

feminist collections

women's studies library resources in wisconsin
vol. 2, no. 4 summer 1981

FROM THE EDITORS

The third annual National Women's Studies Association (NWSA) convention was held from May 31 through June 4, 1981, at the University of Connecticut-Storrs. In reviewing the publicity and conference program, I am struck by the similarity between the goals of NWSA and those of the Women's Studies Librarian-at-Large. The NWSA Constitution states that the organization is designed "to further the social, political, and professional development of women's studies at every educational level and in every educational setting." In a similar vein, the Women's Studies Librarian-at-Large, a position created in 1977 (the same year as the founding of NWSA), provides an information and advocacy service to women's studies faculty, women's studies programs, librarians, students, and the general university community.

NWSA tries to achieve its educational goals by several means. Through its national and regional conferences, people have an opportunity to exchange pragmatic information. For example, under the theme "Women Respond to Racism," participants in the 1981 conference examined the conjunction of racism and sexism from an interdisciplinary and multi-cultural perspective. In addition to its annual conferences, NWSA has developed a service learning project which is designed to take women's studies from the classroom to the community. NWSA also offers several publications for sale--the 1980 conference program, The Women's Studies Service Learning Handbook, and the proceedings from the 1979 conference. The Feminist Press, in collaboration with the National Women's Studies Association, publishes the Women's Studies Quarterly.

At the 1980 NWSA conference in Bloomington, Indiana, the Librarians' Task Force was created. At the 1981 conference in Storrs, the Task Force met again to explore ways to insure access to information not only through well-recognized

Continued on page seven

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

RADICAL ARCHIVING: THE LESBIAN HERSTORY ARCHIVES

". . . I want you to see that there is a passion in what we do," wrote Joan Nestle to Judith Schwarz, in response to Judith's initial inquiries about the Lesbian Herstory Archives (LHA).¹ A sense of passionate purpose and dedication comes through powerfully in all LHA statements and writings. The LHA calls what they do "radical archiving," and many of their principles represent substantial departures from conventional archiving practices. Their goals go far beyond the task of collecting materials on lesbian life and culture. The LHA wants to alter our very conceptions of the place of culture in our lives. Some of the core principles guiding the LHA are:

- *"All lesbian women must have access to the archives; no credentials for usage or inclusion, race and class must be no barrier";
- *"The archives should be housed within the community, not on an academic campus that is by definition closed to many women";
- *"The archives should be involved in the political struggles of the Lesbian people";
- *"Archival skills shall be taught, one generation of Lesbians to another, breaking the elitism of traditional archives";
- *"The community should share in the work of the archives";
- *"The archives will collect the prints of all our lives, not just preserve the records of the famous or the published";²
- *"funding is sought from within the community the archives serves, rather than from outside sources.

Joan Nestle has summarized these principles with the statement, "Our concept is a living grassroots Archives that is open to all its people, the Lesbian people, that creates culture and supports the people's struggles while it preserves their memories."³

Lesbians and lesbian culture have been historically invisible. Not only has there been a tragic failure to collect and preserve the records of lesbian lives; in cases where such records have been saved, the reluctance of archivists to use the word "lesbian" (or an equivalent) to describe the collections has made their identification a formidable task. Even the recent, long-awaited Women's History Sources: A Guide to Archives and Manuscript Collections in the United States edited by Andrea Hinding (Bowker, 1979) lists only one collection (from among over 18,000) under the index term "lesbianism." A woman who worked as a writer for the Women's History Sources project concluded, "I'm afraid lesbian researchers will have to wade through the 1095 pages of entries with their intuitions as their primary guide."⁴ The motto of the LHA is "In memory of the voices we have lost," and the desire to retrieve lost voices and restore visibility is at the heart of the LHA endeavor. Joan Nestle writes, "The roots of the Archives lie in the silenced voices, the love letters destroyed, the pronouns changed, the diaries carefully edited, the pictures never taken, the euphemized distortions that patriarchy would let pass."⁵

Founded in 1974, the Archives has developed and grown within the rooms of a New York City apartment shared by LHA collective members Deborah Edel and Joan Nestle. (Other current collective members are Valerie Itnyre, Judith Schwarz, and Georgia Brooks.) Deborah, Joan and Judith have made a lifetime commitment to the Archives. Most fundamentally, the LHA is subsidized by its collective members, who all work full-time jobs to support themselves and the Archives. It is inspiring and awesome to contemplate the energy these women are willing and able to put into the Archives above and beyond their employment commitments. There is, of course, a daily flow of filing, cataloging, and correspondence to be attended to as the collections are developed. In addition, LHA women are involved in:

- * daily tours of the Archives, currently numbering around 500 a year;
- * publication of a periodic newsletter;
- * development of bibliographies and slide shows;
- * presentation of the regular LHA slide show to groups of women across the country;
- * fund-raisers, including a cultural series entitled "At Home With the Archives";
- * facilitation of study groups;
- * creation of a poster series commemorating lesbian images;
- * provision of reference services and bibliographies to students and teachers;
- * lending support to and sharing information with developing regional archives.⁶

The Lesbian Herstory Archives Newsletter is an invaluable source of information on the work of lesbian researchers and archivists across the United States, as well as on Archives activities. Every issue includes a listing of the Archives' holdings on some aspect of lesbian culture. Past topics have included: serial media with lesbian content; lesbian, feminist and gay bibliographies; lesbian paperbacks from the 1930s-1950s; the LHA poetry and short story collections; the tape collection; and a guide to current lesbian periodicals. The Archives' special collections, described in LHA Newsletter 6, include materials of Adrienne Rich, Becky Birtha, the New York branch of the Daughters of Bilitis, Elsa Gidlow, Joanna Russ, Tee Corinne, and many others. While original copies of back issues are no longer available, the LHA will provide xeroxed copies at cost. Donations are requested for current subscriptions (3 issues: \$3.00 for individuals; \$6.00 minimum for institutions; checks payable to the Lesbian Herstory Educational Foundation, Inc., or LHEF).

