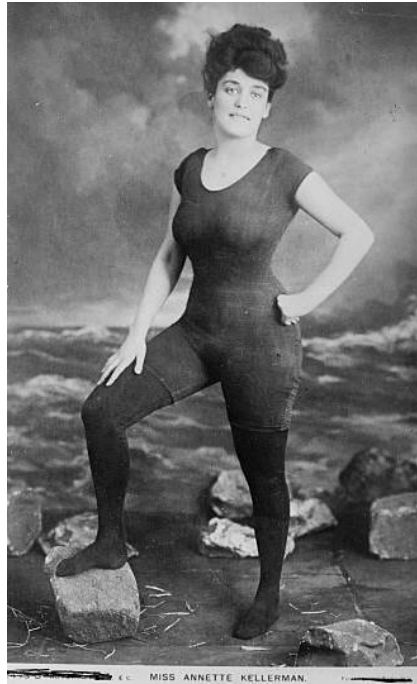




Annette Kellerman, Honor Swimmer, Australia, 1965



Personal Website (None known)

Annette Kellerman was the first woman to attempt to swim the English Channel in 1905 but failed on three occasions. She won numerous swimming titles in the Thames, the Danube, Boston Harbor and the Seine River between 1905 and 1907 and became one of the pivotal figures in the history of swimming because she was instrumental in the evolution of women's swimwear and famous for her advocacy of the right of women to wear a one-piece bathing suit, which was a controversial topic in the early 20th century. Her life story inspired the MGM classic Million Dollar Mermaid starring her heir apparent Esther Williams. She was also inducted in the International Swimming Hall of Fame (1974) and received the Buck Dawson Authors Award - Honorable Mention.

[Expanded Biography \(Openwaterpedia\)](#)

[Long Swims Database \(Marathon Swimmers Federation\)](#)