

Prolific Romantic Authors

- Barbara Cartland is regarded as the world's most prolific author with over 700 titles. She wrote 550 + of those after leaving the Romantic Novelists' Association in 1965 – in protest against the word 'Romantic' in its title.
- Ethel M Dell, the most successful romantic novelist between the Wars (she attracted George Orwell's ire and in part inspired the immortal Rosie M Banks), wrote 33 books between 1911 and 1939. Her dust jackets said, 'When Mrs Dell speaks, an Empire listens.'
- Harlequin Mills & Boon can ask popular authors for four titles a year and to mark their milestone books – 25, 50, 75, 100 – the publishers present the writers with a commemorative pin.
- In the Sixties, both Anne Worboys (Ward Lock) and Ida Pollock (writing as Pamela Kent for Mills & Boon) took new pen names and additional publishers when their existing publishers couldn't keep up with them.
- Founding member and eventual centenarian Berta Ruck wrote more than 100 novels before she died. Born in Muree, India, in 1878, where her father was a Colonel, she clearly had a racy time at art school in Edwardian London and Paris and drew on those experiences for many of her novels.
- Brenda Jagger wrote 12 books in six years – but these were a couple of hundred thousand words a throw. Her penultimate title, *A Song Twice Over*, was the heaviest Romantic Novel of the Year we have ever had (well over a kilo). Sadly, the prize was posthumous, but she did know that she had won before she died.
- Anne Weale wrote 88 novels, mostly for Harlequin Mills & Boon but including three mainstream novels about a family, which she called her Longwarden saga. When she died she was working on her autobiography *88 Heroes .. and one Mr Right*.
- Penny Jordan, an international star at Harlequin Mills & Boon for nearly three decades and 170-ish books, also writes 20th-century historicals for Harper Collins as Annie Groves (12 so far) and is now on the third of her big new *Silk* trilogy for Harper Collins Avon, as Penny Jordan.
- Dilly Court has been writing at the rate of two to three novels a year since her first, *Mermaids Singing*, was published by Arrow Books in 2005