

# feminist collections

women's studies library resources in wisconsin  
vol. 4, no. 1 FALL 1982

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## FROM THE EDITORS

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I'd like to use this editorial space to introduce myself--Susan Searing, new Librarian-at-Large for Women's Studies. Linda Parker, as you probably know, has joined the staff of the University of Michigan Library as Head of the Reference Department in the Graduate Library. For six years after earning my MLS I worked in the Reference Department of Sterling Memorial Library at Yale. Sterling Library is the central library on the Yale campus, serving scholars in the humanities and most branches of the social sciences. In addition to the typical duties of a reference librarian--assisting researchers, leading bibliographic instruction sessions, answering letters and telephone inquiries, and compiling bibliographies--I supervised the operations of the current periodicals room for five years and ran the interlibrary loan service for a year. My pre-professional work experience included positions in the University of Michigan Engineering-Transportation Library, the library of the State University of New York at Binghamton, and the Lockport (NY) Public Library children's room.

My involvement in the women's movement dates back to a consciousness-raising group in 1973, and after moving to New Haven in 1976 I soon became involved in community women's projects, including serving as volunteer librarian at the local women's center. It was awhile, however, before I was able to integrate my growing interest in feminist scholarship with my daily work as an academic librarian. My first on-the-job project in the field of women's studies was compiling an annotated guide to reference works about women, as part of a library pamphlet series. That widely distributed bibliography identified me as the friendly feminist at the reference desk. It was a role I was happy to assume, for it increased my opportunities to confer with women's studies researchers and to familiarize myself with the rapidly expanding body of literature in the field.

The Yale Women's Studies Program grew significantly in the last two years. An undergraduate major was approved, and a substantial curriculum development grant was awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The centerpiece of the NEH grant was a Faculty Development Seminar, in which I participated. The members found the weekly meetings so stimulating that they still meet, choose readings, and discuss them; I'll miss being part of that. If there are similar seminars on the UW campuses, official or informal, I'd welcome a chance to sit in or contribute as a resource person.

Also under the grant, a number of new courses were offered in 1981/82. I taught a junior-level course titled "Interdisciplinary Research: Women's Studies." The seminar focused on library resources, including primary materials, that can be used in the study of women. The students examined both new and traditional sources and were required to compile a lengthy annotated bibliography and a critique of the literature on a topic of their choosing. I'd be glad to share my syllabus with bibliographic instruction librarians and women's studies faculty, and to discuss its utility as a model for future courses. I also envision transforming certain sections into specialized bibliographic instruction workshops.

Beyond the ivied walls of Yale, I found further opportunities to combine professional interests with feminist politics. In 1980 I helped plan a conference on women in librarianship, which was held at Rutgers just before the annual American Library Association meeting in New York City. I've just finished a two-year term on the Steering Committee of ALA's Feminist Task Force, and I'm continuing as co-coordinator of a Discussion Group on Women's Materials and Women Library Users. The ALA Publishing Committee recently awarded \$1,000 from the Carnegie Reading List Fund for the compilation of a booklet-length bibliography on the legal status of American Women. I was the principal author of the grant proposal and will be serving as project coordinator, although a number of people will be sharing the work.

At the latest conference of the National Women's Studies Association, I moderated a panel, sponsored by the Librarian's Task Force, titled "The Library Link: Access to Resources for Research on Women." I'm also an active member of a national network of librarians and scholars who are planning the creation of an online bibliographic database in women's studies. Watch Feminist Collections for news of our progress.

Finally, I am at work on a book, Introduction to Library Research in Women's Studies, which will be published by Westview Press. A library guide in the classic mold, aimed at upper-level undergraduates, it combines practical information about library organization with an annotated, topically arranged bibliography of reference works.

This should give you a sense of my background and current interests. Perhaps I should also mention my favorite pastimes--camping, cooking, weaving, and exploring Wisconsin, my new home. In future issues of this newsletter, I'll be sharing my thoughts on the direction of the Office of the Women's Studies Librarian-at-Large; in the meantime, I welcome your suggestions and feedback on our existing services and publications.

-- S.S.

## FEMINIST PUBLISHING

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### KITCHEN TABLE: WOMEN OF COLOR PRESS

In my report on the second national Women in Print Conference (see Feminist Collections Winter 1982, pp.3-5), I mentioned the creation of a new press called Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press. In the year since its founding, the Press has been featured in many feminist publications; it is clearly a development of great importance for the women's movement in general and for feminist publishing in particular. We are reprinting below a letter from the women of Kitchen Table which outlines current news and future plans of the Press. The letter originally appeared in Third Woman (v.1, no.2, 1982).

-- C.L.

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Third Woman:

We are writing to ask your support in building an institution that we feel will make a difference in all of our lives.

As you may already know, Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press was founded in September, 1981 and is the first publisher in North America with a commitment to publishing and distributing the work of Third World Women. Our dream is to be an independent communication network for women of color globally. We are committed to identifying new writers; publishing new titles; distributing books by women of color from other publishers; doing translation of works by Third World Women; and creating the most effective means of getting books into the hands of women of color everywhere.

The support we have already received from women all over the country has been extremely gratifying and has made it possible for us to carry out our work up until now. In the last few months we have found an office space; expanded our collective; participated in several book fairs including the First International Book Fair of Radical Black and Third World Books in London; and are already distributing a number of titles including In the City of Contradictions (Chiang), The Cancer Journals (Lorde), This Bridge Called My Back (Moraga & Anzaldua), and But Some of Us Are Brave: Black Women's Studies (Hull, Scott, & Smith). We have also been successful in applying for and receiving several small grants.

We plan to publish our first title by the end of 1982. To accomplish this goal we need your help. We hope you will contribute whatever you can to help us make the dream real. You may support us in a variety of ways--spreading the word and publicizing the Press, offering technical assistance, passing this letter on to a friend, donations and also low or no interest loans. Checks may be made payable to the Working Women's Institute and contributions are tax deductible.

We thank you in advance for your generosity, for enabling the first national and international Third World Women's institution to grow.

In Continuance,

Sonia Alvarez, Myrna Bain, Fay Chiang, Hattie Gossett, Audre Lorde, Cherrie Moraga, Mariana Romo-Carmona, Barbara Smith. The Women of Kitchen Table Press, Box 592, Van Brunt Station, Brooklyn, New York 11215.

