

# feminist collections

women's studies library resources in wisconsin  
vol. 5, no. 4, summer 1984

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## FROM THE EDITORS

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This past April 19 brought good news to the Office of the Women's Studies Librarian-at-Large -- an official letter of award from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the "go-ahead" signal for a major new project. The grant of \$46,569 from NEH's Research Resources Program will support the preparation of a five-year supplement to Women's Studies: A Recommended Core Bibliography (Libraries Unlimited, 1979). The original volume was compiled by Esther Stineman, the first Librarian-at-Large for Women's Studies, with the assistance of Cathy Loeb. One of the earliest projects launched by our office, Women's Studies was widely praised by librarians and scholars, was selected as an Outstanding Reference Book of 1979 by the American Library Association, and was listed as one of the best academic books of the year in Choice.

As many of our readers are well aware, the literature of feminist scholarship has grown astronomically since Women's Studies was published. (We reported in some detail on this growth in an editorial in the Winter 1983 issue of FC.) Our office is now tracking something on the order of 5,000 new monographic titles a year. Thus, although the supplement will follow the same format as the first volume, the process of selection will be considerably more demanding. Susan Searing, Cathy Loeb and Esther Stineman will collaborate on the project, aiming to produce a final manuscript by December 1985.

Cathy, who had been working halftime, has increased her hours to fulltime for the duration of the grant. Susan will be squeezing time for the book out of her already crowded schedule. And Esther will be working on this project in her "spare time" as a doctoral candidate in American Studies at Yale. In addition, we will be expanding our staff to include another halftime student assistant -- and expanding our territory by carving a workspace out of our storeroom.

It is all too easy to lose our perspective on the field of women's studies as a whole, as we grapple with myriad daily commitments and struggle not to be buried beneath the avalanche of new publications. We delight in the opportunity this project affords us to stand back and survey the many superb works which have appeared over the last five years. We invite you to share this opportunity by sending us lists of your own personal favorites since 1980. Help us to make the new Women's Studies an accurate portrayal of the last half-decade and a fitting tribute to its accomplishments.

-- S.S. and C.L.

## BREAKING INTO PRINT II: FEMINIST PUBLISHING IN THE MAINSTREAM

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The role of "mainstream" publishers in the field of feminist book publishing is one which has filled many feminists with ambivalence since the first "new wave" feminist writings began to roll off the mimeographs in the late '60s. One cannot but take satisfaction in women's increased access to print. And yet many feminists eye with suspicion the new interest of "The Boys" (as the big publishers are known in some feminist small press circles) in writings on women, attributing this interest more to the profitable women's studies market than to any commitment to feminist publishing per se. The Women in Print

Movement looks to the independent women's presses and printers to guarantee the future of feminist publishing, whatever the vagaries of the commercial market.

I must personally confess to an unabashed bias toward the small independent presses. Yet lately I have had the impression that more serious feminist writing is being taken on by the big publishers. I resolved recently to take a closer look at a selection of university and commercial presses, sent off a large batch of letters requesting their current catalogs, and then buried myself in the resulting avalanche.

One index of the growing success of women's studies publishing is the increasing number of publishers that issue separate lists of their offerings in the field. These can vary from an entry in the subject index of a complete list of books in print, to a two-page flyer, to a glossy 30- or 40-page brochure. At the most frivolous end, one finds hodge-podge inventories of everything the publisher can possibly construe as related to women, no matter how far-fetched or removed from the range of feminist inquiry. Somewhere in the middle, one finds publishers who have responded to the active market by issuing scholarly books about women and women's studies topics, books that will provide data of interest to feminist researchers, but which are often neither begun from a set of feminist questions nor written from a feminist perspective. At the most serious end of the spectrum are the publishers launching new series in the field of women's studies, edited by feminist scholars.

As I read through the catalogs, they sorted themselves into three groups: commercial publishers of reference books; university presses; and for-profit scholarly presses. I'll treat them in that order. (1)

\* \* \*

Several mainstream publishers have contributed significantly to the reference literature in women's studies. G.K. Hall stands out among these as the publisher of The Women's Annual; of landmark reference works such as James Dancy's Women's Periodicals and Newspapers from the 18th Century to 1981; and of reference guides and collections of critical essays on women authors such as Louise Bogan, Ann Bradstreet, Joyce Carol Oates, Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas, and Elizabeth Bishop. Barbara Haber, Curator of Printed Books at the Schlesinger Library at Radcliffe College, has been influential in shaping the publishing record of G.K. Hall in women's studies.

Garland Publishing has also provided important reference sources in the field, from their new three-volume set of documents on The Woman Question in 19th-century Britain and America, to bibliographies on a wide variety of topics -- women in early industrial America, French feminist criticism, older women in 20th-century America, turn-of-the-century novels in English by women, nursing, affirmative action, women writers in translation.

A tremendously prolific women's studies publisher, Greenwood Press has issued significant bibliographies, such as Janet Sims's The Progress of Afro-American Women; over 40 texts and monographs in the fields of history, anthropology, music, art, literature, and sociology as part of its series, "Contributions in Women's Studies"; as well as many titles relevant to women's studies but issued within other series. (2)

Scarecrow Press has shown unusual creativity in its selection of women's studies reference topics (e.g., women's autobiography; science fiction; women's culture; farm women on the prairie frontier; American women dramatists of the 20th century), and has also played a particularly strong role in building the literature on women and music. Scarecrow's publishing record in women's studies goes back to the early '70s, and includes -- in addition to its reference collection -- monographs on such topics as women and technological change and women's organizing; works of literary criticism; and collections of poetry.

The university presses have not surprisingly been among the most active in women's studies publishing. Most of them issue at least an occasional work in the field, if only as part of their general scholarly publishing program. There are several, however, that demonstrate a particular commitment to feminist inquiry.

Temple University Press, for example, in a recent catalog includes women's studies along with American history, medical sociology, labor history, social policy, and ethnic studies as "the concerns that have traditionally informed our list." Some of their current women's studies titles are being issued as part of a series entitled "Women in the Political Economy," edited by Ronnie J. Steinberg -- titles such as Helen Remick's Comparable Worth and Wage Discrimination: Technical Possibilities and Political Realities and Joan M. Jensen and Sue Davidson's A Needle, A Bobbin, A Strike: Women Needleworkers in America. Recent titles outside this series have looked at workers' education for women in the 20th century; older black women in the South; identity in a women's community; and Louisa May Alcott.

Indiana University Press's record began a decade ago with such significant works as Martha Vicinus's Suffer and Be Still: Women in the Victorian Age, later followed by her A Widening Sphere: Changing Roles of Victorian Women. A recent general catalog lists 31 women's studies monographs -- among them, works of feminist literary criticism, black women's poetry, the history of white working-class women, a bibliography of Native American women. The Press has recently announced a new series, "Everywoman: Studies in History, Literature, and Culture," to be edited by Susan Gubar and Joan Hoff-Wilson.

Stanford was another early entrant into the field of women's studies publishing, with its anthology of feminist anthropology, Women, Culture and Society (1974), and, even earlier, Eleanor Maccoby's anthology The Development of Sex Differences (1966). The 21 titles in their women's studies brochure cover a range of subjects, but are strongest in the area of international studies, particularly women in Asia.

Margaret George's noteworthy study of Mary Wollstonecraft, One Woman's "Situation," was issued by the University of Illinois Press in 1970, followed in 1974 by Sue-Ellen Jacobs's Women in Perspective: A Guide for Cross-Cultural Studies. Illinois's most recent women's studies catalog lists more than 50 books, with so many good titles it's difficult to choose among them. The Press is particularly strong in the area of women's history, publishing two works by Anne Firor Scott; Mary Jo Buhle's Women and American Socialism, 1879-1920; Berenice A. Carroll's early anthology, Liberating Women's History; The Concise History of Woman Suffrage: Selections from the Classic Work of Stanton, Anthony, Gage, and Harper; and J. Stanley Lemons's The Woman Citizen: Social Feminism in the 1920s. In addition, Illinois has published works by

and about Zora Neale Hurston, an anthology of feminist Shakespeare criticism, and the journalistic writings of Lorena Hickok. As with Temple, Illinois's record in women's studies is consistent with their other primary emphases, including black studies and social and labor history.

Yale's earliest publications in women's studies include Nancy F. Cott's The Bonds of Womanhood: "Woman's Sphere" in New England, 1780-1835 and David M. Kennedy's study of Margaret Sanger, Birth Control in America. Among more recent titles are Rosalind Rosenberg's Beyond Separate Spheres: Intellectual Roots of Modern Feminism; C. Vann Woodward's Pulitzer Prize-winning authoritative edition of Mary Chestnut's Civil War diaries; John Mack Faragher's pathbreaking study of Women and Men on the Overland Trail; Code Name "Mary," the memoir of an American woman in the Austrian Underground, reputed to be the model for Lillian Hellman's "Julia"; and the anthropology collection, Woman the Gatherer.

Notable as the publisher of Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society since its founding in 1975, the University of Chicago Press has announced a new series, "Women in Culture and Society," to be edited by Catharine R. Stimpson (founding editor of Signs). The series "will present books notable for the spaciousness of their theories and the clarity of their vision." Launching the series is the posthumously published collection of Joan Kelly's writings, Women, History, and Theory.

