



FEMINIST COLLECTIONS

A QUARTERLY OF WOMEN'S STUDIES RESOURCES

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FEMINIST VISIONS

FOUR PIONEER WOMEN FILMMAKERS

In the Fall 1983 issue of *Feminist Collections*, Elizabeth Ellsworth alluded to budget restrictions facing departments that wish to teach film. This has been a chronic problem for us all and one that I had to face when the Platteville Women's Studies Program considered offering a course on women and film. A decision to address that problem led me to apply for an Undergraduate Teaching Improvement Center (UTIC) grant to fund the purchase of a core collection of films directed by women.

The objectives and benefits of such a project were several:

1. Allowing students access to those women's films that are rarely shown in commercial theaters would be highly important.
2. Exposing students to the work of early women filmmakers would document the fact that women were working in film from its very beginning.
3. Allowing students to view complex films more than once would enhance the teaching of film.
4. Encouraging the addition of courses on women and film to women's studies programs would be more feasible if films were readily available at no cost. Sharing films made ultimate sense.

The grant was written and approved. I have spent the summer previewing and purchasing films and videocassettes. In doing so, I have been struck all over again by the quality and diversity of work that women produce in the three categories of film - narrative, documentary and experimental.

One reality I had to face is the fact that \$8000, although it seems a substantial sum, does not go very far in purchasing film. Some compromises had to be made, and purchases originally scheduled as film occasionally had to be changed to video. I am still in the process of viewing, but many works have been purchased and are in our library awaiting processing. In the next two issues of *Feminist Collections*, I will be discussing some of the films in the core collection, suggesting some uses for them other than film classes, and indicating some of the books

on women and film that might prove useful in teaching about the topic.

For this issue I will make some observations about the films in our collection that were made by four women from the turn of the century up to the 1950's: Alice Guy Blache, Lois Weber, Germaine Dulac, and Maya Deren.

Alice Guy Blache: *Canned Harmony* (1912). Alice Guy Blache was the first woman filmmaker in the world and is believed by some to have been the first to tell a story with film. Despite this fact, her name rarely, if ever, appeared in books on film history until feminists recently rescued her from oblivion. Born in Paris in 1873, Alice Guy began her career with the Gaumont organization in France as Gaumont's secretary, then his movie director. She subsequently came to America with her husband, Herbert Blache, and from 1910 to 1914 owned and ran her own studio, the Solax Company. She was responsible for over 200 films of assorted length, most of which have been lost. *Canned Harmony* is a one-reel silent film about a young man pretending to be a violinist in order to impress the father of the girl he loves. The film reveals Blache's sense of humor and shows her experimentation with innovative camera techniques.

Lois Weber: *Discontent* (1916). Lois Weber is another director who has only recently been rediscovered. Born in Pennsylvania in 1882, she started a career as a concert pianist, turned to the stage, then in 1908 went to work for the Gaumont studio, which had established an American branch in New Jersey. Like Blache, Weber made somewhere between 200 and 400 films, many of which have also been lost. Between 1914 and 1921, she was considered the most important director at Universal Studios -- a director whose films were as recognizable as those of D.W. Griffith or Cecil B. DeMille. Weber's later works are feature length, but the film in our collection is a 1916 two-reel piece about an old soldier who is brought to live in the home of his wealthy nephew. After a brief stay during which he manages to upset the whole family, he decides he prefers his former home and the company of his old buddies.

Germaine Dulac: *The Smiling Madame Beudet* (1922). Germaine Dulac, born in France in 1882, had a background in music and photography. She started her career as a writer for two French feminist journals, but in 1914 became interested in film. In 1922

she filmed her best-known work, acknowledged as a masterpiece of the French silent film period. *The Smiling Madame Beudet* portrays an unhappy middle-class French marriage. The work is psychological drama, using such special effects as slow motion photography, fading, and superimposed images to express an atmosphere of domestic oppression. It is one of the first avant garde films and is unique in its point of view, which is female and feminist. Dulac, our first feminist filmmaker, completed some twenty-five films during her long and varied career; only two are available in the United States: *The Smiling Madame Beudet* and *The Seashell and the Clergymen*.

Maya Deren: *Meshes of the Afternoon* (1943). Deren belongs to the American experimental film period of the 1940's. She began her filmmaking career in 1943 at age twenty-six and completed six films before her death in 1961. She is noted not only for the compelling imagery in her own work, but also for helping to legitimize the use of 16mm. film as an art form and for promoting the work of avant garde filmmakers. *Meshes of the Afternoon* is probably the best known of Deren's six films, with its very personal vision, suggestion of split personality, and moody figures suggestive of death. Deren at one point mentioned that she always thought in images, and discovered that the difficulty she had had in translating her images into words was resolved when she discovered the medium of film. In a letter to James Card, Deren says of *Meshes* that "it externalizes an inner world to the point where it is confounded with the external world." (1) The film is haunting in its imagery and, once viewed, is hard to forget.

It is unthinkable that any course involving the history of film would be taught without including the work of these four pioneer women filmmakers, women who not only were at the forefront of the

whole movie industry, but who also were innovators. It is our hope that the core film collection will serve to help restore these women to the place they so richly deserve.

—Marilyn Gottschalk

[Marilyn Gottschalk is an academic staff lecturer at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. She teaches in the English Department and in the Women's Studies Program. She currently teaches "Introduction to Women's Studies" and has in the past taught courses on women and the arts.]

NOTES

¹ Maya Deren, "A Letter to James Card," *Women and the Cinema*, ed. Karyn Kay and Gerald Peary (New York: Dutton, 1977), p.229.

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NEWS FROM UW-RIVER FALLS

The last time news of our campus appeared in *Feminist Collections* was the winter of 1984, and our entry was brief. We had no functional Women's Studies Program, although a Women's Resource Center was staffed half-time by a very able academic staff member, Paulette Chaffin, who developed important programming on women's issues and provided a support system for returning women

students. Today we have a healthy and growing minor in Women's Studies, have achieved some release time for the academic coordinator, and have managed to keep the Women's Resource Center alive despite budget and staff cuts. (The Center is now run by a half-time graduate student coordinator and two work study students.)

The development and implementation of our minor in 1986 was greatly facilitated by generous support from the other programs in the System and from Susan Searing's office. People shared program proposals, syllabi, and strategies with us, and that help, combined with a new and supportive campus administration, enabled us to sail through the procedural hoops. We graduate our first two minors this year; both are honors students who will attend graduate school in psychology, specializing in clinical applications for women. We have one male minor of whom we are very proud; he is an excellent student, works as a student assistant in our Affirmative Action office, and has been influential in getting other male students to enroll in our courses.

"Introduction to Women's Studies: Theory and Method" is taught once a year and has filled to its capacity of thirty-five and beyond in each of three years. Our other courses, offered through formal departments, attract capacity crowds as well. New courses continue to be developed. We are particularly proud of "The Geography of Women," offered by cultural geographer Ruth Hale. "Women and the Law" and "The Psychology of Sex Differences" have originated since the minor was passed, while the women's sociology and history classes that pre-date the minor continue to expand and receive good

student evaluations. The School of Agriculture is beginning to develop a "Women in Agriculture" course, which will be an important asset to our program.

The graduate student coordinators of our Women's Resource Center have proven to be energetic and innovative programmers who manage to achieve a high profile for the Center on very limited resources. The Center made invaluable contributions to the UW-System Women's Studies Conference we hosted at River Falls in October; all of the Center's student workers did nuts-and-bolts organizing, and our graduate student coordinator, Yvonne Bushman, presented a paper.

Hosting the state conference was an exciting achievement for our program. Those of us involved in Women's Studies at River Falls are proud of our program and its rapid growth, pleased with the support we have found on our campus, and very happy to be part of the system-wide Women's Studies network which is truly a Center of Excellence.

-- Laura Quinn

[Laura Quinn is an Associate Professor in the English Department at River Falls and Academic Coordinator of Women's Studies, which is her main interest. She is working on a book about Emily Dickinson.]

WISCONSIN'S OWN "MOTHER COURAGE" PRESS

Ten books ago, Barbara Lindquist and Jeanne Arnold owned a struggling feminist bookstore and art gallery in Racine, Wisconsin, when psychologist Phyllis Sweet approached them for help in publishing a book on child sexual abuse. Barbara immediately said no, the bookstore was quite enough for them to handle -- but Jeanne and Phyllis persisted, finally persuading Barbara to do the illustrations. Written from a child's point of view and geared for therapists working with sexually molested children, *Something Happened to Me* appeared in 1981. "By the reviews, word of mouth, the book's own quality, and the fact that there was nothing like it, the book found its own market," says Lindquist.

Meanwhile, their Mother Courage bookstore wasn't doing so well, and by 1983 Barbara and Jeanne decided to close it. "There were two reasons," according to Barbara, "money and money.

We could no longer be feminist missionaries in Racine." About that same time, however, the new publishers received the manuscript for *Why Me?*, aimed at teenagers or adults who were sexually abused as children. They published it in 1985, and it has since sold more than 30,000 copies, with editions now available in the Netherlands and Australia as well.

