feminist collections

women's studies library resources in wisconsin
vol. 3, no. 1 fall 1981

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FROM THE EDITORS 3
Women at the ALA annual conference begin planning a national online database service in women's studies.

FEMINIST BOOKSTORES IN WISCONSIN 4
Sistermoon Feminist Bookstore & Art Gallery, Milwaukee, by Karen Voltz.

FEMINIST PUBLISHING 6
The evolution of Rhiannon Press, Eau Claire, by its editor, Peg Lauber.

NEW DATABASE SERVICE 8
The Office of the Women's Studies Librarian-at-Large announces a new Women's Studies Database Service, available to the U.W. System.

GUEST EDITORIAL 12
Angelika Bammer on the National Women's Studies Association, its importance and the current threat to its survival.

THE DINNER PARTY COMES TO CHICAGO 13
Forthcoming showing of Judy Chicago's monumental work in Chicago, by Catharina Schimert.

NEWS FROM UW-MILWAUKEE 14

ITEMS OF NOTE 16
Rare books for women's studies; the National Clearinghouse on Marital Rape.

continued on next page

EDITORS: Linda Parker, Women's Studies Librarian-at-Large and Catherine Loeb, Women's Studies Specialist. Graphic Artist: Catharina Schimert.
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM 112A Memorial Library 728 State St. Madison, WI

TABLE OF CONTENTS

continued from page one

PERIODICAL NOTES 16
Four new periodicals, with emphases on Asian women, pay equity, international feminism, and women's literature; special issues on women and drama, women's music, lesbians and film, ethnic women writers, Latin American women, women and disabilities, and women's periodicals worldwide; and the cessation of Journal of Women's Studies in Literature.

BOOK REVIEWS 22
Selected Texts in Lesbian Studies, reviewed by Evelyn Torton Beck.
The Class vs. Gender Debate in the Latin American Literature, reviewed by Florencia E. Mallon.

Feminist Collections is a publication of the Office of the Women's Studies Librarian-at-Large for the University of Wisconsin System, 112A Memorial Library, 728 State Street, Madison, WI 53706. Phone (608) 263-5754. Editors: Linda Parker, Women's Studies Librarian-at-Large; Catherine Loeb, Women's Studies Specialist. Feminist Collections is published quarterly--Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer--and is available to individuals and institutions at no charge. Unsolicited articles or reviews are welcome.

FROM THE EDITORS

Access to and dissemination of knowledge about women are major problems in the interdisciplinary field of women's studies. Ten years ago, the lack of unbiased information and the invisibility of existing documentation were the obstacles faced by researchers, librarians, and students. In the 1980s the barrier will not be the lack of significant information, but inadequate access to the wealth of data and resources being published by contemporary feminists. Traditional methods of bibliographic control of women's studies materials--e.g., printed indexes such as Women Studies Abstracts and subject bibliographies such as Women and Ambition--are invaluable resources which serve as the first step in preserving the written heritage of the women's movement. Through the development of computerized retrieval of women's studies materials, the Women's Studies Librarian-at-Large, in concert with other information specialists, hopes to create a mechanism to provide library users with expanded access to feminist materials.

At the annual conference of the American Library Association this past June in San Francisco, the Women's Materials and Women Library Users Discussion Group (Reference and Adult Services Division) sponsored a program entitled "With Reference to Women." Panelists Deborah Brecher (Information Management Technology), Matilda Butler (Far West Laboratory), Katherine Dickson (Business and Professional Women's Foundation), Linda Parker, Cathy Rentschler (H. W. Wilson Co.), and moderator Jane Williamson (Women's Action Alliance) examined the issue of access to information on women through printed indexes and online databases. Panelists reviewed the current coverage of women's materials in both general and specialized bibliographic sources, identified areas where the need for improved access is most urgent, and described what they or their organizations are doing to increase awareness and use of published information on women.

In response to the panelists' presentations, women at the meeting formed a national task force to develop a national computerized database of information on women. Members of the task force intend to use the technologies of the 1980s to promote access to women's studies materials. In preparation for the development of an online database, the task force will be seeking funding, as well as considering issues such as method of indexing, type of materials to be indexed, distribution, and cost to the users. During fall 1981, the task force will organize and prepare for a meeting at ALA's midwinter conference in Denver, Colorado. Ideas from database librarians, researchers, and individuals with technical expertise are welcomed. Please forward your suggestions, offers of assistance, etc., to Linda Parker, Women's Studies Librarian-at-Large.

In addition to participating in the planning of a national online database service, the Librarian-at-Large is now offering a Women's Studies Database Service to the University of Wisconsin System. Available to faculty, students, librarians, administrators, and staff, the Women's Studies Database Service provides computerized retrieval of bibliographic information on women from commercially available databases such as Psychological Abstracts and the MLA Bibliography. Carolyn Platt, Assistant for Database Services, inaugurates

a database column in this issue of Feminist Collections. A brochure describing the service is enclosed. If you wish additional information about using the Women's Studies Database Service, please call Carolyn Platt or Linda Parker, (608) 263-5754.

-- L.P.

FEMINIST BOOKSTORES IN WISCONSIN

This is the third in our series of articles on feminist bookstores in Wisconsin. The first article, on A Room of One's Own in Madison, appeared in Feminist Collections v.2, no.3 (Spring 1981). Mother Courage Bookstore and Art Gallery was featured in Feminist Collections v.2, no.4 (Summer 1981). Our fourth and final article, on Kaleidoscope Books in Oshkosh, will be published in the Winter 1981 issue of FC.

SISTERMOON FEMINIST BOOKSTORE & ART GALLERY, MILWAUKEE.

Sistermoon Feminist Bookstore & Art Gallery was founded in December of 1976. My background was not a business degree or always wanting to run a bookstore or have a business. I grew up on the South Side of Milwaukee in a factory district with one parent and several siblings. I barely finished high school and became a waitress at 17. At 20 I married, had a child, and became a full-time housewife. About year seven of my marriage, I began to tire of the drinking, constant television and life revolving around an angry factory worker mate, and I stepped out of the house.

Women's clubs and consumer action groups were my first timid steps out of suburbia. In 1972 I sat one day listening to Merv Griffin's show and Gloria Steinem appeared spouting NOW's words and feminism, and the "click" occurred. I now had a word for all those pent-up feelings and rages about the injustices I had suffered since a little girl. I went to nursing school to support myself and to enable me to leave my husband. In 1972, I became involved with the Milwaukee chapter of NOW, and went on to be one of the founders of the Women's Coalition, the Women's Crisis Line, Grapevine: A Lesbian Feminist Action Core, The National Lesbian Feminist Organization on a state and local level, and, from 1974-1979, Dyke Productions, which brought fine women's music to Milwaukee. When I decided to open Sistermoon in 1976, it was an extension of my varied work in the women's movement. There was a need for the bookstore and I had resources and energy and a little money--$1500 from my divorce. Never did I dream I would make a living or that it could even prosper and become what it has. The role model was of course A Room of One's Own in Madison. I said, "Well, what can I lose? Not my life. Not my feminism."

Common sense and hard work are what it took, along with a lot of physical and mental support from the Milwaukee women's/feminist community. The community helped by painting, building bookcases, and volunteer staffing so I could continue to do my nursing job to support myself and my daughter, as well as by spending money on the first meager offerings of feminist literature and art.

Sistermoon grew quickly, not only in book and art offerings, but in reputation. One side of the two storefronts at 1625 E. Irving housed the bookstore; a large doorway led to the art gallery for visual and performing arts. In 1979 the store moved to its present location at Maryland and Locust and the performing part of the gallery was discontinued.

You may come to Sistermoon to browse, to get energized, to get into a political argument, buy a gift or a ticket to a feminist event. You can grab a cup of coffee or herbal tea, set your child at the children's table, and sit down in an easy chair to decide on your stack of goodies. And, unless the stereo is broken, you'll enjoy listening to women's/feminist music for women, men and children from the 100 albums stored in our three record racks. The bookcases are organized into 25 alphabetically arranged areas, including parenting, sexuality and erotica, psychology, careers, herstory, feminist theory, community organizing, lesbianism, art, men, science fiction, spirituality, poetry, fiction, and children. We do mail orders and will special order any book.

A variety of artwork is displayed alongside our books: clay sculptures, wood cutting boards, wood boxes, pewter, sterling, gold and turquoise jewelry, ceramic rainbow pins, hand bound and painted journals, rainbow weavings, watercolor paintings, leather briefcases, cornhusk dolls, wallets and checkbook covers, prints of Georgia O'Keefe's work, pottery and porcelain. We try to carry the same artists over the years, in addition to adding new ones, to provide continuity for those of you who like to support the same artist again and again. This means a woman's work does not disappear from us after a month or two; it stays as long as we provide space and a market to help her make a living.

