

Volume 19, No. 1, Fall 1997

FEMINIST COLLECTIONS

A Quarterly of Women's Studies
Resources

Women's Paradoxical Status in Contemporary China

Book review by Judy Polumbaum

Between East and West: Chinese Women in Transition

Book review by Hongjun Su

**A Woman's Position in Gender Relations in Post-Mao
China: An Alternative Perspective**

Book review by Hongjin Kang

Women and Gender in Africanist Research: A New Wave?

Book review by Susan O'Brien

New Locations of African Women's Writing

Book review by Roberta Hatcher

New Books on Women and the Online World

Book reviews by Elisabeth Binder and Diana Saco

Plus

Videos about women scientists

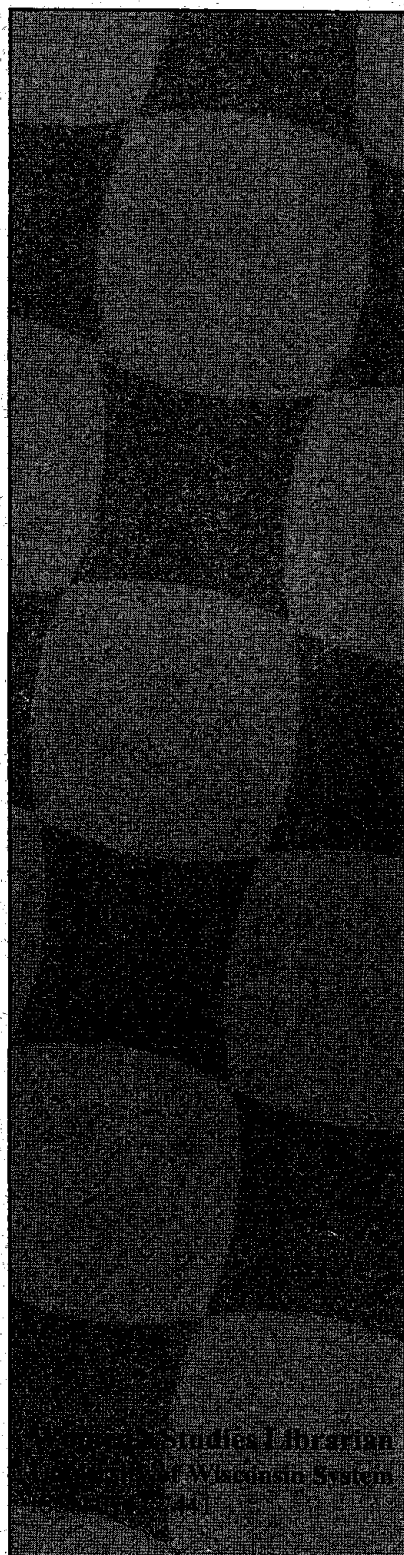
Review on evaluating website quality

New reference works on women and women's issues

Periodical notes: new feminist periodicals and special issues of other
journals and magazines

Items of note: gender and food security; publications from the Center
for Research on Women; campus safety; employment discrimina-
tion against midlife and older women; how to report equitably on
women's sports; promoting reproductive rights; and much more

Computer talk: new email lists, websites, electronic journals, etc.



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FROM THE EDITORS:

"The feminist classroom," wrote Ellen Cronan Rose in an article reflecting on her experiences teaching a women's studies course by distance education, "is a learning community in which epistemological - and other - differences are acknowledged, respected and used to transform social relations in the classroom, to begin with, but ultimately in the world outside the academy."¹ She had misgivings about whether that community could be established in a distance learning environment, but concluded from her experience that by taking some precautions and setting up certain conditions, it could be made to work. Likewise, several of the contributors to our special issue on "Information Technology and Women's Studies: Reports From the Field" (*FC* 17, no. 2, Winter 1996) offered practical suggestions on improving chances for success. Joining their ranks in the current issue of *FC* is Margaret Rozga, lead instructor of a team-taught Introduction to Women's Studies course offered in the University of Wisconsin Colleges (two-year campuses). She describes not only some unanticipated gains for her distance education students, but also for her own pedagogy when she returned to a *conventional* classroom.

We at *FC* expect to continue following developments in women's studies distance education very closely since a five-campus group in our University of Wisconsin System Women's Studies Consortium will be experimenting with delivering additional courses by distance education this Spring, including "Women and Science" and "Feminist Theory." These courses are a first step towards enabling the campuses to offer a collaborative major in women's studies. We would like to serve as an ongoing clearinghouse for the exchange of strategies, experiences, and critiques of women's studies in a distance learning environment, including the library component of such courses. We therefore encourage readers who are engaged in such teaching either to send us letters for immediate publication or article proposals for additional "reports from the field."

P.H.W. and L.S.

1 "This Class Meets in Cyberspace: Women's Studies Via Distance Education," *Feminist Teacher* 9, no.2 (Fall/Winter 1995): 54.



NEXT ISSUE:

Reviews on:

Gender questions and issues;

How bisexuality fits into the gender picture;

Transgenderism: breaking down the barriers;

Lesbian identities, communities, cultures;

Websites on lesbianism and transgender issues.

Features on gender-related reference works and on women film directors.

plus all the regular columns:

New Reference Works, Computer Talk, Periodical Notes, Items of Note, and more.

BOOK REVIEWS

Women's Paradoxical Status in Contemporary China

by Judy Polumbaum

Harriet Evans, *WOMEN AND SEXUALITY IN CHINA: FEMALE SEXUALITY AND GENDER SINCE 1949*. New York: Continuum, 1997. 270p. bibl. index. \$39.50, ISBN 0-8264-0922-9.

Christine Hall, *DAUGHTERS OF THE DRAGON: WOMEN'S LIVES IN CONTEMPORARY CHINA*. London: Scarlet Press, 1997. 205p. bibl. index. pap., \$17.95, ISBN 1-85727-068-1.

Tamara Jacka, *WOMEN'S WORK IN RURAL CHINA: CHANGE AND CONTINUITY IN AN ERA OF REFORM*. Cambridge, U.K.: Cambridge University Press, 1997. 264p. bibl. index. \$64.95, ISBN 0-521-56225-2; pap., \$21.95, ISBN 0-521-59928-8.

Here's the basic problem: After decades of revolutionary rhetoric, how best to describe and explain the paradoxical circumstances of both progress and regress in which Chinese women find themselves?

Some of the puzzles prompting the inquiry: Why have notions of biology as destiny returned with a vengeance even as new opportunities for Chinese women unfold? Why do so many Chinese women evidently accept patriarchally defined roles while participating in subtle forms of resistance to patriarchy? Why is Chinese public policy so short-sighted when it comes to gender issues, and why do government officials, state agencies, and mass media spout so many contradictory messages? What does integration into the global economy and transnational consumer culture mean for women in China? Why are the lives of Chinese women increasingly fraught with problems even as material conditions improve?

Such burning questions for women in China and throughout the developing world are approached by these three authors in three very different ways – one with disappointing lack of analytic clarity or originality, the other two with great success.

The disappointment is Hall's *Daughters of the Dragon*, a well-intentioned but unfocused and ultimately unenlightening compendium that seemingly draws together anything and everything the author could assemble about life in China and never gets very far beneath the surface. The result is a book both too broad and too shallow; the uninformed reader will be overwhelmed with detail, while the informed reader will learn little that is new.

There are promising touches, mainly in the form of personal observations from a period Hall spent living and working at a teachers'

college in northeast China in 1994 – descriptions of incongruous color and style combinations in experimentations with fashion (p.141), or reflections on Chinese views of marriage and relationships (p.75). Passages from Hall's conversations with Chinese women are often poignant or provocative – for example, a young factory worker's admission to blackmailing her parents into providing a dowry (pp.89-90), or a college student's worries about a rapist on the loose (p.33).

Problems with data and interpretation, however, overshadow potential strengths. Hall says she "interviewed" about one hundred Chinese women (p.xiv) and spoke with many more informally. She does not seem to have gone about this systematically, nor was her inquiry particularly penetrating. Excerpts from interviews are intermingled uncritically with a great many secondary sources, including official Chinese sources. In what might seem a parody of ethnography except for the earnestness with which they are offered, factoids about exotic practices of Chinese minorities are sprinkled throughout the book.

The more serious flaw, though, is neglect of the forest for the trees. Hall clearly feels a heartfelt connection with her Chinese friends and acquaintances and wishes the best for them. However, among the thicket of disparate lives, anecdotes, and statements, she fails to offer broad analytic connections that might help readers understand the dynamics of change in China.

Jacka's *Women's Work in Rural China*, the outcome of 1989 dissertation fieldwork bolstered by additional research in 1995 and extremely thorough secondary research, and Evans' *Women and Sexuality in China*, a culmination of

two decades of study by a more senior scholar, are something else entirely. Each of these works has a clear conceptual focus around which rich, relevant material is organized; each delves into history to make sense of the lives of Chinese women today, covering much of the same territory by way of context and background; each offers a sophisticated framework for understanding women's roles and status in light of social, political, and economic changes of the post-Mao years. Both provide a comprehensive picture while avoiding generalizations; both offer strong and original lines of argument without falling into dogmatism, instead acknowledging the many contingencies, variations, ambiguities, and contradictions that humble even the most determined scholar.

Both authors have eclectic sensibilities and broad interdisciplinary range, but their scholarly strategies are quite different. Jacka, although affiliated with the School of Humanities of Murdoch University, is the social scientist, and Evans, senior lecturer in Chinese at the University of Westminster, more the humanist. Jacka's concern is the character and origins of gendered divisions of labor in rural China; drawing on a wide range of economic and other studies as well as her own detailed inventories of rural household economies, she examines how cultural and psychological forces interact with state policy and marketplace mechanisms to shape and reshape these divisions in ways that are promoted as "natural" but are in fact malleable. Women's concentration in agriculture and the rural "courtyard economy" of home-based enterprises, for instance – activities upheld as particularly suited to women's "special strengths and abilities" (p.98) – is the economic and social corollary to men's ability to command greater earning power through construction work or other urban jobs away from home. Evans, using textual analysis, focuses on the construction of gender in popular, professional, and academic Chinese

publications. Among the recurring patterns she identifies in the public imagery of women, she finds that – despite ostensibly broadened scope for discussion of such issues as romantic love, sexual desire, and alternative career paths – women's reproductive roles continue to be integral to conceptions of female sexuality, female sexual desire outside marriage is disproportionately stigmatized, and women are assigned responsibility for upholding society's moral standards.

Tellingly, Jacka and Evans converge on some important conclusions. Both agree that, although women have benefited in many ways from the post-Mao economic and political reforms, men have benefited more, and in some ways women have suffered. They see the reforms as reinforcing longstanding formulations about womanhood and women's roles, but in ways that incorporate a backlash to the Cultural Revolution period (1966-76) and also are peculiar to this new era of market freedoms. In particular, they discern a return to biological essentialism in which women are primarily vessels of reproduction and instruments of nurturing, as well as guardians of social morality. The representation of women as biologically defined, and the subservient position of women in the workforce and political life, are conjoined in the public attitudes and public policy of post-Mao China. They are part of the regulation of sexuality – albeit in subtler forms than during the Mao period – which in turn is part of a broader system of economic, political, and social control. The system works to maintain sexual and gender relations that ensure household and family stability in ways presumed to serve the larger interests of central policy – if not the interests of women per se. From different perspectives, both authors offer important discussions of China's family planning program, which holds out the promise of alleviating women's burdens even as it accentuates women's lack of reproductive autonomy. Both offer

useful insights into the essentially conservative role of the Chinese Women's Federation. Their discussions of what women are up against run the gamut, from renewed emphasis on maternal and domestic spheres to sexual commodification and violence against women.

Jacka shows convincingly that women's opportunities in the workplace continue to be circumscribed by reformulations of traditional definitions of women's proper place in the home, the family, the community, and other arenas. Evans musters an enormous quantity of evidence for her contention that post-Mao representations of woman reinforce traditional gender hierarchies in both traditional and novel ways. At the same time, the authors emphasize that these trends and patterns are not absolute, nor simply mechanical outcomes of state policy; they discern alternatives, albeit limited, to dominant discourses and conventional patterns; and they also find female complicity, often with good reason, in retrogressive trends.



Jacka's book is almost compulsively well organized and grounded in surrounding scholarly literature – reflecting, no doubt, its origins in her dissertation. Nevertheless, the writing is extremely accessible. Evans begins with a heavy theoretical chapter that might scare away some general readers, but in fact offers one of the more lucid discussions of discourse analysis. Readers with interests in popular culture, social dimensions of medicine and biology, socialization of adolescents, and the

commodification of sex will find Evans' work illuminating. Those with interest in rural economics and labor, women and development, family and kinship patterns, and the integration of local economic activities into national and international systems will find much in Jacka's work. Anyone interested in the status of women in contemporary China will want to read both these books.

[Judy Polumbaum is Associate Professor and Associate Director, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, The University of Iowa, Iowa City (NOT AMES!!!), where she teaches writing and international communication courses. Her research focuses on mass media in China. She's written about women in China for a number of publications, including Ms. magazine and The Women's Review of Books.]

Between West and East: Chinese Women in Transition

by Hongjun Su

Pang-Mie Natasha Chang, *BOUND FEET AND WESTERN DRESS*. New York: Doubleday, 1996. 215p. ill. \$23.95, ISBN 0-385-47963-8.

Julie Checkoway, *LITTLE SISTER: SEARCHING FOR THE SHADOW WORLD OF CHINESE WOMEN: A MEMOIR*. New York: Viking, 1996. 232p. pap., \$23.95, ISBN 0-670-84878-6.

These two recent books about Chinese women have both been highly praised and well received by the American critical community. They have much to offer Chinese, American-born Chinese, and non-Asian American readers about the challenges faced by recent generations of Chinese women.

As the great-niece of Chang You-i (the ex-wife of a famous modern Chinese poet, Hsu Chih-mo), Chang tells the story of her great-aunt, Chang You-i: her arranged and failed marriage with Hsu between 1915-

1926, their famous divorce – often referred to as “the first modern divorce in China” – and her growth after the divorce into a strong, independent modern woman. In Chinese Studies and Chinese popular culture, Hsu Chih-mo's poetry, his literary talents, his role in modern Chinese literature, his romance with famous Chinese beauties, and his early death have been extensively written about, especially since the 1970's. However, the story of his first wife, Chang You-i, had remained in oblivion until Chang's book. In

Bound Feet and Western Dress, Chang tries to present her great-aunt's story as much as possible in the older woman's own voice. The book's title not only captures Chang You-i's failed marriage with Hsu as one between a traditional woman and modern Chinese man in Western dress, but also implies the internal transformation of Chang You-i into a successful modern Chinese business-woman and public figure. The story Chang tells reminds me of the intertextuality of Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre* and Jean Rhys' *Wide Sargasso Sea*: while Brontë focuses on the story of a modern Western middle-class Englishwoman, in *Wide Sargasso Sea* Jean Rhys reconstructs the earlier life of the fictional character Antoinette Cosway, who was Mr. Rochester's mad first wife in *Jane Eyre*. In other words, Chang relates the story of a woman whose life, in many writings about Hsu, had been cast aside as the symbol of the obstacles preventing modern enlightened Chinese men's liberation from oppressive Chinese tradition.

It took Chang five years interviewing the aging Chang You-i and a total of thirteen years thinking, researching, and writing the memoir. To present her story with deep understanding of the time, the society, and the people related to Chang You-i, Chang conducted extensive research on a wide range of primary and secondary sources. Among the materials were Hsu's poems, his correspondence with famous Chinese literary figures, Chang You-i's correspondence with her son, and renowned scholar John Fairbank and his wife's writing about Lin Hui-ying, Hsu's lover. With such rich background resources, Chang presents Chang You-i's story in the context of the great social changes China was going through at the turn of the century, moving from an isolated, traditional agrarian society to a semi-colonial country, forced open to modern Western influence. As she points out in an interview with *World Journal*, "It is about a woman and the people around her. They lived in a drastically changing China, sandwiched between the West and the East, the old and the new, traditional and modern."¹

Intertwined with the story of Chang You-i, Chang tells her own story of growing up a Chinese American woman in the United States and her journey to find her identity, often torn between the expectations of her parents and her desire to know herself. For some reason, perhaps to cater to the mainstream American reading public, Chang devotes considerable space to detailing exotic traditional Chinese cultural beliefs, values, and practices – traditional wedding and funeral ceremonies and the process of binding women's feet, for example – most of which are seldom observed in contemporary China, especially on the mainland. Chang also elaborates on misogynistic traditional female "virtues" that contemporary Chinese women know little about, such as women's "three obediences," "four virtues," "seven

rules of divorce," and "twenty-four principles of filial piety." Perhaps the discussion of these traditional female virtues serves as her criticism of the traditional Chinese patriarchy.

Published during the period when "family values" has been a major American public concern, this book,

Trying to record their voices faithfully, Checkoway tells the touching and compelling stories of five Chinese women: the woman whose left hand was disfigured in a fire during the Cultural Revolution and who became a strong survivor; another who sacrificed romantic

love for her Communist ideals; the one who is treated as an outcast because she was raped at a young age; another so desperate to leave China that she will consent to be a mail-order bride; and a former Red Guard who tried very hard to kill the Buddhism inside her during the 1966-67 Cultural Revolution and who was grievously disappointed when a



Miriam Greenwald

interestingly enough, tells the heroic story of a modern Chinese woman who successfully fulfilled her family responsibility while achieving her own career ambition.

Julie Checkoway's *Little Sister* is similar to Chang's book in two ways: first, like Chang's effort to rescue Chang You-i's story from oblivion, Checkoway searches for the shadowed voices of contemporary Chinese women. However, none of the Chinese women Checkoway writes about are celebrities or wives of celebrities, as was Chang You-i. When they first heard of Checkoway's plan to write about them, these Chinese women held that they were "ordinary" women with "simple stories." With her elegant prose style, Checkoway relives the year 1987-88 in a large Northern industrial city in Shejiazhuang, China, searching for the "secret" Chinese women's world.

publisher broke the contract to publish her autobiography in 1988 due to fear of an unpredictable political climate in the future. Instead of portraying them as victims of the political system in China, Checkoway emphasizes the determination of these Chinese women to take control of their lives and their strong desire to come out of the shadow and tell their stories to the world.

Second, interwoven with these women's stories is the author's own journey from her past to her future during the process of writing about and bonding with these Chinese women. Her journey includes fond recollections of her grandmother's encouragement to "dig to China" in her early life, her poignant memories of the mother, sisters, and grandmother she lost as a child, her efforts to forget the painful experience of her parents' divorce, her

mother's death when she was young and her father's negligence of parenting, her realization of the importance of her sisters in her life and her rebonding with them while in China, and the development of a sense of rebirth and resolution of her grief. Quoting Grace Paley, Checkoway states more explicitly than Chang this second theme of her book, "Every story is two stories," that of the narrative and that of the storyteller (p.13).

A graduate of Harvard-Radcliffe and of the Iowa Writer's Workshop, and an acclaimed writer, Checkoway writes more gracefully and exquisitely than Chang. Her presentation of her search for the stories of the Chinese women suggests strong feminist insights and literary elegance. Her description of the tragic but heroic story of the woman with a disfigured hand is woven together with the making of a red Chinese silk coat with her, because, "The coat, she says, is like a story she will tell me" (p.125).

However, Checkoway seems to have limited understanding of the

complexity of the social context in which the Chinese women live and its impact on their perspectives of themselves: the two-thousand-year-old Confucian tradition and the fifty years of the self-defined socialist system and its embrace of the world and capitalism since the late 1970s are two major influences. In addition, her repeated attempt to search for the "secret world" and "shadowed voices" of the women suggests her tendency to conceive these Chinese women's social environment as a rigid communist arena, with strong resemblance to that sketched by George Orwell in his 1984. Checkoway was surprised to learn from her Chinese students' essays that most described their childhoods in positive terms, even if spent in extreme poverty.

To the general public interested in contemporary Chinese women, Checkoway's passionate stories of these women are informative and fascinating, especially about the generation growing up in the socialist regions. To students and scholars in Chinese Studies and Women's

Studies, the book provides an opportunity to explore the relationships between the experience and subjectivity of contemporary Chinese women and American feminist perceptions of them. To the Chinese readers of books in English, especially women whose ages are similar to those of these Chinese women, Checkoway's account brings back poignant memories of growing up a woman in the so-called "socialist" China. It may make some feel more motivated to tell their own stories to the world.

[Su Hongjun has a Ph.D. degree in American Studies and is currently a scholar affiliate at the Center for International and Comparative Studies, University of Iowa.]

NOTES

- 1 Zhang Huiyuan, "Zuihai Xu Zhimo de Nuren [The Woman Who Loved Hsu Chih-mo Most Dearly]," *World Journal* (October 6, 1996), p.54.

New Bibliography in Office Series

Phyllis Holman Weisbard, Women's Studies Librarian for the University of Wisconsin System, has recently completed a bibliography entitled "Annotated Bibliography and Guide to Archival Resources on the History of Jewish Women in America." Originally produced for publication as part of the two-volume *Jewish Women in America: An Historical Encyclopedia*, edited by Paula E. Hyman and Deborah Dash Moore (Routledge, 1997), the annotated bibliography is now available in a slightly modified form on our office's website at: <http://www.library.wisc.edu/libraries/WomensStudies/jewwom/jwmain.htm>

A Woman's Position in Gender Relations in Post-Mao China: An Alternative Perspective

by Hongjin Kang

Ravni Thakur, *REWRITING GENDER: READING CONTEMPORARY CHINESE WOMEN*. London and Atlantic Highlands, NJ: Zed, 1996. 224p. bibl. index. \$55.00, ISBN 1-85649-409-8; pap., \$19.95, ISBN 1-85649-410-1.

A woman balancing on her bound feet gives us an image of the inferiority of Chinese women one hundred years ago. A young woman working high up on an electric pole symbolizes today's "Iron Girl" holding up half the sky. Such an image of equality is a manipulation, however. Where can we actually find out about a woman's position in gender relations in post-Mao China? How do women think of their own position now?

Ravni Thakur suggests that we explore women's literature for the answer. The Chinese literary field has specific features due to the Chinese culture and the Communist ideology imposed on it. Therefore, Thakur further suggests that different discourses be examined and a sociological approach adopted for analysis of the social relations of gender in the context of Chinese culture. For this purpose, she has studied female protagonists from works of some prominent women writers in the post-Mao period.

Wang Anyi's novella *Lapse of Time*¹ (first published 1981) is the first work she explores. The protagonist, Duanli Ouyang, is situated within a traditional family in Shanghai. Due to her father-in-law's wealth, she had lived an idle life. However, when the Cultural Revolution came, the family lost its property. Duanli had to pick up new roles, first becoming a housewife, then taking a low-wage job to make ends meet. For the first time

in her life, she felt productive and achieved a sense of worth through her work. Yet, when the family property was retrieved at the end of the Cultural Revolution, Duanli was torn between continuing with her new identity as a wage-earner or slipping back to her old self. Her exposure to working life seemed insufficient to move her to reject her former identity as a rich woman. Besides, her loyalty was essentially tied to her family. There she was always a wife, a mother, and a daughter-in-law. Thakur sees her as trapped in the orthodox discourse of class and gender.

Lu Wenting, an ophthalmologist, is the protagonist in Shen Rong's *At Middle Age*² (originally published in 1980). She was lucky to have been given a free college education when Communists took over China. She became a good doctor whom both her colleagues and patients thought highly of. However, her material circumstances remained extremely bad - her salary remained at the lowest rank for eighteen years, and the whole family of four shared one small room. Lu's dedication to work took all her time and energy. Eventually she became seriously ill and was hospitalized. In the hospital, she felt terribly guilty about her husband and children, even though she was cited as a socialist heroine. Lu's sense of guilt came from failure to balance the double roles she carried, yet she never questioned whether society demanded too much from her. According to

Thakur, Wenting was a victim of both traditional and socialist orthodoxies.

Zhang Jie's *The Ark*,³ though first published in 1978, appeared as a breakthrough because it embodied resistance to traditional discourses; it is itself an unconventional discourse. Three professional women are the protagonists. Their marriages have ended in either divorce or separation because of domestic abuse, and each has been deprived of custody of her children. With such domestic backgrounds, they can hardly function properly in their professional roles. The three are constantly harassed by men and women prejudiced with orthodox viewpoints. What keeps them going is the solidarity among themselves, the ark for them to hold onto. This type of women's solidarity is an entirely new concept for Chinese culture, definitely a "great leap forward" for these women because they are liberated from the conventional roles of women. However, a Chinese saying - "The load is heavy and the road is long" - would also be an appropriate description for their lives ahead, and they must prepare themselves.

Thakur's analysis of these works can be very helpful to anyone interested in Chinese women's present-day dilemma regarding gender relations.

[Hongjin Kang works at Dickinson College library. Her interest is in female subjectivity both in fiction and reality.]

NOTES

- 1 Wang Anyi, *Lapse of Time*. Beijing: Chinese Literature Press; San Francisco: China Books and Periodicals, 1988. Originally published in the magazine *Shou Hou* in 1981.
- 2 Shen Rong, *At Middle Age*. Beijing: Panda Books; distr. China International Book Trading, 1987. Originally appeared in 1980 in the magazine *Shou Hou*.
- 3 Zhang Jie, *The Ark*. First published in *Shou Hou* in 1978.

