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## FROM THE EDITORS -

[Editors' note: Cathy Loeb left the Women's Studies Librarian's staff in February. She'd been with the office since its founding, and we miss her greatly. She reflects below on her experiences.]

I came to Madison in the fall of 1977, fresh from three years as a graduate student at Cornell University -- ostensibly in sociology, but more accurately in women's studies. I was still hard at work on my (soon-to-be-abandoned) doctoral dissertation, and so I needed to find some part-time employment. As I had supported myself through my undergraduate and graduate years by working in libraries, I turned first to the UW Memorial Library.

There I was mistakenly directed to file an application for student employment -- I say mistakenly because I was not then a student at the UW-Madison, nor had I any intentions of becoming one. However, before the error was discovered, my application had found its way into the hands of Esther Stineman, the first Women's Studies Librarian, herself recently appointed. Presumably impressed by my library credentials (for that was all I had listed on the application), she wrote to offer me an interview.

I don't know which of us was more surprised when in the first minutes of the interview we discovered the serendipity of our encounter. It turned out that Esther was looking for someone to assist in the researching and writing of a comprehensive, annotated bibliography of the field of women's studies. My interview for what I had thought would be a routine library job was concluded rapidly. I was hired, and when the computer subsequently spit me out as a non-student, Esther finagled a limited-term appointment to keep me on. The moral of the story, for all the What-Color-Is-Your-Parachuters among us, may be that rational planning isn't everything when it comes to finding the right opportunity!

Nine years have passed, and my tenure in the office of the Women's Studies Librarian recently came to an end. In February I started a new full-time job as a book editor with the State Bar of Wisconsin. The decision to leave didn't come easily. My years as staff editor and writer in the Women's Studies Librarian's office had given me the opportunity to develop innovative programs in my field, to launch new publications, to research topics dear to my heart, and to enjoy exceptionally satisfying working relationships, both with office staff and with the scores of talented writers who contributed to Feminist Collections. I was particularly gratified, during my last two years in the position, to be able to renew my collaboration with Esther Stineman to produce, together with current Women's Studies Librarian Susan Searing, a five-year supplement to Women's Studies: A Recommended Core Bibliography -- thus coming full circle.

Yet the job also altered the shape of my career aspirations. At some point I realized I had come to view myself as an editor and writer with a subject specialization in women's studies, rather than as a women's studies specialist working as an editor and writer.

It is a rare privilege to be in a position to make feminism the substance of one's work -- a privilege I already miss. Anticipating the transition, I often caught myself mulling over a long list of feminist periodicals, trying to decide which I absolutely had to subscribe to, wondering how I would weather withdrawal from the wealth of resources I've long had at my fingertips.

Of course, Feminist Collections has an assured place on my want-list. I am pleased to have passed on my editorial responsibilities to my colleague Linda Shult, who joins Susan Searing in shepherding the quarterly into its eighth year. I look forward to watching FC's growth and evolution now that I've joined the ranks of its subscribers!

-- CL

### FEMINIST VISIONS.

#### "TALKING STORY": AN INNOVATIVE MODEL FOR FEMINIST FILM FESTIVALS

The Women's Movement has given film a special role in consciousness-raising, in change strategies, and in feminist cultural events. In these contexts, feminist audiences have seldom viewed films as closed and unquestioned statements to define or entertain. Rather, films serve to suggest initial namings and imagings of thoughts, feelings, and desires. Screening audiences often go on to question and sometimes suggest alternatives to the film version of "reality," "pleasure," or so-called "feminist" understanding of events and situations.

The Pacific and Asian Women's Alliance of Madison has put together an innovative film festival that uses film in all of these ways, and more. Held April 2-4, 1987 at UW-Madison, their event\_is called "Talking Story: Images of Asian-American Women in Literature and Film." The thoughtful planning behind this event encourages film viewing with a shared purpose -- to consider how media and literary images assist in the creation and promotion of identity for all women, specifically for Pacific and Asian women. The Alliance's clearly stated theme is supported by careful selection of films and by the appearance of authors and filmmakers who relate their work to the festival's concerns. While the success of "Talking Story" as an event depends on many things, its strength as a model lies in a clear definition of its theme and perspective, and in the quality of its films and speakers.

The broad goal of the festival is to encourage discussion of the complex social-political dynamics behind the film and literary images of Asian-American women in our society. The theme of the event focuses that goal toward a manageable way of thinking through such complexity. "Talking story" is taken from Maxine Hong Kingston's book The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts, which tells of a young girl attempting to bridge the gap among diverse, and often conflicting, cultures, generations, and genders. Her mother tells stories of the past and present, mixing the truths and myths by which she tries to navigate her own life. As mother and daughter talk to each other, they struggle to reassess and articulate an identity of self that is rooted in both old and new homes and societies.

In their proposal for the film festival, the sponsors state that "talking is a way to order and fight symbolic and real 'ghosts,' a way of reclaiming through language and image the cultural processes of achieving our own identities and sanity.... To articulate, then, is to have a form of power, to communicate with a sisterhood of story-tellers and talkers, who can explore the spectrum of topics: sex, social/political criticism, creativity, subversion, survival, risk-taking, myth-making, and loving." Flowing from that idea, the film festival was planned as an occasion to extend the "talking" of Kingston's characters into the diverse communities of the festival-goers.

Planners further defined the focus of the festival by suggesting four major areas of discussion: 1) family relationships, particularly intergenerational and mother-daughter interactions; 2) women at work, centering on the experiences of Asian-American women in traditional and nontraditional careers; 3) art and politics, focusing on ways of preserving cultural legacies and of forging new patterns for living and creating images of women; and 4) experiences of unity and conflict for Asian Americans in a multi-racial landscape.

The complex yet clearly-defined perspective of the event makes room for a variety of audiences and approaches, a multi-leveled approach echoed in the structure of the event itself. Speakers present viewpoints on literature and filmmaking that set the context for the film viewing to follow, while several prominent writers and filmmakers offer discussion about the intersection of literary and media images of Asian-American women. Presenters include keynote speaker Maxine Hong Kingston, who is currently working on the film of her book The Woman Warrior; poet, writer, and activist Nellie Wong; film and video artist Christine Choy; and Loni Ding, producer of a film series on "Asian-American Women at Work" and co-founder of the National Asian American Telecommunications Association. Films were chosen to reflect, extend, and comment on the themes suggested by each speaker. Selections are also meant to "showcase the quality alternatives produced in the United States by Asian-American media artists," and to "provide for images other than that of the retiring lotus blossom or fiery dragon lady." The result is a three-day festival of intensive viewing, discussion, and lectures.

Anticipating a diverse audience drawn from both the community and the University, festival planners sought funding from University, private and government sources. An event of this scope required a budget of about \$10,000, allowing planners to invite nationally-known speakers, to program approximately 12 films, and to publicize the event adequately. However, innovative programming of films around speakers, discussions, and other cultural expressions can be successful on any scale. Careful planning and structuring of film events to identify themes and guide purposeful viewing can be key to -- as the Pacific and Asian Women's Alliance of Madison states -- "exercising and enriching our thinking and living patterns in a diverse community."

The list of films selected for the festival is itself a rich resource for groups interested in issues of concern to Asian-American women. They include:

#### FILMS

Community Plot. J. T. Takagi. 1983. Narrative. 16mm. video. 20 min. color. English. Third World Newsreel.

Tenants of a New York Lower East Side tenement go into an uproar when faced with the accidental death of a social worker in their building. But they soon shelve their differences and learn to work together.

The Departure. Emiko Omori. 1983. Narrative. 16mm. 14 min. color. English. Cinelight.

A Japanese American family in California during the Depression must sell a set of handcrafted dolls traditionally passed from mother to daughter. The story, related by the daughter, tells of the emotional effect of this break in tradition with the family.

Gold Mountain Heroes. BBC Writers and Places Series. 1982. Documentary. video. 35 min. English.

A documentary about novelist Maxine Hong Kingston, exploring her family background and early life in Stockton, California.

Great Branches, New Roots: The Hmong Family. Rita LaDoux. 1983.

Documentary. 16mm. video. 42 min. color. Hmong/English. Hmong Film Project.

A Vietnamese Hmong family struggles to survive in St. Paul, Minnesota, dealing with such problems as lack of education, underemployment, shifting traditions and changing cultural roles. St. Paul is the site of one of the largest Hmong communities in the U.S.

Jazz is My Native Language: A Portrait of Toshiko Akiyoshi. Renee Cho. 1983.

Documentary. 16mm. 59 min. color. English. Renee Cho.

A Japanese-born jazz pianist and composer is featured in this musical portrait of Toshiko Akiyoshi, who leads her own 16-piece all-male Big Band. The film explores Akiyoshi's unique position in the music world and the difficulties she has had to overcome.

Made in China. Lisa Hsia. 1986. Narrative. 16mm. 30 min. color. English. Filmmakers Library, Inc.

A personal film about a Chinese American's often humorous search for identity. Combining animation, home movies and live action footage, the filmmaker reflects on her cultural past while relating her adventures living with relatives in the People's Republic of China.

Mississippi Triangle. Christine Choy. 1983. Documentary. 16mm. 110 min. color. English. Third World Newsreel.

Interviews with blacks, Asians, and whites reveal a complex microcosm of racial antagonism, economic competition, and even touches of harmony that has marked the 100-year history of Chinese in the Mississippi Delta. Co-producers include Worth Long and Allan Seigel.

Mitsuye and Nellie: Asian American Poets. Allie Light. 1981. Documentary. 16mm. video. 58 min. color. English. Light-Saraf Films.

The poetry, ideas, and memories of Mitsuye Yamada and Nellie Wong are juxtaposed with rare newsreels and seldom-seen photos of Asian-American

history. Historical facts provide the background for a film about mothers and daughters, intergenerational conflicts, and stereotypical images.

Permanent Wave. Christine Choy. 1986. Narrative. 16mm. 20 min. color. English. Third World Newsreel.

Choy's latest film is about an Asian woman who faces a rape in a beauty salon by fighting back.

<u>Sewing Woman</u>. Arthur Dong. 1983. Documentary. 16mm. 14 min. B/W. English. Third World Newsreel.

This 1983 Oscar nominee for Best Short Documentary traces Dong's mother from girlhood in war-torn China to picture bride to garment worker in San Francisco's Chinatown. Dong weaves a loving tapestry of his mother's efforts to build a new life in America.

<u>With Silk Wings</u>. Loni Ding. 1982. Documentary. 3/4". 30 min. color. English. Asian Women United.

This series of four half-hour programs entitled Frankly Speaking, On New Ground, 4 Women, and Talking History discusses issues of concern to Asian-American women. 4 Women, featured in the festival, shows professional American women reflecting on their pasts and family histories.

Rental and purchase prices for the films listed above should be requested from their distributors.