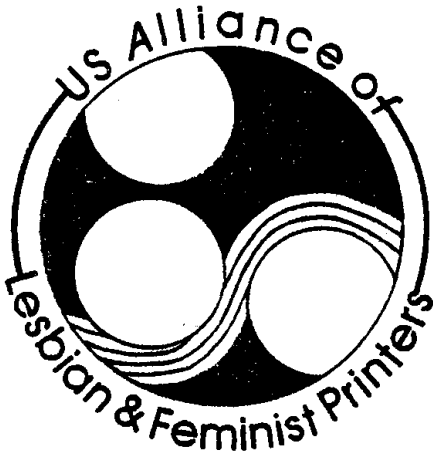
#### NEW ENGLAND FREE PRESS FOLDS

The New England Free Press was for over ten years a major independent publisher of radical pamphlets. Though it was not solely devoted to feminist publishing, women's topics were among their strongest commitments. The Press was responsible for making available at very low cost classic pamphlets like Barbara Ehrenreich and Deirdre English's "Witches, Midwives and Nurses: A History of Women Healers" and "Complaints and Disorders: The Sexual Politics of Sickness"; "Women in American Society: An Historical Contribution" by Ann D. Gordon, et al.; and Angela Davis's "The Black Woman's Role in the Community of Slaves." (information from Feminist Bookstores Newsletter v.6, no.1, 1982, p.20)

# WOMEN IN PRINT

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FIRST MIDWEST REGIONAL WOMEN IN PRINT CONFERENCE, WOODSTOCK, ILLINOIS,  
SEPTEMBER 10-12, 1982



When women-in-print-ers from across the country met in Washington, D.C., in October of 1981, they found the gathering so productive that they decided regional conferences should be planned for 1982, and another national conference in 1983.<sup>1</sup> Hopes for a midwest regional conference were realized this past September when approximately 75 women met at the Pleasant Valley Farm in Woodstock, Illinois, to continue discussions initiated the year before. Represented were at least ten bookstores, five publishers, five printers, eight periodicals, and one archive.

Conference organization was similar to that at the national gathering: general meetings alternated with small group meetings of bookstore workers, printers/publishers, and periodicals staff. Seminar topics (for the whole group) included: Pornography, Sex and Feminism; Jewish Women's Literature; Meeting the Needs of Women of Color in Our Books, Journals, and Bookstores; Political and Emotional Survival in the Increasingly Conservative 80s; Mail Order; Disability Issues; Printing Methods; and Financial Survival. Many of the issues under discussion were similar to those which surfaced the year before in Washington, but progress in the discussion and increased strength in the network were evident.

Since the national conference: bookmarks supporting women-controlled printers, typesetters, binders, bookstores, periodicals and publishers are out and being distributed by feminist bookstores; the U.S. Union of Feminist and Lesbian Publishers has formed and published one issue of The Tongue<sup>2</sup>; the U.S. Alliance of Lesbian and Feminist Printers has come out with the first of Print-Hers News-Let-Her<sup>3</sup> and has chosen a logo for reproduction of print produced by women; bookstores have utilized strategies proposed at the national conference to increase the visibility of books by and about women with limited access to print (women of color; Jewish women; disabled women) and of books from the small presses in general; printers have organized to educate women-in-print-ers, feminists and the general public about their struggle to survive--and the importance of their survival.<sup>4</sup>

If one were to try to pinpoint the central theme of the conference, it would probably be education. There was much discussion of how conglomerate publishing in the 1980s is socializing the book-buying public into "judging books by their covers" (and, unconsciously, by their ad campaigns), leading bookstores to expect slick, ready-made displays and standard-size books, and threatening the continued survival of small press publishers and independent booksellers.

It was generally agreed that there is much work to be done to educate book-buyers to the value of the world of alternative publishing. A statement to this effect, collaboratively written by conference participants, will soon be available for display in bookstores.<sup>5</sup>

Women left the gathering with plans already in the works for the next midwest conference, and with increased confidence that the discussion will go on.

-- Cathy Loeb &  
Linda Shult

### NOTES

1. For a report on the national conference, see FC v.3, no.2, Winter 1982, pp.3-5; off our backs v.XI, no.11, December 1981, pp.2-3, 10-11, 27.
2. Contact The Naiad Press, P.O. Box 10543, Tallahassee, FL 32302.
3. Contact Barbara, c/o Iowa City Women's Press, 529 S. Gilbert, Iowa City, IA 55240; \$5 covers membership in the Alliance and subscription to the newsletter.
4. A statement on "The Invisible Lesbian/Feminist Printer" is available from the Iowa City Women's Press (address above).
5. For more information on this statement, contact the Jane Addams Bookstore: Fine Arts Building, 410 South Michigan Ave., 2nd Floor, Chicago, IL 60605; phone (312) 663-1885.

## ARCHIVES

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### THIRD WORLD WOMEN'S ARCHIVES

The Third World Women's Archives were founded in October of 1981 and introduced at the second national Women in Print Conference. Reprinted below are excerpts from the Third World Women's Archives Newsletter no.1 (September 1982), which describe the current status of this exciting archiving project.

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Friends,

In the ten months since the Third World Women's Archives were founded in New Haven, Connecticut, we have received dozens of letters inquiring as to the nature and scope of our collection, and of our community/political work. We have heard from women from all over the U.S. and from the Third World and Western Europe (e.g. India, New Zealand, Peru, Chile, England, Brazil). Through this newsletter we hope to update those of you who have expressed interest and/or provided support for our fledgling organization.

The Archives Collection. The Third World Women's Archives is a non-circulating library/resource center of diverse, multi-cultural, and multi-lingual materials by, for, and about Third World women in the U.S. and abroad. At present, we have approximately 4,000 books and periodicals, a sizeable vertical file collection of reprints, newsletters, clippings, and flyers, a women's, gay, and Third World/left newspaper collection, and a (very) small collection of personal papers, photographs, posters, artwork, etc.

We have over 800 books and journals specifically about/by Third World women. Of special interest is our collection on Latin American women, much of which consists of materials rarely available in the U.S. (secured by members of the collective who traveled to Cuba, Puerto Rico, Nicaragua, Mexico, Brazil). We also have an extensive feminist and lesbian/sexuality collection as well as numerous books and journals dealing with 'general' Third World anthropology/archeology, history, economics, and politics. In addition we have a number of children's books in English and Spanish and hope to obtain more.

A partial list of the Archives' holdings is being prepared by a group of New Haven women and will be available at cost from the Archives later this year. At the moment, we have ready two lists of holdings on specific topics: 1) the women's movement in Brazil (books, articles, journals, taped interviews--much of the material in Portuguese); and, 2) women in Nicaragua (English/Spanish). Please write to us if you are interested in obtaining copies (\$ASE--40¢--and \$1.50 for Brazilian biblio or \$.75 for Nicaraguan biblio).

Using the Third World Women's Archives. Many people have written asking us to research specific subjects or to provide information on particular women, events, organizations, geographic areas, etc. At present, we regret that we have neither the staff nor the kind of cataloguing system which would enable us to research specific questions for individuals or groups.

In the future we hope to publish bibliographies and catalogues of our holdings --but for now, folks should try to come to use the Archives themselves. Would-be visitors should write to us at our new P.O. address to make an appointment to come to the Archives, listing preferred dates and times (address and phone no. if in NYC). We'll get back to you as to the best time for us (this is a private home, too.).

Donations/Volunteer Work. We still very much need your donations: 1) books, journal subscriptions, unpublished work by, about, and of interest to Third World women; 2) office supplies and archival materials (paper, folders, archival boxes, etc.); 3) equipment, such as a typewriter, filing cabinets, bookcases, and YES, a xerox machine that can copy books as well as single sheets (there are no copying businesses in the immediate vicinity of the Archives!); 4) your time and money...Folks are especially encouraged to become a 'Friend of the Archives' by donating money on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis. This would entitle you to receive our newsletter and other special mailings. Our funds are practically nil at the moment (especially after this mailing!) so all donations of all types and sizes are particularly welcome. PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE THIRD WORLD WOMEN'S EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES, INC.

