

a quarterly of women's studies resources

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### Several new periodicals for gays and lesbians, a women's newspaper from Canada, and periodicals on spirituality, women's health information, computing, reproductive rights, and Zora Neale Hurston. Special issues of periodicals on Bolivian women, ethnic women (with some focus on Illinois/the Midwest), feminist literary criticism, women writers from Alaska, and women teachers. Transitions: Feminisms from Ohio State University supercedes two former publications. Ceased publication: Hysteria; Shifra. Information about books on tape; Canadian shelters for battered women; nineteenth-century Black women writers; acquaintance rape; artistic feminist videos; sex and AIDS; working papers and tapes from Wellesley College's Stone Center; women's studies pamphlets from York University; women's changing workplace roles; CRIAW papers; Catherine East's rebuttal of Sylvia Hewlett's A Lesser Life; the impact of the Grove City decision; videos and workbooks for women's studies; menopause; and audio tapes on sexual harassment and affirmative action. WISCONSIN BIBLIOGRAPHIES IN WOMEN'S STUDIES..... One new title focuses on library research on women and the arts; the other, on women and the history of science. Writing of Men and Feminism, by Duane Allen. Pornography's Ongoing Debate, by Katherine Anne Ackley. Growing Older Affirmatively, by Carolyn Wilson.

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: ISSN 0742-7441. Subscriptions are free to Daniel Joe. 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 \$15.00 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.

### FROM THE EDITORS

Where do you look for information about women? What feminist periodicals do you regularly read? Have you used computerized bibliographic databases? Which publications from the Women's Studies Librarian are your favorites -- and why?

Readers of Feminist Collections will soon be asked to respond to a short series of questions about their research habits and information needs. Margo Anderson (Director of the Center for Women's Studies, UW-Milwaukee) and I are directing the study, which is funded by the Council on Library Resources. As stated in our grant proposal, the project has two objectives: "to describe and analyze the information-seeking behavior and the information needs of researchers in the emerging, interdisciplinary field of women's studies; and to gather data on the use made by these scholars of bibliographic publications produced and disseminated by the University of Wisconsin Women's Studies Librarian." In other words, we're planning to measure consumer preferences regarding our own publications while taking a more general look at how and where women's studies researchers find the facts and materials they need.

Previous studies have reported on the use of the published record in established disciplines, but no one, to our knowledge, has looked at patterns of literature use in the context of cross-disciplinary scholarship. At present, libraries are trying to meet the needs of users in women's studies without a clear picture of what those needs are. Our findings may enable libraries to reassess their acquisition policies, to reconsider issues of bibliographic access, and to market their collections and services more effectively to clientele engaged in feminist research. The conclusions we draw may also be utilized at the national level in the design of information systems in women's studies.

Closer to home, the results of the survey will have important effects on the work that I and the editorial staff do. We intend to re-evaluate and perhaps revise the content, frequency, and format of the publications based on more accurate knowledge of subscriber characteristics and preferences. The data will provide grist for long-range planning and help us to make better use of limited university resources.

We're fortunate that the subscribers to Feminist Collections include a broad cross-section of students, faculty, librarians, university staff, school teachers, publishers, and others active in women's causes. We want to hear from all types of researchers. Please help us in this effort -- return the questionnaire promptly when it appears in your mail box later this spring. We'll share the results with you in a future issue of FC.

## PHOTOGRAPHS: "WOMAN'S WORK ON THE FARM"....

"Yes, it is hard. But, sisters, it is work that belongs to us. It is work that, if not done by us will never be done at all. For man cannot do it — as far as the family is concerned." Julia C. Dorr's words from The Household in 1872 introduce a traveling photographic exhibit called "Woman's Work on the Farm." The images that fill the exhibit's fifteen panels confirm the words: sixteen-person threshing crews waiting to be fed; a woman chopping kindling wood; a crew hand-picking cucumbers; a cellar full of canned produce indicating many hours of kitchen work; a family going over the books with the county farm supervisor. Inside and outside the home, women's part in the labor of the rural lifestyle is clear.

Staff from the Iconographic Collections at the State Historical Society first put together a photographic exhibit for the Second National Conference on American Farm Women held at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in October of 1986. A year later, a reduced version of the exhibit began a tour of the state, and will be on view around Wisconsin for the rest of 1988 and into 1990. Christine Schelshorn directs the project, which was designed by George Talbot, curator of the Visual and Sound Archives. Graduate history student Cathleen Coyle provided much of the research for the descriptive passages which accompany the sixty-eight photographs. The goal, according to Schelshorn, is to give rural women around Wisconsin a chance to see their history portrayed and to reexamine their roles in society.

The photographs fall into six thematic areas: the family farm; the lives of two individual rural women; women's work as caregivers and chore-doers both inside and outside the home; fieldwork at home and for hire; sharing experiences with daughters and other women; and being active farm partners. The images span more than a century, from the 1870's to the 1980's. Among the more striking pictures is one of the Krueger family in Dodge County in 1904 -three women and two young children sit amidst piles of cornhusks, tossing the cleaned ears into a large washtub in the center of the picture, while the male farmer tosses more cornstalks to them for husking. An unnamed, perhaps single woman farmer appears in a series of pictures from about 1900: churning butter (titled in quaint handprinting, "Betsy Busied by Bossy's Butter"); standing in front of a crude log structure ("Bossy's Baronial Barn"); and others comparably titled. There's an unoccupied but obviously work-filled kitchen, complete with wood stove, drying corn, rack for outdoor clothes, and assorted equipment. A Lac Vieux Desert Chippewa woman parches wild rice in a large kettle over an outdoor wood fire. Mrs. Lyle Lurvey rides the back of a tractor, bending to place muskmelon seedlings into the ground through sheets of black plastic. A group of women learn dressmaking skills in an Extension Service class during the 1920's. Farmwives participate in a meat boycott in Madison in 1973. Many other images portray the daily routines and the roles of women in rural Wisconsin over the past century.

If you would like to catch the exhibit as it travels the state, here is the approximate schedule (subject to variation):

To March 30 April 4 - May 6

May 9 - May 30 June 1 - August 12 August 19-December 2 December 8 - January 21, 1989 January 30 - February 24, 1989 March 1 - April 23

May 22 - July 7 July 19 - August 16 August 25 - October 24

November 1 - 30 March 1 - 31, 1990

August - September

Merrill Historical Society Sun Prairie Public Library & Sun Prairie Historical Museum Jefferson Historical Society Waukesha County Museum, Waukesha Chippewa Valley Museum, Eau Claire Park Falls Public Library Portage Public Library UW-Stevens Point, Museum of Natural History Mazomanie Historical Society Oak Creek Historical Society Wade House, Green Bush, Sheboygan County Westfield Public Library McMillan Public Library, Wisconsin Rapids Pepin County Historical Society

For more information, contact Christine Schelshorn at the State Historical Society, 816 State St., Madison, WI 53706 (608-262-4807).

# ART AND AUTOBIOGRAPHY COME TOGETHER: WOMEN'S ARTISTS' BOOKS

Pamela Zwehl-Burke and Leslie Fedorchuk, Women's Autobiographical Artists' Books, Art Museum Fine Arts Galleries and the Conference Center of the Golda Meir Library, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Oct. 18-Nov. 22, 1987. Exhibition catalog.

Women's Autobiographical Artists' Books is the title of an exhibition and of an artists' book that served as the show's catalog. Both were produced by Pamela Zwehl-Burke and Leslie Fedorchuk, artists and art instructors at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. In the catalog's introductory essay, the curators briefly describe the juncture of the women's art movement, the development of artists' books, and the autobiographical impulse that brought about the exhibit. They note that in seriously questioning the art establishment and its exclusion of women, the women's art movement has given "permission and support in important ways to forms of art which allowed for art to function as a tool of communication...and to content which directed attention to the issues of women's lives..." (p.9). New definitions were generated: art could be small-scale, personal, even mass-producible; it could explore women's shared experience, remain independent of galleries and museums, and be more craft-like. The artists' book, itself a newly flourishing medium over the past two decades, has proved a most viable,

challenging, and stimulating form for women's realization of autobiographical content.

What types of books are women artists making? Some of the exhibition's most beautifully-crafted books opened in a variety of accordian forms, assembled from handmade paper, stitching, and inserts of sticks, older prints, and other materials. One of the most stunning, Mary Mealiffe's Crescendo, was quietly and richly abstract. Nevertheless, like her Black Springtime -- with several accordian openings, a small, roughly-sculpted face relief, and warm African colors -- or Leila Daw's books of imaginary maps and aerial photos inscribed with logs, guides, and observations, Crescendo was also resonant with deeper stirrings of personal fantasy and experience. Barbara Tetenbaum has masterfully enlarged the scope of the hand-crafted book with her introduction both of types, prints, illustrations, and bindings from other books and presses and of a highly personal content. Tetenbaum's Oabecedarium, for instance, muses on both herself and her father as it builds on one of the latter's texts for the Atomic Energy Commission. Father and heritage also inspired Mary Ting's striking Father Vessel, a bowl and mat constructed from rolls and sheets of her father's letters and diary entries from China and from official communications about his aeronautical work.

Susan King and Mimi Pond have also produced inspired and lively conjunctions of form and content. King's handsome pleated-page <u>Women in Cars</u> is another book made out of books, merging memories of the drives of Gertrude Stein, Alice B. Toklas, and Nancy Drew with personal memories of daddy's cars, aunts' cars, and teenage girls' imagined drives from Paris to the French Riviera in the 1920's. Mimi Pond and Betsy Davids' <u>Half-Off</u> binds short narratives on the mundane (e.g., "A Nice Girl," "YWCA," "\$3.99") in a pink shower-cap and plastic netting. As Pond has written elsewhere, "What I do look for is imagination (both visual and verbal), content worth more than five minutes, and spirit.... I like a book to reach for my attention and reward it". (1)

Laurel Beckmann and Sandra Schwimmer de- and reconstruct ordinary lives with beautiful concision and humor. The laminated prints of Beckmann's The Math of Mothers recall and make nonsense of the exactitude of architectural and botanical illustration as they record a mother's fantasies and constructs in contemplation of such commonplaces as The Brick Wall, Laundry, Pigeons, and Spilled Produce. Schwimmer's Tales from Non-Fiction juxtaposes banal photos and diagrams of proper deportment and instruction with unrelated texts of correspondingly repressed, but oddly perky, questions to a manners expert. Fine humor and well-conceived forms about proper behavior, childhood, and motherhood are also combined in the small bound pamphlets ("The Birth of the Child of Choice," "Dogs I Have Known," and "How to Criticize Art") of Susan Baker's Thoughts of a Human, and in the paper dolls of Lori Christmastree's Good Girl/Bad Girl, A Tale in Two Parts.

