

# feminist collections

a quarterly of women's studies resources

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## FROM THE EDITORS

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In 1977, the first UW System Librarian-at-Large for Women's Studies opened her pilot office in a tiny room on the fourth floor of UW-Madison's main library. In 1982, treading the trails blazed by librarians Esther Stineman and Linda Parker, I arrived to head the office, now housed in larger first-floor quarters with a permanent budget and staff. As 1987 drew to a close, I naturally began reminiscing about the office's decade of service and my own five years on the job.

Curiosity prompted me to do some counting. Although numbers don't paint the full picture, they can be revealing. If you've been a loyal subscriber since we launched our publications in 1979, you've received ninety issues in all -- thirty-three of Feminist Collections, twenty-six of Feminist Periodicals, and eleven of New Books on Women & Feminism. New Books has grown from an occasional ten-page list of some hundred titles to a thick, semiannual bibliography of nearly a thousand recent printed and audiovisual works -- a ringing testament to the tremendous growth of feminist scholarship and publishing in a remarkably short span of years. Feminist Periodicals, which began by displaying the contents of thirty-seven selected journals, now covers nearly a hundred. In my Feminist Collections column on new reference works, I've reviewed 226 titles, and the other book reviews and regular columns have covered an equally substantial number of resources. In addition to our serial publications, we now distribute forty-seven reading lists on a potpourri of topics.

And while we're counting... The fourth edition of Women's Studies in Wisconsin: Who's Who & Where (Summer 1987) identified 533 people involved in feminist education. Although we view these members of the UW community and other Wisconsin residents as our primary clientele, we're gratified that our mailing list, which now numbers 1,035, lists 378 out-of-state subscribers, including libraries and individuals in sixteen foreign countries.

Information-by-mail is a major aspect of our work, but personal contacts are important too. In five years on the job, I've made fifty-four formal visits to UW campuses, in addition to participating in library and women's studies conferences around the state. I wish I had a record of the miles I've logged! Our interactions with library users likewise remain largely unquantified. We can't report accurately how many research queries we've answered for scholars, how many students we've helped with term papers, how many bibliographic details we've verified for librarians and writers who've telephoned from around the country.

Warm "thank-you's" and constructive feedback from the people we serve inspire our efforts. We benefit from learning who uses the materials we generate, and how. Teachers affirm that our publications "are useful for personal and student research." Faculty outside women's studies programs appreciate concrete support for integrating the new feminist scholarship into traditional courses. Staff in university, public, and school libraries report using our materials for book selection and for answering reference questions.

One college librarian wrote, "I feel like Lady Bountiful going off to my women's studies meetings with copies of Feminist Collections." Students seem especially grateful for the bibliographies and Feminist Periodicals, which offer time-saving short-cuts for term paper research.

Our constituency is also a broader one, however, with diverse and unforeseen uses for our information. Student services staff, affirmative action officers, vocational counselors, union educators, clergy, writers, visual artists, booksellers, and workers in a range of campus and community agencies consult our publications when planning conferences, setting up resource centers, finding publishers for their creative work, counseling clients, and advocating for social change. It's gratifying, too, to learn how widely our materials reach. Copies are shared with office-mates, colleagues, and students; others are forwarded to peers outside Wisconsin and in foreign countries. One comment from a recent subscription renewal form particularly warmed my heart. "[I] find reviews of relevant works for my work life, my personal life and my social change interests," the reader stated, adding "Bravo!" Just knowing that we've touched her life in several ways makes the deluge of information we struggle with, the publishing deadlines, the computer hassles, and the mad traveling all seem more manageable.

To you, our readers, the office staff and I extend our deeply felt thanks for the support and encouragement you've showered on us. Perhaps we should have burned out long ago, but after ten years we still experience women's studies as a dynamic, exhilarating enterprise. Our goals for the next decade are to respond to the changing scholarly and political scene, and to stay on the cutting edge of women's studies information sharing. Our commitment stands: to bring you the latest resources for feminist research and teaching.

-- S. S.

## "LET'S TALK ABOUT IT": WOMEN'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY

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Public libraries in Wisconsin and around the country have been offering a series of book discussions called "The Journey Inward: Women's Autobiography." Part of the "Let's Talk About It" reading and discussion program promoted by the American Library Association, the five books featured in this women-oriented series are: One Writer's Beginnings by Eudora Welty, Letters of a Woman Homesteader by Elinore Pruitt Stewart, Dust Tracks on a Road by Zora Neale Hurston, My Life by Isadora Duncan, and Blackberry Winter by Margaret Mead. The promotional brochure for the series notes that, although the first autobiography that is still in existence was written by a woman in the fifteenth century, "...many women's life stories have been 'lost.'" Only recently have women's autobiographies been "rediscovered" and acknowledged as valuable pieces of history and human insight.

"The Journey Inward: Women's Autobiography" centers on the quest for identity -- the literal or figurative journey -- that guides many

autobiographical writings. Welty's week-long trips to visit relatives, Stewart's move to the frontier, Hurston's constant relocation as a young girl, Duncan's voyage to foreign shores, and Mead's many extensive travels in her work -- all are literal journeys, notes the program brochure. "Yet all these women journey inward, too, to discover and write about the sense of self."

It was a woman who got the "Let's Talk About It" program underway. In her kitchen in Vermont, a book lover and her friends got together once every two weeks to discuss their reading. Eventually she got her local public library involved, with help from the Vermont Council for the Humanities, and the idea spread from there. The National Endowment for the Humanities funded the original three-year national-level project, with the American Library Association using its expertise to develop themes and materials. As of this year nine different themes are available to state and local libraries. In Wisconsin, "Let's Talk About It" is sponsored by the Wisconsin Library Association and supported in part by the Wisconsin Division for Library Services and the Wisconsin Humanities Committee with funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

How does the program work? Local humanities scholars give presentations on each of the five books in the series, one every two weeks. By providing background on the author and the work, the scholar provokes questions and discussion about the reading, and the audience often breaks into smaller groups for further sharing of ideas and questions. The topics and related books have been selected by a special advisory committee of ALA, which has also prepared brochures and extended bibliographies for each series. Among the other themes offered are: "Being Ethnic, Becoming American: Struggles, Successes, Symbols"; "Individual Rights and Community in America"; and "Making a Living, Making a Life: Work and its Reward in a Changing America."

"Let's Talk About It" gives adult readers a chance to experience again the best feature of formal education -- the opportunity to explore a text together with others, to share impressions and critiques. In particular, "The Journey Inward: Women's Autobiography" contributes to the expansion of feminist education outside the college classroom, and should be a thought-provoking and rewarding medley of book discussions for any community. Watch for them in yours.

## A PERSPECTIVE ON EUROPEAN BOOKSELLING

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[Bookselling is one aspect of feminist resources that we've seldom touched on in Feminist Collections. After Sandi Torkildson, of our local Room of One's Own feminist bookstore, attended the International Congress for Young Booksellers in June, we asked her about her experience there and about her impressions of feminist publishing and bookselling in Europe and the U.S.]

A twelfth-century monastery-turned-conference center in the Swiss countryside was the site of the 31st International Congress for Young

Booksellers. The sponsoring group, the International Booksellers Federation, promotes development of the book trade on an international level and supports both the cultural and commercial importance of books throughout the world. Represented at this year's conference were the Netherlands, West Germany, Switzerland, the U.S., Great Britain, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Canada, Austria, Italy, Belgium, Norway, Spain, and Greece. Having won the American Booksellers Association's Charley Haslam International scholarship, Sandi was one of three representatives from the U.S. Though she was the only participant from a feminist bookstore, the percentage of women attending was quite high -- "close to fifty percent," according to Sandi. It was a young group, mostly in their twenties and early thirties, many of them finishing up three-year bookselling apprenticeships. "A lot of the women were feminist and aware. Many women are very involved in the peace movement and the anti-nuclear movement in Europe," Sandi says.

Why, then, such small representation from feminist bookstores? For one thing, Sandi relates, "The cost of attending such a conference is quite high, and women's bookstores may not choose to spend their limited funds that way, since the conference doesn't have a specific feminist focus." Sandi speculates also that, although there is certainly an active women's publishing community in Europe, there are probably not as many feminist bookshops as in the U.S. It came across clearly at the conference that bookselling is a very established and respected career in Europe, with careful training to prepare young booksellers for the trade. "In Switzerland a three-year course is offered that combines classroom studies with on-site instruction in a bookstore," according to Sandi. Her own career development was less systematic. "I learned most of what I know about bookselling by experience and by reading anything I could about books and bookselling. While Publisher's Weekly, American Bookseller Magazine, and Feminist Bookstore News help us all keep current, it is hard for a new bookseller to gain knowledge except on the job or at the week-long bookseller schools offered by the American Booksellers Association." Sandi reports that it is easier to just find an empty storefront and open a bookstore in the U.S., as many feminist bookstores have done, but it's also much more of a struggle to learn the ropes.

The level of cooperation between European publishers and booksellers strongly impressed Sandi. The Swiss Book Center, for example, is a distribution and wholesale company that offers next day service for book orders placed before 2:30 p.m. Sandi notes that this kind of cooperation is unheard of in the U.S. A kind of antagonism exists between larger publishers and bookstores here, she reports, demonstrated by long delays in receiving book orders, vastly different and confusing distribution systems, undercutting of prices, etc. By contrast, Sandi explains, "There's a lot more cooperation between feminist presses and feminist bookstores here because we understand we're all in this together," Sandi says. Workers from women's presses and bookstores often get together at national meetings such as the American Booksellers Association conventions, and at special Women in Print conferences, to exchange ideas and skills. "Most feminist bookstores try to promote women's presses and small presses," Sandi relates, so that their books don't get lost in the shuffle. "We take time to explain the cost differences to customers," she says, noting that small press books may have a bigger price

because a small operation's costs are higher per book, but that larger firms often won't publish the radical analyses, self-help manuals, and avant-garde novels that are the bread-and-butter of small presses in North America. "Small publishers are the ones taking risks," Sandi explains, "then larger firms will sometimes pick up a writer once a couple of novels have done well." Only during the last few years, Sandi notes, have a few larger U.S. publishing houses begun to produce their own "series" of feminist books.

