
Feminist Bookstore News

October 1987

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Volume 10 Number 3

Ann S. 11/18/87

Gift Books for Everywoman

NEW

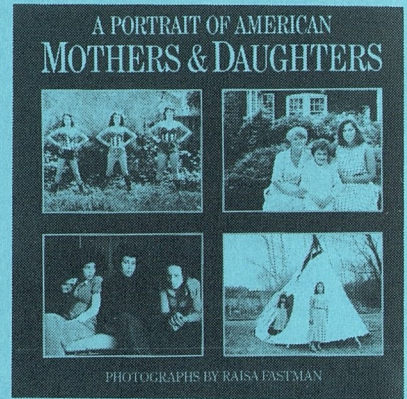
A Portrait of American Mothers & Daughters

Photographs by Raisa Fastman

Softcover \$19.95 ISBN 0-939165-04-X
Hardcover \$30 ISBN 0-939165-03-1
128 p. 84 duotone photographs 10 x 10"

Every woman is a daughter. Many women are mothers. For the past 12 years, Raisa Fastman has been photographing mothers and daughters, exploring the intensities and subtleties created by the emotional and physical bond of this relationship. Through photographs, and personal writings by women in the images, this book takes an honest look at mothers and daughters.

Featured Women: Geraldine Ferraro, Pat Schroeder, Eleanor Smeal, and a wide range of "Everywoman" from all walks of life, and all stages of motherhood and daughterhood.

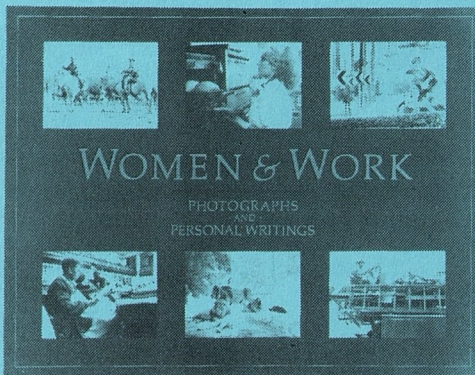


Nominated by the ALA: "Best Books for Young Adults"

Women & Work, Photographs and Personal Writings

Text Ed. Maureen R. Michelson

Photos Ed. Michael Dressler & Maureen Michelson



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This album of excellent pictures, and 85 brief texts covers women's work in fields old and new . . . the women pictured here often seem to merge both images of pioneers and role models into one — courageous, versatile, persistent human beings of whom society can be proud." **New York Times Book Review**

"This book is the clearest, cleanest statement of the power of women. This is a book to give your daughter and son. It says volumes." **The Texas Woman's News**

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FBN

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THE FEMINIST BOOKSTORE NEWS is the communications vehicle for the informal network of feminist bookstores. FBN reaches 200+ feminist and feminist-inclined bookstores in the U.S. and Canada as well as feminist booksellers in England, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, and Japan. Librarians, women's studies teachers, book reviewers publishers and feminist bibliophiles comprise the remainder of the subscribers.

THE FEMINIST BOOKSTORE NEWS is published six times a year in January, March, May, July, September, and November. Letters, articles, news items and announcements should be received the fifteenth of the month preceding publication. Signed articles and letters are the responsibility of the authors.

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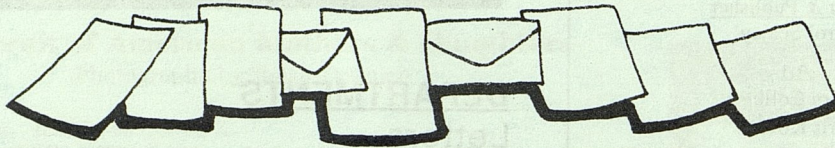
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LETTERS



Streelekha
67 M. G Road, II Floor
Blumoon Complex
Bangalore 560 001
India

Dear Carol:

We at Streelekha study the FBN each time it comes and we have a two pronged response to it... one it feels so lifting to read the new titles that keep pouring into the world of feminist literature, and two, it is so frustrating because we are unable to a) get them into our market and b) even if they did, the prices are a deterrent -- we do not want this to be ... We want that women have access to the new kind of literature that is now being published so that feminist consciousness gains momentum and the movement as a whole gets stronger ... Therefore we have now thought up the Streelekha library where books will be available at a small reading fee ... For this we have been collecting second hand feminist books from friends all over -- we have just about 200 odd titles and are still on the job.

Do you think it possible, Carol, that, through FBN and other ways, you could announce our request for second hand titles (fiction and non-fiction) which, if it is possible for you, you can send them to us either by sea mail or

through somebody visiting India -- several women from the U.S. visit us. And to whoever pays the postage for sending the books we can send an Indian publication with our good wishes ...

Until then,
Warm greetings,
Donna

The Crazy Ladies Bookstore
4112 Hamilton Ave.
Cincinnati, Ohio 45223

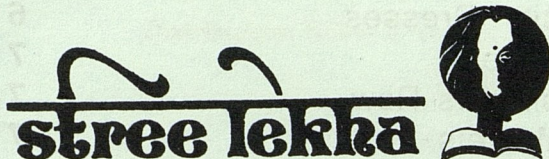


Dear Carol & FBN,

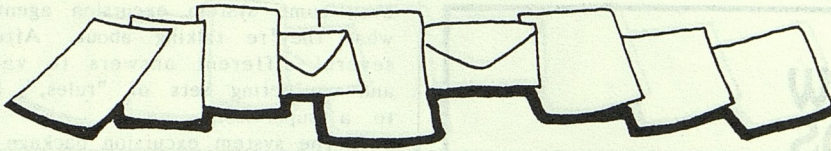
Thanks for all the new book columns, in the August issue, as well as those planned for future issues! You're absolutely right about a summer sale really helping the cash flow. Luckily our store's birthday is July 28th and this year we had a 2 week sale (in the past it was 1 week) and sold over \$4500.00. Books were 20% off and LP's/cassettes off 10%.. And sales before and after didn't slow down much either.

I've been to the National Women's Music Festival/Writers & Spirituality Conference now for 2 years. Even though it's the weekend after ABA, I recommend it highly. It's great to hear publishers like Nancy Bereano and Barbara Grier tell their "side" of our business and to get to meet writers such as Sonia Johnson, Margot Adler, Diane Stein and many others. It makes for interesting conversation with customers and is an enlightening experience for the bookseller.

In Sisterhood,
Patty Callaghan



67 M. G Road, II Floor, Blumoon Complex, Bangalore-560 001



Choices Books and Music
906 Garden St., #1
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Dear Carol and FBN,

Thank you for another wonderful issue! Rita and I have to be patient and take turns every time a new issue comes out.

Of particular interest to us was the "Tupperware Watch Out" article from Womanspirit Books. Choices also started out as a mail order and "book party" business. That was how we raised the money to open up a retail store and coffeehouse. We already wrote to Womanspirit and will hopefully be exchanging ideas with them. If anyone else is interested in how we started, they can write, call or visit us.

We also have our inventory, mailing list and bookkeeping computerized if anyone is interested in information on that.

We have sent along the bestseller list from Choices' first three months (April-June 1987).

Thank you!
De & Rita

Womanspirit Books
P.O. Box 09209
Cleveland, Ohio 44109

Dear Carol,

Thanks for all the information you gave me over the phone, right before the ABA convention. I was not able to make it to the convention, but our collective is meeting with the women from Crazy Ladies in Cincinnati so we'll be sharing ideas and information.

I am so glad FBN exists. It is the best resource for us struggling bookstores (new and growing).

I would like to have a subscription sent to Geri Braun -- the third woman in our collective. Could you also please send her a copy of

the August 1987 issue. It's great! And thanks for printing our article "Tupperware Watch Out!"
Keep up the good work!
Kathy Augustine

11 Maritta Avenue
Lee, MA 01238

Dear FBN,

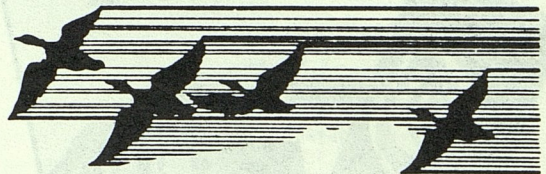
I was looking for **Beyond God the Father** or **Gyn/Ecology** for a seminar I was preparing to lead. The young clerk at the local bookstore shook his head at my inquiry. No, he didn't think he had either one of those titles.

"Do you have anything by Daly?" I asked. "I believe she's written some other books, although I can't think of the titles."

"Well, of course," brightened the young man. "We have a lot of her other books."

And he promptly led me around to a rack of romances -- by Janet Dailey.

Laurie Forfa



Cleis Press
P.O. Box 8933
Pittsburgh, PA 15221

Dear Carol,

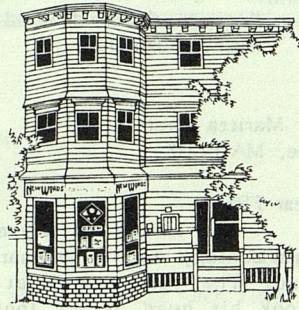
Thanks so much for the August issue -- it's wonderful. I'm writing to clarify the info about the Eastern Airlines system excursion package, which is still a good deal, but not quite as cheap as reported. So before anyone runs off to her travel agent, she should read the following:

The problem with Eastern is that many of the ticketing agents who answer the phone (and

NEW WORDS

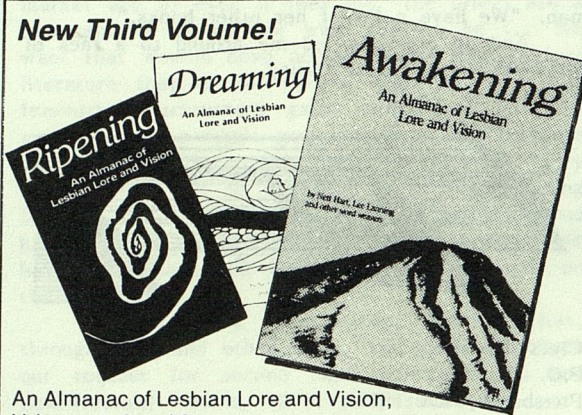
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even some system excursion agents) don't know what they're talking about. After being given several different answers to various questions, and conflicting sets of "rules," I finally spoke to a supervisor:

The system excursion package costs \$449 per person if two people travel together; \$599 for one person traveling alone. It allows for up to 14 flight segments, not "stops." (The most expensive problem I ran into was that an Eastern agent originally told me that I could book 14 cities in the US and Canada,* regardless of connections. This is not true. If, for instance, a flight from Pittsburgh to Tallahassee connects in Atlanta, that's two flight segments. I had overbooked, and had to pay for a couple of flights separately.) The person traveling may stop in each city only once (except for connections in which the stay is under 4 hours). The entire trip must be completed in 21 days, no major holidays, payment 30 days in advance, penalty of \$50 for any changes once the package is booked.

