

# feminist collections

a quarterly of women's studies resources

vol.8, no.4

summer 1987

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EDITORS: Susan Searing, Women's Studies Librarian and Linda Shult,  
Women's Studies Specialist. Graphic Artist: Moema Furtado. Typist: Hilary Bruce  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM 112A Memorial Library 728 State St.  
Madison, WI 53706 (608) 263-5754

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Feminist Collections is published by Susan E. Searing, UW System Women's Studies Librarian, 112A Memorial Library, 728 State Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53706. Phone: (608) 263-5754. Editors: Susan E. Searing, Linda Shult. Graphics: Moema Furtado. ISSN 0742-7441. Subscriptions are free to individuals and organizations affiliated with the UW System; \$5.00/year for individuals and nonprofit women's programs in Wisconsin (\$15.00 outside Wisconsin); and \$10.00/year for libraries and other organizations in Wisconsin (\$30.00 outside Wisconsin). Add \$5.00 for surface mail or \$10.00 for airmail outside the U.S. Subscriptions cover all publications issued by the Women's Studies Librarian, including Feminist Collections, Feminist Periodicals, New Books on Women & Feminism, and bibliographies, directories, and occasional publications produced throughout the year.

## EDITORIAL

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Inspired by the Regents' recent report on the future of the University of Wisconsin System, directors of several System women's studies programs have come together to plan future cooperative activities, seek outside funding, and establish a firmer base of inter-institutional support for feminist scholarship. Such planning relates directly to our work in the Women's Studies Librarian's office, and promises new responsibilities and challenges in the months and years to come. There has, of course, always been a mechanism for planning and evaluating office activities through the Systemwide Advisory Panel to the Women's Studies Librarian. In this editorial, I'd like to explain the panel's role and the complementary objectives of the new committee of women's studies directors.

As our Wisconsin readers know, the UW is a system of twenty-six campuses, ranging from two-year colleges serving their local communities to the internationally recognized doctoral institutions in Madison and Milwaukee. As the Women's Studies Librarian, I serve a large and varied constituency.

The Advisory Panel links my office, women's studies programs, and campus libraries. The current panel members are: Edith Bjorklund (librarian, UW-Milwaukee), Cara Chell (administrator, UW System), Eileen Diambra (librarian, UW-Eau Claire), D. Kaye Gapen (librarian, UW-Madison), Estella Lauter (faculty, UW-Green Bay), Janet Polansky (faculty, UW-Stout), Judith Pryor (librarian, UW-Parkside), Alice Randlett (librarian/faculty, UW-Stevens Point), Jacqueline Ross (faculty, UW-Platteville and UW Centers), and Rachel Skalitzy (faculty, UW-Milwaukee). The student position on the panel is vacant at this writing.

Giving me general direction and evaluating my progress are the panel's prime responsibilities. Naturally I consult with faculty, librarians, and women's studies program directors on each of the UW campuses, but I can turn to the panel for a wider vision of System needs and priorities. While the UW System Administration provides oversight at the highest level, and the UW-Madison library (where my office is located) copes with day-to-day operational matters, it is the panel that debates sticky policy issues and makes recommendations. What are reasonable charges for the office publications? To whom should the office target its services? How should I balance my commitments to local, state, and national projects? In what concrete ways can the office support curricular development throughout the System? These are examples of the concerns the panel takes up regularly.

Members of the panel have also been generous with advice on personnel and university politics. They are able advocates for women's studies, savvy in the ways of academic bureaucracy and dedicated to improving library support for feminist scholarship. At its final meeting of the academic year, the panel reaffirmed the philosophy of service that drives our office, clarified my responsibilities to UW libraries and women's studies programs, and called for a renewed emphasis on outreach. Our office will mark its tenth birthday this autumn, so it's the perfect time for the staff, the Advisory Panel, the planning group of women's studies directors, and me to take stock of our accomplishments and envision new directions.

In my opinion, women's studies in the UW is entering a second stage of activism and a new period of growth. The evolving network of UW women's studies programs is looking ahead to new and expanded endeavors in teaching and research, as well as new initiatives in resource sharing; and women's studies faculty and administrators are beginning to dream of new library-related services. At a time when women's studies classes top the FTE enrollment statistics at several campuses, nearly all the programs remain sorely under-funded and under-staffed. The Women's Studies Librarian can offer these programs crucial assistance for strengthening resources, revising the curriculum, and imparting bibliographic research skills.

I'll continue to report Systemwide developments in FC. Meanwhile, I'm delighted to be working with both the Advisory Panel and the women's studies planning committee. I leave meetings with my head spinning and my enthusiasm at an all-time high.

-- S.S.

## FEMINIST VISIONS

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### SEX, DRUGS AND AIDS, A PROBLEMATIC FILM FOR SEXUALITY EDUCATION

Nearly every recent promotional brochure for health-related educational media highlights new resources for teaching about AIDS. Because of the rapid proliferation of these materials, and the complexity of the issues surrounding AIDS, it is crucial that such resources be examined critically. Recently we had the opportunity to evaluate Sex, Drugs and AIDS, a controversial film that has received wide publicity and critical acclaim and is currently being used in middle and high schools across the country. In a joint meeting of two university classes (one on critical media analysis and the other on sex education for the public schools), we viewed and critiqued the film. We focused on how the selection of information and the film's form and style combine to create a particular point of view on a number of issues: homophobia, racism, the sexual activity of young people, what constitutes "safe sex," who has responsibility for safe sex, and the impact of AIDS on young people's lives.

Sex, Drugs and AIDS is an eighteen-minute film intended for ages fifteen through young adult. Rae Dawn Chong, familiar to young audiences from her appearances in Fame and The Color Purple, acts as an on-camera narrator who is also a role model for the audience. She introduces short segments that address several issues about AIDS: the difficulty of contracting AIDS; the fact that AIDS can be transmitted through sexual contact, sharing of IV needles, and blood transfusions; "safe sex" defined as use of condoms; and the reminder that no particular social group is to blame for AIDS.

The style of presentation incorporates a number of popular film and television formats considered accessible and interesting to young people. A rock video-like segment, intercut with graphics stating "AIDS is hard to get," depicts some types of casual sexual contact that would not transmit AIDS. A

series of AIDS victims, portrayed in extreme close-up, give grim, courtroom-like testimonies of how they each acquired the disease (and how one woman passed it on to her baby). In a documentary-style street scene, two young people shoot up, sharing a needle. An intimate, pastel, softly-lit girl-talk scene (reminiscent of current television tampon commercials) involves three young women discussing decisions about intercourse and condom use. In a final, emotional dramatization, the older brother of a gay AIDS victim argues against homophobia on a personalized basis.

While it appears that the film is undercutting homophobic attitudes concerning AIDS, the structure of the film ultimately reinforces the view that gay men are both the primary victims and carriers of the virus. For example, the film opens with a gay man who tells us he is dying of AIDS in terms that link the disease to his lifestyle. Near the end of the testimony sequence, which includes another gay man, a woman says she contracted AIDS through sexual relations with a carrier. The woman's experience might apply to anyone, gay or heterosexual. However, separation of the gay men at the beginning of the film and again in this sequence shifts the focus from modes of transmission to at-risk groups, and reinforces the association of AIDS with homosexuality. Homophobia is further reinforced by Rae Dawn Chong's delivery of a line about anal intercourse, in which her facial expression registers disgust. The assumption that the audience is heterosexual and will share her discomfort with the topic serves to isolate the gay men as "Other." There are similar problems with the dramatization dealing with homophobia. The young man who lost a gay brother to AIDS is offered as a model for tolerance. He argues that even though he doesn't like homosexuality, "it's a free country"; that gay men proved themselves a model minority in the ways they took care of his dying brother; and that a gay man could be somebody's kid brother. He ends his direct address to the audience with a physical threat to anyone who blames his kid brother for AIDS.

As with homophobic portrayals of the connections between AIDS and gay men, the potential for racist depictions of links between AIDS and Blacks is high. The news media, for example, have overemphasized the virus' African origin, with coverage focusing on the threat of infection to the West, rather than on the major health problem AIDS poses for Africans. In Sex, Drugs and AIDS, the narrator is Black, and one of the testimonials is given by a Black woman who says she got AIDS from her partner and passed it on to her baby. According to data from the recent International Conference on AIDS held in Washington, DC, people contracting AIDS in the U.S. through heterosexual contact are disproportionately Black women whose partners are intravenous drug users. The fact that the film's IV drug users are white, as are the young women discussing birth control and safe sex, avoids connection of these issues to the Black community in a stereotypical way. However, it also avoids dealing with the realities of AIDS as a health concern for Blacks, involving special economic and historical pressures that have led to high numbers of teenage pregnancies, IV drug use, and inadequate access to health and prenatal care in urban Black communities. Obviously, all of these issues cannot be raised in a short film aimed at the schools. However, filmmakers and teachers concerned with reaching teenage audiences must ask whether the form and content of Sex, Drugs and AIDS will appeal to teenage Blacks.

The segment of the film that deals with decision-making around sexual activity and "safe sex" features young, white, heterosexual women. This scene offers fast-paced, naturalistic conversation among three attractive high schoolers. One takes on the role of a sensible young woman having intercourse and using condoms; a second uses the pill but no condom, despite awareness of sexually transmitted diseases; and a third is trying to decide whether to become sexually active, the negative factors being contraception and the potential for disease. No one offers the position that the third young woman could choose not to have intercourse, or that there are sexually pleasurable alternatives. This film, in keeping with the majority of current sex education materials, assumes that sexual activity equals intercourse -- the definition of "safe sex," therefore, becomes use of condoms. Though "AIDS is hard to get" via casual contact, it is much easier to contract if semen is present, and while condoms reduce the risk, they are also known to leak and break. The film does not address the fact that condoms are much more effective both as contraceptives and in preventing the spread of AIDS when used in combination with spermicides lethal to the AIDS virus. The film thus follows the tradition of other educational media in its guarantee of unqualified success to viewers who simply follow the advice of the narrator-expert. The fact that no males are involved in the safe sex discussion also places the full responsibility once more on females. The implied assumption in this segment is that all, or at least the majority of, high school students are sexually active -- equated with intercourse, in this context -- and such an assumption can reinforce peer pressure.

Despite its flaws, Sex, Drugs and AIDS, if interpreted critically, can be useful in the context of a sex education class. The film might be used as an example of how teenage sexuality and AIDS are being defined and discussed in contemporary sexuality education, and how films use their forms and styles to invite viewers to identify with a particular point of view. Unfortunately, the danger is that teachers will use this film as an isolated classroom experience rather than as part of a larger critical discussion about issues of gender, sexual orientation, and sexuality.

-- Elizabeth Ellsworth and  
Marianne Whatley

[Elizabeth Ellsworth is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, and a member of the Women's Studies Program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She teaches courses in media criticism and critical video production. She has a special interest in the ways that audiences (like the feminist community) resist patriarchal, racist, and classist discourses in dominant media events, and reinterpret those events so that they are useful within the audience's current political struggles.]

[Marianne Whatley is an Assistant Professor with a joint appointment in Women's Studies and Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She teaches women's health and biology and directs the Health Education Program. Her research involves a feminist critique of the ways in which health and sexuality are taught.]