In Europe, on the other hand, many mainstream presses have their own separate imprint for feminist books, and Sandi suggests that the need for women's publishers and bookstores may therefore be reduced. Lesbian writers such as Norway's Gerda Brantenberg are published by major houses in Europe but would seldom receive such treatment in the U.S. There are, of course, notable feminist presses in Europe -- Virago and The Women's Press, both in England, produce substantial lists. Sandi also got the impression that Europeans are generally more well-read than those of us stateside. Even in the small Swiss town the conference group visited, she found two well-stocked bookstores, each with a broad selection of titles.

"We learned as much outside of the classroom as in," Sandi says in summing up her experience at the conference. "We heard much about each others' countries and discovered political issues important to booksellers and book lovers." She agrees with IBF President Peter Meili's statement at the opening of the conference, "Booksellers live in the market, but for the spirit." Feminist bookstores have a long way to go in gaining visibility in the general bookselling community, but Sandi believes that her winning an IBF scholarship indicates things are beginning to change. That someone from a feminist bookstore was one of three representatives from the U.S. makes a positive statement about the growing credibility and acceptance of feminist publishing and bookselling.

## NEWS FROM UW-PLATTEVILLE ---

Last year the Women's Studies Program at UW-Platteville celebrated its tenth anniversary. Today the program offers fifteen courses, eleven of them cross-listed with university departments and four offered solely by Women's Studies. All of the courses are usually offered at least once a year and all but one can be counted toward fulfillment of university requirements. The Women's Studies Program has in place a minor, an independently-structured major, and a certificate. Approximately 350 students take women's studies courses each year.

Three women's studies faculty -- Jacqueline Ross, Elaine Wheeler, and Gloria Stephenson -- have presented papers at national conferences this year. David Zierath and Margaret Karsten gave presentations at the annual statewide Women's Studies Conference. Jacqueline Ross has received one grant from the UW System Undergraduate Teaching Improvement Council (UTIC) and submitted a proposal for another. Marilyn Gottschalk has also submitted a UTIC grant proposal. Helen Tierney, who is now Chair of the History Department, is completing her Women's Studies Encyclopedia, to be published by Greenwood

Press. Margaret Karsten published an article in the Central State Business Review and has submitted a paper to the Midwest Business Administration Association conference. Barbara Parsons' review of Discovering Reality, edited by Sandra Harding and Merrill Hintikka, has appeared in Feminist Collections.

"Women in Science and Engineering" is a new course which will be offered for the first time next year, taught by Patricia Rummel of the Department of Industrial Engineering. The Women's Studies Program has also been instrumental in the formation of a faculty organization, Women in Science and Engineering. This group has already established an ambitious agenda. Other courses in the process of development are "Feminist Theory" and "Women and Health." Progress is being made toward offering one or two women's studies courses at a community site in order to encourage people off campus to enrich themselves by studying various aspects of women's lives. An independent study student is examining the feasibility of this undertaking.

Other recent projects of the Women's Studies Program include establishing a committee to help women's studies faculty find and apply for grant monies, and setting an agenda of Faculty Forum presentations to bring major themes from women's studies courses to the faculty as a whole.

-- Gloria Stephenson

[Gloria Stephenson is the Director of the Women's Studies Program at UW-Platteville. She is also a member of the English Department faculty. Her areas of emphasis are American literature and women writers.]

## NEW REFERENCE WORKS IN WOMEN'S STUDIES

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Capek, Mary Ellen, ed. A Women's Thesaurus: An Index of Language Used to Describe and Locate Information By and About Women. New York: Harper & Row, 1987. 1,052p. \$37.50, ISBN 0-06-015775-5. LC 86-46231.

As one of four principal editorial advisors to A Women's Thesaurus, I can't possibly masquerade as an objective reviewer. Editor Mary Ellen Capek has already detailed the long, collaborative process of creating the thesaurus in FC (Winter 1987, pp.6-11) and pointed to the many ways it may be used in the future to bring order and access to information about women (Spring 1987, pp.8-10). In the introduction to the volume, she reiterates her goal: "to lead users into the language -- to provide alternative routes to locating terms and to broaden awareness of some of the ways in which language structures our thinking" (p.xiv), because "language is one of the most intimate and most political of human activities" (p.xvi).

Impressive in its sheer size, the thesaurus covers over five thousand words and phrases that apply to women's experience. First-time thesaurus users may be daunted by the complexity and array of displays, but those



familiar with similar tools will be struck by the professional content and well-designed layout of A Women's Thesaurus. Terms are listed alphabetically (with broader, narrower, and related concepts); hierarchically; in a "rotated" display (i.e., under every key word in the term); and by broad subject. Abundant examples in the opening section, "Thesaurus Construction and Use," succeed in explaining the different displays and delineating the compilers' decidedly feminist philosophy.

A technical tool like A Women's Thesaurus will find many uses:

"It can help users develop manual and computerized filing systems, prepare indexes for books, establish categories in bibliographies, catalog special library collections, and index abstracts of research articles. We anticipate that it will be used in libraries, women's centers, classrooms, offices, government agencies, publishing enterprises, local archives, and any other settings that need a detailed language to store and retrieve and explore information." (p.xiii)

Because it reflects current usage, the thesaurus will also aid librarians and researchers engaged in free-text searching of existing online catalogs and bibliographic databases. Last, but surely not least, merely browsing through the terms sparks insight and inspiration.

Black American Families, 1965-1984: A Classified, Selectively Annotated Bibliography. Ed. by Walter R. Allen et al. New York: Greenwood Press, 1986. 480p. index. \$45.00, ISBN 0-313-25613-6. LC 86-14959.

In the last issue of FC, I reviewed The Black Family in the United States (Greenwood, 1986), Lenwood G. Davis's revision of his pioneering 1978 bibliography. Hard on its heels comes Black American Families, 1965-1984, another reference work from the same publisher covering much of the same literature.

Allen and his colleagues cite 1,153 works; Davis, only 722. All of Davis's citations are annotated, however, whereas Allen et al. provide annotations for only a quarter of their entries. Both arrange references in subject categories, but only Allen offers additional topical access through a key word index. Both are reproduced from typescript (Davis's format is more legible), and they are similarly priced.

While the volumes are alike in many ways, Allen's is distinguished by its more scholarly approach. In striving to produce an "accessible typology," the compilers included only articles, books and book chapters, doctoral dissertations, masters theses, government documents, and university publications with a "research orientation." The main listing (where full bibliographic data appears) is alphabetical by author, followed by a classified index to major topics and 120 subtopics. The headings are based on the classification system developed by the National Council on Family Resources for its data base. Allen's introduction analyzes the percentage of citations in each topical category, the prevalence of key words, and the

distribution of types of publications and source journals -- data rarely gleaned from bibliographies on any topic.

Dandridge, Rita B. Ann Allen Shockley: An Annotated Primary and Secondary Bibliography. New York: Greenwood Press, 1987. 120p. index. \$29.95, ISBN 0-313-25740-X. LC 86-33471.

As Dandridge stresses in her appreciative introduction, Ann Allen Shockley is a prolific Black author whose contributions to literature and librarianship have garnered little recognition. This extremely thorough bibliography covers not only Shockley's short stories and novels, but also her newspaper columns, letters to editors, unpublished articles, and professional writings on library collections and services in Black studies -- a total of 286 works by Shockley and 148 works about her. Dandridge's well-written annotations do not shy away from frank assessments, and published reviews of Shockley's works indicate that critical opinion is mixed among both Black and white readers. However, Shockley's fictional explorations of Black lesbian experience have broken new ground, and thus her work should be of considerable interest to feminist readers and scholars. The availability of this bibliography should spur scholarly interest in Shockley, who continues to write.

Ferber, Marianne A. Women and Work, Paid and Unpaid: A Selected, Annotated Bibliography. New York: Garland Publishing, 1987. 408p. index. \$35.00, ISBN 0-8240-8690-2. LC 87-8652.

Ferber has prepared a model scholarly bibliography on women's work, emphasizing materials in the field of economics but drawing references from other disciplines as well. Few of her entries pre-date the 1960s; all are in English, though not solely about the United States. Ferber cites over 1,000 works, including books, articles in anthologies, and items selected from 169 journals. She organizes the annotated references into nine chapters: "General Works"; "The Family"; "Labor Force Participation"; "Occupational Distribution"; "Earnings and the Female-Male Pay Gap"; "Discrimination"; "Unemployment"; "Women in Individual Occupations"; "Women Throughout the World." Each chapter opens with a page-and-a-half summary of key themes, and works that could be assigned to more than one chapter are cross-referenced. Ferber adds an ingenious feature to the citations -- codes that indicate whether a work emphasizes theory, methodology, empirical evidence, or policy issues. Evaluative comments are sometimes included in the annotations. The volume concludes with author and subject indexes. Faculty, graduate students and advanced undergraduates will benefit greatly from this well-thought-out bibliography.

Gibson, Anne, and Timothy East. The Women's Atlas of the United States. New York: Facts on File Publications, 1986. 248p. illus. index. \$35.00, ISBN 0-8160-1170-2. LC 86-675059.