Among the for-profit scholarly presses, Praeger and Westview Press have made a considerable contribution to opening up the increasing scholarship in the areas of international studies and women in development. (Pergamon Press, discussed below, is also publishing in this area.) The similarity in their subject focus should come as no surprise, as Westview was founded by Frederick A. Praeger.

Westview titles examine the status of women in the development process in the Third World and the impact of scientific-technological change; women in rural and urban Asia, Africa, and Iran; and international law and the status of women. One of their earliest international studies was Elise Boulding's The Underside of History: A View of Women Through Time (1977). Westview titles outside the international focus include studies of women and minorities in science, working women, women and environments, and affirmative action. Westview is reportedly very eager to expand its women's studies line and seeks manuscripts in this area.

Praeger books have examined the lives of women in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, in rural Malaysia, Iran, Puerto Rico, Peru, and Africa. Women in development titles have included Lourdes Beneria's Women and Development: The Sexual Division of Labour in Rural Societies; Women and Colonization: Anthropological Perspectives, edited by Mona Etienne and Eleanor Leacock; and Third World Women Speak Out by Perdita Huston. More recent titles issued by Praeger cover a wider subject range, from film to blue-collar work to the New Right.

Turning now to commercial presses with new series in feminist studies, we find some of the most exciting recent publishing programs. Their lists are not necessarily the most extensive on the publishing scene, but what distinguishes them is the careful conceptualization underlying the series and the further legitimacy they grant to the field.

Longman is a good example. It has very few women's studies books, but the first three titles in the "Longman Series in Feminist Theory" are significant contributions to the development of a feminist materialism: Nancy C. M. Hartsock's Money, Sex, and Power: An Essay on Domination and Community; Zillah Eisenstein's The Radical Future of Liberal Feminism; and Rosalind P. Petchesky's Abortion and Woman's Choice: The State, Sexuality, and Reproductive Freedom. In addition, Longman recently published a collection of 22 articles from the first three volumes of the feminist quarterly, Quest, entitled Building Feminist Theory.

Publisher of the bimonthly journal, Women's Studies International Forum, Pergamon Press has two on-going series in feminist studies. "The Athene Series," edited by Renate Duelli Klein, "is concerned with the construction of knowledge and the structural exclusion of women from the process, both as theorists and subjects." Titles in the series include Dale Spender's Men's Studies Modified: The Impact of Feminism on the Academic Disciplines; Woman's Nature: Rationalization of Inequality, edited by Marian Lowe and Ruth Hubbard; and Ruth Bleier's Science and Gender: A Critique of Biology and Its Theories on Women. Pergamon's "Women in Development Series" offers studies of women in rural Asia and South Asia, India, and Bangladesh.

Rowman & Allenheld's strong record in women's studies publishing has covered a wide subject area -- social history, sociology and rural sociology, art, and literature. "New Feminist Perspectives," a new series under the editorship of Mary Vetterling-Bruggin, "explores the distinctly feminist or female contribution to philosophy and the social sciences." Titles include Carol Ochs's Women and Spirituality; Rosemarie Tong's Women, Sex and the Law; Beyond Domination: New Perspectives on Women and Philosophy, edited by Carol Gould; and Mothering: Essays in Feminist Theory, edited by Joyce Trebilcock.

Routledge & Kegan Paul (RKG) gets high marks even from the skeptical small press. Writing in a recent Feminist Bookstores' News column, "From the Boys on Publishers Row," Carol Seajay stresses:

RKG has long been a publisher of good, solid, feminist books with a bent toward the academic. They've also been on the forefront of doing outreach and distribution to feminist bookstores, an attitude very different from most U.S. publishers.... (3)

The occasion for this rare praise was the inauguration of RKG's new imprint, Pandora Press, to be edited by Philippa Brewster. Intended to provide "new women's writing, fiction and non-fiction, accessibly priced in paperback," the Press's first titles are likely to intrigue the feminist reading public: Test Tube Women, a collection of articles examining the impact of the new reproductive technologies on women's lives, edited by Rita Arditti, Renate Duelli Klein, and Shelley Minden; My Country Is the Whole World: An Anthology of Women's Work on Peace and War, edited by the Cambridge Women's Peace Collective; collections of short stories and utopian fiction by 19th-century women writers; a study of sexual images of women in advertising and pornography; and testimonies of women in South Africa. Noteworthy RKG titles outside the Pandora Press series are too numerous to mention; here are but a few: Images of Ourselves: Women With Disabilities Talking, edited by Jo Campling; Sex and Class in Women's History, edited by Judith L. Newton, Mary P. Ryan, and Judith R. Walkowitz; Woman's Worth: Sexual Economics and the

World of Women, by Lisa Leghorn and Katherine Parker; Theories of Women's Studies, edited by Gloria Bowles and Renate Duelli Klein; Politics of Reproduction, by Mary O'Brien; and Give Us Bread, But Give Us Roses, Sarah Eisenstein's posthumously-published study of working women's consciousness in turn-of-the-century America.

\* \* \*

I come away from this sampling of mainstream women's studies publishing with a new sense of its contributions. Within the world of feminist small press publishing, the commercial giants are seen as competitors with a grotesquely unfair advantage. They have vastly larger resources, yet they cannot ultimately be counted on to maintain a longterm commitment to feminist publishing. This longterm uncertainty is a genuine and valid concern for all feminist researchers, students, and readers. Yet, whatever lies beyond us in the future, quite a number of commercial and university presses are making a strong commitment to solid feminist writing right now, with published works that are crowding the shelves of our libraries, that will be there for future generations of women. I would say that a good majority of these works -- though feminist in perspective -- are too academic in substance to be taken on by the small feminist press, and therefore are only seeing the light of day because of the larger resources of the big publishers. Critics of these publishers often point to "rip offs" like Rita Mae Brown's Rubyfruit Jungle, brought to the attention of the reading public by a small, now defunct feminist press -- Daughters, Inc. -- and then picked up and marketed into a minor bestseller by Bantam Books. Yet one ought not to lose sight of the numerous works in feminist theory, science, sociology, literature, anthropology, and so on, which simply would not exist if small presses were writers' only available option.

I would still agree with those who see the independent women's presses as guarantors of our publishing future. Yet I am gratified to see the strong foothold being established by feminist editors working within the corporate publishing scene. We need more like them.

-- Cathy Loeb

#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> Trade publishers with strong lists for women's studies -- such as Harper & Row, Random House, Norton, Simon & Schuster, and the small and uniquely independent Beacon Press -- merit a separate investigation which I cannot undertake here.

<sup>2</sup> Greenwood is rather unique in this respect. Where many publishers crosslist every title remotely related to the study of women in their women's studies lists, Greenwood's list is so strong they appear to feel they can publish a work, for example, on Presbyterian women in America and include it only as part of their series, "Contributions to the Study of Religion."

<sup>3</sup> Carol Seajay, "From the Boys on Publishers Row," Feminist Bookstores' News 7, no.1 (September 1983), 43.



# FEMINIST VISIONS

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## MEDIA RESOURCES FOR UNLEARNING RACISM AND SEXISM

Low-technology, low-cost media resources for progressive classrooms have been available from the Council on Interracial Books for Children for nearly 20 years. In 1965, a group of editors, librarians, writers, and historians formed the non-profit organization with the goal of promoting literature for children reflecting the aspirations of a multiracial and multicultural society. In the wake of the women's movement, the fight against sexism became another of the Council's commitments. Today, the Council's resources include a periodical called Interracial Books for Children Bulletin, which reviews the content of children's books and audiovisuals; 16 sound-filmstrip programs for audiences from kindergarten through adult; books, pamphlets, and lesson plans.

The focus of the filmstrips ranges from examinations of stereotypes of racial and ethnic groups and women found in existing children's picture books, to presentations of alternative histories and strategies for social change. Most recently, the Council produced 10 short story filmstrips designed to develop critical thinking about the behavior of men, women and children by encouraging children to think about their own values, and present and future behaviors. The filmstrips are designed to be stopped during screenings to provoke discussion about possible resolutions of their stories. Short story titles include "Equal Play" (children challenge the lack of sex equity in an after-school play center); "What Kind of Man?" (two boys argue about the type of ideal man each prefers--macho versus kind and considerate); "No Touching" (two children pursued by a child molester at the movies are provided with coping strategies by a relative); and "Babies Are Not Toys" (two girls have opposite ideas about their older sisters' becoming teenaged mothers). The unit of 10 filmstrips and teacher's guide, with pre-showing, mid-showing, and post-showing discussion guides, costs \$110. Individual filmstrips cost \$22.50.

An original set of three sound-color filmstrips called "Winning 'Justice For All'" is a good example of the analytical strategies used by the Council to expose racism and sexism at many levels of society, and to encourage audiences to actively oppose these forms of oppression. "The Secret of Goodasme," the first filmstrip in the package, features a space creature talking to a white girl, a black boy and a Cherokee boy about stereotypes. The filmstrip shows photos of girls and minority group members in unstereotypical roles to point out the diversity of individuals in groups, and to argue that stereotypes are false, harmful and often used to justify unfair treatment of women and minorities.

The second filmstrip is called "An Equal Chance." It uses cartoons to show that "when babies are born in the U.S., the odds are stacked in favor of white males so that they grow up to earn more money and social power than babies born female and dark skinned." The filmstrip points to social, historical, economic, and political reasons for the uneven start.