\* \* \*

Sex, Drugs and AIDS. 18 min. O.D.N. Productions, 74 Varick St. #304, New York, NY 10013. Rental (VHS, 3/4-inch tape, 16mm film): \$85 per week.

## CENTER FOR RESEARCH ON WOMEN, MEMPHIS STATE UNIVERSITY

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Where would you go to find a data base of works on women of color in the United States which can be searched by race, class, or region? You can't believe there is such a thing? Then join the growing number of researchers discovering the Center for Research on Women at Memphis State University. Now in its fifth year of operation, with a staff of about twenty, the Center focuses on social science and historical materials on women of color in the U.S. and on Southern women.

One of the Center's key projects is a Research Clearinghouse, a computer-based information retrieval system that includes three data bases: a) a file of bibliographic citations to works on the groups targeted by the Center; b) a "human resource file" of more than 150 researchers, offering information on areas of research, institutional affiliation, and both published and unpublished work; and c) a vocabulary of keyword descriptors (based on a thesaurus of terms developed by the National Council for Research on Women) for searching more efficiently. The bibliographic data base of 2,500+ references includes research produced since 1975 in the fields of sociology, anthropology, economics, political science, history, women's studies, ethnic studies, social psychology and education. Each item in the data base is indexed by up to eight keyword descriptors. The types of works referenced range from books, chapters in books, and journal articles to unpublished work (including doctoral dissertations), work in progress, and non-print items. The National Council for Research on Women, of which the Center at Memphis is a member, envisions a network of specialized clearinghouses, each collecting and computerizing bibliographic information in a subject area. These regional data bases could eventually be pooled and made accessible to researchers nationally and internationally. (See Mary Ellen Capek's article in *FC* Winter 1987.) The Center at Memphis State is in the forefront of this effort.

According to staff member Andrea Timberlake, the Center's Clearinghouse averages about 20 searches per month, about half of which are requested by mail, half by phone. Searches cover a wide range of topics, from broad areas such as "Black women in employment" to "the legal status of Black women as related to specific amendments to the U.S. Constitution." One student, assigned a paper on Chicanas, asked for all the information available on Chicanas (quite a large body of literature at this point)! "Women's health is another topic important to women of color," says Timberlake. "People ask about not only specific topics," she says, "but are also interested in finding out about people in our list of researchers."

Timberlake says that the Clearinghouse can produce satisfactory search results (a minimum of ten citations) in about seventy-five percent of requests. "Some demands we just can't meet," she says. "Some requests are outside the limits of the data base." Some topics, on the other hand, are in need of research, and she relays that information to requesters. And what percent of all available research on women of color and Southern women has found its way to the data base? "Oh, I can't begin to say," says Timberlake.

"The field has just exploded within the last ten years. Everyone here has piles of things on their desks to go through all the time."

The Center sees its mission as helping to connect researchers with the sometimes difficult-to-locate materials on women of color and Southern women. The interdisciplinary nature of the field of women's studies makes research challenging enough, Center staff believe. But in addition, many materials on these particular groups are found only in publications that don't make it to the major data bases used for social science research. "We try to retrieve things from the less well-known journals as well," says Timberlake. Clearinghouse staff also have a National Advisory Board of thirty social scientists and historians who track the research in their own fields for inclusion in the data base.

For Clearinghouse purposes, women of color in the U.S. include Native Americans; Jews; Afro-Americans; Latinas (Puerto Ricans, Mexicans, Cubans and others of Latin origin); Asian Americans (Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Thai and others of Asian background); and Pacific islanders (Filipinas, Hawaiians, Tongans, etc.). Southern women are defined as women from Washington, DC and from the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Another part of the Center's operation is its Curriculum Integration Project, geared largely toward getting information on women's studies resources to Memphis and mid-South area college faculty. A monthly "Seminar on Women in the Curriculum" is held throughout the academic year, and a three-day "Annual Workshop on Women in the Curriculum" focuses on curriculum development. The workshop offers demonstrations of the Clearinghouse's data base, introduces innovative resources (such as films and visual aids), and provides an opportunity for faculty and administrators to revise existing courses or develop new courses to include more information on women. Timberlake says she believes the project has had an impact on curriculum, particularly in the mid-South area. "I think people have been excited about it. They are very happy to have access to the papers, and to have brains to pick," she says.

The Center was founded with an initial grant from the Ford Foundation in 1982, and the Research Clearinghouse got under way in 1984 with funding from the U.S. Department of Education Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE). As of the 1987-88 academic year, funding for the Center has become an official part of the University budget, but Director Bonnie Thornton Dill notes that the budget is still not nearly enough for all the work the Center is trying to accomplish. There is constant need for grants and contributions. A \$7.00 search fee was recently instituted to help the Center support itself, and charging for some of the publications also helps recover costs. Two annually-updated bibliographies (around forty pages each) focus on Women of Color and Southern Women, and several research papers are also available. The Center's Newsletter, which circulates to more than 7,500 people, is distributed free of charge, however, because staff believe it should have as wide a circulation as possible. Each issue of the newsletter includes a specialized bibliography (a recent bibliography covered Puerto Rican women), and reports on researchers and Center projects.



In addition to the Clearinghouse, the Curriculum Integration Project, and the publications, the Center's staff is always busy with a number of other special projects. "We're growing all the time," says Timberlake. Researchers across the U.S. are invited to request searches, and are also encouraged to complete data forms for the human resource file and to scan publications in their fields for possible citations for the bibliographic data base. Write to the Center at Clement Hall, Room 339, Memphis State University, Memphis, Tennessee 38152, or call 901-454-2770.

-- L.S.

## NEWS FROM UW-WHITewater

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Women's Studies at UW-Whitewater is in its third year of departmental status. Participation in college governance on the departmental level has significantly enhanced the influence of women's studies. Program faculty have doubled their productivity over the past decade in terms of student credit hours per full-time equivalent positions. The department now has two full-time equivalent positions which are shared by its various faculty on a semester by semester basis. Much growth can be attributed to inclusion of the introductory course as part of the general studies curriculum. The department has been able to offer up to five sections of fifty students each, all easily filled. Other department courses are offered on a rotational basis.

Four women's studies faculty (Fran Buss, Margot Peters, Sharon Tiffany, and Karen Kirst-Ashman) published books within the past academic year. Two women's studies faculty received major university awards, one in research (Margot Peters) and one in teaching (Karen Kirst-Ashman). Ruth Schauer has been elected Chair of the English Department, and Agate Nesaule is now president of the Midwest Modern Language Association. Two departmental faculty are working overseas, Andrea Nye on a faculty exchange and Audrey Roberts on leave to teach in Malaysia. The fourteen current department faculty are involved in a variety of disciplines, including anthropology, art, English and literature, history, medicine, philosophy, religious studies, social work, and sociology.

"Stages and Transitions in Women's Lives" has been added to the department's ten existing course offerings. "Sociology of Health and Illness," based in the Sociology Department, has been developed by Patricia Searles under a UW System Faculty Development grant and added to the sixteen courses in other departments which are approved for the women's studies minor. Searles also applied for and received a second UW System Faculty Development grant to design and teach the "Women and Violence" course during the Spring 1987 semester. Sharon Tiffany recently received a faculty development grant to study and develop courses in "Gender and Science" and "Feminist Theory."

The first women's studies certificate was granted in May, 1986. The Certificate requires fifteen credits in courses approved for the women's studies minor, at least six credits of which must be in courses offered within the Women's Studies Department. In addition to students earning certificates, there are currently fourteen students working on minors in women's studies.

Future plans include recruitment of new faculty in other disciplines and expansion of the range of course offerings. Shorter term goals include winning approval for an "Honors Thesis" through the curricular process. The Women's Studies Department also continues to support the development of a campus-wide Office for Women.

-- Karen Kirst-Ashman

[Karen Kirst-Ashman is Chair of Women's Studies at UW-Whitewater. Her expertise is in the areas of human sexuality, women's studies, social work practice, and human behavior and the social environment.]

## FEMINIST PUBLISHING

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ZIMBABWE PUBLISHING HOUSE is the first African publisher to offer a women's list. Organized after independence in 1980, the press produces four lists: Women of Africa, The Writers Series, Children's Books, and Politics and History. Among the titles in the Women of Africa series are Young Women in the Liberation Struggle: Stories and Poems from Zimbabwe; Women's Problems (outlines of plays); Zimbabwean Women in Industry; New Faces (which features women in local government); and My Spirit Is Not Banned (an oral history). A number of titles by and about women appear in the Writers Series as well. Zimbabwe Publishing House may be contacted at P.O. Box BW-350 Borrowdale Harare, Zimbabwe; their U.S. distributor is Africa World Press, Box 1982, Trenton, NJ 28608.

Two address changes for publishers have come to our attention: CROSSING PRESS took up new residence in January at 22-D Roache Rd., P.O. Box 207, Freedom, CA 95019 (408-722-0711); and SEAL PRESS has new quarters at 3131 Western Ave., Suite 410, Seattle, WA 98121-1028 (206-283-7844).

CLOTHESPIN FEVER PRESS is a new lesbian feminist publisher with two titles to its credit -- Leaving Texas: A Memoir by Carolyn Weathers, and Self-Portraits: Viewing Myself as an Adult Child of an Alcoholic by Jenny Wrenn. A number of other books by lesbian artists and writers are in the works. Each title is edited by Carolyn Weathers, then designed and printed at The Women's Building in Los Angeles by Jenny Wrenn in a limited edition of 250 copies. Clothespin Fever Press is located at 5529 N. Figueroa, Los Angeles, CA 90042.

Another new feminist press in California is HERBOOKS, whose current project is an anthology about relationships of all types between women of all types. Editors for the press are Irene Reti, Abby Bee, and Sarah-Hope Parmeter. For more information, write HerBooks, P.O. Box 7467, Santa Cruz, CA 95061.

## NEW REFERENCE WORKS IN WOMEN'S STUDIES

A just-published article -- "New Reference Sources on Women: An Analysis and Proposal," by Helen B. Josephine and Deborah K. Blouin (1) -- outlines four information gaps that have "hampered research and frustrated librarians for years" (p.114) and describes hypothetical reference works to fill them. First, an omnibus statistical volume, covering the social, demographic, economic, political, and military situation of women of all nations. Second, a multi-volume, interdisciplinary encyclopedia of women's studies and current women's issues. Third, a yearbook assessing both the scholarship of women's studies and its institutional context, with up-to-date data on the status of women's studies programs, research centers, and professional organizations. And fourth, an all-encompassing online bibliographic data base. At present, Josephine and Blouin lament, "there are far too many bibliographies, anthologies, and self-help books," while the major works that "are expensive to produce and would require a commitment of continuation from the publisher" have yet to appear (p.120).

The authors make an important point -- reference book publishing has not kept pace with the growing scholarly interest in women's studies. The dearth of readily-available statistics is perhaps the most pressing problem. Aside from recent statistical atlases (see below) and continuing efforts by the federal government in some specialized fields, there are few women-focused founts of quantitative data. Greater progress is evident in the other three areas singled out by Josephine and Blouin. As proof of the maturing reference literature, we herald Lisa Tuttle's new one-volume Encyclopedia of Feminism (see below); volumes 1-5 of The Women's Annual and The American Woman 1987: A Report in Depth, a yearbook compiled by the Women's Research and Education Institute, soon to be released by Norton; and the pioneering data bases developed by Catalyst and Memphis State University (see article elsewhere in this issue). None of these are precisely the resources envisioned by Josephine and Blouin, but they're encouraging signs.