Women who would like to donate their time and/or special talents (graphic design, typing, translating, fundraising, coordinating/facilitating workshops or lectures on writing, drama, photography, film, etc.) to the Archives, please write to us. Address your letters "Attention: Volunteer Coordinator". As soon as we have a phone, you'll be able to call us as well.

-- Sonia E. Alvarez, Mirtha N. Quintanales,  
Barbara Smith  
Co-founders, Third World Women's  
Archives, P.O. Box 159, Bush  
Terminal Station, Brooklyn, NY 11232

WOMEN'S HISTORY RESOURCES AT THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN:  
THE ANNE BRADEN PAPERS

The recently published Women's History Resources at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin<sup>1</sup> offers tantalizing possibilities for research in its description of the Society's extensive library, archival, photographic, film and artifact holdings pertinent to the study of women in American culture. From the many collections mentioned in this new publication, I would like to highlight one particularly rich resource--the papers of Anne Braden--with the hope that a focus on one collection will encourage research in others as well.

As Christine Rongone observed in Women's History Resources..., personal papers (as opposed to the records of institutions and governmental bodies) often lack the long perspective over time which historians seek in trying to document continuity and change. This is fortunately not the case with the voluminous Braden Collection, which spans the years 1928 to the mid-1970s. The Collection includes the papers of Anne, a southern civil rights activist and journalist, and her late husband Carl, whose life was also dedicated to civil rights and civil liberties struggles. Their papers are part of the Society's larger Social Action Collection, a special archive on American Social movements of the century, the heart of which is documentation on the civil rights and anti-war movements of the 1960s.

Anne Braden may be familiar to readers--if not directly through her writing and organizing work--because of the significant role attributed to her by Sara Evans in her book entitled Personal Politics: The Roots of Women's Liberation in the Civil Rights Movement and the New Left<sup>2</sup>. According to Evans (who used several collections in the Social Action Collection during the course of her own research), Braden was "perhaps the most important adult white woman to young southern activists throughout the sixties".<sup>3</sup> She was one of a handful of radical white women, including Virginia Durr, Lillian Smith, and Paula Snelling, who openly fought racial segregation in the South during the 1940s and 1950s, when there was neither a broad-based civil rights nor a women's movement to back them up. Still very much an activist, Braden has remained in the South all her life.

Born in Louisville in 1924, Anne Gambrell McCarty Braden grew up in Anniston, Alabama, and subsequently graduated from Randolph-Macon Women's College in Lynchburg, Virginia. The contradiction between the Christian ethic Braden was

taught as a child and the racial attitudes of southern society became unbearable during her college years. With her rejection of the dominant culture's attitudes on race came a simultaneous rejection of the prevalent view of women as well.

After graduating from college in 1945, Braden worked as a journalist, first in Alabama and then in Louisville, where she met and married newspaper reporter Carl Braden, the son of a working-class Louisville family. For over 25 years (until Carl's death in 1975), they shared a common political vision and for many of those years worked together in the same organization, the Southern Conference Educational Fund (SCEF). Their mutual commitment to civil rights engulfed their entire lives beginning in 1954, when--after selling a house to a black couple in Louisville--the home was firebombed and both Bradens were indicted for sedition. At the time, they had two small children, who were sent to live temporarily with Anne's parents in Alabama. Though the charges against Anne were dropped, Carl was convicted and served an eight-month sentence before his conviction was reversed. Anne's files on this episode in the Braden Collection and her book The Wall Between<sup>4</sup> provide detailed documentation on the case and its aftermath. The Bradens subsequently turned to full-time organizing for SCEF, with which they were associated until the early 1970s. A major portion of their papers at the Society documents their work as co-directors of SCEF, as well as Anne's longtime work as editor of SCEF's newspaper, The Southern Patriot.

The Braden Collection is one of the most heavily used in the Social Action Collection because of its documentation on the movements of the 1960s. Rarely, however, has it been used for research on the Bradens as individuals. Because Anne Braden was and is a prolific correspondent, the collection offers rich perspectives on the life of a southern woman activist who came of age in the decades preceding the birth of the women's movement as we know it today. Few single collections within the Social Action Collection provide so much detail on the life of an individual woman activist. (The recently acquired papers of Communist Party organizers Peggy and Eugene Dennis are another notable exception.) What is particularly remarkable from an historian's point of view is that the Braden Collection documents not only Anne's 40 years as a political activist, but her personal life as well. Indeed the two are hardly separate.

Anne's papers begin with her college years during World War II, when she was trying to make sense of the world beyond the confines and serene beauty of a southern women's college. From her first journalism jobs, through her marriage, the birth of three children and the death of one, the reader is able to follow her personal/political journey. She writes of domestic and financial details, family relationships, physical and verbal attacks on the Bradens for their convictions and actions, and always the on-going work for social change in the South.

In writings from the late '50s and early '60s, one finds Anne serving as secretary of her local school PTA (in an integrated Louisville neighborhood) at about the same time she is writing political tracts against the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) and working for the release of her husband,

imprisoned a second time for refusal to testify before the Committee. Also included among the family papers is the correspondence between Anne and her son while he is away at college. In one 17-page letter, she responds in detail to his reading of Ayn Rand's Atlas Shrugged and comments about the interdependent relationship that has sustained and nourished her marriage to his father. In a 1968-69 file on women's liberation, there are letters exchanged with other women in SCEF analyzing women's issues in the South and the role of women within the organization. And there is her 1964 letter to a friend, grappling with the one occurrence in her life for which she can find no meaning--the death of her 11-year-old daughter Anita.

The Braden Collection is accessible to researchers through the Archives Reading Room on the fourth floor of the Society building. Use of it requires Anne Braden's permission, which is routinely given researchers who request it. Her Louisville address can be obtained from the Society's Archives Division.

-- Sarah Cooper

[Sarah Cooper is an archivist and coordinator of the Social Action Collection at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.]

#### NOTES

1. James P. Danky, et al. Women's History Resources at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. 4th ed. Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1982.
2. Sara Evans. Personal Politics: The Roots of Women's Liberation in the Civil Rights Movement and the New Left. New York: Vintage Books, 1980.
3. Evans, p.48.
4. Anne Braden. The Wall Between. New York: Monthly Review Press, 1958.

#### WRITINGS BY WOMEN IN THE AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY COLLECTION, UW-MILWAUKEE

In July 1978, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee took possession of the American Geographical Society Collection which contains one of the nation's largest collections of travel narratives written by women. These narratives are important and underutilized resources for the study of women's history and women's literature. The purpose of this short notice is to describe the characteristics of the collection and outline its potential value.

It was never the conscious intention of the American Geographical Society (AGS) to create a cohesive collection of travel narratives written by women. Rather, these narratives were acquired during the course of over 130 years of collecting books on such topics as geography, exploration, discovery, and travel. Works by women are found scattered throughout the approximately 90,000 monographs in the AGS Collection. It is impossible to give their exact number; a quick perusal of the collection, however, indicates that there are at least several hundred such items.