The final filmstrip in the series, "Fighting Discrimination," uses photographs to represent a boy's dream of Sojourner Truth visiting his sister's high school. Sojourner Truth helps the students plan tactics for making sure that Title IX is enforced in their schools. Tactics include student meetings, letters to newspapers, petitions, lobbying and grievance complaints. Nonviolent civil disobedience is justified as a tactic that has been

historically necessary and productive.

"Winning 'Justice for All'" is designed for grades four through nine. The filmstrips are supported by a student workbook with 35 activities, including reading of poems, biographies, historical writing, and advertisements. Exercises, conceptual responses, television survey forms, and job related activities are also included. A teacher's edition contains bibliography, glossary, and background reading.

Other filmstrip titles include "Understanding Institutional Racism," "Understanding Institutional Sexism," "Unlearning 'Indian' Stereotypes," "Unlearning Asian American Stereotypes," "Unlearning Chicano and Puerto Rican Stereotypes," "Identifying Sexism and Racism in Children's Books," "An Equal Chance," and "Child Care Shapes the Future: Anti-Sexism and Anti-Racism." Costs for filmstrip programs from the Council run considerably lower than other filmstrip sources, ranging from \$27.50 for a sound-color filmstrip that includes supportive lesson plans, to \$70 for a complete supplementary curriculum unit with three filmstrips, 35 detailed lesson plans, activities, student workbook, and teacher edition.

Council filmstrips are consistently clear in their organization and presentation of ideas. They are visually interesting and the sound tracks feature male and female voices representing a variety of racial and ethnic backgrounds. The analysis of sexism and racism in society shows complex levels of interaction between institutions, economic realities, and unequal opportunity. The productions express a commitment to the belief that students can unlearn racism and sexism and apply their new understanding to books, television, school, and their own lives. They challenge teachers to pay more than lip service to "equality," "human relations," and "social justice"; to learn new information about their students' attitudes and lives; and to work along with their students to change discriminatory schooling practices. These are some of the qualities that have made the Council's materials controversial in some school districts. They are also what make the filmstrips valuable media resources for feminist classrooms.

A full catalog of the Council's resources is available from: The Council on Interracial Books for Children, Racism/Sexism Resource Center, 1841 Broadway, New York, NY 10023-7648. Several of the Council's filmstrips can be previewed at the UW-Madison Instructional Materials Center, located at 225 N. Mills St.; phone: (608) 263-4750.

-- Elizabeth Ellsworth

[Elizabeth Ellsworth is a Lecturer in the Women's Studies Program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, teaching "Mass Media and the Sexes" and "Women in Film." This fall she will begin a new position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at the UW-Madison, teaching courses in educational media technology and culture.]

# BUILDING LIBRARY COLLECTIONS IN WOMEN'S STUDIES

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## REPORT ON A MEETING OF UW LIBRARIANS

On April 4 twenty-two librarians and the staff of the Office of the Women's Studies Librarian-at-Large met together for a day-long workshop. It was the first time in many years that librarians from throughout the UW System gathered to discuss building stronger collections in support of women's studies teaching and research.

Following introductory remarks by Karen Merritt, Senior Academic Planner for the UW System, Sue Searing opened up the workshop with an overview, drawing attention first to the tremendous boom in women's studies publishing over the last decade. Mainstream publishers have discovered the profitability of works on women, while small presses continue to offer an innovative, often dissenting voice. Librarians are now blessed with more sources for reviews of women's studies materials, and a growing level of critical sophistication among reviewers. At the same time, however, library budgets continue to be steadily eroded by inflation.

Sue went on to survey reviewing media for women's studies. A quick examination of recent issues of Library Journal, Choice, Publishers' Weekly, and The New York Times Book Review -- all standard sources for library book orders -- revealed that from 6% to 17% of total reviews in any single issue might be relevant to women's studies. Sue stressed that it is essential to supplement the mainstream sources with alternative reviewing media. She passed around samples of several useful titles and evaluated their strengths and weaknesses as selection tools. The titles covered were: Catalyst Media Review, Feminist Bookstores News, Motherroot Journal, New Women's Times, Feminist Review, WLW [Women Library Workers] Journal, The Women's Review of Books, and The Women's Studies Review.

The workshop grew less formal as participants took turns sharing their own problems and successes in acquiring women's studies materials. No single pattern emerged, but it was clear that women's studies selection is integrated into the general procedure on each campus. Some libraries rely heavily on faculty recommendations; others reserve decision-making for the library staff. Blanket orders play an important role at some institutions, while others initiate discrete orders for every title. Women's studies is given a separate budget line at a few libraries. Some libraries assign one staff member responsibility for buying new items in women's studies, and others count on those selecting materials in the various disciplines to acquire women-related titles as appropriate.

There was one common complaint, however -- lack of time, money, and staff. These overarching constraints so limit the effectiveness of book selectors in every field that it is nearly impossible for them to pay special attention to collection development in women's studies. It was also agreed that cooperation and resource sharing are essential in times of diminished buying power, but that the context for cooperation should be a Systemwide policy on collection development that encompasses all fields of knowledge.

After lunch, three focused discussions were held. Edi Bjorklund, of UW-Milwaukee, outlined the very thorough methodology used in the Golda Meir

Library to make decisions about adding new journal titles. Since journals represent ongoing commitments of funds, any decision to initiate a new subscription must be carefully considered. A standing committee of librarians at Golda Meir, representing both public and technical services, meets weekly. Many factors enter into their decisions. Is the periodical held elsewhere in the area? Have there been many requests for the interloan of articles from it? Is it covered in standard indexes and abstracts? Who sponsors it and how solid is its reputation in the scholarly world? Does it fall within the subject scope of the library? Will the title have lasting value in the collection, or is it most useful for current information? Does a check of citation indexes reveal that articles from it are often cited? What does it cost? De-selection, or the decision to cancel a subscription, requires the same careful weighing of the facts. UW-Milwaukee also carries out studies of in-building use to aid librarians in weeding the collection.

Librarians from the other campuses concurred that journal selection and de-selection are sometimes painful processes. There is some variance in the amount of faculty input sought. At least one library has reached the stage where any new subscription can be afforded only by cancelling an existing one. There were some novel suggestions for determining how heavily a journal is used, including measuring the dust atop the bound volumes, and removing them from the shelves to see if anyone squawks.

Discussion of local journal collections led inevitably to consideration of resource sharing. UW-Madison expands its holdings through membership in the Center for Research Libraries. Decisions about cancelling titles would be less agonizing for the smaller campus libraries if they too had easy access to the rich collection of little-used serials housed at the Center, a clearinghouse in Chicago.

A large portion of Wisconsin's library holdings are represented in the OCLC data base, which greatly facilitates resource sharing within the state. WISCAT, a microfiche catalog derived from the OCLC magnetic tapes, allows libraries without online access to the data base to have the same holdings information (though not so up-to-date) close at hand.

Margaret Hohenstein, of UW-Platteville, spoke next about acquisition of audiovisual materials for use in women's studies classes, noting three problems. First, AV materials are very expensive; one film may cost as much as a dozen books. Second, it is difficult to learn of new materials and to identify those best suited to the curriculum. And finally, inadequate AV collections cannot be compensated for by using interlibrary loan, since few libraries within the UW System are willing to share such materials.

A Systemwide policy on the loan of AV materials would be desirable, the participants concluded, but few were hopeful that current restrictions will be eased. The sheer costliness of AV items, coupled with their fragility, makes loaning them outside the institution a risky proposition. One solution is to purchase expensive sets cooperatively, thus assuring equal ownership and equal access. Another approach would be to demand more and better women's studies materials from the major film rental libraries at UW-Madison and UW-La Crosse. As we move toward these goals, it was agreed that the Women's Studies Librarian-at-Large should continue to highlight new AV materials in her publications.

Jim Danky, of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, and Cathy Loeb, of the Office of the Women's Studies Librarian-at-Large, led the final discussion of small press materials. Cathy emphasized the continuing importance of feminist publishing as a key source of the latest ideas and issues of the women's movement. Alternative press books have a place in the classroom, and they certainly belong in library collections that support women's studies programs. Cathy orchestrated an inspiring "show and tell" of new books from several presses: The Feminist Press; Naiad Press; Spinsters, Ink; Persephone Press; Alyson Publications; The Crossing Press; Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press; and Aunt Lute Book Company.

Jim Danky shared Cathy's enthusiasm for alternative materials. He noted that if libraries limit new subscriptions to periodicals that are covered in indexes and abstracts, their collections will become very homogenous. The State Historical Society prides itself on its collection of newspapers and magazines that illustrate the full spectrum of women's lives in the U.S. and Canada. The library is especially strong in local feminist newspapers and special interest newsletters, and will gladly interloan all but current issues. Participants expressed their gratitude for the Society's comprehensive collection.

In the ensuing discussion it was noted that some libraries have blanket policies (written or unwritten) against acquiring newsletters, and against retaining only current issues of titles with limited research value. Experience with small presses has been mixed. At least one librarian has found it better to order directly from the publisher, rather than using a local bookstore as the source of titles not carried by the big commercial jobbers. Prepayment was recommended, even when the library only knows the approximate price, as very small presses may blanch when faced with a university purchase order demanding triplicate invoices and institutional discounts.

Wrapping up the day, participants were asked to suggest actions which they -- individually, collectively, or in conjunction with the Librarian-at-Large -- could take to strengthen UW library collections in women's studies. All agreed that cooperation and communication must be the groundwork for any improvement in the overall picture. Making librarians and administrators aware of the problems of resource sharing (especially as regards nonprint materials) and pushing for greater Systemwide coordination of collection building in all fields are the two goals toward which all should strive. The workshop was a good beginning.