Dreams of the books and data bases we'd like to use are not idle wishes, but the first steps toward their development. Read the reviews below, check your library's shelves, and consider -- what's missing?

\* \* \*

Ballou, Patricia K. Women: A Bibliography of Bibliographies. 2nd ed. Boston: G.K. Hall, 1986. 268p. indexes. \$30.00, ISBN 0-8161-8729-0. LC 86-18475.

A must-buy for reference collections! Ballou retains the basic outline and scope of her first bibliography of bibliographies (1980), while increasing the titles cited from 557 to 906 and incorporating a number of new subjects. She includes bibliographic essays and literature reviews in addition to standard bibliographies, library catalogs, and guides to archives and manuscript repositories. The formats of publication include books, parts of books, pamphlets, journal articles, microforms, and machine-readable data bases. Once again, Ballou takes the slightly risky step of listing forthcoming titles, and she makes a special effort to include continuing

bibliographies and to flag them with an asterisk. (Surprisingly, she overlooks our own New Books on Women & Feminism.) The annotations are objective and concise; the addition of full author, title, and subject indexes makes this edition even more useful than the first.

Tuttle, Lisa. Encyclopedia of Feminism. New York: Facts on File, 1986. 399p. bibl. \$24.95, ISBN 0-8160-1424-8. LC 85-31212.

"What is feminism?" asks Tuttle. Many answers are reflected in over 1,000 entries for individuals, organizations, influential events, slogans, books, and key concepts, providing balanced coverage of American and British concerns without neglecting other nations. The entries are short and lack bibliographic references, though an alphabetical list of sources appears at the end of the volume.

One turns easily to key ideas such as "sexuality" and "patriarchy," and finds discussions of major feminist issues such as "pornography" and "reproductive freedom." One reads brief overviews of broad areas of feminist expression and activism -- "music and musicians," "novels and novelists," and the "health movement," among others. Liberal cross-references also facilitate quick location of facts.

Any survey by a solo author inevitably has errors and oversights. I was sorry to find no entries on comparable worth or pay equity, the Michigan Women's Music Festival, or Geraldine Ferraro. Some of the information is out of date. But in light of the broadly inclusive scope and general even-handedness of this source, minor mistakes are forgivable.

The encyclopedia will naturally be compared to A Feminist Dictionary by Cheris Kramarae and Paula A. Treichler (Pandora, 1985), but the two are quite different works. Where the dictionary relies largely on quotations, the encyclopedia offers intelligent and succinct syntheses. Both provide strong historical coverage as well as insights into contemporary feminism.

The State-by-State Guide to Women's Legal Rights. By the N.O.W. Legal Defense and Education Fund and Rene'e Cherow-O'Leary. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1987. 521p. bibl. \$19.95, ISBN 0-07-047779-5; pap., \$12.95, ISBN 0-07-047778-7. LC 86-2972.

The first hundred pages of this new guide are devoted to readable essays on women's status before the law. Chapter One presents an overview of the legal system and the court structure. Chapters Two through Five treat the home and family (such topics as marriage, divorce, reproductive freedom, domestic violence, and elderly women), education, employment (covering wages, sexual harassment, parental leave, and other subjects), and women in the community (including rape, PMS and the courts, pornography, and housing and public accommodations, among other topics). The second part of the book uses these same categories to provide state-by-state summaries of current law, with references to statutes and pivotal cases.

Shana Alexander's State-by-State Guide to Women's Legal Rights (1975), the precursor to this volume, is woefully out of date. General guides on women and the law -- such as The Rights of Women: The Basic ACLU Guide to a Woman's Rights by Susan Deller Ross and Ann Barcher (Bantam, 1983) -- give only superficial attention to state-level provisions. And as I found when helping compile Women's Legal Rights in the United States: A Selective Bibliography (American Library Association, 1985), there are current publications on women and the law for only a handful of the fifty states. Therefore, public and college libraries, as well as women's centers, will want a copy of this valuable new guide.

Shortridge, Barbara Gimla. Atlas of American Women. New York: Macmillan, 1986. 164p. bibl. index. \$85.00, ISBN 0-02-929120-8. LC 86-675054.

"Women in Alaska are just not the same as women in Alabama," claims the jacket flap of this expensive, large-format volume. One hundred twenty-eight maps, plus graphs, tables, and text prove the point. Shortridge covers a remarkably wide range of topics under the broad rubrics of Demographics, Labor Force, Earnings/Income, Occupations, Education, Sports, Relationships, Pregnancy, Health, Crime, and Politics. Among the subjects treated are the availability of child care, women's employment in the arts, the locations of women's studies programs, female participation in high school and college athletics (broken down by sport), and the feminization of poverty. The 1980 census and other governmental and private reports are the sources for figures. The commentary is extensive, well-written, and thought-provoking. For example, statistics on female-intensive occupations prompt Shortridge to speculate about women's experiences as office workers, teachers, cashiers, nurses, and waitresses.

The Atlas of American Women begs comparison to Women in the World: An International Atlas by Joni Seager and Ann Olson (reviewed in the previous issue of FC). The colorful Women in the World is far more appealing graphically; Atlas of American Women uses only black, white, brown, and grey, resulting in legible, though dull, maps. Shortridge provides a much more detailed and scholarly text than Seager and Olson. The most significant difference is price: Atlas of American Women weighs in at \$85 in a clothbound edition, while Women in the World costs only \$19.95 in cloth and \$12.95 in paper. Both are appropriate for public and high school libraries as well as universities.

Chapman, Dorothy Hilton. Index to Poetry by Black American Women. New York: Greenwood Press, 1986. 424p. index. \$49.95, ISBN 0-313-25152-5. LC 86-14936.

Improved access to literature by women of color is sorely needed. This index highlights over 4,000 poems by more than 400 poets, from the period of Lucy Terry and Phillis Wheatley to the present, plus some 185 anonymous poems and songs. An author index, title/first line index, and subject index are keyed to a list of books, including both anthologies of Black American poetry and collections of individual poets' works. There are omissions (Cheryl Clarke and Ai, for instance), but the better-known Black women poets are well-represented -- including Maya Angelou, Gwendolyn Brooks, Lucille Clifton,

Nikki Giovanni, Georgia Douglas Johnson, Audre Lorde, and June Jordan -- along with many less-familiar writers. The subject index is unusually detailed, with some 1,100 terms, but more cross-references are needed. (There is no link between MUSIC and BLUES, for example.) This volume is a welcome supplement to Patricia Guy's Women's Poetry Index (Oryx Press, 1985).

Feinberg, Renee. The Equal Rights Amendment: An Annotated Bibliography of the Issues, 1976-1985. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1986. 151p. index. \$29.95, ISBN 0-313-24762-5. LC 86-19371.

This new bibliography is well timed, joining several recent feminist analyses of the ERA ratification struggle. It has been a decade since Anita Miller and Hazel Greenberg compiled The Equal Rights Amendment: A Bibliographic Study (Greenwood, 1976), which Feinberg's volume both supplements and improves upon.

Aiming her bibliography at the "college student or beginning researcher," Feinberg cites some 40 monographs, 250 journal articles, 380 newspaper stories, and a handful of government documents and dissertations. She offers annotations only for sources over three pages in length. Television news broadcasts are listed in a separate section, while print sources are organized by topic: Public Opinion and Party Politics; Federal and State Interpretations of the ERA; Employment; Education; Family and Religion; The Military; Ratification Efforts; Boycott, Extension, and Rescission; Defeat; After 1982. Organizations are listed in an appendix, and author and subject indexes close the volume.

The weak point of this bibliography is the introduction, in which Feinberg's chronology of ratification efforts and media coverage confuses by switching between past and present tense. Despite this drawback, the bibliography is sure to become the standard guide to recent literature on the ERA.

Doss, Martha Merrill. Women's Organizations: A National Directory. Garrett Park, MD: Garrett Park Press, 1986. 301p. indexes. Pap., \$22.50, ISBN 0912048-42-5. LC 86-081710.

Felmley, Jenrose. Directory of Women's Organizations. [s.l.]: Allstate Insurance Company, 1985. 314p. indexes. Pap., \$5.00. Distributed by the American Association of University Women, Educational Foundation Sales Office, 2401 Virginia Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20037.

Armstrong, Toni L., and Lois A. Parsons. Women's Music Plus 1987. Chicago: Empty Closet Enterprises, 1987. 32p. Pap., \$5.00. Available from Empty Closet Enterprises, 1417 West Thome, Chicago, IL 60660.

Follman, Barbara. Directory of Milwaukee Area Women's Organizations. 7th ed. Milwaukee: Center for Women's Studies, UW-Milwaukee, 1987. 40p. Pap., \$1.00. Available from Center for Women's Studies, P.O. Box 413, Mitchell 117, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI 53201.

From the ambitious national scope of Doss and Felmley's volumes, to the specialized focus of Women's Music Plus, to the localized vision of Follman's booklet, these four directories fill information needs not met by mainstream publishers.

Women's Organizations: A National Directory offers the most entries (206 pages with approximately 12 entries per page). Doss covers national, state, and local groups and institutions, including colleges, women's commissions, research institutes, professional associations, sororities, women's resource centers, political organizations, and YWCA programs. In alphabetical order, the entries provide address, telephone number, and a one- or two-sentence statement of each group's purpose and projects. The list is indexed by state and by category -- e.g., battered women's organizations, career organizations, church/religious groups, women's centers. With so much data, it's a shame the volume isn't professionally designed. Amateur artwork, a typescript text, and logos apparently clipped from various organizations' stationery give it a decidedly pasted-up, homemade look. The spiral-bound Directory of Women's Organizations is also reproduced from typescript. Felmley lists 274 organizations. The majority provide national service, while others are representative of community-level groups. Each entry briefly describes the structure, goals, and programs of the organization, and provides an address, telephone number, and contact person. Geographic and subject indexes are supplied. Checking the first twenty entries against the Encyclopedia of Associations, I found all but two. However, in a number of cases the Encyclopedia listed a parent organization (e.g., the American Historical Association) but did not mention its women's division or commission, which Felmley highlights.

In Women's Music Plus 1987, Armstrong and Parsons have created a handy directory of women's culture. Performers, record labels, booking agents, producers, coffeehouses, and music festivals naturally appear here, but so do bookstores, writers, periodicals, photographers, theaters, craftswomen, and more. While some sections appear quite selective (only thirteen journals under the heading "women's studies and academic," for example), others are fuller (the listings of local and literary periodicals, for instance). Armstrong and Parsons produce updates three times a year and include instructions for ordering printouts.

Now in its seventh edition, the Directory of Milwaukee Area Women's Organizations is a perfect example of how academic women's studies programs can at once serve their own students and the wider community. One hundred two organizations and agencies are listed in fourteen categories, from alcohol treatment to sports. Each entry gives a brief description of the organization's goals and programs, plus address, phone number, and contact person. Women in Milwaukee, and feminists in other parts of the state as well, will find it a helpful tool for networking.