The growth of the Archives is such that it will one day spill out of the apartment where it was born and demand a home of its own. The LHA women hope eventually to be able to raise sufficient funds to purchase a building to house the Archives and a lesbian cultural center. Yet another dream is that they will find a way to microfilm the rare sources they are collecting. For the moment, however, they are concentrating on establishing and building the collection. Their newsletter is packed with entreaties to readers to send in the materials of their lives--photos, letters, diaries, student papers, tapes, newspaper clippings, issues of journals and newsletters, old lesbian books, descriptions of lesbian culture pre-1970. The LHA is determined that the Archives maintain its spirit and its openness to all women as it grows:

It wouldn't be our Archives if you ever needed a letter of referral to be able to use it or if there wasn't a place for women to rest when they were tired or to eat when they were hungry. . . .And our Archives will never be turned into a woman's archives or a gay archives. But will be the one place that the word, the noun, lesbian will echo through the generations.⁷

You can reach the Lesbian Herstory Archives at P.O. Box 1258, New York, N.Y. 10116, (212) 874-7232.

-- C.L.

Notes

- ¹ Joan Nestle. Letter to Judith Schwarz, 26 Nov. 1977. Lesbian Herstory Archives Newsletter no. 6 (July 1980), p.11.
- ² Joan Nestle, "Radical Archiving: A Lesbian Feminist Perspective." Gay Insurgent no.4/5 (Spring 1979); excerpts reprinted as an LHA flier.
- ³ Joan Nestle, quoted in an interview with Beth Hodges. Sinister Wisdom no.13 (Spring 1980), p.102.
- ⁴ Wendy S. Larson. Comments on Women's History Sources. Matrices v.3, no.3 (May 1980), p.5; repr. Lesbian Herstory Archives Newsletter no.6 (July 1980), pp.8-9.
- ⁵ Joan Nestle, "About the Archives." Lesbian Herstory Archives Newsletter no.5 (Spring 1979), p. [1].
- ⁶ Some of these regional archives are listed in the Lesbian Herstory Archives Newsletter no.5 (Spring 1979), p.[4].
- ⁷ Joan Nestle, quoted in an interview with Beth Hodges. Sinister Wisdom no.11 (Fall 1979), p.9.

Sources on the Lesbian Herstory Archives

- Bennet, Paula. "Focus On: The Lesbian Herstory Archives." Focus (Feb.-March 1979), p.8.
- Lehman, J. Lee. "The Lesbian Herstory Archives." The Advocate (April 15, 1979), p.15.
- Nestle, Joan. "Radical Archiving: A Lesbian Feminist Perspective." Gay Insurgent no.4/5 (Spring 1979), p.10.
- Nestle, Joan, and Deborah Edel. Interview by Beth Hodges, Parts 1 and 2. Sinister Wisdom no.11 (Fall 1979), pp.2-13, and Sinister Wisdom no.13 (Spring 1980), pp.101-105.
- Schwarz, Judith. "Living Herstory." Off Our Backs (May 1979), p.20.
- Sturgis, Susanna. "Women's Night Out." In our Own Write (June 1979), p.5.

FEMINIST BOOKSTORES IN WISCONSIN _____

This is the second in our series of articles on feminist bookstores in Wisconsin. The first article, on A Room of One's Own in Madison, appeared in Feminist Collections v.2, no.3 (Spring 1981). The third article in the series will describe Sistermoon Feminist Books & Art in Milwaukee, and will be published v.3, no.1 (Fall 1981).

MOTHER COURAGE BOOKSTORE AND ART GALLERY IS A PERSONAL STATEMENT

As the "personal is the political", we, Jeanne Arnold and Barbara Lindquist, are Mother Courage Bookstore and Art Gallery. Our personal histories made us feminists who saw the need to open this store.

The business is formed as a partnership. Jeanne works full time as the director of communications at a local hospital and I manage the book store.

People ask us why we named our store "Mother Courage" and we always say, "Well, there's the anti-war play by Bertolt Brecht; there used to be a feminist restaurant in New York by that name featured in Rita Mae Brown's "In Her Day;" and we're both mothers with courage. Besides, it's a catchy name."

Both Jeanne and I came to feminism by long and circuitous routes. We met nearly twenty years ago when we were Sunday school teachers at the Unitarian Church in Racine. Jeanne has two children and I have four. Jeanne worked many years before her children were born, and off and on during her twenty-five year marriage. I got pregnant during the first year of my twenty-one year marriage, and, except for a year or so of substitute teaching, only had a part-time job during the last year I was married. Divorced six years ago, I was that person known as "the displaced homemaker." Jeanne and I reestablished our friendship about seven years ago and discovered we had "come a long way baby."

In our consciousness-raising experiences we shared a couple of TA marathon workshops, a women's rap group, several Wisconsin Women in the Arts conferences and lots of books and magazines that are the bibles of the women's movement. We had become very committed feminists.