#### <u>Distributors</u>:

Asian Women United, 3538 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, CA 94609. British Broadcasting Co., 35 Marylebine High St., London, W1M 4AA, England.
Cinelight, 2051 Third St., San Francisco, CA 94107.
Filmmakers Library, Inc., 133 East 58th St., New York, NY 10022. Hmong Film Project, 2258 Commonwealth Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108. Light-Saraf Films, 264 Arbor St., San Francisco, CA 94131. Renee Cho, 315 Riverside Dr., New York, NY 10025. Third World Newsreel, 335 W. 38th St., New York, NY 10018.

#### -- Elizabeth Ellsworth

[Elizabeth Ellsworth is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, and a member of the Women's Studies Program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She teaches courses in media criticism and critical video production. She has a special interest in the ways that audiences (like the feminist community) resist patriarchal, racist, and classist discourses in dominant media events, and reinterpret those events so that they are useful within the audience's current political struggles.]

#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup>Maxine Hong Kingston, <u>The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts</u>. New York: Knopf, 1976.

## WOMEN'S INFORMATION ONLINE: THE WORK OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH ON WOMEN

This article concludes a two-part series on the information projects of the National Council for Research on Women. In Feminist Collections vol.8, no.2 (Winter 1987), I described at length the thesaurus of indexing terms created by a coalition of scholars, librarians, policymakers, and activists working with the Council. We are pleased to report that we have signed a contract for summer 1987 publication of A Women's Thesaurus with Harper & Row. The book will be available in a hardback edition by August, and we expect an inexpensive paperback edition on the stands within a year of publication.

We anticipate that having a women's indexing language widely available will help other information resources to improve their access to women's materials -- the concepts and terms displayed in the thesaurus should at least make it easier for commercial and academic databases to index more accurately. Part of the ongoing thesaurus project obviously must be astute marketing, encouraging databases as well as other cataloging and indexing systems to make use of more precise terminology. Beyond an impact on existing systems, however, we are also creating our own computerized access to at least some of the materials, programs, and data that are seldom included in currently available databases.

In 1983, building on the work done by the Thesaurus Task Force, those centers, organizations, and librarians involved in or interested in computerizing their resource collections got together under the aegis of the Council and formed the Database Steering Committee to share expertise and to coordinate planning. A primary goal of the Steering Committee has been to make each other's work easier, sharing wherever possible information about funding sources, hardware and software, database record design, strategies for selecting materials to be included, and guidelines for abstracting and indexing.

In addition to these collaborations, however, the committee has also been sketching out a broader project. One vision is a series of specialized clearinghouses, national and international, that would collect and computerize information in key subject areas. Information would be available in a variety of formats: bibliographic citations and abstracts; current data; work-in-progress; directories of centers, programs, projects, and resource persons; and full texts of relevant documents. These regionally developed and maintained databases could then be pooled and made available to broader audiences on disks or on clearinghouse computers accessible locally, regionally, nationally, or internationally.

We have made some progress in laying the groundwork for this kind of coordination. Under a grant from the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education, one of our Council member centers -- the Center for Research on Women at Memphis State University -- has used the thesaurus to index their holdings and now has online over one thousand indexed citations to social science research on women of color and Southern women and over two hundred descriptions of work-in-progress. Memphis State has collaborated with other members of the Database Steering Committee to develop guidelines for indexing and abstracting. Another subcommittee has compiled cost categories,

software requirements, estimates, and questions and strategies that need to be thought through as more centers begin to computerize their resources.

While funding continues to be a major obstacle, several other members of the Steering Committee have in fact raised sufficient funds to begin online projects. Working with the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund's Project on Equal Education Rights (PEER), Higher Education Resource Services (HERS) Mid-America received a major Women's Educational Equity Act grant in 1985 to pull together and computerize information on successful computer equity programs for women and girls. With funding from Apple and the National Endowment for the Arts, the Women's Studio Workshop has put together a coalition of women's art groups around the country to develop a database of women artists. They are also working with a National Endowment for the Humanities-funded project to create an online resource guide and bibliography of women artists in the United States. The Business and Professional Women's Foundation has begun to abstract, index, and enter their library collection online; Stanford University's Center for Research on Women has just begun a project that will collect and computerize resources on family law; and the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund is planning to computerize their public service referral files.

The Steering Committee has also worked with Catalyst -- whose resource collection on women and careers is already online with the Bibliographic Retrieval Service (BRS, a national database vendor) -- and the Women in Development Research and Information Clearinghouse (WIDRIC) at the University of Minnesota, who have been able to put a portion of their collection online as part of the university's Family Resource Services Database, likewise searchable through BRS.

The success of these groups, combined with the rapid advances in technology we are seeing, has encouraged us to pursue our more ambitious collaborative project. With new technology available (CD-ROM, for example, the same technology that now produces compact music disks), equipment will soon be affordable that has the capacity to store and retrieve the equivalent of a twenty-volume encyclopedia on a single self-contained disk. This technology opens up the possibility of sharing database resources with locations around the world for whom the telecommunications costs of accessing a similar system via satellite from a database vendor would be prohibitive.

Monitoring these advances in technology, the Database Steering Committee has begun planning a prototype collaborative database that can be used as a model for marketing clearinghouse resources as they are developed. As we are currently planning it, there will be four types of information available in this prototype database: directories, bibliographic citations and abstracts, summary data, and selected full texts.

Directories include the thesaurus and two other Council projects recently funded by the Skaggs, American Express, and Prudential Foundations: the International Women's Resource Center Directory (a listing of over two hundred resource centers around the world specializing in information by and about women) and an international women's mailing list directory (a "list of lists" of women's organizations, networks, caucuses, and individuals). The Council is also in the process of developing plans for a work-in-progress database that will index research projects and policy issues with background information about project coordinators and researchers, research and policy

implications, and funding sources. Other possible resources include the HERS/PEER directory of computer literacy projects and the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund public service referral files, described above, and several other Council projects in the planning stages: a directory of available online resources for accessing information about women; a current list of women's foundations, and other foundations, corporations, and agencies funding women's projects; and a catalog of Council member center and related organizations' publications.

The prototype database could also include summary data on women in various sectors of the economy, in the international labor force, and in the professions; bibliographic databases like those currently being developed at sites mentioned above; and full texts of resources like federal affirmative action laws and regulations and sample sexual harassment guidelines.

With "feeder" clearinghouses in place in this country and internationally, we would be able to keep up with and disseminate a more representative sample of our work and resources to much broader audiences. Clearly, such plans are ambitious -- and expensive. We need to find new sources of funding, as well as imaginative ways of marketing what we are producing. Our progress to date, however, demonstrates the potential for building an international network of information resources that will serve critical needs of a large, international community of women. We welcome your responses and suggestions. For further information, contact: The National Council for Research on Women, Sara Delano Roosvelt Memorial House, 47-49 East 65th Street, New York, NY 10021; (212) 570-5001.

#### -- Mary Ellen S. Capek

[Mary Ellen S. Capek, Executive Secretary of the National Council for Research on Women, coordinates the Council's Thesaurus Task Force and Database Steering Committee and is editing A Women's Thesaurus. A founding officer of the Council and former Director of Continuing Education at Princeton University, she has been active in building women's research and education networks since the early seventies. She received a Ph.D. in American and English Literature from the University of Wisconsin/Madison and has done research and writing on contemporary women's poetry; linguistics, technology, and writing; and women in higher education administration and governance networks. Portions of this chapter will appear as part of the Introduction to A Women's Thesaurus, copyright by The National Council for Research on Women.]

## NEWS FROM UW-LA CROSSE.

In January, the Institute for Women's Studies which began at UW-La Crosse in 1975 officially became the Department of Women's Studies in the College of Arts, Letters, and Sciences. This feat was accomplished through the hard work of former directors Judith McCaslin (1984-86) and Cara Chell (1982-84). Both have moved on: Judith is now a Ph.D. student in Political Science at UW-Madison and Cara an Academic Planner with UW-System in Madison. Sandra Krajewski has been named Acting Director.

Other news includes the approval of a twenty-four credit minor, with the first students graduating in May. The fifteen-credit Women's Studies Certificate will no longer be available.

Course offerings have been expanded, and last fall we filled three sections of "Introduction to Women's Studies." The advanced seminar looked at "Contemporary Feminist Thought" and focused on Carol Gilligan, Adrienne Rich, and Evelyn Fox Keller. Our topics course has covered such diverse areas as "Woman the Gatherer" and "Women and Religion." A "Women and Work" course in the planning stage will incorporate three faculty members who will each teach a one-credit section. In this way we will draw three different disciplines into the department and be able to offer such diversity as "Women and Poverty," "Comparable Worth," and "Women and Management."

The Women's Studies Resource Center, which offers books, journals, magazines, and pamphlets, has recently updated the crosslisting system of its clippings file. Besides being the main source of printed women's studies information on campus, the center serves as the location for numerous seminars, open houses, and biweekly lunch box/soapbox presentations on a variety of topics. Our department has also been active in co-sponsoring numerous events such as C.A.R.E. Week (Create Attitudes for a Rape-Free Environment), a week-long series of events to raise awareness on campus about violence against women; and the annual Phenomenology Conference which last year featured Susan Griffin and this year will present Starhawk.

#### -- Sandra Krajewski

[An anthropologist by training, Sandi Krajewski is programmer, administrator, and Interim Chair of the new Women's Studies Department, in addition to which she teaches two introductory courses.]

## NEWS FROM UW-OSHKOSH

The Women's Studies Program at UW-Oshkosh has just completed an academic program review, which gave its brand-new coordinator a chance to re-examine the history, progress, and goals of the program.

We have very few in the twenty-four-credit minor program. That does not reflect the number of students touched by the program, however, since it is not necessary to declare a minor, and there were, for instance, 893 students in Women's Studies-approved courses in 1985-86. One of our major goals for the near future is to review and evaluate these existing course offerings. New courses in the planning stages include "Women's Health," "Biology of Women," and "Sociology of Sex Roles." One of our major problems right now is the lack of staff to teach introductory and advanced seminar courses. We are requesting that this situation be remedied by fall of 1987.

Another major goal is to increase the visibility of women's studies among students. We will be working with student advisers to this end, as well as beginning a women's studies club for informal discussion of feminist issues.

Community outreach efforts over the past several years have included speakers such as Maggie McFadden, Paul Lauter, Gerda Lerner, Patti Lather, Marjorie Murphy, and Mary Frances Berry. Many of these presentations were held in conjunction with the Women's Center, with whom our program has a close working relationship. UW-Oshkosh Women's Studies Program was pleased to host the UW-System Women's Studies Conference in September. Our Women's History Month plans for March include Florence Kennedy as major speaker as well as several workshops coordinated and led by women's studies faculty.

There is much to be done, especially in terms of visibility and course evaluation and development, but a committed Women's Studies Committee is in place, and we can celebrate past achievements, keep plugging away in the present, and be confident of meeting our goals in the future.