Good manuscripts keep coming in, and Mother Courage Press produced an impressive seven books during 1987 and 1988. Most deal with incest and sexual abuse, but among the titles are a lesbian romance, a book of poetry, and a novel about computers. Mother Courage Press recently brought out its tenth book, *Olympia Brown: The Battle for Equality*, by Charlotte Cote. Lindquist and Arnold are particularly proud of this one, as *Olympia Brown* was the first American woman to become a full pastor in a recognized denomination and one of her

charges was the Unitarian Church of Racine, which both publishers now attend.

Barbara and Jeanne met at the church years ago as Sunday school teachers -- Jeanne had two children, Barbara four. They reestablished their friendship about the time Barbara became a "displaced homemaker," and together began work on the bookstore some three years later, following Jeanne's divorce. Barbara took primary charge of the bookstore, as she now does the press, while Jeanne has maintained her job as public relations director for the Milwaukee County Medical Complex. Why did they choose the name "Mother Courage"? Barbara refers to an anti-war play by Bertolt Brecht, a feminist restaurant in New York that was featured in a Rita Mae Brown book, and the fact that she and Jeanne are both courageous mothers. Besides, says Barbara, it's catchy.

Mother Courage is the only feminist press in Wisconsin, and one of very few in the Midwest. Barbara says that during the early days of the bookstore they were reluctant to label themselves "feminist" as they didn't want to turn anyone off -- besides, they carried much more than feminist publishing, including a large collection of books on sailing, one of Barbara's passions. At this point, however, their experience has led them to carry the feminist banner proudly. When asked about the future direction of their press, Barbara responds, "We would like to continue with helping/healing books, but we don't want to limit ourselves, as long as the books have strong feminist themes." Their plans include

an incest survivors workbook by an Alaskan author, due out in the spring, followed by their first book of feminist humor.

Do they make any money? "We're busy plowing money back into the press," says Barbara, so it's not particularly profitable at the moment, but they hope the income eventually improves. They keep costs down by producing the books almost totally via desktop publishing. The two Macintosh computers and laser printer in the second-floor office of their Racine home allow them to produce camera-ready copy for the final printing. "We love having control," says Barbara, who creates computer graphics in addition to her own hand-drawn illustrations.

The best part of their publishing venture, according to Barbara, is the fact that "we are very proud of the books we've put out. It's very rewarding to know we've published them." She and Jeanne also intend to keep all their books in print -- quite a contrast to larger publishers whose books are often remaindered after only three months on the shelf. Since Mother Courage has already developed a significant reputation in the expansive field of publishing, we can no doubt look forward to many more of their interesting -- and courageous -- titles.

-- L.S.

[Thanks to Barbara Lindquist for her phone interview, and to Karen B. Tancill for her *Journal Times* article (March 24, 1988, pp.9A+) on Mother Courage Press.]

NEW REFERENCE WORKS IN WOMEN'S STUDIES

Redfern, Bernice. *Women of Color in the United States: A Guide to the Literature*. New York: Garland, 1989. 156p. index. \$22.00, ISBN 0-8240-5849-6. LC 88-24614.

Timberlake, Andrea, et al., eds. *Women of Color and Southern Women: A Bibliography of Social Science Research, 1975 to 1988*. Memphis, TN: Center for Research on Women, Memphis State University, 1988. 264p. index. pap., \$15.00, ISBN 0-9621327-0-5. LC 88-63010.

Last May, responding to many pleas for research assistance, our office issued a "bibliography in progress" on women, race, and ethnicity.

Although we gathered over a thousand references, our effort was a mere beginning. Two fine new bibliographies fill some of the gaps.

Bernice Redfern's concise volume covers Afro-American, Asian American, Hispanic American, and Native American women. Within each racial/ethnic category, references are arranged by a handful of broad topics such as "literature and the arts" and "feminism and women's studies." Redfern presents 636 citations in all, every one succinctly annotated. The materials -- most published since 1975, some as recent as 1987 -- include books, journal articles, chapters in books, and dissertations. Fiction, poetry, medical literature, and popular treatments are excluded.

Women of Color and Southern Women frames the same time period as *Women of Color in the United States*. It is both more inclusive, since Southern white women fall within its scope, and more restricted, since only the social sciences are represented. However, the social sciences are generously defined; references to history, health care, folklore, and related subjects abound.

Nearly 2,700 entries are grouped in six broad categories: Culture; Education; Employment; Family; Health; and Political activism/Social movements. The Culture section captures many topics that interest sociologists and psychologists -- aging, media images, assimilation, sex roles, community -- as well as traditional arts, folklore, and social customs. Within each of the six categories, citations are organized by racial/ethnic group: African American, Asian American, Latina, Native American, or Southern, plus a section for general works on Women of Color. In other words, the arrangement is the exact opposite of Redfern's. The bibliography is distinguished by its inclusion of conference papers, dissertations, small press books, working papers, and other fugitive works, although books and journal articles naturally predominate. The compilers claim 1,866 unique references (triple Redfern's coverage); citations are repeated in all appropriate sections.

This volume is not perfect. The citation style is consistent but initially jarring (place follows publisher, for instance). While a few incomplete references are inevitable, it's hard to excuse citations to widely-available journals like *Women's Studies Quarterly* that lack volume numbers and page references. Only the first author of jointly written works is listed, both in the entry and the index. On the plus side, citations to unpublished conference papers often supply the author's address. Entries aren't annotated but are tagged with a string of descriptors, drawn from *A Women's Thesaurus*, that create a concise subject profile of the work. The volume concludes with author and subject indexes.

The compilers of *Women of Color and Southern Women* -- Andrea Timberlake, Lynn Weber Cannon, Rebecca F. Guy, and Elizabeth Higginbotham -- are affiliated with the Center for Research on Women at Memphis State University. This printed bibliography is derived from the Center's computerized database, which staff will search upon request and will soon distribute on diskette. The listings in Redfern's bibliography and the Memphis State volume overlap less than might be expected. Because of this, and because of their very different approaches

to arranging and indexing the literature, both volumes are essential in any library supporting women's studies.

Blair, Karen J. *The History of American Women's Voluntary Organizations, 1810-1960: A Guide to Sources*. Boston: G.K. Hall, 1989. 363p. index. \$45.00, ISBN 0-8161-8648-0. LC 88-19946.

The author of *The Clubwoman as Feminist: True Womanhood Redefined, 1868-1914* (1980) has fashioned a thorough bibliographic guide to published sources on women's benevolent associations, civic groups, mothers' clubs, sororities, religious societies, suffrage leagues, temperance organizations, and other volunteer groups. Coverage extends from the birth of the club movement in the early nineteenth century to the eve of the contemporary women's movement.

Blair arranges entries alphabetically by author, coding each to indicate the types of clubs under discussion (e.g. "p" for patriotic or "y" for youth and scouts). If photographs accompany a text, she describes them before summarizing the contents of the book, article, or pamphlet in a detailed annotation. Blair cites an intriguing mix of nearly seven hundred scholarly studies, articles in local history magazines, and "official" histories compiled and issued by the clubs themselves. The index lists the names of clubs and individuals, plus key topics. As in any work of this sort, there are unexplained omissions; for example, at least two book-length biographies of Henrietta Szold, founder of Hadasah, have been overlooked. Nonetheless, the bibliography is a unique window on an important aspect of American women's history.

Byrne, Pamela R., and Susan K. Kinnell, eds. *Women in North America: Summaries of Biographical Articles in History Journals*. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-Clío, 1988. 146p. index. pap., \$18.00, ISBN 0-87436-537-6. LC 88-6202.

Yet another spin-off from ABC-Clío's massive historical database, this bibliography, apparently aimed at a pre-college audience, identifies a mere 241 articles. Inclusive dates are not stated, but coverage appears to start with 1976. Byrne and Kinnell construe "biographical" rather loosely, selecting many articles that treat only limited segments of their subjects' lives. The single article about Susan B. Anthony, for instance, zeroes in on suffrage campaigns in Western states.

Abstracts, arranged alphabetically by the names of the women, are reprinted word-for-word from *America: History and Life*. However, references to illustrations and notes have been dropped. The volume concludes with author and subject indexes. The latter uses ABC-Clio's familiar format of subject term "strings" that provide access under occupations, ethnic groups, place names, personal and institutional names, events, and general topics. Dead-end references in both indexes to nonexistent entries numbered 242 to 250 are annoying, especially those that are the sole entries under certain topics. The subject index also suffers from inconsistency: two entries appear under Doctors and two more under Physicians, without cross-references.

Women in North America begs comparison with *Women in American History*, a two-volume set from the same publisher. The second volume of the set covers roughly the same time period as this new work. Checking ten random articles cited in *Women in North America*, I found only two that were missing from *Women in American History*. *Women in North America*, of course, has the advantage of isolating biographical writings. For a relatively short list, its scope is also quite broad; it draws upon 114 journals, many of them devoted to local history and interdisciplinary studies. With a paperback edition priced at \$18.00, however, libraries already owning *Women in American History* or having ready access to *America: History and Life* in print or computerized form can safely skip over *Women in North America*. School and public libraries, on the other hand, may find it a useful supplement to *Notable American Women* and other standard biographical dictionaries.