Just before Jeanne's divorce three years ago, we conceived Mother Courage. As a member of Wisconsin Women In the Arts, I was invited to show my paintings at "A Room of One's Own" in Madison. We spent some time there with the exhibit and over dinner at Lysistrata we struck a spark about opening our own feminist bookstore in Racine. Jeanne and I decided to put our divorce money where our mouth was as far as the feminist movement was concerned.

Mother Courage opened in October of 1978 after months of sheer hard labor. We located in a storefront in Jeanne's father's building that hadn't seen a clean-up since 1950 or so. The roof leaked badly. There were only a couple of old lights. The floor was black with grime. The place was piled high with old stock, boxes and debris. We cleaned, painted, sanded and lit it up. I built the bookshelves and the counters. And I began organizing the business: ordering the inventory,

setting up accounting procedures, doing all the tons of things that go into opening a business. I also went to the American Bookseller's Association beginner bookseller school for a weekend of intensive training in Colorado. Neither Jeanne nor I had been in business before; we had never done anything like accounting, or taxes, or ordering or form filing. We had never worked in a bookstore, and, except for some salesclerking experience back in our high school and college days, didn't know a damn thing about the retail book business.

Well, we're still here. We have survived fairly well, except for a lot more gray hair and a bad case of anxiety neurosis. Our situation differs greatly from A Room of One's Own in Madison and Milwaukee's Sistermoon. Both Madison and Milwaukee have very strong feminist communities. Not so Racine. Even though we are fifteen minutes away from the University of Wisconsin-Parkside and about the same distance from Carthage College, the feminist community here is in its early growth stage. Parkside has only recently instituted a women's studies program. Gateway Technical Institute has a Wo/man's Bureau. (It used to be a Woman's Bureau).

When we first opened, we were concerned about calling ourselves "feminist"--although we obviously are. Our rationale was that we did not wish to turn anyone off. If we could reach any woman anywhere who was beginning to think positively about the feminist movement but was sometimes afraid to call herself a feminist, we wanted to reach that woman. We call ourselves a "full service general bookstore specializing in books for women," and we feature the largest collection of sailing books in the area. We do so for two reasons. First, because I am a sailor, and secondly, because our location is very close to four recreational marinas on the Root River. The other day a young man came in the store to look at our sailing books. While he and I talked class sail boats, his female companion browsed around and finally bought It's Your Body: Woman's Guide to Gynecology. I wondered afterwards whether she would have come in the store by herself to buy that book.

We do business with Parkside's students and instructors, Gateway, Racine Unified School District (they just ran a series of workshops on sexism and gender identity in the schools) and handle textbooks for St. Luke's School of Nursing. We have sponsored poetry readings, book talks, autograph parties, tarot card reading lessons, book fairs and tables, and a newsletter. We provide space in our tiny, elevated gallery for women artists. We have had opening parties, special events and wine and cheese hospitality afternoons. We hold an annual Susan B. Anthony birthday party. We carry posters, records of women's music, buttons and bumperstickers, notecards and so on, but on a much more limited basis than A Room of One's Own or Sistermoon due to limitations of space and capital.

Financially we operate on a very tight cash flow budget--we are not in hock; we are abreast of all our bills; but we cannot increase our inventory at the rate we would like nor pay me a living wage. We have reached a point in our business where we are wanting to grow to better serve the women in our community and are looking for creative ways to do it. One of our goals is to bring some volunteers into the store to help. Up until now we have done it alone, because we didn't want to exploit women if we were going to be making money ourselves.

Now that we know the realities of operating a business, seeking volunteers no longer seems exploitative. Last year I was only able to draw \$1753 from the business and that included \$708 in paid health insurance. If Jeanne and I were not living together it would be impossible for me to continue operating the store.

We hope that our local women's community will rally around us if we are able, with volunteer help, to keep the store open evenings and Sundays (and also give me some freedom during the day). We can then plan more outreach programs, more in store programs and more interaction with more committed women.

When I was a kid, I once entertained some silly ideas of being a missionary. Well, the thought just crossed my mind that here in Racine, Jeanne and I are feminist missionaries. I just hope that to survive and to grow we don't have to do as Robin Tyler suggests on her record "Always a Bridegroom Never a Bride": "P.S. Move to a big city."

-- Barbara Lindquist

[Mother Courage Bookstore and Art Gallery is located at 224 State Street, Racine, Wisconsin 53403, phone (414) 632-3120.]

FROM THE EDITORS

continued from page one

means of library service but also through the development of innovative methods of information dissemination. In keeping with NWSA's purpose of education for change, the Librarians' Task Force developed the following goals:

- to provide a forum for feminist librarians within NWSA;
- to develop a feminist approach to the practice of librarianship;
- to create the structure for a coalition of feminist librarians in NWSA and with other organizations;
- to develop programming about libraries and library services for the national and regional conventions of NWSA;
- to establish communications between feminist librarians and other groups/caucuses within NWSA;
- to initiate new reference tools for/about women's studies information needs;
- to coordinate national information resource projects in women's studies;
- to educate the feminist community about the role of librarians as information specialists in the feminist movement;
- to advise/participate in grant applications for information-related projects.

NWSA and the Librarians' Task Force provide a mechanism through which librarians can participate in a national network of feminist information specialists who are developing diverse projects. For example, during this year's conference I viewed a demonstration of the automated National Women's Mailing List. A non-profit project of the Women's Information Exchange, the National Women's Mailing List is a computerized data bank of mailing labels which can be sorted according to geography, demography, or interest areas. The National Women's Mailing List uses computer tech-

nology to develop communication networks for feminist organizations and their supporters. Since both individuals and groups are listed, this data bank has already become an invaluable information resource for feminists. To describe the National Women's Mailing List in more detail, the Women's Information Exchange has provided a brochure which is enclosed in this mailing.

