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BOOK REVIEWS

MOVING AHEAD IN THE ACADEMY


The four volumes under review represent a wealth of documentation and informed discussion about the current status of women in higher education, both as students and as faculty. Most important are the scholarly analyses and reflections about the control exercised through the typical constructions of disciplinary knowledge and through the gender bias built into institutional policies and procedures, attitudes, and practices. It is the control of knowledge that is the most frightening dimension because we assume knowledge to be truth, but these writings illustrate the all-too-common bias in scholarship and its devastating psychological and intellectual effects upon disenfranchised women and minorities.

The chores of revisionist scholarship are delineated in O'Barr's collection of papers, which illustrate the cultural constructions of knowledge as further shaped by the dominant, controlling, and mostly white male academy. Delivered in a symposium sometime after 1983 and probably no later than 1985, the materials are undated, so it is impossible to place each topic in a sequence of development or within a timeframe in a given field of study. Nevertheless, the individual chapters of Women and a New Academy focus on traditional fields in liberal studies and could well serve as a basic text for all faculty, especially white males, in reexamining the traditions within each discipline. This volume encompasses history, literature, Christianity and Biblical teachings, scientific inquiry and methodologies, and political theories. The development of women's studies is placed within the matrix of forces leading to institutional change, which is at the behest and under the leadership of a growing number of formidable women scholars armed with sharpened tools of analysis, criticism, and synthesis, who are slowly but perceptibly changing the landscape of knowledge in a most basic sense.

The volume edited by Chamberlain (on behalf of the Task Force on Women in Higher Education) -- Women in Academe -- poses a more unique and disconcerting format in that chapters are not identified by author; contributors are listed collectively. While the introduction states that the task force members authored works in their specialties and the chapters are of generally superb quality, this omission of specific authorship is a disservice to readers and authors alike. Authors do not receive full credit for their contributions, and readers are unable to approach the source directly, either by personal contact or by pursuing other works by the same individual.

Having stated a frustration, however, one can only most highly recommend the volume, as each chapter clearly records the progress in creating for women students and faculty a more equitable and receptive higher education environment. In contrast to the single-sample, single-subject approach used in most chapters of the Pearson volume, each of Chamberlain's chapters details a wealth of facts bearing upon the issue at hand. The essays focus on the interplay between knowledge as represented and the effects of selected
representation upon women in psychology, literature, economics, and politics.

As companion pieces, the Chamberlain and O’Barr volumes are complementary. O’Barr offers basic research and analysis in specific fields, while Chamberlain focuses on analysis of the effects of repression through control of knowledge. Though the Chamberlain book scarcely makes a case for the pursuit of women's studies as an academic major, the authors collectively make the point that only through the sustained efforts of women scholars will significant changes occur in the academy, at all levels and in all concerns.

The editors of Educating the Majority (Carol S. Pearson, Donna Shavlik, and Judith G. Touchton) prepared thoughtful introductory essays for each section: women's diversity and commonalities, learning environments shaped by women, reconceptualization (of knowledge), and transformation of the institution. Issues long ignored or minimized in other publications are placed in historical perspective and probed with cogent and thought-provoking questions. Following an often superb setting of the scene, however, some authors fail to achieve the same level of thoughtful analysis. Single theories are used to discuss ideas better served by a comparative theoretical analysis, and other approaches are flawed by a narrow perspective that adds little to the knowledge base on a given topic. Unevenness of writing, though evident across the chapters, is not uncommon in edited books and does not detract from this volume's overall usefulness because the information offers ample compensation.

One strength of Pearson's selections is their historical overview of significant occurrences in the rise of feminism, which serve to remind us of our past, the many issues faced and resolved, the distance we have come, and the formidable remaining obstacles. The attention to revisionist scholarship will aid the neophyte student of higher education who comes with traditional perspectives in mind and will have to learn to question the uni-dimensional and traditional white male context of the academy.

These three texts, taken together, provide one of the best available compilations of scholarship by and about women in the academy. Katz and Vieland demonstrate how to apply some of this knowledge in Get Smart!, their cookbook approach for the survival of women in college. Case study vignettes illustrate various points or set the context for analysis. The examples are well chosen, and the situational discussions are direct, objective, and include recommended actions or solutions. A major question is how to get the book to those who would most benefit from it, such as entering freshmen or those already caught up in inequitable circumstances. Get Smart! could be useful as resource material in small group discussions and for role playing in problem resolution, e.g. in a counseling service, but it would not be appropriate or useful as a formal text. It does provide an accurate portrayal of the effects of discrimination and is instructive in teaching readers how to question their environment.

It is fortunate that these books were made available simultaneously for review. For the most part, the texts are complementary and not unduly duplicative or redundant. The readings provide a comprehensive and detailed picture of the status of women in higher education, and of the history of feminist effort within higher education, including legislation; they also offer excellent documentation of revisionist scholarship in many areas of study.

-- M. Jane Ayer

[M. Jane Ayer is Associate Dean of the School of Education, and Professor of Rehabilitation Counseling Psychology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.]
VISIONARY FEMINIST WRITING


For more than fifteen years women science fiction writers have combined storytelling and political vision, simultaneously delighting their fans and stimulating discussion among academic feminists. The books reviewed here are examples of the diversity of science fiction-related publishing. Established authors talking about their work, new writers just being published, feminist critics -- all seem to have a potential audience among feminist science fiction readers.

Women of Vision is a collection of essays by twelve women science fiction writers about their lives and work. Denise Du Pont asked each author to explain why she writes science fiction or fantasy, what obstacles and/or benefits she has encountered as a woman writer, what role feminism has played in her work, and other questions. Each response is followed by a brief biographical note and a list of published books. The twelve respondents are Ursula K. Le Guin, Virginia Kidd, Anne McCaffrey, Patricia C. Hodgell, Alice Sheldon, Suzette Haden Elgin, Lee Killough, Marion Zimmer Bradley, Eleanor Arnason, Joan D. Vinge, Pamela Sargent, and Suzy McKee Charnas.

The essays generally take the form of straight-forward autobiography, which will interest not only fans of particular authors but also aspiring writers, since the contributors reveal how various events and ideals have influenced the progress of their work. Both Joan Vinge and Suzy McKee Charnas, for example, discuss the growth of a market for science fiction about strong female protagonists as a result of the women's movement. Almost to a writer, they deny having been discriminated against as women in their chosen career, but are nonetheless aware that since the late 1960's they have felt freer to write about women. Eleanor Arnason credits this freedom with a marked improvement in her writing abilities.

Two essays stand out from the rest. Ursula K. Le Guin responded with a delightful short essay on her philosophy of writing, "The Carrier-Bag Theory of Fiction." She criticizes "the reduction of narrative to conflict," (p.7) comparing heroic fiction to the theory of human evolution that glorifies the hunter and considers a weapon to be the first tool invented by "man." She argues that just as a carrier-bag has lately been considered a likelier first tool, so "A novel is a medicine bundle, holding things in a particular, powerful relation to one another and to us" (p.7). This relation she sees as much more complex than mere resolution of conflict. Though Le Guin shares little of her life, she gives us insight into her work.

Marion Zimmer Bradley's essay is conspicuous because she attacks certain feminists, among them Joanna Russ, whose influential novel The Female Man she dismisses as a "feminist tract" (p.94). The vituperative tone of many of her comments contrasts jarringly with her admiring portraits of an earlier generation of women science fiction writers, including C.L. Moore and Leigh Brackett, whom she vigorously defends from criticism. Bradley seems to view any criticism of her own work as a personal attack, and responds with slighting and dismissive comments. She implies that Dorothy Bryant was "cramping tracts on feminism down their throats" (p.85) because she chose to self-publish her utopian novel (un-named but clearly The Kin of Ata), believing it could not be published by the mainstream publishing industry. Feminists who have enjoyed Bradley's work will be saddened by much of what she has to say here.

The essays in Women of Vision are brief, but they provide revealing glimpses of how the authors perceive their own work and how they often struggle to reconcile their art with their politics.

Memories and Visions is the first of a projected series of fantasy and science fiction anthologies of women writers to be published by The Crossing Press, a small publisher with a substantial feminist publishing program. In her introduction, editor Susanna Sturgis recapitulates the publishing history of feminist science fiction, providing a valuable if informal guide to both mainstream and alternative press titles. She
maintains that in the 1980's, with rare exception, tales of solitary women heroes replaced the utopian, community-oriented stories of the 1970's. For this collection, Sturgis solicited work depicting female protagonists active in worlds of inter-connection with other women. She chose 15 from among 280 stories submitted by 180 writers. The selections are impressively varied and well-written. The most successful are memorable for their melding of feminist and lesbian/feminist themes with imaginative plots.

