

# feminist collections

a quarterly of women's studies resources

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New periodicals on: battered women; feminists fighting pornography; Bay Area news; archives and collections on women in medicine; feminist innovative writing from Canada; H.D.; hysterectomy resources; Iowa women; feminist religious studies; women journalists; a Japanese women's education center; national lesbian issues; women's international news.

Special issues on: H.D.; European women in history; women in science; and Buddhist women.

Transitions: Media Report to Women has a new publisher; Plexus has reappeared under the same title.

Ceased publication: Herizons; M/F.

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New resources on: primary document reprints; rare and out-of-print books; writings by and about early religious women; AIDS; pamphlets and print-endangered texts from the early women's movement; League of Women Voters papers; child care services at UW; women and the economy; minority women in technology; making women visible in the public school curriculum; dealing with sexist communication; Canadian women's groups; women in health care delivery.

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## FROM THE EDITORS

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Feminist scholars are turning increasing attention to the history and contemporary experiences of non-white women -- a positive trend reflected in the publications of our office. Several events of the summer reminded me that despite our efforts in recent years, there is much more work to be done by teachers, librarians, and researchers.

The first published reports on the ninth National Women's Studies Association conference are appearing, reawakening my disappointment at not attending. NWSA chose "Weaving Women's Colors: A Decade of Empowerment" as its 1987 theme and held the conference at Spelman College, a Black women's college founded in 1881. Striving to explore the intersection of race and gender, the speeches, panels, and papers emphasized the experiences of non-white, non-middle-class women. The four-day conference was hailed by a reporter for the feminist newspaper off our backs as the event that "may mark the beginning of the third wave of women's liberation." (1)

While NWSA members were in Atlanta, I was in San Francisco for the annual meeting of the American Library Association. The theme of the ALA conference was "Diversity: The Challenge to America's Libraries." As at NWSA, there was a refreshing emphasis on outreach to minorities, the aged, the disabled, gays and lesbians, and other special groups.

The Women's Studies Section of the Association of College & Research Libraries (a division of ALA) sponsored a panel titled "Women of Color: Resources and Access." Featured as speakers were Lillian Castillo-Speed (Chicano Studies Library, UC-Berkeley), Edith Fisher (Ethnic Studies Librarian, UC-San Diego), Binnie Tate Wilkin (School of Library and Information Studies, UC-Berkeley), and Wei Chi Poon (Asian American Studies Library, UC-Berkeley) -- all themselves dynamic women of color. Jacquelyn Marie (UC-Santa Cruz) organized and chaired the session. After the formal presentations, the large audience broke into small groups to share strategies for serving minority students and for identifying and acquiring materials about women of color.

Our own office has worked over the years to improve bibliographic access to works on minority women. While scholarly reference bibliographies and handbooks are finally being published (notably on areas of Black experience), tracking down materials on women of color -- particularly materials that reflect a feminist understanding of the double burden of racism and sexism -- still isn't easy. In 1983 Professor Nellie McKay (UW-Madison) shared with us her reading list on "Twentieth-Century Third World Women Writers, Black American and African," which we continue to distribute to interested scholars. In addition, we've compiled five bibliographies in-house: "Black Women's Studies and Black Feminist Politics" (1983); "The Lives and Politics of Latinas in the United States" (1984); "Jewish Women's Studies" (1984); "North American Indian Women" (1985); and "Asian Women in America" (1987). All are part of our series, Wisconsin Bibliographies in Women's Studies, and are available free upon request. (If you'd like all six bibliographies, however,

we'd appreciate some help with the cost of postage. Just send us a self-addressed 9" x 12" manila envelope, affixed with \$1.41 in postage, and we'll promptly mail the reading lists, while supplies last.)

We're extremely pleased that the UW System Institute on Race and Ethnicity has granted us \$1,000 to update these bibliographies and to create a single, selective guide to materials on women, race, and ethnicity. We'll be adding references to works on white ethnic women and expanding our listings of audiovisual items, in addition to citing the latest and best books and articles. The award will permit us to distribute the resulting bibliography to all women's studies, minority studies, and sociology departments and programs in the UW System. Additional copies will be available to individuals upon request. Watch FC for an announcement of this new publication in the spring.

-- S.S.

#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> "NWSA: Weaving Women's Colors," off our backs v.17, no.8 (August-September 1987), p.1.

## FEMINIST PUBLISHING ---

Feminist publishers and booksellers in Montreal are preparing to host the THIRD INTERNATIONAL FEMINIST BOOKFAIR in June of 1988. The organizers promise a bilingual event (French and English, with simultaneous translation) and hope the North American location will attract more Central and South American women than previous fairs. In 1984, 4,500 people attended the highly successful First International Feminist Bookfair in London, and Oslo hosted the event in 1986. India was originally selected as the site for the Third Bookfair, but Kali for Women publishers there decided they were not yet ready to handle the fair in addition to their own struggling young publishing program; they are committed to hosting the event in 1990. For more information on the plans for Montreal's fair, write 1988 International Feminist Bookfair, c/o L'Essentielle, 420 rue Rachel est, Montreal, Quebec H2J 2G7, Canada.

While we have not yet seen reports, Great Britain again this year held the annual FEMINIST BOOK FORTNIGHT June 6-20. More than sixty readings, workshops, and discussion groups were planned by visiting authors and local writers in thirteen cities, with public libraries and bookstores carrying special displays of feminist books for the event.

July 6-19 in Dublin, Ireland, a FEMINIST BOOK FAIR was held in conjunction with the THIRD INTERNATIONAL INTERDISCIPLINARY CONGRESS OF WOMEN, which brought together women scholars and professionals from many different fields for discussion on feminist theory and practice.

BERGAMOT BOOKS is a new feminist press in Minneapolis, established by Barb Wieser (formerly of Iowa City Women's Press and Aunt Lute Book Company) for the purpose of publishing Rivers Running Free (paper, \$12.50). Edited by Wieser and Judith Niemi, the book gathers writings by women canoeists in North America since about 1900. Rivers is being distributed by Spinsters/Aunt Lute and the press itself, as well as Inland Book and Bookpeople. Bergamot's address is P.O. Box 7413, Minneapolis, MN 55407.

## RESEARCH IN WOMEN'S STUDIES: THE ONLINE CONNECTION

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Have you ever become discouraged using Psychological Abstracts to uncover women's studies research? Selecting articles on female students from among all those on the learning styles of gifted children, or finding studies on suicide among middle-aged women amid the columns of listings under the broad heading "suicide" illustrate a problem common to researchers in interdisciplinary fields such as women's studies. Often, material on women is covered by traditional indexing and abstracting services such as Psychological Abstracts or the MLA International Bibliography, but is not indexed with terminology identifying it with women.

Online searching can help by providing access to all parts of a bibliographic record, including title and sometimes abstract, thus increasing the likelihood of finding terms such as women or female that might indicate appropriate focus. Online searching (variously called online bibliographic searching, computer searching, database searching, and computerized bibliographic searching) uses a computer to search for information in databases of bibliographic records in an almost unlimited range of subject areas. In many cases, these databases correspond partially or wholly to familiar printed indexes such as Psychological Abstracts, Sociological Abstracts or Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature, but some databases exist only in computerized form, with no print counterpart. Examples of online-only databases include ABI/Inform, a business resource, and Catalyst Resources for Women Database, which focuses on women in the work force.

In most cases, online searches are conducted in a library and are performed by a staff member. The librarian's experience in working with a variety of databases can save time and therefore money. The researcher should be present during the search if at all possible, however, in order to help choose search terms and strategy, evaluate the citations retrieved, and reformulate the search to improve precision and recall. Online searching is above all an interactive process, requiring creativity, flexibility, and quick thinking to take full advantage of the computer's capabilities yet still keep costs under control. A relatively recent development, called "end-user searching," in which researchers conduct their own computer searches, is gaining in popularity. Special prices on certain databases are offered during particular times of the day (often at night when business and academic use are lower), along with search software that is more user-friendly than the standard search languages. End-user searching makes sense in situations where

a researcher will be doing a significant amount of searching over an extended time period and has access to the necessary equipment, which includes a computer with communications software and a modem. For occasional searching, using a library's online search service is most time- and cost-effective.

In bibliographic databases a record exists for each journal article or monograph covered, the data consisting of author, title, journal name, volume, page, date, subject headings (often called "descriptors"), and in some cases an abstract or short summary of the contents. A small number of databases even include the full text of articles; while particularly helpful in geographically remote areas or in order to save time, such convenience is not cheap, with per-article charges ranging from several dollars on up. Almost all of the fields of data are searchable, making it possible to look for information in ways often precluded by the arrangement of printed indexes. Several subjects can be combined, or words in titles associated with subject descriptors. Retrieval can often be limited by document type, date, language, or journal title. (See sample search at the end of this article.)

Online searching can have many advantages over traditional printed indexes and abstracting services. Because of the flexibility mentioned above, online searching offers speed and precision in what is called "ready reference" searching -- locating specific bits of information to complete a partial or incorrect bibliographic citation, for instance, or finding one or two recent references on a particular topic. For more in-depth research, online searching can provide a multi-database bibliography on a complex topic. Database searching can also offer currency: in the Newsearch database, for instance, newspaper articles are indexed within twenty-four hours of publication. The printout from an online search leads to fewer bibliographic errors than does handwritten transfer of citations from printed abstracts. The printout is a big time-saver, too, when it comes to creating a bibliography -- all the citations are neatly gathered in a single location. Abstracts printed along with citations can in some instances serve as a substitute for note-taking or photocopying in some instances.

Some drawbacks exist, however, and an online search is not appropriate in every situation. Cost is obviously a major consideration. For most databases, the charge for time actually spent online can exceed \$1.00 per minute, and on some databases the charge for each citation is fifty cents or more. Such charges can quickly add up. These costs must be balanced against the savings in time and convenience to the researcher, however. Online searching is often cost-effective. (Pricing policies vary among libraries. Although many librarians believe that online searching should be a free service, most are forced by budget constraints to charge some or all of the costs back to the researcher.)

There are drawbacks other than cost about which researchers must be aware. Retrospective coverage of databases varies, but in most cases the starting point is the early to mid 1970's, and the earlier coverage is usually not as broad in terms of the number of journals indexed. Also, database services cover mostly "major" or "mainstream" journals and are reluctant to add any that have a more narrow appeal, including many of interest to women's studies researchers. Feminist Collections, for example, is not covered by any

online database, nor are off our backs, Feminist Issues or Connexions. An online search can sometimes retrieve citations to material that is not available locally and must be ordered through an interlibrary loan service, which can take several weeks, or even months.

Choosing appropriate databases is an important component of the online search process. There are no commercial women's studies databases offered by the major online vendors, but because of the nature of the research in this area, databases covering almost all subject areas, from psychology to medicine, from business to literature, can yield relevant information. Catalyst Resources for Women Database is the only major women's database available directly to researchers, but it deals only with information on women in the work force, so is useful in a more narrow range of research than women's studies as a whole. The Center for Research on Women at Memphis State University has a specialized database on women of color and Southern women, but is accessible only on-site or by mail or phone request. Neither Women Studies Abstracts nor Studies on Women Abstracts is available online. Most of the journals abstracted by these services are indexed by at least one online database, but no single database covers a large percentage of them. The researcher must select the database(s) to be searched according to general subject area, then try to extract the material on women by carefully choosing search terms.