Half the Earth: Women's Experiences of Travel Worldwide. Edited by Miranda Davies, Laura Longrigg, and Lucinda Montefiore, with Natania Jansz. London: Pandora/Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1986. L12.95, ISBN 0-86358-091-2; pap., L5.95, ISBN 0-86358-092-0. LC 86-10223.

A new number in the "Rough Guide" series, this is hardly adequate as a guidebook, since it doesn't recommend hotels, restaurants, or shopping spots. Brief "travel notes" for the eighty countries it covers explain typical accommodations, the standard modes of transportation, special problems (cultural restrictions on female dress and the like), contact organizations, and recommended background reading (ranging from genuine guidebooks to novels). The meat of the book, however, is the collection of first-person accounts by independent women travellers. These vary widely in content and tone. Many of the contributors comment on the political situation and the status of women in the country they're discussing, and many share their experiences with sexual harassment. Some of the essays are hardly objective; the one on France presents a decidedly partisan look at French feminist factions. Many of the writers are British, and the editors themselves write in a colloquial style. This seems an optional purchase for U.S. libraries. Sisterhood is Global, edited by Robin Morgan (Anchor Press/Doubleday, 1984) will answer more reference questions and provide more balanced background on nations and cultures.

The Jane Austen Handbook. Edited by J. David Grey. London: Athlone, 1986. 511p. L29.95, ISBN 0-485-11301-5. LC 86-194658.

Bove, Cheryl Browning. A Character Index and Guide to the Fiction of Iris Murdoch. New York: Garland, 1986. 272p. bibl. index. \$47.00, ISBN 0-8240-8675-9. LC 84-45151.

These are two sources that will appeal to specialists -- people who want to know everything there is to know about Austen's life and fiction, and scholars who crave excruciating detail about some 2,100 characters, literary and historical references, and place names in Murdoch's novels and plays.

The Jane Austen Handbook is made up of sixty-four essays ranging in length from two to seventeen pages. Both academics and general readers are the intended audience. Scholarly concerns surface in articles on characterization, form and structure, critical reception, and Austen's influence on later writers. Several essays deal with the author and her family, including one on Austen and the feminism of her day. Yet other articles trace the social and cultural background of Austen's fiction -- manners, architecture, consumerism, fashion, gardens. Nearly a hundred pages are devoted to "A Dictionary of Jane Austen's Life and Works" by H. Abigail Bok, which identifies all characters, places, and literary allusions, as well as the real people and locales that figured in Austen's life.

Bove's opus is in much the same vein as Bok's. Iris Murdoch's twenty-two novels and two plays are treated chronologically, with annotated entries for every proper name appearing in them. Bove includes fleeting references to persons (some unnamed) who never emerge as full-fledged characters, and a concluding index permits the reader to trace recurring characters and allusions. The introduction discusses "the effects of moral philosophy and



aesthetics on Murdoch's characterization" (p.ix). This volume belongs in academic libraries, while Grey's will appeal to public library users as well as scholars.

-- S.S.

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> Helen B. Josephine and Deborah K. Blouin, "New Reference Sources on Women: An Analysis and Proposal," in The Publishing and Review of Reference Sources, pp. 109-122. Ed. by Bill Katz and Robin Kinder. New York: Haworth Press, 1987. Also published as no. 15 (Fall 1986) of The Reference Librarian.

# PERIODICAL NOTES

## NEW PERIODICALS

Black/Out: The Magazine of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays. 1986-. Ed.: Joseph F. Beam. Quarterly. ISSN 0888-5540. \$10.00. National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays, Inc., 930 F St., N.W., Suite 514, Washington, DC 20004. (Issues examined: v.1, no.1, Summer 1986; v.1, no.2, Fall 1986)

The opening editorial describes Black/Out as the "voice of the new movement of Black Lesbians and Gays," a group largely left out of both the gay rights and Black civil rights movements. Regular features include news briefs, items from local NCBLG chapters, book and film reviews, poetry, and a calendar of events. The first two issues of Black/Out (twenty-nine and thirty-three pages, respectively) offer an article by Barbara Smith ("Working for Liberation and Having a Damn Good Time!"), a lesbian coming-out story, Cheryl Clarke's speech from the June 1986 New York City Gay Pride Day, a book excerpt by Anita Cornwell, a look at gay Africa, an article on AIDS, and more.

Gender & Society: Official Publication of Sociologists for Women in Society. 1987-. Ed.: Judith Lorber. Quarterly. ISSN 0891-2432. \$28 (ind.); \$56 (inst.). Sage Publications, Inc., 2111 West Hillcrest Dr., Newbury Park, CA 91320. (Issue examined: v.1, no.1, March 1987)

This new scholarly journal proposes to focus on "the social aspect of gender, which we see not as an additional variable or categorical factor, but one of the foundations of every existing social order" (editorial, p.3). Among the articles in this 117-page premiere issue are one on men who mother, by Barbara J. Risman, a case study on the feminist self-defense movement by Patricia Searles and Ronald J. Berger, and a look at where children fit into the re-visioning of women and social change, by Barrie Thorne. Three book reviews round out the periodical.

Journal of Family Violence. 1986-. Eds.: Vincent B. Van Hasselt and Michel Hersen. Quarterly. ISSN 0885-7482. \$25 (ind.); \$50 (inst.). Plenum Publishing Corp., 233 Spring St., New York, NY 10013. (Issue examined: v.1, no.2, June 1986)

Journal of Family Violence has set its sights on "publication of information on clinical and investigative efforts concerning all forms of family violence and its precursors." The interdisciplinary journal hopes to include work on "spouse-battering, child abuse, sexual abuse of children, incest, abuse of the elderly, marital rape, domestic homicide, the alcoholic marriage, and general family conflict" (mission statement). Some of the articles in the 208-page issue examined are: "Results of Anger Control Training for Battering Couples" (Jeanne P. Deschner and John S. McNeil); "Of Men, Macho, and Marital Violence" (Alan Rosenbaum); and "Family and Social Factors Associated with Substantiation of Child Abuse and Neglect Reports" (Jonathan B. Kotch and L. Parke Thomas).

Matrixx: Lesbian Newsletter. 1987-. Irregular. Matrixx ek. för., Box 15015, S104 65 Stockholm, Sweden. (Issue examined: no.1, March 1987)

This slim, photocopied newsletter grew out of the Second International Feminist Book Fair in Oslo in the summer of 1986 as an attempt to connect lesbian feminist publishers internationally. Included in this issue are comments on the bookfair by Anna Livia of Britain's Onlywomen Press, news from the Swedish feminist publisher ACCA, brief notes from other publishers, and a mailing list of publishers, archives, and bookstores (apparently those who signed up at the bookfair).

Society for Women in Philosophy Newsletter. Ed.: Marilyn Friedman. 2/year. Department of Philosophy, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green OH 43403. (Issue examined: February 1987)

This eleven-page in-house newsletter contains news of conferences and meetings, calls for papers and manuscripts, Society updates, the announcement of a forthcoming directory of women in philosophy, job notices, and other tidbits.

Survival for Women Newsletter. 1981-. Ed.: Marc Lickhalter. Monthly. \$12. Survival for Women, 2554 Lincoln Blvd., Suite 228, Marina del Rey, CA 90201. (Issue examined: no date)

The newsletter's goal is to provide "the information, strategies, and techniques needed to prevent, and if necessary, to successfully deal with rape, battering, and sexual harassment" (publicity flyer). The four-page sample examined includes articles on abusive men and on preventing child sexual assault, plus a book review, publisher's column, and blurbs on rape myths and awareness.

Tiger Lily: Magazine by Women of Colour. 1986-. Ed.: Ayanna Black. 5/year. ISSN 0-832-9199-1. \$14.75 (ind.); \$24.75 (inst.). Williams-Wallace Publishers, Inc., 2 Silver Ave., Toronto, Ontario M6R 3A2, Canada. (Issues examined: v.1, no.1, November-December 1986; v.1, no.2, 1987)

Featuring writers from the Black diaspora, Tiger Lily aims to reflect the properties of the flower that "comes in many colours, is rooted and at the same time rootless; it survives under any conditions and grows in most countries throughout the world." A sampling of the first two issues finds articles on Black women in Canadian history, migration and mental health,

Native American women, South Asian women; a series on collectives; interviews; regular sections on education and music; poetry, fiction, book reviews, and more.

Venus Rising: A Publication for Women. 1986-. Ed.: Dale Lewis. 6/year. \$20. Box 21405, Santa Barbara, CA 93121. (Issue examined: v.1, no.4, May-June 1987)

This publication is "committed to the emerging feminine impulse." The forty-nine page issue examined focuses on mothers and daughters, and features a number of interviews, including one with a Navajo woman; articles on such topics as adoption and growing up in an alcoholic home; poetry, book reviews, and several personal pieces.

WCASA's Newsletter. 1987-. Eds.: Susan Hering and Catherine Ratté. Quarterly. Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault, 1051 Williamson St., #202, Madison, WI 53703. (Issue examined: v.1, no.1, May 1987)

The eight-page premiere issue of the newsletter reports on relevant state legislation, the opening of the Coalition's resource center, the sexual assault program Passages, changes in fundraising tactics, and networking in rural Wisconsin. Also included is a brief history of WCASA and an introduction to staff members.

Wisconsin Woman Magazine. 1987-. Ed.: G. Thomas Fox, Jr. Monthly. \$12.95. Wisconsin Woman, Inc., 207 E. Buffalo St., Suite 619, Milwaukee, WI 53202. (Issues examined: v.1, no.1, April 1987; v.1, no.2, May 1987)

In addition to regular columns such as "Wisconsin Women in Focus," "Arts," "Food and Entertainment," and "Health and Fitness," the first two issues of this slick new Wisconsin magazine feature a variety of articles. Among the topics: Jill Eikenberry of television's "L.A. Law"; six women who sit on boards of directors in the state; nightlife fashion; financial planning; wearable art by Wisconsin women; and options for summer camps for children.

Women of China. Monthly. \$12 (ind.); \$17 (inst.). China Book Trading Corp., P.O. Box 399, Beijing, China. (Issue examined: March 1987)

This fifty-seven page English-language magazine carries a variety of articles on Chinese women. A sampling of topics: women working in rural development; migrant midwives and medics; reader response to a media story about the sacrificing wife of a disabled man; a history piece on the absolute rights of husband and father in the Zhou Dynasty; discussion of women's studies in China today; and a profile of swim star Gao Min.

The Women's Watch. 1987-. Eds.: Arvonne S. Fraser and Marsha A. Freeman. Quarterly. \$15. International Women's Rights Action Watch, Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota, 301 19th Ave. South, Minneapolis, MN 55455. (Issue examined: v.1, no.1, Spring 1987)

The goal of this new periodical is "reporting on law and policy change in accordance with the principles of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women" (adopted by the United Nations in 1979). The premiere issue is divided into sections on "Law and Policy," "Education," "Health," "Women in Public Life," and "NGO Activities," each section comprised of brief paragraphs on nations around the world.