#### -- Ellie Amico

[In addition to her duties as Women's Studies Coordinator at UW-Oshkosh, Ellie Amico teaches a course on religion, and is working on her Ph.D. in Hebrew and Semitic studies at UW-Madison.]

## NEW REFERENCE WORKS IN WOMEN'S STUDIES

Seager, Joni, and Ann Olson. Women in the World: An International Atlas. Edited by Michael Kidron. New York: Touchstone/Simon & Schuster, 1986. 128p. illus. maps. bibl. index. \$19.95, ISBN 0-671-60297-7. Pap., \$12.95, ISBN 0-671-63070-9. LC 86-6739.

Tinling, Marion. Women Remembered: A Guide to Landmarks of Women's History in the United States. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1986. 796p. bibl. index. \$75.00, ISBN 0-313-23984-3. LC 85-17639.

Lasky, Jane E., and Brenda Fine. <u>The Women's Travel Guide</u>. Boston: G.K. Hall, 1986. 534p. maps. \$24.95, ISBN 0-8161-8735-5. Pap., \$12.95, ISBN 0-8161-9053-4. LC 86-4751.

Fraser, Jill Andresky. The Best U.S. Cities for Working Women. New York: New American Library, 1986. 324p. index. Pap., \$9.95, ISBN 0-452-25813-8. LC 86-5054.

Have feminists suddenly become imbued with a sense of place? Four recent titles -- all aimed at non-academic readers -- take what might be termed a geographical perspective on women's experiences.

The most interesting of the quartet by far is <u>Women in the World</u> by Joni Seager and Ann Olson. Using colorful maps and charts, the authors make graphic statements about the situation of women around the globe. They treat a multitude of topics not found in standard atlases: the spread of battered women's shelters, the prevalence of genital mutilation, teenage motherhood, abortion laws, pay inequity, female illiteracy, number of reported rapes,

sites of women's demonstrations and peace camps, to name a few. An appended "Country Table" gives comparative figures for 172 nations in fifteen crucial areas, ranging from male/female population breakdowns to the year women gained the vote. Notes at the end of the volume interpret the maps and charts and cite sources for the data.

On many of the maps, unfortunately, large areas (often African nations or the U.S.S.R.) are shaded to indicate "unknown or unclear." In a section titled "Mapping the Patriarchy," the compilers outline the gaps in data collected by international agencies like the United Nations, noting, for example, the difficulty of measuring women's labor in the home when statistics focus on paid employment. "The 'official' woman is thus an incomplete one," they state. "Men in power still ignore women in numbers." To supplement conventional sources, Seager and Olson turned to the feminist small press, newsletters from women's organizations the world over, and alternative journals, and claim to have cross-checked the data for each map in an average of ten sources. Despite the inevitable information gaps, this atlas is vital for reference and ideal for raising awareness about women's lives outside the U.S.

Women Remembered, by Marion Tinling, is published only in a \$75.00 library edition. Both public and academic libraries will want the book for their reference shelves, but most individual travelers and low-budget women's centers will not be able to afford their own copies. That's a shame, because the volume has a wide appeal. Nothing similar has appeared since Lynn Sherr and Jurate Kazickas's Bicentennial effort, The American Women's Gazetteer (Bantam, 1976), and Tinling's work is far superior.

"Women may be slighted by those who wrote history books," writes Tinling, "but feminist history can be found all across the land, chiseled in stone and engraved in brass" (p.xi). Her guide covers preserved birthplaces and homes of important women, monuments, and historical markers, plus parks, schools, buildings, streets, and the like named after women. Women still alive are omitted, as are women famed solely for their relation to men. The 2,000-plus entries are arranged geographically. Women are also listed by their primary fields of activity: business and labor, education, social science and reform, sports, and the arts, among others. Short biographical sketches combine with descriptions of the landmarks, which include notes on hours and location. Entries under Wisconsin are typical in the range of women they highlight -among them, song writer Carrie Jacobs Bond (Janesville), pioneer farmer Roseline Willard Park (Madison), social worker Lizzie Black Kander (Milwaukee), suffragist and pacifist Jessie Jack Hooper (Oshkosh), minister and militant suffragist Olympia Brown (Racine), and kindergarten founder Margarethe Meyer Schurz (Watertown). Bibliographies for each state suggest additional sources for research, but do not repeat citations found in Notable American Women. The volume concludes with a timeline of American women's history and a bibliographic essay on the history and biography of American women.

The remaining two geographically-oriented titles fall into the self-help category. The Women's Travel Guide, by Jane E. Lasky and Brenda Fine, is aimed at women who travel on business and must find safe and comfortable hotels in strange cities, entertain clients at suitable restaurants and clubs,

and amuse themselves by shopping and sightseeing. There's a token paragraph or two for budget-watchers, but this is basically a guide for women on expense accounts.

Lasky and Fine are travel journalists who base their evaluations of twenty-five major cities on personal experience as well as feedback from other women who travel frequently. While much of the information varies little from standard guidebooks, some of the material is tailored to women. Hotels, for example, are recommended on the basis of their security measures, and restaurants and nightclubs are guaranteed to be in safe neighborhoods. Feminists who hope for mention of women's bookstores, lesbian bars, or insights on the "women's community" of any of these cities will be disappointed, however. Milwaukee's chapter is typical. Lasky and Fine sing the joys of brats, Summer Fest, and ethnic restaurants, and in the section on what to wear, opine that "no one will even look askance at polyester."

Jill Andresky Fraser's The Best U.S. Cities for Working Women targets an even narrower segment of women -- those on the "fast track" in professional and corporate careers. Opportunities for men and women differ widely from city to city, Forbes reporter Fraser found, and she cautions women to "avoid one of the most serious career missteps: settling in a city where you aliterally have no place to move except out" (p.ix).

Fraser describes seventy cities that are good bets for professional women, grouping them thematically as "High-Tech Havens," "Entrepreneurial Zones," "Quality Lifestyles," "Suburban Boomtowns," and the like. For each profiled city, Fraser discusses its economic climate and lifestyle, lists marketable job skills, outlines current business trends, names the best companies to work for, assesses the prospects for entrepreneurship, recommends the most powerful networks to join, rates the best neighborhoods, and provides leads to further information on continuing education, childcare, and other matters. Every city is also rated in five areas: diversity of career options; job challenges; receptiveness to newcomers; advantages for singles; and advantages for twocareer couples. Fraser claims that her findings are based on "objective analysis of city employment and business trends and social services, and upon interviews with countless women across the country" (p.xii), and, though she provides no bibliography, she does cite numerous statistics. Recent graduates, and women at any career stage who find themselves mobile, can probably profit from this volume.

Fenton, Thomas P., and Mary J. Heffron. <u>Women in the Third World: A Directory of Resources</u>. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1987. 141p. indexes. Pbk. \$9.95, ISBN 0-88344-530-1.

Fifth in a projected twelve-volume series of information guides, this affordable sourcebook spotlights resources on women in Africa, Asia, the Pacific, Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Middle East. References to organizations, books, periodicals, pamphlets and articles (including special issues of journals), and audiovisuals appear in separate chapters. Each chapter offers a sizeable number of annotated entries, supplemental listings, and pointers to bibliographies, catalogs, and directories. The entries for books are long; none pre-date 1980; and nearly all give prices. The inclusion of inexpensive pamphlets, special issues, working papers, and translations, as well as A-V materials, will boost the volume's usefulness to grassroots

organizations. The emphasis throughout is on English-language items. Indexes permit access by organization, individual, title, geographical area, and subject.

Editors Fenton and Heffron directly acknowledge the "radical analysis" they embrace, adding a welcome discussion of the volume's political orientation to the usual background on format and scope in their introduction. Third World Resources, a project of the independent, nonprofit Data Center, sponsored the compilation of Women in the Third World. Dedicated to presenting an alternative to mass media images of Third World regions and issues, the project also issues a valuable quarterly newsletter and maintains a clearinghouse and research service. To learn more, contact Third World Resources at 464 19th St., Oakland, CA 94612.

Gilbert, Victor Francis, and Darshan Singh Tatla. <u>Women's Studies: A Bibliography of Dissertations, 1870-1982</u>. New York: B. Blackwell, 1985. 496p. index. \$85.00, ISBN 0-631-13714-9. LC 85-6192.

Wide in subject coverage but narrow in the type of material it covers, this is a tool primarily for the advanced scholar. It's expensive, and libraries with access to <u>Dissertation Abstracts International</u> in print or online might question the need for this specialized listing. Gilbert and Tatla cite over 12,000 dissertations from British, Canadian, Irish, and U.S. universities in twenty-three subject divisions. Author, title, degree awarded, university, and date are provided, but no annotations, no ordering information, and no author index. The authors explain that to cull women's studies references from general indexes and bibliographies, they used a keyword approach, enriched by names of influential historical figures and women authors. No doubt some works were overlooked. The authors append a "Checklist of Bibliographical and Reference Sources" listing the major reference tools for tracking down dissertations and information about women.

U.S. Department of Commerce. Women and Business Ownership: An Annotated Bibliography. Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1986. 174p. index. \$9.00. For sale by the Supt. of Documents, G.P.O., S/N 003-000-00646-8.

Addressing a subject of interest to researchers and policy developers, as well as enterprising women, this bibliography was prepared by the Office of Women's Business Ownership of the U.S. Small Business Administration. No individual receives credit on the title page, and the jumbled organization attests to the many hands that probably had a role in its compilation. The selective listings include formal research documents and legal case books, as well as unpublished dissertations, government reports, and articles and books from the popular press. Part I is an essay (with 146 footnotes) that outlines research needs and problems and examines the barriers to entrepreneurship for women. Part II focuses on legal issues, and offers brief overviews of tax, insurance, property, and credit laws, with annotated references on each topic. Part III is an annotated bibliography arranged by topic: characteristics of women business owners, data sources, financial access, government programs. education and training, and selected guides, including manuals on home-based businesses. Some annotations are short, others run to several paragraphs. Appendix A presents additional references, largely unannotated, for background on the social and economic context of women in business and on entrepreneurship and small business research. There are several other nonbibliographic appendixes and an author index.

Kinnard, Cynthia D. Antifeminism in American Thought: An Annotated Bibliography. Boston: G.K. Hall, 1986. 321p. index. \$35.00, ISBN 0-8161-8122-5. LC 86-19525.

Researchers may be disappointed to discover that this bibliography ends its coverage with the 1920s. Certainly a guide to more recent writings by the New Right and the anti-ERA forces is needed, but that fact does not devalue the work at hand. Kinnard points out that women's studies scholars have scrutinized the advocates of women's rights in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries more closely than their adversaries. Her bibliography joins a growing number of sources that promote the analysis of rhetoric and strategy on both sides of the debate.