The Women's Atlas of the United States has been widely reviewed in tandem with the Atlas of American Women by Barbara Gimla Shortridge (Macmillan, 1986), which I already treated in this column (FC Summer 1987, p.13). Like other reviewers, I'm hard pressed to recommend one over the other. The biggest difference is price: Shortridge's work sells for \$85.00, while the volume by Gibson and East is more reasonably pegged at \$35.00. The maps in Shortridge's volume use only black, white, brown and grey; while easy-to-read, they are visually unexciting. Gibson and East employ colors and a variety of cartographic techniques and symbols (often in the same map, which occasionally hinders interpretation).

Gibson and East treat the same basic topics as Shortridge: demographics, education, employment, family, health, crime, and politics. They indulge in cutesy sub-titles (under Health, for example, "Let's Get Physical" and "The Birds and the Bees") that are jarring in an otherwise scholarly reference tool. Of the two sources, only Shortridge covers women's sports.

Both works offer well-written and thoughtful commentary in addition to the maps. Gibson and East include a very helpful section on "Deciphering Maps" that describes the different kinds of cartograms and maps (choropleth, symbol, pie chart, dot, prism) used to represent geographical data. Sources are cited for all mapped data and all statistics quoted in the text. A concluding chart indicates the lowest- and highest-ranked states for a number of variables. Wisconsin (not lowest on any factor) has the highest percentage of women farmers and the highest percentage of women among its waiters and waitresses.

Most libraries will need only one such atlas, and The Women's Atlas of the United States is obviously the better buy.

Goodfriend, Joyce D. The Published Diaries and Letters of American Women: An Annotated Bibliography. Boston: G. K. Hall, 1987. 230p. index. \$30.00, ISBN 0-8161-8778-9. LC 87-17908.

This bibliography fills a long-standing need for a guide to the published diaries and letters of American women -- a need felt by historians, literary critics, contemporary journal-keepers, and general readers alike. Covering books (from private presses and organizations as well as mainstream publishers) and magazine articles (including many drawn from state and local history journals), Goodfriend provides scholarly annotations that place the writings in historical context, outline their contents and themes, and offer basic biographical background on the authors. The entries are arranged chronologically from 1669 to 1982 and augmented with author and subject indexes. With an emphasis on immediacy and the "experiential dimension of history" (p.xi), Goodfriend excludes memoirs and autobiographies. This well-wrought bibliography complements existing guides to primary sources (e.g.,

Women's History Sources: A Guide to Archives and Manuscript Collections in the United States, edited by Andrea Hinding, Bowker, 1979) and the growing array of bibliographies of secondary literature. Its coverage of American diaries supersedes that provided by Jane DuPree Begos in her self-published Annotated Bibliography of Published Women's Diaries (1977), although the Begos list is still valuable for diarists outside the United States.

Grinstein, Louise S., and Paul J. Campbell, eds. Women of Mathematics: A Biobibliographic Sourcebook. New York: Greenwood Press, 1987. 292p. index. \$45.00, ISBN 0-313-24849-4. LC 86-25711.

The reference literature on women in scientific and technical fields is burgeoning. In this fine bio-bibliography, Grinstein and Campbell describe the lives and work of forty-three women mathematicians, from Hypatia (fourth century A.D.) to women still living. All the essays are original, many of them written by women mathematicians or historians who revere their subjects as role models. Well-known names (Emmy Noether, Sofia Kovalevskaja, Mary Sommerville) appear alongside many less familiar but influential scholars and teachers. Each entry includes a brief biography covering the subject's family background, education, and career; a summary of her work and its importance; and an up-to-date, multi-lingual bibliography of works by and about her. The life stories document the barriers women have faced in studying math, finding employment, and pursuing research, and testify to the genius and determination of women in this "male" field.

Grinstein and Campbell omit women whose major contributions were to physics or astronomy, hinting that a companion volume is in the works. They add name and subject indexes, plus appendices summarizing the key facts of the women's lives, and provide references to entries in ninety-eight biographical dictionaries and other collections. This thorough piece of scholarship will find its niche alongside other recent, but more general, reference books on women in science.

Humm, Maggie. An Annotated Bibliography of Feminist Criticism. Boston: G. K. Hall, 1987. 240p. index. \$35.00, ISBN 0-8161-8937-4. LC 87-9078.

"The subject of this bibliography is contemporary feminist criticism: its theories, techniques, debates and development in America and England," states its compiler (p.ix). Anyone even slightly conversant in women's studies will realize what a large topic Humm has shouldered, and will naturally wonder whether a single author can do justice to such a variegated, interdisciplinary concept as feminist theory.

Remarkably, Humm succeeds. She demonstrates exceptionally clear judgment in selecting over nine hundred texts (primarily book-length studies) in the following categories: literary criticism; sociology, politics, and economics; arts, film, theatre, media, music; psychology; history; anthropology and myth; education and women's studies. An opening section titled "Theory and Sexual Politics" covers more general works. While the earliest citation dates from

1938, most of the references are to works written in the seventies and eighties.

The topical arrangement of the bibliography makes it easy to use but also poses problems. Lacking a chapter for science, for example, Humm lists a key article by Evelyn Fox Keller in Psychology, Joan Rothschild's Machina ex Dea in Sociology, and the anthology Alice Through the Microscope in Education. Other important theoretical works on women and science simply don't appear. Works on religion and health, two vibrant areas of feminist criticism, are likewise scattered throughout the volume. Fortunately, a subject index provides access to fields that aren't accorded chapters and to works on issues (such as rape) addressed by several disciplines.

The brevity of the annotations -- generally one to three sentences -- occasionally leads to oversimplification. Was it really Mary Jane Sherfey's article on clitoral orgasm in Sisterhood is Powerful that "laid the groundwork of the second wave of American feminism?" (p.5).

Despite such occasional flaws, this is a unique bibliographic synthesis of a large body of scholarship. Within the subject categories, the chronological order of citations allows the browser to trace the development of ideas and research foci. Humm manages to squeeze all the "classics" of contemporary feminist thought into her framework, and she doesn't slight works with lesbian and non-white perspectives. The volume is appropriate for all academic libraries, especially those that lack more specialized bibliographic sources in women's studies.

Maggio, Rosalie. The Nonsexist Word Finder: A Dictionary of Gender-Free Usage. Phoenix: Oryx Press, 1987. 210p. bibl. pap., \$20.00, ISBN 0-89774-449-7. LC 87-17788.

Hats off to Rosalie Maggio for creating a unique handbook for harried writers! Authors striving to perfect a nonsexist prose style can already turn to a number of encouraging guides, but this is the first easy-to-use dictionary of inoffensive words and phrases. For sexist terms such as "masterpiece," "freshman," "mankind," and "every man for himself," Maggio offers a range of synonyms and alternative expressions. She often expounds upon usage and derivation as well. A "Writing Guidelines" appendix succinctly treats some major problems, among them the generic "man," feminine endings, and salutations for letters. Maggio is particularly sharp in her critique of sex-linked metaphors and figures of speech, and ably demonstrates that eliminating sexism will not drain the color from the language. For the phrase "cock-and-bull story," for example, she offers the following substitutes: snow job, moonshine, bunkum, poppycock, hot air, hogwash, banana oil, balderdash, and applesauce -- as well as the bald phrase, "a lot of nonsense." Everyone who writes, for profit or pleasure, should have this sensible, delightful book on his or her desk.

Malinowsky, H. Robert. International Directory of Gay and Lesbian Periodicals. Phoenix: Oryx Press, 1987. 226p. index. pap., \$65.00, ISBN 0-89774-297-4. LC 86-33311.

This professional-looking bibliography of over 1,500 titles will appeal to librarians, bookstores, retail advertisers, and general readers. The compiler used a number of existing partial bibliographies and lists to generate the directory, and he attempted to contact every periodical with a questionnaire. That hundreds of titles are identified as ceased or as not responding is indicative of the volatile nature of gay and lesbian publishing and the marginality of gay culture.

The coverage is broadly inclusive, encompassing not only overtly homosexual periodicals but more general titles on feminism and spirituality that have significant lesbian content, plus periodicals with a bisexual, transsexual, or transvestite orientation. The publications range from academic journals to slick erotic magazines to local newsletters. The scope is genuinely international, although English-language titles predominate. For those periodicals which responded to the questionnaire or sent the compiler a sample issue, there is full information on frequency, editors, circulation, advertising rates, subscription costs, audience, and content, along with a current address and telephone number. Malinowsky provides ample cross-references among variant titles. Two indexes -- Subject/Geographic and Publisher/Editor -- round out the directory.

Any work of this kind is bound to be out-of-date as soon as it's off the presses. Milwaukee's year-old lesbian-feminist magazine, Hag Rag, is not listed, while Out!, Wisconsin's defunct gay and lesbian newspaper, appears as a current title. Despite its broad scope, the directory fails to list many of the lesbian titles covered by Clare Potter's Lesbian Periodicals Index (Naiad Press, 1986). Nor is the Lesbian Periodicals Index cited as an indexing source in the annotations. Our own Feminist Periodicals covers a fair number of lesbian titles, but is mentioned in only a handful of the entries. Since Malinowsky plans to compile revised editions, such omissions and inconsistencies can be corrected in the future.

Moore, Evelyn K., Merlene A. Vassall, and Geraldine Wilson. Beyond the Stereotypes: A Guide to Resources for Black Girls and Young Women. Washington: National Black Child Development Institute, 1986. 75p. pap., \$8.50 (prepaid). (Address: National Black Child Development Institute, 1463 Rhode Island Ave. N.W., Washington, DC 20005. Phone: 202-387-1281. Also available as ERIC document ED 275-772.