Of the various types of books in the collection written by women, travel narratives (including published letters and diaries) are by far the most numerous. Representative of these are such works as Elizabeth Justice's Voyage to Russia (1746), Mrs. Henry Stisted's Letters from the Bye-Ways of Italy (1845), Amelia Murray's Letters from the United States, Cuba and Canada (1856) and Kate Marsden's On Sledge and Horseback to Outcast Siberian Lepers (1895). Many books in this category are unusual and verge on being curiosities. Eliza Bradley's Authentic Narrative of the Shipwreck and Sufferings of Mrs. Eliza Bradley... (1832), Annie Martin's Home Life on an Ostrich Farm (1890), and Meg Gehrt's A Camera Actress in the Wilds of Togoland (1915) are some examples.

Most of the women's travel narratives in the AGS Collection were written in the 19th century, a time when the technology of travel improved dramatically and women of means and education were able to journey to the ends of the earth by railway, steamship, and even bicycle. In the 1890s, for example, the energetic American Fanny Bullock Workman rode a bicycle from one end of India to the other. Traveling as artists, missionaries, mountain climbers, or simple tourists, these women were interested in the people they met on the way and in the customs of the lands through which they passed. In publishing their observations, many of these women made valuable contributions to our knowledge of the world. Some of them provided unique points of view which no male travelers could equal. The free access which some enjoyed to the women's quarters in Eastern lands would be, perhaps, the most clear-cut example of this.

A small but significant number of guidebooks written by women can also be found in the AGS Collection. Examples are Mariana Starke's Travels in Europe for the Use of Travelers on the Continent... (1834), Margaret Carrington's Ocean to Ocean; Pacific Railroad and Adjoining Territories with Distances and Fares of Travel (1869), and Ruth Kedzie Wood's The Tourist's California (1914). Such guidebooks contain all sorts of valuable historical information and interesting social tidbits. Although travel guides as a genre have in recent times been the focus of occasional studies, it doesn't appear that anyone has yet undertaken research on guidebooks written by women. Technical works by women such as Janet Taylor's Epitome of Navigation and Nautical Astronomy... (1851) seem to have been generally ignored as well.

Professional studies written by women are also found in the AGS Collection. The Collection contains many books, research reports, and journal articles by women geographers like Ellen Churchill Semple, one of America's most productive and well-known scholars during the first quarter of this century. Others, such as Mary Somerville (geographer), Isobel Wylie Hutchinson (botanist), and Louise Boyd (Arctic explorer), are also well represented. The collection is especially rich in works by Louise Boyd because she was closely associated with the American Geographical Society. The collection has hundreds of her original photographs from Arctic expeditions, and more than 500 photographs which she took on a motorcar tour of Poland in 1934 and later published in The Polish Countryside (1937).

The books mentioned in this notice are just a sampling of those which may be of interest to researchers on women's history and women's literature. Adding considerably to the collection's value for women's studies researchers are the

numerous supportive background materials found along with the travel narratives. For example, a student doing research on Isabella Bird Bishop would have available not only most of her books, but also the atlases, maps, guidebooks, gazetteers, and other travel narratives which would have been available to her at the time of her travels. To be specific, the AGS Collection overall contains, in addition to the 90,000 books already mentioned, over 350,000 maps, 5,500 atlases, 45,000 photographs, 33,000 pamphlets, 90,000 volumes of periodicals, and 70 rare and special globes.

Opportunities abound for making use of this rich new Wisconsin resource. Some of these might include:

1. The compilation of a complete bibliography listing all travel narratives in the collection written by women. In the early 1970s a partial attempt at this was undertaken and this foundation still exists to build upon.
2. Individual and general studies of women travel writers, focusing on their works and making use of the supportive materials available in the AGS Collection.
3. Exhibits of books and related materials. These exhibits could focus on women's travel narratives in general, on a particular region, or on individuals or groups (18th century, Victorian, American, French, etc.) of women travel writers.
4. The development of audiovisual materials (especially slides of maps and engravings) designed to illustrate lectures and other types of presentations on various aspects of women's travel history.
5. The establishment of a program to reproduce in modern editions some of the rarest and most interesting travel accounts by women.

The AGS Collection of the UWM Golda Meir Library is open from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on Monday through Friday, and on Saturday from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. For more information call (414) 963-6282 and ask for Howard Deller, AGS Collection literature analyst.

-- Howard Deller

## NEWS FROM UW-EAU CLAIRE

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Women's Studies at UW-Eau Claire has experienced both advances and set-backs in recent times. The Women's Studies Coordinator position (a quarter-time appointment) is, unfortunately, vacant this year. On the positive side, however, the new Dean of Arts and Sciences has expressed a commitment to strengthening the program, possibly by changing the Women's Studies Advisory Committee from an ad hoc group to an official university committee and by actively seeking to hire faculty with interest in women's studies.

Last year four students planned topical minors in Women's Studies. Various academic departments have continued to offer such courses as "Women in Cross-Cultural Perspective" (Anthropology); "Images of Women in Contemporary Literature" (English); "Women and Religion: The Emancipation of Eve" (Philosophy/Religious Studies); and "The Psychology of Women" (Psychology).

Next spring a new course is scheduled in the Foreign Languages Department titled "German Women Writers of the Twentieth Century." Other courses have been approved and taught in the past but are presently inactive due to lack of staff to teach them.

One of the more encouraging recent events for Women's Studies on this campus was a five-day seminar, "Women's Studies in the 1980's Curriculum," held in June 1981. Funded by a faculty retraining and renewal grant, stipends were awarded to approximately 25 men and women from the UWEC faculty and academic staff. Dr. Cheri Register, feminist scholar and writer, formerly of the University of Minnesota, conducted the workshop. She focused on recent developments in feminist theory and research both within and across disciplines and suggested ways that women's issues and images could be incorporated into college courses. In addition, several Eau Claire faculty contributed their expertise as discussion leaders and resource persons, helping the participants generate their own ideas for effectively representing perspectives concerning women in the curriculum. One afternoon session was devoted to a presentation by Linda Parker, former Women's Studies Librarian-at-Large, on available library resources. Recommendations growing out of this seminar were later summarized in a report submitted to the School of Arts and Sciences.

Ongoing interest in women's studies is evidenced by occasional special programs. For example, members of the Eau Claire English faculty have offered a series of one-credit courses on individual women writers through UW-Extension. And UWEC Arts and Sciences Outreach recently sponsored seminars entitled "Beyond Feminism" and "Nonverbal Communication for the Working Woman."

-- Linda Cecchini  
McIntyre Library, University of  
Wisconsin-Eau Claire

## WOMEN'S STUDIES IN WISCONSIN: SECOND EDITION

The second edition of Women's Studies in Wisconsin: Who's Who & Where is now available. Compiled and published by the Office of the Women's Studies Librarian-at-Large for the University of Wisconsin System, the new edition includes nearly twice as many people as were included in the original 1980 edition. In all, 1,684 persons were directly contacted by the Office, resulting in a listing of 673 persons--among them, faculty, librarians, administrators, researchers, community activists and others with an active interest in the field of women's studies. For each person listed, the following information is given: home address and phone, occupation, field or discipline, work address and phone, community (volunteer) work related to feminism/women's studies, and current research or subjects of interest in women's studies. Indexes by geographic region, occupation, college and university, organizations, and areas of specialization and interest follow the alphabetical listing. Single copies of the directory are available free of charge from: Women's Studies Librarian-at-Large, 112A Memorial Library, 728 State St., Madison, WI 53706.