A major goal of NWSA is to educate for social change. With skills in computer technology, cataloging, and reference service, the Librarian-at-Large can join with other feminist librarians in bringing this change closer to reality.

-- L.P.

PERIODICAL NOTES

FEMINIST REVIEW MEDIA

As we've often emphasized in the pages of this newsletter, small press publishing is the backbone of the feminist print movement. Small presses are typically shoe-string enterprises, staffed largely by volunteers, operating out of private living rooms and basements on inefficient, outmoded presses, and lacking in the funds available to commercial presses for publicity, bookkeeping, large-scale distribution, discounts, and so on. Thus, those interested in following feminist small press literature--bibliographers, booksellers, professors, individual readers--commonly find that simply keeping track of feminist presses and publications presents a sizeable challenge. Conventional review media used by libraries and booksellers--Library Journal, Choice, Publisher's Weekly, The New York Times Book Review, The New York Review of Books--have devoted increasing attention to women's publications over the last decade. However, their emphasis tends to be almost exclusively commercial women's studies publications and their reviewers may or may not be well read in feminist literature. The Small Press Review is geared to the "alternative" literature often overlooked by mainstream review media, but relatively few women's publications appear in its pages. Happily, a number of feminist review periodicals have sprung up to fill the gap. It is these reviewing sources that are the focus of this column of "Periodical Notes."

In the annotated listing below, I have chosen to include only those periodicals with an exclusive or primary emphasis on reviews. Missing, therefore, are the many fine feminist journals which provide reviews along with other varied offerings--Signs, Feminist Studies, Sinister Wisdom, Conditions, Frontiers, Ms., Off Our Backs, Sojourner, to name but a few.

-- C.L.

* * * * *

New Women's Times Feminist Review.

1978- . 6 issues/year (supplement to New Women's Times, a monthly publication).
Subscriptions (to NWT): \$15.(indiv.); \$30 (inst.). Back issues: \$3 each. Subscription address: New Women's Times, 804 Meigs Street, Rochester, NY 14620.

Editors: Debbie Drechsler, Martha Gever, Karen A. Hagberg, Susan Jordan, Beverly LaBelle MJ Roy, Gail Seneca, Marli Weiner.

The New Women's Times Feminist Review (NWTFR) appears six times a year as a supplement to the monthly feminist newspaper, New Women's Times. Subtitled "A review of literature and the arts," NWTFR publishes readers' letters, graphics, interviews, and (primarily) reviews in its 20-page newspaper format. It has succeeded in attracting well-known and talented women writers--e.g., Becky Birtha, Maureen Brady, Karla Jay, Judith McDaniel, Susan Leigh Star, Adrienne Rich--and the quality of its reviews is consistently high. With 15 to 20 books under review in any one issue, the journal is clearly not attempting to be comprehensive. Rather, books seem to be selected for their visibility and significance within the women's movement. Of those selected, one-third to one-half tend to be from small presses.

Reviews are lengthy (300-400 words on average), substantive, and critical. Although a goodly portion of the reviewers are professional writers or academics, the writing is generally addressed to a broad feminist audience, assuming more in the way of feminist political background than any particular subject expertise. Books are for the most part very recent and include fiction, poetry, autobiography and biography, feminist theory, history, sociology. For example, in a recent issue (no.15, April/May 1981), the following works were reviewed: Loba by Diane di Prima (Wingbow Press); Rape: The Power of Consciousness by Susan Griffin (Harper); Don't Explain by Alexis de Veaux (Harper); I Change Worlds by Anna Louise Strong (Seal Press); New French Feminisms edited by Elaine Marks and Isabelle de Courtivron (University of Massachusetts Press); Claiming an Identity They Taught Me to Despise by Michelle Cliff (Persephone Press); The Moon is Always Female by Marge Piercy (Knopf); Our Mothers' Daughters by Judith Arcana (Shameless Hussy Press); The Black and White of It by Ann Allen Shockley (Naiad Press); and Ma, Can I Be a Feminist and Still Like Men? by Nicole Hollander (St. Martin's). Reviews demonstrate a clear feminist or lesbian-feminist sensibility. Criticism is in general friendly, although reviewers do seem to feel free to not recommend a book. Political judgments are central to the critical assessments reached by reviewers. Reviews are preceded by basic bibliographic information, including title, author, publisher (addresses are provided for the small presses), date, length, and price. Contributors are invited to review books, music, visual or performance arts. Anyone interested in contributing to NWTFR should write to New Women's Times Feminist Review Collective, 804 Meigs Street, Rochester, NY 14620.

* * * * *

Women's Studies Review.

1979- .(Formerly Women are Human. 1972-1979) Monthly. Subscriptions: \$5.00. Subscription address: Women's Studies Library, 240 Main Library, 1858 Neil Avenue Mall, Columbus, OH 43210. Editors: Adrienne Zahniser and Virginia Reynolds.

Women are Human: An Information Sheet for Women was launched in 1972 as a bi-weekly publication, written and produced by "several women in the OSU [Ohio State University] libraries." Averaging five to six pages in mimeo format, Women Are Human originally offered an annotated list of materials in the OSU

libraries (with locations given), along with some local news of interest to feminists. Annotations were brief, generally 120-150 words.