The Women's Educational Equity Act Program funded the creation of this guide to counteract stereotypical images of Black girls and women in children's educational materials and the media in general. Parents, teachers, and other adults who work with children are its intended audience. The resource lists are grouped by age (3-7, 8-11, 12-15, 16+) and then divided into books, records and cassettes, and films and videotapes. Each section concludes with an address list of bookstores and A/V distributors.

Fewer unique resources are highlighted than one at first supposes, since items are repeated in each appropriate age category. The enjoyment of films, for example, is not dependent on reading level, so most of the films and videos are recommended for all ages. Nonetheless, this is an excellent resource for school libraries and for college libraries serving schools of education. The guide includes a checklist of criteria for evaluating materials on the basis of their presentation of Black history, characterizations, language and terminology, and illustrations.

Sellen, Betty-Carol, and Patricia A. Young. Feminists, Pornography, & the Law: An Annotated Bibliography of Conflict, 1970-1986. Hamden, CT: Library Professional Publications, 1987. 204p. index. \$25.00, ISBN 0-208-02124-8. LC 87-2915.

Sellen and Young serve up a valuable guide to the controversy over pornography that now divides the women's movement. Since reviewer Kathy White will discuss this reference work along with another recent book on pornography in a forthcoming issue of FC, I'll merely supply a brief description. The bibliography is organized by type of information source: book, magazine article, newspaper, nonprint medium, unpublished material, or organization. The references, enhanced by objective annotations, are quite up-to-date; many commentaries on the Meese Commission report are cited. Sellen and Young cover small press as well as mainstream publications, both scholarly and popular. Some articles from law journals find their way into the listings, but materials on specific legal cases or the First Amendment in general are excluded, along with most experimental studies on the behavioral effects of viewing pornography. The emphasis is squarely on the opposing arguments voiced by those who seek to eliminate pornography and those who tolerate it for the sake of freedom of expression. The volume offers an excellent index to authors and subjects, an appended directory of periodicals which frequently cover the feminist anti-pornography movement, and a chronological list of newspaper stories.

Steele, Elizabeth. Virginia Woolf's Rediscovered Essays: Sources and Allusions. New York: Garland Publishing, 1987. 238p. index. \$40.00, ISBN 0-8240-8527-2. LC 86-25725.

As Steele reports in her introduction, Virginia Woolf wrote over five hundred essays for journals and newspapers, more than half of which have never been reprinted. Steele's earlier guide, Virginia Woolf's Literary Sources and Allusions: A Guide to the Essays (Garland, 1983, reviewed in FC Winter 1985, p.14) addressed the essays readily available in published collections. A project underway at Hogarth Press to collect all of Woolf's essays in a six-volume set edited by Andrew McNeillie makes this supplementary volume of considerable interest to Woolf specialists. As in her first guide, Steele charts the sources and allusions essay-by-essay, based on internal evidence in the texts, information from Woolf's reading notebooks, and knowledge of books in the Woolfs' personal library. Steele sees her task as "supplying, so to speak, the footnotes [Woolf] omitted" (p.33) and thus solidifying the author's reputation as a well-read scholar as well as a consummate writer of prose.

Vocational Equity Resources. Madison: Vocational Studies Center, School of Education, UW-Madison, September 1987. 100p. Free. (Address: Vocational Equity Resource Center, c/o Barb Dougherty, 964 Educational Sciences Building, 1025 West Johnson St., Madison, WI 53706. Phone: 608-263-4357.)

This handy bibliography is a catalog of the collection of the Vocational Equity Resource Center at UW-Madison, which houses books, articles, pamphlets, audiovisuals, and curriculum guides. The catalog is arranged by subjects (thirty-eight in all) such as career development, disability, displaced homemakers, entrepreneurship, sexual harassment, and Title IX. "Equity" in this context clearly means "sex equity."

The listing would benefit from an introduction explaining the scope of the collection and policies governing its use. The brief annotations are helpful, but the odd practice of listing each periodical issue separately (and in no particular order within subject sections) makes it difficult to tell how complete a run of any given title the Center holds. Despite these minor flaws, the guide succeeds in publicizing the contents of a specialized resource collection. Researchers far from Madison may discover that the volume serves well as a general bibliographic guide to sex equity materials for vocational guidance and training.

Wilms, Denise, and Ilene Cooper. A Guide to Non-Sexist Children's Books, Volume 2: 1976-1985. Chicago: Academy Chicago, 1987. 275p. index. illus. \$17.95, ISBN 0-89733-161-3. pap. \$8.95, ISBN 0-89733-162-1. LC 86-32262.

The first volume of A Guide to Non-Sexist Children's Books was compiled by Judith Adell and Hilary Dole Klein in 1976. The sequel divides its 685 entries into the same age brackets as the original -- pre-school through third grade, third through sixth grade, and seventh through twelfth grade -- and then splits each section into fiction and non-fiction. Wilms and Cooper's definition of "non-sexist" is not limited to sex-role reversals. They explain that "the books included in this Guide might be best characterized as role-free; many are about strong women and forthright young girls, but others are about thoughtful boys or troubled young people of either sex who, through experience and thoughtful observation, learn how to solve their problems independently" (p.ix).

The one-to-two-sentence annotations give only a hint of the books' plots and themes, but the guide has other helpful features. Wilms and Cooper give both hardback and paperback prices and note titles that are out-of-print. They add a directory of addresses for small presses, and a very useful subject index that enables the reader to identify books on minority groups, general topics (e.g., sports), particular issues (e.g., sexual abuse, career choices), and genres (e.g., biographies, mysteries, poetry, fantasy). While specialists in children's literature will no doubt quibble with some of the choices, the guide will be a boon to parents, librarians, and teachers. The publisher looks forward to a third volume in the 1990's.



Women and Development: Articles, Books and Research Papers Indexed in the Joint World Bank-International Monetary Fund Library, Washington, D.C.  
 Boston: G. K. Hall, 1987. 181p. \$50.00, ISBN 0-8161-0464-6.

A dictionary catalog offering author, title, and subject access to the library serving the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, this volume falls short of expectations. The introduction states that the entries represent "serious and systematic collection efforts" between 1977 and 1986, a period of rapidly-growing interest in women in developing countries. The coverage seems uneven, however; there is only one entry on Vietnam, thirteen on Bangladesh. Only western-language sources are cited, predominately English. Brief annotations appear occasionally. The approximately four thousand entries include journal articles, book chapters, and research studies and reports sponsored by national and international agencies. This last category encompasses many "fugitive" materials omitted from standard bibliographies and indexes.

Inadequate subject access plagues the volume. The compilers warn that "since the entries in this bibliography were merged from different source files that followed different approaches to the literature, some inconsistencies in the use of subject headings will be noticeable" (Intro.). This is unfortunately quite true. An article from a volume published by UNESCO, Women in the New Asia (1963), titled "My Life History in Thailand," is indexed by author and title but not under Thailand, Southeast Asia, or Asia. Another article titled "Women, Sufism, and Decision-Making in Moroccan Islam" fails to appear under Sufism, Morocco, Islam, or Muslim women. One can only conclude that some portion of the cited works received no subject indexing at all.

There is almost no overlap between Women and Development and two other recent bibliographies -- Women in the Third World: A Historical Bibliography, by Pamela R. Byrne and Suzanne R. Ontiveros (ABC-CLIO, 1985), and Women in the Third World: A Directory of Resources, by Thomas P. Fenton and Mary J. Heffron (Orbis Books, 1987). Comprehensive collections will therefore want all three, but institutions supporting primarily undergraduate research can skip Women and Development.

NOTE: Space limitations prohibit full reviews of every new reference work. In the interest of comprehensiveness, we note the following titles with brief annotations only:

Anant, Suchita, S. V. Ramani Rao, and Kabita Kapoor. Women at Work in India: A Bibliography. New Delhi: Sage Publications, 1986. 238p. index. \$22.50, ISBN 0-8039-9512-1. LC 86-902567.

Sponsored by India's Ministry of Labor, this bibliography covers English-language books, periodicals, doctoral theses, research monographs, and discussion and seminar papers from the post-independence period to December 1985.

Clardy, Andrea Fleck. Words to the Wise: A Writer's Guide to Feminist and Lesbian Periodicals and Publishers. 2nd ed. Ithaca, NY: Firebrand Books, 1987. 48p. (Firebrand Sparks Pamphlet, 1) pap., \$3.95, ISBN 0-932379-16-8. LC 86-4714.

Like the first edition (reviewed in FC Fall 1986), this revised pamphlet is directed to authors seeking publishers. Clardy lists fifty-seven book publishers and sixty-six periodicals, with information on content, submission guidelines, royalties, and the like.

Ferguson, Anne, and Marina Flores. Resource Guide: Women in Agriculture: Guatemala. East Lansing, MI: Bean/Cowpea Collaborative Research Support Program, March 1987. 111p. Free. (Address: Bean/Cowpea CRSP, 200 Center for International Programs, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824-1035. Phone: 517-355-4693.)

This is the third in a series of guides on women's roles in Third World agriculture, all sponsored by a research program that aims to alleviate hunger and reduce malnutrition in developing countries. The bibliography features lengthy annotations (from two paragraphs to several pages each).

Kinnear, Mary, and Vera Fast. Planting the Garden: An Annotated Archival Bibliography of the History of Women in Manitoba. Winnipeg: University of Manitoba Press, 1987. 314p. index. \$35.00, ISBN 0-88755-140-8.

Kinnear and Fast describe oral, written, and pictorial archives in sixty-five Manitoban repositories. A total of 1,446 entries appear in three major categories: "Identity," "Work and Activities," and "Mentality, Faith, Reform."

Strobel, Peg, and Marion Miller, eds. Women's History, Volume II: European and Third World History. New York: Markus Wiener Publishing, 1986. 178p. pap., \$14.50, ISBN 0-910129-32-0. LC 85-040517.