This is still a good deal -- the trick is stringing together a productive set of cities with the least number of connections, which on Eastern Airlines rivals any puzzle, chess game or logic exercise for hours of obsessive enjoyment...

Cheers!
Felice Newman
Co-Editor

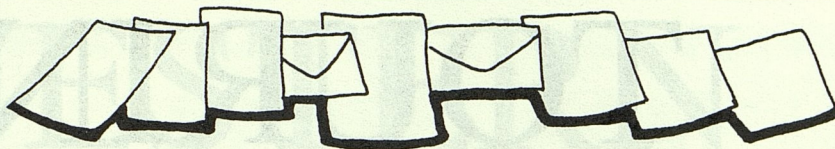
*I don't know about the islands...

Labrys
P.O. Box 174
Tolland, CT 06084

Dear FBN,

I just received a copy of your 1987 Sidelines Catalog issue and found it to be a very interesting and valuable resource. We placed an ad in the catalog and had already received a substantial order before the catalog arrived. Bravo! I would like to thank you for the opportunity to reach the bookstore managers who have supported Labrys Records.

Since starting Labrys Records in 1985 we have been struggling with distribution. Many women's music distributors have not been interested in handling the small lesbian-identi-



fied label so, in an attempt to offer our products to more women, we have done promotional mailings to bookstores. We are currently planning a mailing to send our latest album **Sisterlove** to bookstores. Your catalog gave us an opportunity for direct advertising and is an excellent supplement to our own efforts. Based on the response so far, I am hopeful that we will hear from other stores.

Enclosed is a subscription to FBN. I can't imagine the further development of label/bookstore relations without it. With a clearer understanding of the things that a bookstore has to face, we are better able to present opportunities that are compatible with their needs. Our major goal is to expand the amount of lesbian-identified music and to gain more exposure for women artists who perform it. What better way than through our bookstores with their strong tradition of providing for our community's needs. We truly love ya! Good luck and prosperity to you all.

With Sisterlove,
Elena Jordan for
Labrys Records

Frog In The Well
P.O. Box 170052
San Francisco, Ca 94117

Dear FBN,

The New Woman's Broken Heart by Andrea Dworkin and **Against Sadomasochism: A Radical Feminist Analysis** edited by Linden, Pagano, Russell & Star are back in stock and can be ordered through Inland, Bookpeople, Bookslinger, the Pacific Publishers' Cooperative or, of course, from Frog In The Well. Becky Birtha's **For Nights Like This One** will be ready the end of September. **Ariadne** is no longer being carried by Bookpeople but it is still in print and still available from Frog or the Pacific Publishers' Cooperative.

Frog In The Well is no longer putting out its own individual catalog but has combined forces with other feminist & alternative publishers in the Pacific Publishers' Cooperative. Even when ordering directly from Frog, stores should consult the coop catalog for titles & prices. Terms are the same except Frog offers an extra 10% discount on invoices paid net 15.

Frog has moved to San Francisco -- 2 years ago -- some stores (and a distributor), despite our many letters and cards to the same, have failed to realize this. All correspondence, orders, payments, etc. should be addressed to P.O. Box 170052, San Francisco, CA 94117. The phone number is (415) 431-2113.

In the last issue of FBN, you stated, "All the feminist publishers exhibiting at ABA met this year as well." This is not true. Frog was not invited to the meeting as well as other feminist publishers who were at ABA. Oversight on part of the organizers but still your statement needs to be corrected.

Susan Hester



TOURING CANADIAN

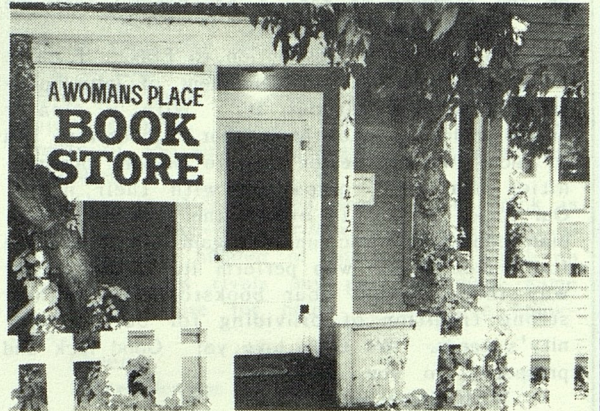
by Carol Seajay
Photos by Rose Katz

There **were** some basic parameters. The trip had to begin in Madison, end in San Francisco, and Rose had a car. I had three weeks of vacation. Everything else was possible. We talked about the practical aspects of all the possible routes. But in the end, the logic of feminist bookselling passion won out -- the shortest distance between any two points, we concluded, is via the largest number of feminist bookstores. If we drove across Canada, we could stop at seven Canadian feminist bookstores and do a feature on western Canadian bookstores for FBN, visit various friends we hadn't seen in too long, camp in the Canadian Rockies and stop at a total of fifteen feminist bookstores along the way. Irresistible! So we set out, heading west via north!

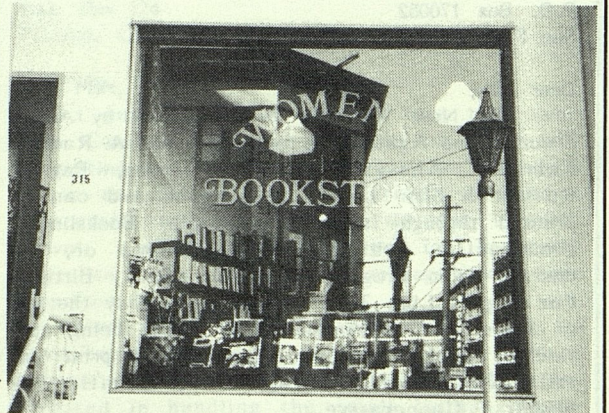
Our first stop in Canada was Winnipeg:

Jahnet Hewsick and Shirley Walker are collaborators in creating The Bookwomb, Winnipeg's feminist book service and mobile bookstore. Jahnet had come to the Third Women In Print Conference in Oakland (1985) and meeting her in Winnipeg was like picking up a conversation and continuing...

"I've been selling books for two years now. The Bookwomb was about a year in the making -- I first sold books at the Canadian Women's Music Festival in August (1985). The response was very strong! Women had come from all over to the Music Festival and couldn't get the books where they came from. We didn't have a feminist bookstore in Winnipeg then, so there was a tremendous response!"



ABOVE: A Woman's Place in Calgary. BELOW: The Vancouver Women's Bookstore. RIGHT: Jahnet Hewsick and van, ready to take the books on the road.



WESTERN BOOKSTORES



"Bookwomb's main goal is to get the books out to women. We sell at conferences, meetings, festivals, readings, women's studies classes -- where ever we're invited (or can get The Bookwomb invited) and wherever we think we can sell the books. We give away a lot of handouts listing the type of books we specialize in -- current feminist literature, women's studies textbooks, lesbian fiction, and children's books -- and telling women how to order books from us when we don't happen to be at a conference.

"We do a lot of special orders to get specific books that women want. We also donate books to various fundraisers as a way of supporting the women's community here and helping people get to know us. Mostly this business works through knowing people and because of our reputation for the books we stock -- i.e., the schools know we have anti-racist and non-sexist children's books and that we have books about Native children."

"Our real purpose is just to get the books out. We don't have the overhead a store has, so we've had quite a lot of flexibility and have been able to use all of the income from book sales to increase our stock. I don't take a salary -- fortunately I have another job that covers those needs."

This fall Jahnet is packing all of her books into her van and taking them out to women in the far reaches of Northern Manitoba. Taking two months off her "regular job" she'll go all the way up to Thompson (which is as far north as the roads go in Manitoba) and may then take the train the rest of the way to Churchill in the Arctic Circle....

BOOKPEOPLE

Announces Special Holiday Ordering Hours

We will have **expanded telephone hours for ordering** beginning November 16, Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm (PST), and **Saturdays**; November 21, December 5, 12, & 19, 10am-2pm.

Toll-free ordering: continental states (800) 227-1516; California (800) 624-4466. Remember, UPS orders called in by noon (PST) are shipped the same day.

Bookpeople will be closed
Thanksgiving, November 26.

"I set this trip up by sending letters to women's centers, status-of-women commissions, battered women's shelters and other women's gathering places throughout Manitoba, saying I would bring lesbian and feminist books if they would set up a book day or a book party for women in their area. The response has actually been very slow coming in. I think, in some of these places, it's hard to even **imagine** a truck full of feminist books."

For a bookservice that doesn't operate out of a regular store, Bookwomb had an wide ranging stock that includes multiple copies of about 300 titles, including a good range of feminist press and small press books. About 25% of the books are Canadian published. She also stocks badges (buttons), some definitely feminist crafts and Canadian women's music.

We asked about the mechanics of ordering U.S. published books.

"Most of the large U.S. publishers have co-publishing or distribution arrangements with Canadian publishers, so we get a lot of the books that originated from U.S. publishers from

Canadian publishers. Unlike the states, though, there are no major distributors here like Baker and Taylor or Ingram, so it means ordering direct from each Canadian publisher. It's a lot of paperwork. Someone tried to organize a big national distributor a few years back but it didn't go.

"One of the hassles in ordering books from the states is that the 800- numbers don't work up here. If we want to order by phone we have to pay for prime-time international phone calls ourselves. Even the distributors don't make toll-free calling available to us, and those can be long calls if you need a lot of books. Ordering by mail means the order takes that much longer to get here."

Bold Print

Bold Print is set back from the street but a sign on the street featuring a lifesized cartoon figure greets passersby: "We're OPEN. Come in and browse." Women who accept the invitation enter to find a very modern shop (done up in teal green with white shelves and hot pink accents) featuring the newest in feminist litera-

ture. Winnipeg may have had to wait until the eighties for its feminist bookstore, but it's clear from the moment you walk in that this is not 70's movement reaching Winnipeg a bit late -- feminist bookstores that begin in the eighties have a style and an air of their times.



Bold Print is located a half block off the main street in the upscale Osborne village area within walking distance from the University of Winnipeg. Many of Bold Print's customers live in the immediate area. Others stop in after shopping at the supermarket across the street. (What is it about grocery store and laundromat neighbors that create such lovely traffic patterns in women's bookstores?)

