

feminist collections

women's studies library resources in wisconsin
vol. 2, no. 1 fall 1980

FROM THE EDITORS

The Office of the Women's Studies Librarian-at-Large is forging new links in feminist communication networks in several different ways. The most recent effort is the publication of a directory, Women's Studies in Wisconsin: Who's Who and Where. (See article on page 7.) Over the summer, Linda Parker, the Librarian-at-Large, participated in two important conferences in which feminist librarians made significant strides toward developing a national communication network--The National Women's Studies Association and the American Library Association.

The National Women's Studies Association (NWSA) was organized in 1977 "to further the social, political, and professional development of women's studies at every educational level and in every educational setting" (NWSA Constitution). Using the theme, "Women: Educating for Change," NWSA held its second annual conference at Indiana University in Bloomington, May 16-20, 1980. Feminist librarians attended NWSA for the same reasons as anyone else--to develop a supportive network which would serve as a stepping-stone for projects designed to build a stronger information base for women's studies research and practice, to disseminate new information, to launch new campaigns for change, to stir new insights, and to nurture their growth as individuals. By participating in this organization, feminist librarians wanted (and will continue) to make themselves visible not only within NWSA but also in their respective communities. As a significant first step toward making feminist librarians a meaningful force within NWSA the Librarian's Task Force was established during the Bloomington conference. The Librarian's Task Force provides a forum for feminist librarians to coordinate program proposals for the next year's conference, to develop a voice for librarians' concerns in NWSA, to sponsor projects

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EDITORS: Linda Parker, Women's Studies Librarian-at-Large and Catherine Loeb,
Women's Studies Specialist. Graphic Artist: Catharina Schimert.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM 112A Memorial Library 728 State St. Madison, WI

THE WOMAN SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT IN CHILDREN'S BOOKS

By Donna Barkman and Susan C. Griffith

The importance of the woman suffrage movement in the study of American history and the search for women's contributions to politics is emphasized by these facts: The phrase "given the vote" is frequently used to embody the movement, when, in the words of Carrie Chapman Catt, women conducted "52 years of pauseless campaign; 56 state referendums; 480 legislative campaigns to get state suffrage amendments submitted; 47 state constitutional convention campaigns; 277 state party convention campaigns; 30 national party convention campaigns to get suffrage planks in the party platforms; 19 campaigns with 19 successive Congresses to get the federal amendment submitted, and the final ratification campaign." Women who actively advocated woman suffrage - suffragists - were, and still are, called suffragettes, which literally means small, feminine imitations of those who advocate suffrage. Leaders of the movement such as Lucy Stone and Sarah and Angelina Grimké have not one individual children's biography while their parallel in historic period and in pursuit of human rights, Frederick Douglass, is the subject of no less than seven. (Even Benedict Arnold, traitor to the United States, is studied in four separate children's books.)

Children's trade books have often provided an alternative to curriculum materials and textbooks in the teaching of social studies. Because of the virtual absence of women from history texts, children's trade books are essential to the examination of the most maligned struggle for human rights ever fought in the United States. Because children's literature also does not offer a wealth of well-written material and because some of the best titles are already out of print, this recommended list of children's trade books is a particularly important source of information for teaching young people about their heritage and about the significant contribution of women to that heritage.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

HISTORIES

Coolidge, Olivia. Women's Rights: The Suffrage Movement in America, 1848-1920. Dutton, 1966. (Out of print)

The issues and events of the woman suffrage movement are chronologically presented within their social, political and economic context. Biographies of movement leaders are deftly interwoven with historic detail. The clarity and vitality of this history affirm the vision, intelligence and spirit of the women who guided and shaped the woman suffrage movement.

Index; illustrated with photographs; further readings list. Grade 7-Adult.

Stevenson, Janet. Women's Rights. Franklin Watts, 1972. (Out of print)

Major events and struggles of the woman suffrage movement in America are highlighted in a brief text. A succinct survey of the movement's historical roots includes information about women activists during the Civil War and about women's fight for equal education.

Index; illustrated with prints and photographs; bibliography.
Grade 3-6.

Warren, Ruth. A Pictorial History of Women in America. Crown, 1975.
\$7.95, ISBN 0-517-51845-7. LC 74-83212.

An examination of the woman suffrage movement is included in this attractive compendium of photographs, prints and information about the history of women in America from the 1600's to the present.

Index; illustrated with prints and photographs; bibliography.
Grade 4-Adult

BIOGRAPHY

Bernard, Jacqueline. Journey Toward Freedom: The Story of Sojourner Truth. Norton, 1967. (Out of print)

The story of Sojourner Truth's life as slave, free woman, abolitionist and feminist is itself unusually engrossing. This biographer has researched it well and fictionalized it with restraint for impressive, even inspiring effect.

Indexed; illustrated; selected bibliography. Grade 9-Adult.

Clarke, Mary Stetson. Bloomers and Ballots: Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Women's Rights. Viking, 1972. \$6.50, ISBN 0-670-17437-8.

This carefully fictionalized rendering of Elizabeth Cady Stanton's life is based on facts "from Mrs. Stanton's own pen." The author eschews the usual "jolly housewife" image and portrays her subject as the courageous, witty, determined fighter for women's suffrage that she was.

Indexed; sources listed. Grade 7-10.