Women's Studies Review (WSR) maintains much of the original emphasis, although it is now a more substantial publication--twenty pages with fifteen to twenty reviews averaging 300-600 words. The audience would still seem to be primarily the Ohio State University community (WSR is available free of charge to persons with a OSU campus address; campus locations are still given for books under review). However, WSR has over the years developed a wider readership, and is, for example, listed in the current volume of The Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press Index/Directory of Women's Media. Contributors are now drawn from both OSU faculty and librarians. Reviews are carefully written, with ample documentation of arguments drawn from the work in hand, but with less political discussion than one finds in New Women's Times Feminist Review writings. Works selected for review also tend to be less recent on the whole than in NWTFR. An issue will often carry a theme--e.g., "Women and Work" (January/February 1981)--with all works selected for their relevance to this topic. Books are predominantly from commercial rather than small presses, perhaps reflecting the emphasis of the OSU collections. Bibliographic information is limited to author, title, place of publication, publisher, and date.

* * * * *

Motherroot Journal: A Women's Review of Small Presses.

1978- . Quarterly. Subscriptions: \$5.00/year. Sample copy: \$1.25. Subscription address: Ann Pride, 214 Dewey Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15218. Editors: Anne Pride, Patricia McElligott, Paulette Balogh.

Motherroot Journal's (MJ) explicit commitment to reviewing feminist small press publications makes it a unique and exciting venture, invaluable to booksellers, bibliographers, and individual readers. Motherroot is also involved in publishing (under the name Motherroot Publications), having most recently published Melanie Kaye's collection of writings We Speak in Code and reprinted Natalie Petesch's novel The Odyssey of Katinou Kalokovich. Just like the other small presses whose publications appear in its pages, MJ is a very small-scale and dedicated operation. This comes across vividly in a recent editorial statement which I can't resist quoting:

Seeing yourself as others see you can be startling and sometimes amusing. I am occasionally surprised by the letters which arrive addressed to the Motherroot staff asking for an appointment with an editor in our offices. The letters speak to chrome and glass high rise buildings and a full time staff. Telephone calls, too, come to us asking for one department or another and in one case reporting that our telephone had been out of order since the caller had tried at an earlier time and received no answer. Once we received a letter complaining that a directory assistance operator had refused to give out the Motherroot listing. Unfortunately, there is none! And lastly, there was the truck driver who called recently for directions to our warehouse--wanting to check on

the placement of the loading dock--and to alert us to have our forklift ready when he arrived with the books.

Those are, in fact, other people's realities. In truth, Motherroot doesn't exist as a place at all unless it would be the small second floor office in the house that I share with Paulette Balogh. It does exist as a group, or perhaps the spirit of a group. Motherroot is the energy of four people: Pat McElligott, Paulette Balogh, Felice Newman and me [Anne Pride].

(Editor's Note(s), MJ v.2, no.2, Summer 1980,p.2)

MJ is published in newspaper format, eight pages in length featuring ten or more reviews, interviews, and essays, along with readers' letters. Most but not all books under review are very recently published. Author, title, publisher, publisher's address, length, and price are listed; a separate directory of publishers' addresses is also included to guarantee the visibility of these tiny presses. Reviews are interesting and literate, with a clear orientation to women's community audiences. They vary in length from full feature reviews to those published as part of a "Briefly Speaking" column. Reviewers of varied background appear in the pages of MJ; in one recent issue, there were several freelance writers, a musician, a psychotherapist/ethnobotanist, a feminist shopkeeper and a poet. MJ cannot of course be comprehensive. However, if it is able to review on the order of 40 books a year, this is clearly a sizeable contribution. A recent issue (v.2, no.2, Summer 1980) included: reviews of Songs of the Pine-wife by Sheila Nickerson (Copper Canyon Press); The Lesbian Path edited by Margaret Cruikshank (with a personal statement by the editor; Angel Press); In the Memory and Spirit of Frances, Zora, and Lorraine: Essays and Interviews on Black Women and Writing edited by Juliette Bowles (Institute for the Arts and Humanities, Howard University); The Black and White of It by Ann Allen Shockley (Naiad Press); The Homemaker's Book of Time and Money Savers by Jean Laird (Stephen Greene Press); Mothering Magazine; Hygeia (Freestone Publishing Co.); Coralline Ornaments by Diane Hamill Metzger (Weed Patch Press); Woman, Church and State by Matilda Joslyn Gage (originally 1893; Persephone Press); plus an essay by Judy Hogan (editor/publisher of the Caroline Wren Press) on "Women and the Small Press Movement." MJ invites contributors to submit reviews of small press books by/about women, as well as interviews or essays "about the literary process and women's place in it."

* * * * *

Feminist Bookstores Newsletter.

1976?- . Bi-monthly. Subscriptions: \$25.00/year (sliding scale available for feminist bookstores and publishers). Sample copies: \$3.00. Subscription address: Feminist Bookstores Newsletter, 1009 Valencia Street, San Francisco, CA 94110. Staff: Carol Seajay, André, Jesse Meredith.

Feminist Bookstores Newsletter (FBN) had its beginnings in the landmark Women in Print Conference held in August 1976 in Omaha, Nebraska. Publishing out of a San Francisco feminist bookstore called Old Wives' Tales, the original goal

of FBN was to serve the growing number of feminist bookstores springing up all across the United States. In the intervening years, FBN has increasingly received subscription requests from nonfeminist bookstores, libraries, big publishers, and interested individuals. Thus the question of who their constituency should include was recently raised anew and put to FBN readers in the form of a survey (published in the v.IV, no.5, February 1981 issue). The majority of respondents favored an open subscription policy, although some feminist bookstores do fear they may be undercut if the information carried in FBN is freely available to all bookstores. Readers also begged FBN to "retain its informal-to-outrageous attitude." FBN concluded its summary of the survey results with the statement, "We're agreed that our primary purpose is to put out a newsletter for and about feminist bookstores; our secondary purpose, to promote and facilitate feminist publishing" (v.IV, no.6, April 1981, p.2). The subscription blank appended to the current issue makes it appear that FBN does now welcome subscriptions from whomever; however, they also ask a variety of questions about prospective subscribers on this form.