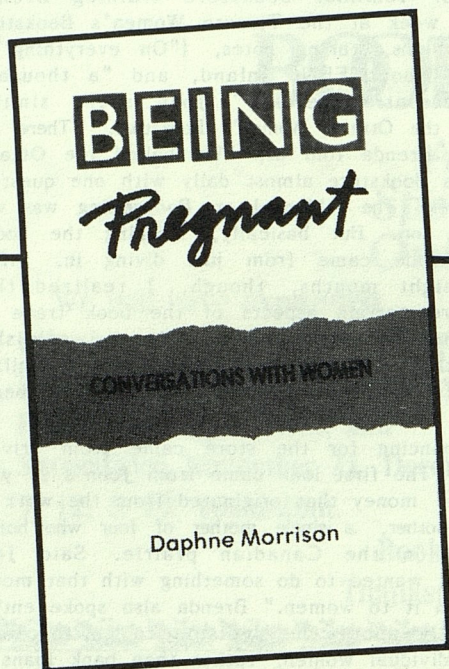
Bold Print opened August 9, 1986 after a great deal of planning by her co-founders Joan Turner and Brenda Sinclair. Joan was off in the Rockies climbing mountains while we were in Winnipeg, so we were only able to meet with Brenda (who has since left the store) and talked to Joan by phone after returning to San Francisco.

Brenda told us that the bookstore's planning stage had lasted about a year and a half -- "About half a year too long!" The original idea had been to create a meeting space for women, but it evolved into the bookstore. Joan and Brenda both attended the Canadian Booksellers Association Trade Bookselling Level One course

on starting a bookstore and found it very helpful. For feminist bookstore training Brenda spent a week at the Toronto Women's Bookstore making plans, taking notes, ("On everything!"), learning about FBN, Inland, and "a thousand other essential details." Joan spent similar time at the Ottawa Women's Bookstore. "There for awhile," Brenda told us, "We called the Ottawa Women's Bookstore almost daily with one question or another! The **Manual on Bookselling** was very helpful, too. But basically, learning the book-selling trade came from just diving in. After about eight months, though, I realized that there are certain aspects of the book trade -- like who distributes who and who publishes what-- that are very confusing. Once I realized that it wasn't just me being confused, it began to fall into place."

Financing for the store came from private sources. The first loan came from Joan's 97 year old aunt, money that originated from the work of Joan's mother, a single mother of four who homesteaded on the Canadian prairie. Said Joan later, "I wanted to do something with that money to return it to women." Brenda also spoke enthusiastically about the decision to go for loans from individual women, rather than bank loans or government grants: "I've been very encouraged that we can use women's money, that there's a way to raise money for women's enterprises that is separate from the government and separate from the banks. Some people will say that going this route is capitalistic, but if you go for government funding, you end up justifying every cent two or three times over. I'd encourage





photography by Robin Barnett

"I found this book incredibly moving. It made me more aware than ever before of the sisterhood of women, at the same time grieving over the cruel ways in which society so often traps them—and amazed at their strength."

—Sheila Kitzinger

Recalling past pregnancies and discussing current ones, fifteen women of different ages and backgrounds talk here in their own words about what being pregnant was like for them. The result is a revealing look at a commonplace—yet profoundly personal and powerful—even that most women will experience at some time in their lives.

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anyone to go with private funding. It's very empowering."

News? "Ditching that tariff on books imported from the States was certainly good news! At CBA (the Canadian Booksellers Association trade show), feminist booksellers met together."

Bold Print's current staff includes two ex-Herizon staff members (Herizon, Winnipeg's feminist newspaper, has stopped publishing pending fundraising), another part-timer, Joan, and Joan's two daughters -- both med students -- who pitch in as needed.

Heading west across the prairies we realized what an oasis of feminist culture Winnipeg is, with both a bookservice and a feminist bookstore. Stopping to visit an old high school friend who is now living in one of the prairie towns, I understood anew how very vital the traveling book services, bookmobiles and "tupperware" style book distribution schemes are. It is a long way across that Canadian prairie -- the gorgeous countryside notwithstanding -- and the next feminist bookstore after Winnipeg is 838 miles away in Calgary.

Calgary

A Women's Place is settled into one of the few remaining houses in a section just south of the downtown Calgary. We arrived on a civic holiday and couldn't make connections with any of the bookstore staff so had to content ourselves with looking in the windows and trying to estimate the range of titles from the books we could see. We made a game of picking a section across the room and trying to identify all the books on a shelf, passing time, hoping that someone would be able to drop by and show us the inside of the store.

From what we could see, A Woman's Place looked like a well-established, well-settled, small feminist bookstore. Sections included the range from kids books to history, health and self-help to lesbian fiction. It was the kind of bookstore that you wanted to spend an afternoon in, browsing through books and chatting with the staff about the history of the bookstore and selling feminist books there in Calgary. We'd just concluded that we didn't have enough time left to head another 200 miles north to Common Woman Books in Edmonton so it was particularly

hard to leave, not knowing when either of us would have another chance to visit these bookstores.

Vancouver

Della McCreary welcomed us to Vancouver. We'd met at the ABA and she'd offered both a place to stay and a tour of Press Gang if we got as far as British Columbia. Touring Press Gang turned out to be one of the highlights of the trip. After losing both The Women's Press (San Francisco) and the Iowa City Women's Press, it was positively invigorating to be in a thriving feminist print shop. Press Gang does job printing, prints books (another 10,000 copy run of *Daughters of Copper Woman* was on the Harris while we were there), and publishes books as well. The publishing and printing sides of the operation support each other well. Press Gang is expanding its publishing program.

Vancouver supports two thriving mid-sized feminist bookstores, Ariel and the Vancouver Women's Bookstore. Ariel was created in the early seventies by two women who were pregnant and wanted a workplace where they could bring their babies. Then it was a co-op for many years. Margo Dunn bought it with a partner six years ago and has been running the store on her own for the last four and a half years. The Vancouver Women's Bookstore has been a volunteer based collective right from the start. The stores are located about half an hour apart in different neighborhoods of Vancouver and seem to do comparable amounts of business. Relations between the two stores are friendly. While we were talking to Margo at Ariel, Gloria called to see if Ariel could go in with VWB on an order.

Ariel Books for Women

Margo teaches part-time in women's studies as well as doing the bookstore. She describes Ariel as "a general woman's bookstore". Ariel's best-selling sections are feminist theory, fiction (both Canadian and the International fiction sections), the violence (incest, rape and battering) and recovery section (alcohol/addiction and Adult Children of Alcoholics), spirituality, and of course lesbian fiction and non-



ABOVE: Della and Sheila (**Still Sane**) lean on the Harris. BELOW: Margo Dunn and Donna Kaye in Ariel. BOTTOM: Ariel Bookstore.



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fiction. They also make an effort to serve "the other women's movement" -- the well-organized childbirth and parenting movement.

Ariel is done up in teal green and deep rose against natural wood beams and bookcases and has a very upscale, clean and lively look about it. The stock must have tripled since I last saw the store in 1983. Like most feminist bookstores, sales (and inventory) have increased steadily for the last several years.

Margo has made two major changes at Ariel recently. One is building an office into the back of the store, even though it meant decreasing selling space to do it. Larger sales and the need for better organization to keep abreast of the continually increasing paper work made it essential to move the bookstore's "office" from her home back to the bookstore.

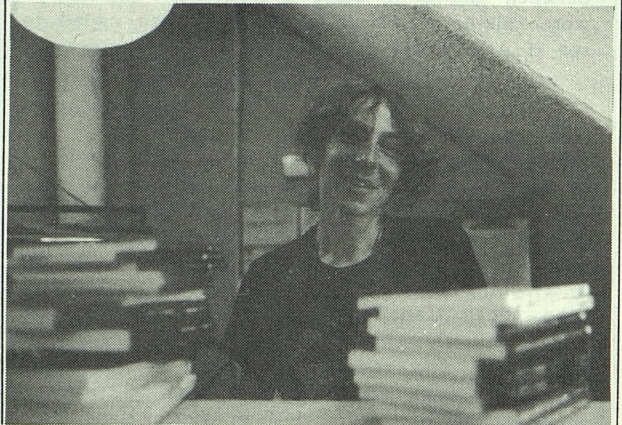
The other change was hiring a manager for the store. Donna Kaye had been on the job for two months and came to Ariel after six years with the Coles Bookstore chain. Adding a manager is freeing Margo to do a number of things she hadn't had time for before, including setting up

the office, preparing booklists and bibliographies, and other sales tools. "Donna was writing orders after the first day of training -- and sales are already showing results." Margo told us. In addition to Margo and Donna, the store runs with about 40 staff hours a week from four part-time workers.

We talked at length about Canadian fiction, and the success Canadian bookstores have had with giving Canadian fiction it's own section (U.S. authors are shelved in the international fiction section), and about running a bookstore in Canada.

"The radio is one of the best tools for promoting books in Canada," Margo told us. "If an author is interviewed on the **CBC Morning Show**, you'll see it in booksales immediately. CBC did a series on ideas, including one featuring Merlin Stone and suddenly **When God Was a Woman** was selling to people who'd never heard of it before."

"Shipping is more expensive here. It runs about 10% of the invoice total. Importing books is another hassle. Canadian distributors who import books routinely mark the books up 155%, even when the exchange rate is 'only' 133%, which gives them an artificially high price. We import as much as we can ourselves, but that has it's own attendant problems with paperwork, payment, Customs, etc. The Women's Press (England) books do very well here -- they have a very good list for us and their fiction does really well, too. But **getting** the books is **BELOW**: Miriam Azrael logging in a Bookpeople order. **RIGHT**: Vancouver Women's Bookstore.

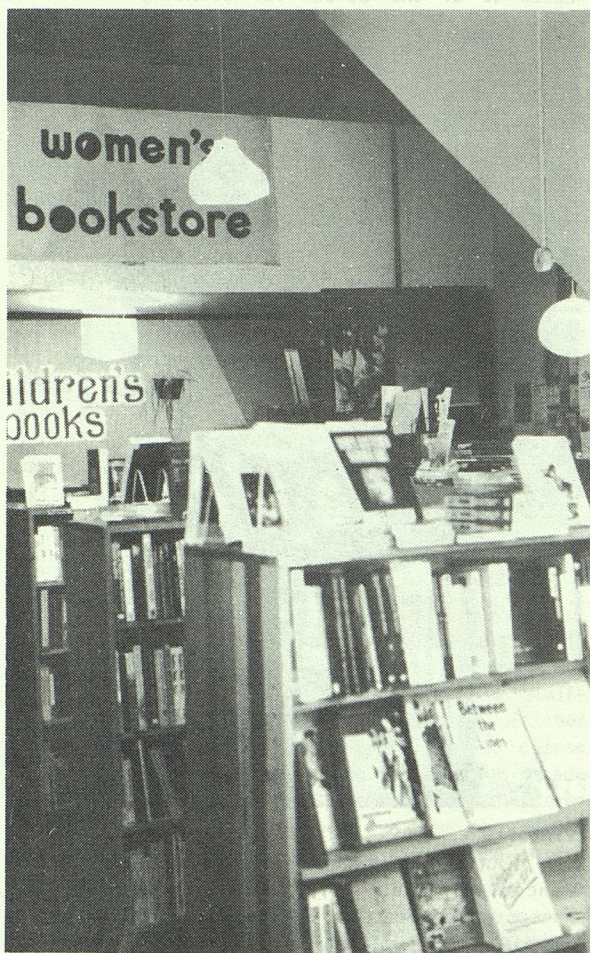


another story. Their Canadian distributor is always out of what we want -- I read recently that their fulfillment rate was only 65%. It's maddening when what you really want to do is sell the books!"