Jacobs, William Jay. Mother, Aunt Susan and Me: The First Fight for Women's Rights. Coward, McCann, & Geoghegan, 1979. \$7.50,
ISBN 0-698-20480-8.

Details of Stanton family life are integrated into this well-documented fictional account of the work of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony as told by Stanton's sixteen-year old daughter Harriot. The use of Harriot as the narrator enables the use of refreshing anecdotes and personal commentary which makes these two suffrage leaders come alive as personalities as well as inspired workers.

Bibliography; illustrated. Grade 3-5.

Mackenzie, Midge, ed. Shoulder to Shoulder: A Documentary. Knopf, 1975.
\$15.00, ISBN 0-394-49734-1; pap. \$8.95, ISBN 0-394-73070-4.

The long battle for suffrage undertaken by British women was splendidly dramatized in all its conflict and violence on a six-part telecast several years ago. This book is based on that production. It uses many striking photographs and sparse text to illuminate the fascinating struggle of the

Pankhurst family, mother and daughters, for women's right to vote. Because of the format, this is an adult book which is accessible to youngsters as well.

Grade 6-Adult.

Meade, Marion. Free Woman: The Life and Times of Victoria Woodhull. Knopf, 1977. \$6.95, ISBN 0-394-83035-0. LC 75-30905.

Victoria Woodhull, feminist revolutionary and outspoken eccentric, was the first woman to run for President of the United States. Frankly partisan, Meade explains and defends Woodhull's flamboyant and, by Victorian standards, immoral behavior. In doing so, she provides the additional service of placing Woodhull in the historical context of the early suffrage movement and its better-known, and more "ladylike" advocates.

Bibliography; epilogue. Grade 7-Adult.

Morrison, Dorothy Nafus. Ladies Were Not Expected: Abigail Scott Duniway and Women's Rights. Atheneum, 1977. \$6.95, ISBN 0-689-30599-0. LC 77-2969.

The mother and total support of six children, Duniway pioneered the fight for women's suffrage in the Territory of Oregon around the turn of the century. This biography, conscientiously documented and "taken from Abigail's own writings" reveals her unlimited vigor and resolve; she established a business, edited a newspaper and, without the support her Northeastern counterparts enjoyed, gained the vote for women.

Index; illustrated; sources listed. Grade 5-7.

Nies, Judith. Seven Women: Portraits from the American Radical Tradition. Viking, 1977. \$8.95, ISBN 0-670-63599-5. Penguin, 1978. pap. \$2.95, ISBN 0-14-004792-1.

A brilliant collection of seven rich and politically astute sketches of radical women, including the shamefully neglected early feminist, Sarah Moore Grimké, as well as Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Dorothy Day, "Mother" Jones, Harriet Tubman, Anna Louise Strong and Charlotte Perkins Gilman. Nies gives these lives connection, political and historical perspective and objective feminist meaning.

Index; selected bibliography, further readings list. Grade 9-Adult.

Oakley, Mary Ann B. Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Feminist Press, n.d. Pap. \$2.95, ISBN 0-912670-03-7. LC72-80249.

Impeccable research marks this unfictionalized portrayal of Elizabeth Cady Stanton as suffragist, abolitionist and political radical. Although shorter than the Clarke biography, it will appeal to an older reader due to its more scholarly approach and more somber prose.

Footnotes; short bibliography. Grade 9-Adult.

Ortiz, Victoria. Sojourner Truth: Self-Made Woman. Lippincott, 1974. \$7.95, ISBN 0-397-31504-X. LC 73-22290.

This biography for middle grades treats both its subject and its readers with respect. Authentic and straightforward, the book manages to be interesting, if not compelling; its text is enhanced by photographs, drawings and reproduction of pertinent documents.

Index; illustrated. Grade 6-Adult.

Sterling, Dorothy. Lucretia Mott: Gentle Warrior. Doubleday, 1964.
(Out of print)

The subtitle and tone of this serviceable biography tend to smooth over the essential anger of Mott, a Quaker minister who seethed at injustice and who initiated dissent. Together with Elizabeth Cady Stanton, she protested women's exclusion from public meetings and founded the early suffrage movement by organizing the Seneca Falls Convention. She spent her life preaching against the horrors of oppression of women, blacks and other minorities.

Bibliography; list of Mott's contemporaries. Grade 7-Adult.

FICTION

Bolton, Carole. Never Jam Today. Atheneum, 1971. Pap. \$0.95, ISBN 0-689-70355-4.

Strong, upper class New Yorker, Maddy Franklin becomes involved in the woman suffrage movement because of her aunt's commitment to the cause. Maddy's own commitment to the movement grows, strengthens and changes as she participates in demonstrations outside the White House and is imprisoned.
Grade 7-12.

Darke, Marjorie. A Question of Courage. Crowell, 1975. \$5.95, ISBN 0-690-00789-2. LC 75-8756.

Emily Palmer, a working-class woman committed to the woman's suffrage movement in England is imprisoned, force fed and harassed on account of her activism. Emily's ambivalent feelings toward violence and the upper classes are skillfully explored in this startling and graphic account of one woman's struggle with the movement.

Grade 7-12.

St. George, Judith. By George, Bloomers. Illustrated by Margot Tomes. Coward, 1976. \$4.69, ISBN 0-698-30601-5. LC 75-22005.