A diverse array of works organize artifacts, memorabilia, and journal entries to develop their themes. Pati Hill's <u>Italian Darns</u> and <u>Letters to Jill: A Catalogue and Some Notes on Copying comprise offset photos of stitches and pieces of old clothing and comments on the activities of collecting and copying. Lise Melhorn-Boe's <u>Powder Puff Pink</u> is a compact-sized container</u>

that opens to reveal a real powder puff and circles of handmade pink paper imprinted with friends' attitudes towards that color. Barbara DeGenevieve's and Francis Butler's narratives are more complex and psychological. DeGenevieve's Narcissistic Disturbance, a huge, soft book lined in imitation leopard skin, is ideally suited to her revisions of Freud's texts on infantile sexuality combined with personal reminiscence (photo of the artist as a child cowgirl on a pony) and Alice-in-Wonderland-like musings on female sexual awakening enacted by Barbie and Ken, wax lips, and a highly expressionistic drawing. Frances Butler's magnificent Occult Psychogenic Malfeasance welds photocopies, letters, photos, clippings, overprint, plastic binding, and Chicago bolts into "erratic crazy-quilt or vernacular garden path" shapes (2) as it documents her run-in with an angry and pompous sixty-year-old male.

Many books document or expand upon performance art: Mary Ellen Long's elegant Site and Spirit documents the work of mask, myth, and ritual in a forest setting; Jerri Allyn's Love Novellas is a handy and apt combination of spiral-bound text and cassette recording of performance pieces; Suzanne Lacy's unfolding postcard-leporello, Travels with Mona, records her (both imaginary and real) emplacement and copying of Leonardo's mystifying icon in exotic sites previously visited by famous artists. Rachel Rosenthal's grand photographic portfolio, Soldier of Fortune, also traces her creation of a persona. Each photo shows Rosenthal -- hair closely-cropped and dressed in varieties of military chic -- as she joins a black rat for lunch in elegant gourmet restaurants. Angered, frustrated, and depressed at a personal loss of fortune, Rosenthal used this persona to meditate furiously on the state of the world.

Other books, many well-known through larger editions, present sharper political definitions: for instance, Lacy's Rape Is; Martha Rosler's 3 Works, a collection of documentary photos combined with questioning about the falsehoods and presumptions of documentary; and May Stevens' celebrated contrast of her mother with Rosa Luxemburg in Ordinary/Extraordinary.

The exhibit's catalog, itself an artists' book, was a ready and wonderful companion to the exhibition: small, colorful, and a pleasure to have in hand. Its main texts consist of the short essay on the aims of the show ("Musings on the Coming Together of the Women's Art Movement, the Artists' Books, and the Impulse toward Autobiography") and three handwritten charts: an outline of ten different forms of autobiography represented; notes on landmarks within the women's art movement; and notes on the development of artists' books.

Artists are listed alphabetically: all the books shown by each artist are listed below a small and grainy photo of one, with brief biographical notes on the opposite page. Interwoven with those catalog entries are the curators' ongoing handwritten exchange on the progress of the exhibition and its effects on their lives, and variously pertinent, impertinent, arcane, and archaic words and illustrations from Webster's New World Dictionary. At the end of the volume are addresses of the artists; a list of source collections for the books in the exhibition; and a short bibliography of basic books on women's art.

Fedorchuk and Zwehl-Burke presented a generous offering of artists' books produced by both well-known and lesser-known figures since the development of the women's art movement in the late 1960's, and suggested a general scheme for their comprehension. With 160 pieces, the exhibition was at first overwhelming; it required and rewarded slow and careful viewing, ideally over the course of several visits. The catalog and many of the reference works in its bibliography could be readily consulted in the exhibition itself; the curators otherwise avoided assaulting the viewer with a mammoth essay or explanatory labels in the interest of directing all attention toward the books.

Fedorchuk and Zwehl-Burke wanted to push "the definition of both 'autobiography' and 'artists' books' in many directions" to examine "the current state of women in the arts, artists' books, and autobiography" (p.7). In their useful definitions of different categories of autobiographical impulse -- such as self-portraiture, framework for political positioning, creation of personas, or organization of artifacts -- and in the show itself, the curators repeatedly demonstrated that those categories frequently overlap. The principal essay was well-written but somewhat loose and open-ended; the authors were more interested and successful in raising important general questions than in dealing with the specifics of the books in this show.

The exhibition itself provided an illuminating and engaging wealth of evidence about women in the arts, artists' books, and autobiography, but the curators did little to investigate or analyze those particulars. The books did say a great deal on their own, probably more powerfully than could any catalog essay. In such a large and important exhibition, however, the viewer needs and wants more information with which to understand the works in context.

I would have liked a more thorough-going and better-documented catalog. I wanted to learn more about each artist and work; about women artists' books in the broader context of contemporary artists' book production; and about issues of format, technique, quality, production, costs, and circulation. I wanted to hear more of these artists' specific reasons for turning to the book; their views of book art in relation to the "high" arts of painting and sculpture; and the place of artists' books in their total oeuvres. (3)

Who should acquire women artists' autobiographical books? Everyone who is interested in art, women, books, and autobiography; who would like to own original art but cannot afford more expensive pieces; who would enjoy the intimacy of an art form that can be both touched and read; or who shares these artists' tastes for the rich, varied, and complex messages that books communicate. Since they break traditional boundaries between the realms of the printed word and the visual arts, these books pose a quandary -- do they belong in libraries, rare book rooms, print collections, art schools, or museums? At present, they are mostly purchased by art schools, a few art libraries, specialized galleries, and individuals, and they are increasingly available for private sale in galleries and museum stores.

I hope that art historians will undertake the work that still needs to be done to research and place these books in context. In the meantime, I and many others remain deeply indebted to Pamela Zwehl-Burke and Leslie Fedorchuk's huge and excellent initiative in bringing such a large and intriguing collection of these books to our attention.

### -- Suzy Buenger

### NOTES

- 1 Quoted in catalog entry on Rebis Press in <u>Breaking the Bindings:</u>
  American Book Art Now, unpaged catalog of artists books exhibit organized by Walter Hamady for the Elvehjem Museum of Art, Madison, Wisconsin, May 6-July 3, 1983.
  - <sup>2</sup> Frances Butler in personal correspondence, December 1987.
- <sup>3</sup> In that regard, the catalog of the artists' book show noted in footnote 1, <u>Breaking the Bindings: American Book Art Now</u>, was often more helpful. Though far from definitive, the latter did much more to consider many of the actual questions of book art, and included many of the artists' own statements on their works and aims.

[Suzy Buenger is Associate Professor of Art History at UW-Madison. She teaches a course on twentieth century women artists in Europe and America and is organizing an exhibit called "Myth and Mythologies: Four Contemporary German Women Artists," to be held in Madison in the fall of 1990.]

## FEMINIST PUBLISHING \_\_\_\_\_

Several new feminist presses and a new imprint have come to our attention recently. CRANEHILL PRESS's first publication is Naomi Stirchartz' Wisewoman, a connected set of children's short stories about rebellious middle-class children who befriend a witch and learn feminist values from her. Cranehill plans to publish women's writing for both children and adults that portrays women of a variety of ages, colors, sexual preferences, and lifestyles. Their address: 708 Comfort Rd., Spencer NY 14883.

From SILVERLEAF PRESS in Seattle comes their first publication, an anthology called Crossing the Mainstream: New Fiction by Women Writers, which got good comments from Feminist Bookstore News' Carol Seajay. They can be contacted at P.O. Box 71089, Seattle, WA 98107. IMPERTINENT PRESS is a new Canadian lesbian publishing venture founded by three women from Calgary. Their address is Box 397, 918 16th Ave., N.W., Calgary, Alberta T2M 0K3, Canada.

Lyle Stuart, Inc. has a new imprint of trade paperback books for gay and lesbian readers called <u>WOODLAND BOOKS</u>. Among the first three offerings are <u>Sappho: Poems and Fragments</u>, translated by Josephine Balmer; and <u>Splendora</u>, a comic novel about an East Texas native who returns to his small hometown

disguised as a "beautiful new librarian." Lyle Stuart is located at 120 Enterprise Ave., Secaucus, NJ 07094.

The first <u>CONFERENCE OF EAST COAST WOMEN'S NEWSPAPERS</u> was held at Brooklyn College February 27 and 28. Though we have not seen reports from the conference, it was to include women working on all kinds of women's newspapers and newsletters. Among the discussion topics: "Why a Women's Press?"; "Women of Color and the Women's Press"; news-gathering and reporting; finances and administration; issues of importance to women's news coverage.

## NEW REFERENCE WORKS IN WOMEN'S STUDIES \_\_\_\_\_

Brodribb, Somer. Women's Studies in Canada: A Discussion: A Guide to Women's Studies Programmes and Resources at the University Level. Toronto: Resources for Feminist Research/Documentation sur la Recherche Feministe, 1987. 28p. Pap., \$6.50 (Canadian).

<u>Women's Studies in Canada</u> offers a descriptive listing of women's studies programs, arranged by province and followed by a bibliography of key feminist works by Canadian scholars, a directory of women's studies coordinators, a list of major associations, and a guide to women's studies journals and bulletins. These information-packed pages are accompanied by a summary history of women's studies in Canada, an essay titled "Competition and Consensus: Conflicts in the Organization of Women's Studies," a review of major debates and key writings in both French and English, and other short texts.