Sistermoon Feminist Bookstore & Art Gallery is a vital element of Milwaukee's feminist community. She is very important not only to a lot of people here but to women traveling the country looking for a culture and network that speaks to where they are. It is important that there are women-owned and operated businesses that are competently run. It's important that women artists and craftswomen have a place that values their work and gives them money for their skills no matter what their degrees and background. It is important that we can all find books, posters, art, records, pins, etc., to reflect <u>our</u> growth and changes into non-traditional or traditional feminist modes of living, whether we are straight, gay, lesbian, man, woman, or child. This support and nurturing are important to our physical and mental well-being. It's important too that we have a place that is blatantly feminist (note the word on the sign outside).

The store is open 364 days a year. You can find out what's happening in town, get referred to a counselor, self-defense lessons or even a feminist attorney or massage woman. The woman behind the checkout counter may be a volunteer or get paid. She may have just moved to Milwaukee and be new to feminism. She may be a single mother supplementing her welfare. She may be involved with several other groups and work full-time in addition to giving 20 hours a month to the store. She may not have heard of May Sarton or Mary Daly. The women staffing Sistermoon are as diverse as the books on her shelves. Volunteers

and paid part-time women work anywhere from three to fifteen hours a week staffing the desk and doing inventory. Volunteers get a discount on merchandise they buy and make a minimum six-month commitment.

I try to put in fewer hours these days, and, as of two years ago, I no longer have to do nursing in addition to staffing and running the store. My responsibilities include ordering the constant new art and books and keeping the oldies and goodies in stock. I also handle scheduling of 12 women, bill paying, bookkeeping, conference selling, filing, advertising and the hundreds of decisions required every week to keep the store running smoothly.

This article should give you a glimpse of what Sistermoon is about. She is alive and she survives (despite the constant money pinch) and will go on for many years to come--with your support and the energy of the women who staff and create her. Her hours are:

Monday - Friday:	10:00 - 8:00
Saturdays:	10:00 - 5:00
Sundays and Holidays:	12:00 - 5:00
(Closed December 25)	

[Sistermoon Feminist Bookstore & Art Gallery is located at 2128 E. Locust, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211; phone (414) 962-3323.]

-- Karen Voltz (alias Brelle)
Proprietor

FEMINIST PUBLISHING

RHIANNON PRESS, EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN: ITS ORIGINS AND AIMS, PROBLEMS AND PLEASURES

I founded Rhiannon Press during the course of 1976-77 based on the firm conviction that women writers have very little real existence for male writers, editors, and publishers. I believed that there was a need for a women's network of writers, editors and publishers, and I wanted to be part of it, isolated as I was geographically and by family attitudes and responsibilities. In addition, while there were at the time several feminist journals and magazines in the Midwest, I perceived a need for a regional feminist press. So, with capital from our family funds, I started Rhiannon Press.

I brought no knowledge or skills to the press. Thus I truly learned by doing and by making mistakes. My trial run was on a chapbook of my own, Locked in the Wayne County Courthouse. I had my husband type it up and I took it to the printer. He ran it and I found machine marks on the pages. The whole cover had to be printed over, adding to costs. To cut down on expenses, I rubbed off letters for the cover, but it looked terrible. Finally the printer had to do it himself. I helped collate, but often got pages upside down or in the wrong place. I learned about paper and cover stock. I learned never to go to that printer again as I stared at all the partial chapbooks and many unusable covers in my closet.

I then turned to my major project resolving to do it right this time. I planned an anthology of Midwestern women poets. I wrote state arts boards for names and put ads in newsletters and magazines. I stipulated that the poets should not have published more than a chapbook or two because I wanted exposure for those who had not had it. I believed that I would help break the isolation many Midwestern women feel, and make the poets available to a larger, national audience. While it may seem that writers would prefer life on the coasts, many Midwestern women writers like the land we live in, and some of us have no option but to stay in the Midwest even if we do not. A Change in Weather: Midwest Women Poets gives the flavor of our backgrounds and lives. I had the anthology typeset by Duck Type in Minneapolis, a firm which gives discounts to alternative presses and does pretty good work if the editor is a careful enough proofreader. I sent the book to Braun-Brumfield, one of the several Ann Arbor lithographers, and at that time (1978), the price was still affordable. It looked very nice when completed.

Since the anthology, I have put out two more chapbooks, El Cañon by Margaret Kaminski, who is an editor of the Detroit literary journal, Moving Out, and Face at the Bottom of the World, by Betsy Adams, a poet-biologist or a biologist-poet. El Cañon went rather smoothly with a new printer and the same typesetter, but I again had a learning experience and many disasters with Face. I am getting my courage up to reprint Face after having a smooth second printing done of Locked. I had my husband type the book on a good IBM and mock it up. I used that as camera ready copy which I gave to some new printers in town whom I came to know because one partner was a student in one of my classes. It came out a clean, nice-looking job. Although I would prefer typesetting to typewriting, it is simply getting too expensive.

Distribution represents a major problem for the small press publisher. As the mother of two small children, a sometime college teacher, and the wife of someone who does not like life disrupted, I have not myself been able to attend book fairs across the country. I only rarely get to conferences where I might display my books. And I have had very few opportunities for public readings, although these would expose my press and writers to a larger audience. I have used two very helpful, reliable distributors in the Midwest: Plains (which has just folded after serving many Midwestern presses well and faithfully for many years) and Bookslinging in Minneapolis (previously Truck Distributing). My other method of distribution is simply direct mail order. I pack books to send to individuals, reviewers, and distributors. I've learned about Jiffy envelopes, sturdy boxes, and book rate. My press run for the chapbooks is usually 250 copies. I printed 750 copies of the anthology, and I am almost out of these.

I try to keep prices reasonable so everyone can afford the books. At the same time, I try to make enough to bring out the next book--an uphill battle. Getting the chapbooks used as texts can increase their revenue and circulation. However, bookstores return only 60% of sales to the publisher, retaining 40%. The one distributor I have left takes 55%. Postage rate increases further cut into book revenues. So it is difficult to get ahead. My husband has helped keep the press afloat by serving as its typist and "invoicer." He also proofreads and does mockups. I should give him credit as my associate or assistant editor, since he does so much for the press in those regards.

My plans for the future include a series of chapbooks--Wisconsin Women Poets--that should come out at the rate of one a year, finances permitting. I look to the future hoping to continue to expose Midwestern women poets to a larger audience and thus, also, to bring myself into contact with more poets.

-- Peg Lauber

(Peg Lauber is editor of Rhiannon Press. She also teaches creative writing and women's literature in the English Department at UW-Eau Claire. Rhiannon Press may be reached at: 1105 Bradley, Eau Claire, WI 54701.)

Rhiannon Press Publications

Lauber, Peg. Locked in the Wayne County Courthouse. 1977. 20p. pap., $2.50, ISBN 0-931520-01-0.
Lauber, Peg, ed. A Change in Weather: Midwest Women Poets. 1978. 171p. pap., $4.95, ISBN 0-931520-02-9.
Kaminski, Margaret. El Cañon. 1980. 30p. pap., $2.50, ISBN 0-931520-03-5.
Adams, Betsy. Face at the Bottom of the World. 1981. 35p. pap., $3.50, ISBN 0-931520-04-5.

NEW DATABASE SERVICE

If you were planning a course on women's health, how long would you need to do a good retrospective search of the literature? Since your course would contain material from several disciplines, it could take weeks or even months to gather the citations. Or say you were writing a paper on a narrow, complex topic such as the psychological effects on girls of gender stereotyping in children's literature. Instead of spending weeks searching the printed indexes, imagine having a comprehensive search done in minutes.

A comprehensive search can be done in minutes with the aid of computers through which the indexes are searched "on-line." This method, known as database searching, is particularly well-suited to women's studies research, which is interdisciplinary and often multiconceptual.

The Women's Studies Database Service is a searching service organized by the Office of the Women's Studies Librarian-at-Large. The Service is available to students, faculty and staff of the UW System. There is a charge for the Service which is usually in the range of $5-30, depending on the complexity and comprehensiveness of the search.

To request a database search in women's studies, first talk with our contact person on your campus:

Eau Claire	Library: Reference	Gene Engeldinger
Green Bay	Library: Data Base Services	Andrew Zinkl
La Crosse	Library: Documents	Sandra Sechrest
Madison	Library: Reference	Jeanine Thubauville
Milwaukee	Library: Database Services	Erna Schatzman
Oshkosh	Library: Database Services	Connie Holt
Parkside	Library: Reference	Craig Robertson
Platteville	Library: Reference	Judy Nixon
River Falls	Women's Studies Resource Center	Paulette Chaffin
Stevens Point	Library: Interlibrary Loan	Kathleen Halsey
Stout	Library: Reference	Rita Ryun
Superior	Library: Government Documents	Edward Greve
Whitewater	Library: Reference	Norman Martin

Campuses without complete database facilities will convey your request to our office.