We asked what other distributors Ariel used. "Pipeline (Seattle) and Bookpeople in the U.S., and University of Toronto, Raincoast (they have a trunk line so it's a toll-free call!), and we also use a local magazine and mass market distributor.

Vancouver Women's Bookstore

Vancouver Women's Bookstore just celebrated her 14th birthday. It's a collectively run book-



shop operating with a volunteer collective. The staffing falls into two groups -- a core collective of three (Gloria, Kathleen, and Miriam) who've been with the store for 12-14 years and a larger "fringe" of members who come and go.

Miriam Azrael was staffing the day we were there and Gloria Greenfield took time off from her other responsibilities organizing West Word Three, a women's writing workshop sponsored by the West Coast Women and Words Society, to meet with us and talk about bookselling over the years. Gloria (no, no relationship to Gloria Greenfield of Persephone Press) has been with VWB right from the start. Miriam is still teased about being "the new one" -- after twelve years on the collective. We talked about the changes over the years in the availability of books, in the structure of the store and the nature of the collective.

"When we opened, we stocked as much as we could -- women were publishing their own work -- essays and poetry and ideas in any form -- on gestetners and mimeograph machines. Some of it was hardly readable. But after a few years we gave up that (visual) mediocrity...." "We sold a lot of poetry then. Poetry was a medium for the ideas of the time. But the ideas have gone into other forms as they've been more fully developed over time. But I miss the poetry being such a vital part of it all.... We still sell poetry, of course, but not like we did in the beginning."

VWB has stayed a volunteer collective, partly out of economic necessity and significantly out of commitment that one's politics and income are clearer if not intermingled. The volunteer structure has helped to finance their downtown rent and to expand their stock over the years. (VWB's stock has quadrupled -- at least -- over the last four years.) "In the 70's, women fought to get into the collective. We had to split shifts to make room for everyone. Now most of the new volunteers are between jobs or work over the summer. Kathleen has written up most of the procedures though, so it's easier for newer staff to be here on their own than it used to be."

"We're still recovering a bit from '86. Expo was a bad year for the whole cultural industry in Vancouver. It was supposed to bring a lot of money into Vancouver and create instant prosperity, eh? But everyone spent their money

at Expo and people who came to Vancouver to see Expo didn't spend time (or money) on local culture. And people who live here spent their money at Expo, too, so it was a bad year all around. '87 has been much better, but it takes a bit of time to recover from something like that."

"We still do a lot of booktables. They're very important. Some we do primarily as feminist outreach, others are financially helpful as well. One of our all time favourites was selling books at the National Black Women's Congress. We just did a sci fi convention. We took science fiction, of course, and feminist theory and assertiveness books -- and everything sold."

New sections? "'Elders' is getting a lot of appreciation, 'Addictions' (Recovery) is doing very well." VWB, after much discussion, is selling more of the feminist spirituality books, incorporating them in a 'spirituality and psychology section'. "But we keep the 'Feminist Theory' section by the front door to keep people from getting confused about who we are and where our priorities are."

Importing books? "We don't order from England -- we use the Canadian distributors for Women's Press and Virago -- but it's maddening. We get about a 50% fulfillment rate on them. Women's Press books do better than Virago. Virago has a really nice list, but it doesn't move. We have a lot of trouble with the racism and classism in some of their reprints. It's hard to take, even though the writing is true to its time. And some of the introductions just don't cut it."

Customs Meets VWB

We'd heard that a shipment of VWB's books had been stopped by Customs and were concerned that Canadian Customs had expanded its gay bookstore target to include feminist bookstores. (It seems a mixed blessing that they don't get the connection between women's rights and gay rights.)

"In the end, it turned out that it was just one individual. When we learned that the books hadn't cleared, we were very upset, of course. We talked to everyone we could who would have any influence or might have any impact on customs. It only took a few days to clear up and, in the end, Customs called to apologize -- you know, as near to an apology as they are capable of.... The apology was almost worth the trauma!"

"The books were **Sex Work** and **Caught Looking**. What happened was that UPS has finally come to Vancouver (!) and we had our Bookpeople order shipped UPS. But because UPS is a private carrier, UPS shipments get more detailed attention from Customs than postal shipments. All the boxes were opened and all the books looked at. So someone decided that **Sex Work** and **Caught Looking** fell under the obscenity law and there we were. Needless to say, we don't use UPS anymore!"

"Customs can be pretty crazy. Little Sisters (a Vancouver gay bookstore that has been hassled routinely by Customs), for some reason, ordered **Dzelarhons** (Published in Canada by Harbour Press) from Bookpeople and Customs confiscated it at the border for bestiality!"



Victoria

Victoria is located on the southern tip of Vancouver Island -- a ferry ride from either Vancouver or Seattle. Everywoman's Books offers an oasis for feminists in the island community.

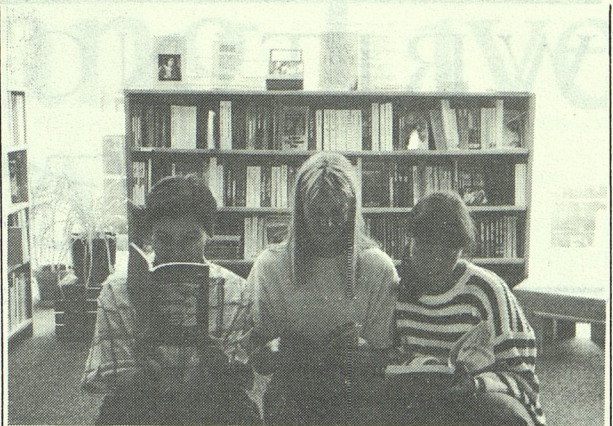
Everywoman's is a sturdy twelve year old bookstore run by an 18 woman collective. Carol Sherwood and Jean Wallace were staffing the bookstore and Debby Gregory stopped in to visit as well.

Everywoman's collective members range in age from early twenties through late sixties and include women with widely ranging definitions of feminism, mothers and non-mothers (and a mother and daughter), and is very mixed in terms of sexual preferences and life-styles. Retired women and new mothers with small babies cover the daytime shifts. Most collective members work one shift every two weeks and attend a supper meeting once every two weeks and a day long retreat twice a year. Although the women we talked to said that fewer women were offering to work in the store, and that some women were now working weekly shifts, there hadn't been a problem staffing the store. "Volunteering at the bookstore is something women can do to be a part of the feminist movement and feel actively involved. It's an up place to be -- easier in many respects than, say, working on a rape crisis line. It feels really good to work here." And that seemed to be the bottom line.

The bookstore work is divided into a number of jobs including writing orders, doing window displays, updating bulletin boards, paying bills, doing returns, maintaining the library, buying supplies, dealing with Customs, being the neighborhood liaison, and getting book reviews written and out to local newsletters, radio shows and a community newspaper. Different women select books for different sections, then six "book orderers" combine the lists and write the orders to publishers and distributors.

All in all, the systems work very well. Everywoman's, too, has a well detailed procedure book, training sessions are held for new staffers from time to time, and the division of labor works well. Everywoman's recently had to choose between moving and renovating. Renovation (made possible in part by a \$1000 grant from the local women's building committee) was the choice and included new carpet, painting the entire store, new bookcases and wall hangings.

Being on a downtown street and having a large window to work with, Everywoman's window



ABOVE: Everywoman's Books staffers prove that bookstore workers do read books!

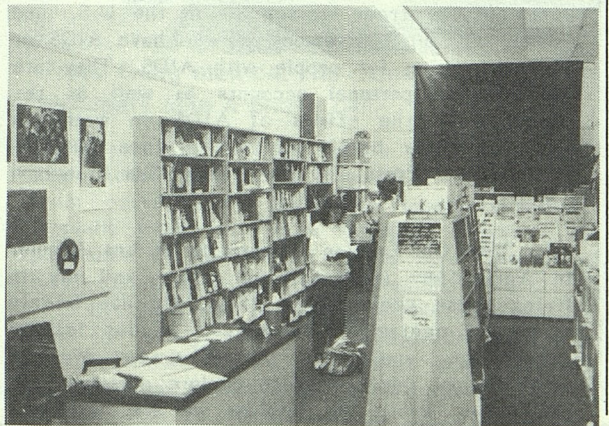
BELOW: Everywoman's Books in Victoria.

crew makes the most of the opportunity. "We try to do really eye-catching windows. We do themes and use anything we can get to draw attention to the store and the books. We've used cribs, sailboats, and even a kayak!"

Music

The music sections in Canadian feminist bookstores feature Canadian musicians and Canadian produced albums -- Heather Bishop, Ferron, Connie Kalder, etc. I'd assumed that the new Lucie Blue Tremblay album would be big in all the stores, too, but, no, the album isn't available at all in Canada due to a licensing agreement (or lack thereof). It's a maddening situa-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 80



WRITING WANTED



Poetry, fiction and works of art (slides only) by and about women in recovery from alcoholism, substance abuse, and co-dependency for anthology. Please include short biography and SASE. Payment negotiated upon acceptance. Judith Tomamichel, 1011 Boren Ave Suite 200, Seattle WA 98104. 206-325-0705.

Never-married mothers are invited to join a national study of "new family units." Share your experiences with other women. Confidential. Write: STUDY, Box 668, Comstock Park, Michigan 49321.

Leatrice Lifshitz is collecting poems on the theme of "old woman" for an anthology. Feminist/lesbian work is welcome. Include a brief bio, SASE and authorization for use of the work in the anthology with submissions. Send to Leatrice at 3 Hollow Tree Court, Pamona NY 10970.



Cleis Press is preparing an anthology of writings by women on AIDS. They are looking for contributions from women -- in the U.S. and Canada as well as overseas -- who have AIDS or who are caring for people with AIDS. They are interested in personal accounts as well as reflections on the effect of AIDS on women's lives. Send a brief outline to Ines Rieder, Editor, Cleis Press, PO Box 14684, San Francisco CA 94114.