The bibliography cites 1,331 books, pamphlets, and magazine articles in eight topical sections that range from the general to the specific: women's rights and feminism; woman suffrage; domesticity, femininity, and motherhood; education of girls and women; women's intellect and character; women's work, professional employment, and creativity; women and religion; and women's bodies. Within each chapter Kinnard arranges references chronologically, following brief headnotes that trace the waxing and waning of particular issues and arguments. The annotations deliberately avoid editorializing, instead quoting extensively to convey the gist and "flavor" of the argument. Kinnard distinguishes carefully between antifeminism (a response to the agitation for women's rights) and misogyny (a generalized woman-hatred, which is not represented in her listings). Interestingly, many of the antifeminist articles and tracts were by women. The volume closes with a name index.

Ogilvie, Marilyn Bailey. Women in Science: Antiquity Through the Nineteenth Century: A Biographical Dictionary with Annotated Bibliography. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1986. 254p. index. \$25.00, ISBN 0-262-15031-X. LC 86-7507.

Confining herself to the Western world and to women born before 1885, Ogilvie identifies 189 scientific fore-mothers. Following an introductory essay that sets their achievements in historical context, she provides biographical accounts, arranged alphabetically. Summary data includes birth and death dates, nationality, branch of science, birthplace, parents' names, education, name(s) of husband(s), references to standard biographical sources, and works by each scientist. Several paragraphs (on the average) then assess each woman's scientific contributions and trace her career. Finally, each entry includes coded references to information about the scientist in works cited in the bibliography, which forms the second section of the volume. The bibliography is classified chronologically and briefly annotated. Ogilvie provides an index to names, but no indexes to field of activity or nationality such as are typically found in biographical dictionaries. Fortunately, a summary table, alphabetical by name, facilitates scanning to derive such groupings. This guide complements Patricia Joan Siegel and Kay Thomas Finley's Women in the Scientific Search (reviewed in FC Fall 1985) and Caroline Herzenberg's Women Scientists from Antiquity to the Present (reviewed in <u>FC</u> Summer 1986), rounding out the international and historical dimension of the study of women in science.

Watson-Jones, Virginia. <u>Contemporary American Women Sculptors</u>. Phoenix: Oryx Press, 1986. 665p. illus. indexes. \$125.00, ISBN 0-89774-139-0. LC 84-42713.

This is a beautifully-designed, oversized volume, with crisp black-and-white photographs and pleasingly laid-out text on opposite pages. The living American women that Watson-Jones profiles have produced a range of three-dimensional works, including representational figures, abstract sculptures, room-sized installations, and huge environmental pieces. "The overall presentation," the author states, "was designed to survey artists of varying ages and backgrounds, of different professional training and experience, of diverse sculptural attitudes and media, and from different geographical regions" (p. ix). From over 1,000 respondents, Watson-Jones chose 238 on the ultimate criterion of the quality of their art. The result is a satisfying volume for browsing that doubles as a biographical reference source.

The data on each artist includes birthdate, education and training, individual and group exhibitions, public and private collections, awards, preferred media, gallery affiliation, and address. Watson-Jones adds a brief bibliography of reviews and other writings about each artist, and indexes to media and state. The photographs (one per artist) are paired with short statements by the artists on the intent and philosophy of their work. The final effect is stunning, and communicates remarkably well these talented women's artistic achievements.

Women Writers of Spain: An Annotated Bio-Bibliographical Guide. Ed. by Carolyn L. Galerstein; non-Castilian materials edited by Kathleen McNerney. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1986. 389p. index. \$45.00, ISBN 0-313-24965-2. LC 86-379.

There is a growing bibliographic interest in women writers in languages other than English, spurred by the group of scholars within the Modern Language Association who conceived of and nourished Women Writers in Translation: An Annotated Bibliography, 1945-1982, by Margery Resnick and Isabelle de Courtivron (reviewed in FC Summer 1985). Women Writers of Spain is the latest addition to the reference literature; a companion volume on women writers in Spanish America is promised. Coverage is limited to "creative writers" -- poets, novelists, dramatists, and essayists. nine experts from around the country contributed signed entries to the guide. The entries, arranged alphabetically, evaluate each author's place in Spanish literary history, summarize and analyze her works, and note feminist elements in the writing, with an annotated list of works following each sketch. Galerstein's introduction documents the neglect of women writers in Spanish literature courses and highlights important figures, from Santa Teresa de` Avila in the sixteenth century, to Emilia Pardo Baza'n in the nineteenth, to the women who persevered in publishing in the face of Franco's censorship in the twentieth.

A special feature of <u>Women Writers in Spain</u> is its inclusion of non-Castillian writers. Kathleen McNerney is credited with writing annotations for works in Catalan and Galician, and has written a second introduction addressing women's writing in these languages.

Sweeney, Patricia. <u>Women in Southern Literature: An Index</u>. New York: Greenwood Press, 1986. 117p. index. \$29.95, ISBN 0-313-24972-5. LC 85-30208.

Sweeney's purpose is to map the representation of women in novels, short stories, and plays by Southern authors. Approximately 700 works by 180 authors are included, resulting in a list of some 1,000 characters. The main listing is alphabetical by the characters' names, providing brief notes on personalities and plots. Although both male and female authors are covered, from the beginnings of Southern writing to mid-1985, glaring omissions are evident. There is, for example, no mention of the memorable characters created by Ellen Gilchrist, who has been hailed as a leading new Southern literary voice. Sweeney supplements the alphabetical list with an index by category, using stereotypical labels which she states are drawn from the works themselves -- "Black Mammies," "Independent Modern Women," "Poor Whites," "Southern Belles," "Southern Ladies," and "Spinsters," for example. In her introduction, Sweeney (an expert on Faulkner) traces several of the types of women characters, citing regional variations and drawing the reader's attention to a number of authors.

O'Donnell, Mary Ann. Aphra Behn: An Annotated Bibliography of Primary and Secondary Sources. New York: Garland, 1986. 557p. index. \$77.00, ISBN 0-8240-8906-5. LC 84-48023.

Lercangée, Francine. <u>Joyce Carol Oates: An Annotated Bibliography</u>. New York: Garland, 1986. 272p. index. \$48.00, ISBN 0-8240-8908-1. LC 84-48022.

Two new titles are devoted to single authors, and it's perhaps fitting to review them together. Aphra Behn, a Restoration dramatist, poet, and fiction author, is generally touted as the first women to earn her living as a writer; she suffered the scorn and ridicule of those who felt her creative activities pressed beyond the sphere of proper womanhood. Joyce Carol Oates, a contemporary virtuoso of the novel, short story, and poem, has inspired both awe and dismissal from literary critics because of the sheer volume of her creative output.

O'Donnell's scholarly bibliography describes in full physical detail all seventeenth-century editions of Behn's works, records the locations of copies, cites microform reprints, and discusses textual problems, variant printings, and the like. Later primary works are simply cited. The secondary bibliography, comprehensive through 1983, includes brief annotations for over 600 books, articles, essays, and sections of books that make some reference to Behn or her writing. Appendixes include a cross-index to the printers and booksellers who published Behn's works and a first-line index to poems, songs, prologues, and epilogues. The evidence of O'Donnell's thorough research is everywhere in this volume, which will become a standard source for specialists in Restoration literature, women's literature, and rare books.

Lercangée cites 1,937 works by and about Joyce Carol Oates, covering the period between 1963 and August 1985. The listing of primary sources appears comprehensive, with novels, short stories, poems, plays, edited anthologies, essays and other non-fiction, and interviews. Lercangée has assiduously tracked reprints of Oates's shorter works. The section citing secondary sources is divided by type of publication -- books, criticism, reviews and review essays, and dissertations. Bruce F. Michelson, who contributed the appreciative critical preface, wrote many of the annotations. The work concludes with an author/title index, and a subject index to authors treated in Oates' critical writings. One can always question the wisdom of issuing bibliographies for living authors, particularly when they continue to publish prolifically, but the increasing critical interest in Oates's case justifies adding this source to most academic reference collections.

-- Susan Searing

## PERIODICAL NOTES ....

#### NEW PERIODICALS

Australian Feminist Studies. 1986.. Semiannual. \$10 (non-waged); \$20 (individual); \$35 (institution); \$50 (foundation); overseas, add \$5 for surface mail, \$15 for airmail. ISSN 0816-4649. Research Centre for Women's Studies, University of Adelaide, G.P.O. 498, Adelaide, South Australia 5001. (Issue examined: no.2, Autumn 1986)

This new scholarly journal publishes "both disciplinary and transdisciplinary scholarship and discussion in the fields of feminist research and women's studies courses." The issue examined covers a diverse range of topics, from the situation of women's studies in Australia, to the role of Aboriginal women in the process of British conquest, to the occupational health of houseworkers. Conference reports and a number of review essays are also included.

Bitch: The Women's Rock Magazine With Bite. 1985-. Approximately monthly. \$15 (U.S. and Canada); \$30 (foreign). San Jose Face, Suite 164, 478 W. Hamilton Ave., Campbell, CA 95008. (Issue examined: no.12, October 1986)

A twenty-page tabloid-style magazine containing interviews with and reviews of women's rock bands/performers, <u>Bitch</u> also carries record reviews, letters, photos and cartoons.

<u>Jewish Women's Resource Center Newsletter</u>. 1986-. Ed.: Fran Snyder. 3/year. \$5. National Council of Jewish Women, 9 E. 69th St., New York, NY 10021. (Issue examined: v.1, no.1, Spring 1986)

The <u>Newsletter</u>'s stated goal is connecting the activities and rituals of Jewish women around the world. In the four-page premiere issue are an article on a women's center in Israel, news from New York, Albuquerque, and the Resource Center, plus brief book reviews.

Women's Times. 1986-. Ed.: Christine J. Evers. 26/year. \$55. Washington News Services, Inc., P.O. Box 39113, Washington, DC 20016. (Issue examined: v.2, no.2, January 27, 1987)

A woman-owned firm of writers and editors produces this bi-weekly national newsletter, with information on "federal legislation, agency actions and court decisions that affect women, plus ... what women and women's organizations are doing in the U.S. and abroad to further their interests...." The eight-page issue examined included news on Women's History Month legislation and the parental leave bill, a profile of corporate women officers, and some briefer items.

#### SPECIAL ISSUES OF PERIODICALS

Canadian Woman Studies/les cahiers de la femme v.7, no.3, Fall 1986 and v.7, no.4, Winter 1986: "Canadian Women's History/L'Histoire Des Femmes Canadiennes." Guest eds.: Paula Bourne, Gail Brandt, and Jacinthe Fraser. \$22 (indiv.); \$32 (inst.) (outside Canada add \$6). Single copy: inquire. ISSN 0713-3235. 212 Founders College, York University, 4700 Keele St., Downsview, Ontario, Canada, M3J 1P3. (Issues examined)

Articles in the fall issue of this panoramic two-part gathering of papers on Canadian women's history are grouped under the headings "Writing Women into History," "Cultural Contributions," "Education," and "Paid Work." The winter issue contains papers centered on these topics: "Immigration and Settlement," "Organizational Activities," "Family, the State and Social Order," and "Individual Experiences."