Ireland, Norma Olin. *Index to Women of the World From Ancient to Modern Times: A Supplement*. Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow, 1988. 774p. \$79.50, ISBN 0-8108-2092-7. LC 87-35934.

Index to Women of the World From Ancient to Modern Times (Faxon, 1970) is a standard guide to women's biographies, though long out-of-date. This supplement by the same compiler will meet a warm welcome. Although Ireland refers to the present work as "of course much smaller" than its parent volume, it is in fact some two hundred pages longer. Ireland analyzes 380 collective biographies, favoring popular over scholarly works and including books for young people. A few pre-1970 titles that were overlooked in the original index are covered in the supplement. Ireland mines the wealth of recent

books that concentrate on women's achievements and points to biographies of women in general sources on the movies, science, literature, royalty, and so on. Entries appear alphabetically by name (with cross-references for pseudonyms and variants) and give birth and death dates, nationality, and occupation. Abbreviated citations supply page numbers and indicate the presence of portraits.

This work, alas, has flaws. It appears exhaustive yet omits useful titles such as Esther Stinemman's *American Political Women* (1980). It cries out for a subject index. Still, any library holding the original volume will want this update, and libraries that don't own the first index (now available from Scarecrow Press) should consider purchasing both.

Manning, Beverley. *We Shall Be Heard: An Index to Speeches by American Women, 1978-1985*. Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow, 1988. 620p. bibl. index. \$62.50, ISBN 0-8108-2122-2. LC 88-6644.

Manning has produced a useful but exasperating supplement to her *Index to American Women Speakers, 1828-1978* (Scarecrow, 1980). Problems from the first volume have been carried over to the second. "Speeches" are taken to be any publicly delivered texts, including scholarly conference papers, testimony before Congress, and sermons, as well as popular lectures and political orations. Students of rhetoric will probably find the index too diffuse to aid in the study of women's speechmaking per se. The eight-year span indicated in the supplement is misleading, since many of the cited works pre-date 1978. Manning also indexes reprints and new editions of works by Jane Addams, Mother Jones, and other historical figures.

A listing by author gives full citations keyed to a preceding bibliography of some 350 sources. Of these sources, over a third are transcripts of Congressional hearings. The other sources include collections of addresses and conference proceedings. From women's employment to birth control, from women in Christianity to foreign policy, the breadth of topics points to extensive research on Manning's part. These speeches are *by* American women, but they're *about* many topics beyond our borders.

The title index is superfluous. Researchers will seldom approach the bibliography knowing only the title of a speech, and more than 750 entries are lumped under the generic title "Statement." The

subject index is essential, but unfortunately has its own quirks. Manning uses Library of Congress subject headings, and once again their inadequacy is embarrassingly evident. Worse, peculiar lapses mar the index. After much puzzling, I've surmised that Manning indexed the books in which the speeches appear, not the individual speeches. This would explain why pieces titled "Willa Cather" and "Louisa May Alcott" are listed under FEMINISM AND THE ARTS but not under the distinguished authors' names, and why Lucretia Mott's "The Argument That Women Do Not Want the Vote" is cited under QUAKERS-SERMONS but not under WOMEN-SUFFRAGE. Failure to analyze the individual speeches actually obscures some of the volume's strengths. Under LESBIANISM, for example, there are a mere seven entries, six of these by Audre Lorde. Yet the word "lesbian" appears in the titles of many more speeches by other women throughout the main listing. Researchers should be warned that the index is lopsided and unreliable.

Another drawback to this volume is its heavy reliance on books and government documents. Periodical literature is slighted. Although articles from *Signs*, *Ms.*, and a few other leading journals do appear, alternative newspapers like *off our backs* and *Sojourner* have seemingly been ignored. As a result, outspoken feminist and 1984 presidential candidate Sonia Johnson is credited only with two short testimonies before Congressional committees. Had Manning mined sources outside the mainstream, women on the margins might be better represented. Although clearly outside the scope of Manning's project, references to recorded speeches (such as the plenary sessions at National Women's Studies Association conferences) would also be of value.

Despite its poor indexing and limited coverage, *We Shall Be Heard* has considerable merit as a guide to thousands of speeches and essays not indexed anywhere else. Manning opens a world of information, opinion, and inspiration to women's studies students.

Nordquist, Joan. *Reproductive Rights*. Santa Cruz, CA: Reference and Research Services, 1988. (Contemporary social issues: a bibliographic series, no. 9) 68p. pap., \$15.00, ISBN 0-937855-17-0. ISSN 0887-3569.

Continuing her handy series of bibliographies on topics in the news, Nordquist has prepared an overview of materials on abortion, fetal rights,

paternal rights, reproductive technologies, and sterilization. These broad topics are divided more narrowly when appropriate; the section on reproductive technologies, for example, includes sub-sections on *in vitro* fertilization, surrogate parenting, and artificial insemination. Within each section or sub-section, books and articles appear in separate lists.

The beauty of this bibliography is its inclusion of a wide range of viewpoints. Nordquist selects recent articles from academic journals, law reporters, newsstand magazines, and alternative periodicals from both the Left and the Right, plus books from commercial, scholarly, and religious publishers. The researcher must read between the lines of the bare-bones citations to guess a work's ideological slant; but in bibliographies on currently-debated topics, timeliness is often more important than annotations. Nordquist appends a directory of forty-two resource organizations.

Sachdev, Paul, ed. *International Handbook on Abortion*. New York: Greenwood, 1988. 520p. ill. bibl. index. \$75.00, ISBN 0-313-23463-9. LC 87-11994.

Separately authored articles address the historical development of abortion policy in thirty-two countries, with additional background on public attitudes, demographic data on women who seek abortions, abortions among special groups such as teenagers and ethnic minorities, fertility trends, illegal abortions, abortion research, and other topics. While uniformly scholarly and objective, the treatments of different countries are not parallel. The chapter on the United States, for example, glosses over the key role played by feminist organizations that agitated for liberalization of abortion laws; and in a summary of public attitudes, it refers to opinion surveys but avoids delineating the positions and tactics of pro-choice and pro-life camps. Articles on Italy and West Germany, by contrast, convey the flavor of public debates and the detailed history of legal battles. Statistical charts and bibliographies that accompany each article make this a wise choice for reference collections, despite the steep price.

Sadler, Judith DeBoard. *Families in Transition: An Annotated Bibliography*. Hamden, CT: Archon Books, 1988. 251p. index. \$30.00, ISBN 0-208-02180-9. LC 87-37347.

Most of the 970 materials cited in this bibliography were published in the eighties, proof that the changing nature of the family has engendered an

outpouring of writing. Sadler separates books and periodical articles within sixteen topical chapters. Both the feminist scholar and the general reader will find much of interest here, including references on single-parent families, working mothers, displaced homemakers, lesbian motherhood, teen pregnancy, and child custody decisions. Books for children and audiovisual items are spotlighted in their own chapters; an appendix lists resource organizations. Sadler's focus is on family structures, both traditional and non-traditional. She does not treat such topics as domestic violence or incest. A single book on house-husbands (in the "Miscellaneous" chapter) addresses the division of labor within the family. The bibliography concludes with subject, author, and title indexes. Because it encompasses scholarly studies, popular writings and self-help books, this volume will be a useful addition to reference shelves in academic and public libraries.

Schlueter, Paul, and June Schlueter, eds. *The Encyclopedia of British Women Writers*. New York: Garland, 1988. 516p. index. \$75.00, ISBN 0-8240-8449-7. LC 87-29947.

This one-volume encyclopedia presents short bio-critical articles on nearly four hundred women writers from England, Ireland, and other areas of the Commonwealth. The profiled authors wrote in many genres, including romance and cookbooks, as well as fiction, poetry, drama, essays, memoirs, and children's books. Each signed entry presents a brief account of the subject's life, a critical evaluation of her work, and a bibliography of primary and secondary sources. The bibliographies appear to be current; many list 1987 titles. The index is richly endowed with cross-references from pseudonyms and variant names, plus terms for genres and topics.

Since standard reference sources yield information on well-known authors like Jane Austen, Virginia Woolf, and Agatha Christie, *The Encyclopedia of British Women Writers* is most valuable as a one-stop source for background on contemporary figures like Beryl Bainbridge, Eva Figs, Pam Gems, and Edna O'Brien. Of course, one can always quibble

with the editors' choices in works of this nature. I, for one, can't fathom why Taylor Caldwell, a popular writer of historical fiction who emigrated to the United States at age six, is included, while Pat Barker, whose recent novels movingly depict the brutalized lives of lower-class Englishwomen, is omitted. But Schlueter and Schlueter have by and large managed to "provide as useful a volume as possible for both the general reader and the scholar by offering a broad cross-section of notable women writers" (p.x). It will be instructive to compare this tool with the forthcoming *British Women Writers: A Critical Reference Guide*, edited by feminist literary scholar Janet Todd and published by Crossroad/Continuum.