-- Susan Searing

## NEW REFERENCE WORKS IN WOMEN'S STUDIES

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Arbur, Rosemarie. Leigh Brackett, Marion Zimmer Bradley, Anne McCaffrey: A Primary and Secondary Bibliography. Boston: G. K. Hall, 1982. 277p. \$33.00, ISBN 0-8161-8120-9. LC 81-4216.

Avila, Wanda. Jean Stafford: A Comprehensive Bibliography. New York: Garland, 1983. 195p. Index. \$29.00, ISBN 0-8240-9210-4. LC 82-49127.

Bakerman, Jane S., and Mary Jean DeMarr. Adolescent Female Portraits in the American Novel, 1961-1981. New York: Garland, 1983. 254p. index. \$25.00, ISBN 0-8240-9136-1. LC 82-49139.

Cortina, Lynn Ellen Rice. Spanish American Women Writers: A Bibliographical Research Checklist. New York: Garland, 1983. 304p. index. \$35.00, ISBN 0-8240-9247-3. LC 82-48281.

Crump, R. W. Charlotte and Emily Brontë, 1846-1915: A Reference Guide. Boston: G. K. Hall, 1982. 194p. index. \$27.50, ISBN 0-8161-7953-0. LC 82-1097.

De Rose, Peter L., and S. W. McGuire. A Concordance to the Works of Jane Austen. New York: Garland, 1982. 3 vols. \$275.00, ISBN 0-8240-9245-7. LC 82-48283.

Fallon, Eileen. Words of Love: A Complete Guide to Romance Fiction. New York: Garland, 1984. 386p. \$19.95, ISBN 0-8240-9204-X. LC 82-49132.

King, Betty. Women of the Future: The Female Main Character in Science Fiction. Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press, 1984. 273p. bibl. index. \$18.50, ISBN 0-8108-1664-4. LC 83-20130.

Lauter, Paul, ed. Reconstructing American Literature: Courses, Syllabi, Issues. Old Westbury, NY: The Feminist Press, 1984. 208p. pap., \$10.95, ISBN 0-935312-14-5. LC 83-20730.

Lloyd Evans, Barbara, and Gareth Lloyd Evans. The Scribner Companion to the Brontës. New York: Scribner, 1983. 400p. ill. maps. \$22.50, ISBN 0-684-17662-9. LC 82-50257.

Mikhail, E. H. Lady Gregory, An Annotated Bibliography of Criticism. Troy, NY: Whitson, 1982. 258p. index. \$20.00, ISBN 0-87875-216-1. LC 82-132703.

Resnick, Margery, and Isabelle de Courtivron. Women Writers in Translation: An Annotated Bibliography, 1945-1982. New York: Garland, 1984. 272p. index. \$45.00, ISBN 0-8240-9332-1. LC 80-9039.

Sabol, C. Ruth, and Todd K. Bender. A Concordance to Brontë's Wuthering Heights. New York: Garland, 1984. 290p. \$250.00, ISBN 0-8240-9088-8. LC 83-48260.

Schlobin, Roger C. Urania's Daughters: A Checklist of Women Science-Fiction Writers, 1692-1982. San Bernardino, CA: Borgo Press, 1983. 79p. index. pap., \$12.95, ISBN 0-89370-065-7. LC 83-25779.

Swearingen, Bethany C. Eudora Welty, A Critical Bibliography, 1936-1958. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 1984. 82p. port. ISBN 0-87805-197-X; pap., ISBN 0-87805-198-8. LC 83-16677.

Twentieth-Century Romance and Gothic Writers. Ed. by James Vinson. Detroit: Gale, 1982. 898p. index. \$86.00, ISBN 0-8103-0226-8. LC 82-1557.

White, Ray Lewis. Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas: A Reference Guide. Boston: G. K. Hall, 1984. 282p. index. \$35.00, ISBN 0-8161-8057-1. LC 83-12896.

Wyllie, Diana E. Elizabeth Bishop and Howard Nemerov: A Reference Guide. Boston: G. K. Hall, 1983. 196p. index. \$34.50, ISBN 0-8161-8527-1. LC 82-15597.

Youngberg, Ruth Tanis. Dorothy L. Sayers, A Reference Guide. Boston: G. K. Hall, 1982. 178p. index. \$27.50, ISBN 0-8161-8198-5. LC 81-6992.

In this issue, we abandon our usual interdisciplinary stance for a single-minded focus on new reference books in the field of literature. This is not a comprehensive survey, but an examination of some of the more interesting titles that have come to our attention in the past few months.

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Reconstructing American Literature, edited by Paul Lauter, is the first fruit of a major project that will culminate in the creation of a new basic anthology of American literature in which women and minorities are fairly represented. The present volume offers 30 syllabi as alternatives to the traditional curriculum. The syllabi highlight key theoretical questions and serve as illuminating bibliographies for teachers and students alike.

Another bibliography long awaited is Resnick and de Courtivron's Women Writers in Translation, a handy guide to English translations of literary writings published between 1945 and 1982. Over one third of the volume is devoted to translations of works by French, French-Canadian, and other Francophone authors. Other chapters treat materials in Portuguese, German, Italian, Japanese, Russian, and Spanish. Chapter introductions outline their scope and methodology and highlight important works that remain untranslated. There is a short note on each author, followed by an annotated list of her works. Except for the chapter on German literature, which includes some works published in journals and anthologies, only books are listed. This bibliography should prove helpful to faculty, students, and general readers.

Less useful as a key to foreign literature is Lynn Ellen Rice Cortina's flawed guide, Spanish American Women Writers: A Bibliographical Research Checklist. Covering 1492 to 1980, the bibliography is arranged by country, with a name index. Nearly 2,000 women are represented. Most of the entries are labelled by genre, at least. Unfortunately, the information is often incomplete, in many cases offering only a title under an author's name, without any publishing information. Partial citations are frustrating, yet Cortina has made a beginning for scholars of Latin American literature.

Not surprisingly, there are several new titles in British and American literature. Charlotte and Emily Brontë: A Reference Guide, by R. W. Crump, promises to be the authoritative bibliography on the Brontës. So far only the first volume, covering 1846 to 1915, has been issued. The secondary literature on the Brontës, including "reminiscences, memorials, sketches, essays, articles, book-length studies, chapters of books, reviews" and other items, is arranged chronologically. All entries are annotated. A similar work with a wider time frame was compiled by Anne Passel five years ago -- Charlotte and Emily Brontë: An Annotated Bibliography (Garland, 1979). When future volumes extend coverage to the present, Crump's guide will supercede Passel's.

Another new work on the Brontës is The Scribner Companion to the Brontës, a remarkable compendium of background information. Part I centers on the family, providing a 60-page chronology of family events and character sketches of the family members. Part II treats the juvenile works of Branwell, Anne, Emily, and Charlotte, with detailed descriptions of their fantasy worlds, Glasstown and Gondal. Published works are covered in Part III, which contains commentaries and lists of characters for all the novels; a glossary of unusual words, illusions, and topical references; and a selection of contemporary reviews. Part IV describes places associated with the Brontës and their novels. Although not constructed for quick reference, this is a fascinating handbook.

For serious scholars only is the hefty volume, A Concordance to Brontë's Wuthering Heights. C. Ruth Sabol and Todd K. Bender have generated an alphabetic computer-printout of every word in the 1847 London edition, keyed to page and line references. A word frequency table is included, followed by a line-by-line reprint of the novel's entire text. This volume is a companion to A Concordance to Brontë's Jane Eyre (Garland, 1981), prepared by the same authors.

A Concordance to the Works of Jane Austen is an even more daunting work. In three volumes, it indexes all important words in R. W. Chapman's edition of Austen's works. Keywords are displayed in the context of sentences or phrases, which makes the concordance more useful as a stand-alone reference tool. An appendix ranks words by frequency. Concordances of this sort appeal to a small coterie of literary researchers concerned with the nuances of language use; still, this set indicates the important spot Austen now occupies in the literary canon.

Less-known authors from the United Kingdom are also the subjects of recent bibliographies. The prolific Lady Gregory, co-founder of the Irish Dramatic Movement and a colleague of Yeats, is treated in Lady Gregory, An Annotated Bibliography of Criticism, by E. H. Mikhail. Books and articles about her are accorded very brief annotations; reviews of her books and reviews of play productions are merely cited.

Dorothy L. Sayers, A Reference Guide is the first book-length bibliography of works about the creator of Lord Peter Wimsey, known not only for her mysteries but also for her essays and reviews. Critical writings are arranged chronologically, covering the period 1917 to 1981. (Two bibliographies have previously described works by Sayers: Colleen B. Gilbert's descriptive bibliography, A Bibliography of the Works of Dorothy L. Sayers, Archon Books, 1978; and Robert B. Harmon's and Margaret A. Burger's An Annotated Guide to the Works of Dorothy L. Sayers, Garland, 1977.)

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A major addition to the reference shelves in American literature is Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas: A Reference Guide, by Ray Lewis White. In a chronological arrangement spanning the years 1909-1981, nearly 2,000 works are listed and described. Included are scholarly books and articles, dissertations, reviews, popular articles, and newspaper accounts. It is gratifying to have a handle at last on the mushrooming scholarship on Stein and Toklas.