Building Women's Studies Collections: A Resource Guide. Ed. by Joan Ariel, in cooperation with the Women's Studies Section, Association of College and Research Libraries, American Library Association. Middletown, CT: CHOICE, 1987. 48p. index. pap., \$12.00, ISBN 0-914492-07-1. LC 87-23877.

Although fourteen members of the ACRL Women's Studies Section are cited as contributors, it was Joan Ariel's skillful editing that transformed a motley assemblage of resource lists into a practical, well-organized guide for creating and strengthening library collections. The wealth of printed sources covered here -- core bibliographies, women-focused review media, and publishers' series, among them -- attest to the growing legitimacy of feminist scholarship. But because women's studies, "unlike many other disciplines..., is informed and continually revitalized by a radical social and political movement" (p.4), the most valuable feature of <u>Building Women's Studies</u> <u>Collections</u> is its careful attention to both traditional and nontraditional materials. Even the experienced bibliographer will discover new leads in the sections on women's organizations, feminist presses, microform sets, audiovisual guides, online databases, specialty bookstores, and antiquarian book dealers. A concluding bibliography offers inspiring readings from 1976-1986 on the what/how/why of collecting women's studies materials.

Dickstein, Ruth. Women in International Studies: A Bibliographic Guide. Tucson: Southwest Institute for Research on Women, 1987. 45p. pap., \$3.50. (Address: SIROW, Women's Studies, Modern Languages 265, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721.)

This unprepossessing bibliography, reproduced from typescript, is a goldmine of information for research on women outside the United States. Women's Studies Librarian Ruth Dickstein (University of Arizona) highlights biographical reference books, bibliographies, statistical sources, review articles, and materials for curriculum integration. She cites both general works on women and materials devoted to particular nations, regions, and topics. Many of the entries are annotated. In addition, Dickstein offers hints for using the library's catalog and standard indexes in the various disciplines. Finally, she lists research centers and women's organizations worldwide as sources of further information and specialized publications. Given the changing social, political, and cultural status of women in many countries, direct contact with women's organizations will often yield more upto-date information than will published sources. In short, this is a handy and inexpensive guide which no academic library should pass up.

Financial Aid: A Partial List of Resources for Women. 4th ed. Washington: Project on the Status and Education of Women, Association of American Colleges, 1987. 18p. pap., \$3.50. (Address: Project on the Status and Education of Women, Association of American Colleges, 1818 R St., NW, Washington, DC 20009.)

This revised pamphlet, written in clear and encouraging prose, is a welcome alternative to the hefty, sometimes intimidating directories of financial aid that are a staple of library reference shelves. It offers a highly selective list of scholarship, grant, and loan programs, along with short descriptions of federal, state, campus, military, and private financial aid opportunities, and an annotated bibliography. Many of the titles in the bibliography are issued annually, and none are older than 1985. In addition the guide suggests organizations that might provide information (including public libraries and YWCAs, as well as campus units), describes various types of institutions of higher education, and outlines several "different ways to attend school" -- from external degree programs to experiential learning. Older re-entry students will find much of this information particularly germaine. Everyone in contact with potential women college students -- women's center staff, financial aid officers, high school guidance counselors, and librarians, for example -- should keep this helpful guide close at hand.

Loeb, Catherine R., Susan E. Searing, and Esther F. Stineman. Women's Studies: A Recommended Core Bibliography, 1980-1985. Abridged ed. Littleton, CO: Libraries Unlimited, 1987. 222p. index. \$23.50, ISBN 0-87287-598-9. LC 87-17015.

The unabridged edition of this bibliography offered 1,211 critical annotations; this version trims the list to 645 titles judged essential for

smaller library collections. Annotations have been somewhat abbreviated as well. All eighteen subject chapters are retained, along with a chapter citing core periodicals. The volume concludes with a combined author/title index and a subject index. Aimed at librarians and teachers in lower-division colleges, high schools, and public libraries, this abridged bibliography may also serve as a guide for student research and independent reading, as well as a reference volume for women's studies programs and community women's centers.

Newson, Adele S. <u>Zora Neale Hurston: A Reference Guide</u>. Boston: G. K. Hall, 1987. 90p. \$28.00, ISBN 0-8161-8902-1. LC 87-008616.

Interest in Zora Neale Hurston continues to grow; see "Periodical Notes" for a recently-founded scholarly journal devoted to this rediscovered Black writer. Newson's bibliography, strictly adhering to the model of other volumes in G. K. Hall's reference guide series, documents both the critical reception of Hurston's work during her lifetime and the flurry of scholarly attention that followed her death in 1960. Annotated entries in chronological order (from 1931 to 1986) describe books, book reviews, articles, essays, chapters and passages in books, dissertations, and bibliographies devoted to Hurston. A list of manuscript repositories is appended. As feminist scholars seek to expand the canon of American literature to embrace women and minorities, bibliographies like this one should be greeted with applause.

The Psychology of Women: Resources for a Core Curriculum. Ed. by Sharon Golub and Rita Jackway Freedman. New York: Garland, 1987. 131p. \$33.00, ISBN 0-8240-8486-1. LC 87-14949.

The movement to incorporate the new feminist scholarship into the basic liberal arts curriculum has inspired a spate of publications. This latest addition to the genre comes from the Division of the Psychology of Women of the American Psychological Association, and is designed to help "integrate material from psychology of women into the core courses and thereby enhance the entire curriculum" (p.x). The volume is optimally arranged to meet this goal. A short introduction traces the history of the psychology of women as a sub-field, outlines its goals, and argues cogently for mainstreaming. Eleven chapters cover topics that are frequently required of psychology majors: abnormal, adolescent, child, developmental, educational, experimental, and social psychology; plus the history of psychology, human sexuality, learning and motivation, and statistics.

Each chapter has three sections: discussion topics and questions, exercises and activities, and an annotated list of nonprint media. The discussion topics are keyed to the concluding bibliography, which cites 453 books and articles. Although the volume should prove extremely useful to teaching faculty, the lack of an index to such specific topics as math/verbal ability or marriage prevents the alphabetically-arranged bibliography from doubling as a quick reference guide.

Reese, Lyn, and Jean Wilkinson. Women in the World: Annotated History Resources for the Secondary Student. Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow, 1987. 220p. index. \$19.50, ISBN 0-8108-2050-1. LC 87-16436.

Reese and Wilkinson are teachers and educational consultants who, supported by the Women's Educational Equity Act Program, sought to remedy the omission and misrepresentation in secondary schools of women's struggles and roles outside the U.S. Their contribution is this bibliography of supplementary texts, audiovisuals, and curriculum kits. "Our highest priority has been to select materials that will make visible the lives of women, that provide authenticity, and that tell an interesting story," they state.

The volume is handily arranged by geopolitical region -- Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and Middle East/North Africa, plus a cross-cultural section. Each chapter is sub-divided by type of material: background and reference books, anthologies, autobiographies and biographies, first person accounts, fiction, and curriculum resources. Most materials are currently in print, and an appendix with publishers' addresses makes ordering easier.

Annotations indicate reading level, the time period and countries treated, and the main themes, and provide an overview of the item's content, scope, and format. Some materials carry the label "top rating." Reese and Wilkinson also suggest specific lessons or classroom activities and add a curiosity-piquing quotation from most of the materials. The volume's design (using columns, illustrations, and a variety of typefaces) is a refreshing change from most academic reference books. While this guide is targeted at practicing teachers and will therefore find a natural home in school professional collections and academic libraries supporting education majors, the inclusion of many adult-level books in its listings make it a wise purchase for general lower-division college libraries.

Elwell, Sue Levi. The Jewish Women's Studies Guide. 2nd ed. Lanham, MD: University Press of America; Fresh Meadows, NY: Biblio Press, 1987. 142p. \$19.75, ISBN 0-8191-6412-7; pap., \$9.75, ISBN 0-8191-6413-5. LC 87-10836.

Schlesinger, Benjamin. <u>Jewish Family Issues: A Resource Guide</u>. New York: Garland, 1987. 144p. \$35.00, ISBN 0-8240-8460-8. LC 86-031854.

These new editions of two bibliographies are necessitated by mushrooming interest in Jewish women and the Jewish family. Superceding the first edition of The Jewish Women's Studies Guide (Biblio Press, 1982), Elwell's volume presents new and updated syllabi, all richly laden with recommended readings and topics for reflection and discussion. Eight of the syllabi outline university-level courses in such areas as Jewish women's literature and the history of women and Judaism; five others demonstrate the incorporation of a Jewish women's perspective into courses in Jewish studies and comparative religion. Finally, five examples of adult and continuing education courses provide inspiration for involving women outside academia in a re-examination of their own experiences and Jewish culture. Clearly valuable to anyone designing a course specifically on Jewish women, this sourcebook can also

benefit women's studies teachers seeking to add a cross-cultural dimension to their survey courses.

Schlesinger's guide is a new version of The Jewish Family: A Survey and Annotated Bibliography (University of Toronto Press, 1971). The present volume opens with essays by the compiler on Jewish family history and on oneparent Jewish families, and by his wife Rachel Schlesinger on Jewish women ("Beyond the Stereotype of the Jewish Woman: Images and Issues"). The bibliography that follows presents 524 annotated entries under 78 topics. Items of particular interest to women's studies researchers are cited under obvious headings such as "Women and feminism" and "Women - Overview," but also under less apparent headings, including "Fertility," "Kibbutz," "One-Parent Families," and "Sexuality." Schlesinger emphasizes mainstream publications from 1960 to 1986, and omits most materials from feminist small presses or women's periodicals. (Evelyn Torton Beck's Nice Jewish Girls, for example, is the sole entry under "Homosexuality - Female.") Materials from Jewish specialty publishers are better represented. The volume closes with a directory of publishers and seven demographic tables reprinted from the 1985 American Jewish Yearbook.