FBN is published in a typed, mimeo format, anywhere from 15 to 30 pages in length. Readers will find that it is very dense--packed with information, with very little attention paid to lay-out. If they are interested in feminist publishing, however, readers will also find that perseverance richly pays off. FBN succeeds in providing a forum for feminist bookstores, publishing letters from all over that facilitate nationwide discussion about a wide variety of issues relevant to feminist publishing and bookselling--finances, distribution, politics. In addition, it is packed with current information on and questions about day-to-day practical dealings with the big publishers and distributors (e.g., discounts, returns, selective distribution plans, etc.). "Medea Media Hotterline" is an occasional, humorous column on the world of publishing. Articles appear on a variety of topics, from bookstore policies and politics to a particularly seminal new book to the pros and cons of mainstream publicity. Regular features include annotated listings of new books from small presses and from "the Boys' Presses," as well as notices about new tapes, toys, cards, T-shirts and magazines that feminist bookstores might want to carry. "Darlene's List"--sometimes called "Darlene's Mystifying List"--is another regular feature: a lengthy, essentially unannotated shopping list of new releases from presses large and small, compiled from sources like Publishers' Weekly that many small bookstores can't afford to subscribe to. Finally, FBN offers a frequently updated list in pamphlet form of the almost 100 English-language feminist and alternative bookstores in the U.S.A., Canada and some other countries, as well as the Women in Distribution (WIND) list of names and addresses, including about 600 bookstores, 900 libraries, and 300 women's studies departments to whom WIND distributed feminist books. Write to FBN for price information on these two resources. While readers will not find in FBN the lengthy critical assessments of new books published by New Women's Times Feminist Review, Women's Studies Review, or Motherroot, the newsletter is the place to turn for up-to-date information about the world of feminist publishing and bookselling.

* * * * *

New Books on Women & Feminism.

1979- . Three issues/year. Subscriptions: free of charge. Subscription address: Women's Studies Librarian-at-Large, 112A Memorial Library, 728 State Street, Madison, WI 53706. Editor: Catherine Loeb.

One of the first projects of the Office of the Women's Studies Librarian-at-Large for the University of Wisconsin System was the compilation of a basic, annotated bibliography of women's studies materials for the undergraduate library. After Esther Stineman's Women's Studies: A Recommended Core Bibliography was published in 1979, our office continued to maintain current files on new releases, consisting of reviews and publishers' announcements culled from a wide variety of sources. It was decided that Women's Studies could be effectively updated on a regular basis from these files, and the first issue of New Books on Women & Feminism appeared in June 1979, offering ten pages of briefly annotated listings covering a wide variety of subject areas. New Books has grown tremendously since that inaugural issue, in number of listings, extent of bibliographic information, and length of annotations. The most recent issue, New Books No.5, December 1980, numbered 95 pages and offered for the first time a section on children's books, produced by the Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC) in Madison, along with sections on non-print materials and periodicals. Reviews and announcements are currently collected from up to 25 sources, including mainstream publications such as the New York Times Book Review, Choice and Library Journal, and women's movement publications such as those discussed above. New Books thus offers coverage of both commercial and small press publications. Annotations are written from whatever reviews are available, with suspect evaluations quoted or labeled as such. Our sources are cited at the end of each listing. New Books can offer readers, researchers, bibliographers, library acquisitions departments, and bookstores quite a comprehensive current listing of new publications, while the sources cited can often lead the user to more extensive evaluations of particular books.

WOMEN ON TAPE ---

One of the most popular services of the College Library, UW-Madison, is its Tape Center, a playback installation that allows students to listen to tapes from listening stations throughout the library. The Tape Center collection attempts to provide recreational listening to undergraduate students, in addition to meeting their curricular and independent research needs. Special consideration is given to feminist materials.

To help publicize the variety and scope of College Library's feminist tape collection, Mary Anglim has compiled Resources in Women's Studies on Tape. Included in the 19-page listing are sections covering "Lectures, Documents, and Discussions," "Literary Images of Women," "Women Poets, Novelists and Playwrights," "Selected Jazz, Blues, Folk and Feminist Music," and "'Serious' Compositions by Women."

The College Library is currently experimenting with limited circulation of tapes to UW-Madison faculty and students for use in class presentations. Tapes are not available for interlibrary loan at the present time. If you would like to

receive a copy of Resources in Women's Studies on Tape, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to : Judy Gardner, College Library, 600 N. Park Street, Madison, WI 53706.

ITEMS OF NOTE

With this issue, we are initiating a new column entitled "Items of Note." We will use this space to publicize a variety of resources as they come to our attention. We invite our readers to submit materials they feel would be appropriate for this column.

* * * * *

ALLIANCE AGAINST SEXUAL COERCION.

The Alliance Against Sexual Coercion, a group providing direct client services, public education and workplace assistance on sexual harassment since 1976, is now making available its educational materials. Their current list of available materials includes: "Sexual Harassment: An Annotated Bibliography"; "Sexual Harassment and the Law"; "University Grievance Procedures, Title IX, and Sexual Harassment"; "Sexual Harassment at the Workplace: Historical Notes" by Mary Bularzik; and "Fighting Sexual Harassment: An Advocacy Handbook" (with an update). Prices are from \$1.00 to \$4.75. Write to the Alliance at P.O. Box 1, Cambridge, MA 02139; or call (617) 482-0329.