Hannah's "foolish and unladylike" desire to wear bloomers like her aunt and her next door neighbor Amelia Bloomer is achieved only when she must rescue her brother from danger. The simple, enjoyable story is placed in historical perspective by a short, concluding author's note.

Illustrated; author's note. Grade 1-4.

St. George, Judith. The Girl With Spunk. Illustrated by Charles Robinson. Putnam, 1975. \$6.95, ISBN 0-399-20473-3.

Josie Dexter's experiences with an alcoholic stepfather force her to become independent in early adolescence. Her struggles as a domestic worker cause her to consider seriously the decisions she must make to survive. The Seneca Falls Convention provides the background for this narrative which clearly illustrates the limited options faced by girls in the mid-1800's.

Grade 4-6.

Single copies of this bibliography are available to Wisconsin residents for a self-addressed stamped envelope from the Cooperative Children's

Book Center, 4290 Helen C. White Hall, Madison, WI 53706. Persons living out of state should contact: Women's Studies Librarian-at-Large, 112A Memorial Library, 728 State Street, Madison, WI 53706.

(Susan C. Griffith is Director of Program Resources at the Cooperative Children's Book Center. Donna Barkman is a children's material specialist, and the producer of two records for young women, Hurray for Captain Jane! and Other Liberated Stories for Children (Caedmon TC 1455) and Young and Female: Selected Biographies from the Book by Pat Ross (Caedmon TC 1457).

NEWS FROM UW-STOUT

Women's studies at UW-Stout seeks to expand women's options in vocational and professional education in the traditional areas of home economics and early childhood education, the helping profession of vocational rehabilitation, and the non-traditional fields of industrial education and technology. The Women's Studies Committee, composed of faculty, staff, and students from each area, plans and administers women's academic and service programs. In the past year the Women's Studies minor has been expanded and publicized, a directory of community and university services for women compiled and distributed, and a week of springtime workshops offered. Right now a task force is planning courses and network strategies for re-entry women. In the coming year, women's studies people will be guest lecturers in traditional courses, provide in-service programs on instructing women in non-traditional areas, and plan on-site women's studies programs for local workplaces and labor groups. We are committed to promoting activism on the behalf of women in the university and the community.

--Janet Polansky
(Asst. Prof. of English, UW-Stout)

FEMINIST PERIODICALS: A CURRENT LISTING OF CONTENTS

Periodical literature is the cutting edge of women's studies scholarship, feminist theory, and much of women's culture. Yet periodicals remain a weak area in women's studies collections in our libraries, and current budget cuts pose new threats to these fledging collections. In the interest of increasing public access to feminist periodicals, the Office of the Women's Studies Librarian-at-Large is initiating a new bi-monthly publication to be entitled Feminist Periodicals: A Current Listing of Contents. In Feminist Periodicals, we will be reproducing table of contents pages from current issues of major feminist journals held on the UW-Madison campus. Bibliographic data, ordering information, plus a short description of each journal will appear in an introductory annotated list. Among the journals to be included are: Women & Literature, Chrysalis, Feminist

Studies, Frontiers, Off Our Backs, The Second Wave, Signs, and Sinister Wisdom.

It is our hope that Feminist Periodicals will serve several purposes: keep the reader abreast of current topics in feminist literature; to increase readers' familiarity with a wide spectrum of feminist periodicals; and to provide the requisite bibliographic information should a reader wish to subscribe to a journal or request a particular article at her library or through interlibrary loan. (Users will need to be aware of the limitations of the new copyright law with regard to photocopying of copyrighted materials. In any case, copying is clearly no substitute for the process of building public support for more complete library collections of feminist journals.) Feminist Periodicals will be available free of charge from: Women's Studies Librarian-at-Large, 112A Memorial Library, 728 State Street, Madison, WI 53706.

WOMEN'S STUDIES IN WISCONSIN: WHO'S WHO & WHERE

In the fall of 1979, the Office of the Women's Studies Librarian-at-Large undertook to compile a directory of persons involved in women's studies in the state of Wisconsin, with the hope that such a reference source would aid in building the networks which are the foundation of feminist activism and research. Over the course of a year, 1030 persons were directly contacted by our office; many more were reached through announcements in Feminist Collections, University Women (produced by the U.W. System Office of Women), and UW-Extension's Wisconsin Women Newsletter. These contacts resulted in a listing of nearly 500 persons in the recently published directory, Women's Studies in Wisconsin: Who's Who & Where.

The data provided include: name, addresses and phone numbers for home and work; area of specialization; and current research or subjects of interest in women's studies. The directory is indexed by geographic locale, occupation, and area of specialization and interest.

Copies of the directory have been sent to all persons on our mailing list. Additional copies are still available from: Women's Studies Librarian-at-Large, 112A Memorial Library, 728 State Street, Madison, WI 53706.

BLACK WOMEN ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

The State Historical Society of Wisconsin has recently been named one of the repositories for transcripts of interviews from the Black Women Oral History Project. Sponsored by the Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America at Radcliffe College, and funded by grants from the Rockefeller and Blanchard foundations, the Project was initiated in 1976 to collect oral histories of American black women. More than 70 interviews have already been conducted with women who are almost all 70 years old or older, and

whose fields of endeavor range from community organizing, education, social work, and trade unions, to hairstyling, art, and music.