Watkins, Kathleen Pullan, and Lucius Durant, Jr. Day Care: A Sourcebook. New York: Garland, 1987. 207p. index. \$27.00, ISBN 0-8240-8525-6. LC 86-33548.

Compilers Watkins and Durant note that day care professionals face unique problems in keeping abreast of the literature in their field. First, government regulations, personnel qualifications, and types of day care arrangements vary greatly from state to state; secondly, poor funding of non-profit programs prevents many day care workers from taking advantage of opportunities for professional development. This volume seeks to remedy the situation by blending annotated bibliographies with well-written essays on ten broad topics: administration and management of day care centers; roles and responsibilities of teachers and caregivers; components of day care programs (such as environment and education); working with parents and community members; evaluating day care programs; programs for infants and toddlers; family day care homes; school-age child care; directions for professionalism; and issues facing the day care community. The volume concludes with a directory of periodicals and newsletters.

At \$27.00, this is a reasonable purchase for academic libraries supporting curricula in early child development, social work, public policy, and family studies, as well as interdisciplinary women's studies programs. However, it may prove too expensive for struggling non-profit day care agencies. If the essays had been printed single-spaced, the unusually wide margins narrowed, and if the cover were paper, perhaps the book would be priced within the range of the poorly-paid workers who (as Watkins and Durant explain) need it the most.

Women's Foreign Policy Council Directory. New York: Women's Foreign Policy Council, 1987. 318p. index. ill. pap., \$35.00, ISBN 0-9617-5960-7. LC 87-10496.

Sub-titled "A Guide to Women Foreign Policy Specialists and Listings of Women and Organizations Working on International Affairs," this handsome volume is both utilitarian and consciousness-raising. Its introduction documents the male dominance of U.S. foreign and military policy, reflected in the paucity of women in Congress, in senior levels at the Department of State, and in influential public sector posts in the media, pressure groups, and think tanks. Yet as the directory listings demonstrate, women do have knowledge and expertise on foreign policy issues, and they are putting it to work, particularly through international women's networks, higher education, and the peace movement.

### PERIODICAL NOTES \_

### NEW AND NEWLY DISCOVERED PERIODICALS

Among Friends: News Magazine for Gays and Lesbians of the Upper Midwest. 1987? Ed.: Jay Hatheway. 10/year. \$20 (indiv.); \$32 (inst.). P.O. Box 426, Madison, WI 53701. (Issue examined: February 1988)

The twenty-four pages of the issue examined cover local and national news items; book and record reviews; articles on gay and lesbian publishing, the Madison Gay Men's Chorale, and the Declaration of Independence; plus a list of gay and lesbian resources in Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Lesbian Information Service Newsletter. 1987-. Monthly. 6 pounds (low-income); 12 pounds (indiv.); 24 pounds (inst.). Lesbian Information Service, P.O. Box 194, Leicester, LEI 9HP, England. (Issue examined: no.5, December 1987)

With the goal of acting as an information network for lesbians and lesbian organizations in Great Britain, the newsletter contains sections on regional, national, and international news; book and theater reviews; stories of lesbian experience; lesbians and the law; and a listing of lesbian organizations, publications, information phone lines, etc. Some articles in this twenty-nine-page issue are reprinted from other publications. LISN is available on tape.

Pandora. 1985?-. Quarterly. \$10 (indiv.); \$15 (inst.) outside Canada. P.O. Box 1209, North Postal Station, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3K 5H4 Canada. (Issue examined: v.3, no.2, December 1987)

examined: v.3, no.2, December 1987)

Labeled "the newspaper produced by, for and about women," the twentyfour-page issue examined includes articles on women healers, South African
women organizing, the accessibility guidelines of the DisAbled Women's Network
(DAWN), breast self-examination, and artificial insemination. Book synopses
and reviews and items of local and regional interest complete the issue.

Partners: The Newsletter for Gay & Lesbian Couples. Eds.: Stevie Bryant & Demian. Monthly. \$36 (indiv.); \$49 (inst.). Single copy: \$3. ISSN 0891-1738. Box 9685. Seattle. WA 98109. (Issues examined: May 1987 and June 1987)

1738. Box 9685, Seattle, WA 98109. (Issues examined: May 1987 and June 1987)
This eight-page monthly contains "practical information and ideas for developing satisfying, successful relationships," and features stories of long-term relationships. The sample issues include an intimacy inventory; an interview; a research report on gay male couples; and more.

Spiritual Women's Times. Quarterly. \$7.50. Silver Owl Publications, P.O. Box 51186, Seattle, WA 98115-1186. (Issue examined: v.1, no.3, Fall 1987)

Inside its sixteen pages, this tabloid-size publication includes articles on visual myths; one woman's goddess experience; naturopathy in birthing options; healing through miracles; lesbianism as a spiritual path; plus book reviews, suggestions for rituals, and other items.

Square Peg. 5 pounds; 12 pounds (overseas). Single copy: 1.30 pounds. Square Peg, BM Square Peg, London, WC1N 3XX, England. (Issue examined: no.17, 1987)

Claiming to be "the journal for contemporary perverts," Square Peg is a slick, thirty-nine-page magazine for lesbians and gays. The sample issue contains articles on two U.S. underground film-makers; gay life in Manchester; an impression of Prague; mixed-race couples; suggestions for safe sex; and brief book reviews, in addition to other features.

Women's Health Information Centre Newsletter. Editorial group specific to the Issue's topic. 7 pounds (indiv.); 10 pounds (inst.); add 2 pounds for overseas. 52 Featherstone St., London EC1Y 8RT, England. (Issue examined: no.7, Spring 1987)

The Women's Health Information Centre maintains a computerized listing of groups and individuals involved in women's health issues in Great Britain. Newsletters focus on particular health issues: the thirty-two page sample copy is on Black women and health. Among the topics: holistic medicine, sickle cell screening; vitiligo (changing of skin pigmentation); the London Black Women's Health Action Project; Black women and alcohol. Most articles include a listing of related health groups and other resources.

Women Computing. 1987-. Ed.: Dian Schaffhauser. 6/year. \$24. 2917 Upas St., San Diego, CA 92104. (Issue examined: November-December 1987) In its twelve newsletter-size pages printed on beige paper, the sample

issue of <u>Women Computing</u> looks at entrepreneurialism. Some of the articles: homework using computers; ergonomics; repairing computers; project management and the drive to succeed.

Women's Global Network on Reproductive Rights. Quarterly. 40 Dutch guilders, approx. \$15 US. P.O. Box 4098, Minahassastraat 1, 1009 AB Amsterdam, Netherlands. (Issue examined: January-March 1987)

The publishers are "an autonomous network of groups and individuals in every continent who are working for and support reproductive rights on a national and international level." Among the topics covered in the twenty-five-page sample issue are AIDS; the literature on women and health in Africa; the plusses and minuses of health care innovation; artificial insemination; and estrogen-progesterone drugs. Research reports, news and reviews round out the issue.

Zora Neale Hurston Forum. 1986-. Ed.: Ruthe T. Sheffey. 2/year. \$15. Single copy: \$9. Ruthe T. Sheffey, Managing Editor, The Zora Neale Hurston Forum, Box 550, Morgan State University, Baltimore, MD 21239. (Issues examined: v.1, no.1, Fall 1986; v.1, no.2, Spring 1987)

The official publication of the Zora Neale Hurston Society, the Forum is "broadly concerned with the life and writing of Zora Neale Hurston and with Afro-American letters particularly in the first half of the twentieth century." In addition to a number of critical articles on Hurston, these two sample volumes also include comment on Jessie Fauset, Alice Ruth Dunbar-Nelson, Margaret Walker Alexander, Gwendolyn Brooks, and other Black women writers.

### SPECIAL ISSUES OF PERIODICALS'

Bolivia Bulletin v.3, no.2, April 1987: "Women's Organizations in Bolivia: How the Other Half Lives." \$10 US. CEDOIN, Casilla 20194, La Paz, Bolivia. (Issue examined)

The four pages of this newsletter focus on organizing by Bolivian women -- among wives of miners and factory workers, by women factory workers themselves, in shanty towns outside the main cities, and among rural campesinas. A listing of women's organizations and institutions supporting women's groups completes the issue.

Heritage: The Newsletter of the Illinois Ethnic Consultation Autumn 1986: "Special Issue on Ethnic Women." Free to IEC members and others by request. 55 E. Jackson, Suite 1880, Chicago, IL 60604. (Issue examined)

In addition to two general articles on ethnic men and women, this issue of <u>Heritage</u> includes personal commentary by American women of Greek, Asian, Italian, Jewish, Black, Polish, and Hispanic origin, with focus not necessarily on the Chicago/Illinois area.

New Literary History: A Journal of Theory & Interpretation v.19, no.1, Autumn 1987: "Feminist Directions." Ed.: Ralph Cohen. \$19.50 (Indiv.); \$52 (inst.). Single copy: \$7.95. ISSN 0028-6087. Johns Hopkins University Press, Journals Publishing Division, 701 West 40th St., Suite 275, Baltimore, MD 21211. (Issue examined)

Following papers which include Helene Cixous' "Reaching the Point of Wheat, or A Portrait of the Artist as a Maturing Woman" and Lillian S. Robinson's "Canon Fathers and Myth Universe" is Ellen Messer-Davidow's feature essay, "The Philosophical Bases of Feminist Literary Criticisms." The rest of the issue comprises seven commentaries on the essay, by Joan E. Hartman, Cary Nelson, Ruth Hubbard, Gerald Graff, Patricia Clark Smith, Amy Ling, and UW-Madison's Nellie McKay.

Permafrost: A Literary Journal v.9, no.2, Spring 1987: "Women Writers." Eds.: Marcia Mason, Robin Lewis. \$5. Single copy: \$3. ISSN 0740-7890. Dept. of English, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, AK 99775-0640. (Issue examined)

Permafrost "strives to give voice to the best of Alaskan and outside writers and artists." In the ninety-nine numbered pages of this special issue are poetry by Mary Baron, Linda Gregg, Jana Harris, Lyn Lifshin, Patricia Monoghan, Judith Neeld, and others; fiction by F.R. Lewis and Charlotte Watson Sherman; an essay, book review, and photographs.