Among the especially good stories are "Signs of Life" by Barbara Krasnoff and "Sign of Hope" by Adrienne Lauby. Both concern communication and create engaging characters and situations. "Signs of Life" tells of Fran, a drug addict and former interpreter for the deaf crews of starships (only the deaf being able to function consistently while making the jumps through space that affect the inner ear). Krasnoff deftly creates a coherent future society and a pivotal incident in the life of a character who has hit bottom. The ethics of signing are crucial to the story's denouement.

"Sign of Hope" presents a future in which voting by computer is everyone's preoccupation, being compulsory in some instances, and about issues as particular as the right to child custody of a single individual. A five-hour work day allows for mass participation in social decision-making. Through this computer interface, a mother severely challenged by her cerebral palsy and a newly disabled woman meet and are able to help each other. Lauby has enough ideas about computers, Native American peoples, and the differently-abled to power a full-length novel, but she employs them here to provide resonance and depth to an excellent short story.

Although few of the other stories are as good as these two, and some, such as "Womankind" and "The Chaos Diaries," are little more than collections of disconnected images that do not succeed even on a symbolic level, Memories and Visions is on the whole a satisfying collection. I look forward to further volumes.

Frances Bartkowski has written a fine comparative study of feminist literary utopias published between 1969 and 1986. In support of her observations, she refers to an extensive array of contemporary feminist literary and political theory. Feminist Utopias will be of interest not only to academics, but also to persevering feminist science fiction fans.

In each chapter Bartkowski juxtaposes two works, gradually making more connections among the utopias under consideration, which are: Herland by Charlotte Perkins Gilman (the prototype for feminist utopias, first published in 1915 and "rediscovered" in 1979); Les Guerilleres by Monique Wittig; The Female Man by Joanna Russ; Woman on the Edge of Time by Marge Piercy; Motherlines by Suzy McKee Charnas; Archaos by Christiane Rochefort; A Weave of Women by E.M. Broner; and The Eugelionne by Louky Bersianik. She also discusses two dystopias: Walk to the End of the World by Suzy McKee Charnas and The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood.

A full discussion of this volume is beyond the scope of this review, so I have chosen to focus on the second chapter, "The Kinship Web," which considers Joanna Russ's The Female Man and Marge Piercy's Woman on the Edge of Time. Bartkowski notices the reflection of contemporaneous feminist political theory in these utopian texts, "both projects in thinking of the 'not yet'" (p.49). Both works were published in the mid-1970's when critiques of the family and of the sex/gender system were being produced by feminist theorists such as Nancy Chodorow and Dorothy Dinnerstein. Russ, in the Whileaway sections of her novel, and Piercy, in the Mattapoisett future of hers, devote considerable space to developing nonpatriarchal kinship structures. An extended family "in which notions of motherliness have replaced motherhood" (p.72) obtains in Piercy's utopia, "a non-gender-specific world in terms of tasks, functions, behavior, yet still a world of people biologically male and female" (p.69). In Whileaway, Russ creates an all-female society where "you cannot fall out of the kinship web" (Russ, p.81) and intensive mothering is typically a leisurely five-year idyll.

Bartkowski explicates the parallel preoccupations of the novels without deemphasizing their very different narrative strategies. Woman on the Edge of Time employs the traditional device of narrator as visitor to the utopian society, though Piercy's visitor herself is hardly traditional - an institutionalized, Chicana female who shifts back and forth between our world of 1975 and Mattapoisett of 2137. Russ's Whileaway is but one strand of the "twisted braid" (Russ's term for the multiplicity of co-existing time-lines). This image is effectively used by Bartkowski to represent Russ's
narrative strategy; four narrators plus the occasional presence of the author, chapters that shift through time, playful, difficult, it "makes no attempt to be what Barthes terms the seamless, readerly, classical text. Rather it...reminds us that utopian fiction with its inherently other-worldly setting is deliberately estranging" (p.59).

The Female Man, judging from reviews and from discussion among readers, has the reputation of being a difficult, even an impossible, book. I have found that it repays close re-readings. Bartkowski's interpretation will be useful to anyone who would perceive just how serious and how humorous this influential book can be.

Throughout this study, Bartkowski explores the drive toward change and discerns an implicit critique of the state in feminist utopian fiction. She holds that "utopian thinking is crucial to feminism" (p.12), and through her perceptive analysis convinces us that this is so.

--Karen Axness


The common thread running through Interpreting Women's Lives: Feminist Theory and Personal Narratives, and Autobiographical Voices: Race, Gender, Self-Portraiture is the writers' insistence that our perception of difference -- revealed through the life stories of specific individual women -- leads to a new understanding of the self and its social context, a perception that can even change "the very criteria that guide our search for truths" (Narratives Group, p.264).

"Women's personal narratives embody and reflect the reality of difference," the members of the Personal Narratives Group claim (p.263), a reality that the fourteen disparate essays in this collection make abundantly clear. A quick glance at the table of contents makes even the most trusting of readers skeptical that the wide-ranging material included in the text can possibly cohere. Nineteenth-century African American spiritual leaders, an eighteenth-century Prussian aristocrat, a Victorian maidservant, turn-of-the-century Italian factory workers, a contemporary American anthropologist -- among others -- all in one book? Approaching the material with a little patience, however, convinced me that this was not just another haphazard collection of loosely related essays but a volume that challenges the reader to see women's lives in a radically different way. The three major divisions (excluding the illuminating theoretical introduction and conclusion) reflect the key interpretive frameworks the editors have identified.

"Contexts" represents the editors' "sense that women's lives, to be understood, had to be thoughtfully situated in time and space" (p.12). This section brings together Julia Swindell's analysis of The Diaries of Hannah Cullwick, a Victorian maidservant whose life and writings were consciously orchestrated by her employer, Arthur Munby, for his own social and sexual satisfaction; Shula Marks' description of the difficult process she underwent in coming to an understanding of both the narratives and lives of her subjects as she put together Not Either an Experimental Doll: The Separate Worlds of Three South African Women; and two accounts of the way individual lives affected contemporary grassroots community activities.

The second section, "Narrative Forms," provides a framework whereby readers are able "to understand how women themselves interpret their own life experiences" (p.13). Avoiding such conventional terms as "genre" or "models," the seven contributors to this section see the form a woman's narrative takes as part of "the process of self-evaluation" (p.100). Nellie McKay's "Nineteenth Century Black Women's Spiritual Autobiographies:
Religious Faith and Empowerment," an exploration of the ways the lives of Jarena Lee and Rebecca Cox Jackson shaped their life stories, along with Marcia Wright's juxtaposition of the life stories of two African women -- Christina Sibiya, Christianized wife of a Zulu king and spirited individualist, and Mary Leakey, wife of famed anthropologist Lewis Leakey and respected scholar in her own right -- are fascinating and illustrative of the difference represented in this text. These are lives that have "previously been ignored, forgotten, ridiculed, and devalued" (pp.262-63), yet they provide us with new perspectives on literary genres and constructs all too familiar to us, thereby enlivening those forms once again.

What all three reveal is that a life story is a "dialogue between a narrator and an interpreter," a mutual creation of two persons that does not belong either to one or the other.

The third section centers around "narrator-interpreter relations," an acknowledgement by feminist scholars of "the complex issues of power and authority involved in the production and ultimate use of personal narrative texts," a stance that rejects "the traditional scholar's assumption of the voice of authority in the creation and interpretation of life stories" (p.201). All three writers in this section let the seams of their scholarship show: Marjorie Mbilinyi writes about Tanzanian community leader Rebeka Kalindile; Marjorie Shostaka provides an account of her relationship with a !Kung tribeswoman; and Riv-Ellen Prell analyzes anthropologist Barbara Myerhoff's unconventional and nontraditional work among Mexican Indians and Los Angeles Jews. What all three reveal is that a life story is a "dialogue between a narrator and an interpreter" (p.203), a mutual creation of two persons that does not belong either to one or the other. Stories are not possessions, these scholars admit; consequently, the collector/recorder has responsibilities towards the teller of those stories and to the narratives themselves that most male ethnographers have not been so willing to acknowledge.

Lionnet's work, the first in Cornell's Reading Women Writing series, is intended to "explore how differences of class, race, ethnic background, nationality, religious preference, and sexual choice inform women's writing" (p.vii), and certainly makes a significant theoretical and aesthetic contribution in this regard. This challenging study makes several demands of its readers: it requires, first of all, that we "re-see" traditional male autobiographical texts (Augustine and Nietzsche) as radically new ways of reading the self; it calls for us to reconsider two familiar African American women autobiographers, Zora Neale Hurston and Maya Angelou, in light of the inherited white, male tradition that they recreate; and it introduces us to the novels of three Francophone métis women writers -- Maryse Condé, Marie Cardinal, and Marie-Thérèse Humbert -- who use autobiographical narrative techniques as a way for their protagonists to explore their personal identities and traditional heritages. For Lionnet, the difference experienced by women of color is best described via the concept of metissage. Metis, Lionnet explains, refers to those persons considered "half-breed" or "mixed blood," but is without the negative connotations that accompany the English equivalents (pp.13-14). The author also sees this concept as "a reading practice that allows [her and us] to bring out the inter-referential nature of a particular set of texts" (p.8). Metissage, then, is an aesthetic, the basis of which is difference.