The original tapes, transcripts, and supporting documentation from the Black Women Oral History Project are housed at the Schlesinger Library in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The Historical Society's copies of the transcripts will be part of its non-circulating Social Action Collection. These transcripts will, however, be catalogued, and available to Wisconsin residents through the Wisconsin Area Research Center Network. This Network makes it possible for archival collections usually housed in Madison or at one of the Area Research Centers to be transferred temporarily within the network to accommodate local researchers. Thirteen Centers are located throughout the state, at twelve University of Wisconsin four-year campuses and Northland College at Ashland. For more information about this service, contact: Archives Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 816 State Street, Madison, WI 53706. Transcripts are also available for acquisition at cost by colleges, universities, and other non-profit educational or research institutions. For more information on the Project contact: Patricia King, Director, Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe College, 10 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138.

CROSSING PRESS: NEW FEMINIST SMALL PRESS DISTRIBUTOR

In our editorial for Feminist Collections v.1, no. 3, we lamented the recent demise of Women in Distribution (WIND), a distributor of small press feminist/lesbian books. We are happy to report to our readers that The Crossing Press is now attempting to fill in the gap left by WIND. Editor Nancy K. Bereano writes, "It has been an extremely exhilarating time at Crossing Press since we ... assumed many of the distribution activities previously handled by Women in Distribution (WIND)." The press, operating out of Trumansburg, New York, is distributing feminist titles from Diana Press, Long Haul, Out & Out, Shameless Hussy, South End, Spinsters, Ink., Times Change Press, and several other small presses. Crossing Press has its own Feminist Series as well, and has just issued The Shameless Hussy: Selected Stories, Essays & Poetry by Alta (of Shameless Hussy Press) and Mother, Sister, Daughter, Lover, a collection of stories by Jan Clausen. Write to: The Crossing Press, Trumansburg, New York 14886.

NEW PUBLICATIONS FROM W.E.E.C.N

The Women's Educational Equity Communications Network (Feminist Collections, v.1, no.3, pg.3) has recently published bibliographies on three groups of American women who are largely absent from women's studies literature. As part of the "Resource Roundup" series, Shirley Wong has compiled an annotated bibliography on "Asian/Pacific Women in America" (including Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Filipino, Pacific Islander, and Southeast Asian American women). The bibliography looks at general resources, history,

education and employment, contemporary issues and problems, research/psychological studies, nonprint sources, and organizations and projects. Wong notes that while materials on Asian/Pacific American women are exceedingly scarce (and for some groups, virtually nonexistent), "We hope this resource list will increase the circulation of these few existing works, spark further interest, and generate more research." WEECN's "Network News and Notes" for Spring 1980 looks at American Indian/Alaskan native women, featuring information on conferences, networking, film, and print sources. The third bibliography (also in the "Resource Roundup" series) covers Hispanic women in America--Mexican American, Chicana, and Puertorriqueña. Compiled by Kendra R. Bonnett and Gloria Edmonson, this annotated listing updates WEECN's 1978 bibliography entitled "Hispanic Women and Education: Annotated Selected References and Resources."

As of September 30, 1980, WEECN's contract with the Far West Laboratory for Educational Research and Development in San Francisco will come to an end. Requests for WEECN materials should thereafter be directed to: Dr. Leslie R. Wolfe, Director, Women's Educational Equity Act Program, U.S. Dept. of Education, 1100 Donahoe Building, 400 Maryland Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20202, 202/245-2181. WEECN writes: "The WEEA Program soon will award a new contract for a WEEA Information Resources Center which will continue and expand the information referral and networking activities initiated by WEECN."

THE LESBIAN PERIODICALS INDEX, 1947-

The Circle of Lesbian Indexers is a small group of lesbian women scattered across the country which is working to create a comprehensive author/subject index to a selected number of the more than 100 lesbian periodicals published in the United States since 1947 (the year in which Vice Versa, the earliest known U.S. lesbian periodical, began its limited private publication).

The index will appear serially and will provide complete subject access for the first time to the contents of lesbian journals, which other indexing sources tend either to omit or confine to one or two subject headings (e.g., "Lesbian"). Poems, visual art, short fiction, and letters will be included, as well as news, analysis and criticism. Periodicals are being selected according to their geographic locale, period of publication, and, of course, their availability, with the heaviest concentration dating from the early 1970's. Some of the journals that will be indexed are: Vice Versa, The Ladder, Lavender Woman, The Lesbian Tide, Wicce, Focus, Tres Femmes, The Furies, Amazon Quarterly, The Leaping Lesbian, Out and About, The ALFA Newsletter, The Lesbian Feminist, Point Blank Times, Echo of Sappho, and So's Your Old Lady. It is already extremely difficult--and in some cases virtually impossible--to find these journals. Some have ceased publication altogether. Others cannot keep back issues in print. But, most critical of all, very few libraries collected these publications when they were current and available. The outcome is, ironically, that our contemporary history is being lost, even as feminist researchers comb through archives in their efforts to resurrect a more distantly buried past.

The Circle of Lesbian Indexers envisions the index fulfilling purposes such as the following: to contribute to the process of a developing lesbian culture; to further the creation of reference works in lesbian cultural studies; to facilitate the study and research of lesbian history; to preserve lesbian heritage and fight erasure and invisibility; and to foster a sense of continuity with the lesbian past. The records and materials gathered for the project will be deposited at the Lesbian Herstory Archives in New York City, probably the most complete collection of lesbian journals and other materials in the country.