Women and Gender in Africanist Research: A New Wave?

by Susan O'Brien

Catherine Coquery-Vidrovitch, transl. by Beth Raps. *AFRICAN WOMEN: A MODERN HISTORY*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1997. 308p. bibl. index. \$59.95, ISBN 0-8133-2360-6; pap., \$16.95, ISBN 0-8133-2361-4.

Kathleen Sheldon, ed., *COURTYARDS, MARKETS, CITY STREETS: URBAN WOMEN IN AFRICA*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1996. 342p. bibl. index. \$68.00, ISBN 0-8133-8685-3; pap., \$24.95, ISBN 0-8133-8686-1.

Gwendolyn Mikell, ed., *AFRICAN FEMINISM: THE POLITICS OF SURVIVAL IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1997. 392p. index. \$39.95, ISBN 0-8122-3349-2; pap., \$19.95, ISBN 0-8122-1580-X.

In the last thirty years, an impressive amount of scholarship on African women has been produced in Western academies. Women are no longer invisible, although work on women, clustered in interdisciplinary anthologies and special journal issues, continues to be marginalized from mainstream Africanist scholarship. African women scholars also remain a disturbingly small minority in the field, though since the 1980s they have posed fundamental challenges to Western feminist research on Africa in accusing its practitioners of a new intellectual imperialism that reflects foregone conclusions about the powerlessness and ignorance of African women. Scholars like Ife Amadiume have pointed out, however, that African women enjoy much longer traditions of female solidarity and organization than Western women have ever developed, and that in many African societies, like her own Igbo, gender roles and relations historically allowed greater female autonomy and power than those in the West. These tensions make clear that writing on women in Africa involves more than

simply restoring women to the historical record; it also challenges scholars to look afresh at the meaning and implications of gender in African societies and to take seriously African women's rejection of Euro-American concepts of oppression, equality, and liberation in setting a feminist agenda.

If, as Nancy Hunt has recently suggested¹, Africanist research on women and gender has entered a third wave, which employs the lexicon of cultural history to address postmodern concerns with identity, subjectivity, and memory, then the three volumes reviewed here harken back to earlier waves of research in seeking to document the roles and agency of African women in areas of long-standing scholarly concern: political organization, legal reform and land tenure, urbanization, and formal, informal, and household economies.

In *African Women: A Modern History*, Catherine Coquery-Vidrovitch offers an historical narrative of African women's lives in

the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. In synthesizing case studies dispersed in journals and anthologies over the last twenty years, Coquery-Vidrovitch provides a useful compendium for teaching an undergraduate course on African women or for developing lectures for a more general survey course on Africa.² As scholarship, however, this work fails to organize the material in innovative or insightful ways; the narrative relies on stark urban/rural and traditional/modern dichotomies, and spins a by now clichéd account of women's declining status under colonialism. Despite the ambitious geographic and historic scope of the book, Coquery-Vidrovitch does incorporate a wide range of local case studies to give the reader a sense of the enormous regional variability on the continent. In two of the best such case studies, she details the Women's War in Nigeria and the anti-pass movement in South Africa to highlight the extent and unique local forms of anticolonial female political mobilization. Yet in general her narrative emphasizes the subjugation of African women, locating their subordination in the enduring power of precolonial traditions and customs.

As with the other books reviewed here, a major theme of *African Women* is urbanization. Coquery-Vidrovitch discusses the new freedoms and dilemmas that city life poses, and emphasizes the critical role of female labor in the so-called informal sector in supporting urban populations. She argues that the economic crises of the early 1980s, in forcing increased female participation in the market economy and bringing conflicts over gender inequalities to a head, mark a more dramatic turning point in the status of African women than decolonization. African women, Coquery-Vidrovitch suggests, have never embraced a vision of liberation in the individualized sense of the Western human rights tradition,

yet she falls short of elaborating how they *are* defining their priorities in political battles across the continent.

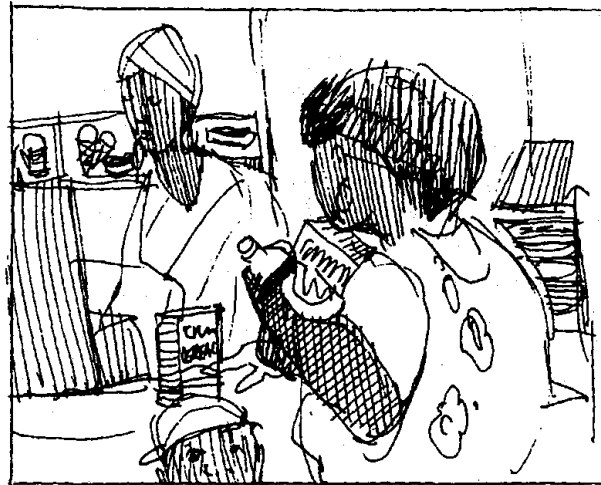
It is precisely this that Gwendolyn Mikell states as her objective in collecting the thirteen case studies from ten African countries in her edited volume *African Feminism: The Politics of Survival in Sub-Saharan Africa*. In her introduction, Mikell asserts that African women are formulating and mobilizing around a new feminism in the 1990s. Excluded from independence politics despite their critical role in anticolonial struggles, squeezed by World Bank- and IMF-imposed structural-adjustment programs in the 1980s, and finally disenchanted with the empty promises of corrupt politicians, African women are for the first time organizing outside of male-dominated government structures and opposition parties, demanding a role in political transitions and insisting on gender equity as critical to any new socio-political dispensations.

Mikell takes a bold step in positing the advent of a unitary or unified "African feminism," yet never explicitly defines this movement or historically contextualizes the precolonial "cultural models" she suggests African women are drawing upon to exert demands upon the state. The individual chapters that follow also fail to evoke the parameters of this emergent "strategic consensus" among African women,³ though several of the chapters *do* illustrate how a unique conflation of female initiative, state policies, and economic difficulties are changing the nature and form of gender relations in many African countries. Takiwaa Manuh, for example, considers how women have used new legislation and family courts in Ghana to confront some of the economic hardships since independence. Under pressure from women's groups and churches, the government of Jerry Rawlings implemented legal reforms to clarify the ambiguous status of wives and children resulting

from the legal pluralism of the colonial era, and encouraged the growing number of female household heads to use family courts for obtaining economic relief from husbands.

Several chapters explore the nature of women's political activism in the inimical political environment of the postcolonial state. Carlene Dei suggests the disguised character of women's political activity at the grassroots level by tracing the development of a women's neighborhood group in Abidjan to demonstrate the ways Ivorian women, whose political presence has been barely visible on the national level since independence, use local level associational forms to forge political identities, obtain neighborhood services, and gain political influence. In describing the resurgence of Kenyan women's participation in national party politics since 1990, Kenyan scholar Maria Nzomo provides the clearest evidence for Mikell's claims about the birth of a new African feminism, exemplified by the 1992 hunger strike in which mothers and friends of political prisoners publicly defied the state despite police brutality.

In the other chapters, however, the emphasis is not on women's activism, but on how social and economic conditions have worsened for African women in the last fifteen years. Nigerian sociologist D.J. Shehu describes women bearing the burden of the fuel crisis in Nigeria, ironically one of the best endowed countries in Africa with regard to energy and fuel resources. While laissez-faire capitalism enriches politicians and foreign investors, women and the poor still must struggle to collect adequate firewood to prepare daily meals.



Miriam Greenwald

A chapter by political scientist Aili Tripp in the edited work *Courtyards, Markets, City Streets: Urban Women in Africa* advances Mikell's argument about a new African feminism as well as any of the contributors to that volume. In considering women's political activities in three east African countries undergoing political liberalization, she suggests that in organizing independently of both ruling and opposition political parties, women are rejecting the narrow ethnic factionalism that has characterized the transition to multiparty systems. The rest of the contributors to this edited volume suggest that focusing on the role of women in the development of African cities changes our understanding of urbanization. The thirteen chapters are thus intended to rectify perceptions of women in African urbanization as marginal dependents of male wage earners, and they do this quite effectively by looking at how and why women migrate, their economic and political activities in the city, and the novel familial configurations and gender norms that emerge from urban living arrangements and access to courts. Four of the chapters take a historical look at women and urbanization in the colonial period. Using court cases and colonial records, these chapters reconstruct patterns of female migration and forms of urban protest.

In a particularly interesting chapter, Catherine Coles presents the life histories of three generations of Hausa women in Kaduna, Nigeria to comment on the changing contours of this migrant city from its inception under British rule to the economic crises of the 1980s.

Several of the contributors consider the significance of both gender and class position in mediating the adverse effects of economic restructuring on urban women. Based on her study of women in small-scale garment manufacturing in Nairobi, Kenya, Dorothy McCormick argues that women's increased involvement in microenterprises may not be the way out of poverty that some imagine. She claims that class divisions, as determined by people's access to resources, limit poorer women's ability to enter into any type of small scale manufacturing, effectively restricting them to much less profitable areas of the industry such as custom tailoring or contract work. Nonetheless, Mary Johnson Osirim suggests that self-employment as crocheters, seamstresses, hairdressers, and market traders remains an important area of growth for women microentrepreneurs in Zimbabwe.

Chapters by Paulette Beat Songue on Cameroon and Brooke Gundfest Schoepf on Zaire consider the plight of urban women in the time of AIDS; while poverty drives some women into semi-prostitution to survive, the dominant ideology of female sexual subordination leaves women of all class positions vulnerable to HIV infection.

As research on women and gender in Africa continues to expand and take new directions, challenges remain to look at African women's lives and the role of gender without imposing assumptions built on Western experiences. At its best, the material in these three works advances efforts to historicize gender in specific African contexts, and illustrates how foregrounding women's experiences alters our understanding of colonialism, urbanization, or the impact of global capitalism on African countries. Clearly, efforts to represent the feminist struggles of African women on their own terms remain incomplete, and the need for more detailed, culturally rich local case studies suggests that even the second wave of research on women and gender in Africa remains provisional.

[Susan O'Brien is a Ph.D. candidate in History at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is currently working on a dissertation on the social history of a spirit possession cult in northern Nigeria.]

NOTES

- 1 See her introduction to the journal *Gender and History* v. 8, no.3 (November, 1996), pp.324-325.
- 2 Another useful resource in teaching African women's history is the recently updated volume *African Women South of the Sahara*, eds. Margaret Jean Hay and Sharon Stichter (Longman Group, 1995.)
- 3 A conspicuous absence in a collection of this kind is a consideration of the feminist activism of South African women in the ANC and in the South African parliament since the transition to majority rule in 1994. It is clear that for Mikell herself the South African situation played a critical role in shaping her understanding of a new African feminism. See "African Feminism: Toward a New Politics of Representation" *Feminist Studies* v.21, no.2 (Summer 1995), pp.405-424.

New Locations of African Women's Writing

by Roberta Hatcher

Stephanie Newell, ed., *WRITING AFRICAN WOMEN: GENDER, POPULAR CULTURE AND LITERATURE IN WEST AFRICA*. London and New Jersey: Zed Press, 1997. 197 p. index. \$55.00, ISBN 1-85649-449-7; pap., \$19.95, ISBN 1-85649-450-0.

Margie Orford and Nepeti Nicanor, eds., *COMING ON STRONG: WRITING BY NAMIBIAN WOMEN*. Windhoek: New Namibia Press, 1996. 134p. pap., \$10.00. ISBN 99916-31-42-9. Distributed in the US. by African Books Collective, The Jam Factory, 27 Park End Street, Oxford OX1 1HU UK.

The proliferation over the past two decades of literary works by African women and the critical corpus surrounding them has gradually forced open existing canons of literature. Yet this much-needed focus on literary texts has perpetuated another sort of exclusion. Institutional and theoretical biases, as well as difficulty in accessing materials, have resulted in local forms of African cultural production often being overlooked by researchers. The two books reviewed here make a valuable contribution to redressing that imbalance.

Stephanie Newell's edited volume, *Writing African Women: Gender, Popular Culture and Literature in West Africa*, presents analyses of a wide range of literary and cultural practices through which gender expectations are constructed, including the popular press, radio broadcasts, and mask performance. Gender politics are currently a charged topic of discussion in West Africa, and the lack of attention to such specific, local materials, Newell claims, has created "a silence . . . in African studies in the very area where currently noisy local debates are taking place" (p.1). The second volume, *Coming on Strong: Writing by Namibian Women*, presents non-canonical forms of writing such as women's testimonies in addition to poetry and short stories; it even includes material by women enrolled in English literacy classes, challenging notions of the literary that would exclude such writing. Taken together, these two volumes bring to the field of African literatures a much expanded notion of "text" that fills an important gap in current cultural and literary studies of the region.

Although Newell's collection is not limited to discussions of literature, the title – *Writing African Women* – accurately reflects the underlying premise of the volume: that the construction of gender is a dynamic process of inscription through social and cultural practices, and that women are not only implicated in this process but engage as active interlocutors. Thus, while the essays focus largely on how women interrogate and rewrite feminine gender codes, a number of articles are devoted to constructions of masculinity and the gender dynamics of male-dominated art forms. The authors include male and female academics and creative artists, working mostly in Nigeria and Ghana. These institutional locations

are reflected in the volume's overwhelming anglophone orientation, although discussions of the works of several Islamic writers, as well as the works of Mariama Bâ (the only francophone writer treated in the volume) have been included in an attempt to compensate for this bias.

The book is divided into three parts: Theory and Politics, Literatures, and Popular Culture. In her introduction, Newell points to the challenge facing women in formerly colonized regions who endeavor to "work towards social transformations and construct a women's history while simultaneously avoiding absorption into Western feminist discourses" (p.2). Thus, while most of the essays in the volume draw on a wide range of African and Western frameworks, they do not engage directly with European or American gender theories, a choice which appears deliberate: their aim is not a global theorization of gender in African culture but an analysis of gender construction through specific local debates and cultural practices.

The exception is the opening essay by Nana Wilson-Tagoe, "Reading Towards a Theorization of African Women's Writing: African Women Writers within Feminist Gynocriticism." Strategically discarding the biological, linguistic, and psycho-analytical categories of difference proposed by Elaine Showalter's gynocritical theory, Wilson-Tagoe selectively appropriates the category of "women's culture" as useful in the African context because it "presents a woman-centred world within the wider political, economic and cultural world" (p.13). This transformation of the gynocritical framework allows her to retain gender as a fundamental category of analysis without obscuring the multi-dimensional locations of African women's writing.

The section of the book devoted to Literatures comprises eight of the

book's fifteen articles, including discussions of familiar texts by Flora Nwapa, Ama Ata Aidoo, and Mariama Bâ. More interesting are the studies of writers less well-known outside Nigeria, as well as a study of Flora Nwapa's poetry. The most intriguing studies in this section, however, are devoted to non-literary texts: Jane Bryce's "A Life on the Women's Page: Treena Kwenta's Diary" and "Recovering Lost Voices: The Short Stories of Mabel Dove-Danquah" by Naana Jane Opoku-Agyemang. Both these essays show how women have made use of journalism to create a space in which alternative possibilities for relations between men and women can be explored in a relatively unrestricted mode of writing.

The final section on Popular Culture contains some of the most original contributions in the volume. So-called "traditional" practices are considered from a gender-informed perspective, and situated in a context of contemporary popular culture rather than the more usual ethnographic framework. Sani Abba Aliyu's study of Hausa women's storytelling analyzes the gender implications in the ways this practice has been recently transformed through the medium of radio broadcasting. Chinyere Grace Okafor discusses the multiple ways that male masking societies stage and reinforce a defensive masculine authority, both by the exclusion of women from the masking cults and by the representations of gender produced in the performance. In a striking counterpoint, Adepeju Layiwola discusses women's recent entry into metal-casting sculpture, which not only breaks a long-standing taboo excluding women from this practice but has also produced women's representations of gender-coded subjects for the first time in this

medium. Anxious masculinity is also evident in locally published works on gender theory currently circulating in Nigeria, analyzed here by Newell. African studies scholars will recognize in her study the critic Chinweizu, one of the *bolekeja* (come down and fight) critics, who once again has jumped into the fray with the publication of his *Anatomy of Female Power*, a polemic text claiming men's oppression by women. In Nigeria's militarized and censored political context, Newell argues, it is through masculine discourses on women's roles as mothers and wives that "women bear the brunt of displaced political critique" (p.171).

As postcolonial theory commands ever greater attention in literary and cultural studies, the work in this volume gives welcome visibility to often neglected local debates and texts circulating within post-colonial space. In addition, by including African literatures within a broader field of cultural practices, it makes a valuable contribution as an undergraduate text for women's studies, African studies, and cultural studies courses.

The second book under review, *Coming on Strong: Writing by Namibian Women*, is more than a

collection of individual pieces. Taken as a whole it stands as an extraordinary testimony to the history of an emerging nation as told by women: accounts of the brutalities of the South African army during Namibia's five-year war of independence, experiences of imprisonment, exile, and homecoming, of women's acts of resistance large and small, are interwoven with stories of pregnancy, childbirth, drought, childhood memories, connections between mothers and daughters. While each text is striking in itself, the cumulative effect, due in large part to the subtle ordering of the texts and the recurrence of certain themes and motifs throughout the collection, is profoundly moving. Though the tone is largely solemn and direct, moments of humor also surface, such as stories of children's clever ruses to steal meat, and a light poem entitled "Ode to an Unfaithful Husband."

The editors, Margie Orford and Nepeti Nicanor, work in education and publishing in Namibia, as well as being active in women's groups and feminist scholarship. As their press began to receive manuscripts by women, they decided to solicit additional women's writings through radio and newspaper advertisements,

and this anthology is the result. The editing is minimal, with no critical or biographical information added, aside from the editors' brief introduction and a foreword by Gillian Brewin of OXFAM Canada, the organization that funded the project. Contributions range in length from single paragraphs, gathered in the thematic sections, to short stories of several pages' length. Also included are several stunning color photographs of women's painting, embroidery, and sculpture; the editors promise more visual art in a forthcoming volume.

While the lack of critical apparatus seems appropriate to such a work, a bit more discussion from the editors as to the collection and arrangement of the texts would have been welcome. For instance, many accounts of events experienced during the war end with the solemn refrain, "I will never forget." The effect is haunting, but the repetition makes one wonder, were contributions solicited on this theme? Particularly for an undergraduate audience quick to see a text as a direct translation of a woman's voice, less transparency of the textual construction would help open discussion of issues about production and framing of non-canonical forms of writing without diminishing the authenticity of the expression.

Nonetheless, these are powerful writings, more so than many of the more official literary works to appear in the wave of national anthologies produced in Africa in the last decade. Taken as a whole, the book is an extraordinary document whose concerns resonate forcefully with contemporary investigations of nation and gender, of popular memory and forgetting, of testimony and women's writing.

[Roberta Hatcher is a Lecturer in the French Department at Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin, and a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she is currently preparing a dissertation on contemporary African literature.]



Miriam Greenwald

FEMINIST VISIONS

"Discovering Women" Series Focuses on Women Scientists

by Carolyn Shaffer

High Energy: Physicist Melissa Franklin (60 min.)

Jewels in a Test Tube: Biochemist Lynda Jordan (60 min.)

Earth Explorer: Geophysicist Marcia McNutt (60 min.)

Secrets Underground: Archaeologist Patty Jo Watson (60 min.)

Silicon Vision: Computational Neuroscientist Misha Mahowald (60 min.)

DNA Detective: Molecular Biologist Lydia Villa-Komaroff (60 min.)

Sale: \$495 (set); \$89.95 (each). Films for the Humanities & Sciences, P.O. Box 2053, Princeton, NJ 08543-2053.

male-dominated professions. Each video includes revealing thoughts and comments on the trials and triumphs these women have faced due to perceived gender roles. All six discuss the blatant and subtle sexual discrimination they have learned to overcome. The difficulties in raising a family and simultaneously having a career are a theme throughout. Of the six women, two are married with children, a third is married with no children. All of the childless women express concerns about the feasibility of maintaining status in their research communities and raising children. Marcia McNutt has maintained a highly successful career by adopting a creative solution to her parenting dilemma. After the loss of her husband, McNutt hired a single mother with a daughter of her own to live in her home and care for her two daughters and the household. The caregiver has stayed on in this role since McNutt's remarriage.

The challenges these women faced to reach their current positions were considerable. Each video attends to the details of the woman's life from her childhood to her current academic post. If the series has any flaws, one would be the focus on academic scientific careers. An additional series including women scientists and engineers in industry could also have a positive effect on increasing diversity in this equally important environment.

The level of detail on the scientific work of each woman is appropriate. Although not entirely consistent across the six videos, the concepts and details of their work are explained for the layperson. Patty Jo Watson, for example, studies preserved human excrement in caves in order to learn more about pre-Columbian peoples in the U.S., and her archeological work has also taken her to China's Yellow

In the company of a colleague, I watched the first of this videotape series, *High Energy*, on physicist Melissa Franklin. The physicist spoke of her particle-detecting equipment with an unexpected, loving passion, and my colleague exclaimed, "You'd NEVER hear a man talking like that about his experimental apparatus or his work!"

Franklin went on to explain that she believes her field, particle physics, has a very aggressive language associated with it – one of smashing and colliding – and her alternative vision is one way she can compensate. It was certainly an interesting observation and something to watch for throughout the entire series. Evelyn Fox Keller first explored the idea of the language of science as a deterrent to women entering and succeeding in science. A thirty-minute Public Broadcasting System (PBS) network video interview of Keller by Bill

Moyers would, in fact, serve nicely as an addition to the "Discovering Women" series for those wishing to explore the linguistic thread further.

This series of six videotapes, funded in part by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, the National Science Foundation, and Intel, and produced in 1995 for PBS by WGBH Boston, is an outstanding representation of high-achieving scientific women. It displays a very thoughtful variety of women, ranging in age from twenty-nine to sixty-one, working in life sciences and physical sciences, both theoretical and experimental, and including women of Mexican-American and African-American ancestry. All six women are working in the United States or are Americans working elsewhere.

The series is an important contribution toward understanding the experiences of women who enter

River Valley to teach excavation techniques. As the eldest of the group, she was obviously going to school during a time when it was harder to be a woman in science. The youngest of the six, Misha Mahowald, is in a high-tech, quickly growing field. In the neuroscience lab at Oxford University, she works on semiconductor materials that simulate brain functions and actually built a model that successfully simulates human vision. Lydia Villa-Komaroff's research centers on how to prevent megalencephaly, a rare neurological disorder. Using theories that run counter to established science, she has struggled with experiment "failures" that can threaten her career. Villa-Komaroff has also wrestled with her Mexican-American heritage's images of the "traditional woman" in pursuing a career in science.

The true focus of these presentations is the women rather than their chosen fields. One should not expect to learn about any of the scientific fields represented in more than a superficial way. Their job-related activities form almost a kind of "backdrop" for the drama of their lives.

Each of the women explains who her role models were and the encour-

agement she received to sustain the high levels of achievement she has labored to earn. It is interesting to note the wide range of motivating people who touched these women's imaginations and gave them direction as girls. Lynda Jordan's activities as a role model stand out prominently. As a girl who struggled within oppressive inner-city conditions, she found hope in a caring man from Upward Bound. She now returns these motivating energies to the young African American scientists in her research laboratories and classrooms at a historically Black college in North Carolina. All six women, however, are shown to be active as role models in a number of very meaningful relationships. Every life examined leaves the viewer with the empowering message that success, abundant fulfillment, and rewards as women scientists are possible and "it's up to you."

In a classroom setting, it may be difficult to devote six hours to viewing all six titles. However, because each episode is so good, it is likely students would reap personal benefit from having viewed even one. In a career development setting, viewing a single video, appropriately selected, could prove inspiring to a

student seeking direction for career choices. For the women's studies scholar, viewing the entire series is highly recommended so as to absorb the similarities and differences presented in each of the women's experiences.

These videos are highly recommended, as a set or individually, to parents to view with their teenagers, for community educational projects, and for libraries and schools at the high school level and up. Girls and women - Hispanics and African-Americans, especially - can derive great inspiration from these impressive portraits, but general audiences are likely to find them fully engaging as well.

[Carolyn Shaffer is Outreach Librarian for the Dane County Library Service. She holds both a B.S. and M.S. in electrical engineering from the University of Illinois - Champaign-Urbana.]

****** These videos are also available from Memorial Library on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus (and other university libraries) via Interlibrary Loan. ******



Miriam Greenwald

TEACHING, LEARNING, AND DISTANCE EDUCATION IN WOMEN'S STUDIES

by Margaret Rozga

Reactions to distance education among the faculty at my institution range from vociferous hostility to quieter willingness to give it a try. At recent Women's Studies meetings I have found a similar range of opinion. Some Women's Studies scholars express a conviction that distance education technologies are incompatible with feminist pedagogy. Others are already deeply engaged in various educational endeavors involving technology and thirst for feedback, for suggestions from others who can offer them additional strategies for making the technologies work. In this article I hope to address at least some of the concerns of those at either end of this spectrum of opinion. Further, I seek to provide the benefit of our experience and perhaps give heart to others considering a similar venture.

The Women's Studies program in the University of Wisconsin Colleges, a thirteen-campus, two-year transfer institution within the University of Wisconsin System, had long sought a way to insure that Women's Studies courses could be taught on all its campuses across the state. Most campuses occasionally offer at least one course, usually the one cross-listed by the home department of the faculty member most interested in Women's Studies. Only two campuses, however, had been able to offer Introduction to Women's Studies. At campuses with fewer than five hundred students, even faculty committed to Women's Studies had to assign first priority to courses enabling students to complete their general education requirements and transfer successfully, most often to

other UW institutions.