Conditions: 13, 1986: "International Focus I." Editorial collective. \$18 (indiv.); \$12 (hardship); \$28 (inst.). Single copy: \$7 (indiv.); \$10 (inst.). ISSN 0147-8311. P.O. Box 56, Van Brunt Station, Brooklyn, NY 11215. (Issue examined)

This first of two special issues with an international focus includes fiction, poetry, an interview, and reviews "by and about women from Ghana, Guatemala, Ireland, the Philippines, India, Puerto Rico, Germany, Canada, Chile, Malaysia, Cuba, and Panama, as well as the United States."

New England Law Review v.20, no.4, 1984-1985: "Symposium on Pornography." Ed. Anita Reeves Tuttle. \$15. Single copy: \$5. ISSN 0028-4823. 154 Stuart St., Boston, MA 02116. (Issue examined)

The New England School of Law "draws upon its heritage as the first law school for the legal education of women" for this symposium. Partial contents: "The Canadian Charter of Rights and Pornography: Toward a Theory of Actual Gender Equality" (Kathleen A. Lahey); "Legislative Remedies for Unauthorized Sexual Portrayals: A Proposal" (Ruth Colker). Appendixes include the MacKinnon/Dworkin Model Anti-Pornography Law, the Minneapolis Ordinance, the Indianapolis Antipornography Ordinance, and comment on the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984.

Plainswoman v.10, no.4, December 1986: "Indian Women." Editorial committee. \$15; \$10 (low-income); \$20 (supporter). Single copy: inquire. ISSN 0148-902X. P.O. Box 8027, Grand Forks, ND 58202. (Issue examined)

This slim issue includes three short works of fiction by American Indian women, plus a transcribed speech about experiences in a Bureau of Indian Affairs boarding school.

Proteus: A Journal of Ideas v.3, no.2, Fall 1986: "Women, Politics and Government." Ed.: Angelo Costanzo. \$10. Single copy: \$5. Shippensburg University, Shippensburg, PA 17257. (Issue examined)

Partial contents: "Increasing Women's Influence in Government and Politics: The Inclusion of Women of Color" (Mary Frances Berry); "Waging Peace: Virginia Woolf's 'Three Guineas' " (Glynis Carr); "Why Did Poverty 'Feminize' When Women Have Always Been Poor?" (Teresa D. Marciano); " 'Persuade Yourselves': Women, Speech, and Sexual Politics in Tudor Society" (Deborah S. Greenhut).

Social Science Quarterly v.66, no.3, September 1985: special section on "Women in the Labor Force." Ed.: Charles M. Bonjean. \$20 (indiv.); \$36 (inst.). Single copy: inquire. ISSN 0038-4941. University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713. (Issue examined)

Included in this sixty-page special section are a proposal on comparable worth (Paula England and Bahar Norris), an opposing view and a rejoinder; two papers on structural determinants of female labor force participation in developed countries (Kathryn B. Ward and Fred C. Pampel) with comment by Andrea Tyree; and "Female Occupational Distribution: Treiman and Terrell Revisited" (Linda De La Viña).

Sociological Spectrum v.6, no.1, 1986: "Southern Women." Guest ed.: Caroline Matheny Dillman. \$35.50 (indiv.); \$64.95 (inst.). Single copy: inquire. ISSN 0273-2173. Hemisphere Publishing Corp., 79 Madison Ave., Suite 1110, New York, NY 10016. (Issue examined)

Partial contents: "The Sparsity of Research and Publications on Southern Women: Definitional Complexities, Methodological Problems, and Other Impediments" (Caroline Matheny Dillman); "Socialization for Change: The Cultural Heritage of the Southern Woman" (Sarah Brabant); "Magnolias and Microchips: Regional Subcultural Constructions of Femininity" (Susan Middleton-Keirn); and "Southern Women Writing About Southern Women: Jill McCorkle, Lisa Alther, Ellen Gilchrist, and Lee Smith" (Donna Kelleher Darden).

Women's History Network News no.13, January 1987: special issue on black women's history. Ed.: Mary Ruthsdotter. \$20 (indiv.); \$50 (inst.). Single copy: inquire. National Women's History Project, P.O. Box 3716, Santa Rosa, CA 95402. (Issue examined)

The newsletter includes items on the Bethune Museum and Archives for Black Women's History in Washington, DC, and the Black Women in the Middle West Project. A condensed version of an article on black women in La Crosse, Wisconsin, previously published in Feminist Collections (Winter 1986), also appears.

Women's Rights Law Reporter, v.9, no.2, Spring 1986: "Women and the Judiciary." Ed.: Cynthia A. Cappell. \$20 (indiv.); \$40 (inst.); \$15 (student). Single copy: \$6 (indiv.); \$12 (inst.). Rutgers Law School, 15 Washington St., Newark, NJ 07102. (Issue examined)

Partial contents: "Sexism in the Courtroom: Report from a 'Little Girl Lawyer' " (Martha Copleman); "Educating the Judiciary About Gender Bias" (Lynn Hecht Schafran); "Sexism and the Courts: Speech to Metropolitan Judges, Lewis & Clark College, August 19, 1983" (Honorable Betty Roberts).

#### CEASED PUBLICATION

Between Ourselves: Women of Color Newspaper v.1, no.1-3, 1985. Ed. by Raymina Y. Mays and Aida S. Wakil. Quarterly. ISSN 0882-4355. P.O. Box 1939, Washington, DC 20013. (Information from the editors, December 1986, also stating that they are looking for a new home for the paper.)

The <u>Comparable Worth Project Newsletter</u> (1981-1986) has ceased publication, at least temporarily. Files from the defunct Comparable Worth Project (488 41st St. No. 5, Oakland, CA 94609) are now housed at the Pay Equity Resource Center, Center for Labor Research & Education, Institute for Industrial Relations, University of California at Berkeley, Berkeley, CA 94720, and back issues may be ordered from there. The decision as to whether to continue publishing has not yet been made. (Information from Joan Braconi of the Pay Equity Resource Center.)

Menses: The Periodical v.1-v.4, no.2, 1986. Ed. by Julianna FreeHand and Pat Posner. P.O. Box 192, Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520. (Information from editorial note in last issue.)

## ITEMS OF NOTE -

Several resources for historical research have come to our attention this quarter:

- \* <u>LEGACIES: FAMILY HISTORY IN SOUND</u> is a series of eighteen half-hour radio programs on North American women and families, from the first European settlement through the Civil War era. The tape series is also available as a college credit course. Contact The Annenberg/CPB Project, 1111 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20036 (202-955-5251).
- \* Britain's "first and most popular upper-class women's periodical of the nineteenth century," THE QUEEN, is available on microfilm. Covering the period from 1861 to 1885, the periodical includes women's fashions; reports and articles on social, political, and economic issues; advertisements; cultural notes; and other views of Victorian era Britain. For Part I, cost is \$3,100. Order from Harvester Press Microform Publications, 17 Ship St. Brighton, Sussex BN1 1AD, England.
- \* FBI FILES ON WOMEN'S LIBERATION MOVEMENT, 1969-1977 is a loose-leaf collection of papers made available through the Freedom of Information Act. For \$150 plus \$1 postage a researcher can get some 1,500 pages of reports by informants, description of FBI disruption of demonstrations, and other surveillance documents on women's group activities in the U.S. To order, write the Center for National Security Studies, 122 Maryland Avenue, N.E., Washington, DC 20002, Attention: Publications, and ask for document no. I-119.
- \* <u>WISCONSIN WOMEN ON PARADE: CELEBRATING WISCONSIN WOMEN</u> is a 12-page pamphlet that includes a poster on women in Wisconsin history. The publication is available free from the Wisconsin Dept. of Public Instruction,

Bureau for Equal Educational Opportunity, Sex Equity Project, Attn: Sue Wissbaum, 5th Fl, G.E.F. 3, 125 S. Webster, P.O. Box 7841, Madison, WI 53707 (608-267-9156).

Two directories may be of interest to readers:

- \* WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS: A NATIONAL DIRECTORY provides information on more than 2,000 women's organizations, indexed by geographic area and by function. The listing includes professional organizations, government commissions, networking groups, women's centers, guidance programs, and research centers. The directory is available to individuals for \$22.50 prepaid, and to institutions for \$25, from Garrett Park Press, P.O. Box 190 F, Garrett Park, MD 20896.
- \* WOMEN'S PLACES AND SPACES (AND SERVICES, TOO), produced by the Women's Affairs Committee of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Student Association, includes more then 200 university and community resources for women. The twenty-seven page pamphlet provides both alphabetical and topical listings of all organizations, plus addresses and brief descriptions. Send a mailing label and two stamps to Wisconsin Student Association, 511 Memorial Union, UW-Madison, Madison, WI 53706.

Among the research summaries, studies, and special collections that we have noted information about recently are these:

- \* SEXUAL ASSAULT: A RESOURCE COLLECTION from the Center for Women Policy. Studies contains information on rapists, victim assistance, gang rape, assault of disabled persons, and legislation in the area of sexual assault. Send \$12.50 (prepaid) to the CWPS, 2000 P St., N.W., Washington, DC 20036.
- \* The Commission of the European Communities recently published <u>WOMEN AND MUSIC</u> Supplement No. 22 to <u>Women of Europe</u>. This ninety-two page report covers women in every field of music through the ages, and includes composers, performers, conductors, instrument-makers, and others. Single copies of the report are available free while supplies last from the Commission of the European Communities, 2100 M Street N.W., Suite 707, Washington, DC 20037.
- \* <u>ECONOMICS OF WORK & HOME</u> is the first of a new research summary series from the Business and Professional Women's Foundation, entitled "Work and Family Lives: Women, Men and Public Policy." The summary is based on research by Roberta Spalter-Roth (on dual-earner couples) and Elaine McCrate (on women's economic independence and their growing rate of nonmarriage). For a copy, send \$2.50 plus \$.35 postage to BPW Supply Service, 11722 Parklawn Dr., Rockville, MD 20852.