The important work of this project is currently being done by hand and by entirely volunteer labor. If you have back issues to donate or sell or other clarifying information, would like to be placed on the project's mailing list, or just want to know more about the project, the Circle of Lesbian Indexers invites you to write to them: c/o Clare Potter, 2260 Yale Street, Palo Alto, CA 94306.

-C.L.

PERIODICAL NOTES

Feminist Issues. v.1, no.1, Summer 1980- . Editors: Mary Jo Lakeland and Susan Ellis Wolf. 3 issues/year. Subscriptions: one Year \$15 (individuals); \$25 (institutions); two years: \$28 (indivs.); \$47 (insts.). Single copies: \$5 (indivs.); \$9 (insts.). Published by The Feminist Forum, Inc., Berkeley, California. Produced and distributed by Transaction Periodical Consortium, Rutgers--The State University, New Brunswick, N.J. 08903.

The publication in an English-language edition of the French journal Questions féministes is an event of considerable importance for American feminism. Since 1977, Questions féministes has been at the center of the most crucial debate within the French feminist movement: what meaning should we give to sexual difference, what existing theories should we use (or discard) in our desire to understand male/female, masculine/feminine, man/woman? Questions féministes came into being as a reaction against what its French editors Simone de Beauvoir, Christine Delphy, Colette Guillaumin, Claude Hennequin, Emmanuèle de Lesseps, Nicole-Claude Mathieu, Monique Plaza and Monique Wittig perceived to be the erroneous and dangerous direction taken by Antoinette Fouque, leader of the group "politics and psychoanalysis," in her attempts to use Lacanian psychoanalysis and discourse to explain women's oppression and repression. Questions féministes defines its political perspective as "radical feminist", that is, as inalterably opposed to any attempt at defining woman outside of society, at assuming the naturalness of sexual difference and at exalting femininity. The collective editorial "Variations on Some Common Themes" that opens this first volume is one of the most important and coherent feminist statements to have been written in France, or elsewhere, since the rebirth of the feminist movement in the 1960's. It proposes a praxis, a feminist materialism that informs all the articles in this and subsequent issues. It insists on the inadequacies of existing essentialist and idealist theories of oppression and

liberation and relentlessly points to the insidious consequences of these theoretical positions and their pervasiveness. Feminist Issues will be obligatory reading not only for those who agree with its materialist premises but for all of us who are committed to the expansion of the feminist inquiry.

--- Elaine Marks

(Dr. Elaine Marks is Chairperson of the Women's Studies Program, UW-Madison, and Director of the Program's Women's Studies Research Center. Her most recent books are Homosexualities and French Literature: Cultural Contexts/Critical Texts (co-edited with George Stambolian) and New French Feminisms: An Anthology (co-edited with Isabelle de Courtivron).

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Women & Politics. v.1, no.1, Spring 1980- . Editor: Sarah Slavin Schramm. Quarterly. Subscriptions: \$24 (individuals); \$40 (institutions); \$48 (libraries). Canada: add \$6; other foreign, add \$10 (indivs.), \$15 (libraries/agencies). The Haworth Press, 149 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010.

Women & Politics, a new political science journal, bridges an important and hitherto large gap within the discipline of political science, and between that discipline and women's studies, sociology, and psychology. "Women and politics" is a growing sub-field focusing on women's involvement in and attitudes toward politics, at both the mass and elite levels.

The journal is both scholarly and political, and marks the growth and legitimacy (if not the full acceptance) of studies in this area. The appearance of such a journal in itself represents an important challenge to traditional notions of who and what is political, and who the "proper" subjects for political inquiry are. The success of the journal will also help create incentives and audiences for the pursuit of such research--essential factors if theory about women as leaders and political persons is to become comprehensive, compelling, and integrated with broader questions regarding women's nature, status, oppression, and future.

The contents of the first issue of Women & Politics are diverse and indicative of the range of research which the journal seeks out. The first article, "New Pride and Old Prejudice: Political Ambitions and Role Orientation Among Female Partisan Elites," by Virginia Sapiro (of UW-Madison) and Barbara Farah, is a successful integration of quantitative analysis of role orientation with a theoretical framework grounded in ambition theory, gender role theory and female experiential reality. The conclusions, while not surprising, are well argued and well documented. The research simultaneously challenges conventional interpretations of mass political data and applies conventional forms of political methodology to unconventional questions of political inquiry. "Institutionalization of Female Participation at the Local Level: Commissions on the Status of Women and Agenda-Building," by Debra Stewart, examines local rather than national political behavior of women. Again, a traditional question of political research--How are political agendas built?--was asked

of a political body usually ignored in mainstream research and of issues which hold special concern for women. The third article, "An Analysis of the U.S. Women's Rights Movements: Rights as a Public Good," by Nancy McGlen and Karen O'Connor, analyzes the women's rights movements of the U.S. through a review of social movement literature--a literature rarely taken seriously by the political science discipline and even more rarely applied to the women's movement. A bibliography on "Women in the American Political System" by Sarah Slavin Schramm, editor of Women & Politics, rounds out the issue.

The first issue of Women & Politics is well worth study by any student/scholar of political science or women's studies. It has substantial merit, both for its subject matter and its academic rigor. Politically and academically, it is a valuable contribution to the study of women and politics.