"The Old Lesbian Celebration in Los Angeles in April 1987 increased our pride and joy in living these years after sixty. We are keenly aware of ageism in ourselves, in our lesbian communities, and in our younger sisters. We can come out of our closets to declare ourselves the passionate, loving old lesbians we are. For this

purpose we will publish an anthology of works by women over sixty about their loving of women who are also over sixty. The anthology will include poems, short prose pieces, letters, journal entries, photographs and drawings. Tentative title: **Old Lovers**. Include SASE. Submit by Valentine's Day, 1988" to Jean Mountaingrove and Sunlight, co-editors, c/o WomanSpirit, 2000 King Mountain Trail, Sunny Valley OR 97497.



Liberty Press has one lesbian title **The Rose-Bearer** coming out in November and is looking for additional lesbian titles. They are particularly interested in lesbian fiction from and about the Southwest. Contact Scott Winnett, Liberty Press, PO Box 50421, Austin TX 78763. Lorelee MacPike, the current book editor of **The Lesbian News** (LA) has been chosen as the editor of Naiad Press's forthcoming anthology **There's Something I've Been Meaning to Tell You** on the subject of gay and lesbian parents explaining their sexual orientation to their children. Contributors may include women and men who are birth or natural parents, adoptive parents, co-parents, significant others... and can include accounts of past telling or showing by example and attitude, present telling or showing or plans for future handling of the situation. Women who feel they have a particularly unusual or interesting life situation but that do not feel comfortable with the writing process may be interviewed for the anthology. They are especially anxious to hear from "unusual and/or minority households....and almost any configuration that is not exclusively white, middle class and upwardly mobile." Write to Lorelee MacPike, PO Box 6369, Altadena CA 91001.

Press Gang Live at the ABA

Della McCreary

The taxi was late. It was rush hour in Toronto. I got to the airport with only fifteen minutes until my flight. When I smiled at the customs officer he didn't smile back.

"Where are you going?"

"Washington, D.C."

"What for?"

"I work for a small publishing company in Vancouver, Canada and we're exhibiting at a convention being held there this year. The American Booksellers Association convention (ABA)."

"How long you staying?"

"Six days altogether."

"What's in the box?"

"Catalogues, a listing of the books we've published."

"I want to see."

(You're kidding)

Fortunately, I had a couple of copies of the catalogue in my hand luggage that he accepted as evidence. The officer then proceeded to not skim but read the Press Gang catalogue from cover to cover. As he made his way through titles on lesbianism, feminism, etc., I watched the time of my flight go on by and wondered what this man was going to do. There was no drama. In due time and matter-of-factly he said, "One of those feminist publishers, huh?"

"Yes"

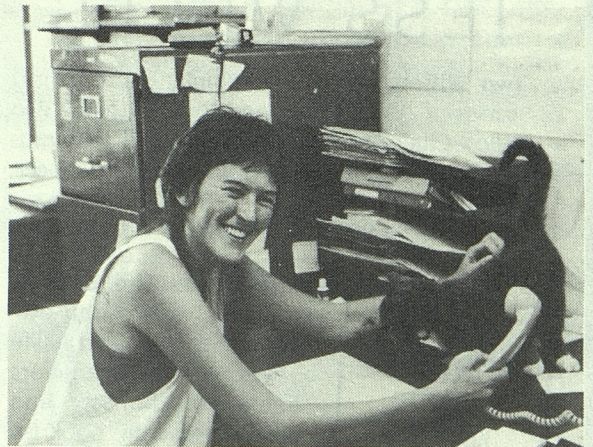
"Go ahead then."

I had missed my flight.

Arriving at my hotel in Washington hours late, with my box of catalogues, my backpack of "good" clothes, I was irritable and exhausted--until it dawned on me that I was here. "Do you realize you're really here ... you're sharing a room with the women from Cleis Press ... you just met the women who run Seal Press in the lobby ... tomorrow you're going to meet ..."

Despite my excitement, I had a looming feeling that I was out of my league. What was Press Gang, a small Canadian publisher, doing at the ABA.

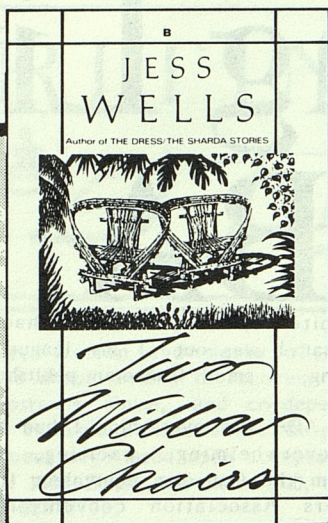
The ABA was everything I had been told to expect--overwhelming, exciting, a different world from the Canadian equivalent (the Canadian Booksellers Association convention) which is much more low key. Every American and Canadian publisher who can afford (or nearly afford) to



Press Gang staff-cat Half-Tone and Della McCreary take a phone call.

attend the ABA does so. It is a place to promote your books and to make sales. The displays range from outrageously lavish to modestly grand. Virtually every new book being or about to be published in the United States and Canada is loudly proclaimed at the convention.

Everyone who owns a bookstore who can afford (or nearly afford) to attend the ABA does so. Booksellers roam the aisles with ordering lists in their hands, taking information, some-



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Two Willow Chairs, beautifully crafted short stories of lesbian lives and loves. "I read "Two Willow Chairs" and wept and was glad. How nice at last to have sentiment about our lives, our deaths..." Kate Millett.

126 pgs., \$8.95,

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The Dress/The Sharda Stories, "written with exuberant energy and style... her dyke characters move with honesty and dash... Read this book, for fun, for excitement, for good writing. You won't be disappointed." Sandy Boucher, author of *Heartwomen*.

126 pgs., \$7.95

ISBN: 0-940721-00-7

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times asking which of your titles might sell well in a "general" bookstore in Peaprairie, Illinois--"We want to stock a good women's section."

As a small feminist publisher on the west coast of Canada it is easy to feel insignificant at times in relation to the larger feminist publishing industry. It was quite an experience to have so many people over the four days of the convention come up to Press Gang's booth and say "I'm so glad you came to the ABA," "I love your books," "What are you doing that's new?" "Such and such is one of our best selling books," etc.

I had to quickly adjust my (Press Gang's) self-image. Contrary to being outside a larger feminist publishing community we are evidently a distinct part of it.

The confirmation of this was worth the trip to Washington in and of itself. The North American market for feminist and lesbian material is growing and becoming more demanding, and the feminist publishing industry and community is growing with it. The evident concern among the smaller feminist publishers is not whether there are enough people who want to read the work they're doing but more how to survive as a small publishing business.

Nancy Bereano, of Firebrand Books, called a meeting of women-owned, women-run feminist publishers that was held during the ABA. The intention is that there be an annual meeting of such publishing houses. At the meeting the discussion kept coming back to the concern that we not be drawn into seeing one another as competitors. In spite of the business-minded climate we are presently faced with, we must work to remain allies, work to clarify who and what are the threats to us.

A growing threat is from the larger publishers who now see that there is money to be made from a substantial feminist market. Now that writers have been established through the smaller feminist publishers, larger houses with more money behind them can offer very appealing advances to authors more or less on spec. This

is virtually an impossibility for a business with a tight cash flow, especially a feminist business with the goal of encouraging and publishing women writers who have not been previously published. One always publishes with much hope but not enough certainty of the financial returns to let you throw a hefty advance to your next deserving writer-with-manuscript-in-hand.

Feminist publishers of varying sizes were represented at the meeting, but all are still in the small publisher category. It is in relation to the stature of the mainstream industry that we are defined. We all agreed that we experience or have experienced similar headaches about how to manage to pay ourselves a living wage, how to work efficiently and not abandon goals of working collectively, how to find appropriate material to publish, how to best promote to our markets, what avenues to pursue when aiming to grow, and more. It was suggested that becoming more aware of ourselves as a community and sharing information will be crucial in order to protect and strengthen our integrity and our publishing potential.

It is hard to say, but clear to see, sitting in this meeting that feminist publishing is still more accurately white feminist publishing. The reason, racism, is no more acceptable than the sexist reasons that are used to justify why mainstream publishing represents the interests of a male-dominated world. I wondered about the silence in the room around the issue of racism. Why is it so scary to talk about? I suspect because there is guilt and blame and power at stake--and so much to be done to rectify the state of affairs. I was sorry to come away from that meeting and the ABA with no sense of vital dialogue-in-progress addressing (about) racism in feminist publishing.

The most encouraging conversation I had about racism on my trip was after the ABA when I met with Rona Moreau from the Women's Press in Toronto. Racism seems to be hot on their plate these days, and their intention is to continue learning about it. They feel lucky to have

Sister Vision (a relatively new feminist women of colour press) working in Toronto. We talked about the work that white women must do and the responsibility we must take for learning about and acting on racism, for seeing where we are and where we want to go as feminists working to publish the voices of all women.

The International Feminist Bookfare is being held in Montreal in 1988 and I hope to be part of the Canadian feminist publishing community gaining a greater understanding of itself, part of dialogues unfolding and amplifying.

As Canadian publishers, there are ways in which we are distinct from our American counterparts, and for some (perhaps overestimated) reason I feel that we are not as out of our league as I previously thought.

A mixed message I got from the American booksellers is that while they're enthusiastic about the "good work" we do (they wish we'd do more), they can only sell it as long as the issues are not particularly Canadian or from a Canadian perspective. The effect of this arrogance goes home with me at the end of my work day these days.



press gang publishers

I think about Press Gang's membership in the North American feminist publishing community, and I feel good, with reservations. I think about the inspiring and hard-working women I met. I think about Canadian feminist publishing issues and feel motivated to both learn and unlearn much.

-- reprinted with permission from **Kinesis**, (400A West 5th Avenue, Vancouver BC, Canada, V5Y 1J8), the western Canadian feminist newspaper. Subscriptions are \$17.50/year. Bookstore discounts available.

Lose One

Reviews of Unusual Company and Mothers & Lovers

It's a reviewer's quandary: to review a book she dislikes and give it space and attention that could more productively go to better books, or to ignore it entirely. Given that even bad reviews sell books, FBN's choice is generally to give the energy and space to more deserving titles. But occasionally something comes along that requires extensive comment. **Unusual Company** is one of those books. Not because it's a lesbian novel published by a mainstream press, but because of the homophobic images of lesbians it presents, because of its detached portrayal of abuse and because of the overlay of male and heterosexual imagery onto lesbian experience -- all in a novel that purports to "explore the

erotic and emotional relationships between women with a 'really serious effort to be truthful in the love scenes....!'"