Another new bibliography, Eudora Welty, A Critical Bibliography, 1936-1958, turns out not to be so new after all. The University Press of Mississippi has reprinted a bibliography compiled by Bethany C. Swearingen for her M.A. degree at Columbia in 1958. This slim volume's only strong point is the length of the annotations, in which the compiler quotes generously from the secondary sources she cites. Researchers are better advised to consult Victor H. Thompson's Eudora Welty: A Reference Guide (G. K. Hall, 1976), which covers the period between 1936 and 1975. Thompson's annotations are briefer, but he lists more works for 1936-1958 than does Swearingen.

The body of published writings by and about Elizabeth Bishop proved too small to result in a marketable bibliography, so Diana E. Wyllie compiled Elizabeth Bishop and Howard Nemerov: A Reference Guide. A little over one fourth of the book is devoted to Bishop. The bibliography follows the standard format of G. K. Hall's reference guides -- a list of writings by the author, followed by a chronologically arranged annotated list of writings about her.

The late Jean Stafford is well served by bibliographer Wanda Avila. Jean Stafford: A Comprehensive Bibliography opens with a 30-page critical essay, followed by separate annotated listings of works by and works about the author, both appearing to be very complete.

Not all literary bibliographies focus on single authors; pathbreaking thematic guides are also being issued. Constructing such lists requires ingenuity, a thorough acquaintance with the literature -- and ideally, as in the case of Jane S. Bakerman and Mary Jean DeMarr, a network of contributing scholars. Their Adolescent Female Portraits in the American Novel, 1961-1981 covers 579 novels, including a few aimed at young adult readers. The introduction delineates common images of adolescent women, and provides a checklist that keys the entries to these images. The bibliography is arranged alphabetically by author, with long annotations that summarize the plots and themes of the novels. The adolescent female character is almost always central to the story. Appended to the bibliography is a chronological list of the titles, a title index, and -- distressing in an otherwise exemplary resource -- a woefully inadequate, overly general subject index.

Bibliographies devoted to genres are also multiplying. Betty King's Women of the Future: The Female Main Character in Science Fiction is a welcome guide to women characters in book-length science fiction. The first chapter covers 1818 to 1929; subsequent chapters examine every decade through the '80s. Selected stories are singled out for in-depth descriptions of their characters and summaries of their plots. This volume fulfills King's purpose of creating a "self-selection aid and pedagogical tool." The only weakness is an inordinate emphasis on the physical attributes of the characters. In the "index to physical and mental/emotional qualities," such factors as intelligence, occupation, and victimization are helpfully highlighted, but so are such irrelevant factors as hair color and shape of nose. In fact, hair color is indexed under very specific headings -- "blonde/gold," "brown," "gold/brown," "red," and "red/gold," for example. Who cares?

A much slimmer volume is Roger C. Schlobin's Urania's Daughters: A Checklist of Women Science-Fiction Writers, 1692-1982. Listing over 375 authors of over 830 books in English, this is the most complete bibliography we've discovered of women sf writers. It is not annotated. Avid fans of sf may also be interested in a recent bibliography focused on individual authors: Leigh Brackett, Marion Zimmer Bradley, Anne McCaffrey: A Primary and Secondary Bibliography, by Rosemarie Arbur.

Romance fiction can now boast of two new reference works, although the definitive bibliography is yet to be published. Twentieth-Century Romance and Gothic Writers, edited by James Vinson, covers some 300 authors. Entries fall under real names or pseudonyms, with full cross-references. For each author there is minimal Who's Who-style background on education, employment, family, and awards, followed by a full list of publications and a short critical assessment. (It's astonishing how many books some of these authors have churned out!) Less useful for ready reference but more reflective of the scholarship on popular romantic novels is Eileen Fallon's Words of Love: A Complete Guide to Romance Fiction. Sixty-four "historically important writers" and 163 "current romance authors" are represented, with bibliographies of their works. Current authors responded to a questionnaire, and their thoughts on writing, their tales of breaking into print, and their own favorite romance books are thus included. Also useful is an index to authors by sub-genre (e.g., family saga, Regency, and romantic suspense). The volume is fleshed out with historical and critical essays.

There are several additional reference works, just published or still in production, that we look forward to examining. These include bibliographies on George Eliot, Jane Austen, Emily Dickinson, and Jean Rhys. Women and literature remains a vital sub-field of women's studies. Despite the blossoming reference literature, there is still much bibliographic work to accomplish.

-- S.S.

## PERIODICAL NOTES

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### NEW PERIODICALS

Between Our Selves: Women of Color Newspaper. Forthcoming, 1984-Bimonthly. Subscriptions: \$10 (indiv.); \$15 (inst.). Subscription address: P.O. Box 1939, Washington, DC 20013. (Flyer from publisher)

"In 1983, we began discussing the desire to have a consistent means of communication among women of color. A national newspaper of our own would provide the space for us, as Asian Americans, Latinas, Native Americans, Afro-Americans, and Arab-Americans, to discuss our thoughts, activities, organizing, herstories and dreams. We desired a newspaper where dialogue among women of color across class, cultural and racial boundaries can happen; where the lesbian of color has a non-homophobic vehicle of expression; where women of color can share/celebrate commonalities and differences, and challenge assumptions about each other." First issue will focus on "Political Activism in Our Communities."

Brontë Newsletter. 1982-. Editor: Katherine M Reise. Annual. Subscriptions (with membership in The Brontë Society): \$10. Subscription address: 335 Grove St., Oradell, NJ 07649.

In this eight-page annual newsletter are essays, criticism, reviews, reports and announcements with a focus on the literature of the Brontës.

The Brown Papers. [1984]-. A publication of the National Institute for Women of Color. Quarterly. Subscriptions: \$15. Subscription address: NIWC, 1712 N St., NW, Washington, DC 20036. (Issue examined: no.1)

The National Institute for Women of Color is a non-profit organization established in 1981 to promote educational and economic equity for women of color. The Brown Papers is intended to serve "as a communication tool for women of color in particular, and for all interested [sic] readers in general." The major portion of this first issue is devoted to a paper by Suzanne R. Brooks and Aileen C. Hernandez entitled "The Politics of Race and Sex." The paper looks at Asian, Hispanic, American Indian, and Black women's experience in the U.S. Commentaries by Victoria Siu and Marta P. Cotera follow.

Decade Update. March 1984- . Irregular. Subscriptions: \$1.25/issue; free to women in Third World countries. Subscription address: International Women's Tribune Centre, 777 U.N. Plaza, New York, NY 10017. (Issue examined: no.1, March 1984)

Decade Update is "...an occasional publication full of news, ideas, events and inspiration that are related to plans for the Decade for Women 1976-1985." The first four-page issue provides simple background on the world meetings for the Decade. In future issues, the editors hope to publish news about related activities around the world.

Eleanor Smeal Report. June 10, 1983- . Biweekly. Subscriptions: \$49 (indiv.); \$89 (inst.). Subscription address: Eleanor Smeal and Associates, P.O. Box 19995, Washington, DC 20036. (Issues examined: v.1, no.1, June 10, 1983-v.2, no.1, June 20, 1984)

The most recent issue of this four-page newsletter reports on women's candidacies for the U.S. Senate in Minnesota, New Mexico and Colorado; delays facing the Civil Rights Act of 1984 in the Senate; a recent challenge to the Democrats' 50/50 rule for the National Convention; and women's PAC's.

Feminist Teacher. Forthcoming, 1984- . Quarterly. Subscriptions: \$12 (indiv.); \$20 (inst.). Sample copy: \$3.50. Subscription address: Feminist Teacher Editorial Collective, Ballantine 442, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405. (Press release from publisher)

This new quarterly is being launched by a group of Indiana University graduate student women to serve as an interdisciplinary forum that can help develop a national network of feminists teachers, from preschool through graduate school. Each issue will feature articles on feminist pedagogy, strategies for the classroom, course syllabi and bibliographies, interviews and news, and letters from readers -- intended to "challenge the sexism, racism and other types of oppression that have long been entrenched in our educational institutions."

GEN: An Anti-Sexist Educational Journal. Autumn 1983- . Subscriptions (3 issues): 4.50 pounds (indiv.); 7 pounds (inst.). Subscription address: Women's Education Resource Centre, ILEA Drama and Tape Centre, Princeton St., London WC1, England. (Issue examined: 1, Autumn 1983)

The Women's Education Group was set up at the British Institute of Education in 1980, and later received funding to establish a resource center and publish an anti-sexist magazine and newsletter. GEN is intended as a national forum "for debate about feminist/anti-sexist education..." while the Women's Education Group Newsletter reports on current news, activities and practical action. In this first issue of GEN are articles on gender and English teaching, women's studies in the classroom, work with Asian young women in The Midlands, women's work in a boys' school, and more.

Hot Wire: A Journal of Women's Music and Culture. Forthcoming 1984-3/year. Subscriptions: until Nov. 15, 1984: \$12; thereafter: \$14. Single copy: \$5. Subscription address: Not Just a Stage, 1321 W. Rosedale, Chicago, IL 60660. (Flyer from publisher)

Hotwire "will be a means of communication and networking for the women's music industry as well as provide useful and lively information for other women interested in women's music." It will include features, interviews, letters, news, a column by Kay Gardner, graphics, festival coverage, and possibly promotional cuts from new releases. The journal is being launched by Not Just a Stage, whose other accomplishments include publication of "Women's Music Plus: Directory of Resources in Women's Music & Culture" (see Items of Note below). This is an exciting publishing event for those who have felt the loss of the earlier women's music publication, Paid My Dues.

Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy. 1983-. Editor: Azizah al-Hibri. Annual. Subscriptions (comes with subscription to the Women's Studies International Forum): \$30 (indiv.); \$95 (inst.). Subscription address: Pergamon Press Ltd., Maxwell House, Fairview Park, Elmsford, NY 10523. (Issue examined: v.6, no.6, 1983 [a special number of WSIF])

The founding of Hypatia has been under discussion for nearly a decade among the members of the Society for Women in Philosophy. It will appear once a year as a number of the journal, Women's Studies International Forum. Among the articles in this first issue: "On the War Path and Beyond: Hegel, Freud and Feminist Theory" (Jo-Ann Pilardi Fuchs); "How Ordinary (Sexist) Discourse Resists Radical (Feminist) Critique" (Terry R. Winant); "Masculinity as Ideology in Political Theory: Hobbesian Man Considered" (Christine Di Stefano).

The International Congress on Women in Music Newsletter. January 1983-Quarterly. Subscriptions (included in the annual membership dues of the Congress): \$20. Subscription address: P.O. Box 366, Loyola Blvd. at West 80th, Los Angeles, CA 90045. (Issues examined: v.1, no.1, January 1983-v.1, no.4, December 1983)

The International Congress on Women in Music was founded in 1982 at the Second International Congress on Women in Music. The 8- to 12-page Congress Newsletter offers a forum "for exchange of ideas, proposed projects, upcoming musical events, new compositions and recordings, and research works in progress."

Legacy: A Newsletter of Nineteenth-Century American Women Writers. Spring 1984-. Editors: Karen Dandurand and Joanne Dobson. Semiannual. Subscriptions: \$5 (indiv.); \$8 (inst.). Subscription address: Legacy, Dept. of English, Bartlett Hall, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003. (Issue examined: v.1, no.1, Spring 1984)

In the first issue: "Alice Cary: 1820-1871" (Judith Fetterley and Majorie Pryse); "Women's Diary Literature: Resources and Directions in the Field" (Margo Culley); "Nineteenth-Century American Novel: A Revised Syllabus" (Joanne Dobson and Judith Fetterley); "Publication of Dickinson's Poems in Her Lifetime" (Karen Dandurand); notes and queries; "Books in Brief"; and "Legacy Directory of Scholars." Beginning with the Fall 1985 issue, Legacy will appear in journal format.

Woman of Power: A Magazine of Feminism, Spirituality, and Politics. Spring 1984-. Quarterly. Subscriptions: \$18; \$13 low-income. Single copy: \$5. Subscription address: P.O. Box 827, Cambridge, MA 02238. (Issue examined: "Premier Issue," Spring 1984)

"...born out of a need for women to unite the spiritual and political dimensions of our lives," Woman of Power is produced by a volunteer collective of 70 women from the Boston area. Each issue will focus on a theme: "Womanpower" in the first issue, and in subsequent issues, "Envisioning Life in a Feminist World," "Women of Color: A Celebration of Power," and "Woman as Warrior." In the 120-page first issue are articles (e.g., "Woman's Role in Planetary Transformation" [Dhyani Ywahoo]; "Looking for a New Model of Power" [Grace R. Rowan]), interviews (with, among others, Helen Caldicott, Andrea Dworkin, Starhawk and Susan Griffin), fiction and poetry, music and book reviews, announcements, and graphics.

Women of Color News. June 1983-. Editors: Frances Miranda-Watkins and Cheryle Williams. Quarterly. Subscriptions: \$5. Single copy: \$1.50. Subscription address: 2702 N. 37th St., Milwaukee, WI 53210. (Issues examined: v.1, no.1, June 1983-v.2, no.2, April 1984)

This is a beautifully produced 32-page newsletter, with a stated goal of "being responsive to all women of color,...lesbian and non-lesbian." The most recent issue includes poetry and nicely reproduced graphics; articles on racism and sexism, Indian schools, and empowerment of Latinas; book and movie reviews; and announcements.

Women's Education des Femmes. 1982-. Quarterly. Subscriptions: \$15 (indiv.); \$25 (inst.). Subscription address: CCLOW National Office, 692 Coxwell Ave., Toronto, Ontario M4C 3B6, Canada. (Issues examined: v.1, no.3, March 1983; v.1, no.4, June 1983; v.2, no.2, Dec. 1983; v.2, no.3, March 1984)

Published by the Canadian Congress for Learning Opportunities for Women, a national, non-profit women's organization, this bilingual journal reports on activities and resources throughout Canada relevant to the advancement of women's educational opportunities. Issues average 30 pages.

#### SPECIAL ISSUES OF PERIODICALS

Drama: The Quarterly Theatre Review no.152, 1984: "Special Issue on Women in Theatre." Guest Editor: Ria Julian. Available from: British Theatre Association, 9 Fitzroy Square, London W1P 6AE, England. Single copy: 1.50 pounds. (Issue examined)

Articles on feminism and theater; the status of women in the British theater; why there aren't more women directors; the Women's Playhouse Trust; plus profiles of actresses, directors, designers, composers, and administrators.

Esquire v.101, no.6, June 1984: "A Celebration of the New American Woman." Available from: P.O. Box 2590, Boulder, CO 80321. Single copy: \$2.50. (Issue examined)

Feminist readers will find this oversize special issue a mixed bag -- e.g., "The Real and Ever-Widening Gender Gap" by Barbara Ehrenreich

counterbalanced by "The Case for Staying Home" by Harry Stein (and worse). Interesting as a media event.

Rara Avis 6/7, 1984: "Southern California Women Writers & Artists." Editors and publishers: Jacqueline De Angelis and Aleida Rodriguez. Available from: Books of a Feather, P.O. Box 3095, Terminal Annex, Los Angeles, CA 90051. Single copy: \$8. (Issue examined)

This 158-page issue of Rara Avis is gorgeous; one hates to report that it is also their last. Writing, photography, and drawings by, among others, Mitsuye Yamada, Alice Block, Susan Anderson, Jacqueline De Angelis, Mary Moran, Marisela Norte, Aleida Rodriguez, Linda Vallejo, Terry Wolverton.

Revista Chicano-Riqueña v.11, no.3/4, Fall/Winter 1983: "Woman of Her Word: Hispanic Women Write." Guest Editor: Evangelina Vigil. Available from: Revista Chicano-Riqueña, University of Houston, University Park, Houston, TX 77004. Subscriptions: \$10 (indiv.); \$15 (inst.). Single copy: \$12. (Issue examined)

In this 180-page special issue are poetry, prose, criticism and art by Mexican American, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Costa Rican, and Chilean women, among them: Cordelia Candelaria, Judith Ortiz Cofer, Angela De Hoyos, Roberta Fernandez, Pat Mora, Antonia Quintana Pino, and Rima de Vallbona.

## ITEMS OF NOTE

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The 14TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN & THE LAW: 1983 SOURCEBOOK is an impressive collection of bibliographies on a wide variety of workshop themes offered at the 1983 conference held in Washington, D.C. under the general theme of "Unity and Empowerment." Topics range from careers to disabilities, health to lesbian issues and third world women/women of color. The 466-page sourcebook includes summaries of each workshop, sources used by the workshop presenters, addresses and biographies of each presenter, plus a helpful subject index. Available for \$6.50 from: NCWL, 2000 P St. S.W., Rm.610, Washington, DC 20036.

IN RECOGNITION OF CULTURE: A RESOURCE GUIDE FOR ADULT EDUCATORS ABOUT WOMEN OF COLOR grew out of a belief that too often adult educators are from a different cultural group than their students, and therefore may not be aware of culturally or racially sensitive topics or behaviors. The guide includes narratives on the cultures of various women of color (black, Asian American, Haitian, hispanic, native American, refugee, rural, southern, migrant, etc.), and lists local and national contact persons/organizations, plus bibliographies of resources for further insight into each culture. Compiled by Sudie Hofmann, the 1983 guide is available from: John Lawrence, Chief, Bureau of Adult and Community Education, Florida Dept. of Education, Knott Building, Tallahassee, FL 32301.

WOMEN'S MUSIC PLUS: DIRECTORY OF RESOURCES IN WOMEN'S MUSIC & CULTURE, 1984 has been recently released by Not Just A Stage, Inc. (1321 Rosedale, Chicago, IL 60660, 312-275-6512), a group "specializing in resource sharing/network building for women's music & culture." The 70-page directory gives names and addresses of women's production companies, distributors, festivals, performers, coffeehouses, clubs and bars, theater companies, bookstores, and

more. (The publication was formerly the "We Shall Go Forth Directory of Resources in Women's Music & Culture," published by Toni Armstrong since 1977.)

BLACK WOMEN: ACHIEVEMENTS AGAINST THE ODDS is a 20-panel exhibit about Black women in American history produced in 1976 by the Smithsonian Institution. Two additional panels featuring Wisconsin women have recently been created for the Wisconsin Humanities Committee. Check availability for touring (or purchase of paper panels) with: Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service, Washington, D.C. 20560; or Wisconsin Humanities Committee, 716 Langdon St., Madison, WI 53706. (Information from WHC's Perspectives, Winter 1984.)

