

FROM THE EDITORS

Nearly twenty-five years ago, this office decided to publish a statewide newsletter called *Feminist Collections: Women's Studies Library Resources in Wisconsin*. Linda Parker, the second "Women's Studies Librarian-At-Large" for the University of Wisconsin System, and Cathy Loeb, her assistant, were *FC*'s first co-editors. The first issue, six typed pages with such features as "The Special Collection on Wisconsin Women Artists," "News from U.W.-Oshkosh," and a brief review of *Personal Politics: The Roots of Women's Liberation in the Civil Rights Movement and the New Left*, came out in February 1980.

The journal's design, length, and focus have developed over the years. Now beginning its twenty-fifth volume, *Feminist Collections: A Quarterly of Women's Studies Resources* is typically longer than forty pages, has contributors from other states and countries, is composed electronically and appears in part on the Internet, and reaches teachers, researchers, librarians, students, and activists all over the world.

When Linda and Cathy were planning those first issues, I was a new college graduate with a vague desire to "work with books and writing" someday. I lived with my parents in western Pennsylvania, waited tables, and dreamed of my future, which turned out to hold not only stints in Ann Arbor and Seattle before I landed in Madison, but also a point of entrance into editing and publishing. Back in 1980, I thought of Madison only as a place — a university town, but that was about all I knew — where the Greyhound bus had stopped in the middle of the night on a cross-country trip. I *had* noticed that the young people boarding at that stop had the

flannel-shirted, backpack-toting look I admired, but I didn't know I'd ever live here, or that such a place as the Office of the Women's Studies Librarian existed.



In 1987, Cathy left to edit legal guides for the State Bar of Wisconsin. By then Sue Searing was the Women's Studies Librarian, and Linda Shult, who had worked here for some time already and masterminded *FC*'s first steps into the computer age, moved into the co-editor spot. (Cathy and Linda also knew each other through their involvement in a local feminist group.) When I moved to Madison in 1995, I was hired as an editor by the State Bar, where Cathy and I became colleagues and friends. In 2000, when Linda Shult went on to be an elementary school reading specialist, I was fortunate to have Cathy recommend me for her old position; and to meet Linda and inherit her notes, procedures, and organizing systems when I began to co-edit *FC* with Phyllis Holman Weisbard. I even came across old paper

files (yes, we do still use paper) bearing Cathy's familiar handwriting.

In Spring 1982 (in v.3, no.3 of *FC*), Cathy Loeb called attention to new titles that were "increasing the availability of writing by women whose voices traditionally have been suppressed" (subtitle of a workshop on racism and publishing at the 1981 Women in Print conference). One of those was the now-famous *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color*. Twenty-some years later, Lynn Walter reviews four volumes that address multicultural and transnational feminism, "build[ing] directly and indirectly upon the generative strength of *This Bridge*" (see pp.1-9). "At this historical moment," she writes, "when cultural, economic, and political power is increasingly concentrated in multinational corporations, finding common ground upon which to build coalitions for a just, humane, and sustainable future is more urgent than it was only a generation ago." Lynn also reports on a Spinifex collection of feminist responses to the events of, and following, September 11, 2001 (pp.10-11).

We wrap up our yearlong religion theme with a review by Alice Keefe of four memoirs by American Buddhist women (pp.12-17), hear from Dionne Espinoza about two films addressing violence against women in the U.S.-Mexico border city of Juarez (pp.18-23), and, with Karen Eckberg, tour pregnancy websites that "emphasize empowerment of the mother-to-be" (pp.24-26). M.L. Fraser's zine wrapup appears for a third time (pp.40-44), followed by a special review of a zine for librarians (p.45). Our other usual columns appear in their usual spots.

○J.L.

Feminist Collections

A Quarterly of Women's Studies Resources

Volume 25, Number 1, Fall 2003

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