# PERIODICAL NOTES

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## NEW PERIODICALS

The Annotated Guide to Women's Periodicals in the U.S. February 1982-  
2/year. Single copy: \$5. Available from: Terry Mehlman, 5173 Turner Rd.,  
Richmond, IN 47374. (Issue examined: v.1, no.2, July 1982)

This is an invaluable source for keeping tabs on feminist periodicals. Editor Terry Mehlman lists 212 periodicals published in 37 states and the District of Columbia. Periodicals are grouped by topic (e.g., Asian Women; Environment; Lesbian; Older Women; etc.), and occasionally geographically within topic. There are no cross-references between topics. For each periodical, the following information is provided: name; address; frequency; subscription price(s); single copy price; and writer's guidelines. The character of each journal is briefly described in introductory discussions prefacing each section. "Newstand magazines" (e.g., Ms.) are excluded: "This Guide... is not meant as free advertising for those who can afford to pay." Information about periodicals is updated for each issue. Separate lists are provided for missing periodicals (those she can't track down) and those which have ceased publication. A list of journal advertising rates follows at the end, along with an alphabetical index and an index by state. See also the Index/Directory of Women's Media published annually by the Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press (3306 Ross Place, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008) and the "International Guide to Women's Periodicals and Resources 1981/2" published by Resources for Feminist Research (cited under Special Issues below).

The Celibate Woman: A Journal for Women Who Are Celibate or Considering This Liberating Way of Relating to Others. 1982- . Irregular. Subscriptions: \$8/2 issues. Single copy: \$4. Subscription address: 3306 Ross Place., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008. (Publisher's flyer)

This new journal will publish articles, book reviews, poetry, artwork, letters, experiences, theory, with the hope of "opening up...alternatives in a sex-oriented society." Edited by Martha Allen, who also edits Media Report to Women and the annual Index/Directory of Women's Media.

The Left Index. Spring 1982- . Quarterly. Subscriptions: \$50. Single copy: \$15. Subscription address: 511 Lincoln St., Santa Cruz, CA 95060. (Issue examined: No.1, Spring 1982)

The first issue lists 400 citations from 42 journals "advocating social and political change." Citations are listed alphabetically by author, with indexes by subject, authors of books under review, and journal. While only five feminist journals are indexed here (Connexions, Feminist Issues, Feminist Review, Hecate, Women and Revolution), many of the other journals do publish feminist writings (e.g., Latin American Perspectives, Mother Jones, NACLA Report on the Americas, Radical America, Socialist Review). This publication provides access to periodical literature that is rarely indexed elsewhere. The

price will, unfortunately, put it beyond the reach of most individuals.

Malintzin: Chicana Newsletter/Carta Informante Chicana. Fall 1981-  
Irregular. Free (donations accepted). Available from: M & A Editions,  
Route 5, Box 332, San Antonio, TX 78211. (Issues examined: nos. 1-2, Fall  
1981-Summer 1982)

Malintzin hopes to serve as a communication and support network for Chicanas and to "stimulate discussion with Chicanos on the nature of relations between men and women..." In the first two issues: reports on the Second Conference of Agricultural and Working Women; profiles of two women farmworker organizers; profile of a Chicana-owned radio station; poetry; announcements. The entire text of each issue is printed in both English and Spanish.

Tradeswomen: A Quarterly Magazine for Women in Blue-Collar Work. 1981-  
Subscriptions: \$10. Subscription address: P.O. Box 5775, Berkeley, CA  
94705. (Issue examined: v.2, no.1, Spring 1982; reviewed in Library Journal  
6/15/82, p.2000)

This new 30-50 page publication publishes articles, interviews, poetry, and letters about women working in non-traditional blue-collar jobs and issues related to their work lives (health and safety, apprenticeship, tools, racism on the job, bargaining, sexual harassment). Bill Katz, magazine editor for Library Journal, writes, "This fine contribution should be found in high school and public libraries. Highly recommended."

Women & History. Spring 1982- . Quarterly. Subscriptions: \$32 (indiv.); \$60 (inst.); \$75 (libraries). \$1.75 postage and handling (U.S.). Subscription address: The Haworth Press, Inc., 28 East 22nd St., New York, NY 10010. (Issue examined: no.1, Spring 1982)

Edited by Eleanor S. Riemer and Alice Miller of the Institute for Research in History, Women & History will publish monographs and long essays in the field of women's history. Sue Gronewold's "Beautiful Merchandise: Prostitution in China 1860-1936" appears in the first issue; subsequent issues will feature "The Empire of the Mother: American Writings on Women and the Family 1830-1860" by Mary Ryan and "Women, Family, and Community in Colonial America: Two Perspectives" by Alison Duncan Hirsch and Linda Speth. Issues of this journal will also be published in hardcover by Haworth Press; no.1 is available at a cost of \$20.

Women & Pensions. Quarterly. Subscriptions: \$6. Single copy: \$2. Subscription address: Women's Pension Project, Pension Rights Center, 1346 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. (Cited in Women in Libraries June 1982, p.7)

## SPECIAL ISSUES OF PERIODICALS

Discourse: Berkeley Journal for Theoretical Studies in Media and Culture v.4, 1982: special issue on feminist theory. Available from: P.O. Box 4667, Berkeley, CA 94704. Subscriptions (3 issues): \$14 (indiv.); \$24 (inst.). Single copy: \$5.50 (indiv.); \$8.50 (inst.) (Cited in Concerns: Newsletter of the Women's Caucus of the Modern Languages June 1982, p.15; phone conversation with editor)

Includes "Casual Imagination" by Bay Area artist Judith Barry; an interview with German filmmaker Ulrike Ottinger; a translated excerpt from Sarah Kofman's L'énigme de la femme; an essay by Susan Lurie entitled "Construction of the Castrated woman in Psychoanalysis and Cinema"; "Reading Mary Kelly's Post-partum Document" by Margaret Iversen; and "Towards a New Rationality? Notes on Feminism and Current Discursive Practices in Italy" by Renate Holub.

Educational Documentation and Information: Bulletin of the International Bureau of Education (UNESCO) no.222, 1982: "Education of Women in Developing Countries." Available from: Unipub, 345 Park Ave. South, New York, NY 10010. Subscriptions: 45 FF. Single copy: 14FF. (Issue examined)

The bulk of this issue consists of an annotated bibliography (by David H. Kelly and Gail P. Kelly) of studies pertaining to women and education in developing countries (Asia, Latin America, Africa and the Middle East) since 1975. Organized topically, the bibliography includes citations to books, chapters within books, journal articles, Unesco reports, government and private agency reports, and doctoral dissertations in many different languages. The issue contains as a supplement an annotated list of documents pertaining to three meetings on women's education organized in 1980 by Unesco. Authors and editors index.

Educational Horizons v.60, no.1, Fall 1981: "Views of Women in Education: Past, Present and Future." Available from: Pi Lambda Theta, 4101 E. Third St., Bloomington, IN 47401. Subscriptions: \$10 (indiv.); \$14 (inst.). Single copy: \$2.50. (Issue examined)

Among the articles: "From Plato to Jung: Centuries of Educational Inequities" (L. Glenn Smith); "Minority Women and American Schooling" (Ruth B. Lamonte); "'To Be Educated Themselves': Current Feminist Efforts in School Reform" (Mary K. DeShazer); "The New Conservatism: Its Effect on Women in Education" (Elizabeth L. Ihle).