Strobel and Miller turn to one of women's studies' richest fields -- history -- and to some of its leading scholars to assemble twenty-four syllabi on women in Europe and seventeen on women in the Third World. The course outlines are reproduced in reduced format from a variety of typescripts.

-- S.S.

## PERIODICAL NOTES

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### NEW AND NEWLY-DISCOVERED PERIODICALS

The American Voice. 1985-. Ed.: Frederick Smock. Quarterly. \$12. Single copy: \$4. ISSN 0884-4356. Suite 1215 Heyburn Building, Broadway at Fourth Ave., Louisville, KY 40202. (Issues examined: no.7, Summer 1987; no.8, Fall 1987)

Published by the Kentucky Foundation for Women, this literary quarterly solicits essays, poetry and short fiction representative of the "American voice in all its diversity, including writers from Canada, the U.S., and South America." The sample issues (86 and 110 pages) carry work mostly by women writers.

The Ancient Arts. Eds.: Jo and James Dixon. Quarterly. \$13 (ind.); \$15 (non-U.S.); \$17 (non-U.S. airmail). The Witching Well, P.O. Box 1490, Idaho Springs, CO 80452. (Issue examined: Spring 1987)

The Witching Well Education and Research Center works "to present correct information concerning the ancient Goddess religions, Witchcraft and related subjects...." Their newsletter is "a seasonal publication that delves seriously into the old Pagan Ways.... Ancient forms of divination, Wort-cunning, Sabbats, formulas, spells" and more. The twenty-page sample issue includes communications from various covens and readers, explanation of spring rituals, and a number of recipes for traditional spring foods.

The Bodybuilding Woman. 1987-. Ed.: Lisa Rogak. 6/year. \$14.97. Symmetry Publishing, Inc., 701 Seventh Ave., Suite 9W21, New York, NY 10036. (Issue examined: v.1, no.1, September/October 1987)

Promising to be "an alternative to the narrow variety of publications" serving the sport of bodybuilding, this first twelve-page issue of The Bodybuilding Woman newsletter includes an extensive interview with professional bodybuilder Diana Dennis, a book review, bodybuilding newsnotes from current magazines such as Vogue, sexist quotes from muscle magazines, an article on Roling, and more.

Breaking the Silence: A Feminist Quarterly. 1982-. Quarterly. \$10 (ind.); \$20 (inst.). ISSN 0713-4266. Box 4857, Station F, Ottawa, Ontario, K1S 5J1 Canada. (Issues examined: v.5, no.3, Spring 1987; v.5, no.4, Summer 1987)

"The Breaking the Silence Collective is committed to giving women a voice. In particular, we provide a forum for discussion on the social welfare needs of women...." (editorial statement). The quarterly is published by the Feminist Caucus of the Carleton University School of Social Work. Among the Spring 1987 issue's topics are racism in the women's movement; global feminism; hunger and the social safety net; and day care. The Summer 1987 issue focuses on lesbianism: government human rights protection; lesbianism in the women's movement; lesbians having children; and bisexuality are some of the topics. Book reviews and news of resources round out each issue.

Feminist Voices: A Madison Area News Journal. 1987-. Eds.: Mary Martin and Easwari Pal. Monthly beginning January 1988. \$12 (ind.); \$25 (sponsor). P.O. Box 853, Madison, WI 53701-0853. (Issue examined: pilot issue, October 1987)

Since the demise of the Feminist Connection in 1984, Madison has been without its own feminist newspaper. The pilot issue of Feminist Voices appeared in October, and its twelve pages include articles on the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights; women and AIDS; a feminist perspective from the Philippines; a Catholic "Women-Church" conference; Madison's Take Back The Night march; alcohol and drug abuse counseling; and more. The paper also publishes an extensive calendar, book and movie reviews, and a "Creative Expressions" section.

Gender and Education: A Journal. 1987-. Ed.: Averil E. McClelland. Monthly. College of Education, 406 White Hall, Kent State University, Kent, OH 44242. (Issue examined: v.1, no.1, September 1987)

The editor plans for this monthly eight-page newsletter to grow into a full-fledged journal in association with an eventual clearinghouse at Kent

State University for research on gender issues in education. The newsletter covers gender issues in a number of ways: "through short articles, quotes, book reviews, historical materials, information on national projects and organizations, and...bibliographic information..." (editorial).

IGLYO Bulletin. 1987-. Ed.: Editorial Group. Quarterly. \$7. International Gay and Lesbian Youth Organisation, P.O. Box 1305, Vika, N-0112, Oslo 1 Norway. (Issue examined: no.1, 1987)

The sixteen book-size pages of this bulletin's first issue are filled largely with plans for the International Lesbian and Gay Youth Conference in London in August 1987, plus a copy of I.G.L.Y.O. bylaws. An article on "Growing Up Gay in Bombay" and a brief on "Gay Studies in the Netherlands" complete the issue.

Shattered Dreams. 1987-. Ed.: Cathy McDiarmid. Quarterly. \$8. c/o Born to Love, 21 Potsdam Rd. Unit 61, Downsview, Ontario M3N 1N3, Canada. (Issue examined: v.1, no.1, July 1987)

This newsletter hopes to offer any woman who has suffered miscarriage "answers to her many questions, support and understanding of what she is feeling, information and sources to assist working through her grief, a forum to share her experiences...." (editorial). The eight-page premiere issue includes one woman's story of her miscarriage experience; brief letters from others; a listing of books and support groups on miscarriage; and some medical and environmental explanations for why one in five pregnancies ends in miscarriage.

Welfare Mothers Voice. 1987-. Eds.: Welfare Warriors. Quarterly. Free to AFDC mothers at most health and social service agencies. \$4 (mail to AFDC or low-income mothers); \$8 (ind.); \$10 (inst.). 4504 N. 47, Milwaukee, WI 53218. (Issue examined: Spring 1987)

The Welfare Warriors is a group of women either currently or formerly supported by the government's Aid to Families with Dependent Children program. The premiere issue of their newsletter is packed with eye-opening stories of welfare mothers' dealings with government programs; news of education opportunities; legal advice and tips on details of the welfare system and regulations; and personal notes by welfare moms.

Wiplash. 1986? Monthly. 10 pounds (includes membership to Women In Publishing); 5 pounds (without membership). Women in Publishing, Val Stevenson, 96 Mansfield Rd., London NW3 2HX, England. (Issue examined: no.10, October 1987)

The eleven-page newsletter of the London-based Women in Publishing group contains news of the London Book Fair and the Older Feminists Network, conference and job announcements, and notices of membership and related meetings.

Women Live. 1987-. Ed.: Gillian Horitz. Quarterly. 7 pounds (ind.); 5 pounds (low-income); 12 pounds (inst.); 20 pounds (airmail to U.S.). ISSN 0952-0465. 5 Middlehill Rd., Wimborne, Dorset BH21 2SA, England. (Issue examined: no.1, Autumn 1987)

This cooperative publication labels itself "a collection of writing and illustrations by women about their lives" and clearly focuses on autobiography, particularly encouraging "writing by women who have only

recently found time or energy or confidence to begin" (publicity flyer). Each piece is preceded by a paragraph of introduction to the writer/artist and explanation of how the work came to be. The forty-page first issue carries the work of an interesting balance of experienced and beginning writers/artists, including the former editor of Women Speaking, a fifty-year-old housewife, a member of the Communist Party, and a pseudonymous victim of child sexual abuse.

## SPECIAL ISSUES OF PERIODICALS

American Psychologist, v.42, no.1, January 1987: special section on adolescent abortion. Ed.: Leonard D. Goodstein. \$60 (ind.); \$120 (inst.). Single copy: inquire. ISSN 0003-066X. Subscription Section, American Psychological Association, 1400 North Uhle St., Arlington, VA 22201. (Issue examined)

Contents of this special section: "Adolescent Abortion: Psychological Perspectives on Public Policy" (Gary Melton and Nancy Felipe Russo); "Adolescent Abortion: Psychological and Legal Issues" (Interdivisional Committee on Adolescent Abortion); "Legal Regulation of Adolescent Abortion: Unintended Effects" (Gary Melton); "Minors' Competence to Consent to Abortion" (Catherine Lewis); and "Counseling Adolescents With Problem Pregnancies" (Jeanne Marecek).

• American Psychologist, v.42, no.10, October 1987: special section on pornography. (See subscription information above.) (Issue examined)

Contents of this special section: "Pornography, Social Science, and Politics: When Research and Ideology Collide" (Brian Wilcox); "Report of the Surgeon General's Workshop on Pornography and Public Health" (C. Everett Koop); and "The Findings and Recommendations of the Attorney General's Commission on Pornography: Do the Psychological 'Facts' Fit the Political Fury?" (Daniel Linz, Edward Donnerstein, Steven Penrod).

Comparative Education, v.23, no.1, 1987: "Sex Differences in Education." Ed.: Patricia Broadfoot; Guest ed.: Margaret B. Sutherland. \$73 (ind.); \$146 (inst.). Single copy: \$27. ISSN 0305-0068. Carfax Publishing Co., 85 Ash St., Hopkinton, MA 01748. (Issue examined)

Partial contents: "Sex Differences in Education: An Overview (Margaret B. Sutherland); "Women's Access and Opportunity in Higher Education: Toward the Twenty-first Century" (Kathryn M. Moore); "Islam's Point of View on Women's Education in Saudi Arabia" (Rafeda Al-Hariri); "Research Dilemmas Concerning Gender and the Management of Education in Third World countries" (Lynn Davies). Book reviews are included.