Both of these new works are exciting because they challenge us to look at the personal narratives and autobiographies of women in new ways. Sometimes, these writers suggest, it is necessary to reject the traditions in order to see the significance of women's lives, and sometimes it requires that we put these stories within or juxtaposed to those contexts out of which they grew. In either case, the resulting reading will lead to new insight and appreciation of the variety and complexity of women's lives.

-- Laura Weiss Zlogar

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FEMINIST VISIONS

ACTIVISTS, NATIONALISTS, FEMINISTS: THE EXPERIENCE OF WOMEN OF COLOR IN THE U.S.

As part of the Women of Color in the Curriculum (WOCC) Project, the UW-Madison Women's Studies Research Center has been purchasing films about the experiences of women of color in the United States, particularly as those experiences are shaped through involvement in the civil rights, nationalist, and labor movements of our communities.

Bought with a grant from the Ford Foundation, the films are intended to enhance classroom lectures with a medium that has more impact. In videotape format, they may be borrowed free of charge from the UW System Women's Studies Audiovisual Collection, which is housed in UW-Platteville's Karrmann Library. Place requests through your local interlibrary loan office.

In this issue of Feminist Collections, I will review the first six films purchased, which focus on African American, Chicana, and Puerto Rican-women. In future issues I will discuss films on Asian American and American Indian Women.

The films reviewed in this article are:

ETHNIC NOTIONS
THE LEMON GROVE INCIDENT
WATSONVILLE
JULIA DE BURGOS
NEVER TURN BACK: THE LIFE OF FANNY LOU HAMER
FUNDI: THE STORY OF ELLA BAKER


This is a superb film that explores the roots of African American stereotypes. The 150-year historical survey demonstrates precisely the viciousness of those stereotypes in promoting racist hegemony. The historical roots and usefulness of several African American stereotypes are examined: Uncle Toms, Mammies, pickaninnies, coons, and savage brutes.

Actress Esther Rolle narrates the film. Historical footage is juxtaposed with a roundtable discussion by academic commentators. This mix is very helpful in placing in contemporary perspective the continuous development of African American stereotypes. Many of these disturbing images persist in greeting cards, advertising, commercial television (including children's cartoons), and even household artifacts.

Ethnic Notions is a very versatile film, useful in history, literature, anthropology, communication arts, journalism, psychology, education, and many more courses. It provides an excellent opportunity for post-civil rights movement generations to learn about historical race relations and how they shape contemporary racism.


Very few people know that one of the first school desegregation battles won in court was fought in Lemon Grove, California in the 1930's. In spite of the massive deportations that immigrant Mexicans suffered during the Depression, the Mexican community of Lemon Grove was able to stop the efforts of the local school board to segregate Mexican from white students.

The Lemon Grove Incident is a well-produced docu-drama of this historical event. School board meetings, community organizing, court proceedings, a school boycott, and threats by Immigration officials are all reenacted. The film is made even more powerful by including memories of the then-students affected by the segregation policy. The participants give us incredible insight into an important event in their childhoods.

Another important aspect of this film is its demonstration that (contrary to popular belief) Chicano parents do value education and have fought for the right of their children to a quality education. Many of the current debates over Chicano school underachievement and dropout rates largely blame parents and community.

The Lemon Grove Incident can be used in history, education, ethnic studies, and a variety of
courses. It is well researched and includes archival footage in addition to the reenactment and interviews.


Watsonville, California is known as the frozen food capital of the country, since the major source of employment is frozen food packaging. Watsonville's population is predominantly Chicano, as is the labor force in the packing industry. As the market for frozen foods started to shrink, during the 1980's executives demanded cuts in workers' wages and medical benefits. In the mid-1980's, the workers -- most of them Chicana and Mexican women -- went on strike to protect their benefits and incomes.

*Watsonville* was filmed during the strike and follows its progress from beginning to end. The film documents the struggle these women endured in declaring a strike against the advice of their own union, which was unwilling to defend their rights. The establishment in Watsonville (including banks and police) supported the companies, while the workers received support from students at the University of California, Santa Cruz as well as from community activists.

Not only does this film depict the strength and struggles of Chicana working-class women, but it demonstrates the anti-union, anti-worker climate that grew during the early years of the Reagan administration. This is an excellent film for history, ethnic studies, political science, women's studies, and English courses.


This docu-drama narrates the life of Puerto Rican poet Julia de Burgos through her poetry. Opening with her untimely death in New York City, the film returns to the poet's childhood in Puerto Rico, her college years, and her career as a teacher in rural Puerto Rico. The background scenery is primarily the beautiful landscape of her native country. Not only do we gain an understanding of Julia de Burgos' poetry, but also of the liberation movement of Puerto Rican people both on the island and in the continental U.S., especially in New York. It was de Burgos' involvement in the Nationalist movement that led to exile from her homeland.

Narrated in Spanish with English subtitles, *Julia de Burgos* is excellent for Spanish, comparative literature, history, women's studies, and ethnic studies courses.


This film celebrates the life of African American activist Fanny Lou Hamer, who participated in the voter registration drives in Mississippi during the 1960's and fought against legal segregation in the South. Hamer led the Mississippi Freedom Democratic party to the 1964 Democratic Party Convention, where she denounced the official all-white Mississippi delegation.

*Never Turn Back* makes clear the strength and commitment of Fanny Lou Hamer. As an activist, she dedicated her life to the liberation of the African American community. However, the film ends with an overly optimistic view of race relations today. While it is true that the 1960's civil rights movement brought about positive changes, we cannot argue that racism no longer exists in our society. Faculty showing this film should make sure students do not get the impression that racism was eradicated during the civil rights movement.

The film is good for history, political science, women's studies, and ethnic studies courses. A sixty-minute version is also available.


In depicting the life of Ella Baker, *Fundi* uses interviews with Baker and other activists that worked with her, as well as film of the African American struggle juxtaposed with footage of Governor Wallace, the Ku Klux Klan, and images that say "Negroes are communists." Baker provides insight into her life-long activism, including her respect for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), with whom she preferred to work rather than with other civil rights leaders. During an interview, Baker says that she worked with SNCC because the people of her generation
did not have the nerve to fight segregation in the way that young people did. She was referring to the sit-ins.

_Fundi_ points out the difficulties women organizers faced because many men had never dealt with a woman who said no with a strong voice. Resistance persisted even though Baker acknowledged she did not need to be recognized as a leader. But Baker's activism was not limited to the African American community. She had the vision to recognize that the liberation movements of all people of color are interrelated. Toward the end of the film, Baker speaks in front of hundreds of people in Puerto Rico. She mentions that the struggle toward liberation is a struggle against capitalism and imperialism.

Although she might not have viewed herself as a leader, Baker's community and history in general do recognize her contributions toward the civil rights movement. This film is so powerful because it demonstrates the strength a woman like Ella Baker can bring to activist movements. _Fundi_ is very useful in history, literature, ethnic studies, and women's studies courses.

-- C. Alejandra Elenes

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**AN ENCYCLOPEDIC UNDERTAKING**

"All the things you don't know when you start!" exclaims Helen Tierney, editor of the new _Women's Studies Encyclopedia_ just out from Greenwood Press. She seems to refer both to the myriad of publishing/coordinating details and to the wealth of information such an encyclopedia necessarily contains. It all began innocently enough when this specialist in Greek social history was teaching a survey course on women in Western society and had to scramble for all the background facts she needed. "It would be nice if there were some reference source to go to for information from a variety of fields," she remembers saying to a friend. When the friend suggested Tierney should compile one, she took up the challenge.

Tierney came to the field of women's studies "like many of our generation," she says. Her awareness of the feminist movement began during the 1960's and though her academic focus was on ancient history, she connected quickly with feminist thinking. Along with Jacqueline Ross and others, Tierney helped put together a women's studies program at UW-Platteville and first taught the "Women in Western Society" course during the early 1970's.

It was in 1984 that she began seriously envisioning the encyclopedia project, and it's been a long but interesting haul to publication of the first volume, which focuses on women in the sciences. "I began the project as a one-volume desk encyclopedia," Tierney recalls. She formulated a basic plan, contacted several publishers, and secured a contract with Greenwood. Then it was a matter of enumerating likely topics and seeking out specialists in the various fields. Tierney wrote to authors of articles she had noted, got suggestions from other people, and bought a computer to help her keep up with the mounting paperwork. "There was a lot of correspondence with a lot of people," she says. Sometimes it was difficult to "break into the circle" of a given subdiscipline, but once she connected with the right person, contributors weren't hard to find.

Were there skeptics? Though some people didn't answer her queries and some asked questions about the project, there was a surprisingly good response rate, according to Tierney. "Most people were quite interested," she says.