Horning, Kathleen T., ed. *Alternative Press Publishers of Children's Books: A Directory*. 3rd ed. Madison, WI: Cooperative Children's Book Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1988. 89p. index. pap., \$12.00, ISBN 0-931641-02-4. (Address: The Friends of the CCBC (Attn: Directory), P.O. Box 5288, Madison, WI 53705; make checks payable to "The Friends of the CCBC")

This is the third edition of what has quickly become the standard guide to independent publishers of books for young people. Horning describes 139 presses, fifty-five of them for the first time. Entries include addresses and contact persons, information for ordering, and a succinct description of the publisher's output in terms of genre, age level, and subject. A few of the presses concentrate on children's materials, but most publish books for all ages. A handful are "small presses" indeed, with only a single title in print.

Beautifully laid out, the directory is enhanced by indexes to bilingual publishers, distributors, states and provinces, and subjects. The subject index is the key to locating publishers that focus on FEMINISM, NONSEXIST LITERATURE, WOMEN IN HISTORY, and other topics. Not an essential purchase for women's studies collections, but certainly a treasure for anyone interested in alternative publishing and/or children's books.

PERIODICAL NOTES

NEW AND NEWLY-DISCOVERED PERIODICALS

DISABLED WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL NEWS-LETTER. 1988-. Ed.: Ruth Begun, et al. Women With Disabilities United, P.O. Box 323, Stuyvesant Station, New York, NY 10009. (Issue examined: No.3, October 1988)

The twenty-four pages of this newsletter carry news on how violence affects disabled women, public transportation in Germany; the Sharon Kowalski case; and ordination of a blind woman in Korea, plus many other topics. Book reviews and a six-page listing of "Network Contacts" around the world conclude the issue, which is also available on tape.

DIVA: A QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF SOUTH ASIAN WOMEN. 1988-. Editorial committee. 4/year. \$18 (ind.); \$40 (inst.). Single copy: \$5. 253 College St., Unit 194, Toronto, Ontario M5T 1R5, Canada. (Issues examined: v.1, no.1, April 1988; v.1, no.2, July 1988)

This quarterly offers a selection of articles, short stories, and poetry by and about South Asian women. Among the topics in the first two issues: a profile of the South Asian community in Canada; equality in the Islamic tradition; community work in a South Asian area of Toronto; women and the international division of labor.

THE ETHNIC WOMAN. 1988?-. Ed.: Karla Phillips. 4/year. \$10 (ind.); \$15 (org.); \$20 (inst.) P.O. Box 459, Cooper Station, New York, NY 10003. (Issue examined: v.1, no.6)

Topics covered in this sample issue include apartheid, Japanese American redress, and career planning. There are also profiles of Liberian diplomat Angie Brooks; Pura Belpre White, the first Hispanic librarian in New York; current president of the National Council of Negro Women, Dorothy Height; and Mary McLeod Bethune.

FOR CRYING OUT LOUD: A NEWSLETTER FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE. 1986-. Editorial collective. 4/year. \$10. Single copy: \$2. Survivors Newsletter Collective, Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge, MA 02139. (Issue examined: v.3, no.3, Fall 1988)

The eight pages of *For Crying Out Loud* carry a number of poems by incest survivors; a list of resources, including organizations, workshops, publications, AV, and art/theater; and several personal stories of anger and survival.

JOURNAL OF GAY & LESBIAN PSYCHOTHERAPY. 1989-. Ed.: David Lynn Scasta, M.D. 4/year. \$24 (ind.); \$30 (inst.); \$36 (libraries). ISSN 0891-7140. Haworth Press, Inc., 75 Griswold St., Binghamton, NY 13904. (Issue examined: v.1, no.1, 1989)

The first section, "Ask the Board," presents case studies with responses from psychiatric, psychological, and social work perspectives. Among other articles in the 124 pages of this premier issue: "Psychotherapy and the 'Coming Out' Process" (Peggy Hanley-Hackenbruck); "Lesbians, Gay Men and Their Families: Common Clinical Issues" (Laura S. Brown); "Caregiving: What Do Midlife Lesbians View as Important?" (C. Thorpe Tully).

NWSA JOURNAL. 1988-. Ed.: MaryJo Wagner. 4/year. \$15 (NWSA members); \$28.50 (ind.); \$65 (inst.). ISSN 1040-0656. Ablex Publishing Corporation, 355 Chestnut St., Norwood, NJ 07648. (Issue examined: v.1, no.1, Autumn 1988)

This first issue of the journal of the National Women's Studies Association opens with a tribute to and the final address given by feminist scientist Ruth Bleier. Within 103 pages are articles on Black women's texts (Minrose C. Gwin), the "hysterical" writing of Charlotte Perkins Gilman and others (Diane Price Herndl), and Jewish invisibility (Evelyn Torton Beck), among others; a substantial number of book reviews; reports on the work of NWSA scholarship winners; and announcements. Highly recommended for all academic libraries.

SISTERSHIP. 1988-. Ed.: Ruth Boydell. 6/year. \$A25 (Australia); \$A35 (air outside Australia). ISSN 1031-5845. P.O. Box 1027, Crows Nest, NSW 2065, Australia. (Issue examined: no.3, September 1988)

"A magazine for women who are concerned with maritime issues," *Sistership* is "committed to promoting women's professional and recreational experiences" and being a networking forum. The issue examined includes articles on Olympic sailing competition; working with marine animals; and racing twelve-foot skiffs; plus a calendar of marine events, book reviews, network notices, and more.

SPECIAL ISSUES OF PERIODICALS

AMERICAN BEHAVIORAL SCIENTIST v.31, no.1, Sept.-Oct. 1987: "New Gender Scholarship: Breaking Old Boundaries." Eds.: Harry Brod, Walter L. Williams. \$36 (ind.); \$96 (inst.). ISSN 0002-7642. Sage Publications, 2111 W. Hillcrest Dr., Newbury Park, CA 91320. (Issue examined)

Partial contents: "Cross-Culture, Cross-Gender: Cultural Marginality and Gender Transcendence" (Harry Brod); "Gender Blending Females: Women and Sometimes Men" (Holly Devor); "Double Liminality and the Black Woman Writer" (Frances E. Mascia-Lees, Patricia Sharpe & Colleen B. Cohen); and "Women's Culture/Men's Culture: Gender, Separation, and Space in Africa and North America" (Sondra Hale).

CONDITIONS OF WORK DIGEST v.6, no.2, 1987: "Women Workers: Protection or Equality?" Ed.: Michele B. Jankanish. 70 Swiss francs. Single copy: 40 Swiss francs. ISSN 0257-3512. International Labour Office, CH-1211, Geneva 22, Switzerland. (Issue examined)

The digest is divided into three sections. First are fact sheets detailing the legislation related to protection of women workers in ILO member states. Night work, organization of work time, special workplace facilities for women, and prohibitions on particular types of work are considered. Other sections summarize the views of government agencies, employers, workers and others, and list the international standards adopted by the ILO.

GROUP & ORGANIZATION STUDIES: AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL v.13, no.2, June 1988: Special section: "Symposium on Women in Management." Ed.: Laurie Larwood. \$36 (ind.); \$82 (inst.). ISSN 0364-1082. Sage Publications, 2111 West Hillcrest Dr., Newbury Park, CA 91320. (Issue examined)

The three articles in this symposium are: "When a Woman Is the Boss: Dilemmas in Taking Charge" (Carol Watson); "The Power of a Mentor: Proteges' and Nonproteges' Perceptions of Their Own Power in Organizations" (Ellen A. Fagenson); and "The Effect of Administrative Accounts and Gender on the Perception of Leadership" (Robert A. Giacalone).

JOURNAL OF CAREER DEVELOPMENT v.14, no.4, Summer 1988: "Career Interventions With Women." Guest eds.: Linda Brooks & Marilyn Haring-Hidore. \$24 (ind.); \$65 (inst.). ISSN 0894-8453. Human Sciences Press, 72 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10011-8004. (Issue examined)

The editors note that career counselors for women "must attend to a vast array of special needs, issues, and life circumstances," hence the diversity of papers in the issue. Among the titles: "Encouraging Women's Motivation for Nontraditional Career and Lifestyle Options: A Model for Assessment and Intervention" (Linda Brooks); "Feminism and Career Counseling With Women" (Sharon E. Kahn); and "Outplacement for Underserved Women Workers" (Suzanne C. Freedman & Marilyn Haring-Hidore).

JOURNAL OF MORAL EDUCATION v.16, no.3, Oct. 1987: "Feminist Perspectives on Moral Education and Development." Guest ed.: Mary Brabeck. \$80. ISSN 0305-7240. Carfax Publishing, P.O. Box 25, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 3UE England. (Issue examined)

Partial contents: "Consistencies and Inconsistencies in Nurses' Ethical Reasoning" (Jeanette A. Lawrence & Ann Helm); "Do We Really Want to Produce Good People?" (Nel Noddings); "Integrating Care and Justice Issues in Professional Moral Education: A Gender Perspective" (Muriel J. Bebeau & Mary M. Brabeck); "Ways of Knowing, Learning and Making Moral Choices" (Nona Lyons); "A Feminist Perspective on Moral Education" (Ann Higgins).