* * * * *

RACISM AND SEXISM RESOURCE CENTER FOR EDUCATORS

The Racism and Sexism Resource Center for Educators was established in 1975 by the non-profit Council on Interracial Books for Children. The Resource Center's purpose is to develop, publish and distribute teaching and training materials to combat sexism and racism. In addition to producing filmstrips, books, lesson plans, curricula, pamphlets and flyers, the Resource Center also offers workshops to help educators detect and counteract race and sex bias in learning materials and in their institutional practices. The 1980-81 Catalog published by the Resource Center includes among its filmstrips "Identifying Sexism and Racism in Children's Books," "Fighting Discrimination," "From Racism to Pluralism" (for staff development), and "Unlearning 'Indian' Stereotypes." Also listed is a book entitled "Stereotypes, Distortions and Omissions in U.S. History Textbooks," pamphlets on "10 Quick Ways to Analyze Children's Books for Racism and Sexism" and "Sexism, Racism and Other Isms: Hidden Messages in Children's Stories," and the 15-year-old periodical Interracial Books for Children Bulletin. Past issues of the Bulletin have focused on Asian Americans, Chicanos, Puerto Ricans, old people, and disabled people in children's literature, racism and sexism in day care centers, and stereotypes in American sign language. The current catalog is available from: CIBC Resource Center, 1841 Broadway, New York, NY 10023; phone (212) 757-5339.

* * * * *

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE FOR FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

The Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press (WIFP) is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization devoted to research and publishing about media. More than 600 women are Associates of WIFP, constituting a national support network and communication system among media women and media-concerned women. WIFP publishes a monthly periodical entitled Media Report to Women (1972-), an important source of information about the women's media movement. The Report regularly covers the founding of new papers, magazines, journals and other media businesses by women, conferences, legal actions, negotiations, and new media reform groups. The Report also reports on recent studies of the portrayal of women in the media, statistics on employment of women and minorities in the media, and the extent and progress of women's media in the U.S. and internationally. Media Report to Women is indexed on an annual and cumulative basis in WIFP's Index/Directory of Women's Media. The Directory is an invaluable resource for almost any feminist enterprise or individual women's studies researcher, listing 265 women's periodicals, 51 presses and publishers, women's news services, columns, regular radio and TV programs, and women's media collectives and companies in film, video and cable, music, art/graphics/theater, and multi-media. Entries include addresses, phones, and contact persons, along with a 25-word description written by the women themselves. Also published as part of the Directory is a listing of individual media women and media-concerned women. Lastly, WIFP has published Women in Media: A Documentary Source Book by Maurine Beasley and Sheila Silver. Contact WIFP at: 3306 Ross Place, NW, Washington, DC 20008; (202) 966-7783 or 363-0812.

* * * * *

WOMEN'S EDUCATIONAL EQUITY ACT PUBLISHING CENTER

WEEA, the Women's Educational Equity Act, was passed by Congress in 1974 with the goal of promoting educational equity for girls and women in the United States. To pursue this goal the WEEA Program, U.S. Education Department, has provided grants for the development of educational materials and programs. Since 1977, Education Development Center (EDC) in Newton, Massachusetts has been contracted to establish and operate the WEEA Publishing Center. EDC, in collaboration with the Center for Research on Women at Wellesley College, Wellesley, Massachusetts, is responsible for reviewing, publishing, and distributing the materials funded by WEEA. The Publishing Center has recently issued a lengthy catalog for 1980-81, listing a variety of print and audiovisual products. Materials are available in the following areas: Inservice and Staff Development; Curriculum Materials (K-12 and up); Counseling and Guidance; Career Development; Early Childhood Education; and Educational Administration. Catalogs and additional information are available from: EDC/WEEA Publishing Center, Order Department, 55 Chapel Street, Newton, MA 02160; phone (toll-free) 800-225-3088.

THE NEW SCHOLARSHIP: SIX YEARS OF REVIEW ESSAYS IN SIGNS

INDEX: v.1, n.1 (Autumn 1975) - v.6, n.2 (Winter 1980)

In the six years of its existence, Signs: A Journal of Women in Culture and Society has consistently published fine surveys of new feminist literature in each of its issues. Since these review essays are one of the places to start for students or researchers embarking on a new topic, we have compiled the following subject index to the Signs essays of the last six years.

Abortion. v.5, n.2.
Anthropology. v.1, n.1; v.2, n.3; v.4, n.3.
Architecture. v.1, n.4.
Art History. v.1, n.2; v.5, n.3.
Audio-visual Materials. v.1, n.1; v.2, n.3.
Bibliographies. v.3, n.2.
Biography. v.1, n.3, pt.1.
Biology. v.5, n.4; v.6, n.1.
Business. v.5, n.2.
Canada. v.3, n.2.
Childbirth. v.6, n.1.
Classics. v.2, n.2.
Communication. v.3, n.3.
Demography. v.1, n.3, pt.1.
Economics. v.1, n.1; v.2, n.1; v.3, n.3.
Education. v.1, n.4.
England. v.4, n.4.
Europe. v.2, n.3.
Family. v.3, n.3; v.4, n.4.
France. v.3, n.4.
Gender. v.6, n.1.
History. v.1, n.4; v.2, n.3; v.2, n.4; v.4, n.4; v.5, n.2; v.6, n.1.
Housework. v.1, n.4.
International Studies. v.5, n.3.
Korea. v.4, n.4.
Labor Force. v.2, n.4.
Language. v.3, n.3.
Latin America. v.5, n.1.
Librarianship. v.1, n.4.
Literature and Literary Criticism. v.1, n.2; v.2, n.2; v.3, n.4; v.4, n.3; v.6, n.2.
Management. v.5, n.2.
Mass Media. v.4, n.3.
Medicine. v.1, n.4; v.4, n.1.
Men. v.4, n.2.
Menopause. v.5, n.4.
Menstruation. v.5, n.4.
Motherhood. v.5, n.4.
Music. v.6, n.2.
Native American Women. v.6, n.2.
Nursing. v.2, n.4.