As we have seen in the last fifteen years of lesbian writing and publishing, lesbian experience is considerably more complex than coloring straight characters lavender and changing the pronouns. Mainstream publishers have published surprisingly little lesbian fiction since the advent of the women's movement. In order to provide a more fully balanced report of mainstream publishing's successes and failures in this direction, the review of **Lovers and Mothers** is included in the same section.

Win One

Unusual Company

Unusual Company, Margaret Erhart, \$17.95 cloth, December 1987, 0-525-24567-7.

I approached **Unusual Company** with unusual enthusiasm: I read lesbian novels with a passion and am always waiting for something new to come off press or arrive in galleys. I was especially intrigued with the theme -- younger woman/older woman coming-out story -- a theme I haven't seen explored in novel form in recent history -- and an experience that's as close to my heart as my own adolescence and coming-out story. Furthermore, Margaret Erhart, judging from the excerpt in **Common Lives/Lesbian Lives** (Spring 1987), is an excellent writer. (Good lesbian writing is increasingly easy to come by -- excellent lesbian writing is still a pleasure to anticipate.) And Isabel Miller does a rave on the back cover. (What more can you want to recommend a novel?!) And it's the first of a series of lesbian novels being published by Dutton. Mainstream publishers have published very little lesbian fiction since the days of the pulps, so sitting down with the first of what promises to be a number of lesbian novels from a mainstream publisher was very exciting indeed.

But, too soon, my enthusiasm began to split into pleasure and concern. Pleasure with the evolving story. I still didn't (and still don't) understand why a thirty year old woman (Claire) would be attracted to a not terribly mature 22 year old (Franny) who reads more like an 18 year old -- or possibly a 14 year old. But I can live with that. Literature needn't always explain -- portraying well will do nicely. And this book does nicely in many respects.

At it's best, **Unusual Company** is a novel that deals with the archetypical experience of intense first love, and recouping one's self and going on to build one's own life after the parting of ways. Even though I first thought that the novel was set twenty or thirty years in the past, only to realize most of the way through that it's quite contemporary, it's a classic young woman's coming-of-age saga that

Continued on next page.

Mothers & Lovers

Mothers and Lovers, Elizabeth Wood, September 1987, 303 pp., \$17.95 cl, Franklin Watts, 0-531-15062-3.

The issue in the Ross v. Ross custody battle is not so much whether Morgan is a unfit mother as it is that she's a lesbian mother. *Ross V. Ross* is a landmark case -- at least in fiction. One has to hope that there's been a similar success in reality as well.

It is the insight with which the tale is told that makes it so readable. And it's probably that same insight into complex experience that makes this book that rare and oft-sought item -- a genuine cross-over novel. Whether it's Wood's version of life as a lesbian in Australia in the sixties or her main character's later dilemmas in her marriage or her horror at the effects of the court battle on her children, it's the insight that offers an avenue into each experience and makes the story accessible and interesting to readers whether they share all, some, or none of the character's experience.

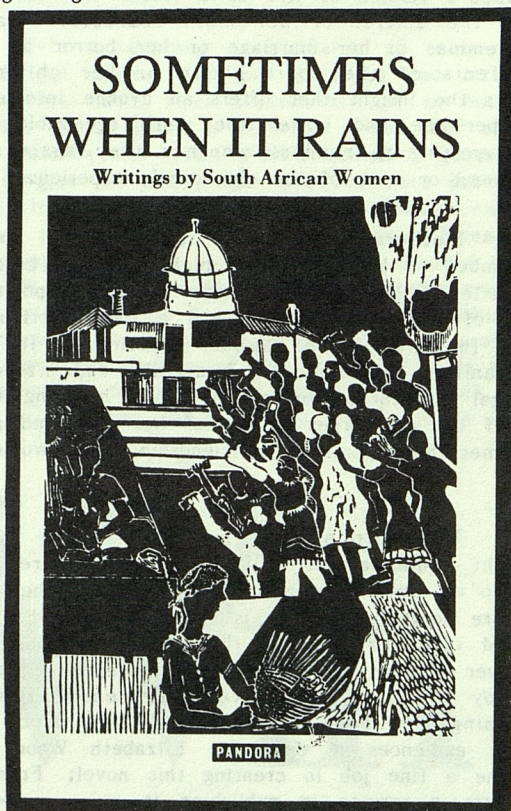
Mothers and Lovers functions well on a number of levels: it's a highly spirited custody battle, a lesbian novel with a positive portrayal of life amid struggle and a fine contribution to the diversity of lesbian experience. It also examines contemporary marriage and attendant legal structures, offers a woman honoring herself as she forges a life of her own and presumes the importance of friendship among women.

This isn't a novel for those looking for a light romance. It will go instead to readers who've been looking for something richer and more complex. And it is those readers who will find their way through the somewhat melancholy cover portraits and the overly discreet jacket copy to the strong novel underneath. Here's hoping this book travels widely and finds all the audiences it deserves. Elizabeth Wood has done a fine job in creating this novel; Franklin Watts a service in publishing it.

has rarely been portrayed in the specifics of lesbian experience. If it had stopped with this success, I could recommend it wholeheartedly. Unfortunately it doesn't.

There's a sub-theme of violence that runs through this novel that, at best, is out-of-character and inappropriate and/or unlikely to occur in the ways described. At worst it conveys an ugly homophobia and gratuitous stereotyping. Four episodes disturbed me particularly.

The lead-in to the first sex scene (pages 33-35) includes Franny and Claire watching two people making love in an apartment across the street. The man's weight and withered arm are exploited to further sleazify the voyeuristic arousal. I can't find the pleasure in sex-scenes (lesbian or otherwise) that need a sleaze scene to begin. Nor do I find exploitative portrayal of disabled people arousing. And I suspect that that's true for most of the community of women who shop feminist bookstores.... Not a good beginning.



Within pages a reasonably tender first-sex (ever) scene climaxes (into orgasm) with a (complete-with-bloodied-towels) hymen piercing. (Pages 39-44). Suffice it to say: 1) male-fantasies notwithstanding, hymens are not erotic zones. Touching, stroking and/or piercing hymen tissue does not produce instant orgasm of screaming-with-pleasure intensity. 2) It is extremely unlikely that two-fingers-in-vagina (and the text is quite specific) is going to create a blood-flow. Assuming that your average world-traveling 22 year old has used tampons, and given the relative sizes of the average woman's finger(s) and a used tampon.... OK, that's graphic enough. But always ready to give the benefit of the doubt, I consulted a number of others on the subject, including sex educators and lesbian therapists. Responses varied from "highly unlikely" to "impossible" to "Sounds like male pornography -- who is this book written for?" 3) Or is the point of all this to generate bloody sheets -- like a medieval royal wedding where the poor bride had to prove her virginity with sheets bloody enough to wave from the royal balcony for the satisfaction of the assembled throngs below? Which leads me to ask (4) What is going on here? Whose masculinity is being proven here? For whom is this book written? And for whom is it necessary to overlay a novel allegedly about lesbians with classic stereotype heterosexual first-sex imagery? Neither male stereotypes nor heterosexual experience work in a lesbian context. Writing either into a lesbian novel is homophobia in the literary realm.



Then (page 103), amid a number of scenes that indicate that a lot isn't well with the relationship, we get an exquisitely written paragraph "Physical acts of meanness, and even violence precipitated our lovemaking where no kindness could have. Something would break in the world of objects....a fist would come down, a bruise would rise. Once I crushed Claire's hand in a door.... Her solution was to spend some time apart." So prettily described and with such distance that it's easy to skim over and ignore the abuse and violence with only the back of one's mind asking "Did I just read that?!" But there's this queasiness that makes one go

back and reread. **Unusual Company** eroticizes violence and, unfortunately, is an excellent study in how to present violence, trivialize it and make it invisible with fine writing. But why? An honest novel examining violence in lesbian relationships would be a different matter. This one doesn't have those qualities. And why is a novel about the haunting quality of a first love being overlaid with violence? For whom is this necessary? The novel would stand much more strongly without it. There is a uniquely lesbian version of this experience to be portrayed. The infusions of violence hide it.



They also cut the credibility of the rest of the novel. The ninth chapter is either a dyke-coming-to-terms-with-herself-and-reclaiming-her-power or is a rewrite of **The Old Man and The Sea**. Franny (now single and living in California) takes a kayak out to sea in a blinding snowstorm (?) after receiving a letter from Claire. Fate saves her from death by landing her on a tiny strip of beach after she capsizes and saves her from being smashed to smithereens against the cliffs. **Then** she's found by her roommate and soon-to-be lover who just happened to be away and returns at the opportune moment. Chance is a poor rescuer, and rescue requires a victim in any case. An odd mix for what is supposedly a portrayal of empowerment. Then there's this problem of the snowstorm -- it doesn't snow on the California coast. Fog, yes. Snow, no. Maybe it's just poor research. Which makes me hope the hymen-piercing scene is just poor research. Misplaced snowstorms are forgivable. Misplaced blood is a more difficult matter.

So Franny has an otherwise pleasant affair with her friend then moves to Sante Fe, studies up on monogamy and non-, and settles in happily with a feminist dyke electrician, (Aha! We are in the eighties), until Claire reappears from the ashram in Micronesia (I kid you not) where she's been meditating since leaving Franny. Clair has come to ask Franny to live with her on the midwestern farm she's just inherited. Franny says no, thank you, that she has a lover here, that she's gone on with her life. Hooray for

Franny! She has just come of age. I wondered what all the rest of the pages in the book were for. This seemed like the completion of the epic.

But no such luck. Franny and Claire go back to Franny's house, start to make love (OK, I'm game. That's a great tradition, too) but the lovemaking quickly degenerates to a brutal rape and battery scene. (Pages 216-219) Franny's satisfaction (!!) is that she had become stronger than Claire, the farm-reared woman that she was unable to overpower when they were lovers. Satisfaction. To wit: A dislocated or broken shoulder, bloodied and bleeding thighs, a swollen and bloody eye, and "I swung hard at where I thought her face was. What I hit, gave, and when it gave, everything in me was finished." (Page 218.) All the damage is to Claire, the feisty farmer who hasn't been moved by any of this to defend herself (!?!). In a reversal of the earlier scene, Franny now offers Claire a towel to soak up the blood. (Is this beginning to read like male menstruation envy?) Claire then disappears on the night bus, somehow lugging her trunk to the bus depot with a sprained shoulder, but taking the time to wash the blood stains out of the towel before leaving. And appears again in the final chapter in a letter professing her continued love for Franny and telling her that her shoulder and eye have forgiven her....(pg 222.)



Not exactly the novel I hoped it would be. Or rather a lot more novel than I wanted. Somewhere, buried beneath the gratuitous violence is a quality novel. Some women may be willing to wade through the violence for it. Others will be furious at paying eighteen dollars for an exploitative, homophobic lesbian novel. Myself, I had hoped that wading through denigrating material to read the lesbian story underneath had gone out with the pulp novels of the fifties and sixties. The slimy aftertaste is pretty bad.