--- Claire K. Fulenwider

(Claire K. Fulenwider is author of the recent book, Feminism in American Politics: A Study of Ideological Influence (Praeger, 1980). She is currently principal investigator for energy policy studies at the Wisconsin Center for Public Policy and a member of the Women's Studies Program, UW-Madison. Fulenwider has a PhD in political science from UW-Madison.)

BOOK REVIEWS

SOCIOBIOLOGY: RECENT LITERATURE AND FEMINIST CRITICISM

- David Barash, Sociobiology and Behavior. New York: Elsevier, 1977. \$12.95, ISBN 0-444-99029-1; pap., \$6.95, ISBN 0-444-99036-4.
- David Barash, The Whisperings Within. New York: Harper & Row, 1979. \$12.50, ISBN 0-06-010341-8. LC 78-20155.
- Richard Dawkins, The Selfish Gene. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1976. \$8.95, ISBN 0-19-857519-X; pap., \$3.50, ISBN 0-19-520000-4. LC 76-29168.
- Ruth Hubbard, Mary Sue Henifin, and Barbara Fried, eds., Women Look at Biology Looking at Women: A Feminist Critique. Cambridge: Schenkman, 1979. pap., \$7.95, ISBN 0-87073-896-8.
- Ruth Hubbard and Marian Lowe, eds., Genes and Gender II: Pitfalls in Research on Sex and Gender. New York: Gordian Press, 1979. pap., \$6.95, ISBN 0-87752-219-7. LC 78-50640.
- Edward O. Wilson, Sociobiology: The New Synthesis. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1975. \$25.00, ISBN 0-674-81621-8. LC 74-83910.

The fact that women have been absent until recently from the written accounts of civilization as both subjects, that is, as the writers and doers, and also as the objects of serious investigation and study has not restrained any culture or era from creating a body of myths, conjectures and images of Woman. While the particular forms of the myths and styles of the images have changed within the context of each culture and historical epoch, the theme has remained the same at least since the time of Aristotle: woman as

inferior being. An integral part of the patriarchal ideology that has created the mythology of women's nature and her inferiority has been the science that each culture produces. Together ideology and science are powerful allies in defense of the status quo.

An important function which various sciences have served - biology, anthropology, primatology - is to "demonstrate" that sex differences in behaviors and characteristics and, in particular, the different social roles and positions assigned to women and to men are based on our different biological natures. Sociobiology, the modern version of biological determinism, announced by E.O. Wilson in 1975 as the "systematic study of the biological basis of all social behavior" (1), views human behaviors and social organization as being not only biologically but evolutionarily inevitable. Sociobiologists believe that all behaviors simply reflect the drive of our genes to reproduce themselves through their manipulations of our bodies (hence the title of Richard Dawkins's book, The Selfish Gene). Another key concept in sociobiology is that women have a much larger biological investment in each offspring than do men because their eggs are 85,000 times larger than sperm and because they can produce no more than one offspring every year or two, whereas men could sire offspring at hourly or daily intervals. From this differential biological investment (it is argued) flow any number of characteristics, behaviors and arrangements: women's coyness, choosiness, and domesticity; men's fickleness, promiscuity, and adultery. It explains as well polygyny, the sexual double standard, male aggressivity and dominance hierarchies. As Richard Dawkins says:

The female sex is exploited, and the fundamental evolutionary basis for the exploitation is the fact that eggs are larger sperms. (2)

And another sociobiologist, David Barash writes:

Sociobiology relies heavily upon the biology of male-female differences and upon the adaptive behavioral differences that have evolved accordingly. Ironically, mother nature appears to be a sexist. (3)

Even recognizing science as both a contributor to and a reflection of the dominant ideology, it is striking to see that sociobiologists (particularly Barash in his latest book, The Whispering Within) single out burning contemporary feminist issues for "explanation". Rape is one example. After describing pollination of flowers and forced mating by ducks as instances of "rape", Barash says:

Perhaps human rapists, in their own criminally misguided way, are doing the best they can to maximize their fitness. If so, they are not that different from the sexually excluded bachelor mallards. (4)

Barash's treatment of rape serves two purposes for sociobiology: to establish that rape is biological and hence natural, and to defuse rape as an urgent

political issue which has at its heart male violence and misogyny. It is also an example of the more general affliction of sociobiology - its shoddy methodology - as seen in its logic, the language it uses and the questions it asks, its interpretations and conclusions, and in its ethnocentric, androcentric and anthropocentric biases.

For the past few years feminist scientists have been criticizing biological determinist theories. Some of their writings appear in two recent anthologies, Genes and Gender II: Pitfalls in Research on Sex and Gender and Women Look at Biology Looking at Women. These important works provide critiques of such areas of investigation as primatology, brain lateralization, aggressivity and dominance, brain-hormone-behavior interactions, and sexuality. They make a significant contribution in unmasking the fiction that science is an objective and value-free pursuit of truth and help in the task facing all feminist scholars of destroying mind-crippling representations of women.

1. Wilson, E.O. Sociobiology, p. 4.
2. Dawkins, R. The Selfish Gene, p. 158
3. Barash, D. Sociobiology and Behavior, p. 283.
4. Barash, D. The Whisperings Within, p. 55.