Listed below are several program resources that have been made available:

\* From the National Council on the Aging, Inc. comes FACING OUR FUTURE...:
AN EDUCATION-FOR-AGING PROGRAM FOR MID-LIFE WOMEN. Planned for use with small groups of women in their 30s, 40s, and 50s, the package program of six two-hour sessions includes "information on health, finances (Social Security, pensions, IRA's, etc.), education, employment and emotional concerns" and also hopes to "promote positive attitudes about women and aging; to develop planning skills, and to bring about beneficial changes through mutual

- support." A leader's manual (\$30), participant's manual (\$5), guide, audio tape of interviews, and slide/tape overview of the program are available from Jane Deren, Project Director, Facing Our Future, NCOA, 600 Maryland Avenue, S.W., West Wing 100, Washington, DC 20024.
- \* THE SOCIOLOGY OF SEX AND GENDER: SYLLABI AND TEACHING MATERIALS is a 311-page manual containing sixty-five course syllabi plus assignments and exercises. Edited by Barrie Thorne, Mary McCormack, Virginia Powell, and Delores Wunder, the manual includes how-to and theoretical essays, and the syllabi cover a range of levels from introductory to advanced graduate. Send \$14 (plus \$2 postage) prepaid to American Sociological Association, Executive Office, 1722 N Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20036.
- \* Five INFORMATION DIGESTS are available from Business and Professional Women, on the topics "Women in the Workforce," "Women in the Future Workforce," "Women in Management," "Women in Engineering," and "The Wage Gap." Each brief digest includes the most recent statistics available, and should be useful background for speeches and articles. Write to the address listed above.
- \* The Legal Defense and Education Fund of the National Organization for Women offers a press kit of <u>FACTS ON WOMEN</u>, "up-to-date facts and figures on the current status of women in more than a dozen areas...," as background for current issues in the news. Contact Kathy Bonk, Director, Media Project, NOW LDEF, 1776 K Street N.W., No. 900, Washington, DC 20006 (202-429-7339).

Three resources for rare and out-of-print books on women are listed below:

- \* WOMEN & THE PERFORMING ARTS, Catalog 27 from Elaine Katz, Bookseller, includes books by and about women dancers, singers, orators, screen and radio personalities, playwrights, etc. WOMEN TRAVELLERS, Catalog 28, contains mostly first-person narratives of travel experiences. For each of these catalogs, write Elaine Katz, Bookseller, 1319 N.E. 56th, Seattle, Washington 98105 (206-525-3777).
- \* HOUSE OF SARAH BOOKS specializes in rare and out-of-print as well as new books on women and religion, with all profits going toward women's projects in developing areas. A catalog may be ordered from the bookseller at P.O. Box 670, Station P, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 2Y4.

Among other miscellaneous resources are the following:

- \* The United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service has available a six-page U. N. CATALOG OF FILMS ON WOMEN. Though all are in English, some are also available in other languages. Write Non-Governmental Liaison Service, United Nations, DC2-1103, New York, NY 10017.
- \* The NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION UPDATE is available from the National Women's Conference Committee. For each of the twenty-five planks adopted in the National Plan of Action at the National Women's Conference in Houston, 1977, this update lists "1977 Goals," "1986 Status," and "Action" suggestions. For a copy, send \$1 to NWCC, P.O. Box 65605, Washington, DC 20035-6505.

\* Canada's Consulting Committee on the Status of Women with Disabilities has developed a taping project called <u>WOMEN'S AUDIO BOOKS</u>, which plans to begin with periodicals (<u>Herizons</u>, a feminist publication, is first on the list) and will later record books. For information on the project, write CCSWD, Suite 924, 294 Portage Ave., Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C OB9 Canada (204-947-2742). For a tape subscription to <u>Herizons</u>, send \$23 (Canadian dollars) to Suite 200, 478 River Ave., Winnipeg, Manitoba R3L OC8 Canada.

# WISCONSIN BIBLIOGRAPHIES IN WOMEN'S STUDIES

Two new titles have been added to our bibliography series this quarter. "Canadian Feminist Periodicals: A Directory" by Eleanor Wachtel lists the names and addresses of forty-four Canadian periodicals in English and/or French. Jan Savage, author of the review of young adult fiction in this issue of Feminist Collections, has also produced "An Annotated Bibliography: Mother/Daughter Relationships in Adolescent Fiction 1980-1985." Copies of these and other titles in the series "Wisconsin Bibliographies in Women's Studies" are available free of charge from: UW System Women's Studies Librarian, 112A Memorial Library, 728 State Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53706 (608-263-5754).

## BOOK REVIEWS\_

#### FORGOTTEN WARRIORS: WOMEN AND THE VIETNAM EXPERIENCE

Barthy Ann Byrd, Home Front: Women and Vietnam. Berkeley, CA: Shameless Hussy Press, 1986. 68p. pap., \$7.95, ISBN 0-915288-52-4.

Wendy Wilder Larsen and Tran Thi Nga, Shallow Graves: Two Women and Vietnam. New York: Random House, 1986. 291p. \$16.95, ISBN 0-394-54985-6. LC 85-14534.

Esther D. Rothblum and Ellen Cole, eds., <u>A Woman's Recovery From the Trauma of War: Twelve Responses From Feminist Therapists and Activists.</u> New York: Haworth Press, 1986. 124p. bibl. ISBN 0-86656-561-2. LC 86-9878. (Also published as <u>Women & Therapy</u> v.5, no.1, Spring 1986)

Lynda Van Devanter (with Christopher Morgan), Home Before Morning: The Story of an Army Nurse in Vietnam. New York: Beaufort Books, 1983; pap. repr. New York: Warner Books, 1984. 320p. \$16.95, 0-8253-0132-7; pap., \$3.95, ISBN 0-446-30962-1. LC 82-20651.

Keith Walker, A Piece of My Heart: The Stories of Twenty-Six American Women Who Served in Vietnam. Novato, CA: Presidio Press, 1986. 350p. \$18.95, ISBN 0-89141-241-7. LC 85-19416.

For better than two decades, the Vietnam experience was considered an exclusively male one. The hundreds of novels, personal narratives, films, articles, and histories of the war paid scant attention to the contributions of the over fifteen thousand women who served in Vietnam. Women's roles in the war were commonly assumed to have been restricted to those of mother and wife, anti-war demonstrator and prostitute, refugee and resettler, casualty and mourner.

Fortunately, within the past two years a number of books have appeared to dispel these misconceptions and to focus attention on the 7500 military and 7500 civilian women who were in Vietnam. And while the results are mixed -- most of the female-oriented material, like much of the male, might not qualify as "good literature" -- the outlook is promising. At one level, the memoirs and memories of women who were in Vietnam are helping to "round out" the total Vietnam experience by adding a female, sometimes feminist, perspective on America's longest war. On yet another level they are forcing Americans to come to grips with the as yet unresolved legacy of the Vietnam War.

Lynda Van Devanter must be considered the catalyst for this new awareness. Following her appearance in Al Santoli's Vietnam oral history, Everything We Had (1), Van Devanter, with assistance from professional writer Christopher Morgan, laid bare her soul in Home Before Morning, published in 1984. While not overtly political or feminist in its perspective, Home Before Morning stands as a milestone because of its depiction of the day-to-day experiences of a Vietnam combat nurse and the woman veteran's difficult, if not impossible, readjustment.

By the time Van Devanter returns home, she is a walking casualty, besieged by nightmares and flashbacks. Seeking help, she finds herself abused and mistreated by the Veterans Administration, conservative and radical Vietnam veteran organizations, and noncommittal lovers. We come to realize that women veterans were not merely subjected to the ignorance and scorn that society accorded male Vietnam veterans. Since the majority of the female vets were nurses, the ordeal was compounded by the fact that most of them took up the same line of work -- the care of the sick and dying -- upon their return home.

This latter point is the most critical insight contained in <u>Home Before</u> Morning. Van Devanter realizes it herself when she is working in a hospital burn unit seven years after her return from Vietnam:

But the worst part of working on Marty was the odor. I had almost forgotten how disgusting a burn patient could smell... What was more unusual was that the putrid scent was mixed with the petroleum-like odor of napalm. Marty hadn't been exposed to napalm and neither had I since Vietnam. There was no reason to be smelling it now. Nobody else did. But napalm was with me twenty-four hours a day. I couldn't escape the oppressive stink.... Every night when I went to bed, I saw dozens of burn patients, all on operating tables in the surgical-T at Pleiku. (pp.329-330)

Thus, while their male-veteran counterparts were working at civilian jobs unrelated to their military occupations, women vets were thrust back into the same environment that had caused them trauma in Vietnam -- hospitals and death. It's no wonder that female veterans like Van Devanter turned to alcohol, sex, and drugs as a means of escape.

Home Before Morning is an important work. But its primary significance lies in the fact that it was first to break the silence enshrouding the experience of U.S. women in Vietnam. The account will not endure as literature; nor does it yield great feminist insight. In fact, Van Devanter often reverts to traditional male perspectives on issues like women in the military, devotion to doctors, and respect for male hierarchies.

Nevertheless, once Van Devanter went public with her experience and her pain, it became easier for others to follow suit. Such was the case with "Ruth," a Navy nurse in Vietnam and a recovering alcoholic who is the subject of A Woman's Recovery from the Trauma of War.

In a sense, "Ruth" is the archetypal combat nurse -- Lynda Van Devanter if you will -- undergoing therapy on the collective couch of twelve feminist therapists and activists. Like Van Devanter, Ruth was raised in a Catholic family, supported the U.S. military role in Vietnam, had a sexual liaison with a married physician in Vietnam, withdrew into a protective shell of alcohol and drugs in order to cope with the flashbacks and nightmares she experienced upon her return to the U.S., and was diagnosed as having Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

But unlike Van Devanter, Ruth continually isolated herself socially and was actively suicidal. More importantly, she sought help from a feminist therapist -- Laura Brown, a Seattle clinical psychologist -- a striking departure from Van Devanter's more mainstream therapist. As Brown, the lead therapist in A Woman's Recovery from the Trauma of War, points out:

I cannot imagine not having the awareness and analysis of feminism and still being an adequate or useful therapist for "Ruth." Indeed, a feminist analysis of the role of women in general, women in the military, and women in the Vietnam war has been the cornerstone of my conceptualizing... (p.13)

As significant as Brown's insights are, the remainder of the therapists' responses are cluttered with psychological jargon and clinical buzz words. We hear from a psychodynamically-oriented therapist, an expert on DSM-III (2), a pastoral counselor, and a Jungian therapist, among others. And while these diverse theoretical perspectives are interesting and share a collective commitment to feminism, too much of their message is lost in the translation. Still, for technical and lay readers, there are "Ruth's" personal disclosures, and there is the emergence of a strong feminist perspective on the military in general and women in the military in particular.

Other writers, such as Keith Walker, author of A Piece of My Heart, and Barthy Byrd, author of Home Front: Women and Vietnam, pursued more traditional, non-feminist material as they collected interviews with women who were heavily influenced by the Vietnam experience. In A Piece of My Heart, for example, Walker compiles the revelations of twenty-six American women who

served in Vietnam, among them nurses (fifteen of the twenty-six), Red Cross workers, WACs, entertainers, USO workers, civilian flight attendants, and representatives of relief and religious organizations. At the very least, by including civilian as well as military women, Walker demonstrates both the diversity and the uniformity of the female experience in Vietnam. While their jobs may have differed, the motivation for all of these women was the same -- to "care for" and support the American soldier in Vietnam.