Our opportunity arrived when the Colleges' pilot project in audiographics (a system of audio connections with shared writing/graphics capability) distance education technology was funded. Our goal was to draw on the combined expertise of faculty at various campuses to offer a team-taught course. We were not interested in an inferior version of an on-campus class. Each medium offers its own potential, and those of us with backgrounds in English thought in terms of the difference between film and theater. A film produced with a static camera would be a poor imitation of a theatrical experience. With audiographics, we would lose the face-to-face contact, but the technology would, for example, allow students from Marinette, Sheboygan, and Rice Lake to think through issues for women in business with Fond du Lac's business professor, to follow up with a Richland Center professor who had done case studies of Sauk County businesswomen, then to engage in mini-projects in their own communities and report back to each other, thus acquiring a state-wide view.

Workload issues complicated the planning. What compensation was available if four of five faculty all worked equally on the course? Another setback was the administration's decision that academic staff were not eligible for the training component of the audiographics pilot. Our first choice for lead instructor was a teaching academic staff member. Another

choice was a person on tenure track, but we could not subject her to the risk of possible poor student evaluations due to technological problems. At this point we were being pressed for a commitment: did we want our course listed in the timetable?

This was one of those key decision points. If we didn't go ahead now, the possibility might never be realized. I volunteered to be lead instructor. With little time to solve the problem of compensation for others involved, I decided to ask them to cover no more than two fifty-minute class periods, a responsibility not beyond the kind of university service faculty members are generally expected to do as part of their workload. I made a list of faculty members I knew had already prepared presentations on topics relevant to the concepts covered in an introductory course. Fearful that if my requests were turned down by the first few people I asked, I would lose momentum, I emailed each of the fifteen people on the list one afternoon before leaving campus. When I returned two days later, I had fourteen affirmative replies! The other person said to keep her in mind for next time.

Clearly this group of faculty was enthusiastic. One even created a home page for the course. Their enthusiasm carried me through the work of preparing a syllabus, planning an all-day faculty team meeting, and applying for an internal grant to fund the meeting. The greatest payoff for me was the opportunity to see all of them in action, teaching, each in her/his own style, each developing some new

variation on the basic audiographics techniques so that my own repertoire constantly expanded, each willing to engage in discussion with students beyond their presentations.

Another morale booster was student response. Our class filled on the second day of registration – actually, it overfilled. No campus realized each of the other seven offering the course were enrolling equally well. When our Central Administration caught the process, the class had already enrolled more than forty students, too many for our pilot. Fortunately, the Fox Valley campus found someone who could teach a traditional section on their campus. The distance education section then began the semester with twenty-nine students at seven sites across the state. Twenty-two finished the course. Our administration was impressed with the degree of interest in Women's Studies, beyond what any of us had anticipated.

Our next task was to engage our newly found audience in the work of the course day by day, week by week. Some days were obviously a disappointment to all involved. Most of these were days on which I lectured.

Audiographics is a computer-based medium of instruction that allows for sending data, graphs, pictures, and lists of points from one site to all the others. It is accompanied by telephone voice connection, so teacher and students can talk with one another, but do not see each other. Scanner, pens, and a keyboard allow for ongoing creation of text or visuals during a presentation, either by teacher, students, or both. It is as though everyone is around the board all at once – better than at a single site with a real blackboard. It seemed to me at first that the system encouraged presentation of a list of points and a lecture elaborating on the list. I found that deadly, and so did the students. If they were not somehow more actively involved, if some response

were not called for at least every five minutes and what was projected on their monitors changed even more frequently, students found it hard to keep focused.

One of my better class periods resulted from a comment made by another member of the faculty team during his presentation. He said that one reason women were devalued was their association with children, and that when men were associated with children a similar devaluing effect took place. I began the next class asking for examples of men associated with children, and students quickly began brainstorming. The pens were going on each campus, each picked up by another student as soon as it was set down. When we stopped, we had a full screen, with names ranging from Ronald McDonald to President Clinton to one of the students' dads. An intense forty-minute discussion ensued, which included the faculty member making the original statement, arguing over what each of the examples might mean and how to sum them up.

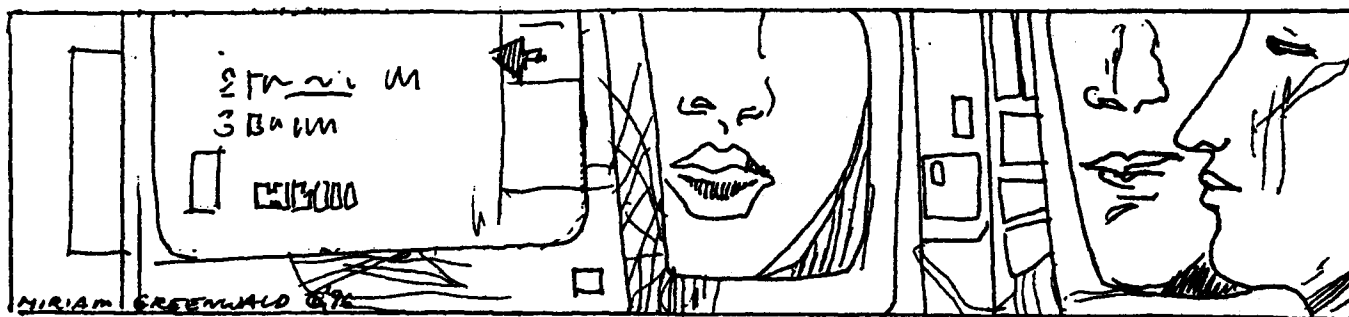
Students really liked to hear faculty engage in discussion of the ideas with each other, especially, but not only, when one was pushing the other to clarify or defend a position. Picking up the pens and adding to the list hooked students into the class discussion. Reflecting on this class period, I also realized how important it is to *focus* the discussion. More unstructured questions tended to elicit one-word responses that went nowhere. Beginning with the list of students' own examples and building from there – a more inductive approach – encouraged almost everyone to contribute.

Some class sessions made use of a scanner, and this was the first time most students had used one. They liked the variety the images added to our repertoire of classroom strategies. Another effective strategy was use of small group discussion by site. Students at each site frequently

caucused among themselves during the class, something I didn't realize until I visited a remote site while another member of the faculty team presented. Once we were aware of this phenomenon, we began to structure more caucusing into the class plan.

Another class used the pens in a different way. In a segment on images of women in literature, we read the poem "Night Wind Woman" by Joy Harjo. As we were discussing the images in the poem, I had a copy projected on the monitors. I picked up the blue pen and circled several images that develop as the speaker progresses from a sense of powerlessness to a feeling of greater power due to her identification with Night Wind Woman. When a student asked about the volcanic and fire imagery in the poem, she used the red pen to circle those terms she wanted to call our attention to. I felt a much greater sense that the students were taking possession of this poem, getting a handle on it, delving into it, than in regular classrooms where we each looked at our own copies and made our private annotations. In fact, the student who picked up on the fire imagery, as it turned out, was an art major who liked working in clay. I suggested that for a final project she might want to create a clay figure of Night Wind Woman. She jumped at the chance.

Students could choose to do a final project or take a final essay exam. They had this choice because they insisted on it. When I mentioned the final, one of the students said, "We don't want a final." Before I knew what happened, half the class joined her in arguing for the opportunity to do a final project rather than take an exam. I loved it. Given the nature of our course, with so many different voices and so few tests, I could understand that though they knew what kinds of issues Women's Studies is concerned with, they believed that knowing what to study



would be difficult. The project offered them another option.

We are offering the course by distance education again during the 1997-98 academic year. Once again our course closed – in fact over-enrolled – very early in the registration period. The faculty team are all eager to be involved again, and two additional faculty members asked to join. Furthermore, all agreed to a greater commitment to the course.

Among the modifications we're making to the course, we are requiring a final project from each student. We also learned that we have to insist on regular email communication and provide students with access to computers to fulfill that requirement. Thus I have asked that another computer be placed in the distance education room on each campus. Access to computers for email contact with me or with other students was a problem on some campuses, almost impossible on others. Without email or telephone communication, students with no one to answer their questions outside class find the going tough, and it is these students who end up dropping the class. Faculty team members on campuses that are sites for the course have also volunteered to attend the first sessions on their campus, so that students have a greater sense from the beginning of

someone closer at hand who can be a resource.

The development of this distance education course has been good for our program. Since demonstrating the extent of interest in Women's Studies, we have been able to offer on-site sections of the course on two additional campuses. Several members of the faculty team have plans to develop other team-taught courses.

There were times during the semester when I wished I could push the machinery aside and face my students, times when I thought if we could just see each other, half our questions would be answered. What surprised me more than anything else was that the following semester, when teaching in a regular classroom, I found myself longing for a way to insert some focus for the students' attention other than me. I began to write much more at the board, to invent ways they would focus more on each other, to want them to think in visual terms and project their images for the rest of the class to see. Offering the Introduction to Women's Studies course in a team format by distance education was an experience that made me examine teaching in a new set of terms. In the long run I think my teaching both by distance education and in the campus classroom will be the richer for it.

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WORLD WIDE WEB REVIEW

The Elusive Quality of Web Quality

by Susan Barribeau

KEY WEBSITES MENTIONED:

Thinking Critically About World Wide Web Resources

URL: <http://www.library.ucla.edu/libraries/college/instruct/critical.htm>

Developed/maintained by: Esther Grassian

Last updated: 11/5/97

Library Selection Criteria for WWW Resources

URL: <http://www6.pilot.infi.net/~carolyn/criteria.html>

Developed/maintained by: Carolyn Caywood

Last updated: 10/97

Evaluation of Information Sources

URL: <http://www.vuw.ac.nz/~agsmith/evaln/evaln.htm>

Developed/maintained by: Alastair Smith

Last updated:

Information Quality WWW Virtual Library

URL: <http://www.ciolek.com/WWWVL-InfoQuality.html>

Developed/maintained by: Matthew Ciolek

Last updated: November 14, 1997

Scout Report

URL: <http://rs.internic.net/scout/report/>

Developed/maintained by: Dept. of Computer Sciences, Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison, funded by National Science Foundation

Last updated: Issued weekly on the Web and via email

Argus Clearinghouse

URL: <http://www.cleainghouse.net/>

Developed/maintained by: A coalition of librarians, headed by Executive Director Louis Rosenfeld

Last updated: November 1997

Website evaluation is an ever-present concern in my line of work, reference librarianship. As a daily consumer of information from websites I have become considerably less starry-eyed about the vast quantities of information available and much more selective about quality. Nobody has time to waste on a site offering incomplete, inaccurate, outdated, or disorganized information. Today's World Wide Web consists of documents and files that constantly

move, mutate, vanish, and reappear looking very different, or appear simultaneously in more than one place. The Internet is still a frontier, and like any frontier, the rules are in flux. How to cope? The good news is that some useful Web resources that have existed for some time, and are regularly updated, offer guidance in sifting through the quantity and divining the quality.

Objective evaluative criteria for websites can be organized into several general categories of importance; Carolyn Caywood (see reference below) suggests these: content, access, and design. Which of these is of primary importance is dictated not only by your specific need but by your preferred personal style of interpreting information, and the categories intertwine. Content - and its accuracy, source, tone, and timeliness - is the major consideration, but the most wonderful website in the world is useless if its access is via a machine that is too slow, logs an inordinate amount of down-time, or simply chokes. Finding useful content can also be hampered by the design of a website that looks exciting but takes you in baffling circles, leaving you uncertain about what you've found. The design may be so advanced that it crashes your browser! You might locate a Web document perfectly suited to your immediate needs, and, five minutes later, find the "same" document emanating from yet another website, with a more recent revision date and some new material or links.

Let's look, for example, with a critical eye at a website that is a directory of women's resources: **WWWomen!: The Premier Search Directory for Women Online!** (<http://www.wwwomen.com/>). Upon opening a connection to this site, I am impressed by the quick response time of the server and make a note to check again at different times of day to see whether this was a fluke or an accurate indication (response time remained fast). I also question the phrase "search directory" in the title. Directories are at best *searchable*; there's no such thing as a "search directory." While such a detail might be irrelevant, it can also indicate a muddying of intent that has consequences for users. It is my habit to scroll down and view the entire page for my initial reaction to the layout. Is there a clear organizational scheme? Are there conventional website features in evidence: an FAQ (answers to Frequently Asked Questions), a search engine, a table of contents, date page last updated, some way to communicate with the people behind the site? WWWomen! offers nearly all of the above right on the top page, with the exception of update information. The page itself is a table of contents for the site with a prominent search box near the top - aesthetically, the pink

links make me think of *Barbie* (tm) but the content looks well-organized and not dominated by meaningless graphics. I am pleased to see a link for "Options" near the search box for details about search syntax. I try a search on the word "Wisconsin" and retrieve twenty-three hits, organized by the categories in which they are filed. For a quick test of site depth I follow a link for "basketball," the results of which are an impressive seven pages of links. (There was no way, however, of knowing there were seven pages of results until I had clicked through all of them - a minor quibble.)

There are two links for site information (one to "About WWWomen!" and an FAQ) and after looking at both, I wonder why one would not have sufficed. My overall impression of the site, after further exploration, is very positive. Partly this is due to familiarity, since this site is modeled strongly after the **Yahoo** (<http://www.yahoo.com/>) directory, which I have used frequently for years, and therefore I did not need to learn to navigate a new site structure. This association also made me look afresh at **Yahoo** as a resource for women. I found that I reevaluated its organization because, until I conducted a search and found 346 categories with "women" in their titles, I had not found women-related resources organized very well on their site. Their response time was a bit sluggish as well, but **Yahoo** is a popular site and such is the result of success.

In many ways you are your own best *Consumer Reports* (tm) regarding the Web in that your findings are always filtered through your own subjective evaluative criteria, but those criteria also can be useful in customizing existing Web evaluation guidelines and templates. The following guidelines standardize and organize some criteria for website evaluation. A basic text is Esther Grassian's "Thinking Critically About World Wide Web Resources" (<http://www.library.ucla.edu/libraries/college/instruct/critical.htm>). Grassian breaks out three categories under which relevant questions are listed: Content & Evaluation; Source & Date; Structure. Another guide is Carolyn Caywood's "Library Selection Criteria for WWW Resources" (<http://www6.pilot.infi.net/~carolyn/criteria.html>). Caywood offers a few paragraphs of introductory remarks containing links to her sources and lists questions under the three categories of: access; design; content. These examples are two of many - for links to more, try Alastair Smith's "Evaluation of information sources" (<http://www.vuw.ac.nz/~agsmith/evaln/evaln.htm>). This webliography is part of an excellent clearinghouse site (which emanates from Australia) devoted to finding the good stuff: the **Information Quality WWW Virtual Library** (<http://www.ciolek.com/WWWVL-InfoQuality.html>). If you prefer a more interactive medium for discussion and exchange about quality issues, there is a related electronic forum called **Info-Quality-L**, which is very international in

scope. Email subscription information is available at the Virtual Library site mentioned immediately above.

As to the issue of information quality, academic users often require more stringent guidelines than those of a more casual user (perhaps because of this, some of the more accurate info-quality resources hail from academia). Concerns regarding origin of information, verification of authorship, and author credentials are voiced much more frequently with the Web than with print resources (at least in the academic library setting), possibly because it is so much easier, faster, and usually cheaper to publish information via a website, distributing it to a lot of people all over the world who can, in turn, add to it, comment on it, critique it, attack it, praise it, parody it, plagiarize it, change it, republish it, and organize it to suit their own needs. Not to monger unreasonable fears, but the Web is a disturbingly perfect venue for hoaxes and for the fast and wide distribution of misinformation or plagiarized material. Questions regarding authority and authenticity can require some challenging detective work.

Two well-known and longstanding (in Internet time) services that selectively list Web resources are the **Scout Report** (<http://wwwscout.cs.wisc.edu/scout/report/index.html>), an annotated weekly selection of ten to fifteen valuable new websites targeted primarily to the higher education community; and the **Argus Clearinghouse** (<http://www.clearinghouse.net/>), a collection of Internet subject guides. Both sites offer links upfront to either their selection criteria (**Scout Report**) or their ratings system (**Clearinghouse**). Neither site offers a wide range of women's material, but this can change. In both cases, the names and qualifications of the people doing the evaluating and selecting are available on the site. Some sites that purport to review and select "the best" don't overly trouble themselves to detail their criteria nor inform us of who is behind the scenes, beyond assuring us that they are "seasoned web surfers." Serious researchers have little use for "cool" as an evaluative quality.

Reference librarians are notorious for responding to a query with more queries. Every time a person asks if I consider something a reliable source, I must ask how they intend to use it. The World Wide Web is not an appropriate source for many research needs, nor is it the best. The fact that it is often the quickest, however, holds great charm. In my opinion the quality/quantity ratio of Internet-available material is improving. By keeping the basic elements of evaluation in mind - elements that consist mostly of common sense and practical analysis, regardless of print or electronic format - and adding your own personal stylistic requirements for the job at hand, you should be able to "net" some reliable research results.

[Susan Barribeau is a Reference and Electronic Resources Librarian in Memorial Library, University of Wisconsin - Madison.]

SPECIAL SECTION: NEW BOOKS ON WOMEN AND THE ONLINE WORLD

Getting Around Online: How, Where, Why?

by Elisabeth Binder

Judith Broadhurst, *THE WOMAN'S GUIDE TO ONLINE SERVICES*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1995. 418p. pap., \$19.95, ISBN 0-07-024168-6.

Laurel Gilbert, Crystal Kile, *SURFERGRRRLS: LOOK, ETHEL! AN INTERNET GUIDE FOR US!* Seattle, Seal Press, 1996. 243p. pap., \$15.00, ISBN 1-878067-79-6.

Joan Korenman, *INTERNET RESOURCES ON WOMEN: USING ELECTRONIC MEDIA IN CURRICULUM TRANSFORMATION*. Baltimore: National Center for Curriculum Transformation Resources on Women, Towson State University, 1997. 111p. \$20.00, ISBN 1-885303-08-4 (shipping: \$4 first copy, \$1 each additional).

Shana Penn, *THE WOMEN'S GUIDE TO THE WIRED WORLD: A USER-FRIENDLY HANDBOOK AND RESOURCE DIRECTORY*. New York: The Feminist Press at The City University of New York, 1997. 307p. index. pap., \$16.95, ISBN 1-55861-167-3.

Rye Senjen, Jane Guthrey, *THE INTERNET FOR WOMEN*. North Melbourne: Spinifex Press, 1996. 285p. pap., \$16.95, ISBN 1-875559-52-3.

Against better judgment, cultural pessimists have been predicting the death of McLuhan's "Gutenberg galaxy" for the past few years. On the contrary, in the wake of the first personal computers and access to electronic communication and information media, the death of the book is anything but near: computer-related books and magazines certainly occupy a prominent position on any bookstore's shelves ... and on mine as well.

With the exception of Broadhurst's *The Woman's Guide to Online Services*, all books reviewed here are published by women's presses, which might be indicative of how the market for computer books works. Marketing departments of trade publishers apparently still think that

women, who constitute thirty percent of all Internet users in the U.S. (according to the pretty reliable count of the Georgia Tech 1997 survey) are a negligible quantity. Women's interests are thus either assumed to be the same as men's or, even worse, are subsumed under the general rubric of "family computing." Nothing illustrates this silent assumption better than the opening sentences of Judith Broadhurst's book: "Your first reaction to the idea of a book called *The Woman's Guide to Online Services* might be the same as mine: With so many online guides already, why do women need a special one? Let me assure you right off that this is not a dumbed-down book nor one solely about women's sections online, lipstick and lace, and home and hearth disguised as 'women's issues'" (Broadhurst, p.xvii).

Granted, "women" as such are not, especially for feminists, a clearly defined target group. However, all the books in review try to cover ground that is missing from most of the mainstream Internet and online guides: they go beyond the mere "how-and-where" approach and deal also with questions of *why* women should get connected. Those are important questions to ask at a time when "being online" seems to be more important than questions of content.

Published in 1995, *The Woman's Guide to Online Services* set a certain standard for the other women's guides that followed. Even though a good deal of the directory and resource information is outdated, given the fast pace of the online world, the *Woman's Guide* is an example that well-written and comprehensive guides to computer networks can still offer valuable insights that might otherwise be lost in favor of the latest fads of which the Internet has plenty to offer.

Judith Broadhurst touches upon several of the important social and political issues surrounding computer-mediated communication, ranging from the "seven biggest factors that keep women offline" (pp.xxvi-xxix), which still have not changed all that much, to the "nature of the culture" (p.2) of online communication. She makes it clear that real-world and online power relations are much more important than the technology itself. However, her rather individualistic strategy to convince "one woman at a time" (p.xx) as a way to get more women involved in computer networks, leaves out larger questions of who gets access to what kind of information and under which

conditions. The major part of the book is devoted to online resources, starting with traditional areas like parenting (including sites for kids but none specifically for girls) and the "domestic domain" (pp.103-113), but the book also includes in-depth chapters on career planning, business management, and online marketing, which are either completely missing from the other guides or get short shrift beyond listing resources (e.g., *The Women's Guide to the Wired World*.)

Broadhurst writes in a conversational style informed by her longstanding online experience, illustrating each chapter in the resource section of the book with quotes from (and pictures of) women and numerous success stories. A reference section, including hardware-buying tips, completes the guide.

The Internet for Women and *The Women's Guide to the Wired World* follow in the footsteps of Judith Broadhurst, although with a clearly feminist agenda. Both books discuss the obvious advantages (e.g., ease and low cost of distributing information worldwide) and problem zones (e.g., harassment, online pornography, privacy, security) of networked communication for women, illustrating their arguments with quotes from online activists. *The Women's Guide*, which developed out of the experiences of the Network of East-West Women (NEWW),¹ offers valuable practical advice on organizing women online (see, for example, the chapter on email meetings). Senjen and Guthrie complement their book with a chapter on the history of women in computing.

The resource directory is certainly the heart of *The Women's Guide* and I particularly like its breadth and international scope, reaching from information about international women's networks, gender studies, African-Americans, and lesbians to all-women technical support on the Internet. The individual chapters are introduced and researched by experts in their respective fields, making *The Women's Guide* a truly collective endeavor.

Unfortunately, I cannot recommend the *The Women's Guide* for beginners thinking about getting online. The sections of a more technical nature fail to define the basic concepts behind computer networks in general and the Internet in particular. For example, the client-server concept is mentioned in passing in different contexts but nowhere is it systematically explained. At some points, "software" refers to both the client and the server, at other points only to the client. Being able to distinguish between the features of the client and the server helps a lot in dealing with error messages, which are an annoying, but unfortunately major, part of life online. Some areas are explained in unnecessary detail, as for example the different types of networks, while others are glossed over, like the specifics of the essential hardware. Some of the glossary definitions are misleading to a point where they might be characterized as wrong: for example, the entries for "PPP" (it is simply wrong that a Point-to-Point

Protocol connection bypasses the Internet Service Providers), the UART chip (this chip resides only in the computer and not in the modem as well), the rather esoteric "nick collision kills" on IRC (which are incorrectly defined and which have been eliminated by defining new rules for IRC servers), or UUCP (which gets translated into "unit-to-unit copy program" instead of "UNIX-to-UNIX copy program"). *The Internet for Women*, on the contrary, is always accurate in its descriptions and manages to explain complex technical questions in very accessible language. When appropriate, the explanations are supported by very helpful graphics and screenshots of the most common client programs (e.g., Eudora for email and the WWW browser Netscape).

Surfergrrrls is more concerned with the feminist reinterpretation of cyberspace. The book is not so much the Internet "guide" the title promises, although hands-on sections are scattered throughout. Since there is no index and the chapter headings use the "cool" Net lingo characteristic of the book, a "newbie" might be at a loss when it comes to actually locating information. Advanced users, however, might find some valuable and interesting tips. The real strength of the book lies in the chapters on popular culture – not surprisingly, the field both authors come from – which surrounds cyberspace and in which it is embedded. This book is probably not so much for Ethel and Lucy as for Tiffany and Michelle, who will certainly learn from the *Surfergrrrls'* advice: "Don't buy (into) Net cool. Make Net cool, baby" (p.165).

Joan Korenman's book is intended for, but not restricted to, faculty, teachers and students. This target group usually does not have to worry about hardware and network access. Therefore she can concentrate on the standard set of Internet services and clients, which are described in a very clear, well-structured, logical, and absolutely readable manner. About a third of the book is devoted to an annotated resource directory. Although the other guides might offer a lot more addresses, Korenman's selection features websites that have turned out to be relatively stable over the years and are themselves excellent starting points for further explorations. What gives the book extra value is an accompanying website that is frequently updated and maintained (<http://research.umbc.edu/~korenman/wmst/updates.html>).

Providing accurate and current information – and from my own experience I couldn't agree more – is for Joan Korenman more than just an additional feature. "Increasingly, I see this as a 'women's issue,'" she says. "I think that women more than men tend to be wary of technology and to assume that if they try something and it doesn't work, the fault lies with them – they did something wrong, they're not cut out for this, etc. So folks who put up a women-oriented website and then don't keep it up-to-date do a real disservice to women, unintentionally

discouraging many from further use of the technology."² Korenman's website is, of course, one that lives up to her guideline. It is somewhat disappointing, on the other hand, to find a number of broken links on the Surfergrrrls Web pages (<http://www.sealpress.com/surfergrrrls/>) and to see the website for *The Internet for Women* (<http://winchester.trl.oz.au/rye/index.html>) wilting after a first effort.