When initiating a search request, please keep in mind: 1) a well-formulated topic; 2) a list of concepts and their synonyms to be searched; 3) any limits you might want, such as language, date of publication, inclusion of abstracts, and total cost of search. Our office must receive a signed search request form (see brochure enclosed in this mailing; additional request forms available from campus contact persons) before we will proceed with a search. You may call Carolyn Platt or Linda Parker at (608) 263-5754 if you have questions about the operation or subject coverage of the Service.

Future articles in this column will feature sample searches and new developments in the Service. We welcome your suggestions for search topics, and we invite you to use the Women's Studies Database Service.

* * * * * * *

Following is an annotated printout from a relatively uncomplicated search on the above-mentioned topic of "the psychological effects on girls of gender stereotyping in children's literature." The database searched is that of ERIC (the huge government-sponsored clearinghouse for educational materials). Note that in the first four search sets (numbered 1 through 4) the concepts are searched separately. The concepts are then combined to produce 11 citations ("documents"). Set 6 is actually the online printout of citations, in two parts: 1) the bibliographic information for the first three documents; 2) the complete information, including abstract, for the second document.

Notice the extensive use of the $ sign followed by a number, which allows for other forms of a word to be searched too. The number indicates how many additional letters can be used to form other search terms. For example, searching the term "GIRL$1" will cause both "girl" and "girls" to be searched. The search term "STEREOTYP$3" will cause "stereotype," "stereotypes" and "stereotyping" to be searched, but "stereotypical" will not be searched because it exceeds the limit of three letters beyond the $ sign.

```
315 20B CONNECTED

ENTER BRS PASSWORD
[redacted]
ACCESS VIA TELENET

ENTER YES IF BROADCAST MSG IS DESIRED_:
ENTER DATA BASE NAME_:     ERIC

*SIGN-ON    19.02.54                    09/09/81:

BRS/ERIC//66-AUG81 BOTH

BRS - SEARCH MODE  - ENTER QUERY
    1_:     EMOTIONAL OR DEVELOPMENT$2 OR PSYCHOLOG$4
    RESULT    160431

    2_:     GIRL$1 OR FEMALE$1
    RESULT     15921

    3_:     STERBBTYP$3 WITH (GENDER OR SEX)
    RESULT      2561

    4_:     CHILDRENS ADJ LITERATURE
    RESULT      2876

    5_:     1 AND 2 AND 3 AND 4
    RESULT        11

    6_:     ..PRINT 5 BIBL/DOC=1-3
     1
AN EJ217281.
AU ST. PETER, SHIRLEY.
TI JACK WENT UP THE HILL. . BUT WHERE WAS JILL.
SO PSYCHOLOGY OF WOMEN QUARTERLY: V4 N2 P256-60 WIN 1979. 79.
IS CIJJUL80.
YR 79.


     2
AN ED171384.
AU FRASHER, RAMONA; FRASHER, JAMES M.
TI GENDER ROLES IN CHILDREN'S STORIES: EFFECT ON PREFERENCE AND
   COMPREHENSION.
IS RIEOCT79.
YR 79.


     3
AN ED147852.
AU WITTER, JANET, ED.
TI BIAS IN THE TEXTBOOKS: A SYMPOSIUM.
SO OREGON ASCD CURRICULUM BULLETIN: V31 N337 ENTIRE ISSUE NOV 1977. NOV
   77.
IS RIEMAY78.
YR 77.

                END OF DOCUMENTS
```

We are now connected with the computer of the BRS database system.

We are using the ERIC database.

Synonyms for "psychological" are searched too, resulting in over 16,000 documents for Set 1.

For explanation of the $ sign please see preceding article.

WITH means that either GENDER or SEX must occur within the same sentence as STEREOTYP$3. ADJ means that the search terms must occur right next to each other.

Sets 1 through 4 are combined. Although the results for the individual sets are very large, their intersection is only 11 documents.

In Set 6 a command is given to print the bibliographic information for the first three documents from Set 5.

_: ..P 5 ALL/DOC=2

A command is given to print the complete information for the second document from Set 5.

2

AN ED171384.
AU FRASHER, RAMONA; FRASHER, JAMES M.
TI GENDER ROLES IN CHILDREN'S STORIES: EFFECT ON PREFERENCE AND COMPREHENSION.
LG EN..
GS U.S. GEORGIA.
IS RIEOCT79.
CH PS010579.
PR EDRS PRICE - MF01 PLUS POSTAGE. PC NOT AVAILABLE FROM EDRS.
PT 143; 150.
LV 2.
AT 25P. ; PAPER PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION (SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, APRIL 8-12, 1979).
YR 79.
MJ BOOKS. CHILDHOOD-INTERESTS. CHILDRENS-LITERATURE. COMPREHENSION. SEX-DIFFERENCES. SEX-ROLE. STORY-READING.
MN ELEMENTARY-EDUCATION. GRADE-5. GRADE-6. IDENTIFICATION-PSYCHOLOGY. PSYCHOLOGICAL-STUDIES. RESEARCH. SEX-STEREOTYPES. SOCIALIZATION. SPEECHES.
ID PREFERENCES.
AB THIS STUDY INVESTIGATED CHILDREN'S PREFERENCE AND COMPREHENSION RESPONSES TO STORIES IN WHICH BOTH MALE AND FEMALE MAIN CHARACTERS WERE REPRESENTED IN TRADITIONAL AND NONTRADITIONAL ROLES, AND STORIES IN WHICH ONLY THE OPPOSITE SEX MAIN CHARACTERS WERE PORTRAYED IN THOSE ROLES. A TOTAL OF 218 GIRLS AND 169 BOYS FROM GRADES FIVE AND SIX (ALL WITH AT LEAST FOURTH GRADE READING ABILITY) READ AND ANSWERED COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS ON EITHER TWO OR FOUR STORIES. THEY ALSO ANSWERED THREE QUESTIONS CONCERNING PREFERENCES FOR STORY, MAIN CHARACTER, AND IDENTIFICATION. FOR SUBJECTS WHO READ TWO STORIES, COMPREHENSION SCORES WERE NOT SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT FOR EITHER SEX OR STORY TYPE. HOWEVER, BOYS WHO READ ONLY STORIES WITH FEMALE CHARACTERS PREFERRED THE NONTRADITIONAL MAIN CHARACTER AND SELECTED HER FOR IDENTIFICATION. FOR SUBJECTS WHO READ FOUR STORIES, BOYS' COMPREHENSION SCORES WERE HIGHER FOR STORIES WITH MALE MAIN CHARACTERS THAN FEMALE MAIN CHARACTERS. GIRLS PREFERRED STORIES WITH FEMALE MAIN CHARACTERS AND PREFERRED THE NONTRADITIONAL MALE STORY OVER THE TRADITIONAL ONE; BOYS PREFERRED STORIES WITH MALE MAIN CHARACTERS AND THE TRADITIONAL MALE STORY OVER THE NONTRADITIONAL MALE STORY. THE RESULTS FOR CHARACTER PREFERENCE WERE SIMILAR TO THOSE FOR STORY PREFERENCE. SAME SEX PREFERENCES WERE ALSO FOUND FOR IDENTIFICATION CHOICES, AND GIRLS WHO SELECTED A MALE MAIN CHARACTER PREFERRED THE NONTRADITIONAL ONE. RESULTS AND IMPLICATIONS ARE DISCUSSED IN DETAIL. (AUTHOR/SS).

END OF DOCUMENT

_: ..OFF

This search took just over 5 min.

+CONNECT TIME 0:05:04 HH:MM:SS 0.084 DEC HRS SESSION 1620+

+SIGN-OFF 19.07.42 09/09/81:
315 20B DISCONNECTED 0:5:10 45 16

GUEST EDITORIAL

THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S STUDIES ASSOCIATION--WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

In her editorial for the summer issue of Feminist Collections, Linda Parker addressed the relationship between women's studies librarians and the National Women's Studies Association (NWSA) and stressed the importance of this organization for feminist educators and students. In this issue I will continue the discussion begun by Linda and expand upon the question she raised: how and why is NWSA important to us?