Representations 20, Fall 1987: "Misogyny, Misandry, and Misanthropy." Eds.: R. Howard Bloch, Frances Ferguson. \$20 (indiv.); \$40 (inst.). Single copy: \$6 (indiv.); \$10 (inst.). ISSN 0734-6018. University of California Press, Berkeley. CA 94720. (Issue examined)

Partial contents: "Medieval Misogyny" (R. Howard Bloch); "Shakespeare's Will: The Temporality of Rape" (Joel Fineman); "Rape and the Rise of the Novel" (Frances Ferguson); "The Portrait of a Gentleman: Representing Men in (French) Women's Writing" (Naomi Schor); and "Her Body, Himself: Gender in the Slasher Film" (Carol J. Clover).

Teacher Education Quarterly 14, no.2, 1987: [women and teacher education]. ISSN 0737-5328. California Council on the Education of Teachers, Claremont Graduate School, Claremont, CA 91711. (Information from Studies on Women Abstracts, v.6, no.1, 1988, pp.39-40)

Among the titles of the ten articles listed for this issue are: "Gender Expectations and American Teachers" (Geraldine Joncich Clifford); "The Absent Presence: Patriarchy, Capitalism, and the Nature of Teacher Work" (Patti Lather); "Women and Teaching: Homeless At Home" (Madeleine R. Grumet); "The Personal Lives of Women Teachers: An Intergenerational View" (Dee Ann Spencer); and "Listening and Learning From Minority Women Teachers" (Mary A. 'Scherr).

### **TRANSITIONS**

The Women's Studies Review and Sojourner, both published by the Center for Women's Studies at Ohio State University, will be merging into a new quarterly publication called Feminisms. The Autumn 1987 Women's Studies Review was the last issue. Feminisms will begin with Winter 1988, and will, according to the editors, "combine the best features of both of our current publications." Subscriptions are \$6 (\$3 for students) from The Center for Women's Studies, 207 Dulles Hall, 230 W. 17th Ave., Columbus, OH 43210.

### CEASED PUBLICATION

<u>Hysteria</u> v.1, no.1, 1980-v.4, no.4, 1986. Eds. Catherine Edwards, Sue Campbell, Rebecca Rowlandson, Margaret Simpson. P.O. Box 2481, Station B, Kitchener, Ontario N2H 6M3, Canada. (Mail returned, "No Forwarding Address.")

Shifra: A Jewish Feminist Magazine. no.1, 1984-no.3-4, 1986. Editorial collective. \$23 (indiv.); \$40 (inst.) Box no.2, 59 Cookridge St., Leeds 1, England. (Information from correspondence from Shifra.)

## ITEMS OF NOTE.

FEMINIST AUDIO BOOKS is a volunteer organization which produces taped versions of books by, for, and about women. The library may be used by anyone who is visually impaired or who has difficulty with the printed word. For further information, contact Feminist Audio Books at 52-54 Featherstone St., London EC1 8RT, England, or 01-251-2908/0713.

Canada's National Clearinghouse on Family Violence offers the twenty-two-page listing TRANSITION HOUSES AND SHELTERS FOR BATTERED WOMEN IN CANADA. This resource is available free of charge from the Clearinghouse, Health and Welfare, Ottawa, Ontario KIA 1B5, Canada.

Oxford University Press' NINETEENTH-CENTURY BLACK WOMEN WRITERS is a new series of forty-five titles by Black women. Written between 1773 and 1910 and including fiction, poetry, biography and autobiography, essays, and journalism, many of these works were previously unavailable to researchers. For more information, write Oxford University Press at 200 Madison Ave., New York. NY 10016.

"FRIENDS" RAPING FRIENDS: COULD IT HAPPEN TO YOU? is an eight-page report with practical information and advice on acquaintance rape. Among the topics are the causes of acquaintance rape, how to avoid situations that could lead to rape, and what to do if a rape occurs. A brief bibliography is included. For a copy of the report, send \$2 to the Project on the Status and Education of Women, Association of American Colleges, 1818 R St., NW, Washington, DC 20009.

The Video Data Bank presents <u>WHAT DOES SHE WANT</u>, a series of six ninety-minute home video programs which pull together the work of creative women in film, video, and the performing arts. With titles such as "We are not Sugar and Spice and Everything Nice" and "A Crack in the Tube," the programs are available in both VHS and Beta formats for \$59.95 each. Call Cynthia Chris at 212-608-5496 for more information. Order the programs from the Video Data Bank, 22 Warren, New York, NY 10007 (1-800-634-8544).

Firebrand Books' MAKING IT: A WOMAN'S GUIDE TO SEX IN THE AGE OF AIDS is a fifty-three-page pamphlet by Cindy Patton and Janis Kelly. The English- and Spanish-language booklet clearly and candidly discusses AIDS, its transmission, and prevention. It offers useful information on practicing safer sex and contains a list of resource organizations and legal assistance groups. The pamphlet is available for \$3.95 from Firebrand Books, 141 The Commons, Ithaca, NY 14850.

WORK IN PROGRESS PAPERS AND TAPES are available from Wellesley College's Stone Center for Developmental Services and Studies. Topics of the thirty papers and six tapes range from "Women and Power: Some Psychological Dimensions" by Jean Baker Miller to the "Psychology of Peacemaking" by Janet Surrey. Tapes cost \$6 each and papers cost \$4. Request an order form from The Stone Center, Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA 02181 (617-235-0320 ext. 2837).

The <u>NELLIE LANGFORD ROWELL LIBRARY</u> at York University announces a new pamphlet series in women's studies. The first titles are: "Rediscovering History: Bringing a Name to Life -- Nellie Langford Rowell 1874-1968"; "Equality in Sports: Perspectives"; and "Pay Equity: Perspectives." Pamphlets cost \$2 each, plus \$1 for postage, and may be ordered from the library at 202C Founders College, York University, 4700 Keele St., North York, Ontario M3J 1P3 Canada.

<u>PUT-DOWNS OF WOMEN: THE SUBTLE MESSAGES</u> is a recent brochure which includes a four-page quiz relating to the changing roles of women and men in the

workplace. Contact Marge Engelman, Affirmative Action Office, 415 Extension Building, 432 N. Lake St., Madison, WI 53706 (608-262-0277) to receive a free copy of the brochure.

Three new CRIAW PAPERS have come to our attention this quarter. They are No. 9, "Gender-sensitive Theory and the Housing Needs of Mother-led Families: Some Concepts and Some Buildings," by Fran Klodawsky and Suzanne Mackenzie; No. 14, "Canadian Prairie Women's History: A Bibliographic Survey," by Susan Jackel and "Women and Men in Western American History," by Susan Armitage; and No. 15, "Literary Mothers and Daughters -- A Review of Twentieth-Century Poetry by Canadian Women," by Diana M.A. Relke. No. 9 costs \$2.50 plus \$.75 for postage; the others are available for \$3 each (members) or \$4 (non-members) plus \$.75 postage. Send prepaid orders to CRIAW/ICREF, 151 Slater St., Suite 408, Ottawa, Ontario KIP 5H3 Canada.

In CRITICAL COMMENTS ON "A LESSER LIFE: THE MYTH OF WOMEN'S LIBERATION IN AMERICA", Catherine East rebuts Sylvia Hewlett's book which claims that the U.S. women's movement is responsible for serious shortcomings in the lives of American women. The sixteen-page paper is available from the National Women's Political Caucus (of which East is legislative director), 1275 K St., NW, Washington, DC 20005.

The Supreme Court's Grove City decision limited the application of Title IX's antidiscrimination authority. FEDERAL FUNDING OF DISCRIMINATION: THE IMPACT OF GROVE CITY VS. BELL describes court cases and administrative rulings affected by this decision, including several cases of sex discrimination which were never heard because no federal funds were directly involved. To order the twenty-seven-page report by Marcia D. Greenberger and C.A. Beier, send \$2 to the National Women's Law Center, Suite 100, 1616 P St., NW, Washington, DC 20036.

THROUGH HER EYES: RESOURCES FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES is a series of several half-hour videotapes accompanied by workbooks. The tapes are available individually, as a series, or by module. For more information, contact the School of Continuing Education, Room 302, Administration Building, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario K1S 5B6 Canada (613-564-6660).

Physical and emotional changes associated with menopause are among the topics discussed by Nancy C. Doyle in <u>UNDERSTANDING THE MENOPAUSE</u>. The twenty-four-page pamphlet, no. 651, may be ordered for \$1 from Public Affairs Pamphlets, 381 Park Ave. S., New York, NY 10016-8884.

Audio tapes from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's CHANCELLOR'S SEMINAR ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT: ISSUES, ANSWERS & SOLUTIONS (held May 6, 1987) and AFFIRMATIVE ACTION, EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND PERSONNEL ISSUES FALL ROUNDTABLE (September 22, 1987) cost \$5 each. Order from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign Affirmative Action Nonacademic Office, Rm. 136 Personnel Services Bldg., 52 E. Gregory Dr., Champaign, IL 61820 (217-333-2147).

## WISCONSIN BIBLIOGRAPHIES IN WOMEN'S STUDIES

Two new titles have recently been added to the series "Wisconsin Bibliographies in Women's Studies." Susan Searing's "A Quick Guide to Library Research on Women and the Arts" lists indexes, core books and periodicals, bibliographies, and other resources on women and the arts in general; in the visual arts; in music (including discographies); in film (including filmographies); and in theater, dance and performance art.