Womyn's Braille Press, Inc. (P.O. Box 8475, Minneapolis, MN 55408) has recently produced its LITERATURE CATALOG 1984, a descriptive catalog available in Braille, standard print, and on tape. Listed is an impressive array of tapes, including general resources, 48 non-fiction books, 44 fiction works, 20 poetry books, 5 periodicals, plus 2 Braille books. The catalog is available as a yearly publication along with the quarterly newsletter for a sliding scale subscription fee (\$10 to \$20).

CONNECTING WOMEN IN THE COMMUNITY...A HANDBOOK FOR PROGRAMS, by Joy Christi Przystwor, is a compilation of the plans, experiences, and community-level programs of women in 10 communities across the country (including Milwaukee) who participated in the "Women in the Community" project, sponsored by The Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library at Radcliffe College and supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The "Radcliffe Project" grew out of a perceived need to bridge the gap between women's studies scholarship and resources in the wider community, between libraries and the people they serve. Included in the handbook are discussions on finding collaborators, choosing topics and formats for the programs, handling logistics, and other details of program production, plus appendices giving sample grant applications, model program design, a sample publicity packet, evaluation materials, etc. Published by the Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe College, 10 Garden St., Cambridge, MA 02138, the handbook is meant as a resource for women trying to produce similar types of "bridging programs" around the country.

A helpful new tool for libraries is the FIELD GUIDE TO ALTERNATIVE MEDIA: A DIRECTORY TO REFERENCE AND SELECTION TOOLS USEFUL IN ACCESSING SMALL AND ALTERNATIVE PRESS PUBLICATIONS AND INDEPENDENTLY PRODUCED MEDIA, edited and compiled by Patricia J. Case. The 44-page Guide provides publishing information and lengthy descriptions on "available tools that list, index, or review primarily small and alternative press publications and independently-produced media." It is divided into four sections: Subject and Trade Directories, Indices and Subject Bibliographies, Trade and Review Media, and Bookstore and Distributor Catalogs. Available for \$6 from the Office of Library Outreach Services, American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

MORE RARE AND OUT-OF-PRINT BOOKS FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES. The Book Store (108 East 4th Ave., Olympia, Washington 98501, 206-754-7470) now has a separate Women's Collection, including some new titles from women's presses. The current catalog lists a number of representative titles, and proprietor Carol McKinley welcomes requests for out-of-print book searches as well as for hard to find in-print books.

CHANGE was "founded to research and publish reports on the condition and status of women all over the world." Funded by private donations, each issue of the series focusses on a different nation, and researchers/writers are from the nation featured whenever possible. Chile, Peru, Israel, Philippines, Uganda, Bangladesh, and Ethiopia are among the nations covered in the series. The volumes are slim but packed with information on women in relation to politics, the economy, education, family structure and violence, etc., and each has a bibliography/list of resources. Available for \$3 from CHANGE International Reports: Women and Society, 29 Great James St., London WC1N 3ES, England.

## WISCONSIN BIBLIOGRAPHIES IN WOMEN'S STUDIES

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The Office of the Women's Studies Librarian-at-Large has recently issued two new bibliographies in its series, "Wisconsin Bibliographies in Women's Studies." "Recent Writings on May Sarton and Her Work: A Selected Bibliography" was compiled by Susan Searing for distribution as part of the series and also for publication in Concerns, the newsletter of the women's caucus of MLA. "Women and Information Technology: A Selective Bibliography" was compiled by Linda Shult to accompany her review essay, "Information Technology and Women," which appeared in the Spring 1984 issue of Feminist Collections. The bibliographies are available from: Women's Studies Librarian-at-Large, 112A Memorial Library, 728 State St., Madison, WI 53706.

## BOOK REVIEW

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Discovering Reality: Feminist Perspectives on Epistemology, Metaphysics, Methodology, and Philosophy of Science. Edited by Sandra Harding and Merrill B. Hintikka. Dordrecht, Holland; Boston: D. Reidel Publishing Company, 1983. (Synthese library, v.161) 332p. index. \$54.50, ISBN 90-277-1496-7; pap., ISBN 90-277-1538-6. LC 82-16507.

Whatever the defects of this anthology, and it has some serious ones, Discovering Reality (hereafter referred to as DR) should be read by anyone with philosophical interests or anyone who is interested in what its title points to: ideas concerning 1) the origin, nature and scope of knowledge (epistemology); 2) the nature of reality (metaphysics); and 3) the nature and limitations of modes of interpretation or ways of examining and explaining whatever is the focus of attention (methodology and philosophy of science). In other words, the issues addressed in DR's 16 essays are intrinsic to any scholarly discipline, to any self-conscious attempt to understand ourselves and the world in which we live, and what we are engaged in as we make such an attempt.

The fact that the issues addressed are so fundamental (whereas an inordinate amount of what passes for philosophy in American academic circles is much ado about minutiae) was bound to delight one who has been in love with philosophy for 30 years. Furthermore the fact that all the essayists are feminists is of no small interest to one who has been a feminist for as long as she can remember. When these authors stumble or even fall, I admit I suffer more grievously than if it were the awkwardness of a non-feminist I observed. On



the other hand, when they are brilliant, as they frequently are, I rejoice at the intimation that, to use the title of one of my own courses, "philosophy's feminist future" is now. The exhilaration I feel over this is based on a long-standing conviction that philosophy, if it has a future, will be feminist, because, as I see it, philosophy in its true nature is feminist.

Obviously this is not the place to argue that thesis. What does seem called for, however, is some indication of what is meant by "feminist" as used in this volume's title. The 19 authors show a great variety of interests and disciplines, as well as convictions about appropriate assumptions to hold and ways to proceed (e.g., conceptual logical analysis [1] or revised Freudianism [2] or Marxist epistemology [3]) in critically evaluating interpretive schemes or world views (e.g., the social theory of Charlotte Perkins Gilman [4] or physicalist psychology [5] or Darwinism [6]). Nevertheless there is something that binds these thinkers together and that thus provides -- at least initially -- a reason for calling them all feminists. It is the judgment that there is not only something wrong, distorted or perverse about what has just become visible in the past decade as an object for "scientific scrutiny" -- "the sex/gender system" -- but that there is also something inadequate, incomplete or untrue about every philosophy and every social, psychological and biological theory which has ever flourished in human consciousness and thereby furnished "ideological" support for the sex/gender system itself.

Discovering Reality can thus be seen as one manifestation of an intensive labor of intellect which has been proceeding among feminist scholars for about 10 years and which appears to be pointing to the birth of what Thomas Kuhn calls (in The Structure of Scientific Revolutions, one of the most frequently cited works in DR) a paradigm shift in our basic ways of conceiving reality.

The following passage from Ruth Hubbard's incisive and delightfully witty critique of orthodox evolutionary theory -- "Have Only Men Evolved?" -- offers some idea of why the "revolution" a paradigm shift represents is so difficult:

Every theory is a self-fulfilling prophecy that orders experience into the framework it provides.... The mythology of science holds that scientific theories lead to the truth because they operate by consensus: they can be tested by different scientists, making their own hypotheses and designing independent experiments to test them.... Scientists do not [however] think and work independently. Their "own" hypotheses ordinarily are formulated within a context of theory, so that their interpretations by and large are sub-sets within the prevailing orthodoxy.... Of course, scientists often disagree, but their quarrels usually are about details that do not contradict fundamental beliefs, whichever way they are resolved. To overturn orthodoxy is no easier in science than in philosophy, religion, economics, or any of the other disciplines through which we try to comprehend the world and the society in which we live. (pp.46-47)

The value of this quotation is that it calls attention to what is at once the great power and the great danger of the governing assumption of every essay in DR: the idea expressed by Alfred North Whitehead that "the relevance of evidence is dictated by theory"; the idea which Einstein wrote in a letter to

Heisenberg, "It is the theory that determines what we can observe"; the same idea underlying DR essayist Lynda Lange's reference to "theory-laden observational data and 'facts.'" (7) In other words, there are no uninterpreted facts.

The power of this idea is clear. Nothing escapes it; all phenomena, all facts, all that is, is encompassed by it. But the danger of the idea is equally clear. The idea implies that "facts" are no more than a matter of interpretation (or, as many of my students would say, opinion). The implication is an endearing one to every born-again sophist. There is your truth and my truth and their truth and our truth, but there is no truth -- no truth, that is, for all of us (except that truth). As Ruth Hubbard remarks, "Agreement...is built into the process [of interpretation] and need tell us little or nothing about 'truth' or 'reality.'" (8)

The significance of that one line indicates better than anything else the epistemological hurdle that seems insurmountable for nearly every essayist in this collection. The activity purportedly required for discovering reality keeps showing itself as making reality. That this is so is itself not remarkable, since the assumption that we can know only what we make is central to "our modern way of thinking." What is remarkable, however, is that in a volume characterized by challenges to "patriarchal," "androcentric," "masculinist" or "male" assumptions, one of the governing assumptions of modern thought -- an assumption clearly made by fathers, not mothers, of that thought -- goes not only unquestioned but to all appearances unrecognized.