Women's World Banking/Africa Regional Office: Newsletter. 1986-. Eds.: Mary Okelo, Margaretta wa Gacheru, and Brenda Hampton. Quarterly. P.O. Box 55919, Nairobi, Kenya. (Issues examined: no.1, August 1986; no.2, December 1986)

Women's World Banking was created in 1979 "to advance and promote entrepreneurship among women within their own local economies." The African branch set up shop in 1985. These first two newsletters, eleven pages each with photographs, contain reports from the fifteen African affiliate groups; interviews with a Kenyan banking official and a UNICEF regional director; an introduction to staff and volunteers; announcements of seminars and conferences; a list of banks which have assisted WWB/Africa, and more.

### SPECIAL ISSUES OF PERIODICALS

AB: Bookman's Weekly v.79, no.9, March 2, 1987: "Special Women's Studies Issue." Ed: Jacob L. Chernofsky. ISSN 0001-0340. \$60. Single copy: \$10. P.O. Box AB, Clifton, NJ 07015. (Issue examined)

Though AB: Bookman's Weekly is primarily a listing of books wanted by antiquarian booksellers, publishers and libraries, the "Trade Reviews" column of this special issue covers recent books by and about women, the "Publishing Roundup" column features "Re-Visioning Women's Lives and Writings," and there are several articles of interest to women's studies scholars. Among the topics: "Australian Women Authors: Miles Franklin and Henry Handel Richardson" (Paulette Rose); "Researching Women's Books: An Inquiry Into History" (Elaine Katz); and "The Women Collectors of Feminist Books" (Madeleine B. Stern).

AMPO: Japan-Asia Quarterly Review v.18, no.2/3, 1986: "The Challenge Facing Japanese Women." \$16 (ind.); \$24 (inst.). Pacific-Asia Resource Center, P.O. Box 5250, Tokyo Int., Japan. (Issue examined)

This 113-page special issue begins with a review of fifteen years of Japanese women's activism. Among the topics covered in other articles are the role of women's weekly magazines in support of the Emperor System; how microelectronics has become a technology of oppression for women; who will bear the burden of an aging society; the Japanese sex industry; and the story of one Ainu woman's struggle for recognition of her people.

Business Week Careers v.5, no.4, July/August 1987: "Special Women's Issue." Ed.: J. Robert Connor. ISSN 0891-6578. \$18. Single copy: \$2.95. 5615 W. Cermak Rd., Cicero, IL 60650-2290. (Issue examined)

Noting that "women professionals outnumber men at 51 percent of the workplace...yet only 2 percent of top management in America's major corporations is female," this special issue touches on a variety of issues surrounding women's upper-level professional employment. Partial contents: "You Can Have It All" (Marilyn Moats Kennedy); "The Corporate Woman in Crisis" (Nehama Jacobs and Sarah Hardesty); "When You Make More Than Your Man" (Judith D. Schwartz); "Eight Superstar Executives Tell You How to Succeed" (Shirley Sloan Fader); and "Protecting Yourself from On-the-Job Sexual Harassment" (Steven Mitchell Sack).

Communication v.9, no.1, 1986: "Feminist Critiques of Popular Culture." Guest eds.: Ellen Wartella and Paula A. Treichler. ISSN 0305-4233. \$44 (ind.); \$110 (inst.). Single copy: not available separately. Gordon and Breach Science Publishers S.A., c/o STBS Ltd., One Bedford St., London, WC2E 9PP, England. (Issue examined)

Beginning with an editorial overview of communication studies in the U.S., including feminist challenges to the existing paradigms, this special issue

covers several more specific questions. Among the topics: "Feminist Approaches to Popular Culture: Giving Patriarchy Its Due" (Lana F. Rakow of UW-Parkside) and "The Situation of Lesbianism as Feminism's Magical Sign: Contests for Meaning and the U.S. Women's Movement, 1968-1972" (Katie King).

Communication v.9, no.3/4, 1987: "Intersections of Power: Criticism -- Television -- Gender." Guest eds.: Paula A. Treichler, Lawrence Grossberg, and John Fiske. (See above entry for publishing information.) (Issue examined)

An introductory essay by Grossberg and Treichler sets the theme for the issue, which includes such articles as: "Reading Feminine Discourse: Prime-Time Television in the U.S." (Jackie Byars of UW-Madison); "Form and Female Authorship in Music Video" (Lisa A. Lewis); and "Cagney and Lacey: Reading Character Structurally and Politically" (John Fiske).

European Journal of Engineering Education v.11, no.3, 1986: "Women in Engineering Education." Guest ed.: Geoff Chivers. ISSN 0304-3797. \$80. Single copy: inquire. Carfax Publishing Co., P.O. Box 25, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 3UE, England. (Issue examined)

Among the articles included are: "Rumanian Women in Technology" (Mariana Belis); "Technology for Girls in Sweden" (Ingrid Granstam); "Women in Engineering in the Netherlands" (Saskia I. Everts and Ellen C. J. van Oost); "Equal Talents -- Unequal Measure: Skilled Women Workers in Austria's Metal Industry" (Ina Wagner); and "Women in Technology: A Scheme for Women Engineer Returners" (Ailsa Swarbrick).

Helios v.13, no.2, 1986: "Rescuing Creusa: New Methodological Approaches to Women in Antiquity." Guest ed.: Marilyn Skinner. ISSN 0160-0923. \$10 (ind.); \$18 (inst.). Single copy (of special issue): \$9 (paper); \$21 (cloth). Texas Tech University Press, Sales Office, Box 4139, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX 79409. (Issue examined)

Partial contents: "Ten Years After Pomeroy: Studies of the Image and Reality of Women in Antiquity" (Phyllis Culham); "Midwives and Maternity Care in the Greco-Roman World" (Valerie French); "Non-Literary Evidence for Jewish Women in Rome and Egypt" (Ross S. Kraemer); and "Female Speech and Female Sexuality: Euripedes' Hippolytos as Model" (Nancy S. Rabinowitz); plus two book reviews.

IEEE Transactions on Education v.E-28, no.4, November 1985: "Special Issue on Women in Engineering." Guest ed.: Thelma Estrin. ISSN 0018-9359. Annual subscription for nonmembers on request. Single copy: \$12 (nonmembers). Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc., Service Center, 445 Hoes Lane, Piscataway, NJ 08854-4150. (Issue examined)

Partial contents: "From Computer to Electrical Engineer: The Remarkable Career of Edith Clarke" (J.E. Brittain); "Women in Science and Engineering: An Overview" (S. Mahaley Malcom); "Reflections on Women Graduate Students in Engineering" (M. S. Dresselhaus); "Women in Engineering: Programs for Reentry and Career Change" (B. J. Campbell and T. A. Roffman); and "Women Engineers and Scientists in the Army" (A. M. Hoeber, et al.).

Journal of Communication Inquiry v.11, no.1, Winter 1987: "The Feminist Issue." Guest eds.: Editorial collective. ISSN 0196-8599. \$7 (students); \$10 (ind.); \$24 (inst.). Single copy: inquire. JCI Subscriptions, 205 Communications Center, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242. (Issue examined)

Seizing the opportunity to fill a research void between feminist studies and communication scholarship, the editorial collective invited papers including the following: "Politics and Difference: Radical Feminist Epistemological Premises for Communication Studies" (Kathryn Cirkseña); "Class and Gender in Prime-Time Television Entertainment: Observations from a Socialist Feminist Perspective" (H. Leslie Steeves and Marilyn Crafton Smith); "The Mary Kay Way: The Feminization of a Corporate Discourse" (Jane Banks and Patricia R. Zimmerman); and "Conversing at the Margins: A Polemic, or Feminism and Communication Studies" (Karen E. Altman).

Journal of the National Association for Women Deans, Administrators, & Counselors v.49, no.4, Summer 1986: "Men's Studies." Eds.: Patricia Farrant and Harry Brod (guest). ISSN 0094-3460. \$24. Single copy: \$6. 1325 18th St., N.W., Suite 210, Washington, DC 20036. (Issue examined)

Partial contents: "A Curriculum for a Men's Studies Program" (Sam Femiano); "Is Equality Still Inequality?" (Gloria Feman Orenstein); "Gay Studies and Men's Studies" (Walter L. Williams); "Why Is This Men's Studies Different from All Other Men's Studies?" (Harry Brod).

Journal of Social Issues v.41, no.4, 1985: "Sex Discrimination in Academe." Guest eds.: Ethel D. Kahn and Lillian Robbins. \$25 (ind.); \$95 (inst.). Single copy: \$14.50. Plenum Publishing Corp., 233 Spring St., New York, NY 10013. (Issue examined)

Partial contents of this issue: "The Values of Academe: Sexism as a Natural Consequence" (Ann Fuehrer and Karen Maitland Schilling); "The Devaluation of Women's Competence" (Bernice Lott); "Faculty Women's Association: An Instrument for Change" (Mary R. Anderson and Gloria N. Wilson); "Legal Perspectives on Sex Equity in Faculty Employment" (Mary W. Gray); and "Social Psychological Issues in Sex Discrimination" (Ethel D. Kahn and Lillian Robbins).

Michigan Quarterly Review v.26, no.1, Winter 1987: "Women and Memory." Guest eds.: Margaret A. Lourie, Domna C. Stanton, and Martha Vicinus. ISSN 0026-2420. \$13 (ind.); \$15 (inst.). Single copy: \$3.50. 3032 Rackham Bldg., University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109. (Issue examined)

The editors have rounded out the papers presented at a 1986 conference on women and memory by adding works of fiction and poetry, graphics, review essays, and an interview. Among the titles and their authors are: "The Disinherited as Source: Rural Black Women's Memories" (Marsha Jean Darling); "Re-Membering the Selves: Is the Repressed Gendered?" (Jane Flax); "Eccentric Memories: A Conversation with Maxine Hong Kingston" (Paula Rabinowitz); "Institutions of Memory: Libraries and Women's Work(s)" (Susan Searing of UW System); and "Balancing Rocks" (Nadine Gordimer).

Midland Review: A Journal of Contemporary Literature, Literary Criticism, and Art no.3, Winter 1986: "A Feature Issue of Contemporary Irish Women's Writing." Ed.: Nuala Archer. ISSN 0886-7976. \$6. Department of English, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078. (Issue examined)

This anthology of works by contemporary Irish women was gathered by the editor, herself of Irish descent, and consists largely of poetry and fiction,

with one short play, some photographs, and three essays. Among the contributors are Eavan Boland, Fiona Barr, Rita Ann Higgins, Janet Madden-Simpson, Medbh McGuckian, and Eithne Strong.

Modern Austrian Literature: Journal of the International Arthur Schnitzler Research Association v.18, no.3/4, 1985: "Special Ingeborg Bachmann Issue." Ed.: Donald G. Daviau. ISSN 0026-7503. \$15 (ind.); \$25 (inst.). Single copy: \$4. MAL, c/o Dr. Jorun B. Johns, Dept. of Foreign Languages, California State University, San Bernardino, CA 92407. (Issue examined)

Some of the topics covered in this bilingual, 274-page special issue on fiction writer Ingeborg Bachmann are: Joseph Roth and the voices of Bachmann's Trotts; the narrative topography of "Drei Wege zum See"; guilt and absolution in Bachmann's "Psalm"; and a re-reading of "Undine geht" with an eye toward French feminist theory.