Selecting these search terms, which are rarely consistent from database to database, can be tricky. Vocabulary may be chosen from descriptor lists, thesauri, and what are known as "free-text" terms, that is, terminology in use by the general or academic public that might appear in article titles, subject descriptors, or abstracts. To ensure full retrieval, all possible terms should be searched. It is not enough to use the words "woman" or "women" -- in PsycInfo, the online counterpart to Psychological Abstracts, many items are indexed with the phrase "human female." But even that is not enough, because the most specific descriptor possible will be assigned, so terms such as "mothers," "widows," "housewives," "female criminals," "working women," and "human sex differences" should be considered. These descriptors come from a printed thesaurus of subject terms for PsycInfo, and are not always the most up-to-date or acceptable, but nevertheless must be utilized.

Although individual databases are created by separate companies, associations, or institutions, they are loaded onto large computers owned by database "vendors." Among the largest and most commonly searched are the BRS, Dialog, and WilsonLine systems. The advantage to the vendor system is that all databases offered by a given vendor can be searched using a single search language, or protocol. Unfortunately, there is little standardization between systems, so searching all databases requires learning several search languages. A database is often offered by more than one vendor, but some databases, such as the MLA International Bibliography, are loaded onto only one vendor's system. Factors to consider in choosing which system to use include cost (which can vary significantly) and features of the search language that might affect a particular search.

A recent article by Suzanne Hildenbrand (1) discusses women's studies online in more detail, with database-specific search hints and an extended

analysis of terminology problems in the field. After presenting both positive and negative aspects of online searching, she concludes that "the results of the study on user satisfaction at Buffalo demonstrate beyond any doubt the relevance of online bibliographic retrieval for [women's studies] researchers." Online searching can make connections that would be missed in print sources, pulling together information on women to advance scholarship in the women's studies field.

-- Ann Pollock

[Ann Pollock is a Reference Librarian in Memorial Library, University of Wisconsin-Madison. As part of her job, she searches a wide range of databases in the humanities and social sciences.]

NOTES

<sup>1</sup> Suzanne Hildenbrand, "Women's Studies Online: Promoting Visibility," RQ v.26, no.1 (Fall 1986), pp.63-74.

SAMPLE SEARCH

(Searcher's entries are circled.)

PSYC 1967 - AUG 1987

BRS SEARCH MODE - ENTER QUERY

1\_: mathematical adj ability.

RESULT 671 DOCUMENTS

2\_: women#1 or female#1 or girl#1

RESULT 74188 DOCUMENTS

3\_: 1 and 2

RESULT 113 DOCUMENTS

4\_: ..p 3 bibl,ab/1

This command asks for items in which "mathematical" and "ability" appear adjacent to each other. A total of 671 documents are pulled up.

Three different terms are needed for gathering all relevant documents on women and girls.

The intersection or overlap of the first set of documents requested above (1) and the second set (2) narrows the number of likely relevant citations to 113.

This command asks for a printout of the bibliographic information and abstract for the first of the 113 documents.

1  
AN 23363 74-8. 8708.  
AU ECCLES-JACQUELYNNE-S. JACOBS-JANIS-E.  
TI SOCIAL FORCES SHAPE MATH ATTITUDES AND PERFORMANCE.  
SO SIGNS.  
1986 WIN VOL 11(2) 367-380.



AB STUDIED MATH ACHIEVEMENT AND PARTICIPATION IN 164 AVERAGE AND ABOVE AVERAGE STUDENTS IN GRADES 7-9, THEIR PARENTS, AND THEIR TEACHERS TO DETERMINE GENDER STEREOTYPED BELIEFS. THE ATTITUDES OF SS AND ADULTS ABOUT MATHEMATICAL ABILITY, DIFFICULTY, AND THE VALUE OF MATHEMATICS COURSES WERE EXAMINED. PATH ANALYSIS ASSESSED THE RELATIONSHIPS AMONG THESE VARIABLES AND STUDIED THE INFLUENCE OF 1 VARIABLE ON ANOTHER. SS' PERFORMANCE IN MATHEMATICS AFFECTED ATTITUDES AND SUBSEQUENT GRADES. BELIEFS OF MOTHERS AND TEACHERS, SS' ESTIMATES OF THEIR OWN ABILITY, AND BELIEFS ABOUT THE VALUE OF MATHEMATICS EVIDENTLY AFFECTED PERFORMANCE. MATH ANXIETY WAS AN IMPORTANT PREDICTOR OF SUBSEQUENT GRADES AND COURSE TAKING PLANS. C. BENBOW AND J. STANLEY'S CONCLUSION (1980) THAT SUPERIOR MALE MATHEMATICAL ABILITY EXISTS IS CONSIDERED PREMATURE AT BEST IN VIEW OF THE SUBSTANTIAL INFLUENCE OF PARENT AND STUDENT PERCEPTIONS. (PSYCINFO DATABASE COPYRIGHT 1987 AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSN, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED).

END OF REQUEST

ENTER DOCUMENT SELECTION.: ..o cont

This command disconnects from the computer search, but holds the results for future reference (until the next search is begun).

*CONNECT TIME	0:01:51	HH:MM:SS	0.031	DEC	HRS	SESSION	370
EST PSYC COST:	C-HRS	DB-ROY	CIT-ROY	COMM	OTHER	TOTAL	
	\$.33	\$.47	\$.43	\$.28	\$.00	\$1.51	

\*SIGN OFF 16:02:13 08/19/87  
network: call cleared by request

This search and single citation printout cost a total of \$1.51.

## BEYOND STANDARD FORMS OF INFORMATION ORGANIZATION: A WOMAN'S CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM FOR LIBRARIES

Classification is the science -- and art -- of categorizing information. In any large system of information, some kind of classification is essential. Classification is the skeleton which structures information in an orderly and useful manner. Without classification, information is as scattered as grains of sand on a beach.

In the United States, the two most common classification schemes for information in libraries are the Dewey Decimal System, used in most public libraries and smaller college collections, and the Library of Congress (LC) System, used in larger academic libraries. Until a new classification system is developed, libraries in this country cannot serve the needs of women as well as they serve those of men. Librarians and educators need to join together in calling for and designing such a classification system.

Now is a propitious time for this to happen. In recent years numerous critiques of subject headings for materials about women have led to the construction of two excellent thesauri of alternative subject headings -- On Equal Terms and The Women's Index. (1) Many women's centers and women's studies departments use these guides to index their pamphlet files. Some libraries have even revised or supplemented their card catalogs with non-standard subject headings for books. (2) Indexes such as Women Studies Abstracts and a number of recent bibliographies also use terms not found in traditional sources to identify materials about women.

But subject headings are only half of the story. To provide the best access to library materials, classification likewise needs to be reformed. Indexing expert Jessica Milsted points out that, although they do it in different ways, classification and alphabetical subject headings both separate and bring together related topics. Thus, an ideal system of access employs both classified and alphabetical arrangement. (3) Milsted notes that "the hierarchical arrays provided in many thesauri provide a more or less well-worked-out classified arrangement of terms, even though this array is alphabetical at each level." (4) For example, the general heading "Women" in On Equal Terms is followed by a number of narrower terms, such as "Women--Education," in turn followed by such specific terms as "Women--Education--Nonsexist counseling" and "Women--Education--Role conflict." Alphabetical subject lists with sub-divisions can in fact serve as classification systems; most of us organize our personal files in this manner. Nevertheless, more than this elementary level of classification is obviously needed for larger collections.

As Connie Miller asserts, "large collections of materials by and about women are accessible only through the perceptual screens, that is, finding tools designed to reflect male-centered values and perspectives". (5) Despite a concentration of materials about women in the HQs in the LC system, both LC and Dewey classifications scatter materials about women from one end of the library to the other. This facet of women's knowledge is often referred to as the "interdisciplinary" nature of women's studies. In fact this "interdisciplinary" nature is simply the refusal of women's materials to fit within the standard categories of the white male society, a society typified by the traditional divisions among disciplines and by both LC and Dewey classification schemes. (6)

As long as women's materials are buried within these white male systems of information organization, only a specialist in women's materials can have any idea of what is happening in the field of women's publishing. These classification systems obscure not only how many books are being published about women, but also the connections between these books.

Even in separate collections of materials about women, the use of LC or Dewey imposes male-centered perspectives on the materials. Women's fiction, for example, can only suffer from being divided by time periods and countries as it is by LC. Women did not invent these artificial boundaries between nations or the linear structure imposed on time. In addition, sexist assumptions about women are embedded into classification systems just as they

are in alphabetical subject headings. For example, initially the Boston Women's Health Collective text Our Bodies, Ourselves was not considered authoritative enough to be given call numbers which would place it on the shelf with other medical books. Only later editions of the book received appropriate medical classification. Thus, even in separate collections on women, browsers have to find the information they seek in spite of LC or Dewey classification.

In general, browsing seems to be an underdeveloped research strategy in U.S. libraries. Susan Searing, for example, fears that having a separate collection on women could "handicap" students because "...they will not be forced to acquire library skills beyond the knack of browsing." (7) She seems to be referring to the kind of aimless browsing which relies on chance or synchronicity. But browsing can also be done in a more rational way and is the reason that classification systems exist. I would suggest that in the United States, scholars' contempt for browsing is largely due to the impracticality of using the LC classification system for a consciously planned search for information. The Dewey system with its hierarchical structure is much more conducive for this kind of search. However, in most U.S. libraries, neither classification system seems to be used to its fullest extent as a finding tool.

Classification as it is used abroad -- with alphabetical indexes referring to class numbers for subjects -- could be a powerful aid for research on women. For example, in the Subject Index for the Fawcett Library (Britain's major women's archive), there are more than a hundred entries under "Abortion" to lead researchers to specific call numbers for many aspects of the topic. Here is a sampling:

#### ABORTION

-Buddhist viewpoints	294.356976
-Christian viewpoints	261.83
-personal observations-collections	363.460941
-philosophical perspectives	179.76
-practical information	363.46
Ethical aspects	179.76
Medical aspects-bibliographies	016.61888
Political aspects	363.46
Social aspects	301.5

We need a classification system like this in the United States. Such a system must avoid trivialization, omission, objectification and depersonalization, victimization and denigration of women and women's issues. It must eschew the sexist practice of viewing white men as the norm. In addition, this new classification system would need to correct for inadequate subject headings. Ellen Gay Detlefsen has identified some of the weaknesses of standard subject access: "For example, the term 'abortion' is almost never subdivided to indicate a difference in use or application as a gynecological issue on the one hand, and as a political issue on the other. Similarly, it is not subdivided to indicate a pro-choice or anti-choice point of view, leaving the user to wrestle with technical literature from OB-GYN journals, propaganda from both sides, and attitudinal scholarship encountered almost by

chance." (8) An improved classification system ought not simply mirror such weaknesses, but rather compensate for them.