--- Ruth Bleier

(Ruth Bleier is Professor in the Dept. of Neurophysiology and the Women's Studies Program at UW-Madison. She is author of "Social and Political Bias in Science: An Examination of Animal Studies and Their Generalizations to Human Behavior and Evolution", which appeared in Genes and Gender II, and is currently writing a book which discusses sexist biases in the biological sciences, and the flawed methodologies of biological determinist theories of the behaviors and social relationships of women and men.)

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Remley, Mary L. Women in Sport: A Guide to Information Sources. Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1980. \$28.00, ISBN 0-8103-1461-4. LC 80-14773. CIP.

While the number of publications on sports and leisure time activities has mushroomed during the last decade, there has not been a concurrent rise in the degree of bibliographical control of these publications. The two most well-known indexes--Completed Research in Health, Physical Education and Recreation and Index and Abstracts of Foreign Physical Education Literature-- have ceased publication. The access to information about women in these two indexes was meagre at best (Completed Research had a subject index term "women" but relatively few citations under this heading) and virtually non-existent at worst (Index and Abstracts of Foreign Physical Education Literature had no entries for women in either its general subject index or its table of contents page, even though a scan of the entries produces citations about women.) The recent Physical Education/Sports Index (Albany, NY: Marathon Press, v.1-, 1978-) indexes 100 journals in the fields of sports medicine, physical fitness, exercise, physiology, coaching, refereeing, teaching, administration, recreation, leisure studies, adapted physical education,

and the history, psychology, philosophy, and sociology of sport. There are liberal uses of "women" as a subdivision within the major categories cited above, but there is no section in which one can find all of the references on women and sports. Physical Education/Sports Index appears to be behind in its production schedule, which leads one to the indispensable Women Studies Abstracts for current access to periodical articles on this topic. A plethora of subject terms greets the researcher--"athletes", "physical capabilities", "sports", etc.

Mary J. Remley's Women in Sport: A Guide to Information Sources is the first attempt to identify and record the books, periodicals, audiovisual materials, and conference reports about women in sports and recreation. (Theses, dissertations, and periodical articles are excluded from this bibliography. Bibliography of Research Involving Female Subjects (National Association of Girls and Women in Sport, Research Committee, 1974) should be consulted for a listing of theses and dissertations written from 1940-1974 about women in physical education, health, and recreation.) The book's information sources are organized into four main sections: part 1 provides an annotated listing of general reference works; part 2, biographies (many of which are appropriate for juvenile readers); part 3, techniques of instruction; part 4, periodicals, films, and other sources of information. A majority of the citations have descriptive and evaluative annotations. Most of the publications date from the 1970s, with many references to books published in 1979. The introduction, while brief, does clearly state the purpose of the book--"...to determine just what kinds of material did exist and to collect and annotate as much as possible," and to "...serve as an inspiration for others to contribute to the literature on the subject and thus help fill the gaps that still exist." Introductions at the beginning of each section explain the scope of each chapter. An addendum lists titles which were published after the completion of the manuscript or which were missed in the original search for references. There are three separate indexes--author, title, and subject. The author index lists the names of all authors, editors, and compilers cited in the text. The title index includes shortened versions of the titles. The subject index covers major topics only.

Remley's bibliography is a basic reference tool which satisfies the needs of teachers, researchers, and sports participants. This tool should be a part of every reference collection.

--- L.P.

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Liberty's Women. Edited by Robert McHenry. Springfield, MA: G & C Merriam Co., 1980. \$15.00, ISBN 0-87779-064-7. LC 79-23772. CIP.

Where are the women in American history? That traditional history recounts the history of men is a commonplace. A first step in writing herstory is to identify the lost women who have made up the fabric of American life. The major biographical source which sets the standard for contemporary works is

Notable American Women, edited by Edward T. James, Janet Wilson James, and Paul S. Boyer, (Cambridge, MA: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1971. 3 vols. \$90.00; paper, \$25.00) (The companion volume is Notable American Women: The Modern Period, 1980, \$35.00.) The excellent, lengthy essays by subject specialists, the fine introduction and historical survey, and the valuable bibliographical notes concluding each entry make this reference work the place to begin in the search for biographical information. Liberty's Women, a new biographical dictionary, must be judged in the context of the standards of excellence set by Notable American Women.

Liberty's Women has 1022 entries about historical and contemporary women. The dates of coverage are from 1587 through the 1970s. The entries average 400 words in length and for each subject gives date and place of birth; a brief description of the subject's education, her career and accomplishments, and the historical context and significance of her work; place and date of death of deceased subjects; and current activities of living persons. Information about the subjects' marriages and families is included when a change of name occurs, when a significant impact on the career results, or when the spouse (or child) is a notable figure. The introductory matter is brief but clearly explains the scope and format of the book. The index is divided into two parts--(1) an index of biographees classified by occupation or field of endeavor, and (2) an index of the principal institutions and organizations that were founded, headed, or significantly influenced by the biographees.

Several defects mar the usefulness of Liberty's Women. In terms of coverage, there are two important oversights--Gloria Steinem and Florence Howe. These are strange omissions in view of McHenry's claim that the book "brings together the stories of a number of remarkable women who, by adapting to, ignoring, or struggling against the restrictions laid on them, compiled striking records of accomplishment and not infrequently made lasting impressions on their time." McHenry should not have neglected the influence of Ms. and the Feminist Press on the contemporary women's movement.