LITERARY MAGAZINE REVIEW v.7, no.3, Fall 1988: "Magazines Edited By or For Women." Ed.: G.W. Clift. \$12.50. Single copy: \$4. ISSN 0732-6637. English Dept., Denison Hall, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506. (Issue examined)

Reviewed in this forty-seven-page special issue are: Common Lives; Lesbian Lives; Conditions; The Creative Woman; Earth's Daughters; Helicon Nine; Ikon; Iowa Woman; Kalliope; Moving Out; and woman of power.

PAPERS ON LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE v.24, no.3, Summer 1988: "Gender, Text, and Meaning." Guest eds.: Susan L. Gabriel & Isaiah Smithson. \$12 (ind.); \$24 (inst.). ISSN 0031-1294. Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, IL 62026-1434. (Issue examined)

Contents: "The Politics of the Mind: Women, Tradition and the University" (Carolyn G. Heilbrun); "The Feminist Teacher of Literature: Feminist or Teacher" (Nina Baym); "Woman as Oppositional Reader: Cixous on Discourse" (Robert Con Davis); "A Feminist Rereading of Poe's 'The Tell-Tale Heart'" (Gita Rajan); and "Charlotte Bronte's SHIRLEY and Interpretive Engendering" (Joseph A. Dupras).

PUBLIC RELATIONS REVIEW: A JOURNAL OF RESEARCH AND COMMENT v.14, no.3, Fall 1988: "Women In Public Relations." Guest ed.: Larissa A. Grunig. \$29 (ind.); \$33 (inst.). ISSN 0363-8111. Communication Research Associates, 10606 Mantz Rd., Silver Spring, MD 20903. (Issue examined)

Partial contents: "Breaking Public Relations' Glass Ceiling" (David M. Dozier); "Women in Foundation and Corporate Public Relations" (Lynda J. Stewart); "Women in Public Relations: Progression or Retrogression?" (Wilma Mathews); and "A Research Agenda for Women in Public Relations" (Larissa A. Grunig).

SHOOTING STAR REVIEW v.2, no.3, Autumn 1988: "Black Men and Women: Why We Do and Don't Get Along." Ed.: Sandra Gould Ford. \$10 (ind.); \$15 (inst.). Single copy: \$2.95. ISBN 0892-1407. 7123 Race St., Pittsburgh, PA 15208. (Issue examined)

According to the publisher, this issue of essays, fiction and poetry "creatively explores the historical and current elements that affect our relationships because most of us don't want to not get along." Articles include the publisher's interview with a pimp ("Recruiting for the Sporting Life"); "Angry Women, Frightened Men" (Dr. Earl Braxton); and "Salute to Black Men" (Gay Gunn).

SOCIOLOGICAL QUARTERLY v.29, no.4, 1988: "Special Feature: Gender and Aging." Guest ed.: Judith A. Levy. \$40 (ind.); \$80 (inst.). Single copy: \$20. ISSN 0038-0253. 55 Old Post Rd., No.2, P.O. Box 1678, Greenwich, CT 06836-1678. (Issue examined)

Among the articles in this issue: "Intersections of Gender and Aging" (Judith A. Levy); "Gender Differences in Awareness of Aging Among Married

Adults Ages 20 to 60" (Lynn K. White); "Women's Access to Pensions and the Structure of Eligibility Rules: Systems of Production and Reproduction" (Jill Quadagno); and "A Population Profile of Very Old Men and Women in the United States: A Research Note" (Charles F. Longino, Jr.).

THOUGHT AND ACTION: THE NEA HIGHER EDUCATION JOURNAL v.4, no.2, Fall 1988: Special section: "Symposium on Women's Studies." Ed.: Harold Wechsler. \$30 (non-NEA members). ISSN 0748-8475. NEA Communications, 1201 Sixteenth St., N.W., Washington, DC 20036. (Issue examined)

This brief section includes an article by Miriam Chamberlain, president of the National Council for Research on Women, called "Enriching the Curriculum: Women's Studies," and three responses: "Present Richness, Future Dangers" (Kathy E. Ferguson); "Women's Studies -- The Radical Impact" (Eleanor M. Vander Haegen); and "Women's Studies at Westfield" (Brooks Robards).

TRANSITIONS

SOJOURNER has a new address: 380 Green St., Cambridge, MA 02139.

CEASED PUBLICATION

OUTWRITE WOMEN'S NEWSPAPER no.1, 1982-n.637, December 1988. Oxford House, Derbyshire St., London E2 6HG England. (Information from correspondence from *Everywoman*.)

ITEMS OF NOTE

ECW Press publishes monographs on women writers as part of its **CANADIAN WRITERS AND THEIR WORKS** series. Each monograph (approximately fifty-five pages) contains a biography of the author; a description of her tradition and milieu; a survey of criticism; an essay on key works; and a bibliography. Among the available titles are works on Margaret Atwood, Isabella Valancy Crawford, Alice Munro, Catharine Parr Trail, Sheila Watson, and others. The cost is \$9.95 each from University of Toronto Press, 5201 Dufferin Street, North York, Ontario, M3H 5T8, Canada, or call their "library hotline" 416-827-7539.

ISIS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DATA BASE is available to subscribers. The first (1988) double issue includes approximately 600 bibliographic citations with corresponding abstracts, and five indexes. Subscribers to the data base will also receive the second version of Isis International's "List of Descriptors on the Theme of Women." Annual subscriptions are \$20 (\$30 airmail) from Isis International, Casilla 2067, Correo Central 2067, Santiago, Chile; Telephone: 490271.

In the spring of 1989, the **MILWAUKEE LESBIAN ARCHIVES** will open as a resource and depository of books, periodicals, records, tapes, old t-shirts, pins, posters, and videotapes with lesbian or strongly feminist content. In addition, the Archives hopes to become a depository for papers and remembrances of local lesbian and feminist organizations. Currently the collectors are seeking contributions of materials, cash and equipment. For more information, contact Mary Frank, c/o **Hag Rag**, P.O. Box 93243, Milwaukee, WI 53203, or call 414-372-3330.

RE-SEARCH/RE-CLAIM: A WOMEN'S HISTORY BOOKSERVICE offers selected rare and/or obscure books in women's literature and culture. Poetry, fiction, history, biography and autobiography titles are available, and a women's spirituality

catalog is planned for the future. For an annotated catalog, or for more information, contact Judith Houk, Re-Search/Re-Claim, 765 Lovell, Troy, MI 48098.

REACHING THE HIDDEN MAJORITY: A LEADER'S GUIDE TO CAREER PREPARATION FOR DISABLED WOMEN AND GIRLS addresses the unique problems differently-abled women face confronting stereotyping, unemployment, and career planning. It explores building assertiveness skills, breaking through career barriers, and developing traditional and non-traditional careers through a variety of exercises, activities, advice and suggested resources. Authored by Mary Hopkins-Best, Shirley Murphy and Ann Yurcisin (all of whom work with disabled women at the University of Wisconsin-Stout), the 224-page book is recommended for vocational and guidance counselors, rehabilitation staff, teachers and parents. Cost is \$26.95 from The Carroll Press, 43 Squantum St., P.O. Box 8113, Cranston, RI 02920.

WISCONSIN BIBLIOGRAPHIES IN WOMEN'S STUDIES

A second printing of "Women and the History of Science, Health, and Technology: A Bibliographic Guide to the Professions and the Disciplines" is now available. The initial printing of this 54-page bibliography was underwritten by donations and copies were free, but we must now charge \$2.50 to cover costs of printing and postage. Make

checks payable to "University of Wisconsin-Madison" and send your request to the address below. Other titles in the series "Wisconsin Bibliographies in Women's Studies" are available free of charge. Write for information to UW System Women's Studies Librarian, 112A Memorial Library, 728 State St., Madison, WI 53706.

BOOK REVIEWS

WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION: A CURRENT LOOK AT PROMISE AND CONSTRAINTS

Carol A. Christy, *Sex Differences in Political Participation: Processes of Change in Fourteen Nations*. New York: Praeger, 1987. 192p. bibl. index. \$37.95, ISBN 0-275-92433-5. LC 87-9336.

Carol A. Mueller, ed., *The Politics of the Gender Gap: The Social Construction of Political Influence*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage, 1988. 320p. \$35.00, ISBN 0-8039-2732-0; pap., \$16.95, ISBN 0-8039-2733-9.

Ronna Romney and Beppie Harrison, *Momentum: Women in American Politics Now*. New York: Crown, 1988. 229p. index. \$18.95, ISBN 0-517-56890-X. LC 87-27270.

The literature on women's political participation is expanding rapidly both because women now participate more in conventional politics and because sex has become a standard variable in most studies of political participation. Using quantitative data, Carol Christy's *Sex Differences in Political Participation* examines the assumption that sex differences in political participation are diminishing worldwide. Carol Mueller applies a range of methods and data to one of the most important resources for women's political advancement through an in-

depth analysis of the *Politics of the Gender Gap*. Filled with the words and personal experiences of women in politics today, Ronna Romney and Beppie Harrison's book *Momentum* tells the story of those on the inside of American politics. While the scope, sophistication of analysis, and tone of these works vary widely, read together they describe the current context of gender politics along with areas of expanding promise and obdurate constraint.