Another new title is "The History of Women in Science, Health and Technology: A Bibliographic Guide to the Professions and the Disciplines," edited by Searing with the assistance of Rima D. Apple. Based on the efforts of a nationwide group of scholars, the fifty-four-page bibliography was funded by the Merck Company Foundation, the American Medical Women's Association, and various University of Wisconsin departments and individuals. Its four sections are: "Overview," which includes reference sources and general works; "Science" (divided by the branches of science); "Health" (covering women in the health professions, biological and medical views of women, and health care issues); and "Technology." These bibliographies and others in the series are available free of charge from: Office of the UW System Women's Studies Librarian, 112A Memorial Library, 728 State St., Madison, WI 53706 (608) 263-5754.

### BOOK REVIEWS \_\_\_\_\_

#### WRITING OF MEN AND FEMINISM

Franklin Abbott, ed. New Men, New Minds: Breaking Male Tradition. Freedom, CA: Crossing Press, 1987. 200p. pap., \$9.95, ISBN 0-89594-219-4.

Harry Brod, ed. The Making of Masculinities: The New Men's Studies. Boston, MA: Allen and Unwin, 1987. 346p. index. pap., \$14.95, ISBN 0-04-497036-6.

Alice Jardine and Paul Smith, eds. Men in Feminism. New York: Methuen, 1987. 288p. pap., \$11.95, ISBN 0-416-0160 $\overline{1-4}$ .

Since Norman Mailer's early attack on Kate Millet in The Prisoner of Sex, (1) men have been writing in fear and anger against feminism. Though misogynist writing is nothing new, such books speak explicitly to feminist critiques of men and masculinity. Most of the writers insist that men are just as oppressed (as men) as women are oppressed (as women), thereby stretching the concept of oppression into absurdity and demonstrating incomprehension of both the fundamental insights of feminist theory and the realities of women's (and men's) lives.

In a second and different stream, some men have been trying to write not against but with feminism. The Liberated Man (2) by Warren Farrell is an example, as are two collections of very personal writings which emerged from men's consciousness-raising groups, Unbecoming Men (3) and Readings for Men

Against Sexism. (4) These highly confessional writings speak about connections between masculinity and sexism, but also explore how the "male sex role" has feedback effects which are very damaging to men. For example, the fathering aspect of the traditional "male sex role" not only burdens women with childrearing responsibilities and contributes to the defining of women as mothers; it also results in fathers' alienation from their children and from their own fathers. Within this second stream are also critiques of masculinity from a gay male perspective. The radical (though now somewhat quaint) effeminist manifestos of early gay liberation are illustrative of this approach.

In a third and much more recent development, some academic males have contributed to the large body of scholarly writing created by feminists, especially in the realm of social theory. Stephen Heath's <u>The Sexual Fix</u> (5) is a noteworthy example. The writers within this stream utilize feminist theory in ways not unlike earlier theorists used Marxism and psychoanalytic theory.

Three recently published works of men and feminism fall into these second and third streams.

New Men, New Minds is a compilation of previously published short writings that are primarily self-disclosures. Many are written by men who formed a pro-feminist perspective and entered anti-sexist political activity as a result of personal experiences in men's consciousness-raising groups.

The major topics include men's relations (or lack of them) with their fathers, how men might father differently, men's relations with other men (particularly the desire for male friendship and the problem of homophobia), connections between masculinity and violence against women (particularly rape and battering), and issues specific to men which rarely receive attention: health issues, the circumcision question, the reality of male-on-male rape. Certain stereotypes are questioned -- for example, the notion that men more easily express anger than tears. McLeod and Penberton, who have worked with men who batter, claim that men's anger is typically intellectualized, a form of expression that inhibits intimacy.

The collection strives to present ideas on "new" forms of manhood/masculinity. John Stoltenberg, who is deeply influenced by Andrea Dworkin, asks: "So here we are: men, inside a male-supremacist system, inside a male-supremacist sex class, inside it as men. What do we do about it? And why is it so difficult and so unthinkable to live as a traitor to that sex class?" (p.126).

In seeking new ways of being men, many of the writers wrestle with this question. Many find a solution in the claim that men, too, stand to benefit as the demands of the women's movement are met. For example, Cooper Thompson in "A New Vision of Masculinity" argues that when males and females are equally valued, boys won't have to prove themselves to other boys. They can admit failure, and they will seek out opportunities to learn from girls and women.

There are serious difficulties with this kind of thinking, which reproduces the very sex-gender ideology it seeks to undermine. Men are told it will be ok for them to become soft, nurturing, accepting of failure -- just like women! This kind of pro-feminist male thinking shares much with liberal feminism in its tendency to see masculinity as a role or internalized construct rather than something which exists in men's relations with women, children, and other men. The appeal to what men have to gain from feminist demands also overlooks what men have to lose: all the advantages which accrue to men precisely because of the power which men as men have over women in a sexist society.

One writer in Abbott's collection who rejects the developing new "soft" masculinity is Minnesota poet Robert Bly. In a widely noticed interview, "What Men Really Want," Bly sees this new, pro-feminist manhood as not working for men and, in fact, dangerous. Bly thinks "sensitive" men need an affirmation of the strengths and joys of maleness freed from their connection to violence against and power over women. What are these positive but notreally-threatening-to-women-and-other-men strengths and powers? Bly answers with his well-known interpretation of the old fairy tale in which a caged wildman is befriended by the young prince, who eventually wants to set the wildman free. The key to the cage, however, is under the prince's mother's pillow. The point seems to be that men's mothers stand in the way of getting what men need and what they can get only from their fathers: the release of the wildman buried within. The problem, Bly insists, is that the father in contemporary society is no longer there to provide us with the initiations which young men need to attain a positive (and, according to Bly, not antifeminist) manhood. Bly attempts, then, to re-mythologize manhood in response to feminist critiques of masculinity but without going the route of androgyny, the "soft" male.

Many men have found in Bly's call to joyful male experience relief from the guilt and confusion all too prevalent among men touched by feminism. Fewer have been alert to the dangers of such a call. Like most of the profeminist men's writing in Abbott's book, Bly essentializes men and completely ignores the history and varieties of forms of masculinity. Worse, he creates sex/gender polarities between men and women while at the same time broadcasting an image of masculinity which is suspiciously traditional. That his view is easily co-opted by men who are driven to reassert masculinity is evidenced by the appearance of so-called "wildman workshops," in which men undergo experiences not unlike boot camp. Bly's agenda here is also suspiciously heterosexist. Several writings by pro-feminist gay men offer a very different form for the "new" masculinity, a form already under development on the fringes of contemporary gay culture and existent in earlier cultures as well -- for example, in the tradition of the native American berdache.

In sum, Abbott's anthology, though somewhat thin, does give the reader an overview of where much of the thinking of pro-feminist men has been (and in many instances still continues to flounder). It is also a collection which contains dangers, and needs to be read critically and cautiously.

A more sophisticated and current collection of writings of men and feminism is Harry Brod's The Making of Masculinities. Brod's book is intended as a text in what he calls "the new men's studies," and several of the best articles attempt to explain and justify the theory and practice of this emerging field. He organizes the selections around the question of the relation between feminism and the critique of masculinity. Awareness is demonstrated that masculinity, and the contemporary "crisis" of masculinity, have both a history and a diversity.

Joseph Pleck's opening article sets the tone for the later pieces. Pleck shows that the theory of sex-role identity has been the dominant model in the social sciences for understanding male experience. That model has distorted our understanding of men and women and has prevented us even from asking the right questions. By showing how masculinity came to be equated with male personal identity, Pleck is able to drive a wedge between maleness and masculinity, between being a biological male and being a certain kind of human defined in relation to (against) another kind of human (women).

In "The Case for Men's Studies," Brod sets out an alternative to the illconceived sex-role identity paradigm: the men's studies model. After briefly clearing away the objections that most studies have always been men's studies and that feminism already studies men. Brod attempts to delineate his version of men's studies as a field which focuses directly and specifically on men, but without taking the male as universal norm or recapitulating traditionally male-biased scholarship. Within men's studies he further distinguishes "female-identified" and "male-identified" approaches -- a confusing division at best. What Brod seems to be getting at is that studies of men in relation to feminism must take account not only of the negative feedback effects on men but also of how the mechanisms that produce those unhappy results for men are the same ones which confer power on men and thus contribute to the subordination of women. This last point is a crucial one for the current controversy over whether it is time to move from women's studies (and men's studies) to gender studies. If gender studies is motivated by a kind of fairness doctrine, then it isn't in the interests of women's studies and it misconceives what men's studies should be about.

After laying the theoretical framework for men's studies, Masculinities concentrates on examples of pro-feminist men's studies in action. Many of the essays are sociological, taking up the myths and realities of men at work and play, and men's relationships with other men. The articles on male friendship tend toward disappointment: though we learn that male intimacy is defined differently from female by emphasizing companionship-for-activity rather than intimate self-disclosure, we don't see this explored very far or tied to issues of intimacy in male-female relationships or to likely connections with male acting out (violence). The material fares somewhat better when the contributors turn to the issue of violence directly and argue that "violent men are not deviants or non-conformists; they are overconformists, men who have responded all too fully to a particular aspect of male socialization" (p.51). But this view has long been pointed out by women.

Perhaps the outstanding article in the applied section of the book is Clyde Franklin II's discussion of what he calls the decimation of Black men, brought about by the movement of Black men from a role that minimized gender differences to one that embraced "America's ideas about masculinity (e.g., competitiveness, aggressiveness, violence, sufficient distance from femininity)" (pp.165-66). The final essays in the volume address the possibilities of rereading literary texts from a men's studies perspective. While the need for such rereadings is well stated, the actual examples offered lack depth.

The most outstanding piece in the entire collection is coauthored by three Australians. In "Toward a New Sociology of Masculinity," Tim Carrigan, Bob Connell, and John Lee face with amazing honesty how the typical men's literature of the 1970's interprets oppression as a function of sex role rigidities, and thus can conclude that men in general will gain from women's liberation since feminism works to undo these rigid roles. The writers find this idea to be "naive at best, and at worst dishonest" (p.80). In their view, the liberation of women must mean a loss of power for men, as well as a great deal of personal pain. They argue that it is in the relations between men and women, not in some abstract differences, that oppression is to be found.