The 1981 NWSA conference on the theme "Women Respond to Racism" was attended by over 1,300 women from across the country and abroad. As off our backs reported in their July issue, it was "a difficult conference." We who participated learned that to seriously confront the reality of racism and antisemitism in our society, in our women's movement, and in ourselves, we have to engage in the painful process of acknowledging the anger and fear which will separate us if we do not direct them outward into action for change. As Audre Lorde spoke of "the empowerment of anger," we struggled, individually and collectively, to grasp the meaning and implications of her words for our lives and our movement.

For those of us who were able to go, this conference was a very important experience. However, even for those who were not able to attend, the very fact that such a conference took place has a particular significance. For in the face of increasingly hostile attacks by an organized "New" Right against the gains we have made in many years of feminist and civil rights activism, a feminist conference against racism represents an act of defiance and resistance.

NWSA has always been committed to such resistance. Based on the belief that education is a powerful weapon in the struggle against discrimination and oppression, it has served as a clearinghouse and coordinator enabling a growing nationwide network of feminist educators--individuals, community groups, and academic programs--to share information, resources and support. In its structure, its goals, and its specific actions, NWSA has struggled to avoid becoming merely another elite and hierarchical professional organization and live its commitment "to further feminist education at every level and in every setting."

We are now paying the price for such a commitment. NWSA is struggling to stay alive. At a time of financial hardship and political retrenchment, we have lost many of the vital support structures that maintain a grassroots organization. Foundation and government funding are vanishing; higher travel costs and the need for stricter budgeting have caused membership and conference attendance to drop. Now NWSA has no more money to pay staff salaries, maintain the national office, or plan the next conference.

If we want NWSA to continue, we must act and we must act now. Too many of us have taken this organization for granted and not asked ourselves what it means to have a national organization which is committed to an activist feminist education. Nor have we asked what it would mean to us to lose the resources and national network NWSA provides. We need to answer these questions, not

abstractly but concretely, in relation to our lives and work. We must realize that there is no NWSA "out there," somewhere in Washington. We who are members, who go to the conferences, who benefit from its services--we are it. Whether NWSA continues will depend on whether we want and need it and on what we are willing and able to do for it.

What can you do? You can become a member. You can renew your membership now for 1982. You can encourage others to join. You can donate money or time. You can talk about NWSA with others and share information about our conferences, our journal (the Women's Studies Quarterly), our goals, our present difficulties. You can join in the planning for our next conference on "Feminist Connections Throughout Education" to be held June 16-20, 1982 at Humboldt State University in Arcata, California. Plan a session or event now. Send your proposal(s), as well as inquiries about the conference, to Phyllis Chinn/Rosalind Ribnick, Women's Studies, Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA 95521. To get additional information or to make suggestions, you can contact either the National Office (NWSA, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742) or Angelika Bammer, 405 Elmside Blvd., Madison, WI 53704, tel. (608) 249-1529.

-- Angelika Bammer

[Angelika Bammer has represented the Great Lakes region of the Coordinating Council of the National Women's Studies Association since 1978. She teaches in the Women's Studies Program of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and is currently completing her dissertation on feminism and utopian thought in the Department of Comparative Literature.]

(Editors' note: New members, who join NWSA now for 1982, will receive the bonus of a six-month membership for the remainder of 1981, including the Fall and Winter issues of Women's Studies Quarterly, with information about NWSA's 1981 and '82 Conferences. Membership forms are available from the national NWSA office or from the Office of the Women's Studies Librarian-at-Large.)

THE DINNER PARTY COMES TO CHICAGO

The Dinner Party, a monumental work of art already seen by close to a million people in various American cities, is finally arriving in Chicago for exhibition from September 14 through December 31, 1981. This controversial project, conceived and directed by Judy Chicago, entailed several years of collective research and production by 400 women and a few men. The piece combines sculpture, ceramics, china painting and needlework to present a symbolic history of women. The focus of the piece is a triangular banquet table, 48 feet on a side, hosting 39 place settings--each designed to represent the diverse and unique contributions of women to western history. The Dinner Party exists as an artwork of magnificent presence, as an educational work reconstructing women's heritage, and as a political and inspirational work.

Represented in a historical progression around the triangular structure are primordial deities of creation and fertility, women of remarkable achievement from various eras trapped in obscurity, and current feminist heroines. Among

the women honored are the Egyptian ruler Hatshepsut, the Biblical heroine Judith, Trotula (a prominent 11th century physician), Mary Wollstonecraft, astronomer Caroline Herschel, abolitionist Sojourner Truth, Margaret Sanger and Georgia O'Keeffe. Historical aspects of The Dinner Party reveal the hostile, confining, and in some cases lethal social environments within which the honored women struggled. The dinner guests ultimately function both as victors and victims, and are symbolic of the struggle of all women for transcendence in a society of containment.

An excursion to Chicago is imperative to experience this work. The pristine mystical presence of The Dinner Party is an amazing contrast to the rigorous presentation of the historical structure. The work is so rich in aesthetic, technical and conceptual detail that it cannot disappoint a responsive viewer. The needlework alone is a beautiful sampling of western textile arts. Accompanying materials for the project--catalogues, a 70-minute film on the making of The Dinner Party, and a taped tour of the exhibit--are recommended for additional understanding and appreciation of the work. Also highly recommended are the two books by Chicago revealing the development of the project: The Dinner Party: A Symbol of Our Heritage (Anchor Press/Doubleday, 1979) and Embroidering Our Heritage: The Dinner Party Needlework (Anchor Press/Doubleday, 1980). The books are richly illustrated with color plates; the texts are taken from Chicago's journals.

Sponsors for the exhibit are The Roslyn Group. To order tickets for The Dinner Party, contact:

The Dinner Party Project
343 S. Dearborn Street
Room 1001
Chicago, IL 60604

The location of the exhibit is The Franklin Building at 720 South Dearborn Street.

-- Catharina Schimert

(Catharina Schimert is a Madison artist currently working on a visual project on anonymous women. As the Graphic Artist for the University of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries, she has designed numerous publications for the Office of the Women's Studies Librarian-at-Large.)

NEWS FROM UW-MILWAUKEE

Among the twenty courses being offered in the fall through the UW-Milwaukee Women's Studies Program, eight are newly developed courses: The Family in Life & Literature; German Women Writers of the 20th Century; Theoretical Foundations in Maternity Nursing; Pornography: A Feminist Perspective; Philosophical Foundations of Feminism; Strong Women Characters in Russian Literature; Family Development; and Family Policies.

This past summer has been busy for the staff members in the Women's Studies Office. In July, the Office sponsored a series of summer seminars designed to give Women's Studies faculty members the opportunity to present the results of their current research in Women's Studies to a student/staff audience. Enrollment was limited to make it possible for more intimate discussion on the various topics. Topics for the two-hour seminars included women and work, with Dr. Mary Lydon (Comparative Literature), women and soap operas, with Dr. Tania Modleski (English), and women and power, with Dr. Jane Hood (Sociology). Similar seminars are being planned by the Office for the fall and spring semesters.

Planning for the upcoming conference, "Women's Studies: Its Impact on Society, Technology and the Arts," has been an ongoing project of the Office for the past several months. Scheduled for October 29-31 on the UWM campus, the conference, sponsored in part by the Wisconsin Humanities Committee, is designed to assess the impact that Women's Studies has had on traditional college disciplines during the past decade. The opening address, "Women's Studies: Its Presence and the Present," by Catharine Stimpson, will be Thursday evening. Two sessions on Friday will be concerned with Women's Studies' impact on society and technology. On Saturday the morning session will center on the impact of Women's Studies on the arts, and the closing address, "Developing a Politics for the 1980s: Feminism Vs. the 'New Right'," will be given by Zillah Eisenstein. Registration materials are available from the UWM Office of Women's Studies (414) 963-5918.

Work is also proceeding on the NEH/Radcliffe College project, "Women in the Community: Where Were They? Where Are They? Where Are They Going?" In June, team members who had written and submitted a proposal to Radcliffe College, were notified that Milwaukee was chosen as one of seven groups selected from across the country to participate in the project. Members of the Milwaukee team are Edi Bjorklund, Associate Professor and Assistant Director for collection development, Golda Meir Library, UW-Milwaukee; Ceci Chapple, branch head, Finney Neighborhood Library; Diane Long Hoeveler, English teacher, King College Prep College; Carolyn Keith, Coordinator, health education and advocacy, Bread & Roses Women's Health Center; and Jan Leone, Program Specialist, Women's Studies, UW-Milwaukee.

Team members participated in a weeklong training session at the Schlesinger Library on the History of Women at Radcliffe. The session focused on how new knowledge about women is changing the perception of history and other academic disciplines, as well as training and practice in program planning and reaching the public. Plans are now being made for the programs to be presented between February and July 1982 at various locations throughout Milwaukee. Program topics include Milwaukee women's influence on education, healthcare, literature, architecture, and law and politics.