Selection of entries was organized by academic discipline, and the original list for the first volume totaled about one hundred items. It grew to some 300 at one point, as consultants and contributors eliminated terms and suggested others, but the final count is around 250. Very occasionally topics were dropped when contributors couldn't be found or didn't come through.

Tierney received virtually no outside funding for clerical help, phone bills, and the like, but did obtain a one-year sabbatical plus half-time release for one semester; she also enjoyed tremendous moral support from the women's
studies program at Platteville. The second volume (on "Literature, the Arts, and Learning") is pretty much completed, and she is working hard to finish the manuscript for the third ("History, Philosophy, and Religion") for publication in August 1991.

Within its 417 pages, the first volume brings together the contributions of over 130 individuals, many of them leaders in their fields. Most entries are substantial essays, signed by the authors, often with references to further readings. A list of the entries in the "A" section indicates the scope of topics throughout: Abortion, Absentee rates (sex differentials), Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, Addiction, Additional Worker Effect, Adultery, Affirmative action, Age-earnings profiles, Age of consent, Aging, Agoraphobia, Alimony, Amniocentesis, Androcentrism, Androgyny, Anger, Anorexia nervosa, Antifeminist movements, and Assertiveness training. An index helps to locate subjects not found as entries themselves.

RESEARCH EXCHANGE

TRIVIA: A JOURNAL OF IDEAS is accepting material for 1990 special issues on "Breaking Forms." Send two copies with stamped, self-addressed envelope to Trivia, P.O. Box 606, N. Amherst, MA 01059. Deadline is August 1.

The SECOND INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON GENDER AND ECONOMIC RESTRUCTURING IN INDUSTRIAL AND POST INDUSTRIAL SOCIETIES is planned for May 5-10, 1991 in Waterloo, Canada, and sponsors are looking for papers on such topics as gender and the environment; urbanization; migration; reproduction and production; informal sector work; household basic needs provision and appropriate technologies; and gender and health care. Send an abstract of 500 words to Lindsay Dorney, Director of Women's Studies, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada N2L 3G1. Deadline is December 1, 1990.

PSYCHOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES is seeking papers for a special 1990 issue on "Gender Relations: Public and Private Voices." Essays are welcome on the these and related topics: How are major gender symbols and metaphors of Western Civilization being modified or transformed? How do these symbols affect men or women? Can we define gender without relying upon binary patterns such as central/marginal, presence/absence, thinking/feeling, mind/body, identity/difference? How do cultural biases (race, class, gender, or ethnicity) inhibit or enhance individual development? For more information, contact J'nan Morse Sellery, Senior Editor, Psychological Perspectives, C.G. Jung Institute of Los Angeles, 10937 West Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90064.

WISCONSIN BIBLIOGRAPHIES IN WOMEN'S STUDIES

"Libraries and the New Scholarship on Gender" is the newest title in our ongoing series Wisconsin Bibliographies in Women's Studies. This four-page, briefly annotated selected reading list by Susan Searing is available free of charge, as are other titles in the series. Write UW System Women's Studies Librarian, 112A Memorial Library, 728 State St., Madison, WI 53706.
FEMINIST PUBLISHING

The first ever AUSTRALIAN FEMINIST BOOK FORTNIGHT took place during the first two weeks of September, 1989. Organizers focused the fair both on making publishers aware of the sales potential of feminist books and on getting more feminist books into shops across the country. Local events were planned in every state and many rural areas; some 40,000 book catalogs with two hundred titles were to be distributed. (From Feminist Bookstore News)

The FOURTH INTERNATIONAL FEMINIST BOOKFAIR is scheduled for June 19-23, 1990 in Barcelona, Spain. Two professional meetings are aimed at networking and exchange among book people; work gatherings will relate to women's businesses and professional book women; and thematic sessions are planned on the central theme of woman as creator, transmitter, and consumer of culture in the 1990's. The week will include round tables, video sessions, exhibits, film, theater, and an opportunity for the public to meet women writers, publishers, and others in the feminist book world. For more information, contact the managing committee at Casa Elizalde, calle València, 302, Barcelona, Spain. (From Feminist Bookstore News)

OUTWRITE '90, the first-ever national lesbian and gay writers conference, took place March 3-4 in San Francisco, under the sponsorship of OutLook magazine. Headlined by such writers as Allen Ginsberg and Judy Grahn, the conference included panels, workshops, and informal meetings designed to get authors, editors, publishers, and others together with each other. Over 1,200 people attended the conference, and among the topics were "Lesbian and Gay Literature in the Marketplace" (a plenary) and panels such as "Doing It For Ourselves: Lesbian and Gay Magazines," "Scholarship and Community: Constructing Gay and Lesbian Studies," and "Revis(ion)ing Race: A Conversation About Politics, Literature and Invisibility." (From Coming Out, Feminist Bookstore News, and Gay Community news)

WILDFIRE BOOKS is the new press begun by Sonia Johnson, along with Christine Champion and Susan Horwitz. The first publication is Johnson's Wildfire: Igniting the She/Volution, and her now-classic From Housewife to Heretic is being reprinted by Wildfire. The press also distributes Johnson’s audio and video cassettes. Address is P.O. Box 10598, Albuquerque, NM 87184. Inland and Bookpeople also handle Wildfire items. (From Feminist Bookstore News)

Another new women's press is ASH TREE PUBLISHING, under the editorship of Susan Shaft. Ash Tree publishes eco-feminist, alternative health, and goddess-centered material, having produced one offering in 1989 and planning one this year. Average price is $9.95. Contact the press at P.O. Box 64, Woodstock, NY 12498 (914-246-8081). (From Small Press Review)

SEAL PRESS has launched its new audio tape series with two titles: Getting Free: Are You Abused? read by author Ginny NiCarthy and Lesbian Couples read by authors D. Merilee Clunis and G. Dorsey Green. Each tape is sixty minutes long and costs $9.95. To find out more about the series or other Seal Press titles, contact them at 3131 Western Ave., Suite 410, Seattle, WA 98121. (From Coming Out, Publishers Weekly, Feminist Bookstore News, and Seal Press flyer)

HERSAY feminist news service has ceased operation due to financial problems. Available on a subscription basis to U.S. women's periodicals and radio programs for years, Hersay was produced by the Women's News Institute, P.O. Box 11010, San Francisco, CA 94103. (From Sojourner)
NEW REFERENCE WORKS IN WOMEN'S STUDIES


Deborah Butler argues that "women have been very vocal about their views and experiences of Vietnam during the war...[b]ut their voices have been unheard, their writing largely unread" (p. xii). She supports her contention with nearly eight hundred references to books, articles, chapters, and dissertations written between 1954 and 1987. The first section describes novels, short fiction, poetry, drama, literary criticism, and anthologies. Part II features accounts of personal experiences, while Part III covers factual writing on history, politics, military issues, and the war's social and psychological impact, among other topics. Part IV, a fairly short section, cites translated writings by non-American women. Indexes provide access by author, subject, and title.

This bibliography is a record of works by women, and many of the references do not center on "women's" issues per se. Nonetheless, this exhaustive documentation of women's creative and journalistic writing makes a significant contribution to the new scholarship on the Vietnamese War.


Women Artists of the United States joins Chris Pettys' International Dictionary of Women Artists (G.K. Hall, 1985) and Eleanor Tufts' two-volume American Women Artists, Past and Present (Garland, 1984, 1989) as basic equipment for feminist art historians and critics. The guide focuses on American women active in the fine arts, decorative arts, crafts, folk art, or performance art between 1750 and 1985. Scholars will appreciate the resources on minority artists and folk artists.

The first major section consists of overview essays enriched with extensive annotated directories, treating feminist art criticism, art organizations, manuscript repositories and special collections, biographical reference tools, and periodicals. Each topic is addressed by a specialist, e.g., Cynthia Navaretta on organizations. Part II, the heart of the volume, is a two-part bibliography. The first section, arranged by artistic medium, covers books, articles, exhibit catalogs, and general surveys. The second section, devoted to materials about individual artists, is a straight-forward alphabetical list of published and archival materials. Annotations, some boldly opinionated, enhance most of the nearly four thousand references in these two sections. Chiarmonte's emphasis on "nonmainstream" sources -- "those not indexed in the traditional library access modes" -- favors lesser-known and avant-garde artists. Contemporary performance artist Laurie Anderson, for instance, has only one less citation than the renowned painter Georgia O'Keeffe. In fact, the presence in great numbers of under-celebrated ceramicists, performers, printmakers, weavers, and photographers, in addition to painters and sculptors, is this work's real strength.

It's ironic that a volume devoted to women artists is so artlessly produced in computer-generated typescript. Fortunately, the lack of design does not detract from the book's usefulness.