I'm still wondering who this novel is being marketed to. I had rashly assumed that, with all

CONTINUED ON PAGE 80

Womanbooks CLOSES

Womanbooks closed for good on August 2 after two long years of financial difficulties. How did one of the largest and strongest of the feminist bookstores -- the store that many would call the flagship store of the women's bookstore movement -- reach financial ruin? How could Womanbooks, in a city of eight million, go bankrupt? Are there factors at work that will affect the rest of the stores? And, of course, with A Woman's Place in California in financial difficulty, one has to wonder if this is the beginning of bad times all around.

Last question first: Generally, for specialty and many independent bookstores, this is a period of good to excellent growth and financial health. Feminist bookstores at ABA reported growth rates over the last year as high as 20% and 25%. Since then, except for the cyclical summer slow season, sales have generally been reported to be steady or increasing, even taking inflation into account.

All of which is another way of saying that the demand for feminist books continues to grow (and grow and grow and grow.) Alternative and leftist stores continue to report feminist books to be selling strongly -- and oftentimes to be their best-selling section. General stores continue to sell feminist books strongly -- stores with large feminist sections (ie Bookshop Santa Cruz) report excellent sales. Even stores with

small "women's studies" sections that comment that fewer books are selling from that section than in years past, when asked, notice that the real difference is that they've integrated feminist titles into the rest of their stock (i.e. selling **Our Bodies, Ourselves** out of the health section when they used to stock it in their women's studies section) and that their sales of feminist books overall continue to climb.

So, no, the financial problems these two stores face(d) aren't coming from a dropoff in demand for feminist books, nor are they a result of bad-times-in-bookselling.



A little history on Womanbooks. Womanbooks was started in 1975 by three women. In 1980, Karyn London, one of the founders and full time staff member from the start, took over the bookstore by herself after a long and difficult legal battle. In the spring of 1985, Karyn, after ten years on the cutting edge of feminist bookselling decided to take a break and sold Womanbooks to Martita Midence.

So what happened?

In an article in the New York Native, Mi-

A Woman's Place Holding On

dence lays the blame on two different problems: paying too much for the store and the boycott and picket led by her former employees. Elsewhere she has included the high cost of rent in New York City.

The easiest first: Womanbooks had, for New York City, an excellent rent and a very good lease. The lease was purchased with the store, so changing rent wasn't a determining factor in the store's overall financial health, as has been the case with a number of New York independent bookstores that have been forced out of business by skyrocketing city rents.

Nor can one have much sympathy with the idea that \$30,000 was too much to pay over two to three years for a store grossing \$350,000+ annually, never mind goodwill, name, mailorder business and Womanbooks' extraordinary national and international reputation....

Financial problems seem to have set within months of the time Midence took over the store.

By January of 1986, according to a letter from the then-staff at Womanbooks, Womanbooks was on hold with a significant number of publishers and "could not order or acquire books... from both publishers and distributors ... not only specialty books, but also mainstream books for customers...."

Nor was Womanbooks able to order or provide books for various women's studies courses around the city for whom the store had traditionally sold books. It was also clear to the bookstore-observer that Womanbooks' traditionally huge backstock had been severely depleted.

Even if, as Midence claims in an article in the *New York Native*, sales were "about the same" during her first year as the year before, something was awry if Womanbooks was on hold with publishers before that year had ended. One significant difference was that Midence added a second manager to the bookstore staff. Had the gross sales continued to grow at 20%/year that had been typical of the previous five years,

Continued on next page.

Meanwhile in Oakland, a two-woman collective continues to struggle to keep A Woman's Place afloat. August fundraising efforts netted \$8,000 in donations -- not enough cancel the store's \$60,000 debt, but enough to establish a payment schedule for the store's creditors. Other efforts have resulted in offers of two dozen volunteers to staff and support the bookstore in other ways and the payment plan for creditors. The collective, five strong in June, is down to two paid staff members, one of whom is expecting a baby in November. Both of them, and the volunteers and supporters are committed to getting the bookstore back on its feet. Whether or not it is possible remains to be seen.



A bit of history for the sake of perspective: In 1983, the factions of the collective that ran A Woman's Place (Oakland) agreed to binding arbitration to settle a long running dispute about ownership and direction of the bookstore. This dispute had raged publicly for over a year and the bookstore community and store's clientele had been asked repeatedly to take the side of one faction or another. The arbitrators put forth a program, in an attempt to be fair to all the parties and to keep the bookstore intact, that required all of one faction to leave immediately, and required the remaining faction to phase themselves out of the bookstore over the next two years. "Fair", or not, it threw out of the bookstore **all** of the experienced and skilled staff of both factions and left the bookstore with an inexperienced staff, a divided community (one side of which was no longer willing to shop in the store), financial problems exacerbated by lost business, legal fees and settlement expenses, as well as a business structure mandated by the arbitrators, rather than one that could change to fit the needs of a new staff.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27

that growth might have financed the additional position. But without a continual influx of new titles, growth would have been impossible. It is likely that sales were able to be held steady by liquidating Womanbooks extensive backstock.

Part of the problem may also have come from attempting to use the store income to make payments against the purchase price of the store, a feat that might have been possible if spread over 5 to 7 years, but very difficult (impossible?) to pull off in 2 to 3 years. Although Midence borrowed money and sold stock to pay for at least part of the purchase price, the amount raised seems not to have been enough. Ongoing expenses + new manager position + partial payments toward the purchase of the store = more than the store's income, significantly more than the store's income if Womanbooks was already on hold with publishers by October, despite depleting and not replacing backstock. Ouch. Things were obviously not going well.



What happened next is available in two versions: Midence would say that she laid off staff members in response to the worsening financial situation. Staff members (some of whom had worked at Womanbooks for many years) felt that the firings were vindictive and were implemented without due process or notice. Two women were laid-off/fired at the end of a full day's work, one was notified not to return to work while on medical leave recovering from a hysterectomy -- hardly the procedure one expects from a feminist institution. All in all, five women were fired, another three quit, and the remaining staff was asked to take a cut in wages while realizing that they, too, could be fired at a moment's notice and that no one working at Womanbooks had even the most minimal job security. The staff wrote a letter of protest to Midence asking that the most experienced staff member be rehired when she recovered from surgery, as without her the store had no remaining staff members experienced in buying for/managing a feminist bookstore. Six weeks later, having received no satisfactory response, the remaining

staff and supporters went out on strike, picketed the bookstore and asked customers to register their complaints to Midence about both the lack of stock and the treatment of staff and to exercise financial sanctions by buying at Womanbooks only those books that were not available in other stores.

Midence's analysis that the staff protests (picket and boycott) caused sales to drop 70% in the following year is simplistic in the extreme. Sales cannot continue at the same level given a major drop in inventory. Nor can sales maintain if new titles (and standard backstock titles) are not routinely available in the store. Never mind trying to run a store of Womanbooks' size and stature without the skills of a very knowledgeable buyer. If Womanbooks was already on hold with publishers and some distributors in November of 1985, and if this situation was not reversed by the time the staff took to the picket lines, it hardly seems fair -- or useful -- to place blame on the staff (picketing or otherwise) for failures in financial management.

When I was in the store last spring on the way to ABA, I found fewer than ten 1987 titles in the entire store -- and found 18 books (books, not titles, books) in the lesbian section -- the section that should routinely generate 30-35% of feminist bookstores' sales out of 10-15% of the total inventory. There was no visible backstock, the number of bookcases holding the stock had been reduced since I had last been in Womanbooks, and many of the shelves of the remaining cases -- all the top and bottom shelves -- were empty. The stock that remained was old, outdated, often dusty and leaning this way and that. For all the difficulties of the past year, (firings, pickets, negative publicity) there was still good foot-traffic in the store the day I was there. Women came in, walked around, looked at books and left -- without buying anything. It's very hard to sell books with no stock.

I've heard it argued that a store can survive being on hold with many -- and even most publishers -- **IF** it keeps impeccable relations with all the distributors. But (and there's no argument here) being on hold with distributors is the writing on the wall.



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MOTHERPEACE Cassettes (*Vicki Noble*) 60 minutes, \$9.95 each. Exercises in *Motherpeace* readings: **Matriarchal Her-story; Elemental Personalities; Major Arcana; Minor Arcana; Chakras.**

Also available:

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These titles are available to the book trade and libraries through *Bookpeople, 2929 Fifth Street, Berkeley CA 94710; Inland Book Company; and New Leaf Distributing.*

I think it is important to look at Women-books' closing as a failure in management, rather than a failure of market, demand, or possibility. If there is one central lesson here, I think it is to value our managerial skills where we have them -- and to develop and acquire them where they are inadequate or lacking -- and to credit ourselves, individually and as a community, for the skills we have learned and practiced that have created flourishing feminist bookstores all across the continent.

At ABA this spring, two women were exploring the possibility of opening a feminist bookstore in New York. They, or someone else, will undoubtedly open a store in NYC soon. New York can and will certainly support a feminist bookstore -- and could likely support three or four stores located in different parts of the city. May they study bookstore management well and flourish.

A WOMAN'S PLACE, Cont.

In these circumstances, the store wasn't able to attract new employees/collective members with the skill level needed to address the store's financial problems while they were still at the level that was manageable nor with the skills needed to breach the split in the store's clientele and heal the wounds of the split.

And again, it seems to be the lack of managerial skills, complicated by a divided community, rather than lack of demand for the books that has created the difficulties.

Estimates are that the collective has until January -- the other side of the holiday buying season -- to decide if they can keep the store open.