Overviews. v.1, n.1.
 Philosophy. v.1, n.2; v.2, n.2; v.3, n.4.
 Physical Education. v.2, n.4.
 Political Science. v.1, n.1; v.2, n.1; v.5, n.2; v.5, n.3.
 Population Studies. v.1, n.3, pt.1.
 Pregnancy. v.5, n.4.
 Psychology. v.1, n.1; v.2, n.1; v.3, n.2; v.5, n.1.
 Rape. v.3, n.2.
 Religion. v.2, n.2.
 Science. v.1, n.3, pt.1; v.4, n.1.
 Sex Roles. v.3, n.3; v.4, n.2.
 Sexuality. v.5, n.4; v.6, n.1.
 Sociology. v.1, n.3, pt.1; v.2, n.1; v.3, n.2; v.5, n.3.
 Status of Women. v.1, n.4.
 United States. v.1, n.4; v.5, n.2.
 Urban Studies. v.1, n.4; v.5, n.3 Supplement.
 Widowhood. v.2, n.4.
 Wollstonecraft, Mary. v.1, n.3, pt.1.
 Women's Studies. v.4, n.4.
 Work. v.2, n.4.

BOOK REVIEW

The Progress of Afro-American Women: A Selected Bibliography and Resource Guide.
 Comp. by Janet L. Sims. Foreword by Bettye Thomas. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood,
 1980. 378p. 79-8948. ISBN 0-313-22083-2. \$29.95.

Women of South Asia: A Guide to Resources. By Carol Sakala. Foreword by Maureen
 L. P. Patterson. Millwood, N.Y.: Kraus International, 1980. 517p. 79-28191.
 ISBN 0-527-78574-1, cloth; -78575-X, pap. \$25, cloth; \$15, pap.

While the past decade has seen a flurry of new reference books published about women and women's issues, the majority of works have concentrated on the experience of white, middle-class American women. The few noteworthy book-length bibliographies of English-language resources on American women of color and women from non-Western cultures can be quickly enumerated: Ora Williams' American Black Women in the Arts and Social Sciences: A Bibliographic Survey (Scarecrow, 1978); Lenwood Davis' The Black Woman in American Society (G.K. Hall, 1975); A Selected Bibliography on Women in India (dist. by South Asia Books, 1976); and Sue-Ellen Jacobs' Women in Perspective: A Guide for Cross-cultural Studies (University of Illinois Press, 1974). The literature is enriched considerably with Sims' Progress of Afro-American Women and Sakala's Women of South Asia, two exceptional efforts that will prove to be indispensable tools for women's studies scholars.

The intention of Sims' bibliography is to document the role of the Afro-American woman in United States society, as well as to encourage more scholarly research. The 4,008 unannotated, topically arranged entries index nineteenth- and twentieth-century materials covering the Afro-American woman's contributions to the strug-

gle for racial equality, the economic front, the family, the literary world, public life, education, the suffrage movement, feminism, the church, as well as her personal health and beauty, self-image, and her relationship with the Afro-American man. Students and researchers will greatly appreciate Sims' achievement in bringing together so much material in one volume, and in significantly updating the earlier bibliographic volume by Davis (with whom Sims has herself twice collaborated). While two major areas of omission--the lack of material from nineteenth- and twentieth-century newspapers and of studies on Afro-American women's contributions to science--somewhat limit the volume's comprehensiveness, the bibliography does offer sources in subject areas not covered by previously published bibliographies (e.g., armed services and defense work). Given the lack of annotations, the book would have been improved by the inclusion of a more analytical introductory essay (discussing trends, social movements, and major issues affecting black women) and of more subject terms in the index. These minor qualifications aside, The Progress of Afro-American Women stands as a major new reference work, not least because of its Afro-centric focus and its attention to materials from major black presses.

Carol Sakala's Women of South Asia is an equally path-breaking reference work, offering a comprehensive listing of sources on women in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Nepal. The 4,629 historical and contemporary items, written in Western languages (primarily English), range from scholarly analyses to primary source materials. Part I includes descriptive annotations of books, articles, serials, dissertations, films, and recordings published from the late eighteenth century through mid-1979. Sakala's classification of materials utilizes a very detailed outline of historical periods with a sub-arrangement by cultural area. Part II discusses the holdings of major libraries; government archives; records of women's organizations; and the location of rare periodicals in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and the United Kingdom. The very well executed subject index and separate author index complement the access to entries provided by the detailed topical arrangement of the main text. Sakala's excellent introduction reviews trends in the literature about women in South Asia.

The two compilations by Sims and Sakala are important bibliographical contributions to the study of women and should be included in all libraries with women's studies collections.

-- L.P.

[This review originally appeared in RQ v.20, no.2 (Winter 1980), pp.214-215.]

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.