The Clearinghouse Search System contains thousands of citations to writings in the social sciences, plus a directory of scholars, all indexed with subject terms from A Women's Thesaurus. It's the microcomputer version of a unique database on women of color and Southern women that the Center for Research on Women at Memphis State University first mounted on a mainframe. Center staff perform online searches for researchers, and a printed bibliography drawn from the database has been published.
The microcomputer edition marks a new milestone in the distribution of women's studies information, effectively placing bibliographic data at the fingertips of any feminist scholar or librarian with a personal computer. Compared to expensive CD-ROM versions of major disciplinary databases, the price is extremely reasonable. Because the software designers envisioned a typical user with "little or no computer knowledge," the documentation and on-screen menus are exceptionally clear, and the program is easy to install and search.

Alas, the Clearinghouse Search System database lacks abstracts and is limited to the social sciences. Moreover, it is rather cumbersome to consult: author, date, and subject descriptors appear on the first screen of the record; the title and source on the next. Another problem lies in the manual, which omits some of the finer details of the search protocol. For example, unless one intuits that a blank space should be inserted before a search term, a search for "art" will retrieve scores of irrelevant references on "political participation." Finally, the software does not allow much discretion in formatting printouts; and the documentation is mum on methods for transferring data into one's own file. A user familiar with dBase IV, the software on which this system is based, might find a way around some of these problems, but the unsophisticated user for whom the system is intended may simply lose patience.

The Clearinghouse Search System is invaluable, despite its imperfections, because it includes many elusive references to chapters in books, thematic issues of journals, unpublished papers, and works-in-progress. Until such sources as Women Studies Abstracts and the Index to Black Periodicals are computer-searchable, the Clearinghouse Search System will remain one of the best approaches to finding materials on women of color.


This bibliography covers 169 women authors in 7 Spanish-speaking nations of South America. Only authors who have published in this century are included. Following a ten-page list of general studies, entries are grouped by country and subgrouped by author and literary genre. The compilers cite secondary materials solely (largely in Spanish) and do not supply annotations. Brief reviews, interviews, and other non-interpretive publications are omitted. The "index" is a simple key from the author's name to the country under which she is listed. Authors, titles, and subjects of the bibliographic references receive no indexing.


Eschewing records of court cases and popular literature, this handy bibliography annotates 124 items that appeared between 1984 and 1988 on sex discrimination in higher education and other professions. Entries for books, articles, government documents, and unpublished conference papers appear in four sections -- Compensation/pension, Hiring practices, Promotion, and Work environment -- with an author index. Although far from comprehensive, this booklet is a good starting point for exploring these issues.

Ranging from Hrotsvith von Gandersheim (10th century) to women writing today in the Germanies, Austria, and Switzerland, this is, its editor claims, the most comprehensive guide yet to German women's literature. The volume focuses on fiction, autobiographies, essays, and other prose genres. Short biographies of 185 German-language women authors are each followed by references to selected German-language books, with one-paragraph critical annotations and notes on translations and reprints. No secondary materials are cited for the individual authors, although general reference, theoretical, and critical works are listed in an appendix. Other appendixes list authors by birth date and by country; separate indexes are provided to German and translated titles. Frederiksen's scholarly introduction surveys the history of women's writing in the German language and the revival of interest in "Frauenliteratur" in recent decades.


The first edition of a new work from the publishers of *The World Who's Who of Women*, this hefty, professional-looking volume furnishes basic biographical data on thousands of living career women. Unlike the *World Who's Who*, it does not include photographs. A typical entry includes place and date of birth, husband's name, number of children, and a synopsis of education and employment to date. Creative works, memberships, honors, and hobbies are also listed. Although eighty-four countries are represented, Americans predominate. The "Occupational Index," which is jumbled alphabetically, has the longest lists for artists, authors, educators, and scientists. Since inclusion hinged on returning a questionnaire, the best-known women in many fields are not included. (Look under "Author" or "Actor/Actress" [sic] to verify this weakness.) Libraries striving for the broadest possible biographical coverage might still find it useful. A random comparison of names in this volume with those in *The World Who's Who of Women* (1988 edition) and *Who's Who of American Women* (1989/90 edition) reveals that few women appear in all three sources, and some appear only here.


This encyclopedia-style volume addresses the "history, current status, and outcomes" of women's schooling in twenty-three countries chosen for their cultural, political, economic, and ideological diversity, as well as the variety of their educational systems. Each national profile, written by an expert, includes statistical charts and graphs for recent decades. Information is remarkably current: footnotes include materials from 1987, and the articles address recent political developments and speculate about the future. Although the various authors reiterate many of the same themes - discrimination in access to schooling, economic pressures for equal education, government initiatives, and the impact of the feminist movement - a refreshing individuality characterizes their writing. A number of the articles discuss racial/ethnic minorities and immigrant populations, whose educational opportunities and experiences usually differ markedly from the mainstream. Many articles also treat nonformal education and literacy programs.

Kelly concludes the volume with an essay on the "prospects and realities" of achieving equality in education and a lengthy, yet selective, unannotated bibliography. The bibliography includes materials on countries not treated in the articles, thus expanding the handbook's scope. Focusing on post-1975 books and articles in English, French, German, Portuguese, and Spanish, the references cover some thirty topics. Although Kelly and co-compiler David H. Kelly make much of their decision to organize the bibliography topically, they neglect to provide a basic outline of categories. (They remedy this oversight to some extent in the volume's general subject index.) For developing countries, one should consult their *Women's Education in the Third World: An Annotated Bibliography* (Garland, 1989), which cites many of the same materials and has the advantage of annotations.

From A (Abrotelia, 5th century B.C.) to Z (Beatrice Zedler, a professor at Marquette University in Milwaukee), this handy volume spans the centuries and the globe to honor women philosophers. The entries for ancient and medieval philosophers are often sparse, deriving from spotty secondary sources. Women of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries are better documented. Kersey keeps the focus on philosophy; the article on Iris Murdoch, for example, barely mentions her career as a novelist. Philosophy is defined herein as "the traditional fields of philosophy, including metaphysics, ethics, aesthetics, and logic," thus excluding women, such as Mary Wollstonecraft, whose philosophical writings dealt solely with women's nature and rights. Nor are women born after 1920 included. Kersey defends these choices well in her preface, and the result is a handbook that will serve students admirably. The engagingly written twenty-five page historical introduction places women firmly within the Western philosophical tradition. The volume concludes with a name index and an outline of the names, periods, nationalities, and disciplines or special fields of the women covered.


Replacing the bibliography on Wharton in Marlene Springer's *Edith Wharton and Kate Chopin: A Reference Guide* (G.K. Hall, 1976), this massive bibliography opens with a succinct listing of Wharton's writings. Lauer and Murray then chart the critical reception of Wharton's work, including literary studies, biographies, book reviews, and dissertations. They also note discussions of Wharton in general surveys of American literature and women's writing, quoting revealing phrases in their curt annotations. Rounding out the volume are indexes to authors, titles, subjects, and Wharton's works.


Mumford, an independent scholar and media critic affiliated with the UW-Madison Women's Studies Program, has crafted a basic bibliography aimed at high school and college students. The books she cites are widely available in academic and public libraries; most are still in print. Entries are categorized by subject: History, politics, and education; The Women's movement; Economics; Health issues and sexuality; Family, home, and relationships; Psychology; Violence against women; Religion and spirituality; and Women and the arts. Each of these major subjects is further sub-divided.

The sections lack headnotes, but Mumford ably explains their scope in her general introduction, where she also defines "women's issues" and discusses the varied viewpoints that writers bring to these concerns. The bibliography itself reflects many perspectives, from conservative to radical feminist. Mumford often cites anthologies that present multiple, balanced opinions on controversial issues like abortion, in addition to influential books by single authors. Her descriptive annotations are models of objectivity. "Ethnic Identity and Racism" and "Lesbian Issues" are spotlighted in separate sections, but writings by women of color and lesbians are also included in other categories.

Readers looking for fiction, poetry, or drama by and about women must search further, since the short section on literature cites only *The Norton Anthology of Literature by Women* and two dozen critical, historical, and biographical works. Mumford suggests using the bibliography as a springboard for further research (p.5-6), admitting that it can't substitute for an in-depth guide. Because of its informed and intelligent selectivity, *Women's Issues* is the ideal introductory bibliography on significant issues in women's lives, past and present. High school, community college, and public librarians could wisely employ it as a checklist for evaluating their collections.

Stafford's long-awaited directory fulfills its two-fold promise: to provide data on U.S. women's studies programs and courses in greater depth than any existing source; and to supply the first-ever overview of library support for women's studies. Like standard directories in higher education, the entries are arranged geographically, with several indexes.