For further information on these programs, contact the Office of Women's Studies, UW-Milwaukee, Mitchell Hall 115, Milwaukee, WI 53201 (414) 963-5918.

ITEMS OF NOTE

NATIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE ON MARITAL RAPE.

The National Clearinghouse on Marital Rape in Berkeley, California, is a project of the Women's History Research Center, directed by Laura X. Files containing articles, court cases, records of legislation, police training manuals, handbooks for advocates of victims, statistics, films, bibliographies, and other pertinent information document marital rape as a form of "domestic" and criminal violence. For information about membership in the Clearinghouse and fees for file searches, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Women's History Research Center, 2325 Oak Street, Berkeley, CA 94708. A Guide to the Files of the National Clearinghouse on Marital Rape, © May 1981, is also available for $3.50 from the Women's History Research Center.

* * * * * * *

RARE BOOKS FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES.

Elaine Katz, associate of rare book dealer Samuel W. Katz, has in the last two years developed a specialization in rare and out of print books for women's studies. On a trip to London two and one-half years ago, she discovered that, despite the high price of the pound, the one genre she could pick up cheaply was obscure biographies of women. This find, combined with a long time personal interest in women's writings, led Elaine to her present enterprise. Operating out of Los Angeles, California, Elaine deals primarily with university and college libraries. Annotated book lists are available from her on various topics such as 18th and 19th century literature by women, women as letter writers, women travellers, and autobiographies and biographies of women. Write to: Elaine Katz, 10845 Lindbrook Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90024; phone: (213) 208-7934 or 474-6910.

PERIODICAL NOTES

There is a certain gratification in finding, as I prepare this column for each issue of Feminist Collections, that there are more journals and special issues appearing than I have space to devote to them. In the column below, I am pleased to report that new periodical listings outnumber cessations two to one. In addition, I have included information on a number of noteworthy special issues that have been published in recent months, and excerpts from a goodbye letter from Chrysalis magazine.

-- C.L.

I. New Periodicals

Asian Women's Liberation. Single copy: $2.50 plus $1 postage (paid in International Post Office Money Order). Subscription address: Asian Women's Association, Poste Restente, Shibuya P.O., Shibuya, Tokyo, Japan 150. (Cited in Feminist Bookstores' Newsletter April 1981)

Numbers 1-3 of this new periodical are definitely out; no. 4 was due to appear this past spring. FBN describes it as "an intense and important little journal, reporting on the conditions of life of women that we, in the USA, rarely hear from."

Comparable Worth Project Newsletter. 1980- . Subscriptions: $8 (indiv.); $4 (low-income indiv.); $16 (inst.). Subscription address: Comparable Worth Project, 488 41st St., no. 5, Oakland, CA 94609. (Cited in Spokeswoman February 1981 and WLW Journal November/December 1980)

The Comparable Worth Project, located in Oakland, California, hopes to serve as a national clearinghouse of information on the topic of comparable worth, or pay equity. In line with this goal, the Project has launched a new newsletter. The first issue describes the Project and the issue of comparable worth, offers articles on job evaluation and the forces opposing pay equity, and concludes with legal briefs and a bibliography.

Connexions: An International Women's Quarterly. 1981- . Subscriptions: $10 (indiv.); $20 (libraries and institutions); $25 (sustainers). Subscription address: Connexions, 4228 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, CA 94609. (Issues examined: Special Introductory Issue #0, May 1981; no.1, Summer 1981)

Connexions, a women's journal of translations from the international feminist press, was conceived during discussions held at the alternative women's conference in Copenhagen, July 1980, on how to create an international feminist network. The editors were affiliated with the People's Translation Service and had previously published a pamphlet entitled Second Class, Working Class: An International Women's Reader (Up Press, 1979), a collection of documents, analysis, and interviews compiled and translated from the international press. The introductory issue described the new journal's perspective:

> There is a lack of information in the U.S. about other parts of the world. Often the viewpoints presented in the U.S. press vary greatly from what we learn through friends abroad and foreign publications. As we read and read to get a grasp on what is happening elsewhere, we find that there is never enough about women, and what little there is, is rarely written with a feminist perspective. . . . The articles you will read in Connexions will be written by women from other countries. Most will be direct translations of single articles and interviews. . . . our goal is to present the experiences and struggles of women abroad as seen through their eyes.

Each issue of Connexions will focus on a specific theme. For example, "Women Organizing Against Violence" is the theme of no.1, Summer 1981, which includes articles on India, Ireland, Germany, Argentina, South Africa, Vietnam, Holland, France, England and Denmark.

Maenad: A Women's Literary Journal. 1980- . Quarterly. Subscriptions: $14 plus $2 postage and handling; contributing sub. $32 or more. Single copies: $4 plus 50¢ postage and handling. Subscription address: Maenad, P.O. Box 738, Gloucester, MA 01930. Editors: Paula Estey, Jean Rdoslovich. (Issues examined: v.1, nos.2-4)

Describing their exciting journal as "the new feminist quarterly of prose and visual arts," Maenad editors advise contributors:

> We are looking for controversial and radical feminist ideas and theories, including lesbian and third world women's manuscripts. Our areas of concern are large: factual and theoretical articles, biographical and historical work, fiction, reviews, criticism and compiled bibliographies.

Among the impressive contributions to the first four issues: poetry by Marge Piercy and Adrienne Rich; fiction by Paula Christian and Gabrielle Burton; an editorial on the 1981 NWSA conference; reviews of Holly Near, Michelle Cliff's Claiming an Identity They Taught Me to Despise, Margaret Atwood's Life Before Man, and Nancy Toder's Choices; and intriguing articles, including "A Textural Interpretation of Alternative Women's Music" (Zita Z. Dresner), "Radclyffe Hall: A Feminist Analysis" (Cynthea Sand), "Blood Types: A Meditation on Race, Sex, Power and Art" (Robin Morgan), and "The Spiritual Significance of the Self-Identified Woman" (Elsa Gidlow). Future issues will focus on "Violence and Violation" (no.5, Fall, 1981) and "The Lesbian/Heterosexual Split" (no.6, Winter 1981).

II. Special Issues

The Drama Review v.24, no.2 (T86), June 1980, v.24,no.4 (T88), December 1980: "Women and Performance," "Dance/Movement Issue." Available from: The Drama Review, Journals Dept., The MIT Press, 28 Carleton St., Cambridge, MA 02142. Subscriptions: $15 (indiv.); $30 (inst.). Single copies: $5 (current); $7 (back copies). (Issue examined: v.25, no.1 (T89), March 1981)

The December 1980 issue of DR was entirely devoted to the subject of dance/mime/movement, with all articles written by and about women. Their June 1980 issue focused on "Women and Performance." In addition, the most recent special issue, on "Sex and Performance" (March 1981), includes an article by Emily L. Sisley entitled "Notes on Lesbian Theatre."

Gay Community News v.8, no.45, June 6, 1981: "Music Supplement." Available from: GCN, 22 Bromfield St., Boston, MA 02108. Subscriptions: $25 (regular); $17.50 (low income). Single copy: 60¢. (Issue examined)

Maida Tilchen, a regular GCN contributor, writes the most substantial article in this special supplement, a thoughtful assessment of the evolution of women's music entitled "Women's Music: Politics for Sale?" In the course of researching the article, Tilchen interviewed four musicians (Holly Near, Kay Gardner, June Millington, and Maxine Feldman) and several women working behind the scenes as producers, distributors and within women's record companies. Among the current controversies of the women's music scene explored by Tilchen are the economics of the business, structure of women's music organizations and businesses, audience response to stars and lesser-known musicians, marketing of albums and performers and the question of outreach beyond the women's community, and loyalty to the lesbian audience. Also included in the GCN supplement is a provocative statement by a self-confessed lesbian fan of (nonsexist) punk (Aubergine Green Field), who makes a persuasive case against the rigid stylistic constraints that have come to define U.S. "women's music." A short article on "Finding Non-sexist Men's Music" (by Michael Glover) concludes the supplement.

Jump Cut: A Review of Contemporary Cinema no.24/25 [March 1981]: special section on lesbians and film. Editors: Edith Becker, Michelle Citron, Julia Lesage, B. Ruby Rich. Available from: Jump Cut, P.O. Box 865, Berkeley, CA 94701. Subscriptions: $6 (4 issues). Single copy: $2.50. (Issue examined)

This special section on lesbians and film was two years in the making, with contributions solicited largely through personal contacts and conferences (notably the Alternative Cinema Conference and the National Women's Studies Association Conference). The editors write in their introduction:

> We've undertaken this Special Section out of our commitment to synthesize left and lesbian perspectives into a comprehensive approach to film....Acknowledging connections between the individual psyche and social history, we find it useful to examine film as a cultural institution which excessively promotes as a norm the single option of heterosexuality....The creation of a lesbian film criticism is particularly urgent, given the intensified use of the lesbian as a negative sign in Hollywood movies and the continuing space assigned to lesbians as gratification of male fantasy in pornography and a distressing number of male avant-garde films. Equally important as an impetus for a new criticism is the rise of an independent lesbian cinema, under-acknowledged and in need of attention.