There are problems in the content of the entries. McHenry states in the introduction his intention to give the historical context and significance of the subject's work; however, he often enumerates events in a biographee's life without clearly stating the person's importance in her field of endeavor. Furthermore, the lack of bibliographical notes (such as those included in Notable American Women) proves to be frustrating in one's search for additional information about the subject.

The indexes should be used with caution because there are some inconsistencies. For example, Bella Abzug is listed under the categories "Feminists and Suffragists" and "Public Officials", but not under "Lawyers" even though she practiced law for 23 years. Betty Friedan is listed under the category "Authors", but not under "Feminists and Suffragists". The 5 librarians listed in the classified index all lived and worked in the first half of the twentieth century. No contemporary feminist librarians are included.

With these limitations in mind, Liberty's Women is recommended for comprehensive collections in women's studies, and, because of its moderate price, for small collections as well.

For more information about contemporary individuals, the researcher should also consult Biography Index (which has a heading "Feminists" in its occupational index), Who's Who of American Women, and Women Studies Abstracts.

--- L.P.

FROM THE EDITORS

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relating to the development of reference sources about women, and to work with the feminist caucus of the American Library Association. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Librarians' Task Force, please send your name and address to Linda Parker.

Eighty feminist librarians attended the American Library Association's (ALA) preconference on women, "Women in a Woman's Profession--Strategies II," June 25-27 in New Brunswick, N.J. A primary goal of the preconference was to develop political strategies for implementing feminist programs in the Association. This approach was highly successful and resulted in the ALA membership passing all of the resolutions sponsored by the feminists attending the preconference. The highlights of the resolutions include (1) adding "discrimination and sexual harassment" to the ALA program of Action for Mediation, Arbitration, and Inquiry, (2) endorsement of free child care at ALA conferences, (3) requiring affirmative action reports for accreditation of graduate programs in library science, (4) support of the worldwide Nestle boycott, (5) instructing the ALA Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship to develop continuing coalitions of occupational organizations (including unions) in which women predominate, (6) charging ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom and the ALA Washington Office to work together to prevent the passage of the Family Protection Act, and (7) providing funds for two ALA members to be trained at the University of Washington Career and Development Center who will in turn train others to staff the ALA Placement Office during conferences.

During the ALA conference proper, the Reference and Adult Services Division's Women Library Users and Women's Materials Discussion Group examined the different types of information services available to women. Linda Parker described the services of the Women's Studies Librarian-at-Large. Jane Williamson outlined the goals of the Women's Action Alliance: to work for full equality for all persons regardless of sex; to educate the public on feminist issues; and to assist, support, and sponsor feminist programs, issues, and actions. Gurley Turner defined the purposes of Catalyst as helping women choose, launch, and advance their careers; providing career guidance to women; assisting employers with the recruitment, assimilation and upward mobility of women; and offering an informed perspective on women and employment to legislators, educators, and the media.

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Women in the Great Lakes region (Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin) who are interested or involved in feminist education can join the Great Lakes Women's Studies Association (GLWSA), our regional branch of the National Women's Studies Association. Participating in the activities of the Great Lakes Women's Studies Association will enable us to establish personal and professional connections with other women's studies people in our area, and to pool our efforts more directly to further the development of feminist education in classrooms, libraries, community centers throughout our region. For membership in the Great Lakes Women's Studies Association and a subscription to the GLWSA Newsletter send \$3 low income/\$5 "regular" income to Beth Stafford, 510 South Elm #7, Champaign, IL 61820. (Submitted by Angelika Bammer, Representative, GLWSA).

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The Office of the Women's Studies Librarian-at-Large has a new staff member. Carolyn Platt has been hired to share with Cathy Loeb the new full-time position of Assistant to the Women's Studies Librarian-at-Large. Carolyn has a B.A. in Women's studies and psychology and is presently completing her master's degree in library science. Before coming to Madison, she worked for the UW-Milwaukee Office of Women's Studies as program bibliographer. Carolyn has also worked with the Special Collection on Wisconsin Women Artists (see Feminist Collections, v.1, n.1, p.2). Her responsibilities will include promoting the use of the Women's Studies Union List (see Feminist Collections, v.1, n.1, p.3), developing a data base searching service for women's studies researchers, and compiling subject bibliographies.

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The editors of Feminist Collections wish to call readers' attention to our new quarterly publication schedule (Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer), beginning with the current issue, v.2, n.1. We also want to invite all our readers to consider contributing to Feminist Collections. Articles on women's studies activities in the state, feminist collection development, issues affecting women in libraries, summaries of on-going or completed women's studies research, book reviews, letters--any of these would be welcome and would help to establish the statewide communication network we are working toward. A copy of our editorial guidelines is available from the Office. We reserve the right to edit and/or revise manuscripts as needed, in consultation with the author.

Feminist Collections is a publication of the Office of the Women's Studies Librarian-at-Large for the University of Wisconsin System, 112A Memorial Library, 728 State Street, Madison, WI 53706. Phone (608) 263-5754. Editors: Linda Parker, Women's Studies Librarian-at-Large; Catherine Loeb, Women's Studies Specialist. Feminist Collections is published quarterly--Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer--and is available to individuals and institutions at no charge. Unsolicited articles or reviews are welcome.