The data on programs and courses was gathered in 1988 and the information on libraries is drawn from a survey made in early 1987; hence minor inaccuracies abound. For example, for the twelve University of Wisconsin campuses included (River Falls and the two-year UW Centers are missing), fully half of the women listed as chairs or directors of women's studies programs no longer hold those positions. The tribulations of compiling information from questionnaires, plus the inevitable time lag in producing a directory of this scope, make such problems understandable. In fact, the annual program listing in the latest issue of *Women's Studies Quarterly* has an even higher error rate -- eight out of thirteen UW contact names are out of date.2 The other data Stafford furnishes on academic programs -- addresses and phone numbers, teaching faculty affiliated with women's studies, course titles, degrees and/or certificates offered -- is less subject to change. Of particular value, and unique to this guide, are the complete lists of women's studies courses offered on each campus. The "Discipline Orientation Index," which indexes institutions by the departments or fields in which they offer women's studies courses, is another welcome feature, one that potentially enables a wider sharing of curricular expertise. Stafford also supplies an alphabetical index to institutions, and a handy "Women's Studies Credentials Index" that groups campuses by the kinds of degrees they award. Regrettably, individual faculty members are not indexed, so the directory cannot aid in locating scholars by name or field. (A new edition of *Who's Who & Where in Women's Studies*, Feminist Press, 1974, is sorely needed.)

In this reviewer's unabashedly biased opinion, the volume's best feature is its unprecedented distillation of information on library collections and services. For each institution, Stafford notes whether a separate women's studies collection exists, whether women's studies acquisitions are separately budgeted, if there is a women's studies specialist on the staff, and what subject strengths the library claims. This last category, which is indexed, is based on self-reporting and is therefore highly subjective, so should be used with care. Similarly, although the urge to compare figures on holdings and expenditures is irresistible, one should remember that these numbers are, in most cases, simply estimates.

Stafford's directory, despite its minor flaws, greatly enriches the knowledge base about women's studies programs and library support. Ideally, new editions will appear frequently enough to keep pace with the rapid growth of women's studies and the frequent turnover of program administrators. The $55 price-tag on this paperback will prevent many women's studies programs from acquiring it, but all the more reason for academic libraries to make it a priority purchase!


Recent reprints of travel accounts by intrepid nineteenth- and twentieth-century women attest to renewed interest in female explorers. Tinling feeds the revival with lively profiles of forty-five American and European adventurers. Isabella Lucy Bird Bishop ("the most popular woman traveler of Victorian England"), photojournalist Margaret Bourke White, and Christina Dodwell, who canoed in remote areas of China in the 1980's, are typical of the brave, sometimes foolhardy women whose stories fill these pages. Each biographical essay concludes with a bibliography of works by and about the traveler, and Tinling appends thirty pages of additional citations to travel books and biographical sources.


DIRECTORY OF SEXUAL ASSAULT CRISIS SERVICES IN WISCONSIN*. Madison: Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault, 1989. (Address:

Drawing on responses to questionnaires and telephone inquiries, Sexual Assault and Child Sexual Abuse covers over 3,000 sources of help for the survivor of sexual violence. The compiler makes no attempt at evaluation. Arranged alphabetically by state and city, entries in the main listing provide an address, phone number, contact person, description of services, and other data on local agencies. Appendixes describe state agencies and national organizations. Indexes list the agencies alphabetically and classify them by their specialized services, and other data on local agencies. Appendixes describe state agencies and national organizations. Indexes list the agencies alphabetically and classify them by their specialized services. (e.g. media programs, date rape prevention programs) or their clientele (e.g., the elderly, Hispanics, male survivors).

The sheer number of entries make this directory a useful purchase for most libraries, but it should be supplemented wherever possible by local and state listings. The Directory of Sexual Assault Crisis Services in Wisconsin, for example, provides more detailed information on eighteen services specifically designed to respond in an emergency situation, and lists a number of support organizations concerned with issues of sexual violence, many of which do not appear in Webster's guide. (W.C.A.S.A. also distributes, free of charge, a booklet titled "Encouraging Communities to Respond to Incest Survivors and Their Needs.")


This yearbook is a winning combination of bibliographies and critical syntheses, all adding up to a thorough overview of the status of women's health and health care. Editors Carol Leppa and Connie Miller commissioned chapters on access to health information, mental health, body image, alcohol and drugs, sexuality, reproductive health, childbearing, the menstrual cycle, older women, and women as health care providers. Each chapter presents a three- to six-page review of current research and practice, followed by a selected bibliography with long, informative annotations. The volume concludes with shorter sections on abuse, cancer, and osteoporosis and a well-made index.

Women's Health Perspectives answers a pressing need. Women's studies students often choose health-related topics for their term papers, only to be overwhelmed by literature written by and for medical experts. Leppa and Miller select and organize health information with the non-specialist in mind, and thus create a tool that is immediately useful to students and health care consumers. At the same time, they are documenting for posterity the tremendous strides made by the feminist health movement.

Oryx Press publishes the hardcover edition of Women's Health Perspectives (volume 2 is due shortly), but Volcano Press has acquired the paperback rights. Volume 1 is advertised at $14.95, an affordable price for students and instructors, women's centers, clinics, and community agencies.


This directory joins two earlier publications that record the lively range of publishing alternatives nurtured by the women's movement. Plans to update the out-of-print Guide to Women's Publishing by Polly Joan and Andrea Chesman (Dustbooks, 1978) have apparently fizzled; while Andrea Clardy's excellent booklet, Words to the Wise: A Writers Guide to Feminist and Lesbian Periodicals and Publishing (2nd ed., Firebrand Books, 1987), is addressed specifically to feminist writers. Wrenn's directory is more comprehensive, but omits the background facts on presses' histories and objectives that made the Joan/Chesman and Clardy guides so valuable. Entries consist simply of the publisher's name and address, a contact person's name, founding date, and the press's particular interests.

Guide to Women Book Publishers in the United States identifies an impressive 283 publishing houses "owned by a woman and run primarily by women," including self-publishers. Under the heading "interests," one encounters such diverse specialties as travel, taxi cabs, "early Norse women explorers," and "computers for mothers." Many publishers are labeled "feminist," "literary," or "fine printing." The specialties are indexed, as are the names of contact people. This is a handy, if bare-bones, guide for anyone interested in women's publishing or small presses generally.

Aimed at "students, teachers, and librarians who are new to the field of American women’s history," *The Handbook of American Women’s History* offers short articles on people, organizations, events, and ideas that have shaped female experience in the United States. All but the shortest entries conclude with one or more bibliographic citations, and all are signed by the contributors, who include college faculty from many disciplines, graduate students, librarians, and professionals in other fields. (I confess to penning two entries myself.)

In any collective reference work of this sort, one inevitably quibbles with some of the editors' choices and certain contributors' biases. For instance, the single paragraph on "lesbian separatism" claims that separatists are unconcerned with class, yet one need only skim Wisconsin's lesbian magazine, the *Hag Rag,* to realize that class is hotly debated in the separatist community. Related entries on "Lesbianism" and "Homophobia" seem free of misrepresentation. I was also disappointed that half the essay on "Jewish women" amounted to a biography of Golda Meir, who, although American-born, made her mark as the leader of Israel. As to the entries on cultural history, movies are well covered, but other areas of popular culture (e.g., television) are treated in considerably less depth.

Taken as a whole, however, the handbook is well-written, balanced, and interdisciplinary, reflective of the broad scope of topics that American historians address. In fact, the range of topics is surprisingly wide. One does not expect a handbook in American history to explain "Masturbation" or "Mentor-protegee relationships," yet these subjects are capably discussed in historical context, alongside such concepts as the "Cult of True Womanhood" and such general themes as "Education." Similarly, one might not look here first for background on contemporary women leaders, yet Gloria Steinem, Dolores Huerta, Maya Angelou, Rita Mae Brown, and many others are profiled. Much of the biographical data on deceased women is readily available elsewhere (in *Notable American Women,* for example), but it's helpful to have summaries here beside related entries for organizations, pivotal events, important laws and court decisions, and influential books.

There are copious "see also" references in the body of the handbook, but no "see" references; cross-references are likewise sparse in the index. (There are no references under "Colleges" or "Women's colleges" to the entry titled "Seven Sisters," for example.) Although not perfectly constructed, the *Handbook of American Women’s History* is a landmark publication. It draws together a wealth of information and provides substantial bibliographic references. It serves not only as a one-stop answer to many questions but as concrete proof of the vitality of scholarship on women in history. Garland Publishing has produced a handsome volume, with a bright cover, easy-on-the-eyes type, and double columns of text. The absence of illustrations and portraits does not detract measurably from the handbook's informative value. It's an essential purchase for reference collections in both academic and public libraries.

BRIEFLY NOTED...

In this section, we spotlight new editions, supplements, and new numbers in ongoing series.


The latest edition of this classic guide for same-sex couples adds new information on medical care issues, estate planning, and surrogate births. An up-to-date list of lesbian and gay rights organizations is included.


Describing 702 current research projects in 22 Western and Eastern European countries, this volume updates an earlier directory that covered 1981-1983. (See FC 9(1), Fall 1987, for a review.) Project profiles are followed by separate indexes to subjects and institutions as well as eighteen national summary reports.