To be useful to most library collections, a new classification system must employ a notation structure that could be used alongside either the LC or Dewey systems. This would pose a dilemma of what to do with some books not written expressly for or about women but of use to women, e. g. Creative Visualisation by Shakti Gawain. Each library would have to decide where to put such "gender free" books. Some would probably keep these books in LC or Dewey. Others might put them within the new classification. Such ambiguity would be the price paid for change.

Certainly some will object that adding a second classification system would be inconvenient, for cataloger and library user alike. However, this is hardly a valid reason for preserving male-dominated, sexist classification systems. In many libraries, government documents and local history collections already have their own classification systems. Designed with no thought of LC or Dewey classification, these systems stand completely separate in the library. They are often inconvenient, but library staff and users accept them.

A woman's classification system, on the other hand, thoughtfully designed as an alternative to LC and Dewey, should not be just another band-aid solution; it should be a challenge to the existing systems to change for the benefit of all users. Not without such radical change can American libraries begin to serve women as well as they now serve men.

-- Nancy Humphreys

### Response

Nancy Humphreys' insights on library classification parallel the evolving feminist interest in the "politics of knowledge." Classification schemes -- whether Dewey, LC, or homemade -- inevitably reflect an underlying logic and set of values. In dividing the universe of human knowledge into units and sub-units of a grand outline, no call number system can escape the bounds of ideology.

As Humphreys points out, librarians and women's studies scholars have made noticeable progress in redressing the problems of subject terminology but have yet to tackle the thornier thickets of classification. We must ask why this is so, why we resist change on this front so obstinately. The practical librarian will respond at once that transforming classification systems could prove extraordinarily costly. Suppose a library wished to pull together its many books on women, now scattered, as Humphreys aptly puts it, "from one end of the library to the other." First come the intellectual tasks of identifying these materials and assigning new call numbers. The manual task of relabeling the books follows. Then someone must shift materials to make room on the shelves. (In stacks as crowded as the library's in which I work, this prospect alone could send the plan to the wastebasket.) Directional signs and user guides must be updated to reflect the new locations, and all

records in the card and/or online catalog must be changed. The number of staff hours devoted to such a project would be enormous, and the impact far greater than mere "inconvenience." One might easily argue that the time could be better spent acquiring new women's materials, compiling bibliographies for women's studies courses, or otherwise improving access within the traditional framework of library organization. A less drastic alternative would be to superimpose a new classification system on the old, making sure to inform researchers that only materials acquired after a certain date can be accessed through the new system.

Another pragmatist opposed to change might stress the value of standardization. A library user familiar with the LC system at her own institution, for example, feels at home in another university library. Moreover, the cost and labor of cataloging is greatly reduced when libraries share the same classification system, since they may draw on each other's work and limit the amount of in-house "original cataloging." Unless all libraries adopt a new classification simultaneously, scholars and librarians might both be disadvantaged.

An additional consideration, however, is a general shift in how librarians expect users to access materials. As Humphreys points out, browsing has become devalued as a research strategy. In the era of computerized catalogs, library staff increasingly look to keyword access as the answer to information needs. The researcher can now "browse" through records online, rather than flipping through books on the shelf. However, the cursory data in a typical catalog record hardly substitutes for a quick skim of a book's table of contents, index, illustrations, introduction, or list of contributors. Until library records are enriched with fuller information, online "browsing" cannot equal the experience of exploring the stacks. The inadequacies of existing cataloging and classification practices perpetuate themselves in new technologies.

What Humphreys has given us is a vision. Before we dismiss it as impractical, we should consider whether its utopian, revolutionary goals are indeed ours. If we find ourselves agreeing with Humphreys that "the sexist practice of viewing white men as the norm" fails to meet the needs of women library users, we must join her in imagining a genuinely women-friendly library. From that shared image, we can begin to plan for the hard work and costly changes required.

-- Susan Searing

#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> Joan K. Marshall, On Equal Terms: A Thesaurus for Nonsexist Indexing and Cataloging (New York: Neal-Schuman, 1977) and Mary Ellen Capek, ed., A Women's Thesaurus: An Index of Language Used to Describe and Locate Information By and About Women (New York: Harper & Row, 1987).

<sup>2</sup> The University of Waterloo Library in Canada, for example. See Suzanne Hildenbrand, ed., Women's Collections: Libraries, Archives, and Consciousness, (New York: Haworth Press, 1986), p.134.

<sup>3</sup> Jessica Milsted, Subject Access Systems: Alternatives in Design (Orlando: Academic Press, 1984), p.61.

<sup>4</sup> Milsted, p.63.

<sup>5</sup> Connie Miller, "Standard Forms of Information Organization: Academic Libraries and Curriculum Integration," Women's Studies Quarterly 8, no. 2 (Summer 1985), p.23.

<sup>6</sup> Anne Wilson Schaefer, Women's Reality: An Emerging Female System in the White Male Society (New York: Harper & Row, 1985).

<sup>7</sup> Susan E. Searing, "Special Libraries versus Integrated Collections: Two Models of Library Support for Women's Studies," (paper presented at the Sixth Annual Conference of the National Women's Studies Association, New Brunswick, NJ, June 27, 1984), p.5.

<sup>8</sup> Ellen Gay Detlefsen, "Issues of Access to Information About Women" in Women's Collections, p.166.

[Since 1985, Nancy Humphreys (MA, English; MS, Economics; MLS) has been the Coordinator of the Women's Resource Center Library at UC, Berkeley. She is also a freelance indexer. Her research interests include the accessibility of information, and she is currently working on an historical study of women's magazines. Susan Searing is the co-editor of Feminist Collections and the Women's Studies Librarian for the UW System.]

## EDITORS' NOTE

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Elizabeth Ellsworth, who regularly contributes to the "Feminist Visions" column on feminist nonprint media, is taking a break this issue. Her column will again appear in the Winter 1988 issue of FC.

## NEW REFERENCE WORKS IN WOMEN'S STUDIES

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Bass, Dorothy C., and Sandra Hughes Boyd. Women in American Religious History: An Annotated Bibliography and Guide to Sources. Boston: G.K. Hall, 1986. 155p. index. \$30.00, ISBN 0-8161-8151-9. LC 86-22397.

Bass (a distinguished professor of church history) and Boyd (a seminary librarian) have teamed up to record the current state of scholarship at the intersection of American women's history and the history of American religions, and thus to pave the way for future research.

The opening chapter of their work highlights key historical studies and

present-day feminist writings on religion. The rest of the 568 entries are arranged by denomination and topic within chapters devoted to Protestantism, Catholicism, Judaism, Afro-American religion, Native American religions, and "Utopian, Communitarian, Millenarian, and Other Alternative Religious Movements." The sources cited include books, journal articles, and selections from anthologies. While a few primary materials are described, the emphasis lies on secondary works appearing through 1985. Bass and Boyd provide an index to proper names but not to subjects.

The clarity of the annotations and numerous cross-references attest to the authors' thorough knowledge of the field. The slightly unorthodox format -- combining "the features of several reference genres, including the annotated bibliography, the bibliographical essay, and the research manual" (p.xiii) -- follows from the nature of the literature itself and will reward the attentive scholar. Of special interest are the sub-sections headed "For Further Information," which occur throughout the volume and point to background readings, core periodicals, bibliographies, and landmark primary sources. Some of the chapters carry lists of works about prominent individuals. These include women writers and reformers who were influenced strongly by religion, as well as female religious leaders.

Because the role of religion in American women's lives increasingly engages the attention of historians, and because organized religion and feminism have a dynamic (if often strained) relationship in our own day, this bibliography should spark interest in several academic quarters.

Brewer, Joan Scherer. Sex and the Modern Jewish Woman: An Annotated Bibliography. With Essays by Lynn Davidman and Evelyn Avery. Fresh Meadows, NY: Biblio Press, 1986. 37p. + 88p. pap., \$9.25, ISBN 0-930395-018. LC 86-6789.

This unique bibliography signals the emergence of a specialized area of inquiry within Jewish women's studies, and thus supplements the second edition of Cantor's pioneering reference guide (see below).

Lynn Davidman's scholarly essay provides an overview of sexual issues for today's Jewish women, and Evelyn M. Avery writes on "Sex and the Jewish Woman in 20th Century Fiction." Davidman underscores the need for this pathbreaking bibliography, reminding the reader that "most studies about Jews, and even about Jewish women, have been written by men. In recent works and studies of Jews, sexuality has been avoided as a topic of inquiry. Women have been seen mostly in the context of 'family,' and trends such as singlehood, childlessness, divorce, intermarriage, and dual career marriages have been of most concern" (p.2).

In a handy topical format, the bibliography tackles issues ranging from stereotypes of Jewish female sexuality and the traditional views in religious law, to homosexuality, sex outside marriage, and sexual dysfunction. A number of references focus on sexuality in Orthodox Judaism, and on the rituals of niddah (abstention from sex after menstruation) and mikveh (the purifying bath). The scope is interdisciplinary, covering books, articles, and book

reviews from 1960 through 1985. Lengthy annotations frequently quote from reviews or from the original texts.

Following the main bibliography, Brewer provides a directory of sources for further information and an author index. There is also a thirteen-page bibliography, largely unannotated, whose relationship to the main body of the work is unclear, and yet another page of "supplementary citations."

Cantor, Aviva. The Jewish Woman, 1900-1985: A Bibliography. With additional citations by Ora Hamelsdorf. Fresh Meadows, NY: Biblio Press, 1987. 193p. index. pap., \$9.25, ISBN 0-930395-04-2. LC 87-6627. (Address: P.O. Box 22, Fresh Meadows, NY 11365)

Since its first edition in 1979, Cantor's bibliography has been the best source for references on the experiences of Jewish women and the writings of feminist Jews. Biblio Press has demonstrated a commitment to updating this bibliography and issuing other specialized titles (see above). While I am grateful that such resources exist at all, I must admit disappointment in the confusing organization of this latest edition. "Part I" reproduces the 1979 listing, followed by eight pages of corrections and additions. "Part II," labelled "Second Edition," adds new citations covering 1980 to 1985 and employs the same topical/geographical format. The "1986 Supplement," which follows, is simply divided into books and periodical articles. How much better to have a unified bibliography, incorporating corrections and addenda, and including all references through 1986 under the appropriate headings.

Despite its organizational flaws, the bibliography has many strong points. Cantor's opinionated introduction is a refreshing switch from the dry openings typical of scholarly reference works. It reflects upon the centrality of the written word to Jewish feminism, traces the history of Jewish thought on women's issues, and identifies gaps in recent scholarship. The bibliography covers Jewish women in North America, Israel, and other countries; women in the Holocaust and resistance; and poetry and fiction as well as scholarly studies and popular works. Books, chapters, and journal articles predominate, but there are also sections devoted to special issues of periodicals, pamphlets and dissertations, and unpublished papers. Cantor identifies over 4,000 items, providing short, evaluative annotations for most. She even supplies a list of addresses for journals and publishers. Any library or women's reading room committed to representing the diversity of female experience (as all should be!) needs to own this essential reference tool.