Oxford Literary Review v.8, no.1/2, 1986: "Sexual Difference." Guest ed.: Robert Young. ISSN 0305-1498. \$11.95 (ind.); \$24 (inst.). Single copy: \$6 (ind.); \$12 (inst.). Oxford Literary Review, Dept. of English, The University, Southampton SO9 5NH, England. (Issue examined)

This collection of papers from the Conference on Sexual Difference held in 1985 forms a double issue organized along the following themes: masculine sexuality; feminism and psychoanalysis; hysteria, writing and literature; feminist criticism; and the relationship of sexual difference to cinematic pleasure, language, visual pleasure, philosophy and law. Among the writers are Mary Jacobus, Elizabeth Cowie, Deborah Cameron, Toril Moi, Rachel Bowlby, Beverley Brown, Juliet Mitchell, Lisa Jardine, and Elaine Showalter.

Paragraph: The Journal of the Modern Critical Theory Group v.8, October 1986: "Feminism: A Special Issue in Honor of Simone de Beauvoir (1908-1986)." Guest ed.: Diana Knight. ISSN 0264-8334. \$30. Single copy: \$17.50. Journals Subscription Dept., Oxford University Press, Walton St., Oxford OX2 6DP, England. (Issue examined)

"Unashamedly separatist in its conception," according to editor Knight, this special issue includes such papers as: "Women, the Sacred and Money" (Luce Irigaray); "French Theory and the Seduction of Feminism" (Jane Gallop); and "Parables and Politics: Feminist Criticism in 1986" (Nancy K. Miller). Among the reviews is Toril Moi's critique of two recent works on de Beauvoir.

Social Education: The Official Journal of the National Council for the Social Studies v.51, no.3, March 1987: Special section on "Getting Women and Gender into the Curriculum Mainstream." Guest ed.: Mary Kay Thompson Tetreault. ISSN 0037-7724. \$20 (member); \$35 (non-member). Single copy: \$5. National Council for the Social Studies, 3501 Newark St., N.W., Washington, DC 20016. (Issue examined)

Partial contents of this special section geared to the precollegiate level: "Rethinking Women, Gender, and the Social Studies" (Mary Kay Thompson Tetreault); "Inquiry Teaching and Feminist Pedagogy" (Frances A. Maher); "Women's History for Global Learning" (Susan Hill Gross); and "A Gender-Balancing Resource List" which includes materials from state departments of education, plus lists of periodicals, presses, and audio-visual centers specializing in women's issues (Gloria Contreras).

## CEASED PUBLICATION

Women's Diaries: A Quarterly Newsletter 1983-1986. Ed. by Jane DuPres Begos. Quarterly. ISSN 0742-0951. P.O. Box 247, Rhinebeck, NY 12572-0247. (Information from last issue of the newsletter, v.4, no.4, Winter 1986)

## ITEMS OF NOTE

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A number of exciting audiovisuals and teaching materials on women around the world have come to our attention this quarter:

\* A sound filmstrip and three slide/tape shows on WOMEN IN LATIN AMERICA, AFRICA AND ASIA are available, with teachers' guides, from Glenhurst Publications. The filmstrip is on "Women in Japan," and the slide/tapes are titled "The Invisibility of Women in Income Generation," "Gender Issues and Agricultural Development: A West African Example," and "Women, Natural Resources and Energy in International Development." The filmstrip costs \$40, and the slide/tapes \$60 each, or all three for \$165. Write Women's History Curriculum, Glenhurst Publications, Central Community Center, 6300 Walker St., St. Louis Park, MN 55416.

\* Women's Radio Programmes offers eight transcripts and/or cassette tapes of interviews from the INTERNATIONAL VOICES -- NEWSWOMEN OF THE WORLD conference November 12-16, 1986. Including such topics as "Women in the Media," "Towards a New Kind of Information Flow," "The Double Workload," and "Covering the Military," transcripts of the interviews by Lena Yacoumopoulou are available free to individuals, and fourteen-minute tapes free to broadcast organizations, women's and educational organizations. Contact Lena Yacoumopoulou, Women's Radio Programmes, Room S-859, United Nations, New York, NY 10017 (212-754-6993 or 6977).

\* THE WOMEN'S VIDEO COLLECTIVE/AFRICA PROJECT has put together nine videotapes from the United Nations Decade for Women Conference and Forum held in Nairobi, Kenya in 1985. The tapes include two overviews of the conference and the women present; six interviews with individual women from the Philippines, Kenya, Lebanon, India, and Bolivia; and edited versions of several of the workshops. Due out soon is a sixty-minute documentary on women from developing countries. Tapes average \$100 for sale, \$50 to rent. For more information or to order, write Women's Video Collective/Africa Project, P.O. Box 1609, Cambridge, MA 02138 (617-524-6588).

\* WFS (WOMEN'S FEATURE SERVICE) is a bi-monthly bulletin of features written by Third World women journalists with a focus on development issues. Cost is \$35 for individuals and \$50 for institutions in the U.S. To subscribe, write Women's Feature Service, c/o Inter Press Service, P.O. Box 462 Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10047; to contact WFS headquarters in Italy, write WFS, c/o Inter Press Service, Via Panisperna 207, 00184 Rome, Italy (485692/4742497).

\* THE WORLD'S WOMEN TEACHING KIT fosters high school and college level discussion on women in education, health, politics, and the labor force, with an eye toward helping students compare the lives of women in less-developed countries with those in the industrialized nations. Included are a student



workbook, a teacher's guide, a forty-five page survey/study book, and a colorful poster-like data sheet. The cost is \$7.50 plus \$1 handling for the kit, or each item may be purchased separately. Write Population Reference Bureau, Inc., P.O. Box 35012, Washington, DC 20013.

Below are two resources related to people with disabilities:

\* WOMEN AND GIRLS WITH DISABILITIES: AN INTRODUCTORY TEACHING PACKET may be ordered from Organization for Equal Education of the Sexes (OEES) for \$14.50 plus \$3 handling. Write or call OEES Packets/Posters, 438 Fourth St., Brooklyn, NY 11215 (718-788-3478).

\* The Research and Training Center on Independent Living at the University of Kansas has developed a list of GUIDELINES FOR WRITING ABOUT PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES. The guidelines were effectively used in an "educate-the-media" project in the Kansas City area to help reporters avoid terms such as "afflicted" and "wheelchair-bound" and focus on issues rather than "personal conquest stories." For a copy of the guidelines, write The Media Project, Research and Training Center on Independent Living, 348 Haworth, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045 (913-842-7694: voice) or (913-842-9662: TDD).

\* We've recently noted several publications on the topic of sex equity:

\* A MONTHLY FACT SHEET ON SEX EQUITY is produced by the University of North Florida in cooperation with the state's Department of Vocational, Adult, and Community Education. The publication includes statistics on the advancement of women in the workforce in Florida and the U.S.; briefs on research; advice on personal and professional development; and news related to sex equity. For a free copy of the guide, write Bette Soldwedel, Professor of Education and Project Director, University of North Florida, College of Education and Human Services, 4567 St. Johns Bluff Rd., S., Jacksonville, FL 32216.

\* RETIREMENT EQUITY ACT OF 1984: ITS IMPACT ON WOMEN, a booklet recently published by the U.S. Department of Labor, explains how the new retirement law works to women's benefit. For a free copy, write Division of Information and Publications, Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, DC 20210.

\* LOOKING FOR MORE THAN A FEW GOOD WOMEN IN TRADITIONALLY MALE FIELDS discusses "some of the reasons why more women are not studying and completing degrees in traditionally male fields and what can be done by postsecondary institutions to help remedy this situation." This twenty-four page report by Julie Kuhn Ehrhart and Bernice R. Sandler is available for \$5 from the Project on the Status and Education of Women, Association of American Colleges, 1818 R St., N.W., Washington, DC 20009 (202-387-1300).

Two audio tape items may be of interest to readers:

\* RETURN OF THE GODDESS is a four-part series of radio programs that aired on the Canadian Broadcasting System in 1986. Using readings, music and interviews, the hour-long programs center on women's spirituality as related to music and art; to women's literature, performance and psychology; to women's history, theology and religion; and to politics. Now available on cassette tape, the programs may be ordered from CBC Audio Products, Canadian Broadcasting System, c/o Jane Gonda, Box 500-Station A, Toronto, Ontario, M5W 1E6, Canada.

\* JEZEBEL TAPES AND BOOKS of London is putting together a series of tapes on which lesbian poets read their own work, accompanied by musicians. For a list of available books and tapes, write G. E. Hanscombe, 16 Hornsey Rise, London N19 3SB, England.

Four sources for rare, out-of-print, and specialized books on women are listed below:

\* HISTORY OF THE BRITISH WOMAN, Catalogue 46, from Peter Bell of London, lists a number of rare works on British women. The address is 4, Brandon St., Edinburgh, EH3 5DX, Scotland (031-556-2198).

\* WOMEN IN SOCIETY: WITH AN EMPHASIS ON FEMINISM AND THE EQUAL RIGHTS MOVEMENT, Catalogue 55 from Second Life Books, offers 399 items in its listing. For a copy, write to Second Life Books, Inc., Quarry Road, P.O. Box 242, Lanesborough, MA 01237 (413-447-8010).

\* Joanna Taylor, Books, List No. 83 is ARTISTS' EXHIBITION CATALOGUES. Included are 118 items from exhibitions by women artists, each catalog available in its original wrapper. Order from Joanna Taylor, Books, 2461 El Pavo Way, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 (916-362-6963).

\* SCHOENHOF'S FOREIGN BOOKS offers women's studies booklists in French, German, and Spanish, and stocks titles in other languages as well. For information, contact Schoenhof's Foreign Books, Box 182, 76A Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge, MA 02138 (617-547-8855).

Two miscellaneous items that have recently come to our attention are:

\* Part I of RECORDS OF THE WOMEN'S BUREAU OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, 1918-1965 is available on microfilm. "Reports of the Director, Annual Summaries, Major Conferences, Speeches, and Articles" occupies 23 reels and comes with a printed guide. Cost is \$1,700 from University Publications of America, Inc., Dept. B-L287, 44 N. Market St., Frederick, MD 21701 (1-800-692-6300).

\* The CENTER FOR THE AMERICAN WOMAN AND POLITICS (CAWP) SUBSCRIBER INFORMATION SERVICE offers at least three mailings a year designed to update subscribers on women's political status in this country as well as the Center's research programs. Write to CAWP, Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ 08901.

## WISCONSIN BIBLIOGRAPHIES IN WOMEN'S STUDIES

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"Goddesses and Goddess Worship: A Selected Reading List," compiled by Susan Searing, organizes a listing of recent books on the topic into five categories: bibliography, reference, goddesses in history and myth, goddesses in Jungian psychology, and goddesses in contemporary spirituality. "Asian Women in America: A Bibliography" is a listing of print and audiovisual materials published in conjunction with a recent UW-Madison film and

literature festival on Asian/Pacific American women. Compiled by Lynn Christensen and updated by Linda Shult and Christina Wagner, the thirteen-page bibliography lists resources under these subject areas: general/current issues, employment/education, history, sociology/psychology, feminism/lesbians, literature/poetry, film/video/nonprint sources, and periodicals. Both bibliographies, as well as others in the series "Wisconsin Bibliographies in Women's Studies," are available free of charge from: UW System Women's Studies Librarian, 112A Memorial Library, 728 State St., Madison, WI 53706 (608-263-5754).