Further, they point out that this error distorts our understanding of the position of heterosexual men in the sexual politics of advanced capitalist countries today. According to Carrigan et al., gay activists were the first group of men to address and challenge "hegemonic masculinity." This is not surprising, for in spite of retaining many of the male privileges that all men have, gay men as gay are oppressed by some of the same power relations which oppress women.

If the work by Carrigan, Connell and Lee is illustrative of men's studies at its best, then men's studies might share with women's studies the project of deconstructing and reconstituting knowledge. Like women's studies, it can make the crucial distinction between the received ideas of patriarchal ideology and the emerging specificities of, in this case, men. Central to this project is the uncovering of the ideologies and practices of masculinity. Yet feminists and pro-feminists alike will have to approach these possibilities with a wary eye, as usual.

What is the relation of men (especially academics) to feminist writing and theory? Co-edited by Alice Jardine and Paul Smith, Men in Feminism contains contributions from both men and women who represent a diversity of feminist viewpoints, and who provide a spectrum of theoretical analyses about men's place in feminism. All of the contributors, however, currently do scholarly work in the intersection of feminist theory with postmodernism, and they explore how this by now well-trafficked area is both congruent and conflicted. Though some of the articles take up the central question of men doing feminist criticism and theory through discussions of literary texts and films (e.g., Judith Mayne's "Walking the Tightrope of Feminism and Male Desire"), most of the writing directly addresses the question in broad theoretical sweeps. The volume is not for the intellectually faint-hearted

and will be opaque without some acquaintance with both very recent feminist theory and postmodernist theory.

With the first sentence of the first selection we encounter Stephen Heath's view that "Men's relation to feminism is an impossible one" (p.1). Men are necessarily related to feminism, Heath says, because feminism necessarily changes men, too, as it moves toward the ending of women's oppression. But men are also necessarily excluded from feminism, for women are its subjects and men its objects of study. A man's desire to be a feminist, "to be a subject there too in feminism," is, in Heath's view, a kind of feint, perhaps the last in the long history of women's colonization.

But this does not mean for Heath that men can do nothing for and with feminism. To begin with, men can ask "what is feminism for me? Or, how do I change, who am I if I listen and respond to feminism, if I understand with its understanding?" Men can only be with feminism from the outside, so to speak; though "within" that outside men can do their own bit of deconstructing and unfixing. Hence, Heath says, men need to think through sameness and difference and otherness.

Several of the essays revolve around Elaine Showalter's "Critical Cross-Dressing: Male Feminists and the Woman of the Year." Showalter appears to take the position that men's relation to feminism is not impossible in the way Heath thinks; but her concern is that men are in fact (and often intentionally) posing as feminist. Using the example of Dustin Hoffman's Tootsie character in the movie of that name, she draws an analogy with current male literary critics who are making use of feminist criticism and wonders whether such men are really feminist. Showalter presents a persuasive argument that "Tootsie's cross-dressing is a way of promoting the notion of masculine power while masking it" (p.123). Male feminist criticism may be doing the same.

Naomi Schor's "Dreaming Dissymetry: Barthes, Foucault and Sexual Difference" expresses the worry that many of the male writers in the volume, along with their postmodernist intellectual heroes, may be up to yet another phallocentric erasure of women. Her worry here is directed at the position of those like Foucault and Heath who deny women's difference. "At the risk of being a wallflower at the carnival of plural sexualities," says Schor, "I would ask: what is to say that the discourse of sexual indifference/pure difference is not the last or (less triumphantly) the latest ruse of phallocentrism?" (p.109).

Though he seems less sure of his position in the dialogue with Jardine which closes the anthology, in his article, Paul Smith asserts that men can be in feminism and make a contribution to feminist theory by making it more self-reflective. "[Men] can be there to help to subvert, unsettle and undermine the (seemingly rather fast to settle) laws of the discourse" (p.39). But Cary Nelson points out in "Men, Feminism: The Materiality of Discourse" that the disputes and differences within feminist thought "seem to be more diverse and mutually critical than the differences within any other body of theory in the contemporary critical scene." It hardly seems that men are needed to keep feminist thinking "honest." Further, Nelson wonders whether men presently have anything unique to contribute to feminist writing.

Somewhat surprisingly, editor Alice Jardine answers with a tentative "yes" when she writes that after at least twenty years of feminist theory men could after feminism take on some of the fields and issues most addressed by feminists. For example, men could explore theories of representation and theories of men's relationships to violence. And she insists that men have not even begun to think about their mothers.

Some few of the writings in New Men, New Minds and The Making of Masculinities reverberate with Jardine's sense that there is a contribution for men to make here; and they reverberate in a way which the writings by the men in Jardine and Smith's volume in general do not. These academic male writers apparently have not allied with feminism through CR experience, have not been active in anti-rape work or in the formation of men's childcare collectives or in anti-sexist organizing. The absence of personal political engagement, coupled with the presence of entry into feminism through an essentially intellectual/theoretical route, produces writing which, however well intended, erects itself in feminism as an intrusion.

The volume ends with a dialog between Jardine and Smith, suggesting this discussion might continue, that this collection of papers is barely a start. Yet, having the last word in the discussion, Jardine suggests that the whole question of men in feminism needs to be articulated differently. Keeping the present terms of the debate, she says, will not help "to bring to birth a new non-paranoid, non-male, non-heterocentric, form of alliance between men and women for the future..." (p.263).

> Jardine doesn't tell us what that different articulation might look like; but if she is correct, then writing of men and feminism is a writing yet to be written.

#### --- Duane Allen

[Duane Allen is Associate Professor of Philosophy at the UW-Center-Rock Co. He currently serves on the UW Centers Women's Studies Program Committee.]

### **NOTES**

1 Norman Mailer, The Prisoner of Sex (Boston: Little, Brown, 1971).
2 Warren Farrell, The Liberated Man: Beyond Masculinity; Freeing Men and Their Relationships With Women (New York: Random House, 1974).

3 Mike Bradley and others, Unbecoming Men: A Men's Consciousness-Raising Group Writes on Oppression and Themselves (Washington, NJ: Times Change Press, 1971)

Jon Snodgrass, Readings for Men Against Sexism (Washington, NJ: Times Change Press, 1977).

<sup>5</sup> Stephen Heath, <u>The Sexual Fix</u> (New York: Schocken Books, 1982).

### PORNOGRAPHY'S ONGOING DEBATE.

Betty-Carol Sellen and Patricia A. Young, eds. Feminists, Pornography, and the Law: An Annotated Bibliography of Conflict, 1970-1986. Hamden, CT: Library Professional Publications, 1987. 204p. index. \$25.00, ISBN 0-208-02124-8. LC 87-2915.

Edward Donnerstein, Daniel Linz, & Steven Penrod. The Question of Pornography: Research Findings and Policy Implications. New York: The Free Press, 1987. 274p. ill. bibl. index. \$22.95, ISBN 0-02-907521-1. LC 86-033546.

One of the most controversial issues among feminists is pornography. Most would agree that it is dehumanizing and degrading to women -- the disagreement is over what to do about it. Some argue for strong legislation against its publication and distribution; others argue that such censorship is a greater violation of human freedom than the particular violation of women's freedom represented by pornography. The debate has been going on since the beginning of the contemporary women's movement and is not likely to be settled for some time.

Two important new books provide some perspective on the issue: Feminists, Pornography, and the Law: An Annotated Bibliography of Conflict, 1970-1986, edited by Betty-Carol Sellen and Patricia A. Young, and The Question of Pornography: Research Findings and Policy Implications, by Edward Donnerstein, Daniel Linz, and Steven Penrod. Both are timely and vital contributions to the complex issue of pornography and its impact on attitudes and behavior. Each book attempts to present its information in a balanced manner, as free of bias as possible. The titles acknowledge the difficulty inherent in the subject: it is the question of pornography, a documentation of conflict.

Sellen and Young's book is an annotated bibliography of materials representing all sides of the antipornography debate. Annotations reflect content only and are not biased or judgmental. The expressed aim of the book is to "help people form a thoughtful, active response to the complicated issues of equality for women, sexual freedom, and the preservation of free speech" (p.4). The compilers include not only published materials but also unpublished reports and a list of relevant organizations from 1970 to late 1986. Particularly helpful to teachers is the nonprint listing, a valuable guide to audiovisuals on the subject.

An extremely useful resource for research as well as for general readers, the work is a thorough and significant bibliography of materials on the debate over pornography. Sellen and Young include few research reports on the link between viewing pornography and committing violent acts, but that is not their subject. This is the area addressed by Donnerstein, Linz, and Penrod.

The Question of Pornography presents the results of the most recent research on the effects of exposure to pornography on behavior and attitudes. The book also discusses the effects of images of women other than those most

people would consider pornographic. In fact, Donnerstein, Linz, and Penrod contend that sexual images themselves are not harmful; rather, it is violent images alone or the sexualization of violence that produces the antisocial effects reported by social science research. Any discussion of pornography needs to take this crucial distinction into consideration. Indeed, the finding of the 1970 President's Commission on Obscenity and Pornography (1) that pornography had no harmful effects was based largely on material portraying relatively little violence, in contrast to the widespread images of violence against women that are the common fare of pornography today.

The studies noted in <u>The Question of Pornography</u> are largely those which found that some people exposed in a laboratory setting to certain materials simulating aggression against women did, in fact, exhibit calloused attitudes about rape and an insensitivity to violence against women. Donnerstein, Linz, and Penrod are aware of the difficulties inherent in attempting to formulate legal policies based on the research of social scientists in laboratory settings; they address this issue directly in order to provide a context within which to evaluate the research findings they report on the effects of media violence on behavior. Furthermore, they acknowledge the many variables that affect behavior or attitude changes after viewing violent media. Finally, the authors carefully word their conclusion about the studies they have reviewed:

Exposure to media violence promotes aggressive behavior only under certain conditions and for certain persons. Each of these variables plays a role in heightening the probability that actual violence will ensue after exposure to media violence. Most often, however, media effects are relatively weak -- they may result in a temporary tendency to verbal hostility and irritability. Personal and environmental restraints make it unlikely that an observer will actually engage in violent behavior. (p.22)

Despite disclaimers and cautious wording, the research they report, particularly on the effects of violence in R-rated (not X-rated) movies, offers compelling reasons why, at the very least, parents ought to monitor the television and theater movies their children are watching. By restricting those under eighteen from seeing X-rated films, we may be telling young people that sexual violence is permissible but nonviolent sexual relationships are not.