Women's political participation in the United States is most clearly outlined in these books. However, Christy's fourteen-nation comparison and Pippa Norris' chapter in Mueller analyzing the "woman's vote" of the European Community enable readers to identify elements in this country which also correspond with cross-national trends. In addition, these works make clear the limits of such trends. Voting and partisanship show promise; attitudes, culture and institutions constrain. The words of women interviewed by Romney and Harrison breathe life into the "objective" data used by the other authors, even though the presentation is not as systematic as scholars might prefer.

Gauged by the number of nations considered, *Sex Differences in Political Participation* sets the broadest backdrop for understanding women's political participation. Christy examines a rich variety of political environments, comparing two third-world nations, Yugoslavia, and eleven Western countries. In order to better estimate future trends, she attempts to determine why sex differences in political participation change. She synthesizes the extensive literature on political participation and constructs three models -- economic development, generational, and diffusion -- all of which optimistically assume sex differences are diminishing and will continue to do so. Informed by criticisms from marxist, socialist feminist, and third-world literature, Christy then cogently challenges the assumption.

This work's strengths rest in its conceptualization and in the pulling together of a massive quantity of disparate studies and data. The work, and Christy, are troubled by inconsistencies and limitations in the data (though extensive appendices will help satisfy scholars). Nevertheless, readers can learn much about patterns in women's political participation across nations, and some about dynamics affecting women's participation within countries, as well as about effects due to temporal variation. With an eye toward practical lessons for women's political advancement, Christy examines

participatory resources and attitudes and participatory behavior to demonstrate how standard conditions affect sex differences in participation. This work also reveals the shortcomings of other studies which remain within one of the three models. Christy discovers that prevailing explanations can account for only a small percentage of the changes in sex differences in political participation. In the end, she moves beyond existing models and demonstrates flaws in the assumptions of conventional approaches. However, both she and readers are left without quantitative data with which to examine the cultural, institutional, and social forces that she concludes are central in determining women's political participation.

In *The Politics of the Gender Gap*, Carol Mueller has assembled an interesting and impressive array of information and analysis. Together, the thirteen chapters paint a complete picture of how and why the "gender gap" became a household concept and a potent political tool for women. They cover necessary preconditions and emerging tendencies within the electorate and illustrate the interplay between female voters, organized feminism, polls, and the press that occurred as the gender gap was consciously constructed into political influence for women.

The strength of this work flows from its original conceptualization, the diversity of approaches and data employed, and the logical progression of chapters. One conceptual gem is Susan Carroll's chapter in which "politically autonomous women" -- those economically and psychologically independent of men -- prove to be largely responsible for the gender gap. Offering examples of approach and progression, Kathy Bonk details the dynamics inside the National Organization for Women as its leaders discovered, named, and sold the gender gap to the press. Kathleen Frankovic follows with an explication of the foibles of the press that enabled polling data to be misused and the gender gap to become enshrined as a political concept. In later chapters, Anne Costain documents historical shifts in strategies, demands, and legislative efforts as organized feminism moved from concern with equality to special "women's" interests. Steven Erie and Martin Rein's analysis of the domestic economy persuasively demonstrates the role of federal welfare spending (and cuts) in forging an alliance between women working in the welfare sector and service recipients. All of the chapters are both conceptually interesting and methodologically sound. Scholars will find this work valuable, yet its presentation is sufficiently clear to be suitable for advanced undergraduates.

Momentum is an "up close and personal" account of life for women inside American politics. Although similar in some ways to Jeane Kirkpatrick's *Political Women* (Basic Books, 1974), this work is marketed as a current events offering and scholars will find it simplistic. Nevertheless, through skillful use of interview material, Romney and Harrison illustrate what it means both personally and professionally for women to participate in politics at the elite level. Readers can see the gains made by individual women and feel the frustrations of political involvement which too often are subdued by detached scholarly treatment. The chapter on "Women among Men," for example, lucidly describes the subtle dynamics that inhibit equal participation and hasten women's departure from elite politics. *Momentum* is appropriate for activists, introductory level undergraduates, or as a supplement to scholarly works.

All of these books discuss the current state of women's political participation. Each presents a different angle on that participation yet all seem to lead to the same conclusion. For women to control their lives, they must have political influence. To have influence, they must continue to amplify political awareness of traditional concerns of women and increase both the means and level of women's participation.

— Georgia Duerst-Lahti

[Georgia Duerst-Lahti is an Assistant Professor of Government and Chair of the Women's Studies Program at Beloit College.]

A POTPOURRI OF SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE

Theresa King O'Brien, ed. *The Spiral Path: Essays and Interviews on Women's Spirituality*. St. Paul, MN: Yes International, 1988. (Address: 562 Holly Ave., P.O. Box 75032, St. Paul, MN 55175-0032) 447p. bibl. pap., \$13.95, ISBN 0-936663-01-4. LC 87-5082.

Carol Bruchac, et al., eds. *The Stories We Hold Secret: Tales of Women's Spiritual Development*. Greenfield Center, NY: Greenfield Review Press, 1986. 290p. pap., \$12.95, ISBN 0-912678-66-6. LC 85-70356.

Linda Hurcombe, ed. *Sex and God: Some Varieties of Women's Religious Experience*. New York: Routledge & Kegan Paul/Methuen, 1987. 296p. index. pap., \$13.95, ISBN 0-7102-0945-2. LC 86-29846.

The titles indicate these three books should be very similar in theme and intent. They all appear to be contributions to the compelling and currently popular topic of "women and spirituality." For women seeking ways to integrate feminism with spirituality and overcome the male bias and downright misogyny of traditional religions, this is a subject of great interest.

The topic is, in fact, of particular interest to me, since I am one of those feminists described above as well as a student of both religion and women's studies, so I opened each book with relish. However, in each case, at least to some extent, I found the titles misleading. While all three books contain some fascinating contributions, I found myself bewildered by a confusing array of essays, articles and poems that not only lacked thematic development of the respective titles but in some cases defied cohesion altogether.

The Spiral Path, a volume that I semi-consciously connected with Starhawk's wonderful book, *The Spiral Dance*, turned out to have absolutely no similarities to that work. So much for preconceived notions based on titles! O'Brien's book is an anthology of *Essays and Interviews on Women's Spirituality*, but it is most decidedly not feminist. A few contributions are written from a feminist perspective, but for the most part the authors are spokespersons for traditional religions, both Eastern and Western, and present those religions' ideas about women. Although most of the authors are women, they buy into pre-feminist ideologies about women's nature.

A major question as I made my way through the book was: How did O'Brien choose her contributors? There seems to be no rhyme or reason to the choices, except that a large proportion have links with Eastern ideologies. All are apparently authorities of a sort, although I had not previously heard of any of them. Writing skill is not a criterion: most of the writing is not very memorable, and I was often not sure of an article's direction. Are the contributors simply people O'Brien personally knows? This suspicion became stronger when I noticed that of three male authors, one is named Justin O'Brien and lives in London, as does the editor, Theresa King O'Brien. Justin is never identified as the editor's

spouse, however. Further, an interview with David Fish takes place in the presence of his friend, the same Justin O'Brien, whose comments are included as well.

It is as if the editor gathered all the spiritual leaders she knows or knows of and asked them to contribute a piece. There is no real thread to the collection, no underlying direction, and there is even direct contradiction between one article and another. For instance, "The Fulness of Man-Womanhood" by Mother Tessa Bielecki includes a virulent attack on the feminist movement, calling it, in a wordplay on Betty Friedan's book, "The Feminist Mistake," and lamenting the damage that feminists have done to males, making them "soft" and unhappy. On the other hand, the articles by Vivian Jenkins Nelsen, Sarah Eagger, Erminie Huntress Lantero, and interestingly enough, Justin O'Brien, all appear to share a feminist perspective.

The book is laced with stereotypes about women and with wild generalizations. "All women are the embodiment of a gentle, strong, loving light which affects all whom they meet and guides those whom they know." "Moving outward is masculine; moving inward is feminine" (Dorothy Hale, pp.50, 54). "Women and men thus have opposite natures; man is fire and woman is water.... Just as water flows to the lowest point, women must be complete in their practice of humility.... fire is primary while water is secondary and subordinate" (Reverend Keiju Okada, p.187). "You see, a woman is nearer to matter than men are" (Irina Tweedie, p.363).

I'm sure you get the idea. There are some valuable insights buried in the midst of all this: "That men have put themselves up as authorities on the feminine psyche is the most naive form of dishonesty I have ever heard of" (Bernadette Roberts, p.382). This comment, by the way, clashes directly with the interview in which David Fish sets himself up as just such an expert!

As a whole, *The Spiral Path* inspired in me not only disappointment, but anger. It is, perhaps, an interesting if not well-balanced volume of various religions' perspectives on women, but if one is looking for a book on feminist spirituality, this is decidedly not it.

The other two volumes are very different. *The Stories We Hold Secret: Tales of Women's Spiritual Development* purports to be an anthology of fiction about women and spirituality, although many

of the pieces read like autobiography. The selections are interesting, a "good read," but I found it hard to connect the stories with the title of the book. It is true that any meaningful life experience can be considered spiritual, but if I were to read this book with the intent of gaining information on women and spirituality in its religious dimension, I would be disappointed.