## BOOK REVIEWS

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### FRIENDSHIP IN WOMEN'S LIVES

Linda Otto Lipsett, Remember Me: Women and Their Friendship Quilts. San Francisco: Quilt Digest Press, 1985. 135p. bibl. \$29.95, ISBN 0-913327-04-2; pap., \$19.95, ISBN 0-913327-03-4. LC 85-9525.

Ann Oosthuizen, ed., Stepping Out: Short Stories on Friendship Between Women. London; New York: Pandora Press, 1986. 175p. pap., \$8.95, ISBN 0-86358-048-3. LC 85-28298.

Janice G. Raymond, A Passion for Friends: Towards a Philosophy of Female Affection. Boston: Beacon Press, 1986. 275p. bibl. index. \$22.95, ISBN 0-8070-6724-5. LC 85-47942.

Lillian B. Rubin, Just Friends: The Role of Friendship in Our Lives. New York: Harper and Row, 1985. 235p. bibl. index. \$15.45, ISBN 0-06-015460-8; pap., \$6.95, ISBN 0-06-091349-5. LC 84-43074.

Lillian Rubin introduces her book Just Friends with a personal vignette. She is at the wedding of her best friend's son and is taken aback by the fact that she has been excluded from the ceremony, despite her closeness to the family, while a seldom-seen but blood-related aunt has been included. Kinship is considered "sacred" in our society, she concludes; friendship is only "secular" (p.31). There are no institutional forms through which we can articulate the importance of friendship, no language to capture the subtleties of different kinds of friendship, no clear boundaries to define what friends can and can't be (chap. 1). The importance of friendship has begun to be acknowledged, especially by feminists (p.10), but no cohesive analysis exists.

Rubin examines the meaning of friendship in modern American life, drawing to some extent on published literature but primarily on four hundred in-depth interviews with urban women and men. Three quarters of her informants are heterosexuals, and one quarter, homosexuals. Rubin is interested in what people say about their friends, and in how they behave; she is not concerned with an ideal of friendship or a theoretical or political stance. Rubin argues that friends are "central actors in the developmental drama" of our

adulthood (p.11), and that we take on new friendships as we develop new parts of ourselves. The depth of any given friendship depends on the extent to which the friend shares and validates parts of ourselves.

Just Friends is not primarily about women, but issues of gender difference immediately surface as central concerns. Rubin states unequivocally that at every life stage between twenty-five and fifty-five women have more and closer friendships than men do, and that women's bonds are based on true intimacy rather than shared activity (chap. 4). She explores this issue to some extent, looking at childhood caregiving and socialization patterns, but other than asserting that future friendship patterns could be changed if both men and women were equally involved in childcare (p.107), she does little more than methodically document fairly self-evident patterns that have already been brought to light in the popular media. Rubin's book is eminently readable, however, and makes explicit what for many women may previously have only been intuitive.

The same concern for articulating and codifying the meaning of friendship informs Janice Raymond's A Passion for Friends, but as the subtitle indicates, Raymond is interested in contributing to feminist theory by developing a philosophy of friendship between women. Raymond claims women must recognize that they live in a "man-made" world and learn to function within it, while at the same time creating their own independent, far-sighted, free female vision. This vision should be based on female friendship, which has "revelatory power" (p.213) and gives a concrete reference point from which to exist in the world. Raymond espouses, in other words, something other than a separatist politics, and she is careful to point out that female affection can exist between women who are not lovers, but she nevertheless denies that women can find their full power or "vital selves" if they engage in "hetero-relations."

Unlike Rubin, Raymond is not concerned with friendship between men or between men and women; she is less interested in documenting patterns that exist than in articulating patterns that might come to be. She adamantly insists that feminism has heretofore been too concerned with equality with men or ways in which women have been wronged, and posits that a true feminism must be based on an image of empowerment rather than oppression. Her concept of "Gyn/affection" (the term and much of Raymond's point of view reflect the influence of Mary Daly) is based on "thoughtful passion" and a "life-glad" stance that is constantly seeking for integrity (chap. 5).

To strengthen her vision, Raymond looks at existing impediments to empowerment (over-reliance on therapy as a way of life, simplistic ideas that feminist friendship is easy) and historical models of female autonomy and Gyn/affection. Her description of autonomy in medieval convents is interesting but incomplete and unconvincing. Her treatment of the "spinster sisterhoods" that existed among silkwormers of Canton Province in China in the nineteenth century is more thorough, and her argument that the Chinese women were consciously forging their own lifestyle rather than retreating from the male-defined world is well-taken, but because the sisterhoods are not really given an historical context, it is difficult to see them as models for contemporary women.

A Passion for Friends is exciting precisely because it is passionate, visionary, and optimistic, and can inspire and empower women to examine, value, and work at the friendships in their lives. It too-glibly dismisses the concerns of women who do function in hetero-reality and glosses over some of the pain and difficulty of building these nurturing friendships, but visionaries are sorely needed and can be excused for not being planted firmly in the ground.

Stepping Out is a collection of short stories that is largely about women who live for the most part outside of hetero-reality. Some stories are populated solely by women and describe the fullness and completeness of a Gyn/affective world. The last story in the book, Sara Maitland's "Let Us Now Praise Unknown Women...", captures the intensity and depth of bonding between women and articulates the final vision of the editor -- one which is remarkably similar to Raymond's. While nursing her infant daughter, the heroine remembers what she was taught by two witches she had met as a child: you just have to "remember you are a witch woman, full of power and strength, and then you can do anything you want," even fly (p.172).

Earlier stories indicate, however, that there is considerable pain in trying to build these relationships and live with the realities of the world. The tone is set in the initial piece, Anna Livia's "5 1/2 Charlotte Mews." The women of the story are about to journey to their own "country," a country of love among women. They are warned in an orientation speech that the place where they are going "seems almost to emanate anguish from its roots" (p.10). Other stories corroborate that even women friends leave and betray one another, and set up obstacles to closeness. Sometimes we don't even recognize our friends and support systems, indicate Jackie Kay in "Since Agnes Left" and Martha Rowe in "Who's She -- The Cat's Mother?" The groping for friendship that comes alive in some of these stories echoes, in fact, the confusion and lack of definition Rubin tries to elucidate in Just Friends. It's still a long way to the visionary ideal.

Stepping Out is subtitled "Stories About Friendship," but it is as much about individual women and their working for a sense of themselves as it is about relationships. In her introduction, editor Oosthuizen states that the book is a collection of stories about the new lives women are leading and the ways women are defining themselves (p.xii). Friendship is an integral part of the definition, but not, as it is for Raymond, the definition itself.

The poignancy and constancy of friendship in women's lives are at the heart of another recent book, Remember Me: Women and Their Friendship Quilts. On the surface this might seem to be unrelated to the other works under discussion here, as it is a study of physical objects created by women more than one hundred years ago. Remember Me only starts with objects, however: like Oosthuizen's anthology, it is a book about women and their lives. Each of the eight main chapters is inspired by a particular quilt and tells the story of the woman who made it. Lipsett builds the story from genealogies, historical records, and interviews with descendants. The quilt functions as the key to each story and as tangible evidence of the meaningful relationships in the woman's life.

The sixty-four autographed blocks that Leonara Spaulding Bagley worked into the quilt she made for her sister Ellen in 1850, for example, bore the names of family, friends, and neighbors in Ludlow, Vermont. This autograph or friendship quilt was one of the only possessions Ellen took with her when she married Joseph Reed at the age of nineteen and with him made the arduous trip to Wisconsin. Ellen's frontier life was desperately lonely and difficult, and she had few consolations. She was sustained by mail from "home," which often included pieces of cloth from people she felt connected to, and she used such cloth in quilts of her own. Ellen died of consumption at age twenty-three, and on her deathbed specifically requested that her most important possession, her friendship quilt, be returned to her sister. The quilt was treasured and seldom used, for like most quilts of this type, it was primarily a sentimental keepsake and a way of connecting to others.

Remember Me is, in other words, a book about women's networks and women's bonds -- about friendship between women. All of Lipsett's women functioned in hetero-reality. They were nurtured and sustained by their female friendship, but it existed within the context of marriage and patriarchal society. Although some quilts were limited to the names of women and a few boys (p.24), it was not uncommon to find men included among the quilter's friends. Lipsett's book is a fitting companion to the other works under discussion because it reminds us, as Rubin does, that friendship has many forms. Family members may be one's primary friends, for example; the relationship may be both sacred and secular simultaneously. The book suggests that who one's friends are and how one defines friendship may be determined in part by the time and place in which one lives. Women may find the same sustenance through different means at different times. Ultimately, not only Rubin's reporting but even Raymond's philosophy of friendship may be seen to be peculiar to a particular point in women's development.

Remember Me is also a fitting companion to the other books in that it, like the quilts and the women it documents, is a token of friendship. Lipsett became so involved in the lives of her quilters that she literally felt them to be her friends, and she passes her strong sense of them on to her readers, enabling the ties to multiply further. Exquisitely produced, the book is a joy to see and touch; it is laid out and presented with as much care as a quilt would be. It is a gift of friendship to everyone who spends time with it, and it helps readers remember that friendship can extend through time, space, and historical circumstance.

-- Beverly Gordon

[Beverly Gordon is Assistant Professor in the department of Environment, Textiles and Design, UW-Madison, and is affiliated with the Women's Studies Program there. Her research focuses on the "woman's sphere," domestic life and domestic arts, particularly in the nineteenth century. She is currently at work on a book about women's fund-raising fairs.]

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## FRENCH FEMINISM: RECENT ANGLOPHONE PUBLICATIONS

Claire Duchen, Feminism in France: From May '68 to Mitterand. London; Boston: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1986. 165p. pap., 6.95 pounds, ISBN 0710204558.

Elissa D. Gelfand and Virginia Thorndike Hules, French Feminist Criticism: Women, Language, and Literature: An Annotated Bibliography. New York: Garland, 1985. 318p. index. \$36.00, ISBN 0-8240-9542-X. LC 82-48275.

Margaret Collins Weitz, Femmes: Recent Writings on French Women. Boston: G. K. Hall, 1985. 245p. index. \$39.95, ISBN 0-8161-8475-5. LC 84-25246.

[Editors' note: We originally scheduled an additional title for review in this issue: Claire Duchen's edited volume, French Connections: Writings from the Women's Liberation Movement in France, published in England last year and announced for U.S. publication by the University of Massachusetts Press in 1987. Although we were not able to obtain a copy and hence could not include it in Ms. Gauthier's review, we hope interested readers will follow up on their own.]

Until recently, anglo-feminists have relied on the anthology New French Feminisms, edited by Elaine Marks and Isabelle de Courtivron (1), for access to the diverse and dense theoretical productions of French feminists. Even with the historical schema included in the introduction, however, it is impossible to fully grasp the import and implications of these translated essays. These texts were not produced in a political and theoretical vacuum. Claire Duchen offers us a context for reading French feminist texts in her recently published Feminism in France From '68 to Mitterand (London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1986). However, there are complexities within the French movement which are not only simplified but misrepresented in Duchen's vague, and at times contradictory, analysis of historical facts and theoretical issues.