What all the books very clearly demonstrate is the lively, active, and global involvement of women in electronic communication. I think that is a very encouraging development. The more women get involved with the Net as users and authors, the better the chances are that all women will shape the future of the online world.

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NOTES

1 A project of electronically connecting women in the USA and Western Europe with women in the former Eastern Bloc.

2 Quoted from an email conversation with Joan Korenman at the time her book was published.

[Eds. note: Though this book arrived in our office too late to be included in Elisabeth Binder's review, it is worth-



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while to note **WOW: WOMEN ON THE WEB: A GUIDE TO GENDER-RELATED RESOURCES ON THE INTERNET** by Helen Fallon, published by the Women's Education Research and Resource Centre, University College Dublin, 1977. In addition to introductory chapters on the issue of gender in science and technology in general and the Internet in particular, Fallon's book offers a limited directory of table of contents services, electronic discussion lists, organizations, bibliographies, electronic texts, library catalogs, and the like accessible on the Internet. A simplified section on how to create a Web page, a glossary of terms used, and a bibliography of sources are other useful items in this ninety-four-page guide.]

The Gendered Bodies of Cyberspace

by Diana Saco

Sue-Ellen Case, **THE DOMAIN-MATRIX: PERFORMING LESBIAN AT THE END OF PRINT CULTURE**. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1996. 257p. index. \$39.95, ISBN 0-253-33226-5; pap., \$17.95, ISBN 0-253-2109-4-1.

Dale Spender, **NATTERING ON THE NET: WOMEN, POWER AND CYBERSPACE**. North Melbourne: Spinifex Press, 1995. 278p. index. pap., \$19.95, ISBN 1-875559-09-4.

Lynn Cherny and Elizabeth Reba Weise, eds., **WIRED WOMEN: GENDER AND NEW REALITIES IN CYBERSPACE**. Seattle, WA: Seal Press, 1996. 269p. pap., \$16.00, ISBN 1-878067-73-7.

Carla Sinclair, **NET CHICK: A SMART-GIRL GUIDE TO THE WIRED WORLD**. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1996. 243p. index. pap., \$19.95, ISBN 0-8050-4393-4.

Many works about "cyberspace" — from William Gibson's *Neuromancer* (Ace Books, 1984), which first coined that term, to nonfictional accounts of "virtual reality" — suggest that "going online" means leaving the body behind. After all, online personae manifest themselves through electronic texts, which bear none of the

conventional signs of gender, race, or age. "Going online," therefore, can be a transcendental experience — an electronic version of Descartes' mind/body split. If this were the case, then writing about the specific experiences of women in cyberspace might be irrelevant — a diversion by people still trapped in the mind-set of face-to-face encounters between gendered bodies. The phrase "going online," however, suggests a movement across a boundary, which in turn implies its opposite: going *off-line*. This movement acknowledges that the body still matters because no one lives exclusively online. The four books reviewed here proceed from this conviction that bodies still matter and that account needs to be taken of how cyberspace may be differently experienced by differently gendered bodies.

The continuing relevance of the body is the central point of Sue-Ellen Case's sometimes-brilliant-but-not-always-illuminating study, *The Domain-Matrix: Performing Lesbian at the End of Print Culture*. Reacting to a heady mix of claims in poststructuralism, feminist theory, queer theory, semiotics, performance art, and transgender studies, to name a few, Case weaves together a complex analysis of what it might mean to live and experience identity "in the flesh," as it were, in the age of technological "screens" — i.e., film, TV, and now cyberspace. The title plays with this return to the body. A synonym for cyberspace, "domain-matrix" also puns the term "dominatrix," the "top" in sadomasochistic encounters, thereby implying the computer's power to control bodies. As Case observes in her conclusion, however, the s/m dynamic requires both the top *and* "The Bottom" (her chapter title, pp.233-237). Case encourages "playing the bottom" to a cyberspace conceived as "domain-matrix"/dominatrix because this involves recognition of the body of the bottom (the body *at* bottom?) as the top "disciplines" that body. *Performing Lesbian*, then, explores the possibilities of developing an embodied "lesbian" identity not entirely mediated or "screened" by the new technologies, especially in light of the overlap between these screenic developments and two other factors: the popularity, at this juncture, of poststructuralist critiques of identity, and the further expansion of the global capitalist project, which benefits from having isolated, fragmented subjects. For Case, these factors conspire to complicate and frustrate the construction of concrete and effective political identities.

Despite her claims about the *end* of print culture, Case's book is surprisingly intertextual, engaging in several critical debates readers, unfortunately, may not know. Consequently, as she says of D.A. Miller's reading of Roland Barthes (p.32), breaking into the code of Case's text may require experience in the "live" practices of gay subculture, and also a plethora of other subcultures and subfields in academia and the performance arts. That makes *The Domain-Matrix* a tough read.

Notwithstanding this problem, some of Case's claims are provocative. Her analysis of "The Politics of Space" (pp.35-56), for example, calls attention to the architecture of cyberspace and considers whether some other way can be found for organizing that space "in relation to the body's domain" (p.49). Similarly, in considering psycho-analytic film theories on the gendering cinematic Gaze, an operation that depends on the focus procured by the camera's point of view, Case argues that the computer screen, by contrast, operates according to a principle of distraction. This point leads her to ask "what happens to gender after the era of focus has passed?" (p.72). Case addresses such computer-related issues by reflecting on the function of screen savers, lesbian bulletin board services, cybersex CD-ROMs, the masculine coding in cyberspeak, and "teledildonics" (virtual-sex body suits).

Her reflections, however, seem more concerned with symbolism than actual usage. One might, for example, observe a worker activating her screen saver to hide a union strike notice on her computer from the corporate supervisor approaching her desk. Instead, Case focuses on the screen saver logo, such as Microsoft's "flying windows," as a symbol of the corporate territorialization of the electronic writing space. She then advocates using



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different screen saver images, a benign graphic devoid of trademarks or any other mark of ownership, as if displacing the corporate logo would somehow free up the screen space. If such strategies are deployed *within* the Windows 95 operating-system environment, however, that space, in a sense, has already been taken up by Microsoft. As this example suggests, the nature and point of some of the "interventions" Case highlights remain unclear. For this reason, *The Domain-Matrix* is not the first text I'd turn to for understanding gender and cyberspace issues, but it does provoke complex questions worth exploring further.

Dale Spender's *Nattering on the Net: Women, Power and Cyberspace*, by contrast, provides a good starting point for thinking about these issues. On the one hand, Spender confesses to having become a convert to the computer, singing the praises of their revolutionary potential in a tone suspiciously similar to AT&T ads. On the other hand, noting the overwhelming ratio of men to women on the Net, she argues that this gender gap has serious consequences, evident in the sexual terrorism to which women are subjected in computer labs, in the prevalence of "pornware" (pp.212-223) and in the "flaming" (relentless insults) leveled by men against women, even on women-only computer forums (pp.195-196). For Spender, such abuses can be corrected only by increasing women's access to computers and the Internet. "Computer-competency," she argues, "is not an option any more. It is a condition of citizenship in the electronic world" (p.xvi).

In *Nattering on the Net*, Spender revisits arguments she has made elsewhere about the English language and the male canon of literature.¹ The first six chapters play to Spender's strengths, discussing the older print culture and how its subjects will likely be affected in the age of digital media. By providing a thought-provoking exploration of the parallels between the "print revolution" and the "computer revolution," Spender suggests that we may not be giving up very much by going online once we recognize the sexist and exclusionary practices that have underwritten the construction of literacy, authorship, literature, and even language.

Spender is less authoritative, however, when she turns her attention, in the last chapter, to cyberspace. Basing most of her claims on other people's empirical work, she reveals her comparative lack of online experience in some terminological errors she makes or else fails to uncover. For example, her citation of Lynda Davies' conference paper on "The Gendered Language of Technology" offers the word "gifts," described parenthetically as "(pictures) . . . usually nude shots of females," as an instance of sexist cyberspeak (pp.199-200). "Gifts" likely refers to certain graphics files called by the acronym GIF (Graphics Interchange Format) and actually pronounced "jiff" by some computer users. This usage lacks the gendered connotations that Spender and Davies attribute to it. Spender also reads too much into the term "lurking" when she claims that "the very idea that cyberspace is inhabited with 'lurkers' would be enough to make many women apprehensive and to send some hurrying for cover" (p.201). This practice — reading others' messages without also posting one's own — may involve nothing more than a desire to learn online norms before participating. In the

context of a society where gazing is usually a male privilege, moreover, online lurking can be a source of both safety and power for women. Spender's attempt to transfer her lessons from print culture to cyberspace thus fail to take adequate account of online practices in context — that is, as part of an online culture.

The essays collected by editors Lynn Cherny and Elizabeth Reba Weise in *wired_women: Gender and New Realities in Cyberspace* do not suffer from this shortcoming. Written by software engineers, computer scientists, Internet researchers, technology journalists, and even a "hyperfiction" author, these works evince the practical experiences of women who not only know about online culture, but are also helping to shape it. The essays in the first part of the book — entitled "Reflections on a New World" — look at emailing, *Wired* magazine, cyber jargon, and hypertext to begin describing the contours of the coming cyberspace. In the first essay, "Come in, CQ: The Body on the Wire" (pp.3-23), programmer Ellen Ullman takes up the issue of "leaving the body behind" in her candid account of an email romance. Framing her story between a consideration of "programmer loneliness" (p.3) and a veteran radioman's sense of "losing the feel of the sender" when the Coast Guard switched from the human rhythms of Morse code to digital signal repeaters (p.20), Ullman invites us to consider how the computer creates its own bodies and rhythms to make up for the lack of flesh. Her description of the spillover effects of these bodily displacements make her contribution particularly poignant and almost confessional. An emotional counterpoint to Ullman's essay is provided by Karen Coyle's whimsical entry, "How Hard Can It Be?" (pp.42-55). In a style reminiscent of stand-up comedy, she bashes the masculine bias in computer jargon with zingers like, "They're called joysticks. That should be the first clue" (p.47).

The second part of the book, "Communities of Interest," describes the diversity of cultures on the Internet, from male hackers to women-only mailing lists. Susan Clerc discusses the online and off-line activities that can spawn media fandom groups, like those who share a common interest in writing fan fiction. She notes, moreover, the chilling effects that anti-porn laws could have on some of these virtual communities, particularly those fans, mostly straight women, who coalesce around the homoerotic genre of "slash" fiction. Part three, "Male and Female the Net Created Them," explores gender-specific Internet issues in more detail. Interestingly, both Stephanie Brail, in her account of online harassment, and Donna M. Riley, in her retelling of Carnegie Mellon's ban

on sex-related newsgroups, resist Internet censorship rules as "patronizing to women" (p.163) and insist, instead, that "women must take action" (p.156). Finally, the fourth part, entitled "Textual Realities," brings together a set of essays on the "virtual worlds" created in text-based, role-playing environments, such as "Multi-User Domains" (MUDs). Shannon McRae's exploration of "virtual sex" and gender-bending on a MUD rounds out the section and the book by returning to a consideration of "the virtual body."

I like that the editors of *wired_women* make no effort to draw general lessons from the smart essays they have collected in their volume. Even Weise's introduction resists the temptation to summarize, opting instead for telling the story of Weise's own entry to the online world, of her immediate sense that women networking was like having "a thousand aunts with modems" (p.xii), and of the book project itself as an outgrowth of these "webs" of connections. If the essays collectively convey anything about women online, what they manage to suggest — in tone, content, and diversity — is this strong sense of "a thousand aunts with modems" making their way through cyberspace and helping others as they go.

If Cherny and Weise's "wired women" are aunts, the "grrrls" [sic] in Carla Sinclair's *Net Chick: A Smart-Girl Guide to the Wired World* must be the nieces. In tone, format, and style, *Net Chick* addresses itself to "the young, hip, post-feminist, cross-section of the Net community" (book jacket). The references to "hip" and "post-feminist" also are generational, an effort to distinguish these "grrrls" from the bygone, "Early '80s, Hard-core anti-porn feminist" (p.17). Instead of decrying cybersex as "sexist and denigrating to women," Net chicks revel in it — a point suggested by the Japanese-anime "Net chick" cartoon printed on the cover² and by the "Sexy" collection of writings in the opening section. The book itself combines essays, interviews, and profiles, interspersed with sidebars and commentaries on Internet "Hot Sites" worth visiting. In this quasi-"hypertextual" fashion, *Net Chick* showcases a number of "hip" women and their online activities.

This fascination with "hot," "hip" irreverence epitomizes cyberculture. Yesterday's ridiculed "geeks" are today's rad "digerati," and this may explain why so many of them evince an almost obsessive need to associate "being wired" with "being with-it." *Net Chick* suffers from this same preoccupation. Using the iconoclastic cyberspeak of the online community (e.g., "grrrls," "zines,") with the psychedelic frenzy of font and color indicative of cyberculture's stylistic excess, *Net Chick* is a feminized, book-length version of *Wired* magazine, the premier rag of cyberculture. Sinclair, who has written for *Wired*, in fact celebrates the magazine's style by mimicking it. In this sense, *Net Chick* thoroughly buys into the adolescent male preoccupation with being "hip" without

ever asking *why* this is hip or, for that matter, why being hip is so important. For this reason, the Net chick that emerges from Sinclair's book seems less an anti-corporate, anti-sexist rebel than a body to be adorned by metallic breast plates, bejeweled by "authentic treasure coin jewelry" (p.61), and modified by an array of body art and plastic surgery.

Despite all this, *Net Chick*, on its own terms, gives a concrete sense of the diversity of women on the Net and the variety of (yes) products, but also activities and services available to them, including the African-American News Service, the domestic-violence "SafetyNet," and an entire section on getting wired. So while it can be criticized for the way it commodifies the female body, *Net Chick* also empowers women by providing a list of valuable online resources, by recovering some of the history of women's contributions to computer technology, and by flouting the myth that the Net is a "boyz" club. In fact, its playful presentational style may invite us — in ways more effective than any arid, academic critique — to explore the politics of pleasure and the diverse pleasures of the female body in cyberspace.

How this changeable space affects the bodies (both female and male) that traverse and sometimes inhabit it is likely to remain an open question. Despite differences in their views on cybersex and cybershopping, however, these four books do make one common claim: that as long as bodies still matter, women should go online at least occasionally *as women*, with gender-specific concerns, to become full participants in the unfolding of cyberspace.

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NOTES

¹ See, for example, Spender's *Man Made Language* (Routledge, 1980), *Women of Ideas - And What Men Have Done to Them* (Pandora, 1982), and *Mothers of the Novel: 100 Good Women Writers Before Jane Austen* (Pandora, 1986).

² The connection between Japanese anime (cartoon art) and cybersex is apparent to anyone who has perused the alt.binaries.pictures.anime or alt.binaries.pictureserotica.cartoons newsgroup.

COMPUTER TALK

☐☐ Remember that our website (<http://www.library/wisc.edu/libraries/WomensStudies/>) includes electronic versions of all recent "Computer Talk" columns, plus numerous bibliographies and core lists of women's studies resources, and links to hundreds of other websites. ☐☐

Note that final punctuation is often left off sentences in this section that list electronic addresses, for purposes of clarity, since listservs and Web addresses do not end with a "dot" or period. When sending a subscription message, eliminate any automatic signature on your email message, generally by entering the word "end" on the line following your "subscribe" message.

Email Lists

[A number of the following listings were gleaned from Joan Korenman's very thorough directory of gender-related email/discussion lists at the URL: <http://www.umbc.edu/wmst/forums.html>]

[*Correction:* The address given for the email list NICEJG (Nice Jewish Girls) in our previous issue was incorrect. Thanks to the ever-vigilant Joan Korenman for supplying the correct address: LISTPROC@SHAMASH.ORG]

ASIA-GENDERMEDIA offers discussion of gender and media policy issues, particularly related to the Asian region. Isis International-Manila, an Asia-based non-governmental organization focused on women's issues, is the sponsor. To subscribe, send the message *subscribe ASIA-GENDERMEDIA your email address* to MAJORDOMO@LIST.INFOCOM.SEQUEL.NET or write to COMMPRO@MNL.SEQUEL.NET for more information.

B10WB-L is intended for fans of Big 10 Women's Basketball (which has achieved some press attention lately). Send the subscription message *subscribe B10WB-L firstname lastname* to LISTSERV@LISTS.PSU.EDU

BIOFRAUEN is an information and discussion list (in German) for and about women in the biological sciences. Topics include job searches, literature tips, research updates, conferences, calls for papers, etc. To subscribe, send the message *subscribe BIOFRAUEN your email address* to MAJORDOMO@LISTS.UNI-MARBURG.DE

CASCAWN-RF offers discussion for members of the Women's Network/Reseau des Femmes of the Canadian

Anthropology Society/Societe Canadienne d'Anthropologie, or anyone interested in Canadian anthropology. To subscribe, send the message *subscribe CASCAWN-RF* to LISTSERV@YORKU.CA

CAW (women-only) "focuses on Caribbean-American women of all ages (professionals/other) wanting to network or exchange thoughts on politics, development, sexual/physical abuse of women, culture, and lifestyle issues." To subscribe, send the message *"I want to subscribe to CAW"* and a brief bio including any Caribbean connection, profession, and email address to the founder of CAW, Jennifer Nunes-Bruner, JEN@BRIDGE.NET

DHARMA-DYKES is for lesbians studying or practicing Buddhism. Both beginners and experienced practitioners are welcome. Send the message *subscribe Dharma-Dykes* to MAJORDOMO@GOONSQUAD.SPIES.COM

ELLEN is, of course, devoted to TV sitcom star Ellen DeGeneres and her career, but discussion is open for feminist issues in popular culture, especially lesbian identity issues in the entertainment field. To subscribe, send the message *subscribe ELLEN firstname lastname* to LISTSERV@DARTMOUTH.EDU

FEMTECH offers discussion for women working with the PC computer platform, and is open to questions about either hardware or software. To subscribe, send a message, with *subscribe* in the Subject field, to JSTURM@IX.NETCOM.COM

FIFTYSOMETHING-WOMEN is designed for "feisty women who have reached their fiftieth birthday but who refuse to be limited by age, expectations, or conventions." To subscribe, send the message *subscribe FIFTYSOMETHING-WOMEN your name* to LISTSERV@MAELSTROM.STJOHNS.EDU

THE GIRL ZONE is intended for lesbian and bisexual women under age eighteen, with a wide open discussion range. To subscribe, send a message, with "girl zone" in the Subject line, saying that you want to subscribe. Send to EIECTRICA@AOL.COM (note that the second letter is I, not L).

GYN-CANCER provides discussion and support for women with genitourinary cancer (including ovarian, cervical, uterine, and vulvar and vaginal cancer, as well as others) and their families. To subscribe, send the message *subscribe GYN-CANCER* to MAJORDOMO@RAPTORS.DUNIMAS.COM

HEART-L is a discussion list on women's heart health, managed by the Women's Health Interactive Network. To subscribe, send a message to **HEART-L-REQUEST@WOMENS-HEALTH.COM** with *subscribe your email address* in the Subject line. The body of the message should say nothing. You can also subscribe from the WHIN website.

IBC (Inflammatory Breast Cancer) is a list for women with inflammatory breast cancer and their supporters. To subscribe, send the one-word message *subscribe* to **IBC-REQUEST@BESTIARY.COM** (or for more information contact listowner Pete Bevin at **MOOSE@BESTIARY.COM**).

KIAI offers discussion for women interested in the martial arts. To subscribe, send the message *subscribe KIAI* to **MAJORDOMO@APOCALYPSE.ORG**

LEGACY98 is a project of the National Women's History Project, marking the 150th anniversary of the women's rights movement. You'll find announcements of excellent materials and organized events and be able to keep in touch with other activists. Send the message *subscribe LEGACY98 yourname* to **LISTSERV@SONOMA.EDU**

PPD (Post-Partum Depression) offers support for mothers with post-partum depression and discussion for those who have survived it. To subscribe, send the message *subscribe PPD yourname* to **LISTSERV@LISTSERV.BCM.TMC.EDU**

PREGNANT is intended for discussion of pregnancy in all its aspects. Send the message *subscribe PREGNANT firstname lastname* to **LISTSERV@MAELSTROM.STJOHNS.EDU**

Q-AMSTDY, although a project of the Sexuality Scholarship Caucus of the American Studies Association, is open to anyone for discussion of gender and sexuality issues in American culture and society. To subscribe, send the message *subscribe Q-AMSTDY* to **MAJORDOMO@ARTSCI.WUSTL.EDU**

RURALWOMYN is a "rural feminist activist forum," a private, moderated list intended to connect women isolated from each other by distance or culture. To subscribe, send the following message: *subscribe RURALWOMYN LIST your email address* to **MAJORDOMO@PLAINS.NET**

W-AMPHILREV is a list for discussion of women and philanthropy, with emphasis on "women as donors and/or the establishment and growth of nonprofit fund development programs which focus on women as donors." To subscribe, send the message *subscribe W-AMPHILREV youremailaddress* to **MAJORDOMO@TAB.COM** or look for information at the American Philanthropy Review website.

WELDON-DISCUSS centers on British writer Fay Weldon. To subscribe, send an email message to **JOIN-**

WELDON-DISCUSS@CLIO.LYRIS.NET with nothing in the Subject line or in the body of the message. You will be added to the list automatically.

WELFAREM-L is intended for discussion of research, advocacy strategies, and questions on welfare and welfare reform at both state and national levels. The Institute for Women's Policy Research set up the list. To subscribe, send the message *subscribe WELFAREM-L yourname* to **LISTSERV@AMERICAN.EDU** (see also the IWPR website).

WIF, like its sponsor, Women in French, promotes the study of francophone women writers and women in francophone countries. To subscribe, write to Catherine Montfort at **CMONTFORT@SCUACC.SCU.EDU**

WIST (Women in Sport Touring) is for women motorcyclists, for discussion about motorcycles and related gear, good routes, safety, etc., and to connect with other women riders. To subscribe, send the message *subscribe wist-digest* to **MAJORDOMO@MAGPIE.COM**

WOMEN-ONLINE carries news and information and offers networking for women. To subscribe, send the one-word message *subsingle* to **WOMEN-ONLINE-REQUEST@LISTS.BEST.COM**. To receive the digest version, say *subscribe* rather than *subsingle*

WOMEN-ON-THE-ROAD is offered for those interested in women in music - musicians, disc jockeys, promoters, etc. To subscribe, send email to **JOIN-WOMEN-ON-THE-ROAD@S1.NET**

WOMEN'S STUDIES IN COMMUNITY COLLEGES is a new, unmoderated list open to academics such as professors, librarians, program administrators, and others working at two-year institutions. To subscribe, leave the subject line blank and send the email message *subscribe wsccl your email address* to **WSCC@CLARK.EDU** (or if problems, send email to Harriet K. Levi at **hlevi@clark.edu**).

Websites

100 YEARS OF WOMEN AT THE UNIVERSITY IN BONN, 1897-1996 is a World Wide Web exhibition that documents (in German only) the history of women who have studied there. Six "rooms" offer a total of fifty-six panels, and there's a discussion forum, riddle competition, and extensive bibliography. The address: <http://www.uni-bonn.de/Frauengeschichte/ausstart.htm>

ABOUT-FACE aims to combat the distorted, ultra-thin images of women in advertising. The website offers information about its creators as well as a disconcerting "Gallery of Offenders." Check it out at: <http://www.about-face.org/siteindex.html>

The **BISEXUAL RESOURCE CENTER**, based in Boston, Massachusetts, USA, provides the text of a number of the Center's publications on its website, as well as links to other bisexual resources on the Internet (including a "Bisexual Bookstore" in conjunction with the Amazon online bookstore). The address is: <http://norn.org/pub/other-orgs/brc/index.html>

BRAVE GIRLS AND STRONG WOMEN webpage (in conjunction with the online bookstore Amazon.com) offers a satisfying listing of "empowering books for girls," grouped for ages 2-7, 7-14, and 12 and up, complete with contact information for all the publishers. Address is: <http://members.aol.com/brvgirls/bklist.htm>

The **CANADIAN WOMEN'S MOVEMENT ARCHIVES**, begun in 1977, has an online presence that includes the Archive's history, information about its various holdings (from meeting minutes to ticket stubs, early Canadian women's periodical records, and videos), and links to related sites. Address: <http://www.uottawa.ca/library/cwma/cwma.html>

The **CENTER FOR THE AMERICAN WOMAN AND POLITICS** at Rutgers University offers a website including statistics on (and names of, in many cases) women in national, state, and municipal elective offices in 1997, a history of women in Cabinet offices, sex differences in voter registration and turnout, women's PACs and donor networks, and more. The Center's address: <http://www-rci.rutgers.edu/~cawp/>

CRONE CHRONICLES has a web presence that offers subscription information and sample articles from its pages. The web address: <http://www.feminist.com/crone.htm>

Among the **DEVELOPMENT AND WOMEN** websites recently noted in *The Tribune* (no.57, July 1997) are these: Women in Global Science and Technology network (WIGSAT) at: <http://www.wigsat.org/index.html>; and Gender Research Network at: <http://www.cgiar.org/ifpri/gender/gender.htm>.