The contributors are women with a great variety of life experiences: included are college professors, prisoners, students, teachers, political activists. One is a nun. Several are professional writers: for others, this is their first publication. There are married women, single women, lesbians, heterosexual women. Several are white, several are Native American, some are Asian or Black. What they have in common is that all are struggling with the pain of being women in this patriarchal society, and their characters (or they themselves, if some of the pieces are as autobiographical as they seem) have more and less success with this endeavor.

Some of the stories are about experiences with religion. Some are just about experiences with life. Most are profound and sometimes painfully self-disclosing. The main title indicates what the book is about: *The Stories We Hold Secret*. However, the sub-title, *Tales of Women's Spiritual Development*, groups the book with works on spirituality/religion; as such, it does not quite fit.

The final volume, *Sex and God*, is indeed about sex and religion -- not gender, but sex. Among the articles are some about celibacy, lesbianism, womb-centeredness, masochism as a response to Christianity, monogamy, birthing, and asceticism. Once again, there is a real mix of contributors, ranging from the well-known Starhawk, Susan Griffin, and Rosemary Radford Ruether, to women who have never previously written for publication. Most of the authors appear to be British, and several mention in their biographical paragraphs a personal relationship with the editor, Linda Hurcombe.

The diversity of the contributors is evident before one ever reads their work; brief biographies are found in the front of the book, and range from folksy introductions (about Polly Blue we learn that she "is now not only an alcoholic Aquarian lesbian poet but also an office manager in part of the Methodist church," and that "She may soon decide she needs a cat") to the kind of professional blurbs we expect from the likes of Ruether ("A specialist in ancient history and Christian origins, Ruether is con-

tributing editor to several Christian publications and the author of eighteen books"). I go into detail about something so picayune as biographies to illustrate the mix of styles and concerns found in this book.

In one of the first articles, "Inner Landscape, Outer Landscape," author Heather Formaini shares her struggles with what Anne Wilson Schaef in *Women's Reality* calls the "Original Sin of Being Born Female." (1) This essay sets the tone for most of the book, in which women battle with the realities and choices of their sexual lives, trying to relate these realities and choices to their current religious beliefs. Most of the essays are, indeed, very personal. Especially moving is "Lammas Babe: Ten Days of Healing," by Jenjoy Silverbirch Strongbody Clevermind, in which she journals her fight with the cancer that was to claim her life before the book was published.

The incredible potpourri of materials in the book is stirred together in a way that makes the whole quite confusing. Much of the first four subsections is intensely personal and autobiographical, with poetry and prose mixed together. Suddenly, in the fifth and last subsection, one encounters a selection of highly rational/intellectual theological treatises, surrounded by two poems of a highly non-rational nature.

A major weakness of all three books is this potpourri of contents--selections chosen and put together with little overall design. The major strength of all three, I must add, is that they include biographical blurbs on each of the contributors, which at least provides some sense of the writers' perspectives and backgrounds. Aside from *The Spiral Path*, which I would not recommend at all, the other two books are interesting, if somewhat confusing. They do not, however, measure up as anthologies on women and spirituality to such a book as Charlene Spretnak's *The Politics of Women's Spirituality*, which is the kind of compendium I was hoping to find in these three volumes.

-- Ellie Amico

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NOTES

¹ Anne Wilson Schaef, *Women's Reality: An Emerging Female System in the White Male Society* (Minneapolis: Winston Press, 1981), p.27.

² Charlene Spretnak, ed. *The Politics of Women's Spirituality: Essays on the Rise of Spiritual Power Within the Feminist Movement* (Garden City, NY: Anchor Books, 1982).

WOMEN AND AIDS

Helen Singer Kaplan, *The Real Truth About Women and AIDS: How to Eliminate the Risks Without Giving Up Love and Sex*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1987. 192p. bibl. pap., \$4.95, ISBN 0-671-65743-7. LC 87-23504.

Each book I read about AIDS brings a greater enlightenment and sense of reality about the peril this disease is likely to bring many unsuspecting women. I fear that most of the heterosexual population is still operating in a phase of denial or ignorance about this killer. The gay male population has had to take notice and make rapid changes because they are aware of the immediate threat that AIDS poses to their survival.

Right now AIDS is being passed silently through sexual and loving contact between human beings. Infected mothers are also transmitting the virus to their unborn babies, causing tragic infant death. Intravenous drug users are spreading the disease by sharing contaminated needles. Lovers and strangers are killing each other unknowingly through their intimate connection (during unprotected oral, vaginal or anal intercourse).

Helen Singer Kaplan, M.D. has written an informative and empowering book for women on this subject, *The Real Truth About Women and Aids: How to Eliminate the Risks Without Giving Up Love and Sex*. I believe it is a must on every woman's reading list. Dr. Kaplan is a world-renowned sex therapist and the director of The Human Sexuality Program at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center. As a sex therapist myself, I respect her work and opinions on this subject. So much of the news media's information about the risk of contracting AIDS is confusing or even conflicting. It is refreshing to read a comprehensive and clear book for women.

Kaplan believes there is a need for books specifically on women and AIDS because women are the next large group likely to become substantially infected. Her message is, "You are extremely vulnerable, but the urgent need to protect you and your children is being neglected by the public health and political establishments. You hear: 'Don't get hysterical, nothing is going to happen to you' and 'Relax, just use a condom... Forget it, you'll be okay'" (p.13). Kaplan reminds us to look at Africa, where the disease is widespread and affects men and women equally. She also warns that "no one will protect you except yourself" (p.24). Women appear to be at greater risk of contracting the AIDS virus from infected men than men from women, both because of microscopic tears that can occur during vaginal intercourse and because of the amount of bodily fluids exchanged. Although lesbians are considered a low risk group, many have had sex with men at some time in their lives. Unprotected oral sex, particularly during menstruation, or sharing sex toys with an infected partner can be very dangerous. Drug use and sharing needles may also increase the risk factors for lesbians.

Kaplan prefaces her book with "Why I Hate to Talk About AIDS." She says, "I love telling people: Enjoy, it's okay to have sexual feelings... Sex is a natural function... Sex is not dirty or harmful... Don't give your kids sexual hangups!" (p.11) Hating to be negative about sex, she now finds herself warning people, especially young women, "Look out! Sex with an infected partner is dangerous... You can't have a full sexual experience with anyone until you are sure that you and your partner are not infected - AIDS can kill you" (p.11). According to Kaplan, clinical testing is the only way to determine whether either partner is AIDS free or infected. She warns, "Do not let anyone undermine your confidence in AIDS testing by exaggerating the perils of the antibody window" (the period of time before the antibody shows up in an infected person's bloodstream) (p.93). A person is infected and can pass the infection on as soon as the virus enters the cells of his or her body.

The great majority of infected people produce antibodies within two weeks, and by the sixth week after infection over ninety percent will test positive. However, for a few people this takes as long as six months. Kaplan recommends testing six weeks after a person may have been exposed, to allow the immune system a little time to manufacture AIDS antibodies, then abstaining from sexual intercourse (with or without condoms) while wait-

ing for the results. If six months has already elapsed since the exposure, she recommends testing only once; if there is any doubt, the person should be tested six months later.

I am certainly in favor of safer sex practices such as use of condoms, nonoxynol-9 (the spermicide agent that kills both sperm and the AIDS virus), vaginal shields for oral sex, or rubber gloves for manual stimulation. Kaplan's section on "How to Use Condoms" is important reading for all women. It is our responsibility to become knowledgeable and comfortable using condoms and other means of protection properly and not leave it up to a partner. However, these methods are not without accidents. Condom failure due to improper use or breakage, for example, can leave a person at great risk if the sex partner is infected. Kaplan states, "I am not 'against' the appropriate use of condoms to reduce the risks. But I am very much opposed to exaggerating the protection afforded by condoms and giving women a dangerous false sense of security" (p.85). She warns that AIDS can be transmitted even if the condom doesn't break.

Since reading Kaplan's book, I have changed some of the focus in my talks and seminars on AIDS prevention. I now put greater emphasis on the distinction between the safety of "dry sex" (hugging, touching, caressing, massaging, fantasizing, self or manual stimulation without the exchange of bodily fluids) compared to the dangers/potential risks of "wet sex" (unprotected oral, vaginal, or anal intercourse, exchanging bodily fluids) with a partner of unknown status. Women derive much pleasure and satisfaction for themselves from dry sex practices. We have the right and need to be clear about what kind of sexual interchange we will and won't participate in, and this needs to be discussed with our partner before a sexual situation begins to get heated. Women can be assertive and need not apologize for participating in safe dry sex. Partners can be creative in mutual and solo pleasuring without risking the health or life of another.

If our water supply were found contaminated, we'd all be quick to act, prevent further pollution, and seek alternatives for safe drinking water to sustain our lives. We are not handling the spread of AIDS with the same speed and diligence because it is a more controversial, uncomfortable issue for most. Yet it is every bit as vital. Our love supply and sexual connections are contaminated.

We as women need to open our eyes NOW and take a serious look at how we can prevent the further spread of AIDS. We must take all measures to protect ourselves, our partners, children and families from AIDS.