Distortions are most apparent in the first three chapters, which explore the modern "Mouvement de libération des femmes" (MLF) from its inception to the socialist rise to power in 1981. Duchen divides the MLF into three currents: the class struggle current; the group "Psychanalyse et politique" (which retains "Psych et po" as their acronym); and non-aligned feminists. It is this last grouping, with whom Duchen openly identifies, which proves to be most problematic. One finds an explicit definition of non-aligned feminism only in a footnote to the final chapter, where Duchen explains that it is "not synonymous with acceptance of any dogma" (p.58). This negative definition cannot, however, serve as a positive definition of the multitude of groups which fall outside Duchen's first two categories. Moreover, it is clear throughout the text that, regardless of lip service paid to other groups, Duchen most often identifies the women who formed the group "Féministes révolutionnaires" -- many of whom also founded the journal Questions féministes, later to become Nouvelles questions féministes, and with whom Simone de Beauvoir was most closely associated -- as those whom she calls non-aligned feminists.

As a result, in Duchen's schema groups such as "Choisir" and the "MLAC" (movement pour la libération de l'avortement et de la contraception), to name but two of the most visibly active groups, are relegated outside the MLF. Her claim that Choisir, using legalistic and reformist tactics, tried to make abortion a single-issue campaign, requires a considerable stretch of the imagination. But her distortion of the MLAC is an even more serious error. The MLAC was almost single-handedly responsible for the repeal of the 1920 law outlawing abortion and contraception and, through its local groups, sought to reclaim women's control of their bodies, in some cases working closely with medical personnel, in others advocating home births and alternative feminist lifestyles. Duchen's statement that "Women's own voices were absent from MLAC texts in which the question of abortion no longer seemed to connect to women's reality" (p.54) is both historically incorrect and prejudicial. When she claims that "the MLF and the MLAC parted company" (p.54), one suspects that Duchen herself got entangled in the internecine animosities within the French movement. We must ask what indeed was the MLF if it did not encompass the MLAC and its struggles for reproductive rights.

Duchen also distorts somewhat the importance of class as a component of French feminist analysis by focusing on one specifically defined current which attempted to toe the classical Marxist line but, failing to do so, moved close to non-aligned feminists. Inevitably, in a country with a strong socialist and communist presence, class has never been absent from feminist theory or practice. A quick perusal through Questions féministes (QF) and Nouvelles questions féministes (NQF) and a glance at the work of Christine Delpy, one of the major spokeswomen of the "Féministes révolutionnaires" and of NQF, will reveal the time and energy French feminists have expended in their attempt to redefine class in feminist terms. Even the members of "Psych et po," the most psychoanalytically-oriented group, began as Marxists.

In Chapters Four and Five, Duchen presents us with a succinct and comprehensible discussion of the concept of différence and its philosophical context. This concept is central to contemporary French feminist thought. Duchen's acceptance of other feminists' accusations of essentialism (p.97), however, suggests she has not assimilated what theorists are actually saying about différence and "the feminine."

It is difficult to understand Duchen's position when she declares, "Sexual difference does indeed seem to me to be the basis of different life experience," only to state a few sentences later that "The suggestion of beginning all things with bodily experience and anatomy is troublesome" (p.98). The problem with Duchen's criticism is that she omits what one leading French feminist, Luce Irigaray, presupposes: that jouissance and libidinal desire are part and parcel of our desire for origin, our desire for the first sexual, sensual, and emotional relation we ever experienced -- the primal relationship with our mother's body. It is not that jouissance or libidinal economies lie outside the social sphere, as Duchen claims Irigaray and other theorists imply. They are essentially social.

Duchen is insightfully accurate when she states that an emphasis on the physical aspect of experience is an attempt to overcome the body/spirit split of metaphysical dualism, the disembodied experience and expression of phallogocentric discourse. Her criticism, however, centers around the impossibility of knowledge outside language. She posits but two choices: to



be expressed in masculinist symbols (and thus distorted) or to remain trapped at the level of bodily experience. Is this not the very dualism which French feminists are trying to eradicate? In fact, this is precisely the problem which Irigaray suggests is of paramount importance; its resolution lies in developing a "feminine genealogy," a feminine symbolization in order to express our relationship to our mothers and hence to desire. The disruptive aspect of feminine expression, which Duchen cannot locate, lies in uncovering the male bias of supposedly "neutral" language, which is presently all we have at our disposal.

Duchen's own concept of knowledge remains fully within metaphysics: "We cannot know things except through language and through the concepts we possess" (p.98). To argue that language and concepts limit our knowledge and that different language and concepts will open up areas of knowledge as yet unexplored and unexpressed is not the same as saying that no knowledge exists outside language and conceptualization. Julia Kristeva's semiotic is but one suggestion of the vast array of "knowledges" which lie outside language and the rationalism of conceptual frameworks. (2)

The concept of feminine difference is a struggle over words, over the right to define rather than be defined, a struggle which is concrete and material, not, as some pejoratively call it, ideological. Duchen worries that "the concept of the feminine could merely replace one conceptual prison by another" (p.99). So could the concept of androgyny, or any other concept. The same conceptual understanding of an experience, indeed the same experience, can be the source of one's empowerment or degradation. Childbirth, for example, can and has been seen as exemplifying woman's creative power or as woman's lot, her burden, a natural act over which she has no control and which thus bars her from "real" creativity. It is the power relationship between those who define and those who are defined within a particular socio-political conjuncture which will determine the emancipatory or constrictive role of a particular concept and/or experience. Duchen fails to emphasize this.

Instead, she identifies "the feminine" with fixed identity. This is precisely what is not being advocated. The feminine is different from the masculine and different from the masculine definition of it. The female body entails multiplicity, not only in its sexual anatomy, but in the relationship between mother and child which entails sameness and otherness simultaneously. Men, by contrast, have never been physically part of those whom they resemble, and do not resemble those of whom they have once been a part, their mothers. That one can be both one and multiple yet indivisible is beyond their physical experience and their symbolic expression. It is this fundamental difference which demarcates men from women.

Duchen is right in suggesting that heterogeneity and inconclusivity of meaning is a difficult if not impossible basis for the construction of a society. Irigaray, at least, does not prescribe such a strategy. She simply insists that the feminine be recognized and validated alongside the masculine, both seen as limited and limiting expressions, neither neutral nor innocent.

Chapter Six, which is meant to examine the political implications of différence, focuses on the question of working within or outside institutions such as political parties. Duchen introduces the notion of a "different politics," but this bridge does not really work: the transformation of "a politics of différence" to "a different politics" only occludes the gap. The association of différence with "Psych et po" and the disfavour with which this group is portrayed (and rightly so) casts aspersions on the theoretical base without raising the question of whether the concept of différence inherently leads to "a practice that is profoundly anti-women" (p.100) or whether this occurred within a specific conjuncture with specific actors. Duchen's discussion of différence does not seem to inform her chapter on politics.

Though the initiated may find some challenge in addressing Duchen's thesis, the uninitiated reader would surely be misled in her theoretical and historical presentation of the recent women's movement in France. However, for anglophone feminists, the annotations found in two recent bibliographies provide an overview of the various intellectual, theoretical, and creative concerns of French feminists. Margaret Collins Weitz' Femmes: Recent Writings on French Women (Boston: G.K. Hall & Co., 1985), though not inclusive, offers hundreds of entries organized thematically. This is followed by an unannotated bibliography of works that appeared between 1830 and 1969, and by subject, author, and title indexes. Literary and translated works were deliberately omitted from this bibliography.

Weitz' introductory essay, which presents a quick historical survey of French women's struggle since the Middle Ages, is informative and well written, expressing her liberal views concerning the "recent developments," emphasizing the role of women in political positions, and deprecating the lack of unity in the French feminist movement. Her annotations, by contrast, present fairly accurate, if "objective and dispassionate," descriptions of the contents of the texts. One must not expect a complete tool here. This is a scholarly resource book, and only a small portion of works published by the recent feminist movement outside of academic circles is included. Nonetheless, Femmes serves its purpose as an introductory guide. For anyone who has studied in France and knows the frustrations inherent in the almost total lack of reference indexes in that country, this is indeed a welcome aid. French feminists as well as English-speaking feminists will benefit from it.

More limited in scope but more inclusive in its listing is Elsa D. Gelfand and Virginia Thorndike Hules' French Feminist Criticism: Women, Language and Literature: An Annotated Bibliography (NY: Garland, 1985). Despite the suggestiveness of the title, this bibliography does not deal with literary criticism per se, but rather with the critique and reformulation of theory. Included here are books, essays, and articles which address the issues of women, language, and writing surrounding the notion of différence. These are texts written by or about French feminists, or contextualizing their work. "French" includes not only writers in France, but feminists in Quebec and Belgium who share the same theoretical perspectives as their French sisters.

The introductory essay, which attempts to contextualize the question of différence as it has been taken up by French feminists, is a dense but readable survey of the parameters and internal conflicts of this theoretical current. The section titled "Feminist Theory and Différence" is perhaps too tightly hinged on what the author calls Derrida's "double model" of "reversal

and displacement." It leaves unaddressed feminist criticism of this model from within the "deconstructionist feminist" school itself. Nonetheless, this essay affirms the authors' well-researched knowledge of the field and persuades the reader to take seriously the "editorial opinion about the usefulness or accessibility of the work" which is to be found at the end of several annotations (p.xiii).

The separate listing with annotations of collected essays and chapters is a valuable guide, as is the appendix where various periodicals with special issues on the question of women, language, writing, and/or *différence* are listed. This appendix, along with the section on "General Problematics," will serve to orient the newcomer, while the main section of the bibliography, entitled "French and Francophone Voices," will be of special benefit to the specialist. Like Weitz' book, Gelfand and Hules' bibliography is of great importance given the lacunae in French publishing practice. Like Weitz' book, it is very scholarly and academic, but its contents engage it more directly with the burning issues within the French feminist movement.

-- Lorraine Gauthier

[Lorraine Gauthier coordinates the bilingual Women's Studies Programme of Glendon College at York University, Toronto, Canada. She is completing a Ph.D. thesis which analyzes the work of Luce Irigaray and its implications for feminist theory.]

#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> Elaine Marks and Isabelle de Courtivron, eds., New French Feminisms: An Anthology (Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 1980).

<sup>2</sup> See, for example, Julia Kristeva, Desire in Language: A Semiotic Approach to Literature and Art, trans. by T. Gora, A. Jardine and L. Roudiez (New York: Columbia University Press, 1980); Revolution in Poetic Language, trans. by M. Waller (New York: Columbia University Press, 1984); and Toril Moi, ed., A Kristeva Reader (New York: Columbia University Press, 1986).

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#### Alternative Cataloging in Publication Data

Feminist collections: women's studies library resources in Wisconsin. Madison, WI: UW System Women's Studies Librarian.

quarterly.

Began publication 1980.

Includes articles, reviews, directories, bibliographies, interviews, and "items of note."

1. Feminist literature--Publishing--Periodicals.
2. Feminist literature--Reviews--Periodicals.
3. Women's studies--Library resources--Periodicals.
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8. Feminist literature--Bibliography--Periodicals.
1. University of Wisconsin System. Women's Studies Librarian-at-Large.
- II. Title: Women's studies library resources in Wisconsin.
- III. Title: Wisconsin women's studies library resources.

Courtesy of Sanford Berman.

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