The North American Review, v.272, no.3, September 1987: special supplement, "The Woman Question, 1849-1987." Guest ed.: Carolyn Hardesty. \$11. Single copy: inquire. ISSN 0029-2397. University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA 50614. (Issue examined)

This sixty-five-page supplement was planned as a review "outlining attitudes toward women as reflected in NAR's pages as far back as the mid-nineteenth century." The three sections, divided into "Suffrage," "Image and Self-Image," and "Education, Career, and Family" include such pieces as: "The Woman Question" (Francis Parkman, October 1879); "The Other Side of the Woman

Question' (Julia Ward Howe, Thomas Wentworth Higginson, Lucy Stone, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, November 1879); "The Subjection of Women" (William James, October 1869); "The New Woman" (Ouida, or Marie Louise de la Remée, May 1894); and "The Educated American Drudge" (Elizabeth Banks, September 1904).

The Wilson Quarterly, v.10, no.4, Autumn 1986: special section on "Feminism in America, 1848-1986." Ed.: Peter Braestrup. \$19. Single copy: \$5. ISSN 0363-3276. Smithsonian Institution, Magazine Service Dept., P.O. Box 52211, Boulder, CO 80321-2211. (Issue examined)

"Today, after both successes and unexpected failures, America's Third Wave of feminist agitation...has subsided." This opening editorial statement offers an indication of the right-wing historical analysis to come. "Act One" (Lois Banner) centers on early feminists of the Seneca Falls era; "The Fight for Suffrage" (William L. O'Neill) discusses the problems and dissention amid the movement to gain the vote; "The Third Wave" (Rita Kramer) summarizes the "shallow political strategy" and extremism aimed at societal reform the writer believes have brought about the demise of the current women's movement.

## TRANSITIONS

An editorial statement in the June 1987 Outwrite: Women's Newspaper said that after its July issue the collective would take a three-month break "to concentrate on fundraising, reorganizing and building up support." The statement noted that, depending on the financial resources available, Outwrite might not have the same (newspaper) format after it reappears.

Sinister Wisdom is now edited by Elana Dykewomon and published on the West Coast. The new address: P.O. Box 3252, Berkeley, CA 94703. (Information from Hot Wire, November 1987, p.63)

## CEASED PUBLICATION

Out! v.1, no.1, November 1982-v.5, no.10, August 1987. Ed. by Jeff Kirsch. P.O. Box 1481, Madison, WI 53701.

Women's Review 1985-1987. Ed. by Helen Carr and Nicci Gerrard. Monthly. ISSN 0267-5080. Unit 1, 2nd Floor, 1-4 Christina St., London EC2 England. (Information from Everywoman, September 1987, p.11)

## ITEMS OF NOTE

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\* MAKING IT: A WOMAN'S GUIDE TO SEX IN THE AGE OF AIDS is a forty-eight-page pamphlet by Cindy Patton and Janis Kelly. The bilingual English/Spanish edition is now available for \$3.95 from Firebrand Books, 141 The Commons, Ithaca, NY 14850 (607-272-0000).

\* Educational Equity Concepts, Inc. announces the establishment of THE NATIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE ON WOMEN AND GIRLS WITH DISABILITIES, a system for providing information on resources and programs to assist women and girls with a wide range of disabilities. Educators, institutions, researchers, job and

career training programs, the general public, and others with an interest in positively affecting the lives of the disabled are the targeted constituencies. For further information, contact Educational Equity Concepts at 114 E. 32 St., New York, NY 10016 (212-725-1803).

\* The WISCONSIN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION LITERARY AWARDS COMMITTEE has bestowed Outstanding Achievement honors on two Wisconsin women authors. They are Carol Fairbanks for her book Prairie Women: Images in American and Canadian Fiction; and Judith Walzer Leavitt for Brought to Bed: Childbearing in America, 1750-1950.

\* HISTORY OF BLACK WOMEN'S EDUCATION IN THE SOUTH is a set of teaching modules developed by Elizabeth L. Ihle, affirmative action officer and associate professor at James Madison University. Documented historical texts, photographs, diary excerpts, interviews, bibliographies and more are included in the modules, which are titled: "Black Girls and Women in Elementary Education"; "Black Women's Vocational Education"; and "Black Women's Academic Education in the South." The modules are available free of charge from Ms. Ihle at James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA 22807.

\* The Organization for Equal Education of the Sexes offers the TABS POSTER SERIES, fifty attractive eleven by seventeen-inch posters of women, each accompanied by a four-page biography of the woman portrayed. Subjects include Helen Keller, Rachel Carson, Dolores Huerta, carpenter Josie Varias, surgeon Sylvia Ramos, and computer software engineer Maria Magana. Each poster costs \$3.50 plus shipping and handling charges. Request an order form or catalog from OEEES, 438 Fourth St., Dept. 101, Brooklyn, NY 11215 (718-788-3478).

\* The UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM OFFICE OF WOMEN AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAMS has a collection of audiovisual resources which may be borrowed by System institutions. Of note are six videos on sexual harassment: Effective Management Strategies: Preventing Sexual Harassment; Sexual Harassment: Taking New Aim at an Old Problem; Sexual Harassment is Bad Business; Shades of Gray; The College Obstacle Course; and You Are the Game: Sexual Harassment on Campus. Questions? Contact Joan Daniels Pedro at the Office of Women and Equal Opportunity Programs, 1802 Van Hise Hall, 1220 Linden Dr., Madison, WI 53706 or 608-262-6404.

\* Thordis Simonsen, editor of YOU MAY PLOW HERE: THE NARRATIVE OF SARA BROOKS, is touring with readings from the book along with a related photographic exhibit. Accompanied by slides or a lecture, the readings recount the life of a Black woman from her childhood on an Alabama farm to home ownership in the North. The black-and-white photographs of Alabama mule farming were created in conjunction with the book. For further information, contact Ms. Simonsen at P.O. Box 6107, Denver, CO 80206 or 303-832-4729.

\* The newly-formed MARGUERITE RAWALT RESOURCE CENTER DATABASE, a project of the Business and Professional Women's Foundation, now contains some 1,000 catalog records. This year, MRRC staff will perform searches and mail results to individuals free of charge, but expect to require a modest fee in the future. For a search request form or to comment on the database, contact the

Business and Professional Women's Foundation, 2012 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20036 (202-293-1200).

\* PANDORA BOOK PEDDLERS in Englewood, NJ, hopes to help fill the gap left when New York City's only feminist bookstore closed this summer. Pandora will fill mail and phone orders from their 9,000-title inventory. To join 8,000 others on their mailing list, write or call Pandora at 68 W. Palisade Ave., ML, Englewood, NJ 07631 (201-894-5404).

\* Second Life Books' Catalogue 60, entitled WOMEN IN SOCIETY: WITH AN EMPHASIS ON FEMINISM AND THE EQUAL RIGHTS MOVEMENT, offers over 400 rare book titles. Request a copy from Second Life Books, Inc., Quarry Rd., P.O. Box 242, Lanesborough, MA 01237 (413-447-8010).

\* Another distributor of out-of-print and collectible books, Somerville & Ross, Books, offers LIST 2 -- BOOKS BY WOMEN. Of 100 titles listed, most are first American editions. For more information, write Somerville & Ross, Books, P.O. Box 7272, FDR Station, New York, NY 10150.

\* SURROGATE MOTHERS: ETHICAL AND LEGAL ISSUES by Sue A. Meinke is an eight-page annotated bibliography of sources on court decisions, legislation, and questions of ethics associated with surrogacy, with suggestions for further reading. Produced by the National Reference Center for Bioethics Literature, this and other items from their Scope Note series may be obtained for \$3 each, prepaid. Contact the Center at the Kennedy Institute of Ethics, Georgetown University, Washington, DC 20057 (800-MED-ETHX or 202-625-4117).

\* SEXUAL HARASSMENT ISSUES AND ANSWERS: A GUIDE FOR EDUCATION, BUSINESS, AND INDUSTRY, edited by Nancy H. Deane, offers general information on harassment, a sample policy statement, a model complaint/grievance form, and a list of resources. The thirty-nine-page guide is published by the College and University Personnel Association (CUPA) and may be ordered for \$14 by CUPA members (\$22 for non-members), plus \$1.25 for shipping and handling. Write CUPA at 11 Dupont Circle, N.W., Suite 120, Washington, DC 20036.

\* THE INTERNATIONAL LESBIAN INFORMATION SERVICE (ILIS) has recently moved to Amsterdam, Holland. The new ILIS Secretariat is Interpot (International Dyke politics) which has begun publishing the ILIS Newsletter in English, Spanish, and French. Membership fees are \$15 for individuals and \$60 for groups, and should be sent to ILIS-Secretariat, c/o COC, Rosenstraat 8, 1016 NX Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

\* WISCONSIN WOMEN LEGISLATORS: A HISTORICAL LIST is a five-page document prepared by A. Peter Cannon. It is available free of charge (for up to three copies) from the Legislative Reference Bureau, Room 201 North, State Capitol, Madison, WI 53702 (608-266-0341). Order by Wisconsin documents number: Leg 2.3:B/1987/5.



## WISCONSIN BIBLIOGRAPHIES IN WOMEN'S STUDIES ---

"New Reference Works in Women's Studies, 1986/87" compiled by Susan Searing is the latest addition to the series "Wisconsin Bibliographies in Women's Studies." Compiled annually in the fall from listings in the previous year's Feminist Collections, this three-page bibliography and all other titles in the series are available at no charge from: UW System Women's Studies Librarian, 112A Memorial Library, 728 State St., Madison, WI 53706.

## WOMEN'S STUDIES IN WISCONSIN ---

The first edition of Women's Studies in Wisconsin: Who's Who & Where appeared in September 1980, with the hope of enhancing "communication and... collaboration among the many Wisconsin residents concerned with feminist issues and research." In 1982 the second edition was published, and in 1985, the third. The Office of the Women's Studies Librarian is now pleased to announce the fourth edition of the directory, which lists 553 faculty, librarians, students, and community representatives working in the field of women's studies across the state.