Changing Role of Women in Society: A Documentation of Current Research: Research Projects in Progress, 1981-1983. Ed. by Werner Richter, Huberta Hogeweg-de Haart, and Liparit Kluzadjan. Berlin: Akademie-Verlag, 1985. 818p.

Describing current research projects in twenty European countries, this hefty guide is third in a series sponsored by the European Cooperation in Social Science Information and Documentation Programme. (Earlier inventories



dealt with the social integration of migrant workers and ethnic minorities, and with the impact of technology on society.)

Five hundred sixty projects are profiled. The information provided for each includes institutional address, names of researchers, the disciplines and methods applied, funding sources, duration, and references to published and unpublished papers. Most entries include a short abstract, and are arranged by nineteen subjects (such as "historical studies," "age groups and life cycles," "the female personality," and "family and reproduction"), then subdivided within subjects by nation. Most of the data in the entries appear in English. Indexes permit access by name, subject, and institution.

The compilers plan to issue periodic updates, because the directory is merely "a snapshot in the development of research on women" (p.vii). Granted this, the introduction and the twelve national reports are particularly valuable. The opening essay surveys women's research by country and region, then looks closely at two key "complexes" -- women and labor, and the family and reproduction -- and finally pinpoints other emerging research foci. The concluding reports offer brief overviews of women's studies in Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, both Germanies, Hungary, Norway, Spain, Sweden, and the USSR.

Clark, Judith Freeman. Almanac of American Women in the 20th Century. New York: Prentice Hall, 1987. 274p. index. \$24.95, ISBN 0-13-022658-0; pap. \$15.95, ISBN 0-13-022641-6. LC 86-43172.

My dictionary defines "almanac" as "a usually annual publication containing statistical, tabular, and general information." The work at hand is perhaps better labelled a "chronology," although it also offers nearly eighty biographical sketches, fourteen short essays, and photographs.

To paint a picture of women's accomplishments in the United States since 1900, Clark has selected a miscellany of facts from every sphere of female experience. Important historical events are well represented, but so are Academy Awards, record-breaking athletic performances, and a wide range of "firsts" for women. These facts appear chronologically, with summary introductions for each decade. Each entry is assigned a topical heading -- e.g., education, labor, politics, popular culture -- and exact dates accompany many of the facts. Since the almanac lacks a subject index, scanning the boldface headings is the only way to chart trends in particular fields.

Interspersed among the entries for historical dates are page-long biographical sketches of women from all walks of life. Clark is careful to include women from the full political and social spectrum -- communist and labor organizer Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, author Pearl Buck, cosmetics entrepreneur Mary Kay Ash, feminist Sonia Johnson, conservative activist Phyllis Schlafly, astronaut Sally Ride and seventy others. These sketches, however, are locatable only through the general name index to the entire volume, making the almanac unwieldy as a biographical reference tool. Fourteen short essays cover topics ranging from the settlement house movement

to women in the Olympic Games, but there is no way to discover these except by skimming the volume.

Clark obviously researched American women's history energetically, but she offers no footnotes to substantiate her facts, nor bibliographies to point to background works on the events and personalities so briefly mentioned. So, while the almanac is fun to browse and may find some use in a public library where sources such as Famous First Facts are popular, it's of little value to academic library users.

Davis, Lenwood G. The Black Family in the United States: A Revised, Updated, Selectively Annotated Bibliography. New York: Greenwood, 1986. 234p. index. \$39.95, ISBN 0-313-25237-8. LC 86-9926.

Davis, an historian and prolific compiler of bibliographies on Black topics, has revised his earlier work of the same title (Greenwood, 1978), nearly doubling the number of citations. Current through 1985, the bibliography covers several new topics (adoption, illegitimacy, and aging, for example), while replicating the format of the original edition. The first section cites 162 "Major Books"; the second describes many more "General Books" under eighteen topical headings. Davis gives no clue to his criteria for separating the "major" titles from the rest. Sections devoted to articles (with thirty-four topical sub-sections) and dissertations (with twenty-seven topics) follow, with a concluding index to authors. Some topics are repeated in each section (e.g., slavery, education, occupations) while others (e.g., post-Reconstruction, stress, military families) appear only under one format, as the literature itself dictates.

Davis's annotations vary from single sentences to long, objective abstracts with quotations from the works. The first edition's evaluative comments -- repetitious phrases such as "good factual study" or "excellent analytical study" -- have been dropped from the second edition, at no great loss.

Doughan, David, and Denise Sanchez. Feminist Periodicals, 1855-1984: An Annotated Critical Bibliography of British, Irish, Commonwealth and International Titles. Brighton, England: Harvester, 1987. 316p. 45.00 pounds, ISBN 0-7108-0992-1.

In 1982 James P. Danky and his colleagues completed Women's Periodicals and Newspapers from the 18th Century to 1981, a bibliography based on the holdings of Madison-area libraries, including the renowned collection of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Although some foreign titles appear, American periodicals predominate in Danky's guide. Now David Doughan and Denise Sanchez have scoured London-area libraries to create a similar guide to British, Irish, Commonwealth, and international periodicals, thus extending bibliographic control of women's periodicals to both sides of the Atlantic.

Whereas Danky's volume cited everything from early suffrage newspapers to The Lady Bowler, Doughan and Sanchez have limited themselves primarily to

feminist titles. Their definition of "feminism" is a broad one, however. They include, for example, nineteenth-century papers campaigning for the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Acts -- a movement that united middle-class women and prostitutes in common cause. After 1960, the compilers are more selective, but still include explicitly anti-feminist periodicals, along with titles that sound feminist, but aren't. Annotations reveal the political slant of the materials and supply brief descriptions of content, audience, and purpose.

Bibliographic data includes variant titles, dates of publication, editors, publishers, frequency, the history of continuations and mergers, locations in London libraries, and availability in microform. The 920 entries are arranged chronologically, with indexes to personal names and titles, subjects, and years of publication. Extensive cross-references within the annotations help researchers trace the history of title variants, changing editors, and splits in publishing collectives, and distinguish among periodicals with similar titles.

Coverage is exceptionally thorough. Many local newsletters and association organs are represented, including mimeographed periodicals that died after a single issue. Especially welcome are the references to materials in English from Canada, India, and other Commonwealth nations.

For scholars intending to visit the London area, this guide is an unequalled aid for locating current and historical files of feminist periodicals and newspapers. Because microform availability is noted for many titles, stateside researchers will be able to obtain many of the sources without a trip abroad. In short, Feminist Periodicals, 1855-1984 stands as an important addition to the reference literature of women's studies.

Hammer, Elliot R. Pay Inequity: A Guide to Research on Social Influences. New York: Garland, 1986. 252p. \$48.00, ISBN 0-8240-9919-2. LC 86-19540. (Public affairs and administration, v. 16).

Here we have a work of advanced bibliographical scholarship, of limited use to undergraduates or general readers, but possibly invaluable to the narrow audience toward which it's directed. Hammer seeks to explore the "social meaning" of compensation and the "social factors that contribute to actual and/or perceived inequity"; to that end, he examines in depth "research and theory on pay published primarily in sociological forums" in the last fifteen years (p.xv). Seventy-five articles are treated with a thoroughness rarely found in reference works. Hammer's critical annotations run from two to six pages, with copious footnotes and cross-references to related works.

The organization of entries is as follows: basic concepts (six key articles); extended development and/or testing of basic concepts (seven articles); economic segregation (nineteen articles); specific studies on race and/or sex effects (the longest section, with thirty-five articles); and "pay inequity potpourri" (eight articles on a variety of topics, including the effect of unions on pay differentials). Within sections, citations are arranged alphabetically by author, but Hammer provides chronological and/or

subject "keys" to the longer sections. The volume concludes with an author index and a "resource guide" that covers major legislation and court cases, and lists fifty organizations with stakes in the issue of pay equity.

Hine, Darlene Clark, Patrick Kay Bidelman, and Shirley M. Herd. The Black Women in the Middle West Project: A Comprehensive Resource Guide: Illinois and Indiana: Historical Essays, Oral Histories, Biographical Profiles, and Document Collections. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Bureau, 1986. 238p. bibl. index. pap., \$5.00. (Address: Indiana Historical Bureau, 140 North Senate Avenue, Room 408, Indianapolis, IN 46204.)

Two years ago in the pages of FC, we described the Black Women in the Middle West Project. (1) Originally planned to encompass five states, including Wisconsin, the project was restricted by funding limitations to Illinois and Indiana. Hundreds of members of Black communities, historians, and archivists cooperated to unearth and preserve primary sources for Black women's history in the two states. As one of the project's coordinators declared, "If you want the history of a white man, you go to the library. If you want the history of black women, you go to the attics, the closets, and the basements" (p.1). The hunt turned up unique photographs, written documents, and artifacts, now deposited at historical societies and libraries.

The project's history is exhaustively narrated by Hine and Bidelman in their introduction, which should be required reading for anyone contemplating a major collaborative activity dependent on outside funding and a network of volunteers. In addition, the "Collector's Manual," prepared for the volunteers and reproduced in an appendix, could be a model for smaller-scale archival projects.

The guide presents a variety of information. Chapter 1 offers two addresses by project participants on the significance of Black women's history, and Chapter 2 presents three oral histories. The next two chapters -- the meat of the volume -- describe collections gathered and preserved through the project's efforts. Chapter 5 provides biographical profiles of project participants. Finally, despite the poor quality of reproduction, photographs and documents in a thirteen-page "epilogue" give some sense of the collections' contents.

This guide will be essential for historians researching Black women in Illinois and Indiana, and may inspire those in other states to canvas their own communities for "lost" documentary sources.

Hirshberg, Lise. Women, War, and Peace: A Selected Bibliography and Filmography. New Brunswick, NJ: Institute for Research on Women, Douglass College, 1986. 51p. pap., \$5.00. (Address: Institute for Research on Women, Douglass College, New Brunswick, NJ 08903)

This partially-annotated bibliography charts American women's involvement in wars and organized peace movements, and examines the impact of war on their lives. References are divided among thirteen chapters, the first nine of

which are organized chronologically from the Revolutionary War to the present. The remaining chapters treat works on "Gender Roles, Feminism, and the Philosophy of Peace and War," fiction (with twenty entries only), archival sources (a highly selective list), and peace organizations.

A separate filmography is divided into broad subjects -- war, peace, and "disarmament and the nuclear age" -- and is followed by a list of organizations and catalogs. Most of the films are of a more general nature, not focused solely on women.

The theme of war and peace is timely and provocative, for while some feminists agitate to expand women's options in the military, others claim a specifically female stake in working for world peace. This bibliography should therefore have wide appeal to undergraduates and other researchers, and prove a godsend to the reference librarian handling term paper questions.

Minority Women, Health and Healing in the U.S.: Selected Bibliography and Resources. Ed. by Sheryl Ruzek, Patricia Anderson, Adele Clarke, Virginia Olesen, and Kristin Hill. San Francisco: Women, Health and Healing Program, University of California, San Francisco, 1986. 120p. pap., \$7.00.