Jump Cut: A Review of Contemporary Cinema no.27, 1982: Special Section: "Film and Feminism in Germany Today." Available from: P.O. Box 865, Berkeley, CA 94701. Subscriptions: \$6 (indiv.); \$9 (inst.). Single copy: \$2. (Issue examined)

Marc Silberman interviewed seven German women filmmakers in June 1979. This special section offers interviews with Helga Reidemeister, Jutta Brückner, and Christina Perincioli; translations of articles by Reidemeister ("On Documentary Filmmaking"), Helke Sander ("Feminism and Film") and Gertrud Koch ("Why Women Go to the Movies"); and an article on "The German Women's Movement and Ours" by Renny Harrigan. Further interviews will appear in the next issue of Jump Cut.

Resources for Feminist Research/Documentation sur la Recherche Feministe v.X, no.4, December 1981/January 1982: "International Guide to Women's Periodicals and Resources, 1981/2." Available from: Dept. of Sociology, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, 252 Bloor St. West, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 1V6. Subscriptions (U.S.): \$20 (indiv.); \$35 (inst.).

Compilers Carol Zavitz and Hans Kleipool advise readers in their introduction that this amazing 62-page guide "lists all the women's periodicals, journals and newsletters of which we are aware, internationally." International means, specifically, Canada, Africa, Asia and the Middle East, the British Isles, Eastern Europe and the USSR, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Pacific Islands, Scandinavia, the U.S., and Western Europe. Addresses, subscription information (if available) and a brief description are given for each journal. Listings of archives, research and cultural centers, women's presses and bookstores, libraries, women's houses and other facilities relevant to women's studies research are also included. (See FC Fall 1981. p.21, for a description of the 1980 edition of the Guide.)

Shmate: A Journal of Progressive Jewish Thought no.2, June/July 1982: "Women, Gay Men, Lesbians." Available from: Box 4228, Berkeley, CA 94704. Subscriptions: \$15. Single copy: \$2.50. (Publisher's ad)

Includes a review of Nice Jewish Girls (edited by Evelyn Beck) and an article on anti-semitism in the women's movement.

The Small Press Review v.14, no.6/7, June/July 1982: "2nd Annual Library Issue." Available from: Dustbooks, P.O. Box 100, Paradise, CA 95969. Subscriptions: \$14 (indiv.); \$20 (inst.). (Issue examined)

Feature articles by "publishers who are also librarians, librarians who are also publishers." SPR asked the contributors to tell them "how their knowledge of libraries and librarians affected or influenced their publishing, or vice versa." Will interest feminist publishers and librarians committed to getting feminist small press publications into libraries.

## ITEMS OF NOTE

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BLACK WOMEN: ACHIEVEMENT AGAINST THE ODDS. Black women is a popular exhibition which has been circulated since 1976 by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Services (SITES). This exhibition will soon be available for purchase in a new "paper panel" format. For more information, write Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service, Washington, D.C. 20560. (Information from Siteline no.14, Summer 1982)

WOMEN AND THEIR WORK: A WORKING PAPER SERIES. The Center for the Study, Education and Advancement of Women has published a number of papers and monographs resulting from a research program on "Women and Their Work: Intersections of the Marketplace and the Household." Representative titles include: "The Popular Image of Women in Clerical Occupations, 1880-1920" (Mary E. Adams); "Feminization, Mexican Border Industrialization and Migration" (Maria-Patricia

Fernandez-Kelly); Women's Work and Family in the Silicon Valley (Barbara Epstein). For a complete publication and price list, write the Center at: Building T-9, Room 112, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720. (Publisher's flyer)

PROJECT SHARE, the quarterly magazine TABS: Aids for Ending Sexism in School, and the TABS Classroom Poster Series are programs of the Organization for Equal Education of the Sexes, Inc., a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation formed to locate, develop, publish and disseminate information and materials in support of equal education of the sexes. Contact TABS and Project Share at: 744 Carroll St., Brooklyn, NY 11215; phone: (212) 788-3478. (Brochure)

DIRECTORY OF MILWAUKEE AREA WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS, compiled by Peggy Kendellen and Jan Leone. The fifth edition of this directory is now available, listing organizations active in the arts, community services, counseling, education, employment counseling, family services, healthcare, politics, the professions, religion, sexual assault, as well as groups serving lesbians and minority women. Available from: Women's Studies Program, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Mitchell Hall 115, Milwaukee, WI 53201; phone (414) 963-5918. (Book in hand)

ALTERNATIVE PRESS PUBLISHERS OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS: A DIRECTORY. This 71-page guide was compiled from collections gathered by the Alternative Press Project of the Cooperative Children's Book Center of Wisconsin. Each entry provides the following information about the publisher: name; address; phone number; description of the publisher's children's books; publisher's special emphasis or other publications; ISBN prefix; name of key contact person; founding year; information about catalogs, billing and prepayment, discounts; names of distributors. Also included: addresses of distributors; a geographical index; and an index to bilingual books. Descriptions of presses point out nonsexist and/or minority emphases. Information on availability and price from: Directory, Cooperative Children's Book Center, 4290 Helen C. White Hall, Madison, WI 53706.

THE FEAR THAT BINDS US is a new film documenting the stories of five women who have experienced violence, and the perspectives of activists, social service workers, and of men who have been guilty of violence against women. Produced by Iris Video, the 52-minute black and white documentary is available in 16mm film or videotape, and is distributed by New Front Films Inc., 1409 Willow St., Suite 505, Minneapolis, MN 55403; phone: (612) 872-0805. (Distributor's brochure)

THAT WAS ALL DONE BY WOMEN. Slovenian women of Traunik, Michigan, tell their histories in two half-hour tape documentaries produced by Barbara McCann, herself the granddaughter of Slovenian immigrants to Traunik. In "Work and Community Lives," the women describe their labor as pioneer women and their active Slovenian community. In "Home Life and Ethnic Identity," they speak about marriage, childbirth with midwives, childrearing and Slovenian culture. For more information write: Barbara McCann, c/o WRF, P.O. Box 5332, Atlanta, GA 30307. (Brochure)

RESOURCES FOR WORKING WOMEN 1981-1982 is a catalog of programs and materials developed with funds from the Women's Educational Equity Act (WEEA). Among the programs listed: "Beating the Numbers: A Woman's Math Careers Program

Handbook"; "Career Planning for Minority Women"; "Resource Guide of American Indian and Alaska Native Women-1980." These materials are available from: WEEA Publishing Center, Education Development Center, Inc., 55 Chapel St., Newton, MA 02160; phone: (617) 969-7100/(800) 225-3088. (Catalog in hand)

THE CULTURE OF SOUTHERN BLACK WOMEN is the focus of curricular materials under development by the Women Studies Program and the Archive of American Minority Cultures of The University of Alabama, under a grant from the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE). A Teachers' Guide to the course developed for the project should be available by early 1983. The Guide will reflect the experiences of ten teachers at postsecondary institutions who developed syllabi and pilot-tested curricular materials listed in the guide. For further information, write the project at: P.O. Box 1391, The University of Alabama, University, AL 35486; phone: (205) 348-5782. (Information provided by the project)

NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY WEEK RESOURCE CATALOG. This catalog describes materials produced and/or distributed by the National Women's History Week Project. The materials include lesson plan sets, bibliographies, post card sets from Helaine Victoria Press, commemorative buttons, and relevant books (e.g., Notable American Women; Teaching Women's History by Gerda Lerner). The focus seems to be primarily teachers of grades 1-12. Catalog available from the project at: P.O. Box 3716, Santa Rosa, CA 95402; phone: (707) 526-5974. (Catalog in hand)

## NEW REFERENCE WORKS IN WOMEN'S STUDIES

This new column highlights reference works--bibliographies, handbooks, directories, and the like--that can aid librarians, women's studies researchers and feminist activists. Because such sources quickly become out-dated and should therefore be reviewed promptly, readers are asked to call new reference materials to the attention of the editors

-- S.S.