More than 2,000 questionnaires were distributed in the spring of 1987, in an attempt to reach all those who wished to be listed. The resulting entries include home and work addresses and phone numbers; occupation; faculty field or discipline; community work related to women's studies; and current research or subjects of interest in women's studies. Indexes provide listings by area of specialization or interest; college or university; occupation; city or town; organizations; areas of speaking expertise; and name/specialty of speakers. For the first time, this edition of Women's Studies in Wisconsin also includes a listing of women's studies programs in the state, their administrators or contact persons, and brief descriptions.

Copies of the directory have already been mailed to Wisconsin readers; out-of-state subscribers may also receive a free copy upon request. Write Women's Studies Librarian, 112A Memorial Library, 728 State St., Madison, WI 53706.

## BOOK REVIEWS

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### "SPECIFYING" AND "SIGNIFYING": THE ORAL TRADITION IN BLACK FEMINIST WRITING

Karla F.C. Holloway, The Character of the Word: The Texts of Zora Neale Hurston. New York: Greenwood Press, 1987. 146p. \$29.95, ISBN 0-313-25264-5. LC 86-19457.

Susan Willis, Specifying: Black Women Writing the American Experience. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 1987. 186p. \$19.95, ISBN 0-299-10890-2.

In the burgeoning area of literary criticism on Black women's writing, two recently issued books point to the diversity of the field. Karla Holloway's book on Zora Neale Hurston, The Character of the Word, takes as its point of departure the power of "nommo," or the word, whereas Susan Willis' volume on modern Black women writers, Specifying, views literature against the history of changing economic modes. Although the two use very different methods and literary evidence, they converge in their insistence on and appreciation of an oral tradition which has been so important in the culture of the Black community. In addition, their appreciation of Zora Neale Hurston, the one writer they discuss in common, is similar. Reading the two together provides, therefore, a very useful exercise for the literary critic who is searching for an appropriate method.

Karla Holloway takes off from Owen Barfield's view of "the word" in an ancient time when there was less distance between speaker and speaker meanings, between "langue" and "parole" (p.36). Barfield comes closest to defining what Holloway calls "nommo" -- "the creative potential of the word" (p.36). Whereas for Barfield, the word, rather than the text, is a primary source, Holloway believes that "for Hurston, this source is cultural property as the ancient and complex act of 'signifying.' The black text that signifies takes its impetus from this linguistic activity and internalizes the process until it speaks to itself. ...[Hurston] not only shared the signifying participant-structures with her community, but she worked to enclose these structures into her texts" (p.37). Signifying is an act of bearing witness to or exposing. Hurston's gift as a narrator who both participated in and acted as observer to the events she "exposes" becomes for Holloway an effective plea for the recognition of her text's "intrinsic structure, one that feeds on its own signs and is transformed by its own linguistic activity" (p.38).

Using the tools of her training in linguistics, Holloway proceeds to show how Hurston controlled the word, primarily in her fiction, through her use of narrative voice and of dialect, or what Hurston called the "adorned word." Throughout, Holloway insists on "nommo," the word as creator rather than

created, which this reviewer can see only as an elaborately and compellingly constructed metaphor for Hurston's control of the word.

Holloway begins with Hurston's life, which caused the writer's sense of isolation (a point with which Willis agrees) and which was also definitive in separating her public and private selves, her dialect and standard voices. When Holloway discusses the novels, she hears both an objective and distanced narrative voice which is outside the characters' knowledge and consciousness, and a subjective or dialect voice used by the characters themselves. As a character becomes more self-aware, this dialect voice grows closer to the narrative voice in both its knowledge and its poetry. Ultimately, "the narrative voice...[is] enriched by concepts gained from the dialect" and "the dialect [is] submerged into a fully adorned language" (p.70). At this point, only the dialogue marks and the dialect distinguish the aware character's voice (such as Janie Crawford's at the close of Their Eyes Were Watching God) from that of the narrator. To cite one of Holloway's many examples from the final section of that novel:

Narrative voice: "By morning Gabriel was playing the deep tones in the center of the drum. So when Janie looked out of her door she saw the drifting mists gathered in the west -- that cloud field of the sky -- to arm themselves with thunder and march forth against the world."

Janie's voice: "If you kin see de light at daybreak, you don't keer if you die at dusk. It's so many people never seen de light at all. Ah wuz fumblin' round and God opened de door." (p.84)

Holloway also analyzes Hurston's use of dialect with attention to the priority of the phonic element, the distribution and functional load, and Hurston's own observations about Black speech morphology: the richness of metaphor and simile ("sobbing hearted," "syndicating-gossiping," Nanny calling herself a "cracked plate"); the use of the double-descriptive ("high-tall," "little-tee-ninchy," "low-down," "kill dead"); and the use of verbal nouns ("funeralize," "uglying away"). It is clearly such language which provides the strength and force of Hurston's prose for the reader; however, Holloway pushes the analysis to the limits.

Within the story-telling environment of many of Hurston's works, the narrators perform with an extreme consciousness of language which "almost spontaneously adorns" and which "furnishes an identification of another level of consciousness. It is 'nommo' -- a self-consciousness of creative potential" (p.95). The structure is exposed in Black dialect (although Holloway is talking about Hurston alone) because the language is accessible at a level of consciousness no longer possible in standard narrative structure. Such language literally "compels the involvement of narrator and audience in the content of the fiction and reflects the choral character of the word, echoing the call-and-response traditions of black spirituality" (p.95). The discussion delineates both the strengths and weaknesses of Holloway's work to this reader: the color and power of Hurston's prose are clearly delineated, but "the word" itself is imbued with so mystical a force as to be beyond Hurston's individual creative powers. If writing is viewed as a craft, the metaphor simply doesn't work.

Susan Willis' Specifying is informed by a completely different critical tradition: she views the works of Hurston, Paule Marshall, Toni Morrison, Toni Cade Bambara, and Alice Walker not only in their relationship to Black history but also as vehicles for their own individual and community histories. Important in her discussion, therefore, is an awareness of the differing economic modes of production which lead to different types of social relationships.

Willis takes her title from an episode of "specifying" which Zora Neale Hurston describes in her autobiography, Dust Tracks on a Road. Specifying is simply name-calling, but, according to Willis, it "exemplifies many of the formal features of storytelling." She explains, "...everyone in the Southern black community participates in storytelling and story listening.... Furthermore, there is no separation between teller and text. Rather, the speaking subject is at one with the narrative, as are the listeners" (p.15). In the case of specifying, the community is united with the name caller, but there is a difference:

The community is no longer defined as a corpus of teller-listeners, but as witnesses to the textual event. The position of the speaking subject has become marked and, to a degree, isolated. All the terms of the narrative equation have been modified; these modifications begin to suggest the sort of changes produced when the speaking subject becomes an author and the text a novel. Still, "specifying" preserves one aspect of storytelling intact: ...just as the meaning of stories includes the meaning of the group, so does "specifying" insist on a direct relationship between the names and the person being named. The only thing that stands between the signified and the signifier is the name-caller who gives herself as guarantor of the relationship, with the whole community standing witness to the contract.... Historically, it speaks for a noncommodified relationship to language, a time when the slippage between words and meaning would not have obtained or been tolerated. (p.16)

Willis is, therefore, like Holloway, incorporating aspects of the Black oral tradition to create a very sophisticated analysis of artistic language. Like Holloway, Willis is also very interested in the position of the narrator and narrative voice. However, Holloway's analysis of oral adornment always leads back to the text, whereas Willis leads us into the community and the history of Blacks in America who, as witnesses, give meaning to the words. For Willis, the author and the community together are sovereign; for Holloway, the author alone reigns through the unconscious power of the word, "nommo."

With the emergence of urban society and the destruction of communities, Willis maintains, the speaking subject is erased, which in turn causes the loss of the direct relationship between signified and signifier. What is left with the use of metaphor, therefore, is the possibility only of evoking a history, since, without a speaking subject, only the articulation of contradiction emerges as the crux of the narrative. Meaning is contained in the text (and in the context of the reading, I would add) which articulates

history through metaphor as the only means of capturing the complex meanings and contradictory relationships generated by capitalism.

What this means when Willis applies her theories to the analysis of narrative voice and metaphor is that the more metaphorical writer such as Toni Morrison emerges as a powerful critic because metaphor refracts rather than reflects reality. Viewing realism in this way helps us overcome the dichotomy between the "realist" and the "modernist" novel, the framework within which even Willis seems to work. Some of the refraction inevitably leads the reader into an alternative and more utopian future. Utopian possibilities are also inherent in the radical rejection of the here and now by many of the characters Willis describes (most notably Pilate, Hagar, and Reba in Morrison's Song of Solomon), and by the trajectory of their desires for change into an alternative future.

Of the writers Willis analyzes, only Zora Neale Hurston lacks this alternative vision, although Janie's work with Tea Cake on the muck in Their Eyes Were Watching God is clearly an alternative to alienated labor within the context of the novel. Such a juxtaposition is problematic, since, as Willis herself comments, the labor is actually quite exploitative. This contrast is repeated in Willis' discussion of other writers: in the juxtaposition of Pilate's household economy to that of her brother's, and of the three prostitutes' household economy to that of the Breedloves (Morrison's Song of Solomon and The Bluest Eye, respectively); in the enchantment of the agrarian island economy in Marshall's work juxtaposed to New York urban realities. Although these juxtapositions serve to underscore the radical insufficiency of the here and now in a contemporary dialectic, they cannot be accepted as alternatives; Willis is not always clear on this point. She is, I think, most successful in illustrating the complexities of an ongoing dialectic in her chapter on Paule Marshall, whose search for her mother's culture and its continuity in New York is called an "arc of recovery," a metaphor taken from the arc described by Selina's tossed bracelet at the conclusion of Brown Girl, Brownstones.