THE DIGITAL WOMAN is "an e-zine focused on women writers of fantasy, science fiction, and horror." The online zine's Winter 1997 issue is available at: <http://pw1.netcom.com/~moonluna/digwoman.html>

DOCUMENTS FROM THE WOMEN'S LIBERATION MOVEMENT is an online archival collection from the Special Collections library of Duke University that includes more than forty articles, pamphlets, and the like published from 1969 to 1974. Searchable by keyword, the documents are grouped in eight categories from medical/

reproductive rights to music to socialist feminist to women of color. Address: <http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/wlm/>

THE EMANCIPATION OF WOMEN, 1869-1920 by John Simkin is available via Spartacus Educational, a small, UK community of teachers dedicated to providing low/no-cost educational materials. Some fairly lengthy biographies and also "visual sources" are available on the website at: <http://www3.mistral.co.uk/spartacus/resource.htm>

The **FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION FUND** website provides some basic factual and statistical information on domestic violence, the response of healthcare institutions, the relationship of domestic violence to workplace issues, a "celebrity watch," personal stories, suggestions for things you can do, and more. Check their website at: <http://www.fvpf.org/fund/>

The **FEMINIST BOOKSTORE NETWORK CATALOG** is now online, offering information on a number of books, music CDs, and videos available either via the catalog or from a nearby feminist bookstore (a listing is provided). Maintained by Carol Seajay and the Feminist Bookstore News, both the 1996-97 and 1997-98 catalogs are available at <http://www.dnai.com/~seajay/fbn/>

A new **FEMINIST THEORY WEBSITE** is "up and running," as they say. While much is still in skeletal state, yet to be filled in with substantive information, there are beginning bibliographies on some twenty-five fields (from aesthetics to science to psychology, education, and history), pointers to thirty different countries, with additional information yet to come on individual theorists and a history of U.S. feminist theory. Address is: <http://www.utc.edu/~kswitala/Feminism/>

GENDER AND EDUCATION, a quarterly published by Carfax, is now available online (for a fee) as well as in print. For current tables of contents and subscription information, see the website at: <http://www.carfax.co.uk/gee-con.htm>

GENDER, PLACE AND CULTURE is another Carfax journal now online (also for a fee). Its web address is: <http://www.carfax.co.uk/gpcad.htm>

GIRLS INCORPORATED has a website full of information about its programs, which have been serving girls for more than fifty years. A national organization that is particularly active with girls in racial and ethnic minority groups and low-income families, the organization's programs encourage interest in math and science, prevention of teen pregnancy and substance abuse, and sports participation. On their website are listed books and

pamphlets available, membership information, current projects, a Girls' Bill of Rights, and more. Address: <http://www.girlsinc.org/what2.html>

A special symposium in the *INDIANA JOURNAL OF GLOBAL LEGAL STUDIES* (v.4, no.1, Fall 1996) carries a number of articles of interest, among them: "Toward a Feminist Analytics of the Global Economy" by Gracia Clark; "Globalization, Privatization, and a Feminist Public" by Susan H. Williams; and "As the World (Or Dare I Say Globe?) Turns: Feminism and Transnationalism" by Fedwa Malti-Douglas. Address: <http://www.law.indiana.edu/glsj/vol4/no1/toc.html>

JUST FOR GIRLS is the title of a website coordinated by several publishers of software for girls. Click on various choices, according to age level, to find information about and "demos" of particular software packages. Address: <http://www.just4girls.com/>

The **LESBIAN REVIEW OF BOOKS** website offers sample reviews, interviews, original poetry, a cartoon series, subscription information, and more. Check it out at: <http://128.205.200.100/misc/qstudy/lrb/>

The **LIPSTICK LIBRARIAN** web page offers some good chuckles for those overworked librarians who are tired of "little old lady" stereotypes. Try the "Beauty Tips" or "Bibliographies" or even the advice column! Address: <http://www.teleport.com/~petlin/liplib/>

MANA, which claims to be "the largest Hispanic women's organization in the United States," offers a website with information about the activist organization's history, some of its community projects, membership, and more. Address: <http://www.HERMANA.org/index.htm>

The **MINERVA CENTER** offers resources related to the study of women and the military. An outgrowth of the periodical *Minerva*, edited by Linda Grant De Pauw, the website includes information about the H-Minerva electronic discussion list (and archives), conference/workshop announcements, books to order, a bibliography (in progress), subscription information, and more. The website address is: <http://www.minervacenter.com/index.htm>

A special issue (No.8) of the online magazine **MUTE** features a section on Cyberfeminism, with articles by Josefina Bosma, Sue Thomas (on "The Virtual Life"), Caroline Bassett (on Sadie Plant), a review of Donna Haraway's recent book, and Josephine Berry's report on the Wired Women conference. Address: <http://www.metamute.com/doc/issue8/mute8toc.htm#cyberfeminism>

The **NATIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE ON MARITAL AND DATE RAPE/WOMEN'S HISTORY LIBRARY** website carries information on the organization's history, membership, internships, and links to related websites. Their address: <http://members.aol.com/ncmdr/index.html>

The **NATIONAL WOMEN AND MEDIA COLLECTION**, a joint project of the University of Missouri School of Journalism and the Western Historical Manuscript Collection, offers a website with brief descriptions of a number of collections held and complete inventories of a few selected collections. Their Web address: <http://www.system.missouri.edu/whmc/womedia.htm>

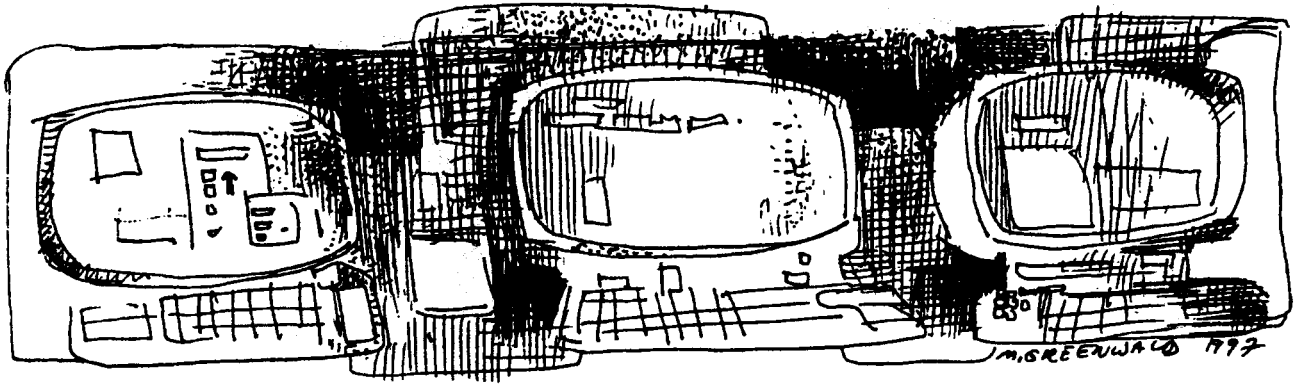
NEPAL: TRAVEL, TREKKING, AND TRAFFICKING offers information on the sex trade in Nepal, including a warning to independent women travelers about trusting tourguides (a number of whom are known to have raped women or permitted various types of sexual harassment and mistreatment) in this desperately poor country and suggests sending an email message to the Minister of Tourism in Nepal. Address: <http://blue-fox.com/nepal/>

The **NEW YORK TIMES WOMEN'S HEALTH RESOURCES** website now provides an extensive listing of links to health-related resources (not material from the NYT itself), grouped under topics ranging from Aging, AIDS, Birth Control, and Coronary Artery Disease to Hormone Replacement Therapy, Stress, and Urinary Tract Infections. After completing a somewhat annoying "Registration" procedure clearly aimed at marketing (you can refuse related email announcements), you'll find a rich array of resources at: <http://www.nytimes.com/specials/women/whome/resources.html>

Q WEB SWEDEN calls itself "a communication network for exchange of knowledge, experience and ideas on women's health and gender issues." Based on the symbol Q standing for women's issues in Sweden, the information on the site (and an extensive listing of links) is available in Swedish or English and includes the topics empowerment of women, sexuality and reproduction, society and women's health, violence and abuse, and adolescents. You can view and/or register for the network at: <http://www.qweb.kvinnoforum.se/index.htm>

SAPIENT HEALTH NETWORK, a "free health community providing information and support for people with serious and chronic illness," includes a "Women's Health Place" website with a variety of information on endometriosis, uterine fibroids, ovarian cancer, pelvic pain, irregular pain, and more. Address: <http://women.shn.net/index.html>

Several websites offer good information on **SEXUAL HARASSMENT**. Created by Nancy Witt, Associate Professor of Speech Communication and Women's Studies, the **SEXUAL HARASSMENT TRAINING** website includes legal definitions, theory and analysis, case studies, a bibliography, and links to related websites. The site is located at: <http://www.de.psu.edu/harass/intro.htm>. The Feminist Majority Foundation's 911 For Women website, **INTERNET RESOURCES ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT**, offers a number of links to



relevant websites as well as information for employers, a listing of hotlines, and suggestions on what to do if you are sexually harassed. Address: <http://www.feminist.org/911/harass.html>

SISTER, a feminist magazine from Columbia University, offers online much content from its annual issues of 1993-94, 1995-96, and 1996-97. The magazine's address: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/sister/>

The **SOCIETY OF AMERICAN ARCHIVISTS (SAA) Women's Collections Roundtable Directory** offers an alphabetical listing of links to institutional archival collections and the names of relevant contact persons. View their website at: www.archivists.org/round/home.html

STATUS OF WOMEN CANADA is now online, with a variety of publications available for download (including the "Report on the Use of the Internet in Canadian Women's Organizations" by Leslie Shade) plus the full text of Perspectives, SWC's periodical, as well as other documents and reports. The Web address is: <http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/>

The **USS HOPPER** website carries information about this ship, which is named after Grace Murray Hopper, a pioneer in the field of computer programming, and a timeline with some detail on Hopper herself. The website is found at: <http://www.navsea.navy.mil/hopper/>

VIRTUAL WOMEN'S STUDIES: NEW IDEAS IN ELECTRONIC EDUCATION is the title of a presentation given at two conferences, including the 1997 National Women's Studies Association conference, on use of email discussion lists, websites, distance education, and other electronic techniques in furthering women's studies education (presented by Ellen Cronan Rose, Candace Collins, and Annis Hopkins). The website includes a lengthy bibliography as well as notes and scripts for parts of the presentation. Address: http://www.asu.edu/clas/womens_studies/virtual.htm

WIN: WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL NET is a new web 'zine that hopes to help connect women around the world.

In its November 1997 issue are writers from Tanzania, Australia, Morocco, Turkey, and the U.S. Their web address is: <http://www.geocities.com/Wellesley/3321/>

WISCONSIN WOMEN LIBRARY WORKERS recently debuted their website, complete with information on membership, upcoming events, and the annual quilt fundraising project (including a photo of last year's design). See it all at: <http://danenet.wiclip.org/wwwlw/>

WOMEN IN PHILANTHROPY, a "bibliography and resource list compiled by Ann Castle," offers what Castle views as "a combination of academic, general press and specialized references with a deliberate lack of political or philosophical direction." Website is found at: <http://www.hamilton.edu/personal/acastle/>

The **WOMEN IN PUBLISHING** organization of Great Britain has its own website, offering a publishing tutorial, a list of training opportunities, links to other sites, and the names/address of international contacts. The web location is: <http://www.cyberiacafe.net/wip/>

The **WOMEN'S INTERNET CONFERENCE** held in Ottawa, Ontario Oct. 18-20, 1997, has an archive of bulletin board messages about the conference's organization, presentations, and reactions of participants and others, available on a website at: <http://www.grannyg.bc.ca/confer/>

The **WOMEN'S REVIEW OF BOOKS** now has its own website, with subscription information, table of contents and teasing excerpts from reviews in the current issue, links to sites with listings of feminist bookstores, advertising rates, and more. Their address: <http://www.wellesley.edu/WCW/CRW/WROB/welcome.html>

WOMEN'S STUDIES: A RESEARCH GUIDE is produced by the New York Public Library based on the library's collection, but serves as a general reference resource as well, with groupings on feminist theory, biography, history, literature, periodicals, and more, plus links to selected resources. *CHOICE* called this "an excellent gateway to women's studies for undergraduate students as well as more advanced scholars" (Suppl. 1997,

p.94). Address: <http://www.nypl.org/research/chss/grd/resguides/women.html>

Several websites devoted to **ZORA NEALE HURSTON** and her writing include: "Conjured Into Being: Zora Neale Hurston's Their Eyes Were Watching God" (address: <http://splavc.spjc.cc.fl.us/hooks/zora.html>); "Genius of the South: Novelist Folklorist, Anthropologist" (address: <http://www.geocities.com/SoHo/3035/hurston.html>); and another that includes a bibliography, some photos, and miscellaneous stories and essays (address: <http://pages.prodigy.com/zora/index.htm>)

Other Electronic Resources

A new syllabus recently added to the WMST-L syllabi files is **WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD** by Clark College Professor Harriet Levi. Developed "to teach students how to use the computer-mediated communication and resource tools of Internet technology and apply them to the study of the social, political and cultural issues currently encoun-

tered by women around the world," the course may be retrieved in outline form by sending a message to LISTSERV@UMDD.UMD.EDU saying *get internet women1 syllabi*

Betty Karr is starting up a **DATABASE FOR ALL CRONES** who'd like to contact each other via mail, phone, fax, or email. To be part of the "croneweb," contact Betty at: P.O. Box 367, Marengo, IN 47140; phone: 812-365-3260; fax: 812-365-3259; email: kartec@gte.net

Many of us who may have distrusted our **COMPUTER ABILITIES** can take heart from the tidbit recently printed in *About Women on Campus* (Fall 1997, p.18). It turns out that older women (ages sixty-plus) scored slightly higher in their ability to search the Internet than did their seventeen and under counterparts. The MCI "Great American Net Test," set up as an interactive quiz on a website, was responded to by some 16,500 users. Girls also outscored boys their age.

Compiled by Linda Shult

NEW REFERENCE WORKS IN WOMEN'S STUDIES

CANADIAN WOMEN

Diane Pederson, *CHANGING WOMEN: CHANGING HISTORY: A BIBLIOGRAPHY ON THE HISTORY OF WOMEN IN CANADA*. Ottawa: Carleton University Press, 1996. 253p. indexes. \$29.95 Canadian, ISBN 0-88629-280-8.

Divided into nineteen broad topical areas, with subdivisions, this second edition of a work first published in 1992 expands coverage through 1996. The generation of scholarship in Canadian women's history surveyed ranges from the arts to employment, health issues, and criminal justice matters. Ethnic, racial, and religious differences, including women of the First Nations,

are covered in separate sections, though citations to material on Francophonic women can best be traced through the subject index under "Francophonic minorities" and "Quebec," and in the Roman Catholic subdivision of the Religion section. Citations are either in English or French. Each section opens with a page-long summary of the issues, addressed by historians of the topics covered.

As Pederson points out in her introduction, in the early 1970s articles on Canadian women's history generally found homes only in Canadian feminist periodicals, such as *Atlantis*. By 1996, they were equally likely to be found in history journals covering Canada and elsewhere, in anthologies, and as the basis for

monographs. The 4,761 entries in *Changing Women* attest to the radical changes in the history profession over the course of twenty-five years and to the varied and interesting history of Canadian women.

GIRLS' BOOKS

Erica Bauermeister and Holly Smith, *LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE GIRLS: 375 GREAT BOOKS FOR READERS 2-14*. New York: Penguin Books, 1997. 224p. index. pap., \$10.95, ISBN 0-14-025732-2.

No sooner had I put the last "New Reference Works in Women's Studies" column to bed with its glowing review of a sorely needed

Great Books For Girls by Kathleen Odean (Ballantine, 1997), then here comes another guidebook to children's books with strong female characters. This one is by the book-loving authors of *500 Great Books by Women: A Reader's Guide* (with Jessie Larsen, Penguin, 1994), respectively a literature scholar and a bookstore manager. While there are fewer books covered (and none of the supplemental resources for parents described in the Odean book), *Let's Hear It for the Girls* is another excellent source for descriptions of recommended books. Its slim format make it easy to slip into a parent's coat pocket for quick consulting in bookstores and libraries.

Let's Hear It is divided into four sections by age/reading level - picture books, storybooks, chapter books for younger readers and for children age ten and up. Numerous indexes provide access by title, author, date of publication, genre, region/country, and subject. The geographic index reveals good coverage of books from Africa, Asia, South America, and the Caribbean, as well as Europe and North America. Teachers and school librarians in schools with diverse student bodies will find this an especially useful feature, as will parents intent on exposing their children to books about girls all over the world. The subject index will help them identify books about adoption, animals, death, immigration, magic, and a variety of family relationships.

Quotations from writers and readers are sprinkled through the book, such as "I like Eloise! She was not a good girl!" from a six-year-old listener to Kay Thompson's tale of that irrepressible denizen of the Plaza Hotel (p. 29). Beverly Cleary, the creator of another spunky girl, Ramona, confides, "I am sure I read every book of fairy tales in our branch library, with one complaint - all that long golden hair. Never mind - my short brown hair became long and

golden as I read and when I grew up I would write a book about a brown-haired girl to even things up" (p.108).

All books listed were in print as of February 1996.

HISTORY - FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Nancy F. Cott, general editor, *THE YOUNG OXFORD HISTORY OF WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1995. 11 v. \$242.00, series ISBN 0-19-508830-1.

We have room to review very few books for children in *Feminist Collections*, and rarely encounter a reference work for young people worth noting. But this encyclopedic set on American women's history is such a milestone that we would be quite remiss to ignore it. Yale University historian Cott and the group of historians she assembled for each individually authored volume synthesize a generation of research on women's history into a lively narrative for middle and high schoolers. Most significant is how far the series reaches in surpassing the compensatory "add women and stir" level of historical redress. Yes, there are plenty of prominent women singled out for mention, but there's also much attention to home life and to events that affected women differently from men (employment opportunities during World Wars I and II, for example), as well as endeavors where women played a special role (temperance organizations and utopian communities).

The series is mindful of the need to recognize the experiences of women from different races, ethnicities, and classes. It does an especially good job of doing so for African American women, from describing the

special hardships for women under slavery and their lives as domestic workers when excluded from most other work, to the crucial role of African American women's clubs in their communities. Native American women are also well-represented. In fact, the series begins with a volume by John Demos that examines the role of women in four Native American groups - Pueblos, Iroquois, fur-trading Indian nations of the Great Lakes region, and Cherokees - before Europeans arrived. Demos reveals how balanced the sexes were in Indian cultures, with property passing through the female line in many tribes. He describes how colonization meant a loss of status and influence to Native women. The rest of the volumes, stretching from 1600 to the present, include information about Native American women throughout. The same cannot be said for other minorities, however. Mexican American women are only occasionally referred to, Japanese American women are discussed mainly in the context of the removal of Japanese Americans to relocation camps during World War II, and, if the Index is to be trusted, there is *no* mention of Chinese women in the set at all. To a large extent, the strength of coverage of African American and Native American women - and weakness towards other groups - is no doubt due to the relative paucity of material on these groups in the works consulted by the authors. It is likely a second edition will tap recent scholarship on these women, too.

Perhaps the hardest volume to write was *The Road to Equality: American Women Since 1962*, by William H. Chafe. It's the one I picked up first, to see how he handled the flavors of feminism and the backlash against them. My view is that he does a creditable job, particularly where he posits the choices made by three individual women activists in

the late 1960s/early 1970s. One worked for equal rights within the existing social system, another allied herself with other oppressed groups, and the third chose a lesbian separatist collective for her activities. This book can stand alone and will be useful to anyone looking for a history of the modern women's movement suitable for children.

In each book the photographs on almost every page - though only in black and white - are a great asset in conveying the points made in the text. Each volume also features a brief chronology, bibliography, and index. The last volume of the set is different from the others. It provides biographical sketches of many of the women discussed in the other volumes along with a section on museums and historic sites on women and an overall series index.

If you are in a position to recommend books to school libraries, this set should be at the top of the list.

IRISH WOMEN

Ó Céirín, Kit and Cyril, *WOMEN OF IRELAND: A BIOGRAPHIC DICTIONARY*. Kinvara, Co. Galway: Tír Eolas; Minneapolis: Irish Books and Media, 1996. pap., \$19.95, ISBN 0-937702-16-1 (Irish Books and Media); ISBN 1-873821-06-9 (Tír Eolas).

This ambitious and timely volume will be a most welcome addition to the reference collection of any institution of higher learning, or for that matter, the bookshelf of anyone interested in Irish women's history. Prior to the release of this work, scholars and researchers often found it difficult to assemble basic biographical information on notable Irish women, especially those whose lives and accomplishments were not encompassed within the vast majority of Irish historiography to date. Running the gamut from brothel keepers (Margaret Leeson) to early Christian saints too numerous to

mention, this volume presents the reader with a lively and informative collection of lives which, however disparate, are united by the twin bonds of gender and nationality.

In contrast to Henry Boylan's *A Dictionary of Irish Biography* (1978; 2nd ed., 1988), the editors of this volume have gone to great lengths to humanize their work with a copious number of illustrations. In addition, they have provided a particularly useful appendix organized according to the occupations and interests of their subjects. While the select bibliography will certainly be of great value to any student of Irish women's history, researchers would also be well advised to use this volume in conjunction with Boylan's works as they, too, contain valuable information on notable Irish women such as novelists Katharine Hinkson and Katherine Cecil Thurston, or the philanthropic Martha Maria Magee, who are curiously absent from this collection. The thorough investigator will also want to make use of Patricia Sweeney's *Biographies of British Women: An Annotated Bibliography* (ABC-CLIO, 1993) and *The Europa Biographical Dictionary of British Women*, edited by Anne Crawford et al. (Europa, 1983), as a number of Irish women's lives are collected in these sources as well.

While many of the women included in this volume were well-known and respected figures in their own day, too frequently their achievements have fallen outside the purview of political, literary, religious, or cultural commentary. However, a large number of the biographies will be familiar to those with a solid background in Irish history. Though inclusion of major figures such as Countess Markievicz, Lady Augusta Gregory, Anna and Fanny Parnell, and the Yeats sisters is obligatory upon the editors of such a work, it is refreshing indeed to learn of the historical contributions of so many heretofore unheralded Irish women. In a few instances the information presented borders on the trivial and/or

arcane (Bridget Cleary), but on the whole, this volume remains a significant contribution to both Irish studies and feminist scholarship. While the decision to exclude those presently living has, of course, resulted in what many would consider significant omissions, this drawback will undoubtedly be remedied in subsequent editions.

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PHILOSOPHY

Noël Hutchings and William D. Rumsey, eds., *THE COLLABORATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF WOMEN IN PHILOSOPHY*. Bowling Green, OH: Philosophy Documentation Center, 1997. 375p. index. \$39.50, ISBN 0-912632-65-8.

Collaboration among over one hundred philosophers is only one of the unusual features of this book. Another is that it existed (and continues to exist) first on the World Wide Web; then went to print. A third - perhaps most appealing to those who consider philosophy to be the epitome of clearly defined rules and categories - the editors admit to a level of fuzziness about the borders of the field. They tend toward inclusion of borderline material. In all cases, the works listed are *by* women, only in some cases are the writings *about* women philosophers or feminist aspects of philosophy. The first two points are related. Since mid-1995, philosophers have been sharing new citations and offering corrections and other helpful information on a website maintained for this purpose at University of Indiana. At the time of the print version's publication, there were more than 11,000 citations on works by at least 3,500 women, and the numbers keep growing. A peek at the

website in October 1997 shows more than 13,000 records for 4,200 authors.

Is the print version necessary? No, and yes. No, if you have a fast computer with a web browser at your finger tips and are searching for known items ("Did E.E. Constance Jones write anything autobiographical?" [*As I Remember: An Autobiographical Ramble*, 1922]) or want to take dynamic advantage of the hyperlinks provided to personal web pages of the contemporary writers. No, also, if you want to retrieve all citations with keywords not indexed in the "index of named persons and subjects" in the print version (ex.: "ethic of care," "suicide," "gaze," and non-English words). But yes, the print version will be of great use if you have no ready access to a computer, and also for a more subtle reason even if you do - the serendipity factor is vastly increased. While it is possible to browse the online version alphabetically (by author), there's nothing to compare with leafing through and stumbling on "How to Reinvent Your Body in Cameroonian Women's Writing" (Frieda Ekotta's essay in *Thinking Bodies*, ed. by Juliet Flower MacCannell and Laura Zakarin, Stanford University Press, 1994) or Ellen Bliss Talbot's 1912 article "The Time Process and the Value of Human Life" (in *Philosophical Review* 23, with a second part in

volume 24, 1915). It is also more readily apparent from the book how much women have contributed to all branches of philosophy - ethics, epistemology, aesthetics, analyses of influential philosophers throughout history, etc.

The web address is <http://billyboy.ius.indiana.edu/WomeninPhilosophy/WomeninPhilo.html>

SCIENCE

Susan A. Ambrose et al., *JOURNEYS OF WOMEN IN SCIENCE & ENGINEERING: NO UNIVERSAL CONSTANTS*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1997. 512p. (Labor and social change series.) \$59.95, ISBN 1-56639-527-5.