But beyond that insight, and the cumulative effect of the twenty-six stories, there's not much new to be learned from A Piece of My Heart about the uniqueness of women's involvement in war. Yet to his credit, Walker displays a sensitivity to the significance of the "back home" experience for these twenty-six women. He writes in his introduction:

So, the women brought their ghosts back with them just as the men did. And they too have had their nightmares, flashbacks, depressions, and suicidal thoughts (I have seen the scars on wrists carefully concealed beneath watchbands). Back home, sadly, they have been left on their own to cope, to resolve, each in her own way, all of these conflicts. (p.6)

Unfortunately, this degree of editorial perceptiveness is inconsistent in Barthy Byrd's Home Front: Women and Vietnam. While it is noteworthy that a small press (Shameless Hussy Press) is paying attention to the Vietnam issue, one would have hoped that an author like Byrd could have added new and different insights to the female Vietnam experience. In Home Front, Byrd's emphasis is upon nine women who, in her words, "have paid and are continuing to pay the staggering price for the Vietnam war." But because of the sketchiness of the presentations and the lack of background afforded each of the interviewees, Home Front lacks insight or catharsis. The only glimpse of epiphany comes during the remarks of Barbara Gluck, a freelance photographer in Vietnam in the early 1970s, who explains an occupational hazard she refers to as "psychic insulation":

When you have your camera in front of you, there's a level of detachment that takes place so you're not really in the first person in the experience.... But later, when you're developing the pictures and you see the horror and the hopelessness, you break down. I cried many times at the pain and hopelessness of these people, but always after I had shot my pictures. (p.45)

But personal epiphanies like Gluck's are rare in <u>Home Front</u>. We have heard the accounts of spouses and mothers of MIAs and casualties before; we need to understand the links between these tragedies and those of American women veterans and Vietnamese women, but we do not find them here.

Some of these connections do come together in Shallow Graves: Two Women and Vietnam. Written by American Wendy Wilder Larsen and Vietnamese Tran Thi Nga in the Vietnamese truyen, or verse novel, form, Shallow Graves bridges the cultural, social, political, and historical gaps because its writers are willing to completely expose themselves and their feelings to one another and to us.

Wendy Larsen opens <u>Shallow Graves</u> in Christmas of 1970. She has come to Vietnam to join her husband, a journalist covering the war, and she teaches Shakespeare to young Vietnamese students. She is soon engulfed in a world she did not anticipate, one of black markets and opium dens, bar girls and orphanages. And while her style is not nearly as poetic as that of her Vietnamese counterpart, Larsen does capture some of the lunacy of the conflict. For example, in "For Chi Phuc" she writes:

You ironed my shirts in my living room. Two women in one apartment. You ironed. I read about your country. We could not speak one word to each other. When you almost died of your eighth pregnancy at 27, I found you at home sitting on a rush mat. Your deserter husband hid behind a wardrobe plastered with <u>Playboy</u> centerfolds. I took you to the Tan Son Nhut Hospital. When they laid you on the gurney cart and I saw you in my missing silk underpants you shrugged. (p.35)

Nevertheless, Shallow Graves succeeds because of Tran Thi Nga. Vietnam is her country, and Shallow Graves is really her story. Born in China of a mandarin family loyal to the Vietnamese emperor Bao Dai, Nga returns with her family to the ancestral home in North Vietnam only to be taken back to China as the "bartered bride" of one of Chiang Kai-shek's generals. Eventually, she returns to North Vietnam and heads south after the 1954 Geneva Accords.

Not only are we captivated by her personal odyssey, but as we follow the events of Tran Thi Nga's life, we become witness to fifty years in the life of one Vietnamese family and through it, the history of Vietnam as well. Nga comments on imperialism -- both of the Chinese ("Then the Chinese came to occupy our country/disarm the Japanese./ We are a small country, but every other country/feels it can treat us like its own home./ Just walk in. Do what you please...") and the American variety ("The Americans came to Vietnam/and turned our country upside down/with their money and their army./ Their soldiers slept with our women./ Their generals patted our generals on the heads/as if they were children...") -- on politics, on change, and on human suffering.

Unlike Wendy Larsen's verses, Nga's are written without irony, which makes their impact all the more devastating. And as she composes her last lines from her American home in Cos Cob, Connecticut, reflecting on the death of her mother in Vietnam, we realize that Tran Thi Nga's Vietnamese odyssey is now also an American one:

Looking out the window at the lights on the New Jersey Turnpike I prayed that we children

though across the world from one another had followed the ancient traditions so that her spirit would rest with Father's in Paradise. (p.273)

What Shallow Graves can do, that Home Before Morning, Home Front, and other works cannot, is to broaden our understanding of the Vietnamese conflict so that we begin to perceive Vietnam as a country as well as a war. It is important that Lynda Van Devanter and other women veterans, like their male counterparts, "come home" from the war. And it is critical that women like "Ruth" and others can articulate the sexist nature of the military and male hierarchies. But it is even more critical that we all begin to see and to appreciate the physical and human landscape that was this tiny Asian nation before the war. Shallow Graves takes a giant step toward reconciliation for all Americans -- veterans and Vietnamese alike.

#### -- Douglas J. Bradley

• [Madison, Wisconsin resident Douglas Bradley served as an information specialist with the Army and was stationed in Vietnam from November 1970 until-November 1971. In 1974 he helped to found Vets House in Madison, a community-based agency designed to provide counseling and job placement services for Vietnam era veterans. He has written widely on books and films about the war and his articles have appeared in <a href="The Progressive">The Progressive</a>, <a href="In These Times">In These Times</a>, and other periodicals. He is presently an assistant to the Chancellor with the University of Wisconsin-Extension.]

#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup>Al Santoli, Everything We Had. New York: Random House, 1981.

<sup>2</sup>American Psychiatric Association, Task Force on Nomenclature and Statistics. <u>Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders</u>. 3rd ed. Washington, DC: American Psychiatric Association, 1980.

#### nurturing daughters in recent young adult fiction

C.S. Adler. The Shell Lady's Daughter. New York: Ballantine Books, 1984. 136p. pap., \$1.95, ISBN 044970095X.

Sandy Asher. Missing Pieces. New York: Delacorte Press, 1984; pap., Dell, 1986. 136p. \$12.95, ISBN 0385293186; pap., \$2.50, ISBN 0440957168. LC 83-14381/AC.

Alice Childress. Rainbow Jordan. New York: Coward, McCann, Geoghegan, 1981; pap., Avon Books, 1982. 142p. \$8.95, ISBN 0698205316; pap., \$2.50, ISBN 0380589745. LC 81-596/AC.

Paula Danziger. <u>The Divorce Express</u>. New York: Delacorte Press, 1982; pap., Dell, 1986. 148p. \$12.95, ISBN 0440020352; pap., \$2.50, ISBN 0440920620. LC 82-70318/AC.

Barbara Girion. <u>Like Everybody Else</u>. New York: Scribner's, 1980; pap., Dell, 1982. 169p. \$8.95, ISBN 0684167158; pap., \$1.95, ISBN 0440448727. LC 80-21850/AC.

Bette Greene. Them That Glitter and Them That Don't. New York: Knopf; distr. Random House, 1983; pap., Ballantine Books, 1984. 244p. \$10.95, ISBN 0394846923; pap., \$2.25, ISBN 0449700771. LC 82-13020/AC.

Virginia Hamilton. Sweet Whispers, Brother Rush. New York: Philomel Books, 1982; pap., Avon Books, 1983. 215p. \$10.95, ISBN 0399208941; pap., \$2.25, ISBN 0380651939. LC 81-22745/AC.

Susan Shreve. The Masquerade. New York: Knopf; distr. Random House, 1980; pap., Dell, 1981. 184p. ISBN 0394841425; pap., \$2.25, ISBN 0440953960. LC 79-20073/AC.

Stephanie S. Tolan. <u>The Liberation of Tansy Warner</u>. New York: Scribner's, 1980; pap., Dell, 1982. 137p. \$8.95, ISBN 0684165236; pap., \$1.95, ISBN 0440946360. **%** 79-28539/AC.

[Editors' note: Jan Savage's "Mother/Daughter Relationships in Adolescent Fiction 1980-85: An Annotated Bibliography" is available from the UW System Women's Studies Librarian, 112A Memorial Library, 728 State St., Madison, WI 53706 (608-263-5754).]

The experience of motherhood has rarely held a prominent place in young adult fiction due to the very nature of that literature, which emphasizes the struggles of the adolescent. Until recently, mother/daughter relationships have also been neglected, as noted in 1976 by Lou Willett Stanek. (1) However, that central shaping relationship of adolescence is not only surfacing but finding central focus in contemporary fiction for young adults.

In a recent review of recommended young adult novels written since 1980 (2) I found that twenty-one of them gave the mother/daughter relationship center stage. No longer is the experience of motherhood being overlooked; rather, it is being represented realistically -- and from a rather surprising angle. Among these twenty-one novels were nine that shared a common theme: role-reversals between mothers and daughters. Instead of exploring only the stereotypical adolescent striving to find an identity, these novels portray mothers' struggling as well, and it is the mothers, incapable of coping, who must ultimately depend upon their daughters. Due to mental stress, economic strains, or self-absorption, the mothers in these nine novels relinquish their nurturing role and in doing so force their daughters to take it on. Though the daughters unanimously experience this role as a burden they resent, their lives are so deeply entangled with their mothers' that they are unable to

refuse the nurturing role their mothers have rejected. Out of these fictional portrayals of role-reversal comes an unusually authentic representation of the complex mother/daughter relationship.

In keeping with the traditional format of young adult literature, these novels put the adolescent daughters at the center of the action, even though their position of authority may be unwanted. The mothers may be instigators of change because of their inability to cope with traditional roles, but it is the daughters who must seek some resolution through their own strength. The patterns vary in the following novels, but in each the daughter reluctantly plays the role of mother.

Mental stress, sometimes to the point of mental illness, is the cause of the mother's abandonment of nurturing in a number of these novels. In Sandy Asher's Missing Pieces, the recently widowed mother totally immerses herself in work because she fears that she will become an emotional burden. She continues to provide her daughter with household services, but unconsciously cuts herself off emotionally. It is only through the daughter's repeated overtures and patient counseling that the two are able to share their grief and appreciate the bonds between them.

The stress of an unhappy marriage causes Mrs. Warner to abandon her three children in The Liberation of Tansy Warner. Tansy and her brother and sister are left to cope with the household since their father has reacted by withdrawing. Through assuming responsibility for more household tasks, Tansy begins to appreciate her mother. She tracks her mother down and hears her mother's explanations of an oppressively unhappy marriage. Tansy is then able to accept her mother's need for independence, and although Tansy still must provide physical nurturing to the family, by novel's end her mother is once again providing Tansy with emotional support.