Syllabi Set on Women, Health and Healing: Fourteen Courses. Comp. by Sheryl Ruzek, Virginia Olesen, and Adele Clarke. San Francisco: Women, Health and Healing Program, University of California, San Francisco, 1986. 188p. pap., \$10.00. (Address: Women, Health and Healing Program, Dept. of Social and Behavioral Sciences N-631-Y, San Francisco, CA 94143)

These two guides, from the renowned UC-San Francisco Women, Health and Healing Program, offer a wealth of current bibliographic information. The selected bibliography on the health of minority women begins by listing general reference works on women of color and works comparing minority groups. Sections devoted to Afro-American, Asian-American, Latina American, and Native American women follow. The references in each section are grouped in subject categories: general background and reference works; historical works; health status, behavior, utilization, and policy; reproduction, sexuality, maternal and child health; mental health, drugs, and alcohol; and providers of health care. The introduction clearly spells out the scope of these categories.

The most recent citations are dated September 1986. Newspaper articles, very obscure journals, unpublished papers, and out-of-print materials from organizations are omitted. However, because their goal is to represent all perspectives, the compilers do include readily available materials that are racist, sexist, or class-biased. Clinical literature is not covered in depth.

A concluding section on "selected resources" provides an annotated list of audiovisual materials in ten subject areas (such as childbirth, occupational health, and violence against women), a directory of organizations and publishers, and a basic two-page reading list that may be copied for classroom distribution.

The bibliography provides researchers and practitioners alike access to a

growing body of literature that cuts across the fields of women's studies, minority studies, and health care. A keyword subject index would greatly improve future editions. Currently, subject access is available only through the database on women of color and Southern women mounted at the Memphis State University Center for Research on Women, into which this bibliography has been entered. (2) The compilers deserve praise for multiplying the effect of their bibliographic labor by making the results available in both print and online form.

The Syllabi Set on Women, Health and Healing is a related work aimed at professors in upper-division undergraduate and graduate courses. The fourteen syllabi span the fields of sociology, anthropology, social work, public health, and nursing. The extensive, up-to-date reading lists attached to outlines for such courses as "Feminist Perspectives on Women's Health" and "Older Women and Their Health" can stand alone as useful bibliographies. For curriculum development resources for lower-division courses, the compilers recommend Sue Rosser's book, Teaching Science and Health from a Feminist Perspective: A Practical Guide (Pergamon, 1986).

For \$20.00 prepaid, you can order the bibliography, the syllabi set, and a collection of articles titled Teaching Materials on Women, Health and Healing. It's a bargain package!

Rix, Sara E., ed. The American Woman, 1987-88: A Report in Depth. New York: Norton, 1987. 350p. illus. index. \$17.95, ISBN 0-393-02384-2. pap., \$7.95, ISBN 0-393-30388-8.

Billed as "an annual report on the status of women in this country" (p.11), The American Woman begs comparison with the ill-fated Women's Annual, which offered a mirror on feminist activism and scholarship in the early 1980's. The present volume is sponsored by the Women's Research and Education Institute, the decade-old "non-partisan research arm of the bipartisan Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues" (p.11). As the editor explains, many people turn to WREI for data -- reporters, politicians, educators, employers, government aides, and students, among them. This volume pulls together many facts of interest to this broad constituency and presents them in a highly readable form.

The volume opens with an overview of women in twentieth-century America by historian Sara M. Evans, and articles on the recent history of women in the family (by Andrew Cherlin), women and the economy (by Nancy Barrett), and the women's movement in American politics (by Marian Lief Palley). All are noted scholars, but their writings are readily accessible to the average reader. "Highlights" precede each piece, enabling those in a hurry to grasp the key ideas and trends.

Next comes a twelve-page chronology of 1986 events that affected women. Legislative and political news predominates, with a sprinkling of sports items and other notable events. The following section, titled "Women in Brief," offers short separately-authored summaries on the status of women in business, the military, science, broadcasting, sports, unions, higher education, and

theater. Additional essays cover the classroom climate for women, women and reproduction, images of Black women, Latinas in the United States, and women immigrants to the U.S. An appendix presents thirty-nine charts, tables, and graphs that survey a variety of social and economic indicators; most take race into account as well as sex.

Unlike the Women's Annual, The American Woman makes no attempt to assess feminist scholarship or theory. And while the articles do contain references, there are no general bibliographies on topics, lists of nonprint resources, or directories of organizations. As a jumping-off point for in-depth research or as a state-of-the-art review of academic women's studies, this volume is thus inadequate. Nonetheless, The American Woman is a fine source for a quick overview of women's position and progress. If it continues yearly publication, it will become an important record of our times.

-- S.S.

#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> Loeb, Catherine, "Archives: Black Women in the Middle West," FC v.6, no. 2 (Winter 1985), pp.7-8.

<sup>2</sup> See FC v.8, no. 4 (Summer 1987), pp.7-9 for a description of the full database.

## PERIODICAL NOTES

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### NEW PERIODICALS

Aurora. 1986-. Ed.: Gigi Stafne. P.O. Box 1643, Eau Claire, WI 54701. (Issues examined: v.1, no.4, May/June 1987; v.1, no.5, August/September 1987)  
Subtitled "A Newsletter By & For Battered Women in Wisconsin," Aurora contains stories of formerly battered women; news excerpted from other sources along with local/regional items of interest; announcement of training opportunities; poetry; and more.

The Backlash Times. 1983-. Ed.: Page Mellish. \$15. Feminists Fighting Pornography, P.O. Box 6731, Yorkville Sta., New York, NY 10128. (Issue examined: "Breaking Silence: The Meese Commission on Pornography," 1987)  
The twenty-four-page issue examined carries testimony and reports from the Meese Commission, departing somewhat from the newsletter's usual format of reports on pornography compiled from newspapers around the country.

Bay Area Women's News. 1987-. Ed.: Susan Thompson. 6/year (with plans for monthly publication after the first year). Free in the Bay Area; \$9 (bulk mail); \$12 (first class mail) elsewhere. 5251 Broadway, Box 557, Oakland, CA 94618. (Issue examined: v.1, no.2, May/June 1987)  
In twenty-eight pages of tabloid-style newsprint, the Bay Area Women's News includes a detailed inset calendar and some articles on Bay Area news, events, and groups, including, for example "Wry Crips" (about a local disabled

women's theater ensemble); and legislative news on Medi-Cal funding for abortions. Other articles have broader appeal, among them: "Lesbian Ethics: Intimacy & Self-Understanding" (Sarah Lucia Hoagland); and "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? Virginia, For One" (Jennifer Stone).

Collections: The Newsletter of the Archives and Special Collections on Women in Medicine. Ed. by staff of the Archives and Special Collections on Women in Medicine. 2/year. ISSN 0275-8091. The Medical College of Pennsylvania, 3300 Henry Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19129. (Issue examined: no.16, June 1987)

This four-page newsletter printed on high-quality paper includes an article on the founder of the American Women's Hospital Service; a list of contributors; and notes on a recently-acquired Archives collection and the passing of a longtime Archives supporter.

(f.)LIP: A Newsletter of Feminist Innovative Writing. 1987-. 2/year? Eds.: Sandy (Frances) Duncan, Angela Hryniuk, and Betsy Warland. \$8 (ind.); \$12 (inst.). 2533 West 5th Ave., Vancouver, B.C., V6K 1S9, Canada. (Issue examined: v.1, no.1., March 1987)

This new Canadian publication takes its title from, among other things, a combination of (f.) for feminine gender plus Lip, "a metaphor for ecriture feminine." An opening statement says "we are interested in new work which explores and alters content, form and language in ways that disturb our normal reading patterns, ways that delight, startle, subvert and liberate." The first issue includes film, book and periodical reviews, poetry, and short prose.

H.D. Newsletter. 1987-. Ed.: Eileen Gregory. 2/year. \$10. Dallas Institute of Humanities and Culture, 2719 Routh St., Dallas, Texas 75201. (Issue examined: v.1, no.1, Spring 1987)

The forty-four pages of this elegantly-designed first issue include an astrological chart for the newsletter; a chronology of H.D. works by Susan Stanford Friedman; "Hilda Doolittle at Friends' Central School in 1905" (Emily Mitchell Wallace); "H.D. and Lawrence: Two Allusions" (Gary Burnett); plus a list of works in progress, notes on H.D. symposiums, queries, and other information.

HERS Newsletter. Quarterly. \$15. 422 Bryn Mawr Ave., Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004. (Issues examined: v.2, no.4, Spring 1985; v.3, no.1, Fall 1985)

Each six-page sample issue of this newsletter of the Hysterectomy Educational Resources and Services Foundation contains part of an interview with HERS founder Nora Coffey on "the most commonly asked questions about the options to and aftereffects of hysterectomy." Also included are letters from women and their families about hysterectomies, a book review and a conference report.

Iowa Woman. 1980-. Ed.: Carolyn Hardesty. Quarterly. \$10 (ind.); \$15 (inst.); \$12 (Canada and Latin America); \$14 (all other countries). ISSN 0271-8227. P.O. Box 680, Iowa City, IA 52244. (Issue examined: v.7, no.2, June 1987)

Within its forty-eight pages, this sample issue holds three feature articles (one on women and the rural crisis and another on caring for AIDS patients); three short pieces of fiction (the winner and two runners-up in the magazine's fiction contest); poetry; several book reviews; and other short pieces.



Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion. 1985-. Eds: Judith Plaskow and Elisabeth Schüssler Florenza. 2/year. \$15 (ind.); \$25 (inst.); \$12 (students). ISSN 8755-4178. Scholars Press, 101 Salem St., P.O. Box 2268, Chico, CA 95927. (Issue examined: v.1, no.1, Spring 1985)

The journal's goal is to be "a channel for the dissemination of feminist scholarship in religion and a forum for discussion and dialogue among women and men of differing feminist perspectives." Some of the articles in this premiere issue: "Prehistoric Goddesses: The Cretan Challenge" (Marymay Downing); "Resources for a Constructive Ethic in the Life and Work of Zora Neale Hurston" (Katie Geneva Cannon); and "Nondualism and the Great Bliss Queen: A Study in Tibetan Buddhist Ontology and Symbolism" (Anne C. Klein). A review essay, theological roundtable discussion, and a look at theology in Germany round out the issue.

Journalism and Women Symposium Newsletter. 1986-. Ed.: Sybil Barnes. Irregular. \$20. JAWS, P.O. Box 3100, Estes Park, CO 80517. (Issues examined: v.1, no.1, Winter 1986; v.1, no.2, Spring 1987)

The first two issues of JAWS' breezy, eight-page newsletter include a regular column by women involved in major writing projects; a "Quibbles and Bits" section of newsy tidbits, observations, and excerpts from newspapers; comment by "pioneering spirits"; and reading recommendations, notes on members' accomplishments, and more.