For those over eighteen who view R-rated violent movies and pornography containing graphic depictions of violence against women, the result is a general desensitization to female suffering and a greater tolerance of such depictions. Donnerstein, Linz and Penrod have found the debriefing sessions following their research to be quite helpful in counteracting the results of viewing violence against women. They advise a special film rating category with warnings and audience age restrictions, particularly for "materials that portray rape or other forms of sexual violence, whether explicitly or not, in ways that suggest that women deserve, want, or benefit from such treatment" (p.170). The implication for adult audiences is that education about the underlying hostility in pornographic and mainstream media depictions of

violence against women might go far to mitigate against harmful effects of exposure to such images.

Feminists, Pornography, and the Law and The Question of Pornography are both valuable new resources. Sellen and Young cover a broad spectrum of materials from a variety of sources, dating from the first President's Commission on Obscenity and Pornography. They address the particular issue of pornography and First Amendment implications, providing a fairly balanced set of materials for both sides of the debate. Donnerstein, Linz, and Penrod report on social science research over the same period, and include a fifty-six page bibliography. They also address the censorship issue, both in their introduction and in a separate chapter entitled "The Search for Legal Solutions." However, they are specifically interested in the violent component of pornography and its potential effect on attitudes and behavior. The books stand alone but also complement one another exceptionally well.

### -- Katherine Anne Ackley

[Katherine Anne (White) Ackley is Women's Studies Coordinator and Associate Professor of English at the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point. She is currently editing a book of essays on violence and women in literature and will be on sabbatical spring semester to work on a book on Barbara Pym.]

### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Commission on Obscenity and Pornography. Report. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1970.

#### GROWING OLDER AFFIRMATIVELY

Paula Brown Doress and Diana Laskin Siegal and the Midlife and Older Women Book Project, in cooperation with the Boston Women's Health Book Collective. Ourselves, Growing Older: Women Aging with Knowledge and Power. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1987. 511p. ill. bibl. index. \$24.95, ISBN 0-671-50501-7; pap., \$15.95, ISBN 0-671-64424-6. LC 87-12898.

Do we need yet another book from the Boston Women's Health Collective, or indeed another book at all on older women's health and welfare, since there are already many dozens? This is to say nothing of the numbers of magazine and newspaper articles and television specials that deal with disease and the economics of growing old and sick. To answer my own question: Yes, I think we do need this book.

Who remembers that the original 1971 <u>Our Bodies, Ourselves</u> was one-half inch thick, had 276 pages including index, cost \$2.95, and had a problem getting published by Simon and Schuster? In <u>Ourselves, Growing Older</u>, the fifth book in the Collective's series, we have a volume one-and-one-half inches thick with 511 numbered pages, plus dedication, acknowledgments (to 526 women contributors), foreword, two prefaces, and a weight of at least three

pounds. Obviously not intended for recreational reading, this reference work may nevertheless grab a reader once she takes a look at it, because it says such substantial things in such a satisfactory way, no punches pulled anywhere. You might want to rest it on your desk, however, because it is much too heavy for arthritic hands to hold for any length of time.

Skillful editing is what holds this enormous undertaking together. Although many women had a hand in producing the volume, editors Doress and Siegal are experienced teachers and writers, with degrees in psychology and public administration, respectively, who have a shared focus on women's health issues and the inadequacies of this country's health system to the needs of old and poor women. Doress, a founder of BWHC and coordinator of the chapter "Women Growing Older" in <a href="The New Our Bodies">The New Our Bodies</a>, Ourselves, (1) realized that a single chapter could not possibly cover the whole constellation of issues that face women past thirty-five years of age. The volume that grew out of that chapter is nothing less than a course on how to conduct the rest of your life, beginning in the mid-years. While that may seem a formidable assignment even for a book, given the growing complexity of obtaining health care services, not to mention being able to pay for them, it is important for women to know the territory and the compilers have done a credible job of covering it.

Most chapters have a number of contributors, in addition to one or both of the editors. Yet the style remains coherent and is only repetitive when a subject requires enlarging. The physical look of the pages is much the same as previous Collective books. Many uncaptioned photographs of individuals and women in groups give flavor to the chapters, adding variety to the two-column page by breaking up otherwise solid type. Enclosed in sidebars and in boxes separate from the main text is additional important information -- for example, how to ask appropriate questions about a particular disease or health problem. The italicized statements by hundreds of women -- heterosexual, lesbian, old and young, and identified only by age -- underline the chapter themes and offer an eye-opening variety of response to the afflictions of poverty, disease, sexism, ageism, and death. Samples of lovely poetry also amplify the topics.

Tish Sommers, a founder of the Older Women's Network, dead of cancer before the completion of the book, was an early and enthusiastic backer of the project and wrote both the foreword and concluding chapter, "Changing Society and Ourselves." "Growing old is not easy," she wrote, "especially if you are poor and alone, as is the case with the majority of aging women, many of whom slip into poverty in their later years. It takes a lot of internal strength to cope with increasing infirmities or chronic pain, and the loss of choices brought about by reduced circumstances and physical limitations. It also takes preparation well before the calamities strike, and deciding as early as possible what kind of older woman you want to be" (p.404). Sommers describes the rewards of having decided to become an advocate and "pushing the establishment to be more in tune with the needs of those who are hurting -- including yourself..." (p.404).

Compassion for those who care for older people is the theme of a chapter labelled "Caregiving:" Authors Fradkin and Liberti remind us of the extraordinary stress placed on the constant caregiver who may often not be in

superb health herself. Helping a parent while still working full-time, running a household, even perhaps caring for her own offspring, can combine to create a true horror story. Statements by women who have been or are now caregivers make for strong and sad reading.

Daughters rather than sons are still the preferred caregivers, a situation that persists as one of the most long-lived symptoms of a patriarchal society. The authors note the value of self-help and support groups for caregivers, and the importance of thinking beforehand about the day that such care will be needed, including plans for management of money. They list a range of services caregivers should know about, such as case management, adult day care, respite care, and about a dozen types of home care services that may be called on. "As long as caregiving is viewed solely as a woman's concern," they write, "it risks being overlooked by legislators and policy-makers, unless we become advocates for change. When legislators, bent on balancing budgets, romanticize family care, we must remind them that women who care for family members need support services and compensation" (p.212).

In "Problems in the Medical Care System," editor/author Siegal outlines the inadequacies and injustices inherent in this country's health care system, despite the general belief that we have the best health care in the world. She points out that we are the only Western industrialized country besides South Africa that does not have a national health care system. Other countries keep many more people healthier longer than the United States and at a lower cost. As profit-making firms increasingly take over hospitals, nursing homes, and other facilities, Siegal notes, the profusion of services and the fragmentation that follow deny access by poor people to needed care. Private firms want people who can pay for service.

Siegal makes as clear as anyone can the intricacies of Medicare and Medicaid, always frustrating and never easy to understand, especially when a person must deal with them without an advocate. If you have not already felt fear and loathing for the present system and the ways it works to the disadvantage of all of us, you are bound to feel those emotions upon reading this chapter. The author also condemns the Reagan administration's plans for "catastrophic coverage," its solution to health care problems, as inadequate and misleading. What this country needs to repair our patchwork system is a tax-supported universal health care system. That alone will begin to improve a system especially cruel to poor and aging women.

If you love lists, as I do, the long and comprehensive "Resources" compilation at the end of the book will be especially satisfactory. Under "General Resources" is a list of organizations and publications that pertain to women and aging in general. Following this section are resources that refer to each chapter in the book. "Aging Well," for example, has subheadings such as Stress Management; Massage; Self-Help and Support Groups; Self-Discovery and Life Review; and Feminism, Religion and Spirituality. Each sub-section lists books and other publications and organizations that directly deal with the subject. A detailed twenty-eight-page, three-column index completes this grand undertaking. Even topics from the Resources chapter may be found here; a helpful feature for tracking down an elusive name or address.

Selecting a few particularly appealing chapters to illustrate the perspective of this work hardly does justice to the depth of coverage, the scope and attention to detail that <u>Ourselves, Growing Older</u> embodies. Although I have chiefly considered only chapters on social and political aspects of growing older, do not ignore the chapters covering the whole range of disease. Arthritis and rheumatic disorders, hysterectomy and oophorectomy, cancer and diabetes are some of the topics covered. Doubtless, most medical texts and reference books accurately describe symptoms, causes, course of disease and treatment. What differentiates <u>Ourselves, Growing Older</u> from a typical book is its insistence on the female role in dealing with disease, the importance of our taking an active role in managing our illness. Those women at the Boston Women's Health Book Collective know what they are doing and they do it wonderfully well.

### -- Carolyn Wilson

[Carolyn Wilson is a former librarian and the author of Violence Against Women: An Annotated Bibliography (Boston: G.K. Hall and Co., 1981).]

### NOTES

1 Boston Women's Health Collective, The New Our Bodies, Ourselves: A Book By and For Women (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1984).

Alternative Cataloging in Publication Data

Feminist collections: women's studies library resources in Wisconsin. Madison, WI: UM 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. 4. Libraries--Special collections--Women's studies--Periodicals.
5. Feminism--Book reviews--Periodicals. 6. Feminism--Bibliography--Periodicals. 7. Feminist literature--History and criticism--Periodicals. 8. Feminist literature--Bibliography--Periodicals. I. 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.

## **BOOKS RECENTLY RECEIVED**

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