However, in another novel of marital discord, <u>The Divorce Express</u>, daughter Phoebe is called on again and again to provide emotional support for her mother and resents her mother's failure to do the same for her. Phoebe's parents are divorced, and she spends weekends with her mother. When her mother is having difficult times with a new romance, Phoebe comforts her. Yet the daughter feels her sensitivities are not considered when her mother remarries a man whom she dislikes. The novel ends with her feeling rejected by her mother and seeking comfort and security with her father.

In two novels, The Shell Lady's Daughter and The Masquerade, the mothers' degree of stress is so great that it leads to mental illness and eventual hospitalization. Kelly in The Shell Lady's Daughter feels that she has somehow betrayed her mother who had always treated Kelly as her best friend. Kelly tried to remove herself from that role of friend but now feels the burden of guilt for her mother's suicide attempt. Although Kelly is removed to her grandmother's house while her mother is hospitalized, she decides in the face of family opposition to return home to support her mother in her convalescence. In somewhat the same way, Rebecca in The Masquerade is there to support her mother when she returns home after her mental illness. Rebecca and her siblings, however, have been left to care for themselves. Their father was imprisoned for embezzlement which led to the auction of their mansion and their mother's mental breakdown. Rebecca misses having a mother and resents being considered the "best all-around" who can deal with anything.

Having masqueraded well-being for many weeks to preserve her pride, she rebels and purposely abandons respectability. However, as the time comes for her mother to return home, Rebecca resumes her responsible role and tries along with her brother and sister to prepare a peaceful environment for her mother's recovery.

Two novels of inner city life reflect the stress of economic hardship. In both Rainbow Jordan and Sweet Whispers, Brother Rush, the mothers are away from home for long periods of time seeking employment or working in other homes. These mothers are caught in a double bind: by trying to provide economic support, they are unable to provide emotional support. Neither daughter nurtures her mother, but each of them does have to accept total responsibility for herself. Rainbow, for example, has to deal with eviction notices, social workers, and parental-consent forms from school. Finally, after struggling with feelings of betrayal towards her birth mother, Rainbow allows herself to accept and return the love of Josephine, her foster mother.

In <u>Sweet Whispers</u>, <u>Brother Rush</u>, Tree accepts all the household responsibilities for herself and her ailing, retarded brother, Dab. Resentment grows as she realizes her mother has a life beyond motherhood which Tree yearns to share. The resentment doubles when encounters with Brother Rush, her dead uncle's ghost, recall childhood memories of her mother abusing her brother. When Dab dies, Tree confronts her mother with the truth and deals with her own ambivalent feelings of love and hate.

Like Everybody Else and Them That Glitter and Them That Don't both deal with mothers who are so absorbed in their own concerns that they push unwanted responsibilities onto their daughters. Samantha Gold in Like Everybody Else cleans and prepares food for her mother, a writer of children's books who is obsessed with the public reception of her recent adult sex novel. The family tiptoe to please the nervous mother, but receive no reciprocal concern for their own important events. Embittered, Samantha prepares for her bat mitzvah party alone. Then, through her rabbi's guidance, she gradually comes to an appreciation of her mother's talents, and begins to recognize qualities they share. Samantha becomes the initiating voice of reason that awakens her mother so that she can refocus her life. In the same way, Carol Ann in Them That Glitter and Them That Don't is the voice of reason in a family of scheming parents; her mother tells fortunes and "blesses" money for a living. Having played the role of mother to her many younger brothers and sisters, Carol Ann realizes that if she is to succeed as a country-western singer, she will have to make her life on her own. Reflecting on her family, she says,

I felt as though I was born to be the only true adult in this family.... I needed my mother to be that -- a mother. A caring, seeing-to-everything, taking-charge mother. But the truth was she was at least half the time just another one of the kids. (p.17)

The recurring refrain in these novels is the call for mother; these adolescent daughters long for an understanding communion in which they are cared for and relieved of the heavy responsibilities they bear. Though they are at the developmental stage where one would expect a movement toward

liberation from familial bonds, that development seems inhibited by their mothers' various struggles for selfhood. By acknowledging the trouble and disorder in mothers' lives, which has frequently been glossed over in earlier works for adolescents, these novels develop more human characters. The frequency with which this theme appears suggests that such mothers are neither uncommon nor abnormal. Yet the novels do not resort to mother-blaming. They expose the anguish of mothers' lives and the effect of that anguish on daughters by recognizing that the adolescent quest for identity and value in society persists into motherhood as well.

The daughters in these works have particular appeal to young adult readers who are presented with the adolescent as the enduring character of strength in the midst of psychological hardship. By and large, the mothers in these novels are unable to resolve their daughters' anguish and reclaim their roles of responsibility in the family. Their economic, mental, or marital condition generally persists (with the exception of Missing Pieces and Like Everybody Else) so that the resolution must come through the daughters' willingness to understand the mothers' situations. This exposure of the anguish in mothers' lives suggests the writers' attempts to initiate young adults into the complexity of adult life and to explore more realistically the experience of motherhood in the 1980s.

#### -- Jan Savage

[Jan Savage, a mother of two daughers, has taught English at New Mexico State University, Madison Area Technical College, and the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. Currently she is completing a masters degree in school librarianship at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.]

#### NOTES

Lou Willett Stanek, "Growing Up Female: The Literary Gaps," Media and Methods v.13, no.1 (September 1976), pp.46-48.

The works I considered were included in the following recommending sources: "ALA Best Books for Young Adults," 1980-85; CCBC Choices (University of Wisconsin, Cooperative Children's Book Center), 1980-85; Junior High School Catalog, 5th edition with supplements (H.W. Wilson, 1985); Senior High School Catalog, 12th edition with supplements (H.W. Wilson, 1982); University of Iowa's "Books for Young Adults Poll." Adult novels of interest to young adults were not included.

## BOOKS RECENTLY RECEIVED.

Adeline Mowbray: or, The Mother and Daughter. By Mrs. Opie (Amelia Opie). London: Pandora Press; distr. New York: Methuen, 1986.

Ancient Enemies. By Elizabeth North. Chicago: Academy Chicago, 1986.

Antifeminism in American Thought: An Annotated Bibliography. By Cynthia D. Kinnard. Boston: G.K. Hall, 1986.

Apartheid U.S.A. (Lorde)/Our Common Enemy, Our Common Cause: Freedom Organizing in the Eightles (Woo). By Audre Lorde and Merie Woo. New York: Kitchen Table: Woomen of Color Press, 1986. (Address: P.O. Box 2753, New York

Betrayed. By Amalie Skram; translated by Alleen Hennes. Orig. 1892; New York: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1986.

Changes of Heart: Reflections on Women's Independence. By Liz Heron. London: Pandora Press; distr. New York: Methuen, 1986.

Christina Rossetti: The Poetry of Endurance. By Dolores Rosenblum. Carbondale, IL: Southern Illinois University Press, 1987.

The Combahee River Collective Statement: Black
Feminist Organizing in the Seventies and Eighties
(Freedom Organizing Series #1). By The Combahee
River Collective. New York: Kitchen Table: Women of
Color Press, c.1986. (Address: P.O. Box 2753, New
York, NY 10185)

The Defiant Muse: Italian Feminist Poems from the Middle Ages to the Present: A Bilingual Anthology. Ed. by Beverly Allen, Muriel Kittel, and Keala Jane Jewell. New York: The Feminist Press, c.1986.

An Estate of Memory. By Ilona Karmel. New York: The Feminist Press, 1986.

The Fat Woman's Joke. By Fay Weldon. Chicago: Academy Chicago, 1986.

Feminist Experiences: The Women's Movement in Four Cultures. By Susan Bassnett. London/Boston: Allen & Unwin. 1986.

Hidden Agendas: Theory, Politics, and Experience in the Women's Movement. By Elizabeth Wilson, with Angela Weir. London: Tavistock; distr. New York: Methuen, 1986.

I Am Your Sister: Black Women Organizing Across Sexualities. By Audre Lorde. New York: Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press, c.1985. (Address: P.O. Box 2753. New York, NY 10185)

Inspiring Women: Reimagining the Muse. By Mary K. DeShazer. Elmsford, NY: Pergamon Press, 1986.

Long Time Passing: Lives of Older Lesbians. Ed. by Marcy Adelman. Boston: Alyson, 1986. (Address: 40 Plympton St., Boston, MA 02118)

Losing Out: Sexuality and Adolescent Girls. By Sue Lees. London/Dover, NH: Hutchinson, 1986.

Mother Tongue, Father Time: A Decade of Linguistic Revolt. By Alette Olin Hill. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1986.

Murder at the Nightwood Bar. By Katherine V. Forrest. Tallahassee, FL: Naiad Press, 1987.

Natural Healing in Gynecology: A Manual for Women. By Rina Nissim. Orig. 1984 (French); London: Pandora Press; distr. New York: Methuen, 1986. The Neuter Computer: Computers for Girls and Boys. By Jo Shuchat Sanders and Antonia Stone for the Nomen's Action Alliance. New York: Neal-Schuman Publishers, 1986. (Address: 23 Leonard St., New York, NY 10013)

Once Upon the Future: A Homan's Guide to Tomorrow's Technology. By Jan Zimmerman. London: Pandora Press; New York: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1986.

The Parish and the Hill. By Mary Doyle Curran. New York: The Feminist Press, 1986.

Patronage. By Maria Edgeworth. Orig. 1814; London: Pandora Press; distr. New York: Methuen, 1986.

The Riverhouse Stories: How Pubah S. Queen and Lazy LaRue Save the World. By Andrea Carlisle.
Corvallis, OR: Calyx Books, 1986. (Address: P.O. Box B, Corvallis, OR 97339)

Sensibility: An Introduction. By Janet Todd. New York: Methuen, 1986.

Social Policy: A Feminist Analysis. By Gillian Pascall. London: Tavistock; distr. New York: Methuen, 1986.

This Child's Gonna Live. By Sarah E. Wright. Orig. 1969; New York: The Feminist Press, 1986.

The Wide, Wide World. By Susan Warner; ill. by Frederick Dielman. Orig. 1850; New York: The Feminist Press, 1987.

The Woman Client: Providing Human Services in a Changing World. Ed. by Dianne S. Burden and Naomi Gottlieb. London: Tavistock; distr. New York: Methuen, 1987.

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Courtesy of Sanford Rerman.

#### REMINDER FOR OUR WISCONSIN READERS

Those of you who may have put aside and forgotten about your questionnaire for the statewide directory, Women's Studies in Wisconsin: Who's Who & Where, please take a few moments to fill in the form below and return it to us. We have had a good response so far, but want to include as many active educators in the field of women's studies across the state as possible. If there are others you think should be included, please send along their names, or copy this form and pass it along to them. Thank you. Deadline is May 1, 1987.

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