Nordquist continues her series of bibliographies on contemporary social theorists with an issue on French feminist Julia Kristeva. Kristeva's writings on psychoanalysis, literature, and semiotics have powerfully influenced current feminist theory, as evidenced by the number of translations, critical works, book reviews, and interviews cited here. The bibliography cites only English-language sources.


This bibliography supplements the pioneering source list in *The Role of Women in Librarianship 1876-1976* by Kathleen Weibel and Kathleen Heim (Oryx, 1979) and *On Account of Sex...1977-1981,* compiled by Kathleen Heim and Katharine Phenix (ALA, 1984). Like its predecessors, this definitive record of writings on women's status in the library and information professions is organized chronologically, with author, title, and subject indexes.


Schlacter's directory is widely acknowledged as the standard source for up-to-date information on scholarships, fellowships, loans, grants, and other financial assistance for women's education and research. The fifth edition adds four hundred new entries and revises 70 percent of the previous entries.

**NOTES**

1. Timberlake, Andrea, et al. *Women of Color and Southern Women: A Bibliography of Social Science Research.* Memphis, TN: Center for Research on Women, Memphis State University, 1988. (A supplement with recent references was just announced in the Center's newsletter.)


**PERIODICAL NOTES**

**NEW AND NEWLY DISCOVERED PERIODICALS**

*AFTERBIRTH* 1988-. Ed.: Susan K. 1-2/yr. P.O. Box 392, Decatur, GA 30031. (Issue examined: no.2)

Filled with a range of topics from squatters, the homeless, and prostitution, to menstruation, the birth process, and herbal remedies, this freeform twenty-seven-page publication is meant "to nourish those with open minds" (back cover). Printed in small type with few capitals, it includes numerous illustrations.

*CSWS REVIEW* 1987-. Ed.: Marion S. Goldman. 1/yr. Center for the Study of Women in Society, University of Oregon, 636 Prince Lucien Campbell Hall, Eugene, OR 97403. (Issue examined)

This edition of the annual magazine of Oregon's Center for the Study of Women in Society takes on the topic of women in communication with a critique of communication studies, features on soap operas, leadership, counseling supervision, and participatory research, and includes the Center's annual report, a list of publications, and messages from the editor and acting director.


The eight-page first issue of the newsletter of the Toronto Centre for Lesbian and Gay Studies consists mostly of paragraph-size newnotes about publications and events concerning lesbians and gays.
in the U.S., England, and Canada, as well as news of Centre activities.


Coinciding with the 1990 publication of a comprehensive edition of The Emma Goldman Papers, this newsletter hopes to help project workers "keep in touch with our many friends and supporters." Its four pages discuss the traveling Goldman exhibit, a commemorative symposium, a microfilming project, and other items related to the collection.


Focusing largely on family violence, its effects on children, and ways to parent positively, the twenty-page sample issue includes news of the Menominee tribe, such as a sobriety pow-wow and teenage basketball games, and some photocopied photos.


"Aimed at Women Over 40 and Their Friends," according to the title, this brief dot-matrix-printed newsletter features articles on going back to school after 40, women's land near Tucson, Arizona, women musicians, and a puppetry business, plus book reviews and a brief calendar of events.

**REBEL GIRLS' RAG** 1987-. Ed.: Debi Brock, et al. $10 or donation. ISSN 0844-5729. Toronto Socialist Feminist Action, P.O. Box 70, Station F, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4Y 2L4. (Issue examined: v.2, no.1, November/December 1987)

This eight-page tabloid is subtitled "A Forum of Women's Resistance," with the further description "Socialist-Feminist News and Views from the International Women's Day Committee." The issue examined focuses mostly on the struggle for abortion rights, Nicaraguan women and AMLAE, and class/race/gender divisions.

**UP AND OUT OF POVERTY** 1989-. Ed.: Communications Collective. 4/yr. $15 (ind.); $25 (households); $35 (org.); free or donation (welfare recipients). Women, Work, and Welfare, 310 East 38th St., Rm. 323, Minneapolis, MN 55409. (Issue examined: Summer 1989)

Among the topics in this eight-page periodical: a welfare mother's struggle to keep her scholarship; the national rally and founding of the Up and Out of Poverty Now national movement, workforce, and working conditions for "temps."


In its twenty-nine pages, this well-produced publication takes on the corrections crisis of overcrowding and underfunding across the U.S., AIDS in prison, the conditions at various prisons, the injust Hudood ordinance of Pakistan, and includes poetry and reprints from various periodicals such as Gay Community News. The issue concludes with a substantial list of resources and the addresses of political prisoners.


Now in its twelfth year, the WICH organization that publishes this newsletter works for improvement of migrant women's health. Included in the sample issues are news of a program to visit factories and distribute health information, women's use of tranquilizers, cancer screening, privatization of industry, plus funding notes and more.


This corner-stapled review quarterly aims to include books that "have had a personal impact on the spiritual growth of the women writing the review" (v.1, no.2, p.12). Most reviews are a page or less, and among the books are both older and more current works, some children's books, and both fiction and nonfiction.


A monthly subtitled "Newsletter of Minnesota Women in the Trades," this nicely produced eight-page publication carries news of job openings, upcoming events and resources, where to
report sex discrimination on the job and, in this
issue, a feature on sexual harassment.

**WORLDWIDE NEWS: WORLD WOMEN IN
ENVIRONMENT.** Ed.: Carol Mirti Runge. 6/yr.
With membership of $35 (ind.); $15 (student). P.O.
Box 40885, Washington, DC 20016. (Issue examined: January-February 1990)

An international newsletter that "features
information on individuals, important events,
successful projects, studies and reports,
oranizations, and policies that affect women,
environment and natural resources" (p.6), the eight-page sample includes news of a conference on
climate change, a Kenyan woman's battle to save a
Nairobi park, an article on a solar cookstove, a
book review, and brief profiles.

**YALE JOURNAL OF LAW AND FEMINISM 1989-.
Ed.: Student organization. 2/year. $12 (ind.); $25
(inst.); $8 (students). Yale Law School, 401A Yale
Station, New Haven, CT 06520. (Issue examined:
v.1, no.1, Spring 1989)

Published by a student-run organization of
the Yale Law School, this journal is meant to
"reinforce the place of the feminist perspective in
mainstream legal scholarship and ... more sharply
focus the effects of the law on women's lives"
(introd.). Among this issue's topics: reproductive
rights, the ACLU, the French abortion pill, and
pornography.

**SPECIAL ISSUES OF PERIODICALS**

**CANADIAN THEATRE REVIEW** no.59, Summer
Wilson. $27.50 (ind.); $37.50 (inst.); $22 (students).
(For U.S.A., add $4) Single copy: $6.50. (for
University of Toronto Press, 5201 Dufferin St.,
Downsview, Ontario, Canada M3H 5T8. (Issue examined)

This compilation of articles, a script,
interviews, and theater and book reviews represents
a "conflation" of the topics of gay theater and feminism and theater. Among the articles: "Politics of the Gaze" (Susan Bennett); "A Few Broad Statements: Notes on the First International Women Playwrights Conference" (L. Patricia Ives); "Getting the Message: The NAAGS of Halifax" (Donna E. Smyth); and "The Company of Sirens: Popular Feminist Theatre in Canada" (Kym Bird).

**FOREST & CONSERVATION HISTORY** [formerly
*Journal of Forest History*] v.34, no.1, January 1990:
"Special Issue on Women's Roles in Conservation History." Ed.: Alice E. Ingerson. 4/yr. With
membership of $25 (ind.); $35 (inst.) plus $6
postage outside U.S. Single copy: $5. ISSN 1046-
7009. Journals Dept., Duke University Press, Box
6697 College Station, Durham, NC 27708. (Issue examined)

This quarterly inaugurates its new title and
added concentration on conservation with a special
section on women in addition to regular reviews
and newsnotes. Contents: "Challenging Tradition:
Pioneer Women Naturalists in the National Park
Service" (Polly Wells Kaufman); "Dispelling Myths:
Women's Contributions to the Forest Service in
California" (Lee F. Pendergrass); and "The Peculiar
Legacy of Progressivism: Claire Dedrick's Encounter
with Forest Practices Regulation in California"
(Stephanie S. Pincetl).

**HELIOS** v.16, no.1, Spring 1989: "Studies on Roman
$15 (ind.); $27 (inst.). ISSN 0610-0923. Texas
Tech University Press, Lubbock, TX 79409-1037.
(Issue examined)

Partial contents: "Ut Decuit Cinaediorem:
Power, Gender, and Urbanity in *Catullus 10*"
(Marilyn B. Skinner); "Mistress and Metaphor in
Augustan Elegy" (Maria Wyke); "The Subterfuge of
Reason: Horace, *Odes* 1.23 and the Construction of
Male Desire" (Ronnie Ancona); and "Women as
Same and Other in Classical Roman Elite" (Judith
P. Hallett).