Contributions to this special section include: "Filmography of Lesbian Works" (Andrea Weiss, et al.); "Lesbian Vampires: Daughters of Darkness" (Bonnie Zimmerman), an analysis of a 1970 Belgian film (La Rouge aux levres) directed by Harry Kumel; "Lesbians in 'Nice' Films: Bell Jar, Girl Friends, Julia, Turning Point, Windows" (Claudette Charbonneau and Lucy Winer); "Counter-Currencies of a Lesbian Iconography: Films of Barbara Hammer" (Jacquelyn Zita); "Lesbian Cinema and Romantic Love: Women I Love and Double Strength" (Andrea Weiss), further analysis of films by Barbara Hammer; "Comic Critique: Films of Jan Oxenberg" (Michelle Citron); "Hollywood Transformed" (Judy Whitaker),

interviews with four lesbians about the impact of film on their lives; "Subversive Fantasy: Celine and Julie Go Boating" (Julia Lesage), analysis of the French film Celine et Julie vont en bateau, 1974; and "From Repressive Tolerance to Erotic Liberation: Maedchen in Uniform" (E. Ruby Rich), discussion of the film by Leontine Sagan (Germany, 1931). This issue of Jump Cut also includes a bibliography of feminist criticism published in the journal since its beginning in 1974.

MELUS: Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States v.7, nos.3-4: "Ethnic Women Writers" I and II. Available from: Editorial Offices, MELUS, Department of English, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA 90007. Subscriptions: $8 (indiv.); $15 (inst.). Single copy: $4. (Journal not available for examination; cited from publisher's flyer)

Part I includes contributions on the domestic fiction of Monica Krawczyk, the immigrant tales of Anzia Yezierska, the influence of the Japanese-American experience on Hisaye Yamamoto and Wakako Yamauchi, the social concerns of Lorraine Hansberry, the sexual confrontations in Bernice Zamora's poetry, myth in the Song of Solomon, and the poetry of Gloria Oden. Part II offers articles on Ella Deloria (pioneer Indian anthropologist) and her contribution to Indian literature, Elizabeth Cullinan and the Irish-American woman, Alice Childress's tragedy about miscegenation, and Maxine Kingston and the Chinese-American family.

NACLA Report on the Americas v.XIV, no.5, Sept./Oct. 1980: "Latin American Women: One Myth--Many Realities." By Patricia Flynn, Aracelly Santana, and Helen Shapiro. Available from: North American Congress on Latin America, Inc., 151 West 19th St., 9th Floor, New York, NY 10011. Subscriptions: $13 (indiv.), $24 (inst.). Single copies: $2.50 plus 50¢ postage and handling. (Issue examined)

In the preface to this special issue, the authors note that women's experience has been neglected in Latin American history books, and that studies by NACLA up to the present have done little to fill in the gap. "This issue tried to remedy that error by offering a backdrop--both conceptual and contextual--against which to understand women's specific oppression in Latin America. In this sense it is a beginning--not an attempt to answer the fundamental questions about that oppression. In providing this overview, we hope to shed light on the nature of women's lives in continental, urban Latin America."

The first article, "The Many Realities" by Helen Shapiro, explores the nature of women's work and the sexual division of labor in continental Latin America. "The 'Maquila' Women" by Patricia Fernandez Kelly is a report on Kelly's detailed study of the predominantly female labor force in the border industries of Mexico; her interviews reveal how traditional stereotypes about women have prevailed despite drastic changes in material conditions. The final article, "Women Challenge the Myth" by Patricia Flynn, considers the contemporary women's movement in Latin America, with a case study of Nicaragua and the changes occurring there as a result of the social revolution in that country.

off our backs v.XI, no.5, May 1981: "Women With Disabilities." Available from: oob, 1724 20 St. NW, Washington, DC 20009. Subscriptions: $7 (indiv.); $20 (inst.); $12 (contributing). Single copy: 75¢. (Issue examined)

off our backs solicited contributions from its readers for this special issue for the better part of a year, and, happily, were sent more material than they could include in one issue. They will continue to publish writing on this topic. The issue in hand is a moving chronicle of women's diverse experiences with disability, of the lives of disabled women in our society in general and of their lives within the feminist and lesbian community specifically. Readers are guaranteed to have their eyes opened and consciousness raised.

Resources for Feminist Research/Documentation sur la Recherche Féministe v.IX, no.4, December 1980/January 1981: "International Guide to Women's Periodicals and Resources, 1980." Available from: Dept. of Sociology, O.I.S.E., 252 Bloor St. West, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 1V6, Canada. Subscriptions (U.S.): $18 (indiv.); $25 (inst.). (Issue examined)

An impressive (50+ pages) international listing, covering Canada, Africa, Asia and the Middle East, British Isles, Eastern Europe and USSR, Latin America and the Caribbean, Pacific Islands, Scandinavia, the U.S., and Western Europe. In each section, periodicals are listed first, with addresses, any available subscription information, and a brief description of the journal. Some annotations are in French. Following the periodical listings are sections on additional resources, including archives, research centers, women's presses, women's bookshops and other facilities. A final brief section lists international resources and directories. Updates will be published in regular issues of RFR. Readers should also be aware of a 1980 special issue of ISIS International Bulletin on "The Feminist Press in Western Europe." Bulletin no.16 (1980) is available from: Case Postale 301, CH-1227 Carouge, Switzerland. Subscriptions (U.S.): $15 (indiv.); $20 (indiv. airmail); $25 (inst.); $30 (inst. airmail); single copy: $3 plus 75¢ postage surface mail, $1.50 postage airmail.

III. Cessations

Journal of Women's Studies in Literature. 1979-1980. Editor: Sherri Clarkson. Published by Eden Press Women's Publications, 245 Victoria Ave., Suite 12, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3Z 2M6. (Information provided by the publisher)

Final goodbye from Chrysalis: A Magazine of Women's Culture.

In the Winter 1981 issue of Feminist Collections, we brought word of the folding of Chrysalis magazine, as announced in Feminist Bookstores' Newsletter. A recent letter from the Chrysalis editors (Kirsten Grimstad, Peggy Kimball, Deborah Marrow, Arlene Raven, and Susan Rennie) finally brings the news directly and conclusively: "We had hoped it would never come to this--but, alas, after struggling for years with extreme financial difficulties, Chrysalis has ceased publication." The editors express hope that Chrysalis may re-emerge in the future as the Chrysalis Annual, or possibly the Chrysalis Occasional. In the meantime, they are making available for sale the remaining

copies of Chrysalis's ten published issues. Twenty-five complete sets of issues 1 through 10 are available on a first-come, first served basis for $100 prepaid; issues 1-9 will be sold for $75. Single issues, where available, will be priced as follows (institutional prices will be somewhat higher):

Issue 1	$12.50	Issue 5	$ 5.00
Issue 2	5.00	Issue 7	5.00
Issue 3	5.00	Issue 8	5.00
Issue 4	10.00		

These back issues may be ordered from: Peggy Kimball, 2026 Palm Drive, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254. This is an excellent (and final) opportunity for libraries to acquire an exceptionally fine feminist publication. The Chrysalis editors close their letter with a plea for support for feminist publishing: "Unfortunately, our experience with Chrysalis is not unique; these are very difficult times for feminist publishing in general....Feminist publishing has been vital in breaking women's long silence; the outlets we have left are precious voices in this time of backlash. Support them so that our voices can continue to be heard."

BOOK REVIEWS

SELECTED TEXTS IN LESBIAN STUDIES

(1) Fiction and Poetry

Elly Bulkin and Joan Larkin, eds., Lesbian Poetry: An Anthology. Watertown, Mass.: Persephone Press, 1981. $10.95, ISBN 0-930436-08-3. LC 81-2607.

Jan Clausen, Mother, Sister, Daughter, Lover: Stories. Trumansburg, N.Y.: Crossing Press, 1980. $4.95, ISBN 0-89594-033-7. LC 80-16386.

Sally Miller Gearhart, The Wanderground: Stories of the Hill Women. Watertown, Mass.: Persephone Press, 1978. $6.00, ISBN 0-930436-02-4.

