaneness in *The Nature of Sanctity*. "We are not human enough to be saints," declares the author.

Ida Coudenhove was educated first in the College of the Sacred Heart in Pressbaum near Vienna, then in the Lyceum of the Loretto nuns in St. Pölten, Austria. When 20 years old, she entered the novitiate there but the Lord had other plans about her vocation so she left the convent in 1925. In her book *Mary Ward, an Historical Romance*, about the saintly though not canonized foundress of that congregation, she says: "I have tried to acknowledge something of the deep and, I trust, undying gratitude to the spirit of the House." She intended *Mary Ward* "to revive the memory of one of the most extraordinary women of the seventeenth century, indeed perhaps of the whole history of religious orders, and to re-tell, in a reliable, if romantic tale, the wonderful and enthralling adventure of her strangely tragic life."

About 1925 she joined the then authentic German Youth Movement in its Catholic League, called Neuland in Austria. In Germany, she worked for many years as one of the leaders of the girls. She believes this Catholic movement is "*the* origin of the religious revival in Germany and Austria."

From 1925 to 1932 she trained for social work in the Caritas College for Social Work in Freiburg, Breisgau and studied sociology and history at the Universities of Vienna and Freiburg. She broke off her studies to take the post of Secretary for Catholic girls work in the Diaspora — Diocese of Meissen. After three years she married Carl Josef Görres. They have no children.

She was born on December 2, 1901 in Ronsperg in Bohemia. Count Heinrich J. M. von Coudenhove-Kalergi was the author's father. While engaged in diplomatic work for his government, he married a Japanese, Mitsu Aoyama. When the Countess was baptized she took the name Maria Thecla. Count Richard Nicolaus von Coudenhove-Kalergi is Ida Coudenhove's brother. He is president of the Pan-European Union and author of *Europe Must Unite* (1940); *Pan Europe* prefaced by Nicholas Murray Butler (1926); *The Totalitarian State Against Man*; *Crusade For the Future* (1943), and other works.

Ida Coudenhove is the author of *The Nature of Sanctity* (1933); *Burden of Belief* (1934); *The Cloister and the World* (1935); *Mary Ward* (1939). Other books are *Zwei deutsche Heilige*, a contribution to the very lively debate in the first years of the Nazi regime about "nordic spirit and Christianity." It is a sketch of the Blessed Henry Suso, O.P., the great German mystic of the 14th century and St. Radegund, German princess, prisoner of war of the Merovingian King Chlothar. In 1940 she wrote *Des Andern Last, ein Gespräch über die Barmherzigkeit* a vindication of Christ's charity, alms, works of mercy, etc., against the claim of the totalitarian state of having rendered all that kind of thing obsolete and superfluous. In 1942 she wrote a rather bulky book *Das Verborgene Antlitz* about St. Therese of Lisieux. It is considered to be her best work. <167> The first edition was totally destroyed by an air raid on Freiburg in the autumn of 1942. It has been republished since 1945.

During the last three or four years of the war her books were not allowed to be sold in Germany. They could be exported. T. S. Eliot's play "Murder in the Cathedral" was translated by her into German verse and awaits publication.

M.S.

<168>

Note: The author is listed only by the initials "M.S." In the Preface to this book, one reads, "The editor wrote up more than two hundred of the biographies and is indebted to the following contributors for the sketch or sketches they have written for this book ..."; in this list of contributors, one has the initials "M.S.," namely "Mary Armstrong Sullivan."¹ It is possible she was the author of this entry, though without confirmation – for example, from archives related to this book – there is no way to know for sure. *Jennifer Bryson*

¹ Matthew Hoehn, OSB, ed. *Catholic Authors, Contemporary Biographical Sketches, 1930-1947*. Newark: St. Mary's Abbey, 1948, v. Archive.org.