NWEC Newsletter. 1984-. 2/year. ISSN 0910-4623. Hiroko Hashimoto, National Women's Education Centre, 728 Sugaya, Ranzan-machi, Hiki-gun, Saitama 355-02 Japan. (Issue examined: v.4, no.1, May 1987)

While part of the newsletter is devoted to news of the Centre's activities, the eight-page samplé issue also includes profiles of prominent Japanese women; mention of Tokyo's first women's bookshop; brief reports on women's groups, the equal employment law, and the impact of working mothers on children; and two book reviews.

Visibilities. 1987-. Ed.: Susan T. Chasin. Quarterly (1987); 6/year (1988). ISSN 0892-7375. \$15 (8 issues). Visibilities, Dept. 1, P.O. Box 1258, Peter Stuyvesant Station, New York, NY 10009-1258. (Issue examined: v.1, no.1, Summer 1987)

This new national magazine for lesbians includes in its twenty-four-page first issue an article on the Bowers vs. Hardwick decision regarding sodomy; a column by historian/archivist Judith Schwarz on lesbians in history; a review of "Lily Tomlin: The Movie"; an interview with artists Nancy Fried and Christina Schlesinger; book and theater reviews, and more.

Women News. Monthly? United Nations Secretariat, Branch for the Advancement of Women, Rm. E-1283, Vienna International Centre, P.O. Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, Austria. (Issues examined: No.12, March 1987; No.13, April 1987)

"Published to promote the goals of the United Nations Decade for Women ... and of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women," the brief March issue reports on the 1987 session of the Commission on the Status of Women, including an agenda and list of documentation submitted. The April issue is comprised of a calendar of meetings around the world related to the status of women.

## SPECIAL ISSUES OF PERIODICALS

Contemporary Literature v.27, no.4, Winter 1986: "H.D. Centennial Issue." Guest eds.: Susan Stanford Friedman and Rachel Blau DuPlessis. \$18 (ind.); \$38 (inst.). ISSN 0010-7484. Journals Division, University of Wisconsin Press, 114 N. Murray St., Madison, WI 53715. (Issue examined)

Included in this special issue are four chapters of Hilda Doolittle's novel Paint It To-day; a tribute from Ezra Pound following H.D.'s death in 1961; and papers such as: "What Do Women (Poets) Want? H.D. and Marianne Moore as Poetic Ancestresses" (Alicia Ostriker); "A Relay of Power and of Peace: H.D. and the Spirit of the Gift" (Adelaide Morris); and "Fishing the Murex Up: Sense and Resonance in H.D.'s 'Palimpsest'" (Deborah Kelly Kloefer).

History of European Ideas v.8, no.4/5, 1987: "Women in European Culture and Society." Guest ed.: Karen Offen. \$30. Single copy: \$12. ISSN 0191-6599. Pergamon Journals, Ltd., Headington Hill Hall, Oxford OX3 0BW. (Issue examined)

Some of the papers in this 225-page collection are: "Human Rights Issues Affecting Women in Napoleonic Legal Medicine Textbooks" (June K. Burton); "The Vésuviennes: Images of Women Warriors in 1848 and Their Significance for French History" (Laura S. Struminger); "Education, Gender and Social Change in Victorian Liberal Feminist Theory" (Joyce Senders Pedersen); and "Toward an Evaluation of the Thought of Evelyn Underhill" (Dana Greene). A number of book reviews are included.

Iowa Review v.16, no.3, 1986: "H.D. Centennial Issue." Guest ed.: Adelaide Morris. \$15 (ind.); \$20 (inst.). Single copy: \$6.95. ISSN 0021-065X. 308 EPB, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242. (Issue examined)

This special issue in honor of poet/writer Hilda Doolittle includes H.D.'s unpublished "Some Notes on Recent Writing"; the missing chapter of The Gift: "The Fortune Teller"; and letters from the two world wars. Within the 303 pages are also pieces by her daughter, her biographer, and essays by various H.D. scholars.

Poesis: A Journal of Criticism v.6, no.3/4, 1985: special issue on H.D. Ed.: Thomas H. Jackson. \$8. Single copy: \$2. Dept. of English, Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010. (Issue examined)

The papers in this issue are taken from a symposium on H.D. and Marianne Moore held as part of Bryn Mawr's centennial celebration. Among the titles: "H.D.'s Challenge" (Robert Duncan); "Re-Membering the Mother: A Reading of H.D.'s Trilogy" (Albert Gelpi); "Palimpsest of Origins in H.D.'s Career" (Susan Stanford Friedman); and "The Intimacy of Biography" (Barbara Guest).

Radical Teacher no.30, January 1987: "Women in Science." Ed. chair: Susan O'Malley. \$8 (ind., employed); \$11 (inst.); \$4 (part-time, unemployed, retired). Single copy: \$3. P.O. Box 102, Kendall Square Post Office, Cambridge, MA 02142. (Issue examined)

The forty pages of this issue include articles about a black woman scientist, teaching math to high school boys and girls, and a course on women and minorities in science. Some of the titles: "Reflections on My Life as a Scientist" (Ruth Hubbard); "Women and Minorities in Science: An

Interdisciplinary Course" (Anne Fausto-Sterling and Lydia L. English); and "Gender and Mathematics" (Joan Countryman); plus books reviews, news pieces, and resource lists for teachers.

Spring Wind: Buddhist Cultural Forum v.6, no.1/2/3, November 1986: "Women & Buddhism." \$20. Single copy: \$17 (for triple issue). ISSN 0825-799X. Zen Lotus Society, 46 Gwynne Ave., Toronto, Ontario, Canada M6K 2C3. (Information from flyer)

"Featuring firsthand accounts by women studying meditation in temples around the world, an historical chronology of women's (under-documented) involvement in Buddhism, biographies of outstanding pioneering nuns and women Zen Masters, a bibliography.... Also Buddhist Feminist essays on abortion, compassion, women's karma and influence on North American Buddhist practice." The 400 pages also include regular journal features.

## TRANSITIONS

Media Report to Women, founded and published for the last fifteen years by Donna Allen, has a new home with Communication Research Associates, Inc. Beginning in September Media Report will again publish bimonthly, with plans to become monthly sometime in the future. For subscription information contact Betty Russo, business manager, at Media Report to Women's new address, 10606 Mantz Rd., Silver Spring, MD 20903. (Information from letter from Donna Allen, July 24, 1987)

Plexus, rumored to have stopped publishing in December 1986, has reappeared under the same title, published by Julie Pechilis and Kim Cosaro. Old subscriptions are being honored. Contact Plexus at 585 Castro St., Suite 344, San Francisco, CA 94114. (Information from Feminist Bookstore News, August 1987, p.74)

## CEASED PUBLICATION

Herizons 1979-March 1987. 200-478 River Ave., Winnepeg, Manitoba, R3L 0C8, Canada. (Information from Communiqu'Elles v.13, no. 3, May 1987, p.10 and v. 13, no.4, July 1987, p.3)

M/F no.1, 1978-no.11/12, 1986. Eds.: Parveen Adams and Elizabeth Cowie. ISSN 0141-948X. 24 Ellerdale Rd., London NW3 6BB, England. (Information from editorial in last issue.)

## ITEMS OF NOTE

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\* The WOMEN'S SOURCE LIBRARY is a new Pandora Press series documenting the history of women's struggles for liberation. Pamphlets and papers in the series are from the Fawcett Library, Britain's largest women's archive; the books offer researchers and teachers readily-accessible primary documents in women's history. For more information, write Pandora Press at Routledge & Kegan Paul, Ltd., 9 Park St., Boston, MA 02108.

\* Elaine Katz Bookseller, distributor of out-of-print and rare books by and about women, has produced Catalogue Twenty-Nine, WOMEN & MEDICINE. In addition to standard publication information, this forty-four-page catalogue describes the condition of the books and provides often-extensive annotations and excerpts. Requests for this or other lists should be sent to Elaine Katz, Bookseller, 1319 N.E. 56th, Seattle, WA 98105, or call 206-525-3777.

\* Joanna Taylor, Books' LIST 88: WOMEN: THEIR ARTS, HISTORIES, AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO LITERATURE includes seventy-five titles grouped into four categories: Arts & Crafts; Histories, Pioneer Women, Memoirs, Feminist Studies; Literature; and Addenda: Non-Fiction Miscellany, Late Arrivals. Publishing information and condition is noted for each book. To order, write Joanna Taylor, Books, 2461 El Pavo Way, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670, or call 916-362-6963.

\* MATROLOGIA LATINA, a collection of nine works in translation from the Peregrina Publishing Co., includes writings by and about the "Mothers of the Church," whose impact on the Church's heritage has traditionally been downplayed. Peregrina also publishes VOX BENEDICTINA: WOMEN AND MONASTIC SPIRITUALITY, a quarterly publication available for \$15 for individuals or \$25 for institutions. All materials may be purchased from Peregrina at 409 Garrison Crescent, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7H 2Z9, Canada.

\* The Ontario Ministry of Health has produced a series of pamphlets concerning AIDS. Among them are WOMEN AND AIDS, INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS, AIDS AND THE WORKPLACE, and DETECTING AIDS. Copies of the pamphlets can be obtained by writing the Health Information Centre, 9th Floor, Hepburn Block, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario M7A 1S2, Canada.

\* Harvester Microform offers VOICES OF THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT, 1850-1900, a two-part series of pamphlets on microfilm reproducing the Helen Blackburn Collection from Girton College, Cambridge. Part 1 is "Pamphlets on Women's Suffrage, The International Women's Movement and Related Issues"; Part 2 consists of "Pamphlets on the Employment of Women, Women's Industries and Related Issues." Accompanied by a hard-copy guide that includes title and author index, the microfilm series is available at a cost of \$1,700 for Part 1 and \$1,850 for Part 2 from Harvester Microform, International Micropublishers, P.O. Box 761, Brighton BN1 1BD, England.

\* Part III of University Publications of America's microfilm Papers of the League of Women Voters, 1918-1974, titled NATIONAL OFFICE SUBJECT FILES, 1920-1932, provides a look at the early years of the League of Women Voters. Included are the files of League officers, departments and programs, prominent individuals, and other organizations on which the League has kept records. The thirty-four reels of this segment are available for \$2,500 from University Publications of America, Dept. B-LWV186, 44 North Market St., Frederick, MD 21701.

\* The British Library has produced THE EMANCIPATION OF WOMEN, microfilm reprints of significant works in the history of the women's movement, as part of its conservation microfilming program to transfer endangered nineteenth- and twentieth-century paper texts to a more stable medium. This first set

includes nineteen titles ranging in cost from two to eighteen pounds, or the full set may be purchased for the discounted price of 125 pounds. Send for an order form: The British Library Photographic Service, Great Russell St., London WC1B 3DG, England.

\* THE FUTURE OF CHILD CARE SERVICES IN THE UW SYSTEM is a recent report by the Regents Study Group of the University of Wisconsin System. Having collected detailed data on UW students and their children, the Study Group recommended more funding for child care services. For a free copy of the report, write Marian J. Swoboda, Assistant to the President, University of Wisconsin System, Office of Women and Equal Opportunity Programs, 1802 Van Hise Hall, 1220 Linden Dr., Madison, WI 53706.