Evident in well over half of the collection's articles, this epistemological blindspot is often explicitly accompanied by what is logically its metaphysical or ontological correlate, viz. reality seen as "process," "fluid" or "dynamic" in character. (9) Indeed "a process view of reality" (10) has become so de rigueur for the modern mind, what would be surprising would be a serious critique of such a view. But, alas, there is here no "feminist perspective" that daring. Instead, in a work dedicated in large part to the laudable task of "revealing those basic assumptions" that "escape our attention by virtue of being too familiar" (11), the reader is offered a typically modern shibboleth which is treated as if it requires neither explanation nor justification -- except its attractiveness to neo-Freudians and its "growing" appeal among quantum physicists. (Why either group should be assumed to have captured "a privileged definition of reality," to use the words of Kathryn Pyne Addelson [12], is, unfortunately, never addressed.)

"What counts as knowledge," Harding and Hintikka write in the introduction, "must be grounded on experience." (p.x) Given the thousands of years of human thought in which the term "experience" has been taken to mean introspective awareness alone or the ectospective kind alone or some combination of both, this statement as it stands is uncontroversial. What Harding and Hintikka and several other DR contributors propose, however, is that it is not experience of just any kind that will qualify for the grounding of knowledge. Rather, it is experience that is distinctively women's experience, a kind which "systematically differs from the male experience." (13)

Women's experience, moreover, according to most of these same contributors, is understood as especially compatible with or indicative of reality seen as process. There is agreement on this even when there is disagreement on whether "women's experience...in itself [provides] an adequate ground for theory." (14) There is agreement too on what reality as process basically means, at least insofar as its character can be distinguished from the

following "apparently irresolvable dualisms" (15) or "dichotomies" structuring "the masculinist world view" (16): mind/body, subject/object, abstract/concrete, inner/outer, reason/sense [also reason/appetite], ideal/real, self/other, culture/nature and stasis/change. (17)

Except for the caricature which the last named "dualism" substitutes for a meaningful distinction between change and stability or lastingness (as opposed to what in our culture would be considered the rather repugnant notions of inactivity or stagnation), the pairs cited in the preceding list of "dualities" point to an incomplete yet fairly representative catalog of key ideas used in the history of Western thought for construing reality and knowledge. Hence a careful examination of any one of these pairs, accompanied by a recognition of the rich variety of meanings each carries within different world views or philosophical contexts, is certainly called for by a "feminist 'desconstructive project'" intended to

identify how distinctively masculine perspectives on masculine experience have shaped the most fundamental and...formal aspects of systematic thought.... (18)

It should be clear too that the same examination or clearing of the ground is imperative for any "feminist 'reconstructive project'" intended to

identify distinctive aspects of women's experience which can provide resources for the construction of more representatively human understanding. (19)

Unfortunately, however, such an examination of what Hartsock calls "these hierarchical dualisms" "overlaid by gender," with "only the first of each pair...associated with the male" (20), is not the forte of DR contributors. The one clear exception to this rule can be found in Elizabeth V. Spelman's nearly flawless analysis of Aristotle's metaphysics in her "Aristotle and the Politicization of the Soul." Lynda Lange's "Woman Is Not A Rational Animal: On Aristotle's Biology of Reproduction," while not so successfully developed as Spelman's essay, also represents some transcendence of the above mentioned rule.

The rule, nevertheless, stands in DR, a dominating assumption that it is not necessary to attempt to understand recurring fundamental polarities in Western thought within their specific philosophical contexts. Nor is it judged useful to consider the hypothesis that such polarities might be neither wedded to a "masculinist world view," nor essentially and (thus) irretrievably "overlaid by gender" with "only the first of each pair...associated with the male." In fact, that hypothesis is ignored by those several essayists most outspoken in their repudiation of "dualisms of any sort," and most adamant in their judgment that the dualisms at issue are but reflections of "distorted or frozen social relations," traceable in their roots at least as far back as pre-oedipal experience.

Why does this governing presupposition -- that particular recurring categories of thought mirror or reflect the nature of nothing except the oppressive social/political structures of patriarchal societies -- go unexamined? It is, I submit, because each of the theorists in question starts from the assumption that reality is process (and knowledge and knowers, products). Given that starting point, "all that is solid," as Marx so eloquently prophesied, "melts into air." In other words, if we know at the outset of our thinking the Marxian truth that "life," nay, "reality itself consists of 'sensuous human

activity...'" (21), we will also know at our thinking's outcome that all objects, all divisions, separations or oppositions are but our creations: fleeting manifestations of all that is "pregnant with its contrary" (Marx again), all that flows from the one maternal materiality.

The image is a powerful one, particularly if one deliberately adds, as I have, "maternal" to characterize the unifying materiality. When it comes to the most fundamental questions we can ask, however -- about the nature of reality and the nature of knowledge -- it is perilous to equate powerful images with powerful thinking. The images may mystify rather than assist us as we seek a path toward truth. Thus feminists for whom a "process" metaphysics seems particularly appealing must be prepared to ask themselves whether they have chosen such a world view after having scrutinized its major implications and judged them especially compatible with their experience or whether this world view, formed and shaped neither by "women's experience" nor by "feminist standpoints," has "chosen" them and thus leads them, in the comforting companionship of sisters sharing and hence certifying the common wisdom, to find evidence everywhere in women's experience -- e.g., of connectedness, relatedness, sensuousness, concreteness -- fulfilling the prophecy of process.

To repeat, a "process view of reality" is certainly modern. Whether it is also the most adequate (or least distorted) view available for "discovering reality," however, is another question; and whether it is both most adequate for such "discovering" and most attuned to or expressive of women's experience is a question begged, not answered either by invoking fascinating scenarios of neo-Freudian mythology to interpret infantile experience or by labeling whatever snacks of dualistic categories as "masculinist" and hence "distorted" thought.

I would pose the following questions to those who hold that a feminist standpoint, enabling us to have a "correct vision" (22), can be grounded only in women's experience. Is this a parody of all the male theorists in history who have argued unceasingly about how different women and men are or what different spheres they come from and belong to and therefore why the specific group privileged by their condition to have superior understanding can and should lead the other group into the promised land (e.g., of "discovering reality")? Or is it really so that what we may loosely call human experience is bifurcated into the female and male kind and that it is only the former which offers a pathway into what is ultimately real and what is "fully human"? (23) Given our miserable patriarchal history, shot through with sexist rationalizations of it, this may be poetic justice, but is it sound philosophy?

The question of whether what we count as knowledge should be grounded in experience is not difficult to answer. The deeper, the more serious question is what we are to count as experience. Must we choose between our experience and their experience? Or is there -- could there possibly be -- some experience across class, culture, ethnic and sex/gender "divisions" which we humans share and which initially provides us all with a common compass for the difficult journey of discovering reality?

-- Barbara Parsons

[Barbara Parsons is a professor of philosophy at UW-Platteville. In recent years she has focused her research activity on the relation between concepts of reason and images of woman in Western thought. She is currently writing two papers: the first -- "Why the Mothers of Feminist Theory Should Divorce

the Fathers of Modern Thought" -- will be presented at the UW System's Women's Studies Conference in September 1984; the second -- "Ideas Have Consequences: The Sexes Created by Male Thinkers" -- will be given at an October 1984 conference at UW-La Crosse on "Women and Men: Connecting Research and Experience."]

#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> Elizabeth V. Spelman, "Aristotle and the Politicization of the Soul," pp.17-30.

<sup>2</sup> Jane Flax, "Political Philosophy and the Patriarchal Unconscious: A Psychoanalytic Perspective on Epistemology and Metaphysics," pp.245-281; Evelyn Fox Keller, "Gender and Science," pp.187-205.

<sup>3</sup> Nancy C. M. Hartsock, "The Feminist Standpoint: Developing the Ground for a Specifically Feminist Historical Materialism," pp.283-310.

<sup>4</sup> Ann Palmeri, "Charlotte Perkins Gilman: Forerunner of a Feminist Social Science," pp.97-119.

<sup>5</sup> Naomi Scheman, "Individualism and the Objects of Psychology," pp.225-244.

<sup>6</sup> Michael Gross and Mary Beth Averill, "Evolution and Patriarchal Myths of Scarcity and Competition," pp.71-95; Ruth Hubbard, "Have Only Men Evolved?," pp.45-69.

<sup>7</sup> Lynda Lange, "Woman Is Not a Rational Animal: On Aristotle's Biology of Reproduction," p.13.

<sup>8</sup> Hubbard, p.47.

<sup>9</sup> Several articles are free from the above mentioned blindspot. One example is Judith Stiehm's well-focussed and argued critique of what she calls the "Aristotelian hangover" of social scientists, whose dubious methods of analysis support the political consequence of women being treated not as citizens but as appendages of men. See her "The Unit of Political Analysis: Our Aristotelian Hangover," pp.31-43.

<sup>10</sup> Evelyn Fox Keller and Christine R. Grontkowski, "The Mind's Eye," pp.221.

<sup>11</sup> Keller and Grontkowski, p.208.

<sup>12</sup> Kathryn Pyne Addelson, "The Man of Professional Wisdom," p.180.

<sup>13</sup> Sandra Harding and Merrill B. Hintikka, "Introduction," p.x.

<sup>14</sup> Flax, p.270.

<sup>15</sup> Flax, p.269.

<sup>16</sup> Hartsock, p.296.

<sup>17</sup> Cf. Flax, pp.269-270, 255; and Hartsock, pp.297, 287.

<sup>18</sup> Harding and Hintikka, p.x.

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19 Harding and Hintikka, p.x.  
20 Hartsock, p.297.  
21 Hartsock, pp.292, 288.  
22 Hartsock, p.284.  
23 Cf. Hartsock, p.305.

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