— Cara Hoffert

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Some other resources for women on the topic of AIDS:

Advice for Life: A Woman's Guide to AIDS Risks and Prevention, Chris Norwood. New York: Pantheon Books, 1987. This book includes a useful questionnaire that helps in looking at your own risks, plus a list of AIDS hotlines, organizations, and other resources.

AIDS: The Women. Ines Rieder & Patricia Ruppelt, eds. Pittsburgh, PA: Cleis Press, 1988. This collection includes the "words of women who have AIDS/ARC or who have tested HIV positive," women caring for family or friends with AIDS, prostitutes and their advocates, and AIDS activists, health care workers, counselors, attorneys, and others.

The Complete Guide to Safe Sex, Ted McIlvenna, ed. Beverly Hills, CA: Specific Press, for the PreVENT Group/The Institute for Advanced Study of Human Sexuality, 1987. This guide emphasizes risk reduc-

tion and layers of protection, and has an excellent chapter on "How to Create a Safe Sex Lifestyle."

How to Persuade Your Lover to Use A Condom... And Why You Should. Patti Breitman, et al. Rocklin, CA: Prima Publishing and Communications, 1987. (P.O. Box 1260PC, Rocklin, CA 95677)

Making It: A Woman's Guide to Sex in the Age of AIDS. Cindy Patton and Janis Kelly. Ill. by Alison Bechdel. Ithaca, NY: Firebrand Books, 1987. This brief but informative booklet in both English and Spanish also has a good resource list, which includes legal assistance organizations.

Women and AIDS. Diane Richardson. New York: Methuen, 1988. This book has chapters devoted to lesbians with AIDS and caring for people with AIDS, pertinent to women who are often the primary caretakers.

Women and AIDS: Clinical Resource Guide. 2nd ed. Women's Program of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. San Francisco: San Francisco AIDS Foundation, 1987. This massive, informative guide includes reprints of articles from medical journals and elsewhere on epidemiology, transmission/prevention, perinatal transmission, a medical overview, infection control, children and teens, and psychosocial issues. The Foundation also produces several brochures specifically related to women and AIDS.

Women & the AIDS Crisis. Diane Richardson. New York: Pandora Press, 1987. Includes information on "at risk" groups, safer sex, living with AIDS, caring for people with AIDS, and policy and prevention issues in addition to medical information about AIDS and related conditions.

Between Women: Love, Envy, and Competition in Women's Friendships. By Luise Eichenbaum and Susie Orbach. New York: Penguin Books, 1989.

BOOKS RECENTLY RECEIVED

Building Domestic Liberty: Charlotte Perkins Gilman's Architectural Feminism. By Polly Wynn. Massachusetts: University of Massachusetts Press, 1988.

A Comrade is as Precious as a Rice Seedling. By Mila A. Aguilar. Latham, NY: Kitchen Table Women of Color Press, 1988. (Address: P.O. Box 908, Latham, NY 12110)

The Construction of Homosexuality. By David F. Greenberg. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1988.

Delia's Song. By Lucha Corpi. Houston, TX: Arte Publico Press, 1988. (Address: University of Houston, 4800 Calhoun, 2-L, Houston, TX 77204-2090)

Desert Run: Poems and Stories. By Mitsuye Yamada. Latham, NY: Kitchen Table Women of Color Press, 1988. (Address: P.O. Box 908, Latham, NY 12110)

- Diamonds Are A Dyke's Best Friend: Reflections, Reminiscences, and Reports From the Field on the Lesbian National Pastime.* By Yvonne Zipter. Ithaca, NY: Firebrand Books, 1988.
- Double Daughter.* By Vicki P. McConnell. Tallahassee, FL: Naiad Press, 1988.
- Economic Status of Women in the Labor Market and Prospects for Pay Equity Over the Life Cycle.* By Deborah M. Figart. Washington, DC: American Association of Retired Persons, 1988.
- An Encyclopedia of British Women Writers.* Ed. by Paul Schlueter and June Schlueter. New York: Garland, 1988.
- Enterprising Women: Ethnicity, Economy & Gender Relations.* Ed. by Sallie Westwood and Parminder Bhachu. New York: Routledge, Chapman & Hall, 1988.
- Feminism and Film Theory.* Ed. by Constance Penley. New York: Routledge, Chapman & Hall, 1988.
- From a Broken Web: Separation, Sexism & Self.* By Catharine Keller. Boston: Beacon Press, 1986.
- Get Smart: A Woman's Guide to Equality on Campus.* By S. Montana Katz and Veronica J. Vieland. New York: The Feminist Press, 1988.
- Heavy Gilt.* By Dolores Klaich. Tallahassee, FL: Naiad Press, 1988.
- Her Soul Beneath The Bone: Women's Poetry on Breast Cancer.* Ed. By Leatrice H. Lifshitz. Champaign, IL: The University of Illinois Press, 1988.
- The History of American Women's Voluntary Organizations, 1810-1960: A Guide to Sources.* Ed. by Karen J. Blair. Boston: G.K. Hall, 1989.
- Inessential Woman: Problems of Exclusion in Feminist Thought.* By Elizabeth V. Spelman. Boston: Beacon Press, 1988.
- Integrating All Women into the Curriculum.* By Elizabeth Higginbotham. Memphis, TN: The Research and Curriculum Integration Project, Center for Research on Women, 1988. (Address: Memphis State University, College of Arts & Sciences, Memphis, TN 38152)
- Intimate Matters: A History of Sexuality in America.* By John D'Emilio and Estelle B. Freedman. New York: Harper and Row, 1988.
- Libraries and Information Centers Within Women's Studies Research Centers.* By Grace Jackson-Brown. Washington, DC: Special Libraries Association, 1988.
- Macho Sluts.* By Pat Califia. Boston: Alyson Publications, 1988.
- Making a Spectacle: Feminist Essays on Contemporary Women's Theatre.* Ed. by Lynda Hart. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press, 1988.
- My Kids Don't Live With Me Anymore.* By Doreen Virtue. Minneapolis, MN: CompCare Publishers, 1988. (Address: 2415 Annapolis Lane, Minneapolis, MN 55441)
- 1989 Directory of Women's Media.* Ed. by Martha Leslie Allen. Washington, DC: Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press, 1989.
- Offscreen: Women and Film in Italy.* By Maria Nadotti. New York, Routledge, Chapman & Hall, 1988.
- Out of All Time: A Gay and Lesbian History.* By Terry Boughner. Boston: Alyson Publications, 1988. (Address: 40 Plympton Street, Boston, MA 02118)
- Pornography and Sexual Violence: Evidence of the Links* (The complete record of public hearings for experts, witnesses and victims of sexual assault involving pornography.) By EVERYWOMAN. London: Everywoman, 1988.
- Pre-Raphaelites in Love.* By Gay Daley. New York: Ticknor & Fields, 1989.
- Presenting...Sister No Blues.* By Hattie Gossett. Ithaca, NY: Firebrand Books, 1988.
- Raise Your Right Hand Against Fear, Extend the Other in Compassion.* By Sheldon Kopp. Irvine, CA: CompCare Publishers, 1988. (Address: 2415 Annapolis Lane, Minneapolis, MN 55441)
- Rich Like Us.* By Nayantara Sahgal. New York: New Directions Books, 1988.
- Seventeen Syllables and Other Stories.* By Hisaye Yamamoto. Latham, NY: Kitchen Table Women of Color Press, 1988. (Address: P.O. Box 908, Latham, NY 12110)
- The Social Origins of Private Life: A History of American Families 1600-1900.* By Stephanie Coontz. New York: Routledge, Chapman and Hall, 1988.
- Skins and Bones: Poems 1979-1987.* By Paula Gunn Allen. Albuquerque, NM: West End Press, 1988. (Address: Box 27334, Albuquerque, NM 87125)
- Testimonies: A Collection of Lesbian Coming Out Stories.* Ed. by Sarah Holmes. Boston: Alyson Publications, 1988. (Address: 40 Plympton Street, Boston, MA 02118)
- Training Manual on Managing Development Programmes for Women.* By the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. The United Nations, 1987.
- Training Manual on the Transfer of Technology Among Rural Women.* By the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. The United Nations, 1988.
- Trash.* By Dorothy Allison. Ithaca, NY: Firebrand Books, 1988.
- Uneven Developments: The Ideological Work of Gender in Mid-Victorian England.* By Mary Poovey. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1988.
- Unnatural Quotations: A Compendium of Quotations By, For, Or About Gay People.* By Leigh W. Rutledge. Boston: Alyson Publications, 1988. (Address: 40 Plympton Street, Boston, MA 02118)

We Shall Be Heard: An Index to Speeches by American Women, 1978 to 1985. By Beverley Manning. Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press, 1988. (Address: 52 Liberty Street, P.O. Box 4167, Metuchen, NJ 08840)
Why Can't Sharon Kowalski Come Home? By Karen Thompson & Julie Andrejewski. San Francisco: Spin-
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P.O. Box 410687, San Francisco, CA 94141)

Woodpecker Point & Other Stories. By Carmel Bird. New York: New Directions, 1988.

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