\* The WOMEN AND THE ECONOMY KIT contains an annotated reading guide, articles, and other materials designed to aid in discussion or research on women's roles in the economy. The kit costs \$4.50 and may be ordered from Jean McIntosh, Women's Research Centre, 1666 W. Broadway, Vancouver, B.C. V6J 1X7, Canada.

\* JUST BETWEEN SISTERS: FUTURES UNLIMITED, a multi-media package on minority women in technology, has been produced by Rutgers University's Consortium for Educational Equity. The package includes ten posters and a twenty-nine-minute videotape on women in technological occupations, as well as a supplementary guide showing the importance of education in improving a woman's career potential and lifestyle. The complete package costs \$130, the video alone costs \$110, and the poster set, \$25. To order or for further information, write Just Between Sisters, Consortium for Educational Equity, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Kilmer Campus 4090, New Brunswick, NJ 08903, or call 201-932-2071.

\* The WOMANSPEAK MULTIMEDIA PACKAGE is an interdisciplinary resource designed to make women more visible in the public school curriculum. The package includes slides of art by women, a narrative describing American women's political and social achievements, a guide to music composed by women, a slide collage of women activists in nontraditional roles and occupations, biographies, bibliographies, and an instructional videotape describing ways of using the package. Ordering information may be obtained by writing WOMANSPEAK, 5700 SW 67 Ave., Miami, FL 33143, or call 305-665-3710.

\* CLOSING THE COMMUNICATIONS GENDER GAP -- subtitled "What Everyone in Sales, Business, Media, Government, Education, and Community Agencies Should Know about Male-Female Communication Dynamics and Positive Interaction Skills" -- is a booklet designed to assist in identifying and coping with problems arising from sexist communication. Send \$2.00 to Futures Unlimited Enterprises, 4502 Broad Rd., Syracuse, NY 13215.

\* The 1987 CANADIAN WOMEN'S DIRECTORY is a bilingual index of Canadian women's groups. It costs \$7.95 plus \$1.00 for postage and is available from Les Editions Communiqu'Elles, 3585 St. Urbain St., Montreal, Quebec, H2X 2N6, Canada.

\* WOMEN IN HEALTH CARE DELIVERY is a twenty-panel traveling photography exhibit put together by the Archives and Special Collections on Women in Medicine. The show will be on display in San Francisco at the University of California-San Francisco Library, Special Collections, until November 15, 1987. To reserve the exhibit or for more information on this or other special collections on women in medicine, contact the Archives at The Medical College of Pennsylvania, 3300 Henry Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19129, or 215-842-7124.

## BOOK REVIEWS

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### WOMEN OF CENTRAL AMERICA: PORTRAYING THE REALITY

Claribel Alegria. They Won't Take Me Alive: Salvadorean Women in Struggle for National Liberation. Trans. by Amanda Hopkinson. London: The Women's Press, 1987. 145p. pap., \$3.95, ISBN 0-7043-4028-3.

Alicia Partnoy. The Little School: Tales of Disappearance & Survival in Argentina. Trans. by Lois Athey, et al. Pittsburgh: Cleis Press, 1986. 110p. \$15.95, ISBN 0-930416-08-5; pap., \$7.95, ISBN 0-939416-07-7. LC 85-73522.

Margaret Randall. Women Brave in the Face of Danger: Photographs of and Writings by Latin & North American Women. Trumansburg, NY: Crossing Press, 1985. 128p. \$23.95, ISBN 0-89594-162-7; pap., \$10.95, ISBN 0-89594-161-9.

Understanding the social and political complexities of Latin America is difficult even for veteran political analysts. The list of books on the subject is seemingly endless. Many take the historical approach, describing how Spanish conquistadores first introduced class division and economic exploitation in the seventeenth century. Others take a contemporary look at the role of the United States government and multinational corporations in perpetuating that system. Some focus on specific topics, particularly human rights abuses, agrarian reform, and the role of women.

It is by learning about the lives of women that many of us can best understand the complicated world of Latin America. And it is the story of the individual that often brings this reality closest to home -- the story of the university student, the young mother, the peasant laborer, or even the fearless guerrilla commander. These are the women we meet in Argentina, El Salvador, and Nicaragua in three recently-published books: Alicia Partnoy's The Little School, Claribel Alegria's They Won't Take Me Alive, and Margaret Randall's Women Brave in the Face of Danger. Though diverse in subject matter, the three uniformly portray a way of life decidedly different from Middle America. Theirs is a world of armed rebellion, of tortured political prisoners, of seemingly endless labor and sacrifice. The books reveal the broader struggles facing Latin American women, who are fighting not only economic oppression, human rights abuses, and class divisions, but also the machismo and sex roles that remain firmly intact in their cultures. Many women believe that such radical change is possible only through revolution.

In They Won't Take Me Alive, by noted Salvadorean author Claribel Alegria, readers follow the transformation of a Eugenia (fictitious name for a real person) from church-going, middle-class girl into a guerrilla commander of the Farabundo Marti Popular Liberation Forces during the 1970's. Motivated initially by religious convictions, Eugenia works with the poor in Guatemala and organizes peasants in El Salvador before going underground to organize logistics for the rebel forces.

Descriptions of life underground are perhaps the most intriguing parts of the book. For example, a friend warns the young Eugenia what will happen when she goes into hiding:

"You...will leave your family, your friends, and it's inevitable that some of your loved ones will die. Perhaps they'll kidnap your relatives to test if this'll lead them to you. You won't be able to do anything about it. You'll even see people you know in the street, and your heart will be in your mouth with the desire simply to say hello, but you won't be able to. You'll have to pass by on the other side."  
(p.72)

Eugenia eventually marries and has a child while in hiding. The baby starts attending meetings and crisscrossing the country within days of its birth. Sometimes the infant girl is left with comrades who accept responsibility for the girl while Eugenia and her husband are on the road -- or in case they die in combat. We learn, in fact, that a whole society of children have been born underground, educated by parents and comrades, and now play an integral role in the rebel organization.

Although Alegria provides some new insights into the workings of the rebel underground and the surprisingly equal role that women play in the organization, her dogmatic tone and saint-like treatment of the heroine alienate the reader. Since the story is told by friends and family, we are never sure whether the opinions attributed to Eugenia -- and couched heavily in revolutionary rhetoric -- are genuine. The book is clearly written and well organized, however, and the thirty-two-page preface on Salvadorean history provides an excellent summary of the political and historical problems facing the nation.

The Little School: Tales of Disappearance and Survival in Argentina is similarly prefaced with a short account of the so-called "dirty war" during which over 30,000 Argentinians were kidnapped and "disappeared" from 1976 to 1979. Unlike Alegria's work, this book is authored by its subject -- a middle-class university student who was thrown in a secret jail for three months in 1977. Her crime was joining the Peronist Youth Movement. The author, Alicia Partnoy, has testified on human rights abuses before the United Nations and other international bodies.

The success of The Little School is its attention to detail. Such particulars, in fact, are about all that a masked, bound, prone prisoner can observe. Readers learn early that Partnoy's detention center defies

stereotypes of concentration camps and torture chambers. It is a rather ordinary-looking house only fifteen blocks from the You and I Hotel, near a railroad track, behind an army headquarters. But inside this house, very unordinary things happen.

Partnoy lives in a world framed by the mask she wears around her head; if the mask is allowed to loosen, beatings by the guards will result. She maintains her sanity by trying to create order amid anarchy. For example, after her tooth is knocked out during a scuffle with a guard, she finds a match box that serves as a case for it. Removing the tooth from the box, putting it into her mouth, and taking it out again becomes a daily ritual -- something that measures time and provides an activity in life.

Any diversion from the normal routine of lying on a bed and awaiting "meals" is treasured. Partnoy is genuinely excited when she feels raindrops on her hand, trickling in from a leaky roof. She takes pleasure in sneaking a look at an awkward plastic flower on her slipper. And she waits patiently, apprehensively, for a moment in which it appears that no guards are present and she can whisper to friends.

Talking is a crime in the so-called Little School. After Partnoy is scolded the second time for whispering to friends, she is ordered to the torture room. Electric shocks are administered to her genitals when she refuses to tell the guards the whereabouts of her friends. The young woman copes by almost hysterically reciting a popular children's poem about a little frog. By repeating the verse, or phrases from it, Partnoy tries to lose herself in the fairy tale -- to make her torture appear to be only a dream. She writes:

"I don't know where he is." The punch to my stomach and the torture bed again. "Stop it...please!..." If I knew where he was hiding, perhaps they wouldn't hit me anymore. Alone...they won't leave the little frog alone 'cause nobody knows where he hides. Rib-bit rib-bit he sings on the roof.... I'm not an animal.... Don't make me believe I'm an animal. (p.94)

Partnoy mercifully spares us the most violent details of torture and incarceration. The book, in fact, is occupied almost solely with her daily existence and coping mechanisms. It is well-written, descriptive, and understated -- which may be its main weakness. Readers may be left wanting more information than is provided in the short vignettes which comprise the format of the book, particularly since it provides a rare glimpse into life in a concentration camp during one of Argentina's darkest periods.

Partnoy could have been one of the faces in Margaret Randall's Women Brave in the Face of Danger. Sixty photographs cover a range of Latin American and North American women, from a robust Managua street vendor to a waitress at a typical American diner. The photographs are accompanied by prose and poetry from the well-known and obscure, from Latin Americans and North Americans, from poets and ordinary people. Among the contributors are a Chilean recipient of the Nobel Prize for Literature, a tobacco worker in Cuba, and a revolutionary Catholic sister.



Although the photographic reproduction is disappointing, the faces of the women tell their stories. What emerges from the collection is a picture of the multiple roles of women in Latin and North America. We see the little girl washing clothes while her even smaller brother plays nearby -- and we know her childhood is coming to an end. A young Sandinista soldier, rifle slung over her shoulder, leans against a mortar-riddled building. A proud Nicaraguan mother smiles broadly at her daughter, who is looking boldly into the camera. A nun dressed in white holds a young girl in her arms. Sister Deyanira Frech:

Nicaraguan women hold Mary the Mother of God as their first model for promoting this revolution. She, too, carried to the world a message of liberation.... Mary isn't the sugar-sweet and stupid woman reactionary Christians so often make her out to be. At the age of 15...she took an active part in her people's liberation. And she doesn't talk about individual moralistic changes, but of the reorganization of the social order.... (unpaged)

Another text was written by a peasant woman who is now a member of the Nicaraguan agrarian reform court:

The life of a peasant woman wasn't easy. She got up at two in the morning to slap out the day's tortillas and to make the food she'd leave for her children. Then she went off to work in the fields alongside her man. She brought him his noonday meal.... She had to help her husband plant the corn and the beans. The women went out to work in the fields with a machete or whatever they had. Often they'd have to leave their children locked in the house, leave food for them there -- boiled beans with a little salt -- and they just ate when they wanted. They were on their own.... It was a life of suffering, and the kids were sacrificed because that's just the way life was. (unpaged)

Women Brave in the Face of Danger reflects the life and travels of its author, Margaret Randall, who has written several books on Latin America, most notably Sandino's Daughters. (1) The preface tells readers that the photo and prose collection evolved as a kind of "transition" project once Randall had returned to the U.S. following years in Latin America. In much the same way, the book helps bridge the distance between Latin American and North American women by exploring the common struggles and joys that women share.

