

beautiful journal documenting the widest possible range of lesbian experience; a magazine that ordinary lesbians would acclaim as their own. Our office was a couple of milk crates in Cindy Cleary's living room, and meetings alternated between Long Beach and Pasadena. Although Anne Lee was a writer, no one but me had any publishing experience.⁴ Our primary guides were our goddessmothers, Catherine and Harriet, who sent us a long audio tape about everything they could think of that they had learned in their five years of publishing *Sinister Wisdom*, plus the SW office manual. Carol Seajay, cofounder of Old Wives' Tales bookstore in San Francisco, gave us a complete education in dealing with bookstores. Her most emphatic advice—that we earn credibility by sticking to a definite publishing schedule—became a solid value and served to motivate us through the years and not a few tough times.

Of all the details we had to figure out, the major question of printer and typesetter was always answered: the Iowa City Women's Press and Annie Graham Publishing Services,⁵ both lesbian (and, in the case of the press, union) shops, would produce the magazine. The possibility of an all-lesbian publication, both content and product, was inspiring. I am certain that having our own press and typesetter available had everything to do with our empowerment to start the magazine, since there was never a worry about censorship or the probable oppression of dealing with straight people or men. In the middle of winter we visited Iowa City to establish the relationship. Their help then and through the years was invaluable. Press women advised about paper, costs, time schedules, etc., and the typesetter (who is also a book designer) did everything from choose the perfect font to coach us (sometimes lecture us) in how to prepare manuscripts and plan and mock up an issue. And all of this at dyke rates.

Back in California, we began making flyers calling for submissions and offering subscriptions, and the amazing part was that lesbians subscribed. It wasn't amazing that lesbians

4. From 1971 to 1974 I worked on the collective of *Ain't I a Woman?*, a Women's Liberation Front newspaper published in Iowa City.

5. Founded in 1971 and 1980, respectively.