Jane Rule, Outlander: Short Stories and Essays. Tallahassee, Fla.: Naiad Press, 1981. $6.95, ISBN 0-930044-17-7. LC 80-84221.

Joanna Russ, On Strike Against God. Brooklyn, N.Y.: Out & Out Books, 1980. $3.50, ISBN 0-918314-13-5. LC 80-12684.

Ann Allen Shockley, The Black and White of It. Tallahassee, Fla.: Naiad Press, 1980. $5.95, ISBN 0-930044-15-0. LC 80-80380.

Nancy Toder, Choices: A Novel About Lesbian Love. Watertown, Mass.: Persephone Press, 1980. $6.00, ISBN 0-930436-05-9. LC 80-20836.

(2) Lesbians Document Their Own Lives

Ruth Baetz, Lesbian Crossroads: Personal Stories of Lesbian Struggles and Triumphs. New York: William Morrow, 1980. $10.95, ISBN 0-688-03712-7. LC 80-12440.

Barbara Baracks and Kent Jarratt, eds., Sage Writings: From the Lesbian and Gay Men's Writing Workshop at Senior Action in a Gay Environment. New York: Teachers and Writers Collaborative Publications. $2.50.

Alice Bloch, Lifetime Guarantee. Watertown, Mass.: Persephone Press, 1981. $6.95, ISBN 0-930-43609-1.

Michelle Cliff, Claiming an Identity They Taught Me to Despise. Watertown, Mass.: Persephone Press, 1980. $4.00, ISBN 0-930436-06-7. LC 80-23137.

Margaret Cruikshank, ed., The Lesbian Path: 37 Lesbian Writers Share Their Personal Experiences, Viewpoints, Traumas and Joys. Monterey, Ca.: Angel Press, 1980. $6.95, ISBN 0-912216-20-4. LC 79-52913.

JEB (Joan E. Biren), Eye to Eye: Portraits of Lesbians. Washington, D.C.: Glad Hag Books, 1979. $8.95, ISBN 0-9603176-0-0. LC 79-53946.

Audre Lorde, The Cancer Journals. Argyle, N.Y.: Spinsters, Ink., 1980. $4.00, ISBN 0-933216-03-3. LC 80-53110.

Cherríe Moraga and Gloria Anzaldúa, eds., This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color. Watertown, Mass.: Persephone Press, 1981. $8.95, ISBN 0-930436-10-5.

J. R. Roberts, comp., Black Lesbians: An Annotated Bibliography. Tallahassee, Fla.: Naiad Press, 1981. $5.95 (individuals); $8.00 (institutions), ISBN 0-930044-21-5. LC 81-80662.

Julia Penelope Stanley and Susan J. Wolfe, The Coming Out Stories. Watertown, Mass.: Persephone Press, 1980. $6.95, ISBN 0-930436-03-2. LC 79-27073.

(3) Studies in the Social Sciences and Humanities

Virginia R. Brooks, Minority Stress and Lesbian Women. Lexington, Mass.: D.C. Heath, 1981. $22.95, ISBN 0-669-03953-5. LC 80-8116.

E. M. Ettorre, Lesbians, Women and Society. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1980. $18.95, ISBN 0-7100-0546-6; pap., $7.95, ISBN 0-7100-0330-7. LC 79-41237.

Lillian Faderman, Surpassing the Love of Men: Romantic Friendships and Love Between Women from the Renaissance to the Present. New York: William Morrow, 1981. pap., $10.95, ISBN 0-688-00396-6. LC 80-26685.

Sasha Gregory Lewis, Sunday's Women: A Report on Lesbian Life Today. Boston: Beacon Press. 1979. $10.95, ISBN 0-8070-3794-x; pap., $5.95, ISBN 0-8070-3795-8. LC 78-53655.

Alice E. Moses, Identity Management in Lesbian Women. New York: Praeger, 1978. $17.95, ISBN 0-03-047641-0. LC 78-23742.

Barbara Ponse, Identities in the Lesbian World: The Social Construction of Self. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1978. $17.50, ISBN 0-8371-9889-5. LC 77-84763.

Donna M. Tanner, The Lesbian Couple. Lexington, Mass.: D. C. Heath, 1978. $15.95, ISBN 0-669-02078-8. LC 77-16720.

Deborah Goleman Wolf, The Lesbian Community. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1979. $12.95, ISBN 0-520-03657-3; pap., $4.95, ISBN 0-520-04248-4. LC 77-93478.

The silence surrounding lesbian lives is finally being broken not only by lesbian-feminist presses (which have been publishing lesbian material since the early 1970s) but also by academic presses and trade publishers. Lesbian scholarship is gaining respectability in the universities at the same time that lesbian writings

in a variety of genres are being produced as part of a self-conscious effort to create a contemporary lesbian culture by, for, and about lesbians. With this welcome proliferation of texts, a single review essay strains the possibility of adequate coverage. What follows is a brief overview highlighting some of the individual texts listed above. Because of space limitations, even this listing is not complete and includes only the most significant new texts.

In the category of fiction, Gearhart's Wanderground, a collection of interrelated stories that posit a utopian women's community away from the violent cities of men, provides a particularly important example of lesbian culture because the book instantly became a grass-roots best seller among lesbians across the country. Gearhart's vision clearly spoke to the needs of lesbians to imagine a world in opposition to our own, where women do not depend on men; where there is no separation between the natural and the human; where spoken language is not the primary basis for communication; where love, trust, understanding, and cooperation are the norm. Though much applauded, The Wanderground has also been criticized for ignoring the differences that actually separate women and for romanticizing women's biological and intuitive powers. A chapter that considers the possibility of women working with the "gentles" (gay men) has also aroused some controversy, but the impact of the book continues to be enormous.

In the "out-of-the-closet" days of the early and mid-1970s, most lesbian literature was intent on developing lesbian pride and celebrating lesbian experience. More recently, lesbians have come to recognize that this initial enthusiasm for unity led to the blurring of real differences among lesbians in terms of race, class, age, education, ethnic heritage, physical appearance and (dis)abilities. Much of the new fiction, poetry, and self-documentation recognizes this diversity and asks us to come to terms with it. This consciousness informs the Lesbian Poetry anthology, by far the best and most far-ranging collection of poetry by lesbians who write in English. Its aim, in which it succeeds, is to show the complexity and diversity of lesbian identity and experience. Women of color are very well represented. The two essays by Elly Bulkin, which frame the poems, provide an excellent historical context and should be especially useful for those who are only beginning to include lesbian material in their classes.

The greater visibility of lesbians of color is a significant new development in lesbian writings. This group of lesbians is particularly vulnerable, since coming out as a lesbian of color may jeopardize the support of the ethnic community without guaranteeing acceptance by the predominantly white lesbian-feminist community. Shockley's collection is thus especially important because it is the first book of lesbian stories by a Black writer. The stories are powerful, often bitter, and reflect the impact of racism and homophobia on the lives of mostly middle-class Black lesbians. This Bridge Called My Back is not an entirely lesbian anthology, but the number of lesbian contributors is substantial. This collection, which includes poetry and essays by well-known and new writers, is the first to recognize the need for unity yet faces the very real diversity among women of color who are separated by ethnicity, language, class, hierarchies of color, heterosexual privilege, and other factors that affect all women. J. R. Roberts' thorough and well-annotated bibliography,

Black Lesbians, is a major publishing event which should be greeted with enthusiasm by researchers in Black studies, lesbian studies, and women's studies, since most of its material is probably not indexed elsewhere. It is thoughtfully divided into topic chapters, including oppression, resistance and liberation, literature and criticism, photography, periodicals, and music.

Jewish lesbians are also beginning to document the particularity of their experience (Persephone will publish an anthology of Jewish lesbian writings in the spring of 1982). Toder's novel, Choices, is the first lesbian novel since Riverfinger Women (1974) with a Jewish backdrop; it is also the first novel to document the way in which lesbian-feminist theorizing about relationships has actually made an impact on our personal and professional lives. The second half of the novel, which is set at a scholarly convention, should particularly delight those who are active in the women's caucuses of their professional organizations.

The Coming Out Stories, The Lesbian Path, and Lesbian Crossroads represent lesbian efforts to prevent the erasure of lesbian existence and to help lesbians who may still believe that they are "the only ones." These are important books in which lesbians speak to other lesbians in their own voices--of the confusion, fear, pain, and also the joy and relief at coming out and finding a supportive community. JEB's collection of photographs of lesbians, Eye to Eye, serves a similar purpose. JEB tells us that she took her first lesbian picture because she had never actually seen such images and felt the need for visual validation. The fear of discovery has made lesbians particularly reluctant to leave a visual record of lesbian lives. Sage Writings represents another hidden population--old lesbians. Their writings should make it clear that lesbians did not spring into existence with the feminist movement, but have always existed, everywhere, invisible only out of necessity and fear. Audre Lorde and Alice Bloch both deal with death: Lorde describes her struggle with breast cancer; Bloch documents her sister's death from leukemia, based on her own diary entries. These subjects are significant new issues in lesbian writings.