The Women's Annual - 1980: The Year in Review. Edited by Barbara Haber. Boston: G.K. Hall, 1981. 322p. \$50.00, ISBN 0-8161-8530-1.

The Women's Annual - 1980 is the first of a yearly series. Barbara Haber, Curator of Printed Books at Radcliffe's Schelsinger Library and editor of the series, states in her introduction: "The idea for The Women's Annual has come from the conviction that a yearly sourcebook of timely information about women could bring together in one place detailed accounts of the changing status of American women and current intellectual developments within women's studies areas." This dual goal -- to review the year's scholarship on women and to report on feminist activity in the public sphere -- is admirably realized. The debut of the series is auspicious, because it heralds the growing stature of women's studies as an interdisciplinary field of inquiry that now warrents its own annual review.

The volume offers eleven topical chapters, each written by an expert. In keeping with the character of the work, the contributors are by no means all academics, nor do the chapters adhere to uniform guidelines for content and style. Some focus narrowly on the publications and events of 1980, while others provide substantial background on the topics they address. Each chapter ends with a bibliography, and several have additional lists of organizations, periodicals, or films.

Peggy Simpson's article on politics and the law concentrates on women's response to Reagan and the New Right. After analyzing the political climate at the start of the 'eighties, she assesses the power of the ERA as a campaign issue in the presidential elections and reports on women as candidates for major offices in 1980. She then reviews federal legislation, federal agency actions, and legal patterns and precedents in such areas as domestic violence, abortion, pay equity, employment discrimination, and sexual harassment. The article concludes with lists of Congresswomen, women mayors of large cities, and women judges.

An eloquent essay on women, scholarship, and the humanities, is written by Catharine R. Stimpson. She takes her cue from Virginia Woolf, who, in A Room Of One's Own, "prophesied three contemporary humanistic inquiries -- into women's deprivation, into the histories they have forged in spite of that, and into the meaning of sexual difference." Limiting herself to publications of 1980, Stimpson explores these three themes in literary criticism and history, and, to a lesser extent, in art history, philosophy, biography, and anthropology. Unlike the other chapters, her essay must be read in its entirety, since it lacks internal headings and offers one hundred footnotes, many of them expository, with further embedded references.

The chapters just described are representative of the diversity of content and style that characterizes the entire work. The other contributions are equally informative and stimulating. Naomi R. Gerstel writes on modern domestic life. Joan N. Burstyn and Polly Welts Kaufman tackle the large topic of women and education. Two members of the Boston Women's Health Collective, Judy Norsigian and Norma Swenson, catalog the health issues of 1980. Patricia Hill Collins writes on Third World women in America. Laura Shapiro analyzes trends in popular culture. Joanna Bunker Rohrbaugh reviews post-Freudian theories of the psychology of women. Two authors share the topic of women and religion: Constance H. Buchanan focuses on feminist scholarship in theology, while Sandra Hughes Boyd addresses the status of women in organized religion. Carolyn F. Wilson and Barbara Haber cover violence against women. And finally, Sara Garrigan Burr takes on the ambitious subject of women and work.

Taken as a whole, this volume presents a rich condensation of data chronicling women's progress and setbacks on many fronts. Its nearest cousins are the review essays that appear in Signs under the rubric "The New Scholarship," but these are more exclusively focused on academic research and writing. By contrast, The Women's Annual also provides much hard factual information, including telling statistics and succinct summaries of recent activities. It is a resource tool that belongs in all libraries and, if the publisher can be persuaded to bring it out in an affordable paperback edition (the hardcover

is \$50.00), on the shelves of most women's studies teachers.

Elizabeth Tingley and Donald R. Tingley. Women and Feminism in American History: A Guide to Information Sources. Detroit: Gale, 1981. 289pp. \$36.00, ISBN 0-8103-1492-4. LC 80-19793.

This selective bibliography on the history of women in America lists primarily books, with a sprinkling of journal articles. Every entry is briefly annotated, although the style is dull and not always informative. Evaluative comments are only occasionally given.

References are grouped in thirty-three chapters. The first four focus on types of materials: bibliographies; manuscript collections; biographical directories; and periodicals of the women's movement. The latter two categories cover a number of older sources, including some 19th-century titles. Chapter 5 is a catch-all for general works; chapters 6 through 11 are chronologically arranged, from colonial times to the present. Chapters 12 and 13 treat contemporary feminist thought and analysis and contemporary socialist feminism, respectively. Chapters 14 to 21 concern women's activities in various arenas: law and politics; science and medicine; the arts; the performing arts; sports; education; business and the professions; and the labor force. A surprising number of the books cited in these sections are recent, non-historical studies of current issues and events. The remaining chapters are topical and cover the following: ethnic and minority women; women and crime; violence against women; prostitution; the psychology of women; sexuality and sexual orientation; abortion, birth control, and related health issues; married and unmarried women; motherhood; child-care programs and politics; men and feminism; and antifeminist writing since 1940.

This volume has some substantial weaknesses. For example, specialized bibliographies appear in the first chapter and are neither listed nor cross-referenced in the appropriate topical chapters. (A subject index does compensate in part for this.) There are also some notable omissions. For instance, Andrea Hinding's monumental Women's History Sources (Bowker, 1979) is nowhere mentioned, despite the fact that the present bibliography was copyrighted two years after that ground-breaking resource appeared. And finally, occasional misspellings mar the text.

While students and researchers would be ill-advised to rely solely on Women and Feminism in American History, it is a decent starting point for research on a wide variety of subjects, both historical and contemporary.

Nordquist, Joan. Audiovisuals for Women. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 1980. 145pp. \$11.95, ISBN 0-89950-011-0; pap., \$9.95, ISBN 0-89950-012-9. LC 80-14691.

This source lists 876 16mm films, videotapes, filmstrips, slides, and recordings of music and the spoken word, which are by, for, or about women. All the materials covered are in English and were produced in the U.S. or Canada. The compiler excludes materials designed primarily for use in elementary school classrooms. The arrangement is by physical medium, with a subject index.

Annotations are quite brief, consisting mostly of citations to reviews with occasional excerpts from critical comments. Every entry includes title, producer and/or distributor, release date, and a technical description. This guide achieves its goal of supplementing the standard filmographies, such as Kaye Sullivan's Films For, By, and About Women (Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press, 1980).