Geologist Margaret Rees states in her interview within this book that young women need to stay aware of the social world around them. Reading *Journeys of Women in Science & Engineering* happens to be a marvelous way of doing just that. In its eighty-eight profiles of carefully selected women scientists and engineers, the book draws the reader into personal accounts of the women's experiences and the factors that shaped their lives and careers. The women represent a diverse group of ethnic heritages, socioeconomic backgrounds, sexual orientations, and disabilities. They work as research scientists and engineers in areas such as biochemistry, mathematics, neuroscience, and civil engineering. The positions they hold are in academia, nonprofit, private, and public sectors. The 1,500- to 3,500-word interviews reveal these women to have different career trajectories and to be in different stages of their working lives. The similarities and differences between them help us envision a composite face for a modern image of the female scientist or engineer.

The personal stories they tell are so engaging it is hard to stop with just

one or two interviews. For a teacher, counselor, or professor selecting one or a few profiles on behalf of the student reader, the process is eased somewhat by an index to current and past fields of employment. The bounty of personal characteristics, however, is lost by mere browsing since there is no access through indexes to this type of information. A workable substitute is the biographical data at the end of each alphabetically arranged profile. The information includes date of birth, colleges attended, position currently held, and a brief sentence about the woman's household and family back-ground. If, for example, one were interested in selecting stories on women who started working as scientists or engineers during World War II, the date-of-birth information may prove useful. However, highlighting lesbian scientists would be more difficult, as the woman's partner may or may not be obviously mentioned in the summary. Pictures can aid in identifying specific racial characteristics, physical disabilities, or family relationships, for the purpose of highlighting accomplishments of specific groups. The book in its totality is such enjoyable reading, though, that a person selecting a limited reading for a classroom situation would do well to read the entire work to gain familiarity with the scope of women represented, rather than use it strictly as a reference tool.

The preface mentions that the authors had originally intended to include more than two hundred shorter profiles of women engineers and scientists. However, as their work progressed, they were "struck by the breadth and fullness of each woman's life. The richness of their individual stories convinced us that we needed to reduce dramatically the number of stories we planned to include so that we could treat each one in more depth" (p.xvi). This decision proved key to the success of their work. The personal, first-person narrative allows for informal and



Miriam Greenwald

heartfelt details, not just on engineering and science, but on life activities such as raising children, following a partner's career, or dedicating oneself to personal, non-career-oriented goals. Both famous and little-known, average women are included, confirming the ability to participate in scientific and engineering careers without being superwomen. However, the authors admit that it is precisely the very open and public depiction of these women that makes it difficult for them to be candid about discrimination or abuse, as such information might jeopardize their employment or personal lives.

Implicit in the selection, as well, are the ultimately successful outcomes of each of these women's careers.

Whether reading one profile or all eighty-eight of them, the reader can expect each woman to explain, in her own words, what she does, how she got there, and what challenges or obstacles she encountered along the way. The quality of each profile, combined with the fantastic, thirty-page historical accounting of women in the sciences and engineering, create a fascinating, well-written, and inspirational text very worthy of inclusion in career counseling offices, personal bookshelves, and high-school or college libraries.

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Benjamin F. Shearer and Barbara S. Shearer, eds., **NOTABLE WOMEN IN THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES: A BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY**. Westport, CT: Greenwood, 1997. 479p. index. \$49.95, ISBN 0-313-29303-1.

As they did for *Notable Women in the Life Sciences* last year, the Shearers here offer biographical essays on women scientists who have made significant contributions to their chosen fields, from antiquity to the present. This time the focus shifts from biologists and physicians to ninety-six astronomers, astrophysicists, chemists, crystallographers, and physicists. The emphasis is on twentieth-century Americans, but there are many from other eras and places, too, such as the eighteenth-century Italian physicist Laura Bassi, and French astronomer Dorothea Klumpke Roberts (1861-1942).

Subjects were selected based on review of existing biographical sources on women scientists, from H.J. Mozans's 1913 *Woman in Science* to works in the 1980s by Marilyn Bailey Ogilvie, Margaret Rossiter, Caroline L. Herzenberg, Margaret Alic, Patricia Joan Siegel, and Kay Thomas Finley. Some seventy contributors wrote the essays.

A book similar to the Shearers' is *Women in Chemistry and Physics: Biobibliographic Sourcebook*, edited by Louise S. Grinstein, et al. (Greenwood, 1993). Forty of ninety-six *Notable Women* are also in the Grinstein work, and if just the women indexed as chemists and physicists are compared, two-thirds of the chemists and one-half the physicists are in Grinstein, where the essays are longer and more works by each scientist are listed. But *Notable Women* has several features to recommend it, too: almost half the essays are accompanied by photographs (there are none in Grinstein), and the basic chronological information for each woman is set off conveniently at the head of the articles. The *Notable* series seems better for undergraduate and public libraries; at double the price (\$99.50), *Women in Chemistry and Physics* will be affordable mainly by science libraries, who will want to have *Notable Women* as well, for its coverage of women in other physical sciences.

SEXUAL ASSAULT

Maureen Harrison and Steve Gilbert, eds., **THE RAPE REFERENCE: A RESOURCE FOR PEOPLE AT RISK**. San Diego: Excellent Books, 1996. 349p. pap., \$16.95, ISBN 1-880780-07-0.

Although no one would deny that it is useful to bring together a state-by-state compendium of rape laws, along with statistics, hotline information, and bibliographies, in this instance the compilers were drawn to the subject following the rape and murder of their cousin Betty. The book's dedication to her - "somebody's daughter...somebody's mother...somebody's sister... somebody's friend. She was loved by all who knew her" - adds a chilling personal touch to the grim facts presented. Harrison and Gilbert are a textbook editor and law librarian, respectively, and both professional talents show. Like textbooks, *The Rape Reference* is well-organized, written for laypersons, and includes a glossary. Like disclaimers by law librarians everywhere, there's a warning that information is provided, but "if legal or other expert assistance is required, the services of a competent professional should be sought."

Harrison and Gilbert have also collaborated on a three-volume series reprinting Supreme Court abortion decisions by decade from the 1970s and a book on murder with arrangement similar to *The Rape Reference*.

The Rape Reference complements *Rape in America: A Reference Handbook*, which includes background on issues surrounding rape, biographical sketches of persons active in the field of sexual assault prevention and treatment, and a directory of organizations. Together they provide college and public libraries with excellent ready reference tools for general patrons on the subject of rape.

STATISTICS

Editors of New Strategist Publications, **AMERICAN WOMEN: WHO THEY ARE & HOW THEY LIVE**. Ithaca, NY: New Strategist Publications, 1997. 400p. index. \$89.95, ISBN 1-885070-08-X.

"Shopping is no fun anymore." Do you agree or disagree? The majority of women responding to a 1996 survey (excerpted in the "attitudes" section of *American Women*) disagreed. But how should one interpret this response? The statement itself is close to the faulty "Are-you-still-beating-your-wife" type question. What if you *never* thought shopping was fun? Wouldn't you feel uncomfortable agreeing with a statement that left no room for interpretation or comment? I know I would, and that keeps me from responding to most forced-choice questionnaires that come my way. Nevertheless, apparently such information is useful to businesses hoping to appeal to women consumers. The variation in responses based on age may help them plot marketing strategy, too. Only 30 percent of the under-32ers agree with the statement, with a rising number (38 percent) in the 32-50 age range assenting, and 49 percent of those aged 50 or older.

Although marketers, for whom such attitudinal information may be most important, are the target audience for *American Women*, many others will find the book helpful, too. As the (unnamed) editors point out, government data once available and readable in print form are now often issued electronically, requiring special skills and software to download and examine. Anyone who has tried to read online a government spreadsheet with more columns than are visible at one time across the width of a screen will be grateful for the neat, clean tables of demographic, educational, and income information extracted and cajoled into *American Women*. The editors have also massaged the public data in new ways and combined the

information with unpublished statistics obtained by calls to government agencies. Source information is provided for all statistics.

Besides the tables, *American Women* highlights trends that have an impact on marketing. Few are surprises. "While most women report having little free time, single mothers are especially squeezed. With both time and money in short supply, price and convenience are important selling points to these women," readers are advised on p.272. Effects are implied on services as well as goods: "With most women in the work force, finding time to visit a health care facility has become difficult. This difficulty is driving the demand for after-hours medical services and convenient care centers" (p.134). Regional differences also come to the fore: "The Midwest is the least diverse region. Eighty-five percent of midwestern females are non-Hispanic white. This proportion is projected to fall [only] slightly - to 82 percent - by 2005," therefore, "Marketing messages directed at consumers in the West...must be far more multicultural than those directed at consumers in the Midwest" (p.319). Given the media fascination with young consumers, however, there's an unexpected emphasis on older women in *American Women*: "The aging of American women is good news for many businesses. Older women spend more than younger women on most products and services, including clothing, travel, and entertainment" (p.307). This is one of many statements suggesting that businesses pay attention to older women.

There are other fine statistical compilations on American women, including *Statistical Handbook on Women in America*, by Cynthia M. Taeuber, now in its second edition from Oryx Press, and the statistical portrait of American women in the annual *American Woman* series from the Women's Research and Education Institute, coedited by Cynthia B. Costello and Barbara Kivimae Krimgold and published by Norton.

American Women: Who They Are & How they Live is the only one that puts a marketing spin on the numbers, and as such will be the right choice for businesses and business libraries.

Joni Seager, **THE STATE OF WOMEN IN THE WORLD ATLAS**. 2nd ed. London: Penguin, 1997. 128p. pap., \$16.95, ISBN 0-14-051374-4.

It's been over ten years since Seager and Olson published the first edition (under the title *Women in the World: An International Atlas*) of this feminist statistical atlas. How can an atlas be feminist? By choosing to display figures for topics of concern to feminists around the world and by keeping sight of the vast differences among countries, using maps to convey the data.

First, the topics. Predictable subjects are covered, such as rates for marriage, divorce, childbearing, use of contraception, maternal mortality, proportion of women living in poverty, and earnings from waged work. These are all useful topics, but are the kinds of information often cited from the United Nations and other sources. The value of *The State of Women in the World Atlas* lies more in its presentation of other figures sometimes teased out of the same statistical sources. These include percentage of unpaid household work performed by women, numbers of rape crisis centers, the disproportionate share of illiteracy among women, legal barriers to property ownership, the feminization of agriculture in much of the world, countries participating in Miss Universe or Miss World contests, and social attitudes towards lesbians. Secondly, mapping allows for figures from individual countries or regions to be presented, while the bright colors make it easy to grasp the intent of the map. The map illustrating incidence of domestic violence, for example, uses yellow for countries where domestic violence is reported as common and green where

it is not so reported. Sadly, with the exception of Madagascar and Ivory Coast, the entire map is in yellow. The map of world HIV infection shows all too grimly what a scourge it is for both women and men in the developing world.

Each map is accompanied by a Notes section that discusses the issue presented and lists the sources used. These demonstrate that Seaver has done another service, stitching together her maps from a variety of resources. In addition to United Nations compilations, she has used data from articles on specific countries, monographs on women's rights, and reports from nongovernmental organizations. Where precise and comparable figures are not available for all countries, Seaver groups the data into broad levels, then highlights sample figures from countries in different regions. This manages to convey overall impressions and offer some details, too. Because of the mingling of source information, however, this is not the best book to use when one needs an absolute source of a specific fact (ex: women made up three percent of the peace-keeping force in Angola; forty-seven percent of university teachers in Cuba are women, etc.)

This is a great book for high schools as well as public and academic libraries.

WRITERS

Jane Missner Barstow, *ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF AMERICAN WOMEN WRITING, 1848-1948: AN ANNOTATED BIO-BIBLIOGRAPHY*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Salem Press, 1997. 333p. index. \$42.00, ISBN 0-8108-3314-X.

Change was in the air in 1848, the year women gathered in Seneca Falls to discuss their rights. The rediscovery, occasioned by the current women's movement, of traditions of women writing in the United States over the century that

followed has resulted in growth in critical and analytical studies of their work. Jane Barstow draws on this research in compiling her annotated bibliography of sixty-six women whose work was published between 1848 and 1948 and who "have been subject to a major revival since the 1970's because of new information and new perspectives on their lives and works" (p.1). Barstow's inclusion of critical studies of women with diverse backgrounds and experiences who wrote in "nonliterary" (e.g., Ida M. Tarbell, Margaret Sanger, Emma Goldman) as well as "literary" (e.g., Zora Neale Hurston, Gertrude Stein, Kate Chopin, Nella Larsen, Susan Glaspell) genres adds depth to the project.

Key considerations for users of an annotated bibliography such as this include layout/design and organization. Given the amount of valuable information to be conveyed in this fairly restrictive format, it is important for pages to be organized so that readers can "see" the information readily, a problem not fully solved here. Employing centered and side headings and beginning each author entry with a paragraph-length biographical sketch is helpful, but the density of type per page, the typeface itself, and occasional oddities in line spacing make it at times difficult to distinguish individual entries. In addition, the index, an alphabetical list of the critics whose work is cited in the text, is not particularly useful.

The bibliography is organized into six chapters, with divisions occurring more or less topically. While the information presented is good, a troublesome slippage in organization becomes apparent: the first four chapters ("Late Nineteenth Century Fiction Writers," "Early Twentieth Century Fiction Writers," "Poets, Dramatists, and Experimental Writers," "Intellectuals, Reformers, and Journalists") and last two chapters ("African American Women Writers," "Ethnic Women Writing") appear to address different questions, thus leading to a not-quite-parallel

structure. While the issue is not so simple as the first set of chapters being organized around the question "What were (white) women writing (about)?" and the second set around the question "Who were the 'ethnic' women writing at this time?", the disjuncture should still give one pause. Barstow goes out of her way to be inclusive in this bibliography, noting the limitations of coverage in previous scholarship, yet her own attempt at redress is undermined by current strategies for constructing research tools. This very break, however, points to a further site for engagement with such material as we continue to ponder questions of inclusion and exclusion.

Despite the technical and organizational problems noted above, Barstow's book is a good starting place for students or teachers interested in researching what women in the U.S. were writing about during this period.

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Jane T. Peterson & Suzanne Bennett, *WOMEN PLAYWRIGHTS OF DIVERSITY: A BIO-BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOURCEBOOK*. Westport, CT: Greenwood, 1997. 400p. bibl. index. \$79.50, ISBN 0-313-29179-9.

"Mirror, mirror" - whose stories are visible in the dramatist's mirror? Suzanne Bennett, in her introduction to *Women Playwrights of Diversity*, argues that we all "deserve to see our cultures and issues occupy a meaningful place in our contemporary mirrors - television, film, and the theatre" (p.5). The work of the eighty-nine plus playwrights profiled in this book shows how richly faceted those mirrors could be.

Designed for use by both theater practitioners/producers and teachers of drama or women's studies courses, this reference book focuses on play-

wrights whose main works have appeared since 1970 and who self-identify with one or more of four categories: African American, Asian American, Latina, or lesbian. Its alphabetically arranged entries, ranging in length from three to six pages, consist of a brief biographical sketch, description of plays, selected production history, note about play availability, list of awards, and selected bibliography of criticism and reviews. While alphabetizing can be a fairly dull organizational strategy, its use here, rather than organizing by category, creates juxtapositions (such as Endesha Ida Mae Holland, Velina Hasu Houston, Holly Hughes) intended to suggest that, as Bennett puts it, these are women "who work without a recognized theatrical tradition and who . . . still are under-represented on the stage" (p.5).

Questions of categories/categorizing and naming, connected as they are to perceptions of who "counts," are significant for a project such as this. Given limitations of space, for example, how does one choose who should represent the "under-represented"? How does one establish who fits in which category or contextualize a playwright who fits into more than one category? How does one create a community-specific tool that resists marginalization? The introductory material for this volume addresses these issues, but it is difficult to explore them fully in a project that is primarily bibliographic. Thus, the valuable overview essays by Sidné Mahone, Chiori Miyagawa, Tiffany Ana Lopez, and Jill Dolan, while situating playwrights within their "contemporary ethnic or cultural theatrical history" (p.xi), seem all too brief. The preface, which explains the rationale for the volume and selection process, is enlightening, as is Bennett's introduction, "The Challenges of Diversity." I would have liked a clearer exploration of the term "diversity" as it applies to this project, however, particularly since, like the word "feminist," it is some-

times used to narrow rather than expand cultural debates.

As a "bio-bibliographical source-book," the volume itself somewhat resists categorizing. Its focus, contextualizing essays, and layout distinguish it from a more traditional bibliographic resource like Christy Gavin's *American Women Playwrights 1964-1989: A Research Guide and Annotated Bibliography* (Garland, 1993), which also includes entries for such playwrights as Cherríe Moraga, Velina Houston, Maria Irene Fornes, Clare Coss, and Jessica Hagedorn. The reliance on selected bibliographic sources may limit the usefulness of Peterson and Bennett's book for some readers; however, it serves as an excellent introduction to plays and playwrights that deserve greater attention.

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Rinaldina Russell, ed., *THE FEMINIST ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ITALIAN LITERATURE*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1997. 402p. index. \$79.50, ISBN 0-313-29435-6.

The position of women in Italy, whether social or cultural, has not been enviable. Although the movement for women's rights began in the nineteenth century and was very active in the early part of the twentieth, it was long unsuccessful in improving the social and economic conditions of women. Benchmark legislation, such as legalized abortion and divorce, were passed only in the 1970s. In the field of letters, despite a tradition of women writers dating from the thirteenth century and a Nobel Prize recipient in the person of Grazia Deledda, literature by women continues to be marginalized and largely ignored by academic scholars. Even women writers themselves have tended to succumb to the prevailing modes of expression of the masculine canon. Finally, feminist theory and

literary criticism as a valid discipline and approach have long been excluded from university programs and have had to be pursued outside the mainstream of academia. Indeed, as Rinaldina Russell (professor of European Languages at Queens College) states in her introduction to this volume, and as the list of the contributors with their institutional affiliations bears out, much work in Italian feminist studies has taken place outside of Italy altogether. Summing up the purpose of this comprehensive if relatively short encyclopedia, Russell writes, "Among the general, college-educated readers, knowledge about feminist approaches to Italian writing, and even about the existence of Italian women writers, remains scanty. This encyclopedia, with its companion volume *Italian Women Writers*, intends to make available for the first time to a wide public a field of intellectual endeavor that is now open only to a few specialists." One senses that its intended audience might well be the very Italian academics who have ignored feminist theory and methodology.

The encyclopedia consists of about two hundred somewhat short but pithy essays arranged in alphabetical order, written by scholars at institutions in Australia, Canada, Italy, the United Kingdom, and the United States, with the last providing the overwhelming majority of contributors. Many of the entries are devoted to writers, covering eight centuries of literature. Male authors are included either because they have been instrumental in shaping the image of women and their role in society or because they have provided fertile ground for feminist scholarship and perspective. Women writers are here either because of their strong stands as feminists or because of significant contributions to the discussion of gender issues. Some authors are included simply because they have the potential to become subjects of feminist inquiry. As one would expect in a compendium on literature, there are many essays on

literary periods, movements, and genres, but coverage is much broader than this. There are entries for women's roles, such as Actress, Courtesan, and Witch; and for personal concern, such as Dress, Friendship, and Motherhood. Social and political issues are represented by such essays as Abortion, Pornography, and Rape. Particularly valuable are entries on women's publishing, such as Feminist Publishing Houses and Feminist Periodicals: 1970-. The range and distribution of topics covered may be seen in a useful Appendix, where entries are listed under broad categories, such as "Schools, Movements, Problems," "Figures and Types," "Personal and Political," as well as in the array of entries under historical periods and genres. This Appendix serves as a handy classification scheme for the reader. All entries are analyzed within the broad frame of literature and viewed from the perspective of "feminism" of a variety of persuasions.

Each signed essay provides necessary definitions, background information and representative writers or titles, as appropriate. Asterisks within the essay indicate other entries to consult and the entry concludes with a list of "See Also" references and a brief bibliography of books and articles on the topic. The volume also contains a selected bibliography of books and a well-organized index that provides page references for titles of literary works, including poems, as well as names and concepts.

The Feminist Encyclopedia of Italian Literature will be a useful addition to collections on feminism and/or Italian culture at all levels. It nicely complements *Italian Women Writers* by the same editor and publisher, published in 1994.

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A ROUND-UP OF ADDITIONAL WORKS ON WOMEN WRITERS:

Barbara J. Horwitz, *BRITISH WOMEN WRITERS, 1700-1850: AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THEIR WORKS AND WORKS ABOUT THEM*. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 1997. 231p. index. \$37.00, ISBN 08108-3315-8 (Magill bibliographies).

Denise D. Knight, ed., *NINETEENTH-CENTURY AMERICAN WOMEN WRITERS: A BIO-BIBLIOGRAPHICAL CRITICAL SOURCEBOOK*. Westport, CT: Greenwood, 1997. 534p. index. \$99.50, ISBN 0-313-29713-4.

British Women Writers is a thoughtful guide to literary criticism of writers born after 1700 whose most significant work was completed by 1850. Approaching the subject as a good teacher would, Horwitz begins by providing two contextual chapters before turning to the individual writers. Chapter one describes the political and social climate of that century and a half, during which the influence of classical modes in literature and emphasis on reason shifted toward concern with feelings and nature. Chapter two situates the women writers in that climate. Both chapters contain descriptions of principal books for understanding the literary concerns of the period. The rest of the book is on individual writers, including Jane Austen, the Brontës, Fanny Burney, Elizabeth Gaskell, Harriet Martineau, Ann Radcliffe, Frances Trollope, Mary Wollstonecraft, and thirty-six other important writers. For each woman, Horwitz provides a bit of biographical introduction and paragraph-long annotations of significant scholarship on her writing. Her intent is to describe criticism that is "accessible, recent, and most important, helpful to students of literature, students of women's place in society, and to

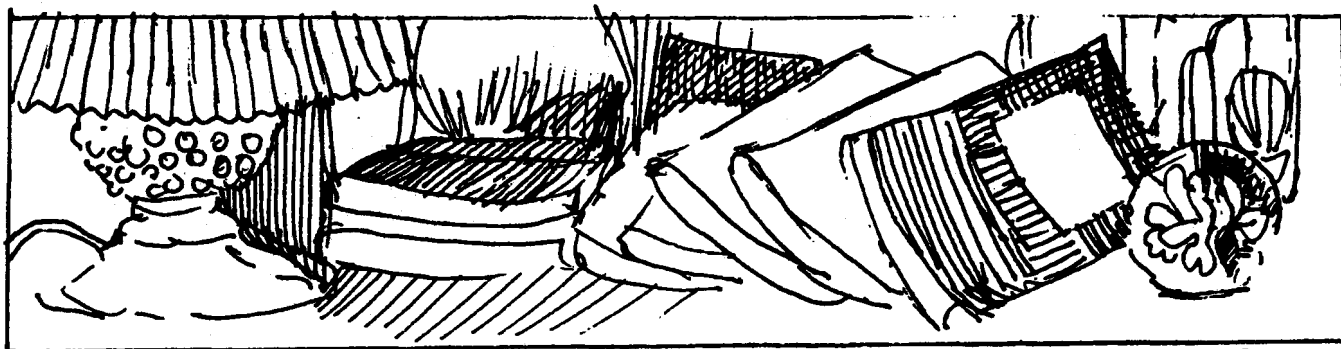
students of the age" (introduction). She succeeds very well.

Nineteenth-Century American Women Writers contains detailed essays on more than seventy women, including Louisa May Alcott, Kate Chopin, the Grimké's, Julia Ward Howe, Sarah Orne Jewett, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and many lesser-known but significant figures. Criterion for selection was that each author's body of work had to "aid in illuminating the social, historical, cultural, and economic climate of the nineteenth century" (preface). In the interests of including writers of all genres, from novelists to essayists, Knight cautions that this work is more representative than comprehensive. The signed essays are by English professors and dissertators from throughout the United States. Each follows the customary Greenwood formula for such works, with sections devoted to the biography of the writer, a description of major works and themes, and a discussion of the critical reception of her work. Bibliographies list works by the writer, subdivided by genre, followed by critical studies. A useful collection of biographical and bibliographic information on the authors is included.

BRIEFLY NOTED

Sara Brownmiller and Ruth Dickstein, *AN INDEX TO WOMEN'S STUDIES ANTHOLOGIES: RESEARCH ACROSS THE DISCIPLINES, 1985-1989*. New York: G.K. Hall, 1996. 725p. index. \$175.00, ISBN 0-7838-1531-X.

Like its first volume, covering 1980-84, this work fills a gaping hole in reference resources for the interdisciplinary field of women's studies. Today, specialized periodical indexes available both in print and as databases do a good job of tracking articles published in women's studies journals, and online library catalogs serve as indexes to the general subjects of whole books in their



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collections, but essays published within anthologies are generally out-of-scope for periodical indexes, and only sometimes are listed as contents notes in online catalogs. Brownmiller and Dickstein found 703 anthologies wholly on women published in English between 1985 and 1989, over two hundred more than appeared during the period covered in the first volume. The full contents is provided for each anthology, followed by an author index to the thousands of articles listed, and an extensive keyword index that constitutes half the pages of the book. Keywords range from common subjects such as abortion, family, and stress, to more subtle terms, like "express[ion]," which leads to the article "Rethinking the Relationship Between Power, Expression, and Research Practice," and "reconstruct[...]," indexing the essay "Reconstructing Femininity: The Woman Professional in the South." Women's Studies scholars will find the *Index* indispensable to their research. In its current print form it is a must purchase for all academic libraries, but its inclusion in a women's studies database is more critical than ever, now that several such products exist and are coming to be relied upon as sources of information for the field.