Randall, Alegria and Partnoy reveal that women are faced with radical choices in Latin America, a continent pulled by political extremes. The books give readers a clearer understanding of the reasons certain choices are made by both women and men, and present a microcosm of the broader social-economic crisis plaguing Latin America today.

-- Jean Hopfensperger

[Jean Hopfensperger is a journalist who lived in Central America for two years and has reported on Central American issues since 1980.]

#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> Margaret Randall, Sandino's Daughters: Testimonies of Nicaraguan Women in Struggle. Ed. by Lynda Yanz. Vancouver, B.C.: New Star Books, 1981.

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#### **FAMILY, COMMUNITY AND WORK: STRUGGLES OF ASIAN AMERICAN WOMEN**

Judy Yung. Chinese Women of America: A Pictorial History. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1986. 128p. \$24.95, ISBN 0-295-96357-3; pap., \$12.95, ISBN 0-295-96358-1. LC 85-40974.

Evelyn Nakano Glenn. Issei, Nisei, War Bride: Three Generations of Japanese American Women in Domestic Service. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1986. 290p. \$29.95, ISBN 0-87722-412-9.

The history of Asian Americans goes back to the frontier days of the mid-nineteenth century, when Chinese immigrated to the West Coast. Since that period, Asian minorities in the U.S. have experienced racial and sexist discrimination as well as economic exploitation by powerful groups and institutions. At the same time, their history is a rich testament of ceaseless struggle -- successful sometimes, hopeless and bloody at other times -- to overcome formidable obstacles to survival and to basic human rights. Asian women are an important and inseparable part of this history -- not only as victims of racism and sexism in the dominant culture and sexism in their own ethnic cultures, but also as strong and persevering individuals. They endured life in isolated mining camps, Chinatown ghettos, and on hardscrabble farms. On top of housework and child care -- before the conveniences of stoves, water faucets, supermarkets, and hospitals -- many Asian American women labored long and hard to supplement their families' incomes, most often with menial work. Not only had they survived the ordeal of exodus from their home countries without kin and cultural networks, but tended to the day-to-day operations of family businesses in their new world, held families together while fathers and husbands were laboring or incarcerated in wartime internment camps, and generally rooted families and communities deep into the bittersweet soil of America.

The wealth of historical material currently being unearthed, and oral histories from the different generations of Asians in America, indicate that Asian women have contributed as much as their male counterparts, though often in different ways and areas, to building their respective ethnic communities and to developing this country. Their substantial contributions are unjustly neglected in many mainstream histories; but the "herstories" of contributions and sacrifices made by mothers, sisters, wives, and daughters have suffered from even greater neglect in the past. The two works discussed here begin to rectify this oversight.

Judy Yung's Chinese Women of America is an excellent pictorial history that examines the experience of Chinese women in America since their arrival in 1834. As the preface notes, the book is an introductory overview, a step toward uncovering a buried past, which Yung hopes will inspire others to further research and writing. She pulled together archival research findings, 274 oral history interviews, and 135 photographs (from a selection of 1,000) from public and private collections throughout the country. There are diverse images of legislators, frontier women, doctors, wives, airline pilots, chorines, suffragettes, telephone operators, union organizers, actresses, and artists; together they destroy the silly, one-dimensional Hollywood stereotypes of Suzy Wong, Dragon Lady, and Lotus Blossom. Yung also provides useful appendixes on the Chinese American female population in the States, their major occupations, and representation in college and in the labor force.

Part One covers the pioneering period, 1834-1900, giving a very brief history of women in China and of early arrivals and stereotypes to be found in America. Yung recounts the dismal history of Chinese prostitution during the Gold Rush period in California. (1) Because Chinese women were in short supply and sexual relations between white women and Chinese men were forbidden, a flourishing market was established for the importation of prostitutes. Many Chinese women -- a majority sold by their poor families, kidnapped or tricked -- were brought to America in the guise of indentured servants or mui jai. Some were sold to wealthy clients, others worked in rural or urban brothels until they paid their way out, escaped, died of disease or suicide, or were rescued by Methodist/Presbyterian missionaries. This section of the book also briefly describes pioneer life in Chinatown ghettos, isolated rural areas, and on Hawaiian plantations and farms where the work was often back-breaking and menial. (2)

The second part of the book surveys the years 1900-1945, tracing the anti-Chinese sentiments, mob violence, and discriminatory laws that persisted into the twentieth century. The U.S. made it difficult for Chinese immigrants during this period to settle as citizens, own land, or establish families. It was a brave Asian woman who attempted to enter the U.S. despite exclusionary immigration legislation -- she often faced humiliating interrogation and/or detention on Angel Island, and hard economic times and discrimination during the Depression. (3) This was also a period of transition for the second generation women, who were influenced by "Western ideas of women's equality," and who "exercised a greater degree of independence and social consciousness than their predecessors in their efforts to participate more fully in a larger society." (p.40) The women's suffrage movement in America, as well as China's 1911 Republican Revolution and 1919 May Fourth Movement, all had an impact on these women. Some of them joined women's organizations and labor unions, and embarked on traditionally male careers such as airline pilot and doctor.

The book's third section looks at Chinese American women of the post-World War II period, 1945-85, during which time women continued actively pursuing and effecting social change for themselves, their families, and communities. During the 1960s, with its Civil Rights Movement, many women became community activists and advocates for civil rights, women's rights, affirmative action, and ethnic studies programs. There was also strong

interest in forming Asian American women's groups to fight for equal pay, the expansion of career choices, and an improved image of minority women as a whole.

Though Asian American women have made advances, Yung leaves the reader with the clear realization that many Asian women must still contend with economic hardship, discrimination, and assimilation problems. For instance, though job opportunities have improved, statistics show that they often do not have the same earning power as white men and women with comparable backgrounds. Many Asian American women, especially first-generation immigrants, have been stratified into dead-end jobs that command low pay and low prestige.

In her book Issei, Nisei, War Bride: Three Generations of Japanese American Women in Domestic Service, Evelyn Nakano Glenn pursues in detail the dynamics of one such low-prestige occupation: domestic service. She believes immigrant women's labor must be recognized as distinct in many ways from that of men, and studied in relation to such factors as its effects on family economics, gender, and reproductive issues. Three generations of Japanese women talk about coping with their employment and how this work relates to family and community life. The individual interviews, group experiences, and social structure of the women are situated within a critical model that employs the dual economy and dual labor market paradigms in economics and the internal colonialism view on race relations in sociology. Glenn utilizes the model to discuss the exploitation of such categories as women, minorities, migrants, and youth in labor-intensive, low-wage and low-status jobs in the American economy.

In this detailed sociological/historical study, Glenn attributes the disproportionate concentration of Japanese women in domestic service, from the early part of this century to the present, to a variety of factors -- among them, lack of English language and technical skills; household responsibilities; and their status as immigrants and women of color in a race- and gender-stratified local labor market. She sets up an interesting comparative framework for analyzing the historical relationship between racial-ethnic subordination, female immigration, and domestic service. A compelling pattern specific to all people of color (as opposed to European immigrants) in pre-industrial forms of labor emerges in Glenn's analysis of domestic service. Denied basic political and legal rights and walled in by racism, people of color often find themselves tracked into domestic service and other low-status, low-paying clerical, menial, or agricultural work, regardless of education or generation. Further, Glenn believes that the "successful model minority" concept for Japanese Americans and other Asian minorities is a serious distortion which obliterates this significant connection with other oppressed minorities and does not account fully for the "failure as well as success, shattered dreams as well as achievement, and continued barriers as well as new opportunities." (p.7)

The book is divided into three major areas. In the first section, Glenn explores the socio-historical and political context of Japanese immigration and settlement in America; women's position and role in the development of ethnic communities; and the development of labor force activity of the three

generations of Japanese in America -- issei, nisei, and war brides, especially in the San Francisco Bay Area. The second section details the career experiences of Japanese American women in domestic service, especially in relation to the structural conditions of the work and women's strategies for dealing with them. Glenn traces the complex position of these women in Japanese and American cultural systems, and describes their personal feelings about the work and relationships with employers and families. While many women speak of the monotony, fragmentation, mindlessness, low-status, and social isolation of their domestic labor, they also talk about their strategies of coping, of maintaining dignity/meaning and an independent identity in a "situation where one is personally subordinated and accorded little respect." (p.168) The opportunity to contribute to the survival and betterment of their families is a source of deep satisfaction to many of these women.

In the third section Glenn deals with another area related to women's work -- the family. She discusses the problematic situation of minority women in regard to the "dual nature of the family as both an instrument in the survival of racial-ethnics and an arena for internal gender struggle over power and resources." (p.20) In the face of economic survival, race and class discrimination, and other threats, the "conflict over inequities within the family may be muted by the countervailing pressure on the family to unite against assaults from outside institutions." (p.192) However, while the reproductive labor of many Asian women maintains the family as a front for cultural resistance, it also often confines them to subordinate positions within the structure of the family. The movement of these women into the labor market affects the traditional division of labor, gender roles, and economy within minority families.

Issei, Nisei, War Bride is highly recommended for its broad and detailed analysis of an often-neglected area of women's labor history -- domestic service, which still employs many women of color -- and for its consideration of the deeply disturbing nature of labor systems in America and of the consequences of participation in race- and gender-stratified systems for minority women, their families, and communities.

Both Yung and Glenn reveal the various roles Asian women have assumed in their long, turbulent history in America. Progress has been made in the status and roles of many Asian American women through movements that attempt to win for all women social and economic equality. But it is also very clear that not only gender but race, class and culture are significant barriers to full equality for Asians and other minorities. It is important, especially for the mainstream women's movement, to gain a truer understanding of the daily realities and issues of minority women in areas such as education, family, housing, health, violence, poverty, employment, discrimination, and cultural adjustment. If we are to devise and implement workable strategies for change, there must be a more integrated and open approach to the diverse concerns of minority people in a multicultural America.

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#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> For further information on the prostitution of Asian women in America, consult Yuji Ichioka, "Aneyuki-san: Japanese Prostitutes in Nineteenth-Century America," Amerasia v.4, no.1 (1977), pp.1-21, and Lucie Cheng Hirata, "Free, Indentured, Enslaved: Chinese Prostitutes in Nineteenth-Century America," Signs v.5, no.1 (1979), pp.3-29.

<sup>2</sup> For some recent research into the labor history of Asian Americans in California and Hawaii, consult Sucheng Chan, This Bittersweet Soil: The Chinese in California Agriculture, 1860-1910 (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1986) and Ronald Takaki, Pau Hana: Plantation Life and Labor in Hawaii, 1835-1920 (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1983).

<sup>3</sup> See Him Mark Lai, Genny Lim and Judy Yung, Island: Poetry and History of Chinese Immigrants on Angel Island (San Francisco: HOC-DOI Project, 1980).

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