**MEDIA AND VALUES** no.49, Winter 1989:
"Redesigning Women." Ed.: Elizabeth Thoman.
$14; $16 (Canada); $19 (elsewhere). Single copy:
$4. ISSN 0149-6980. Center for Media and Values,
1962 S. Shenandoah, Los Angeles, CA 90034.
(Issue examined)

Among the topics in this issue on gender
and the media: "The Many Faces of Media Women"
(Rosalind Silver and Ann Sears); "Beauty... and the
Beast of Advertising" (Jean Kilbourne); "No News
is Women's News" (Junior Bridge); and "Worlds
Apart: Women, Men & Technology" (Margaret
Benston); plus some suggestions on evaluating
media images of women and a list of resources.

Partial contents: "White Patriarchal Supremacy: The Politics of Family In America" (Jewell Handy Gresham); "Children of Value: We Can Educate All Our Children" (Constance Clayton); "Teenage Pregnancy: The Case for National Action" (Faye Wattleton); and "Sexual Politics of Welfare: The Racialization of Poverty" (Margaret B. Wilkerson and Jewell Handy Gresham).

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LEGAL FORUM Summer 1989: "Feminism in the Law: Theory, Practice and Criticism." Eds.: Students of Univ. of Chicago Law School. $15. ISSN 0892-5593. Univ. of Chicago Law School, 1111 E. 60th St., Chicago, IL 60637. (Issue examined)

Some of the articles in this 420-page issue (following an introduction by Judith Resnick): "Some Reflections on the Feminist Legal Thought of the 1970s" (Hon. Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Barbara Flagg); "Feminism, Critical Social Theory and Law" (Robin West); "Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex: A Black Feminist Critique of Antidiscrimination Doctrine, Feminist Theory and Antiracist Politics" (Kimberle Crenshaw); and "Conservative Feminism" (Hon. Richard A. Posner).

TRANSITIONS

CALYX has changed its publication schedule from three per year to twice yearly (July and November). Contact Calyx at P.O. Box B, Corvallis, OR 97339. (Feminist Bookstore News Sept./Oct. 1989)

CENTER NEWS is the new name of the former Newsletter of the Center for Research on Women at Memphis State University. The title change begins with v.8, no.1, and the tri-yearly publication also sports a new design. Contact the Center for Research on Women at Clement Hall, Room 339, Memphis State University, Memphis, TN 39152. (Center News, v.8, no.1, Winter 1990)

INNER WOMAN, formerly Spiritual Women's Times, changed its name with v.4, no.1, Spring 1990. The address is Silver Owl Publications, P.O. Box 51186, Seattle, WA 98115-1186. ("New Titles" from State Historical Society of Wisconsin)

SCHLESINGER LIBRARY NEWSLETTER replaces the former Newsletter of the Arthur & Elizabeth Schlesinger Library on the History of Women, as of the Fall 1989 issue. Contact the Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library at Radcliffe College, 10 Garden St., Cambridge, MA 02138. ("New Titles" from State Historical Society of Wisconsin)

** Correction **

We apologize for failing to include the address of VIETNAM GENERATION when we cited a special issue of theirs in the previous issue of Feminist Collections (v.11, no.2, Winter 1990, p.28). The magazine is located at 10301 Procter St., Silver Spring, MD 20901.

ITEMS OF NOTE

Chadwyck-Healey has published THE SCHLESINGER LIBRARY VERTICAL FILE FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES, reproducing on microfiche nearly 250,000 pages of media clippings, pamphlets, programs, catalogs, and other materials on American women, drawn from sources throughout the U.S. from 1950-1989. This collection offers national, local, and regional perspectives on such issues as the ERA, affirmative action, family violence, abortion, and gay rights; anti-war and environmental movements; and on the evolution of feminist theory and women's studies programs. All materials were identified, assembled, and organized by the reference staff of the Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America, at Radcliffe College. The collection represents grassroots, academic, alternative and mainstream sources. The microfiche edition follows the original order of the file: materials arranged chronologically within each of the approximately 5,500 topical categories, which
follow an alphabetical sequence through three broad divisions: biography, organizations, subjects. A printed index is included. The cost of the complete file is $13,400. If purchased separately, Part 1, Biography is $4,500; Part 2, Organizations, $6,150; and Part 3, Subjects, $6,150. Orders and inquiries should be sent to: Chadwyck-Healey Inc., 1101 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314; telephone: 703-683-4890.

The Emma Goldman Papers Project has put together an exhibit of rare historic photographs, personal letters, government documents, and other memorabilia of the life of the anarchist. Available to tour universities, libraries, women's centers, and conferences, the EMMA GOLDMAN EXHIBIT distills a collection of tens of thousands of letters and documents by and about Goldman. The thirty-seven piece exhibit includes correspondence with Margaret Sanger and Helen Keller, magazine and newspaper coverage of Goldman's controversial lecture tours, the government warrant issued by J. Edgar Hoover ordering her deportation, and more. For further information contact: Sally Thomas or Susan Wengraf, Emma Goldman Papers Project, University of California, 2224 Piedmont Ave., Berkeley, CA 94720; telephone: 415-643-8518.

Columbia University Press has announced a new book series, BETWEEN MEN -- BETWEEN WOMEN: LESBIAN AND GAY STUDIES. Under the editorship of Richard D. Mohr, the series aims to publish pathbreaking scholarship on lesbian and gay culture in the humanities and social sciences, and will include books within traditional disciplines, interdisciplinary works, and titles establishing lesbian and gay studies as a free-standing inquiry. For information on the series, write to: Columbia University Press, 562 W. 113th St., New York, NY 10025; telephone: 212-316-7100.

The AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED PERSONS WOMEN'S INITIATIVE, formed in 1984, advocates for the economic and health needs of midlife and older women. Its program is threefold: working for legislative reform, providing information on women's well-being, and lending support to similar organizations. The Initiative's recent poster commemorating National Women's History Month, Courageous Voices Echoing Our Lives, depicts fifteen outstanding American women, including Abigail Adams, Alice Paul, Lillian Hellman, Rosa Parks, and Barbara Jordan, among others. The 18" x 24" color poster is available free of charge. AARP has also published a set of booklets -- several focused specifically on women -- designed to help older people with money management. For a free copy of this series write to: AARP Fulfillment, 1909 K St., N.W., Washington, DC 20049. For more information and a free list of publications sponsored by AARP's Women's Initiative, please specify: "Women's Initiative Publications List, D12988." To order a free poster, please specify "National Women's History Month Poster, D13490"; telephone: 202-872-4700.

Two sex equity posters are available from the WISCONSIN DISPLACED HOMEMAKERS NETWORK: Builder, Baker, Breadwinner, Homemaker and It All Adds Up! The posters are $4 each (prepay only). Checks should be made out to Wisconsin Displaced Homemakers Network, with orders sent to Karen Isebrands, Women's Resource Program, Nicolet Area Technical College, Rhinelander, WI 54501.

The AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES is distributing a set of ten posters on Jewish women, including poet Emma Lazarus and reformers Sophie Irene Loeb and Henrietta Szold. Each poster consists of a portrait and biographical note printed in color on heavy stock. The first set is available free to organizations requesting the posters on letterhead stationery; subsequent sets are $4 each. Contact: the American Jewish Archives, 3103 Clifton Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45220.

Following the recent earthquake in Northern California and its resultant power outages, WINGS: WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL NEWS GATHERING SERVICE moved its headquarters from San Francisco to Kansas City, Missouri. The radio news service is available on subscription and WINGS also offers speeches, interviews, and documentaries on tape. For a catalog of programs or other information, contact WINGS at P.O. Box 5307, Kansas City, MO 64131.
BOOKS RECENTLY RECEIVED


And Then She Said: Quotations by Women For Every Occasion. Comp. by J.D. Zahniser. Port Murray, NJ: Caillech Press, 1989. (Address: P.O. Box 162, Port Murray, NJ 07865)


Directory of Sexual Assault Crisis Services in Wisconsin. By the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault, 1989. (Address: WCASA, 1051 Williamson St., #202, Madison, WI 53703)


Julia Kristeva. By Joan Nordquist. Santa Cruz, CA: Reference and Research Services, 1989. (Address: 511 Lincoln St., Santa Cruz, CA 95060) (Social Theory: A Bibliographic Series, No.16)


The One You Call Sister. By Paula Martinac. Pittsburgh, PA: Cleis Press, 1989. (Address: P.O. Box 8933, Pittsburgh, PA 15221)

Pattern Makers. By Sandy Frances Duncan. Toronto, Canada: The Women's Press, 1989. (Address: 229 College Street, #204, Toronto, Ontario M5T 1R4 Canada)


Virago. By Karen Marie Christa Minns. Tallahassee, FL: Naiad Press, 1990. (Address: P.O. Box 10543, Tallahassee, FL 32302)


Wilderness Trek. By Dorothy Tell. Tallahassee, FL: Naiad Press, 1990. (Address: P.O. Box 10543, Tallahassee, FL 32302)


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Courtesy of Sanford Berman.