Willis' argument, brilliant on metaphor, would have been stronger had she incorporated the work of thinkers such as Ernst Bloch or Oskar Negt. They operate from a theory which deals with some of Willis' questions about the radical potential of utopia and the ability of capitalism to recuperate that subversive moment. Although she believes that positing an alternative future is the single most important strength of Black women's writing, Willis does not appear to be familiar with any of the literature on utopian writing which would have strengthened this aspect of her argument.

-- Renny Harrigan

[Renny Harrigan has a doctorate in German and has been employed as an academic in German and Women's Studies. She served as an assistant director in the Center for Women's Studies in UW-Milwaukee from 1983 to 1987, taught English and German briefly at Madison High School, and is currently teaching mystery and detective stories in the Division of Outreach at Mount Senario College.]

## THE INTERSECTION OF RACE AND GENDER: AUTOBIOGRAPHIES OF AFRO-AMERICAN WOMEN

Septima Clark; Cynthia Stokes Brown, ed., Ready from Within: Septima Clark and the Civil Rights Movement. Navarro, CA: Wild Trees Press, 1986. 134p. pap., \$8.95, ISBN 0-931125-04-9. LC 86-51121.

William L. Andrews, ed., Sisters of the Spirit: Three Black Women's Autobiographies of the Nineteenth Century. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1986. 245p. \$29.50, ISBN 0-253-35260-6; pap., \$8.95, ISBN 0-253-28704-9. LC 85-42544.

Pauli Murray, Song in a Weary Throat: An American Pilgrimage. New York: Harper & Row, 1987. Index. \$23.45, ISBN 0-06-015704-6. LC 86-45674.

Although there is much yet to be done, the last ten years have seen a virtual explosion in the historical literature on Afro-American women. In illuminating the effects of both racial and gender discrimination on the lives of Afro-American women, much of this literature has finally succeeded in investing studies of both racism and feminism with recognition of each other's issues. Clark's Ready from Within: Septima Clark and the Civil Rights Movement, Andrews' Sisters of the Spirit: Three Black Women's Autobiographies of the Nineteenth Century, and Murray's Song in a Weary Throat, all show signs of this reciprocity. Each of the books acknowledges at length the integral relationship between race and gender as they manifest themselves in the lives of Afro-American women in a society where to be both Black and a woman is a double liability. But what these books have in common does not end there.

Each work is autobiographical. Brown and Andrews played a substantial role in the choice and ordering of the autobiographical material they edited, but even Murray's book was organized by two writers due to the author's untimely death prior to the book's completion. Each book, therefore, has elements of both biography and autobiography. Although both genres have often been seen as the "stepchildren" of "serious" historical writing, both have been very important in reconstructing the histories of groups excluded from general overviews of United States history. Afro-American women are preeminent members of that overlooked category.

The stories of people's lives, insofar as careful attention is paid to illuminating the broad issues which they share with others like themselves, can provide rich and important historical detail and perspective that go far beyond an individual case history. It is also important for good historical biography/autobiography to place itself in context. That is, a reader needs to be centered in a particular period, issue, or group experience in order to make of the details of one person's life the key to a much broader understanding. While different in a number of other ways, all three of the books do accomplish these two tasks fairly successfully.

Septima Clark, a Black woman activist in the Civil Rights Movement, tells largely in her own words the story and history of her involvement. The book is not lengthy (126p.), and both Mrs. Clark's narrative and the editor's introduction and notes are rendered in a simple, straightforward style. In addition to lending a certain effect and poignancy, the length and language make the book quite suitable for high school and early college levels. Clark's story also raises some important issues, yet to be dealt with in a book-length scholarly study, of Black women's roles in the Civil Rights Movement. Their experiences helped to shape the critical debates which began to rage in the 1970's (continuing to the present) about the intersection of race and gender, and, for the majority of the unknown "ordinary" women who worked in the movement, class. Clark herself states, "I see this as one of the weaknesses of the movement, the way men looked at women..." (p.79). "In stories about the Civil Rights Movement you hear mostly about the Black ministers. But if you talk to the women who were there, you'll hear another story" (p.83). Clark's recollections also provide additional insight on some of the major male personalities of the era, as well as other events. A general reevaluation of the Civil Rights Movement seems to be occurring now, and this book makes a contribution to that developing historiography.

The one very worrying aspect of this book is something which editor Brown herself alerts us to: "This version of Septima Clark's story is not only hers. It is also mine, because I have shaped it in several ways. I have decided the order in which to tell it. I have shortened it by choosing what to include out of the much longer account that Mrs. Clark told me. At the same time I have lengthened it by paraphrasing some of her comments and by adding connective lines that add background, accuracy and reflection to her story. Recorded here is Mrs. Clark's account given at the age of eighty-one, as interpreted by me at the age of forty-eight" (pp.19-20). While Brown has performed an important service by rendering Clark's story, I could never quite decide whether I was reading Clark's actual words or not.

Andrews serves as a more traditional editor with his collection Sisters of the Spirit. He never intrudes into the autobiographical narratives without using either brackets or footnotes. While preserving the style, spelling and language of these nineteenth-century narratives may make them harder for a twentieth-century audience to read and interpret, it also preserves the character of the women writers in the spirit of the time in which they were writing. Andrews sets the historical context for each of the autobiographies in his introduction and helps us by providing other information and sources throughout. In this way his book makes an important contribution to the varied fields of Afro-American history, women's history, and religious history. The narratives tell in their own words the lives of each of three women: Jarena Lee, Zilpha Elaw, and Julia A.J. Foote. Each has a conversion experience which leads her to do itinerant preaching on her own, and therefore forces her to confront the mythology regarding, and the "proper place" of, both Afro-Americans and women in the nineteenth-century United States.

While these women appear to have focused on the individual's need to be led to, in Andrews' words, "salvation" or "sanctification," this emphasis on a spiritual conversion did not preclude the more secular activism of denouncing slavery, racism and sexual discrimination. In fact, the role of the church

and religion in the activist lives of these three women is portrayed as being a dual one of both support and challenge. Although the faith that they had been truly "called" to preach and to confront injustice in this world gave these women the courage to work around stereotypes and even to obey a higher authority than that of husbands and other family members, the church and contemporary religious interpretations did not often support a clear activist role for women. Much of this nineteenth-century dilemma is also present in the Brown and Murray volumes, both of which are located squarely in the twentieth century. Septima Clark, for example, is openly critical of the Black male religious hierarchy in the Civil Rights Movement, not from the standpoint of faith, but from the standpoint of the roles allotted to women.

Murray's Song in a Weary Throat is rich in personal detail. She cogently weaves historical background into her personal story with the skill of a good novelist. In a warm and spirited introduction, Eleanor Holmes Norton gives us a clue as to why Murray's book is so painstakingly detailed and historically accurate -- of a graduate history paper Norton wrote on the Civil Rights Movement based on material supplied by Murray, Norton says: "I learned firsthand from her files. In effect, she recorded her life not at the end but as she went along, keeping records and notes of events small and great. It is a testament to her need to remember, her regard for history, and her insistence to learn from her past" (p.xi).

We learn much about Pauli Murray from this book, and hers is an extremely interesting life, from the standpoints of both her personal odyssey as well as her pathbreaking activity on behalf of her race and her gender in the broader historical arena. Murray's friendship with Eleanor Roosevelt, her involvement in the earliest stages of non-violent direct action during the 1940's, her run-ins with McCarthyism, her education as a lawyer and career as a university professor, and her ordination as an Episcopal priest are only a few among the many interesting aspects of a life of determination and courage. For each personal journey which Murray shares with us she almost imperceptibly weaves in the broader experience, the larger meaning, not only telling us the story, but confronting the "whys?" and "by what means?". She also tries to be painfully honest, especially in confronting the differences between the way she related to the "Black Revolution" of the late 1960's and early 1970's (regarding usage of the term "Black" as opposed to "Negro," the call for Afro-American/Black Studies Programs, etc.) and the way many of the young Blacks she taught at Brandeis University did. In writing of her personal experience, Murray capsulizes the struggles within the Black community of that time, and though she spent most of the period on a college campus, the issues she raises were not confined there.

Murray was a complex person, a fact clearly revealed in her autobiography. One is tempted to "play psychiatrist" and speculate that the tragic failures of her family during her early years not only spurred Murray to accomplish things, but caused some of the frenzy of the many activities in which she engaged. Ultimately, however, it seems unnecessary to psychoanalyze Murray. First of all, she frequently forays into self-analysis in an attempt to help both the reader and herself understand how her personal experiences directed the way she chose to live her life. Secondly, because her life spans so much important history connected to so many broader social issues, we are



perhaps better off simply counting ourselves lucky to have another resource to which we can turn for a Black female perspective. Murray was a pioneer of many causes firmly grounded in her experiences as a Black woman. Even though some of us may disagree with her conclusions, we can't dismiss them without argument, as the issues she raises are among the most important in contemporary feminist debate.

Each of the books, in fact, contributes to the growing body of historical literature which illuminates the matrix of oppression created by the intersection of gender, race and class in the experiences of Afro-American women. It is only by understanding that matrix of oppression that we can understand its separate components. Clark, Andrews and Murray have written from very different perspectives yet have covered much of the same terrain regarding issues of race and gender, and, to a lesser extent, class. That commonality, in itself, speaks to the connections among the issues.

-- Cheryl Johnson-Odim

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