Faderman's Surpassing the Love of Men, is an ambitious study in cultural history, bringing together a wealth of detail about women's relationships to women from the Renaissance to the present, in works by men as well as women. Its rather controversial thesis--that lesbians before the twentieth century were probably not genitally sexual because women were not expected to be sexual, especially without men--seems overstated, and serves to desexualize centuries of lesbian lives, also making lesbians more respectable and less threatening to a heterosexist society. The studies in the social sciences (by Brooks, Ettorre, Lewis, Moses, Ponse, Tanner, Wolf) base their analyses on surveys (chiefly data from interviews and questionnaires) and field work where the investigator considers herself a "participant-observer" even if she herself is not a lesbian. While all of these studies affirm the "wellness" of lesbians, some (especially Moses) unfortunately continue to use the label "deviant" in its more technical, non-pejorative sense, a meaning that is surely impossible to retrieve from the overlay of negative associations. These books vary in the degree to which they reflect feminist thinking, though to some extent, all do; most of them (initially doctoral dissertations) rely on established social and psychological theories (labelling theory, identity theory, stress theory) to provide a framework for their material. The best of these books and also the most useful

as a general introduction to contemporary lesbian life is Wolf's anthropologically based study of the San Francisco lesbian community during the years 1972-75. The 1980 paperback edition of her book includes a useful update and an afterword which gives a much condensed but thorough overview of contemporary lesbian culture, with short sections on conferences, archives, literature, film, spirituality, lesbian motherhood, artificial insemination, Third World women, lesbian participation in establishment politics, and a listing of the lesbian-feminist journals which are the major links in the lesbian communication network.

With the exception of Baetz' book, all of the fiction, poetry and self-documentations are published by small independent presses, while the social science and historical research is produced by the academic and trade publishers. Many lesbian-feminists, in fact, prefer to publish with lesbian presses, because they believe that it is vital for lesbians to maintain control of their own writings; they also recognize that without the support of the lesbian presses in the early days of the second wave, there would be no lesbian culture today. Because small presses often are unable to distribute their books as widely as mainstream publishers, it is especially important for libraries to build a complete collection of these lesbian books and journals, so that lesbian lives will never again become invisible.

-- Evelyn Torton Beck
University of
Wisconsin-Madison

[Evelyn Torton Beck is associate professor of Comparative Literature, German, and Women's Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her most recent book is The Prism of Sex: Essays in the Sociology of Knowledge (co-edited with Julia Sherman), University of Wisconsin Press, 1979. She is currently editing a new collection, Nice Jewish Girls: A Lesbian Anthology (Persephone Press, to appear 1982). For the next academic year she will be on leave as the Jane Watson Irving Professor of Comparative Literature and Women's Studies at Hamilton College, Clinton, New York.]

Addresses of small presses:

The Naiad Press
P.O. Box 10543
Tallahassee, Fla. 32302

Persephone Press
P.O. Box 7222
Watertown, Mass. 02172

The Crossing Press
Trumansburg, N.Y. 14886

Out & Out Books
476 2nd St.
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11215

Teachers and Writers Collaborative Publications
84 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10011

Angel Press
171 Webster St.
Monterey, Ca. 93940

Glad Hag Books
Box 2934
Washington, D.C. 20013

Spinsters, Ink.
Rd. 1
Argyle, N.Y. 12809

* * * * * * *

THE CLASS VS. GENDER DEBATE IN THE LATIN AMERICAN LITERATURE

Heleieth I. B. Saffioti, Women in Class Society. New York: Monthly Review Press, 1978. 378 pp. $16.50, ISBN 0-85345-415-9; pap., $6.95, ISBN 0-85345-530-9. LC 76-76170.

Ten years after it was first published in Portuguese, Saffioti's work on the role of gender in class societies, with its case study of women in Brazil, has become available in English. Though its argument was initially conceived a decade ago, Women in Class Society continues to address many of the current debates on women in Latin America. Central among these is the class vs. gender debate: the discussion of whether women's oppression has a separate basis from class oppression, or is simply a particular form of it.

From the very beginning, Saffioti refuses to give gender the same importance as an analytical category as she gives to social class. Instead, she seeks to explore the way in which gender reinforces the class system. Thus she emphasizes capitalism's incapacity to employ all potentially employable people in society, showing how sexual stratification is exploited in the exclusion of women from productive sectors of the capitalist economy. Women become an essential part of the 'reserve army of the unemployed,' brought into the labor force during emergencies such as war, easily marginalized through the use of gender criteria once the emergency is over.

Saffioti illustrates the central role played by sexual stratification in capitalist economies by referring to Brazilian data which show that, with the transition to capitalism in that country, women's employment in the productive economy actually decreased. Since labor-saving technology was introduced almost immediately in Brazil, she argues, the initial phase of labor-intensive industrialization was bypassed and women were never massively incorporated into the industrial labor force. "The marginalization of female labor," she concludes,

> which is often explained almost exclusively in terms of prejudice, the vestiges of a 'traditional society,' and the low level of economic development, turns out to be a consequence of the full development of capitalist relations of production.[1]

In the end, therefore, Saffioti sees gender stratification and women's oppression as vital buttresses of the capitalist system. Since it is in the interest of capital to marginalize women from the productive economy, it is capital, rather than men, which oppresses women.

This theoretical perspective is found in much of the literature in Latin America,[2] where the analysis of patriarchy on its own terms--as a relatively autonomous form of oppression--has received far less attention than it has in the literature on Europe and the United States. It is not surprising that class should tend to take precedence over gender in the analysis of women's oppression in Latin American societies, where class divisions are so stark and deep.[3] However, those working within this theoretical perspective have tended to overlook the household as a unit of analysis. As a result, they fail to analyze gender relations as they exist and are reproduced within the family, as well as the impact of family organization on the class structure itself.

Some recent work, however, has begun to analyze the role of household and community within the multi-faceted relationship between gender and class in Latin America. Carmen Diana Deere, for example, has analyzed the household economy to show that, when rural men migrate to work in the capitalist sector, their wives' work in the production of subsistence goods allows the capitalist to hire the men at less than a subsistence wage, lowering the cost of labor power.[4] In her study of a rural Mexican community, Kate Young has begun to explore the various forms taken by patriarchy in periods of social and economic change, arguing that changes in the patterns of reproduction--as well as production--must be taken into account in order to understand the way female roles change under the impact of capitalism.[5]

Research such as that of Deere and Young represents a new direction in the literature on Latin America, combining as it does earlier work on gender in class society, such as Saffioti's, with some of the valuable feminist insights and methods developed in an analysis of patriarchy.[6] Given the very specific social conditions in Latin American countries, the resulting synthesis will not be a mere carbon copy of work done on other parts of the world. But for this very reason, it should increase our understanding of the intricate interrelationship between patriarchy and class, and, by using the household or community as units for empirical study, help us to see more clearly the internal workings of patriarchy itself.

-- Florencia E. Mallon

[Florencia E. Mallon is an Assistant Professor of Latin American and Third World history at Marquette University. She is the author of a study on the transition to capitalism in Peru forthcoming from Princeton University Press.]

Notes

1. Saffioti, 188.
2. See, for example, June Nash and Helen Safa, Sex and Class in Latin America, New York: Praeger Publishers, 1976; Latin American Perspectives, 4 (Winter 1977); and Norma S. Chinchilla, "Industrialization, Monopoly Capitalism, and Women's Work in Guatemala," Signs: A Journal of Women in Culture and Society, III:1 (Autumn 1977), 38-56.
3. For an eloquent testimony to this effect, see Domitila Barrios de Chungara, Let Me Speak: Testimony of Domitila, a Woman of the Bolivian Mines, New York: Monthly Review Press, 1979.
4. Carmen Diana Deere, "Rural Women's Subsistence Production in the Capitalist Periphery," The Review of Radical Political Economics, 8:1 (1976), 9-17.
5. Kate Young, "Modes of appropriation and the sexual division of labour: a case study from Oaxaca, Mexico," in Annette Kuhn and AnnMarie Wolpe (eds), Feminism and Materialism: Women and Modes of Production, London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1978.
6. Among other work of this kind is Susan C. Bourque and Kay Barbara Warren, Women of the Andes: Patriarchy and Social Change in Two Peruvian Towns, Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1981.