Sally Halford, et al., of the Feminist Publishing Limited Co-op, **WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE**. London: Feminist Publishing Limited (Unit 3, 1b Packington Square, London N1 7UA, U.K.), 1997. 118p. index. £10.00.

Feminist activism is alive and well in Britain, notwithstanding media attempts to portray it otherwise, say the compilers of this new directory of women's organizations, networks, and establishments. Divided into thirty sections covering arts, businesses, environment, peace, anti-violence, racial equality, and other activities, the book demonstrates over and over how thousands of women are engaged in *Making a Difference* in British society. Besides the contact information and brief descriptions of each entry, there are upbeat introductions to each section, plus photographs, statistics, and interesting sidebars. The book also includes a survey inquiring whether readers would be interested in a new magazine for women. The demise of both *Spare Rib* and *Everywoman* may have led to this testing of the waters.

Barbara Rittner and Patricia Trudeau, **THE WOMEN'S GUIDE TO SURVIVING GRADUATE SCHOOL**. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 1997. 154p. index. (Surviving graduate school, v. 2) \$42.00, ISBN 0-7619-0389-5; pap., \$19.95, ISBN 0-7619-0390-9.

Although undergraduate women can turn to both *The College Woman's Handbook*, by Rachel Dobkin and Shana Sippy (Workman Publishing, 1995), and *The Complete Handbook for College Women*, by Carol Weinberg (New York University Press, 1994), for advice on flourishing in their first four years of higher education, there's not been much

around for those contemplating an advanced degree. In fact, unless you happen to be at University of California-Santa Barbara, whose Graduate Women's Network wrote such a guide (*To Survive and To Flourish: A Survival Guide for Graduate Women at UC*) for their campus in 1995, you couldn't find any book tailored to the special concerns of women graduate students before Rittner and Trudeau got to work.

Most of the advice provided, however, is relevant to any prospective graduate student, female or male, and only a few of the topics listed in the table of contents are of specific concern to women (sexual harassment and networking with other women). The rest covers such nitty gritty matters as how to complete the application form, what the repayment schedules for loans are, and how to pick professors and courses. Oddly, there's more mention of special concerns of women in the series' editor's introduction than anywhere else in the book. He mentions childcare and security needs; the authors don't. Neither he nor the authors discuss the needs of older, returning women graduate students, or those juggling single parenthood, jobs, and school. Still, it's a practical, reassuring, friendly guide that should be helpful to women students.

Compiled by Phyllis Holman
Weisbard and others (as
noted in text)

PERIODICAL NOTES

New and Newly Discovered Periodicals

CONDÉ NAST SPORTS FOR WOMEN 1997 - . Ed.-in-chief: Lucy S. Danziger. 12/yr. \$12. P.O. Box 50033, Boulder, CO 80322. (Issue examined: December 1997)

Slick as it can be and, of course, full of the requisite ads and product promotions, this mainstream women-focused sports magazine nonetheless has some interesting features and columns. From snow-shoeing to a South Korean basketball player of the 1950s to Dawn Riley of the America's Cup sailing crew to the dispute over an erroneous drug test, with a number of health and beauty tips thrown in, there's variety in the sports if not so much in the ages of the women pictured.

GENDER, TECHNOLOGY AND DEVELOPMENT 1997- . Ed.: Govind Kelkar. 3/yr. \$35, Rs 200/ £28 (indiv.); \$85, Rs 395/ £66 (inst.). Single copy: Rs 75 (indiv.); Rs 150 (inst.). ISSN 0971-8524. Sage Publications, 2455 Teller Rd., Thousand Oaks, CA 91320, USA. (Issue examined: v.1, no.1, January-April 1997)

Produced by the Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok, Thailand, this refereed journal intends to focus on "the diverse perspectives of the Asian region," but include "dialogue along East-West and North-South lines" as well (p.2). Topics in the first issue include a challenge to Donna Haraway's cyborg, a study of appropriate technology in Africa, gender relations and famine relief, and the sex ratio in India as related to employment and kinship. Conference reports, book reviews, news and events, and a "People's Initiative" report on a particular development project make up the rest of the journal.

JOURNAL WATCH: WOMEN'S HEALTH 1996- . Ed.-in-chief: Wendy Levinson, MD. 12/yr. U.S.: \$89 (indiv.); \$55 (resident, student, nurse, PA); Canada: \$104.86 (indiv.); \$64.20 (physician in training/nurse). Intl.: \$105 (indiv.); \$65 (physician in training/nurse). ISSN 1086-9662. P.O. Box 9085, Waltham, MA 02254-9085. (Issue examined: v.2, no.8, August 1997)

From the publishers of *The New England Journal of Medicine* comes this monthly digest of medical news gleaned from more than twenty-five journals from around the world, focused on "the OB-GYN literature plus all the general literature that affects the care of female patients"

(publisher's letter). Citations are supplied for each entry. In the sample issue, topics range from DDT and breast cancer to atherosclerosis in women, laparoscopic surgery and endometriosis, uterine fibroids, estrogen and cervical cancer, emergency contraception, and HIV from deep kissing.

KUUMBA 1991 - . 2/yr. \$7.50 (outside U.S., add \$8). Single copy: \$4.50. ISSN 1049-328X. Blk Publishing, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912; email: subscriptions@blk.com. (Issue examined: Summer 1997)

"A Poetry Journal for Black People in the Life" is the subtitle to this forty-six-page publication. Though its schedule seems rather erratic, this journal is packed with poetry and nicely laid out. The editors seek poems and drawings dedicated to celebrating the lives and experiences of Black lesbians and gay men.

LAVENDER 1995- . Ed.: Heather Henderson. 26/yr. \$65.00. 2344 Nicollet Ave. South, Suite 130, Minneapolis, MN 55404; email: info@lavendermagazine.com; website: www.lavendermagazine.com (Issue examined: v.3, no.59, August 29, 1997)

Though we don't usually include very localized periodicals, this biweekly "for the Twin Cities gay-lesbian-bisexual-transgender community" is close to home as well as including a nice article on the Lilith Fair Tour, some national and international news notes, a forum on religion and LGBTs, several play and film reviews, a look at gay Nashville, and Bechdel's "Dykes to Watch Out For."

NEWW ONLINE BULLETIN 1997- . Eds.: Staff. Network of East-West Women, 1601 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 701, Washington, DC 20009; email: newwdc@igc.apc.org (Issue examined: Version 1.0.3, August 1997)

The *Online Bulletin* publishes summaries of messages from NEWW's electronic mailing lists, plus news of the organization (in a section titled "NEWW Directions") and notes on other projects related to women in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Calls for papers, job announcements, Web resources, grants,

conferences, and organizational profiles are some types of information crammed into the twelve pages of the sample issue we received.

THE SPIRIT OF WOMAN IN THE MOON 1993?- .

Publisher: Dr. SDiane Adamz-Bogus. 2/yr. \$24. Single copy: \$4.95 + \$1.05 postage (overseas: +\$2 postage). ISSN 1075-3176. Woman in the Moon, P.O. Box 2087, Cupertino, CA 95015-2097; email: womaninmoon@earthlink.net (Issues examined: v.3, no.1, Winter 1995; v.4, no.1, 1997)

Subtitled "A New Age Literary News Magazine," this publication carries fiction, poetry (winners of the *Woman in the Moon's* contest, in one issue), newsnotes, book reviews, special features, and in one sample we received, news from the Fourth World Conference On Women in Beijing, China.

WOMEN & MUSIC 1997- . Ed.-in-chief: Catherine J. Pickar. 1/yr. Membership: \$40 (indiv.); \$25 (senior/student); \$50 (inst.); \$75 (affil. organization). Single copy: \$25. ISSN 1090-7505. International Alliance for Women in Music, Membership Director, The George Washington University, Washington, DC 20052. (Issue examined: v.1, 1997)

Noting that "feminist scholarship has advocacy at its roots and this journal is the most recent accomplishment in the tradition of advocacy by the International Alliance for Women in Music" (p.v), the editor launches this new journal to help correct an erroneous historical record in the field of music. Articles examine the definition(s) of feminism, oral history by jazz band women, gender and the anthropology of music, multiple voices in Verdi's music, Joni Mitchell, and the use of three female singers in the closing *ballo* of some sixteenth-century musical performance pieces. A substantial number of book reviews complete the 104-page first issue.

WOMEN & SHELTER 1987? - . Editor: Clara Angel Ospina, Secretary, HIC Women and Shelter Network. P.O. Box 5914, Dar es Salaam. Tanzania; email: ceest@ceest.gn.apc.org (Issue examined: No. 10, December 1996)

The Women and Shelter Network, part of Habitat International Coalition, "integrates organizations working on issues relating women and habitat," according to its masthead. The issue we received reports on gender questions related to the Habitat II international conference in Istanbul in 1996, describing followup workshops and activities, including establishment of the Huairou Commission, a group of women experienced in human settlements issues.

WOMEN'S CYCLING 1997- . Ed.: Susan Weaver. 1/yr. Single copy: \$3.99; Canada CDN \$4.50. ISSN 1080-9430. *Bicycling Magazine*, Rodale Press, Inc., 135 N. Sixth St., Emmaus, PA 18098. (Issue examined: 1997)

From the publishers of *Bicycling Magazine* comes this annual special issue on mountain biking for women. Among the features topics are bike wear, trails in the Smoky Mountains, touring in the Netherlands, female-only bike camps, street-biking tips, biking while pregnant, tandem biking, how menstruation affects biking, finding the right bike (and bike seat), tune-up tips, and more.

WOMEN'S LINK 1995- . Ed.: Jayanti Alam. 4/yr. Rs. 90/\$40. Single copy: Rs. 25. Social Action Trust, 10 Institutional Area, Lodi Road, New Delhi-110 003. (Issue examined: v.2, no.4, October-December 1996)

The seventy-page sample is a special issue on women and AIDS. Articles discuss victimization of women, the effect on women as a human rights issue, AIDS and the law, the tragedy of ignorance about the disease, AIDS and sex education in schools, children and AIDS. A poem, a book review, and a special report on one woman's rape and death are included.

WOMEN'S PHILOSOPHY REVIEW 1993- . Ed.: Christine Battersby. 3/yr. UK: £20 (indiv.); £48 (inst.); Europe: £24/ \$40 (indiv.); £48/ \$80 (inst.); elsewhere: US\$60 (indiv., air); US\$100 (inst., air). Single copy: UK: £6.95 (indiv.); £17.50 (inst.); elsewhere: US\$22 (indiv., air); US\$40 (inst., air). ISSN 1369-4324. Society of Women in Philosophy (UK), Dr. Christine Battersby, Dept. of Philosophy, University of Warwick, Coventry, CV4 7AL. (Issue examined: no.17, Summer/Autumn 1997)

Until now available only to members of the UK Society of Women in Philosophy, this journal is now open to a broader readership. Two of the yearly three issues are to be devoted primarily to book reviews, the third to refereed articles on relevant topics. This first "open" issue (107 pages) includes a lengthy interview with Drucilla Cornell, author of *The Imaginary Domain*, seventy pages of book reviews, plus calls for papers and conference announcements.

Special Issues of Periodicals

CANADIAN DIMENSION v.31, no.5, September/October 1997: "Women and Organizing." Editorial collective. Subscriptions: \$24.50 (indiv.); \$35.00 (org.); \$18.50 (students/seniors). US surcharge: \$10; overseas surcharge: \$15. ISSN 0008-3402. 2B-91Albert St., Winnipeg MB Canada R3B 1G5; email: info@canadiandimension.mb.ca

Partial contents: "Sisterhood/Solidarity: Women Organizing in a Male-Dominated Union" (Peggy Nash); "Wired Women: Women Organizing on the Web" (Scarlet Pollock, Jo Sutton); "A Dyke Organizes the Fags" (Carmen Paquette); "Nicaraguan Women and 'Family Values'" (Karen Sawatzky); "Fighting Sweatshops/ Building Solidarity: Exposing the GAP" (Lynda Yanz, Bob Jeffcott); "A McUnion With That?" (Christian Huot).

CASE WESTERN RESERVE LAW REVIEW v.47, no.2, Winter 1997: "Colloquium: Bridging Society, Culture, and Law: The Issue of Female Circumcision." Ed.-in-Chief: James T. Dixon. Subscriptions: \$25.00. Single copy: \$10.00 (special & symposium issues: \$15.00). ISSN 0008-7262. Case Western Reserve University School of Law, 11075 East Boulevard, Cleveland, OH 44106-7148.

Lead article: "Bridges and Barricades: Rethinking Polemics and Intransigence in the Campaign Against Female Circumcision" (L. Amede Obiora); among the comments: "Respecting Women's Lives and Investigating Women's Consciousness" (Kathryn Abrams); "Uneasy Alliances and Solid Sisterhood" (Isabelle R. Gunning); "Elitist Anti-Circumcision Discourse as Mutilating and Anti-Feminist" (Micere Githae Mugo); "Another Bridge to Cross: Between 'Outside' and 'Inside'" (Pauline E. Peters); "'Genital Mutilation' or 'Symbolic Birth': Female Circumcision, Lost Origins, and the Acculturation of Feminist/Western Thought" (Sylvia Wynter).

THE CASID CONNECTION v.11, no.1, February 1996 and v.11, no.2, April 1996: "Gender and the Environment." Editor: Alex Morese. Center for Advanced Study of International Development, Michigan State University, 306 Berkey Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824-1111. (Issues examined)

Most of the articles in these two issues, intended "to provide an introduction into present discourse on gender and the environment" (p.2, v.11, no.1), are reprints from books and journal articles by prominent writers on environmental issues. Ruth Hubbard, Carolyn Merchant, Jane L. Collins, and Vandana Shiva are among the authors, with topics ranging from social reproduction and sustainable development to women's indigenous knowledge, biotechnology, community and the ecosystem, and the "facts" of natural science.

THE COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGIST v.22, no.4, October 1994: "Wife Abuse." Subscriptions: \$52 (indiv. nonmembers); \$163 (inst.); add \$8 outside U.S. Single copy: \$15. ISSN 0011-0000. Sage Publications, Inc., 2455 Teller Rd., Thousand Oaks, CA 91320.

The "major contribution" is "Wife Abuse and the Wife Abuser: Review and Recommendations" (Ann D. Carden), with reaction papers: "A Critique of Carden's Integrative Model for Treatment of Batterers: One Clinician's Perspective" (Nancy E. Hansen); "Stopping

Domestic Violence: More Answers and More Questions Needed" (Mark A. Stevens); "Battering, Competing Clinical Models, and Paucity of Research: Notes to Those in the Trenches" (Michele Bograd); and "Wife Abuse Through the Lens of 'Systems Theory'" (Douglas H. Sprengle).

IN THESE TIMES v.21, no.7, February 10, 1997: "Special Women's Issue." Ed.: James Weinstein. Subscriptions: \$36.95 (indiv.); \$59.00 (inst.); \$61.95 (Canada); \$75.95 (overseas). Single copy: \$5.00. ISSN 0160-5992. 2040 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60647; email: itt@igc.apc.org

Contents: "Killer Cosmetics" (Joel Bleifuss); "The Parent Trap" (on childcare and working AFDC mothers; Kim Phillips); "Contraceptive Blues" (Judy Norsigian); "Deadbeat Dads: The Conservative Agenda Behind Clinton's Crackdown" (Katharine Greider); "Divided Loyalties: Black Feminists Take on Black Nationalism" (Salim Muwakkil); "When in Rome: Should Courts Make Allowances for Immigrant Culture at Women's Expense" (Nina Schuyler); and "Super Bowl Sunday" (Barbara Ehrenreich); plus film and book reviews on women's topics.

INTERTEXTS v.1, no.1, Spring 1997: "Claiming Voices, Seizing Spaces: Latin American and Latina Women Writers." Eds.: David H.J. Larmour, Paul Allen Miller. Subscriptions: \$19 (indiv.); \$33 (inst.); outside U.S.: \$26 (indiv.); \$42 (inst.). ISSN 1092-0625. Texas Tech University Press, Sales Office, Lubbock, TX 79409-1037.

As a "journal of comparative literature and reflection" positioning itself "in the spaces between texts - be they disciplinary, social, literary, or linguistic" (p.3), this twice-yearly publication focuses its first issue on the work coming out of a symposium on Latin American women writers held at Texas Tech in 1995. Some of the articles: "Barbed Wire Words: Demetria Martínez's *Mother Tongue*" (Debra Castillo); "Masculine Acts/Anxious Encounters: Sabina Berman's *Entre Villa y una mujer desnuda*" (Sharon Magnarelli); "Queer Theory, Sexuality, and Women's Writing from Latin America: The Example of Cristina Peri Rossi" (Rosemary Geisdorfer Feal); and "Political Meta-Allegory in Sor Juana's *El Divino Narciso*" (Veronica Grossi).

OSIRIS v.12, 1997: "Women, Gender, and Science: New Directions." Eds.: Sally Gregory Kohlstedt, Helen Longino. Subscriptions: \$39 (hardcover; ISBN 0-226-30753-0); \$25 (paper; ISBN 0-226-30754-9). ISSN 0369-7827. University of Chicago Press, Journals Division, P.O. Box 37005, Chicago, IL 60637.

Partial contents (from papers given at conference in St. Paul, Minnesota, May 12-14, 1995): "The Women, Gender, and Science Question: What Do Research on Women in Science and Research on Gender and Science

Have to Do with Each Other?" (Sally Gregory Kohlstedt, Helen Longino); "Developmental Biology as a Feminist Cause?" (Evelyn Fox Keller); "Gender and 'Modern' Botany in Victorian England" (Ann B. Shteir); "The Engendering of Archaeology: Refiguring Feminist Science Studies" (Alison Wylie); "Science, Politics, and Morality: The Relationship of Lise Meitner and Elisabeth Schiemann); and "Which Science? Which Women?" (Margaret W. Rossiter).

THE SOUTHERN JOURNAL OF PHILOSOPHY

v.XXXV Supplement. Ed.: Tina Chanter. Subscriptions: \$20 (indiv.); \$30 (inst.); \$10 (students). The University of Memphis, Campus Box 526104, Memphis, TN 38152-6104.

Contents (from conference papers given Sept. 26-28, 1996 on "Rethinking Sex and Gender"): "Sex, Gender, Sexuality: Can Ethologists Practice Genealogy?" (Moirá Gatens); "Gender, Race, and Difference: Individual Consideration versus Group-based Affirmative Action in Admission to Higher Education" (Alison M. Jagger); "Fleshing Gender, Sexing the Body: Refiguring the Sex/Gender Distinction" (Nancy Tuana); "The Ideology and Biology of Gender Difference" (Deborah L. Rhode); "Projecting Political Correctness: The Divorce of Affect and Signifier" (Teresa Brennan); "Re-thinking Consciousness Raising: Citizenship and the Law and Politics of Adoption" (Drucilla Cornell).

THAMYRIS v.4, no.1, Spring 1997: "Gender in the Making: Indian Contexts." Guest ed.: Rajeswari Sunder Rajan. Subscriptions: NLG54/ US\$35 (indiv.); NLG89/ US\$58 (inst.). Single copy: NLG34,90/ US\$22.50. Add US\$6 postage and packing (US\$10 airmail outside Europe). ISSN 1381-1312. Najade Press bv, P.O. Box 75933, 1070 AX Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Partial contents: "Virgin Mother, Beloved Other: The Erotics of Tamil Nationalism in Colonial and Post-Colonial India" (Sumathi Ramaswamy); "Cutting to Size: Property and Gendered Identity in the Indian Higher Courts" (Srimati Basu); "Of Victims and Vigilantes: The 'Bandit Queen' Controversy" (Priyamvada Gopal); "Gender and Development: Problems for a History of the Present" (Mary E. John); and "The Impossible Subject: Caste and Desire in the Scene of the Family" (Susie Tharu).

Transitions

GENDER ISSUES is the new title for the venerable **FEMINIST ISSUES**, which began in 1980 and has most recently been under the editorship of Elizabeth Fox-Genovese. An announcement sheet led with: "Women's studies is in trouble. Its credibility is under attack - and

with justification.... The discipline needs an objective forum for debate." The revised journal will publish quarterly under editor Rita J. Simon. For information, contact the publication at Transaction Publishers, Department 98BGI, Rutgers - The State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick, NJ 08903; phone: 1-888-999-6778; email: trans@transactionpub.com; website: www.transactionpub.com

Anniversaries

MS. recently published its 25th anniversary issue (v.8, no.2, September/October 1997), which includes twenty-five of the staff's favorite covers, articles on the changes in language and mother/daughter relationships over the period, reprints of several classic articles, a "Then and Now" section, twenty-one profiles of "next generation" women, and much more. Contact the editors at: 135 West 50th St., 16th Fl., New York, NY 10020; email: ms@echonyc.com

THE TRIBUNE, first published in 1976 as a sixteen-page, typewritten, stapled document reporting on the first non-governmental forum held alongside the first World Conference on Women (Mexico City, 1975), is celebrating twenty years of publication. The International Women's Tribune Center, the current publisher, may be reached at: 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017; phone: 212-687-8633; email: iwtc@igc.apc.org; website: wink@igc.apc.org

TULSA STUDIES IN WOMEN'S LITERATURE is celebrating fifteen years of publishing. To mark the occasion, the journal invited Carol Christ, member of the Editorial Board since the first issue, to speak about "The American University and Women's Studies." The talk is included with the regular quality essays in the Spring 1997 issue. Contact editor Holly Laird at University of Tulsa, 600 South College Ave., Tulsa, OK 74104-3189; phone: 918-631-2503; email: FRAZIERLS@CENTUM.UTULSA.EDU

Ceased Publication

WOMYN'S PRESS v.1, no.1, 1970 - ?? Ceased due to increased printing and postage costs. The most recent address we have is P.O. Box 562, Eugene, OR 97440. (oob July 1997, p.20)

Compiled by Linda Shult

ITEMS OF NOTE

Oops! The CD-ROM, **TELLING OUR STORIES: WOMEN IN SCIENCE**, from McLean Media can be ordered by calling 1-888-4-A-STORY instead of the number mentioned in our previous issue of *FEMINIST COLLECTIONS*.

MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE PAPERS: THE BETHUNE FOUNDATION COLLECTION, PART 2: CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1914-1955 contains the correspondence compiled by Bethune throughout her later career. This new collection on the founder of Bethune-Cookman College and advocate for African Americans is available on microfilm for \$2,100 from: University Publications of America, 4520 East-West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20814-3389. Phone: 800-692-6300.

New from Isis International-Manila are four monographs on gender and food security published for the World Food Summit. **QUESTIONABLE COMPATIBILITY: TRADE LIBERALIZATION AND FOOD SECURITY** by Susan George is a fourteen-page report, briefly outlining what we know about food security and what we can expect from the global free trade agenda. **A BREAK-DOWN IN RELATIONS: WOMEN, FOOD SECURITY AND TRADE** (18p.) by Dr. Maria Mies addresses the ideologies, values, and various relationships between "free trade" and trade liberalization and people (producers and consumers in the affluent societies and classes of the South and North). **CALIBER OF DESTRUCTION: GLOBALIZATION, FOOD SECURITY AND WOMEN'S LIVELIHOODS** (28p.) by Dr. Vandana Shiva stresses the importance of the woman farmer, for the survival of households and society as a whole. Also, **INSEPARABLE: THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF WOMEN IN FOOD SECURITY** by Marilee Karl is a twenty-two-page overview of women's crucial roles in achieving food security on a variety of levels such as household, community, national, and international. The price for the four monograph set is \$10. To order, send a check or bank draft in U.S. dollars payable through a U.S. bank to: Isis International-Manila, P.O. Box 1837, Quezon City Main, Quezon City 1100, Philippines.

Four publications from Wellesley College's Center for Research on Women may be of interest to readers. **PUBLICATIONS BY RESEARCHERS AT THE CENTER FOR RESEARCH ON WOMEN, 1997** is a five-page bibliography including all publications by Center authors in 1996. **PUBLICATIONS BY THE RESEARCHERS AT THE CENTER FOR RESEARCH ON WOMEN 1975-1995, 1996** lists publications from 1975-1995

available from sources other than the Center, such as in journals, books, or, in the case of conference papers, the authors themselves. Each bibliography costs \$3. Samru Erkut et al. have written **RAISING COMPETENT GIRLS: ONE SIZE DOES NOT FIT ALL, 1996**, a seventeen-page study of self-evaluations of African American, Caucasian, Chinese American, and Latina middle-school girls in the greater Boston area. The price is \$9.00. (Paper Order No. 282). Also, **BOOKS FOR BOYS AND GIRLS TODAY: AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF NON-SEXIST BOOKS FOR INFANTS, TODDLERS AND PRESCHOOLERS, 1996** is a twenty-eight-page book list compiled by Carrie Spillane and Maureen Crowley. To order, send \$8 to Wellesley College, Center for Research on Women, 106 Central Street, Wellesley, MA 02181-8259.