## BOOK REVIEWS

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### NEW FEMINIST APPROACHES TO SEXUALITY

"A conversation with Deirdre English, Amber Hollibaugh, and Gayle Rubin," Socialist Review v.11, no.4 (July/August 1981), pp.43-62.

Barbara Ehrenreich, Elizabeth Hess, and Gloria Jacobs. "A Report on the Sex Crisis," Ms. v.X, no.9 (March 1982), pp.61-62, 64, 87-88.

Michel Foucault. The History of Sexuality. New York: Vintage Books, 1980.

Heresies: A Feminist Publication on Art and Politics no.12 (1981): "Sex Issue."

off our backs v.xii, no.6 (June 1982): [Report on Controversy at Sexuality Conference].

Lisa Orlando. "Lust at Last! Or Spandex Invades the Academy," Gay Community News v.9, no.42 (May 15, 1982), pp.8-9.

Radical America v.15, no.1/2 (Spring 1981): Special Issue on the New Right.

Radical History Review no.20 (Spring/Summer 1979); Special Issue on Sexuality in History.

Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society v.5, no.4 (Summer 1980) and v.6, no.1 (Autumn 1980): "Sex and Sexuality." Also published as Women: Sex and Sexuality, edited by Catharine Stimpson and Ethel Spector Person (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1980).

Since the beginning of the "second wave" of the women's movement, much of feminist theory and research has focused on the personal experience and social construction of sexuality. In the late 1960s, feminists such as Shulamith Firestone and Juliet Mitchell criticized non-feminist writings on female sexuality for their patriarchal assumptions. Some of the most recent feminist writing on sexuality has challenged this earlier feminist work for its assumptions concerning the fluidity of sexual identity and behavior; sexual roles within heterosexual and lesbian culture; and the relationship between pornography and male violence.

A fair assessment of this recent "revisionist" work on sexuality requires placing the literature in historical context. In a recent Ms. article,

Barbara Ehrenreich, Elizabeth Hess, and Gloria Jacobs trace the historically ambivalent relationship between feminism and sexual liberation, noting that, "Over the decades the relationship between the two has been on again, off again, with more time spent in hostile separation than conjugal peace." For example, while the turn-of-the-century "free love" movement encouraged women to explore their erotic potential, the 19th-century women's movement advocated the protection of women from male lust.

In the contemporary women's movement, a similar debate has emerged between feminists who equate "male-defined" sexuality with domination and violence and feminists who approach all forms of sexuality as contradictory phenomena. Feminist theorists of pronography such as Susan Griffin, Andrea Dworkin, and Kathleen Barry represent the clearest examples of the first position. To varying degrees and with different emphases, these theorists argue that there is a direct relationship between male (identified) sexual fantasy and male domination, between male (identified) sexuality and male violence. (See FC Winter 1982 for a review of recent feminist writings on pornography.) Underlying much of this work is the assertion of a correct female principle and sexuality in opposition to an inherently destructive male principle and sexuality.

In the late 1970s, two developments precipitated a reassessment of the focus on male violence and pornography as the key to a feminist politics and theory of sexuality. First, the publication of Michel Foucault's influential The History of Sexuality laid the basis for rethinking a feminist approach to sexual ideology, identity and behavior. And second, the New Right assault on gays and lesbians forced the women's movement to take a stand on the rights of sexual minorities and fringe groups in general.

What unifies recent writings on these questions is a conceptualization of sexuality as a historically determined and contradictory process. In The History of Sexuality, Michel Foucault approaches sexuality as a historical, rather than "natural," set of concepts and behaviors. Tracing the historical transformation in social definitions of normal and deviant sexuality, Foucault argues that the motor of change resides in those who control sexuality. For example, in our society, medical professionals and social scientists possess the knowledge and technology to impose definitions of normal and deviant sexual behavior. The greatest weakness of Foucault's work is his neglect of the role of human agency in shaping sexuality and resisting restrictive norms.

Robert Padgug, in the lead article of a special Radical History Review issue on "Sexuality in History," extends Foucault's approach to include a focus on human agency, which he sees as the distinguishing feature of human sexuality. It is in this context that the transformative impact of the women's and gay movements on our sexual reality can best be appreciated. A sampling of other articles in this excellent Radical History Review issue includes essays by Blanche Cook, Burt Hansen and Jeffrey Weeks on the historical construction of homosexuality; a commentary by Martin Duberman on an important set of early 20th-century documents on Hopi Indian culture and sexuality; and an exploration by Ann Snitrow of the contradictory meanings embedded in mass market romances.

Investigation of female sexuality is the theme of two special issues of Signs. Covering a wide range of theoretical and methodological approaches, these Signs special issues include an important critique by Adrienne Rich of contemporary feminist theory for assuming what must be explained--compulsory heterosexuality; an assessment by Rosaline Petchesky of tensions between the ideas of equality and autonomy within feminist approaches to reproductive freedom; and a proposal by Ethel Spector Person for a new approach to female sexuality based on the relationship between sexual behavior and gender identity. Also included are articles on erotic desire, cross-cultural variations in female sexuality, and the symbolic representation of sexuality, as well as review essays on female sexuality and the history of childbirth.

With the publication of the special "Sex Issue" of Heresies, topics long considered taboo within feminist scholarship have been brought out into the open. Joan Nestle challenges the puritanical assumptions of the lesbian and feminist communities by arguing that the butch-fem women of the 1950s "made lesbians visible in a terrifying clear way in a historical period where there was no movement support for them." Critiquing the anti-pornography movement, Paula Webster proposes that the feminist distinction between pornography and erotica is a restatement of Victorian ideology which posited innate differences between male and female libido and fantasy. In exploring the impact of racism on "woman-identified" relationships between Afro-American women, Vicki M. Mays points to the importance of race in the construction of sexual identity. Other articles address the origins of women's sexual fears in the mother-daughter relationship; the effects of incest on women's sexuality; and the relationship between feminism and sadomasochism.

The debate initiated by the Heresies "Sex Issue" continued this spring at a conference held at Barnard College entitled "The Scholar and the Feminist IX: Towards a Politics of Sexuality." A report on the conference was the focus of the June 1982 issue of off our backs, as well as Lisa Orlando's article in Gay Community News, "Lust at Last!" The conference was introduced by Carol Vance, who called for a feminist theoretical focus on sexual pleasure in addition to sexual danger. Conference papers included Linda Gordon and Ellen Dubois' historical analysis of the tensions between feminism and sexual liberation; Alice Echol's critique of cultural feminism for locating the oppression of women in the "repression of the female principle"; and Hortense Spiller's analysis of the exclusion of Black women from the discourse on sexuality. The papers were followed by 19 workshops on topics such as sexual roles within the gay and straight communities; politically correct and incorrect sexualities; and feminism and sexual liberation.

Since much of the "Politics of Sexuality" conference represented a critique of radical feminist politics and theory, it has generated a heated debate. While this debate--like other controversies within the women's movement--forces painful recognition of the conflicts and differences among us, it also represents a welcome advance in feminist thinking and politics, posing new questions and challenging old assumptions.

-- Cindy Costello

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