CAMPUS SAFETY AWARENESS MANUAL: A PROGRAMMING GUIDE FOR STUDENTS, STAFF & CONCERNED INDIVIDUALS was designed to serve as a tool for educating and acting on campus safety issues. The sixty-eight-page manual describes events and programs used by different University of Wisconsin campuses and offers media tips and sample handouts. To order, contact: United Council of University of Wisconsin Students, 122 State Street, Suite 500, Madison, WI 53703. Phone: 608-263-3422; fax: 608-265-4070; email: UCOUNCIL@mac.wisc.edu; website: <http://www.stdorg.wisc.edu/asm/uc/uc.html>.

NEW DIRECTIONS FOR WOMEN has published a **TWELVE YEAR CUMULATIVE INDEX, 1982-1993**, a cross-referenced list that provides access to the feminist actions, philosophies, and feelings of the developing women's movement as documented by this national feminist newspaper, which closed its doors in 1993. Order from the Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press, 3306 Ross Place, NW, Washington, DC 20008. Phone: 973-366-6036. The original Ten Year Cumulative Index, which covers 1972 through 1981, costs \$10 plus \$3 shipping and handling. The Twelve Year Index is \$20 plus \$5 shipping and handling. Both indexes ordered together are \$25 plus \$5 shipping and handling.

Newly updated, **THE CONTINGENT WORK FORCE: IMPLICATIONS FOR TODAY'S AND TOMORROW'S MIDLIFE AND OLDER WOMEN** (12p.) is a fact sheet on midlife and older women's participation in the contingent workforce. For a free copy, write: AARP Fulfillment, 601 E St., NW, Washington, DC 20049.

American Association of University Women (AAUW) Educational Foundation Girls Can! Community Coalitions Project has released the **GIRLS CAN! VIDEO**, which looks at ways parents, teachers, schools, and communities can work together to address the educational needs of girls. Also, **GIRLS CAN! COMMUNITY COALITIONS RESOURCE MANUAL** provides hands-on resource tools such as suggestions on time management, coalition-building, managing conflict, plus a lengthy list of resource organizations for developing effective community-based projects. To order a copy of the resource manual (\$12.95) or the video (\$24.95), contact AAUW sales office at 800-225-9998, ext. 409.

Conducted by the Women's Legal Defense Fund (WLDF) for the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), the study **EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION AGAINST MIDLIFE AND OLDER WOMEN: HOW COURTS TREAT SEX-AND-AGE DISCRIMINATION CASES** evaluates combined sex-and-age discrimination cases in the past twenty years and makes recommendations for improving enforcement. For a free copy write to AARP Fulfillment, 601 E. St., NW, Washington, DC 20049 (ask for publication #D16262) or to WLDF, 1875 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 710, Washington, DC 20008.

In an updated and enlarged version, Marge Eide has compiled **ADULT SURVIVORS OF INCEST/CHILDHOOD SEXUAL ABUSE: A SELECTED, ANNOTATED LIST OF BOOKS**. The bibliography lists the majority of books written on childhood sexual abuse in the last 15 years. (110p) To obtain: send \$10 for the 3rd edition to: Margaret Eide, 1206 Franklin Blvd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103-5526.

ISLAM, ISLAMISATION AND WOMEN IN AFRICA: A GENERAL INTRODUCTORY BIBLIOGRAPHY covers issues of Islam and Islamisation in Africa and the implications for African women. For more information, write to: Women Living Under Muslim Laws, International Solidarity Network, Central Coordination for Asia: 208, Scotch Corner, Upper Mall, Lahore, PAKISTAN.

From Human Rights Watch's Publications Department comes the following reports: **THE HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH GLOBAL REPORT ON WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS** delves into the role that governments play in encouraging and tolerating abuse of women. The 480-page report costs \$15. **RAPE FOR PROFIT** is a 96-page report on the trafficking of girls and women from Nepal to brothels in Bombay. The price is \$7. Also, **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN SOUTH AFRICA: STATE RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND RAPE** (144p.) includes the voices of women expressing their dissatisfaction with the response from the South African

criminal justice system. Cost: \$10. To order, contact: Human Rights Watch, Publications Department, 485 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10017-6104. Phone: 212-986-1980.

UNRISD Press has released **GENDER AND URBAN SOCIAL MOVEMENTS: WOMEN'S COMMUNITY RESPONSES TO RESTRUCTURING AND URBAN POVERTY**. Written by Amy Lind and Martha Farmelo, the paper describes how women's organizations have confronted social problems, often becoming the main providers of essential community services. For a copy send \$5 for readers in the North, \$2.50 for readers in the South to: UNRISD, Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland. Phone: 41-22-798-84-00; fax: 41-22-740-07-91; e-mail: max@unrisd.org; website: <http://www.unicc.org/unrisd>

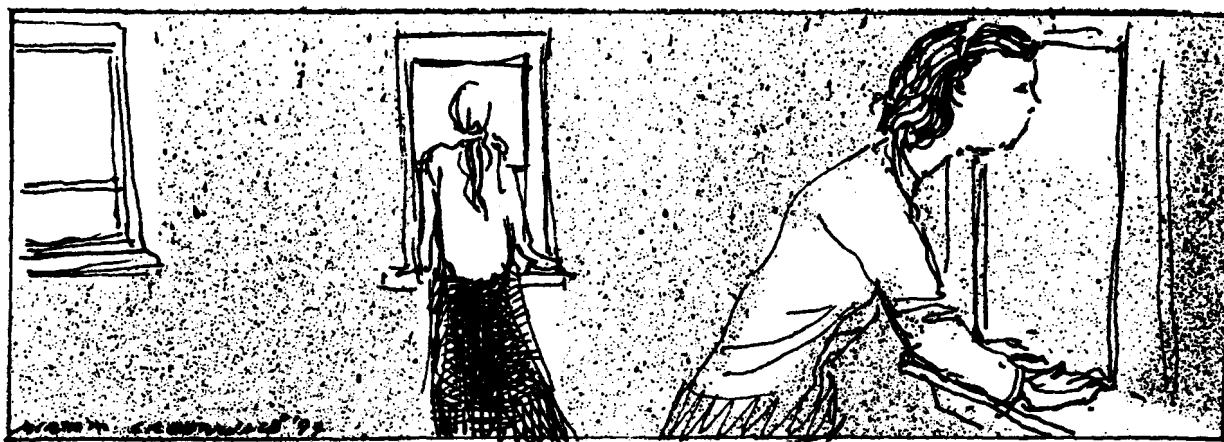
New from Primary Source Media is **MAJOR AUTHORS ON CD-ROM: THE BRONTËS**. Edited by Tom Winnifrith, this CD presents, in the most scholarly editions available, all of the published novels, poems, letters, and journals of the four Brontë children. For ordering information, contact: Primary Source Media, 12 Lunar Drive, Woodbridge, CT 06525.

IMAGES AND WORDS IN WOMEN'S SPORTS was designed by the Women's Sports Foundation to help anyone reporting on male and female athletes or involved in sports to understand what treating males and females equitably means. For a copy of the booklet, send \$2.50 plus \$3.00 shipping to the Foundation at Eisenhower Park, East Meadow, NY 11554. Phone: 800-227-3988.

Developed by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) to help institutions comply with Title IX is **ACHIEVING GENDER EQUITY, A BASIC GUIDE TO TITLE IX AND GENDER EQUITY IN ATHLETICS FOR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**. Topics include: gender, resources, emerging sports, and athletics certification. For further information, contact: NCAA, 6201 College Blvd., Overland Park, KS 66211-2422. Phone: 913-339-1906.

Newly revised is **MENOPAUSE HANDBOOK**, which addresses the changes that occur and how to deal with them during this normal transition in life. Single copies are \$4. Bulk copies are sold to organizations at cost. Contact: Montreal Health Press, Inc., P.O. Box 1000, Station Place du Parc, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H2W 2N1. Phone: 514-282-1171; fax: 514-282-0262; e-mail: mhpmontreal@msn.com; website: <http://www.worldsfinest.com/mhp>

UNDERSTANDING THE GENETICS OF BREAST CANCER FOR JEWISH WOMEN summarizes material presented at a Spring 1996 conference hosted by the



Miriam Greenwald

American Jewish Congress. This paper discusses such issues as hereditary breast cancer and Ashkenazic women and the potential use of genetic information by employers or insurance companies. Obtain a copy for \$2 from: Lois Waldman, AJC, 15 E. 84 St., New York, NY 10028.

A reaction to the growing need for a comprehensive base of diverse women's works from which to teach is **INTRODUCTION TO WOMEN'S STUDIES DATABASE ON PRIMIS** by Janet J. Montelaro and Patricia M. Ulbrich. Offering a broad range of selections from Donna Castañeda's "Gender Issues Among Latinas" to Barbara Christian's "Images of Black Women in Afro-American Literature" to essays on teen pregnancy and heterosexism, Primis enables scholars to design their own "readers" for women's studies classes. Ordering information is available from: Primis, The McGraw-Hill Companies, 148 Princeton-Hightstown Road, S1, Hightstown, NJ 08520. Phone: 1-800-962-9342; fax: 609-426-5900; website: <http://www.mhhe.com/primis>

Produced by The Center for Reproductive Law and Policy, **PROMOTING REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS: A GLOBAL MANDATE** (48p.) by Reed Boland and Anika Rahman, examines the recognition of reproductive rights (and condemnation of violence against women) at major UN conferences during the 1990s. Order from: Women, Ink., 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA. Phone: 212-687-8633; fax: 212-661-2704; email: wink@igc.apc.org; website: <http://www.womenink.org>

Produced in collaboration with the African Heritage Educator's Network, the **SUCCEEDING YOUNG SISTERS: GUIDE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFTERSCHOOL ENCOURAGEMENT AND MENTORING PROGRAMS FOR YOUNG BLACK WOMEN** offers steps for implementing empowerment programs. To order the free guide, contact: Succeeding Young Sisters, Ontario Women's Directorate, 2 Carlton

Street, 12th Fl., Toronto, ON, M5B 2M9. Phone: 416-314-0250; fax: 416-314 0254.

Prepared by Don Salm of the Wisconsin Legislative Council Staff is **LAWS RELATING TO DOMESTIC ABUSE: ARREST AND PROSECUTION, TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDERS AND INJUNCTIONS, AND OTHER LAWS**. The thirty-five-page information memorandum is free from Wisconsin Legislative Council, 1 E. Main St., Suite 401, P.O. Box 2536, Madison, WI 53701-2536. Phone: 608-266-1304.

For the scholar as well as the lay reader, the Worlds of Women Series covers the unique experiences of women from vantage points such as history, political science, literature, law, religion, and gender theory. A bibliography (and a list of video materials, if available) are part of each volume. The titles available so far are: **AMERICAN WOMEN IN A WORLD AT WAR: CONTEMPORARY ACCOUNTS FROM WORLD WAR II** edited by Judy Barrett Litoff, Bryant College, and David C. Smith, and **CONTROLLING REPRODUCTION: AN AMERICAN HISTORY** edited by Andrea Tone. Order from: SR Books, 104 Greenhill Ave, Wilmington, DE 19805-1897. Phone: 800-772-8937 or 302-654-7713; fax: 302-654-3871.

New from the Working Papers Series of the WEEA Equity Resource Center is **GENDER, DISCOURSE, AND TECHNOLOGY**, by Katherine Hanson, a thirty-three-page discussion that explores the unconscious message that technology has a "male" persona and its implications for use of technology in the classroom and workplace. The cost is \$4; Order no. 2759. Contact: Women's Educational Equity Act (WEEA) Equity Resource Center, 1-800-793-5076.

WOMEN'S JOURNEYS, WOMEN'S STORIES: IN SEARCH OF OUR MULTICULTURAL FUTURE, by

Linda Shevitz and Susan Shaffer, is another WEEA resource, a women's history curriculum for middle and high school social studies and U.S. history classes that presents a contemporary multicultural view. Containing topics such as "The Women's Rights Movement-A Multicultural View," "Native Women," "Women of the South," and "Immigrant Women," it complements the WEEA set *In Search of Our Past*. To order, call: 1-800-793-5076.

The Center for Women Policy Studies announces **VICTIMS NO MORE: GIRLS FIGHT BACK AGAINST MALE VIOLENCE**, a look at the link between girls' experiences as victims and, increasingly, as perpetrators of violence. Cost: \$10. Also, **THE SAT GENDER GAP – AN ACTION KIT** was developed to help individuals and organizations confront and overcome the impact on girls of bias in testing. Cost: \$10. Order from Center for Women Policy Studies, 1211 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 312, Washington, DC 20036. Phone: 202-872-1770; fax: 202-296-8962; email: HN4066@Handsnet.org

ANALYZING SEXUAL HEALTH COVERAGE IN MAGAZINES, a study conducted by Kim Walsh-Childers, examines sexual health coverage in fifty of the most widely read magazines. Topics range from the emphasis on planned pregnancy, with less attention to critical health issues such as HIV/AIDS, to teen magazines' coverage of unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. For a copy of the report from the Kaiser Family Foundation, call 1-800-656-4533 and request publication no. 1258.

GENDER AND WOMEN'S HEALTH: INFORMATION PACKAGE NO. 2 was developed to provide clarity on the topic of gender and women's health. The packet offers models for carrying out gender-analysis in health

policies and programs, within the context of the Asia-Pacific region. It consists of three booklets: "Conceptual Frameworks," "Ideas for Action," and "An Annotated Bibliography." The price: \$10 plus \$3 postal charges. To order, contact: Arrow, 2nd Floor, Block F, Anjung Felda, Jalan Maktab, 54000 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Endorsed by The Michigan Women's Assembly, The Michigan Women's Studies Association, Inc., and Michigan Council for the Social Studies is **CROSSING THE MILLENNIUM, THE WOMEN'S BOOK PROJECT**. This project is an effort to increase the number of books about women and women's history in school libraries and media centers, with the idea of giving students a more balanced perspective on the roles of men and women in society. For more information, contact Michigan's Women's Historical Center and Hall of Fame, 213 W. Main St., Lansing, MI 48933. Phone: 517-372-9772.

Produced by The Center on Education and Work, **EXPLORING NEW WORLDS: A WORKBOOK ON TRADES AND TECHNOLOGY FOR WOMEN** encourages girls and women to consider careers in higher paying occupations. Topics include: career exploration and life stories of successful women in skilled trades and high tech fields. The price is \$3, or \$22.50 for a set of fifteen. Also, **WOMEN IN HIGHER WAGE OCCUPATIONS**, with classroom activities and worksheets, includes topics such as: occupational segregation, nontraditional careers, and the economic impact of career choice. Cost: \$12. To order or to request a catalog of Center publications, contact: 800-446-0399 (USA & Canada); 95-800-446-0399 (Mexico); email: cewmail@soemadison.wisc.edu; website: <http://www.cew.wisc.edu>

Compiled by Christina Stross

1999 BERKSHIRE CONFERENCE ON THE HISTORY OF WOMEN CALL FOR PAPERS

The 11th Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, "Breaking Boundaries," will be held June 4-6, 1999 at the University of Rochester, Rochester, New York USA. Submit proposals in **triplicate**, **postmarked by January 31, 1998**, in a single packet marked "ATTN: Berkshire Conference" to the appropriate chair.

Send proposals on U.S. and Canadian topics to **Nell Painter**, Dept. of History, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 08544-1017; on European topics to **Sharon Strocchia**, Dept. of History, Emory University, Atlanta, GA 30322; on Africa, Latin America, Asia, the Pacific, and all comparative topics to **Teresa Meade**, Dept. of History, Union College, Schenectady, NY 12308-2365. For more information, see our website at: www-berks.aas.duke.edu

BOOKS RECENTLY RECEIVED

3RD DEGREE: A CASSIDY JAMES MYSTERY. Calloway, Kate. Naiad, 1997.

ACADEMIC COUPLES: PROBLEMS AND PROMISES. Ferber, Marianne A. & Loeb, Jane W., eds. University of Illinois Press, 1997.

AFRAID TO EAT: CHILDREN AND TEENS IN WEIGHT CRISIS. Berg, Frances M. Healthy Weight Publishing Network; distr. Independent Publishers Group and Baker & Taylor, 1997. (Address: 402 South 14th Street, Hettinger, ND 58639.)

AM I THIN ENOUGH YET: THE CULT OF THINNESS AND THE COMMERCIALIZATION OF IDENTITY. Hesse-Biber, Sharlene. Oxford University Press, 1996.

AMERICAN WOMEN: WHO THEY ARE & HOW THEY LIVE. New Strategists Editors. New Strategist Publications, 1997.

ASPIRING WOMEN: A HISTORY OF THE JEWISH FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATION OF WOMEN. Joselit, Jenna Weissman. Jewish Foundation for Education of Women, 1996. (Address: 330 W. 58th Street, New York, NY 10019-1827.)

BEYOND BEIJING: THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S MOVEMENT: THE HANDBOOK. Miller, Cheryl, ed. Beyondmedia, 1997. (Address: 59 E. Van Buren, 14th Fl., Chicago, IL 60605.)

BEYOND GAY OR STRAIGHT: UNDERSTANDING SEXUAL ORIENTATION. Clausen, Jan. Chelsea House, 1997.

BEYOND THE WHITENESS OF WHITENESS: MEMOIR OF A WHITE MOTHER OF BLACK SONS. Lazarre, Jane. Duke University Press, 1996.

BODILY BOUNDARIES, SEXUALISED GENDERS & MEDICAL DISCOURSES. de Ras, Marion & Victoria Grace, eds. and introd. Dunmore, 1997.

THE BONDS OF WOMANHOOD: "WOMAN'S SPHERE" IN NEW ENGLAND, 1780-1835. Cott, Nancy F. Yale University Press, 1997. 2nd. ed., with a new preface.

BREAST CANCER?: LET ME CHECK MY SCHEDULE! McCarthy, Peggy & Loren, Jo An, eds.; foreword by Erma Bombeck. Westview Press, 1997.

BUILDING ON BEIJING: UNITED STATES NGOS SHAPE A WOMEN'S

NATIONAL ACTION AGENDA. Stanley Foundation, [1997]. (Address: 216 Sycamore Street, Suite 500, Muscatine, IA 52761-1500)

CARRYIN' ON IN THE LESBIAN AND GAY SOUTH. Howard, John, ed. New York University Press, 1997.

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CHANGING WOMEN, CHANGING HISTORY: A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE HISTORY OF WOMEN IN CANADA. Pedersen, Diana. Carleton University Press, 1996. 2nd ed.

CHILDBIRTH AND AUTHORITATIVE KNOWLEDGE: CROSS-CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES. Davis-Floyd, Robbie D. & Sargent, Carol F., eds. University of California Press, 1997.

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS, THERAPISTS' RESPONSIBILITIES: FEMINIST COMMENTARIES. Anderson, Gail & Hill, Marcia, eds. Haworth, 1997.

CLASS REUNION. Hill, Linda. Naiad, 1997.

THE COMFORT WOMEN: JAPAN'S BRUTAL REGIME OF ENFORCED PROSTITUTION IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR. Hicks, George. Norton, 1997.

THE COMMON GROUND OF WOMANHOOD: CLASS, GENDER, AND WORKING GIRLS' CLUBS, 1884-1928. Murolo, Priscilla. University of Illinois Press, 1997.

A CONCISE GLOSSARY OF FEMINIST THEORY. Andermahr, Sonya, et al., eds. Arnold; distr. St. Martin's, 1997.

CONFESSIONS OF A GENDER DEFENDER: A PSYCHOLOGIST'S REFLECTIONS ON LIFE AMONG THE TRANSGENDERED. Ettner, Randi. Chicago Spectrum Press, 1996.

CONFINEMENTS: FERTILITY AND INFERTILITY IN CONTEMPORARY CULTURE. Michie, Helena & Cahn, Naomi R. Rutgers University Press, 1997.

CONTEMPORARY ANTHOLOGY OF MUSIC BY WOMEN. Briscoe, James R., ed. Indiana University Press, 1997.

CULTIVATING MUSIC IN AMERICA: WOMEN PATRONS AND ACTIVISTS SINCE 1860. Locke, Ralph P., & Barr, Cyrilla, eds. University of California Press, 1997.

DADDY'S GIRL: YOUNG GIRLS AND POPULAR CULTURE. Walkerdine, Valerie. Harvard University Press, 1997.

DAUGHTERS OF THE MOON, SISTERS OF THE SUN: YOUNG WOMEN AND MENTORS ON THE TRANSITION TO WOMANHOOD. Hughes, K. Wind & Wolf, Linda. New Society, 1997. (Address: P.O. Box 3064, Stony Creek, CT 06405.)

DICTIONARY OF WOMEN ARTISTS. 2 VOLS. Gaze, Delia, ed. Fitzroy Dearborn, 1997.

DOUBLE VISION: TWELVE STORIES. Rose, Anne. Psychosocial Press, 1997.

DREAM LOVER. Denison, Lyn. Naiad, 1997.

ECOFEMINIST NATURES: RACE, GENDER, FEMINIST THEORY AND POLITICAL ACTION. Sturgeon, Noel. Routledge, 1997.

THE EIGHTH CONTINENT. Ambert, Alba. Arte Publico, 1997.

ELAINE HEDGES: A TRIBUTE. The Feminist Press, 1997.

EMPOWERMENT AND WOMEN'S HEALTH: THEORY, METHODS AND PRACTICE. Stein, Jane. Zed, 1997.

EUROPEAN WOMEN'S STUDIES GUIDE II. Krops, Claudia, ed. WISE-- Women's International Studies Europe, 1997. 2nd ed.

FAMILY PICTURES: A PHILOSOPHER EXPLORES THE FAMILIAR. Kaplan, Laura Duhan. Open Court, 1998.

(Address: 332 S. Michigan Ave., Suite 2000, Chicago, IL 60604.)

FEATHERLESS CHICKENS, LAUGHING WOMEN, AND SERIOUS STORIES. Thomas, Jeannie B. University Press of Virginia, 1997.

THE FEMINIST ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ITALIAN LITERATURE. Russell, Rinaldina, ed. Greenwood Press, 1997.

FEMINIST ETHICS & SOCIAL POLICY. DiQuinzio, Patrice & Young, Iris Marion, eds. Indiana University Press, 1997.

FEMINIST NATIONALISM. West, Lois A., ed. Routledge, 1997.

THE FEMINIZATION OF FAMINE: EXPRESSIONS OF THE INEXPRESSIBLE? Kelleher, Margaret. Duke University Press, 1997.

FEMME: FEMINISTS, LESBIANS, AND BAD GIRLS. Harris, Laura & Crocker, Elizabeth, eds. Routledge, 1997.

FOR WOMEN AND THE NATION: FUNMILAYO RANSOME-KUTI OF NIGERIA. Johnson-Odim, Cheryl and Nina Emma Mba. University of Illinois Press, 1997.

THE FRACTURED COMMUNITY: LANDSCAPES OF POWER AND GENDER IN RURAL ZAMBIA. Crehan, Kate. University of California Press, 1997.

FTM: FEMALE-TO-MALE TRANS-SEXUALS IN SOCIETY. Devor, Holly. Indiana University Press, 1997.

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GENDER BLENDING. Bullough, Bonnie, et al., eds. Prometheus Books, 1997.

GENDER IN ARCHAEOLOGY: ANALYZING POWER AND PRESTIGE. Nelson, Sarah Milledge. AltaMira, 1997.

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GENDER & NATION. Yuval-Davis, Nira. Sage Publications, 1997.

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A GIFT OF THE EMPEROR. Park, Therese, Spinsters Ink, 1997.

GOD'S DAUGHTERS: EVANGELICAL WOMEN AND THE POWER OF SUBMISSION. Griffith, R. Marie. University of California Press, 1997.

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HANDBOOK ON WOMEN AND AGING. Coyle, Jean M., ed. Greenwood Publishing Group, 1997.

HANNAH ARENDT (II): A BIBLIOGRAPHY. Joan Nordquist, comp. Reference and Research Services, 1997.

A HARD FIGHT FOR WE: WOMEN'S TRANSITION FROM SLAVERY TO

FREEDOM IN SOUTH CAROLINA. Schwalm, Leslie A. University of Illinois Press, 1997.

HATE SPEECH, SEX SPEECH, FREE SPEECH. Wolfson, Nicholas. Praeger, 1997.

HONEY, HUSH!: AN ANTHOLOGY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN'S HUMOR. Dance, Daryl Cumber, ed. Norton, 1998.

AN INDEX TO WOMEN'S STUDIES ANTHOLOGIES: RESEARCH ACROSS THE DISCIPLINES, 1985-1989. Brownmiller, Sara & Dickstein, Ruth. G.K. Hall, 1996.

THE INTERNATIONAL ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SEXUALITY: VOLUME 1: ARGENTINA TO GREECE. Francoeur, Robert T., ed. Continuum, 1997.

THE INTERNATIONAL ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SEXUALITY: VOLUME 2: INDIA TO SOUTH AFRICA. Francoeur, Robert T., ed. Continuum, 1997.

THE INTERNATIONAL ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SEXUALITY: VOLUME 3: SPAIN TO THE UNITED STATES. Francoeur, Robert T., ed. Continuum, 1997.

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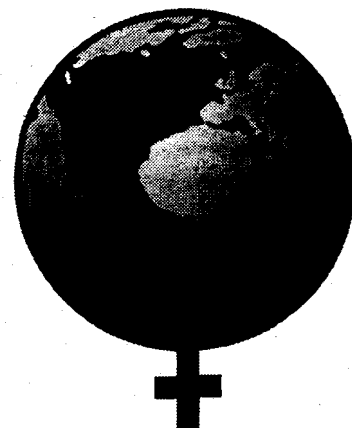
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