-CS

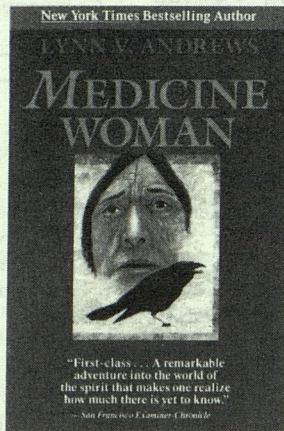
Info from *Coming Up, The Sentinel, Plexus, The New York Native.*



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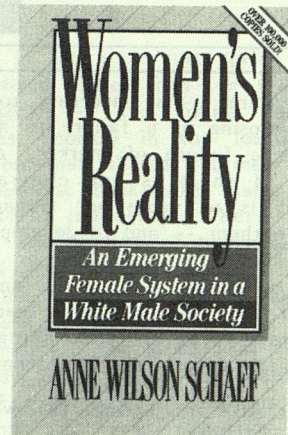
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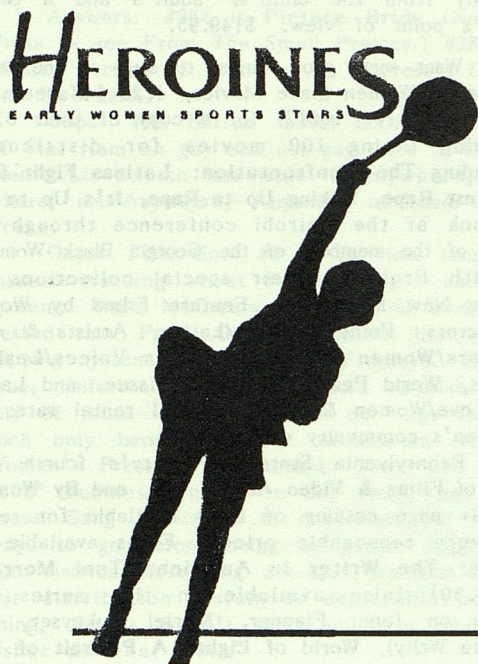
Contact your Harper & Row sales representative

Or use our TOLL-FREE number for ordering: 1-800-242-7737. In Pennsylvania, phone 1-800-982-4377

*Suggested consumer price

At the Movies

Like it or not, movies -- videos -- are increasingly becoming a part of the bookstore scene. Renting videos creates traffic into the store, generally is reported to be paying for the cost of the videos reasonably quickly, and sometimes is paying for labor and more. Anybody up for writing up their video-rental experiences



for FBN? or want to be interviewed about it? Give me a call if you're willing -- I'll do all I can to help.

Some good news on the video front is that Mary Farmer (Lammas Bookstore) is going into video distribution, beginning with two titles from Pop Video, a lesbian-owned video production company committed to producing quality videos on a variety of themes. Mary distributed women's

music to bookstores (along with running Lammas) for many years and so has quite a lot of experience with both the practical details -- 40% discounts, prompt replacement of defectives, etc. -- and with knowing the kind of releases that will (or won't) sell in feminist bookstores. What a pleasant change, eh?

Heroines, I'm told on excellent authority, is a very entertaining 60-minute video about the talented women athletes of the 1920's through the mid-60's that **even** non-jocks will enjoy. It presents incredible tennis clips, a women's football team, an airport opened by a woman to cater to women fliers, Althea Gibson (of course), and rare footage of Jo Carstairs, prize winning motorboat racer, owner of an island paradise, and rumored lover of numerous of the rich and beautiful... An hour's worth of good women's video for \$20. Can't beat that! Available now.

Long Awaited Pleasure should be ready for shipping by the time this issue of FBN reaches you. I'm told that it will be a realistic portrayal of two women falling in love, with plot (!), professional director, experienced actresses, love scenes, and an affordable price -- \$39.95. (90 minutes.)

Both videos are available in VHS and Beta. 40% discount for 5+ videos in any combination. Free shipping on 10+ videos. Free promo poster with **Long Awaited Pleasure**. Order from Lammas Bookstore, Attn: Mary Farmer, 321 Seventh St. S.E., Washington DC 20003. Or call Mary at 202-546-7292.

The United Farm Workers have a (free!) video cassette called **The Wrath of Grapes** about the dangers of pesticides to both field workers and the people who eat commercially cultivated table grapes that they'd like to send to feminist bookstores that rent videos for free circulation. Drop a postcard to United Farm Workers of America, 1741 S. Harvard Blvd., Los Angeles CA 90006.

out here flying

lesbian poetry by Jan Hardy

"delightful and very alive. I liked the combination of seriousness, fun and sensuality... Fine and very touching poetry."

—Ellen Bass

Bookstores may order from Inland Book Company, Inc., 22 Hemingway Ave., East Haven, CT 06512, or call 800-243-0138.

Individual orders 3.95 plus 1.50 postage and handling, prepaid, to Sidewalk Revolution Press, P.O. Box 9062, Pittsburgh, PA 15224.

ISBN: 0-961-74060-4

Renting videos? I wish my local bookstore would buy the Claudia Black (**It Will Never Happen to Me**) videos. I'd like to see them, myself, but am not equipped to put out \$250 to see all three! Given the rate of sales of recovery books in feminist bookstores, I'd think there'd be a solid audience for renting videos for/about Adult Children of Alcoholics.

In **Roles**, Claudia Black describes the four basic roles children growing up in alcoholic families classically adopt: responsible, adjuster, placater, acting out. Geared for children and adults. 60 minutes.

The Process of Recovery deals with the special issues and behaviors adult children of alcoholics share. Helps ACOA's recognize how their present life is influenced by their past. Focus is on taking responsibility for our lives today. 40 minutes.

A Child's View is geared for young children living in alcoholic homes and presents alcoholism as seen through a child's eyes, explaining

alcoholism and drug abuse with pictures and stories gathered from youngsters in therapy groups where a parent was completing treatment for alcoholism. 45 minutes.

All three films in 3/4 video and VHS. \$79.95 (less 10% bookstore discount, 12% for 4+) from M.A.C., 5005 E. 39th Ave., Denver Co 80207, 800-621-8385. (Also available from Hazelden at \$99.95 ea, with no bookstore discount.)

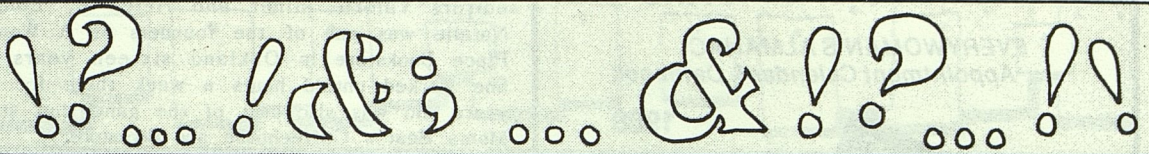
M.A.C. also offers two more videos: **Children of Denial**, a lecture format video based on **It Will Never Happen to Me** focusing on the "Don't talk, Don't trust, Don't feel" ACOA experience (for adults and adolescents, \$39.95) and **Criss-Cross**, a video that looks at the alcoholic family from the child's, adult's and a therapist's point of view. \$149.95.

Want some good movies to show in the store? Write to Women Make Movies, (225 Lafayette St. #212, NY NY 10012) for a copy of their 87-88 catalog listing 100 movies for distribution including **The Confrontation: Latinas Fight Back Against Rape, Waking Up to Rape, It's Up to Us**, a look at the Nairobi conference through the eyes of the members of the Georgia Black Women's Health Project. Their special collections include **New Directions: Feature Films by Women Directors**, **Point of View/Latina, Artists & Animators/Women Writers**, **Lesbian Voices/Lesbian Lives**, **World Peace/A Women's Issue**, and **Labors of Love/Women & Work**. Special rental rates for women's community organizations.

Pennsylvania State University's fourth edition of **Films & Video About, For, and By Women**, a 60+ page catalog of films available for rental at very reasonable prices. Films available include: **The Writer in America: Toni Morrison** (\$22.50) (also available in this series are films on Janet Flanner, Muriel Rukeyser, and Eudora Welty), **World of Light: A Portrait of May Sarton** (\$21.50), **To Be Young, Gifted, and Black: A Portrait of Lorraine Hansberry** (\$32.50) and **Gertrude Stein: When This You See Remember Me** (\$35.50), **Georgia O'Keeffe: Parts 1 & 2** (\$28.50). The catalog is available to prospective users at no charge. Write to The Pennsylvania State University, Audio-Visual Services, Special Services Building, University Park, PA 16802.

Future films? Naiad has just sold the option to the title story from Jane Rule's collection **Outlander** to a San Francisco film producer.

TRIVIA



Feminist Bookstore Workers' Trivia Quiz and Aptitude Test #284: The book with leaves inside? #285: **Swords and Dragons?**

Answers: #284 is **Picture Bride** (Northland Press -- see From The Small Presses.) #285 is a twisted version of Katherine V. Forrest's **Dreams and Swords...**

Oops! Tim Barrus' novel about the effects of Viet Nam on gay and not-gay GI's in the Gay Men's Lit column last issue is **Anywhere, Anywhere, not Anywhere, Anytime**, as listed. Knights Press.

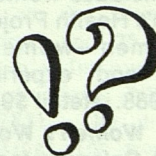
Oops! FBN Goof #2 in the last issue: My misunderstanding about Press Gang's sales rep system: Della McCreary writes "You kindly suggested that Press Gang Publishers has a sales repping system of an exemplary nature. It's not true, unfortunately and it would surprise me if any of those women who are our reps (and are such only because of our association with the Women's Press) are feminists. More like 'liberated' businesswomen! In any case, as far as Press Gang Publishers is concerned we have a ways to go before being altogether happy with our distribution/repping set-up. We don't think our distribution system is deplorable or anything, but it doesn't serve us as a small publisher all that well."



With the holiday season coming up it's a good time to experiment with large-print books. Feminist (or even remotely feminist) titles are hard to find in this format, so I was very

pleased to find Sherley Anne Williams' **Dessa Rose** at ALA available from Thorndike Press. They also list a couple of Martha Grimes mysteries, including **I Am the Only Running Footman**, and the Jean Auel trilogy. Prices run \$15.95-\$19.95. Probably available from Baker & Taylor and Ingram. Otherwise 40% for 5+, Thorndike Press, PO Box 159, Thorndike ME 04986. 800-223-6121.'

Advocacy Press's **Minou** made #1 on the Ingram's Bestseller List for Children's Books. Is this the first time a feminist book has achieved that? **Minou** is a tale about a pampered cat who is suddenly left on her own -- in Paris no less -- and learns with the help of a street-wise sister-cat to live independently, resourcefully -- and happily -- on her own. (\$14.95 cloth).

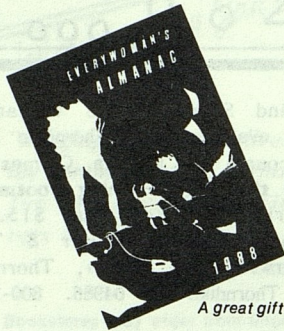


Feminist Bookstore Trivia Awards to all feminist bookstore workers who have figured out that **Women's Work** and **One Whale Singing** are the U.S. and U.K. editions of the same anthology of New Zealand women's writings. Though why anyone would give up the eloquent title **One Whale Singing** (from the Keri Hulme story included), is beyond me! Thanks to the staff at A Room of One's Own (AKA "That Virginia Woolf bookstore in the midwest -- To The Lighthouse" to Californians and "The Aluminum Zone" to certain mass market tele-reps) for this one.

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Women's Words
A Calendar for 1988

Features a diversity of writers whose portraits appear with original messages prepared especially for this wall calendar. Includes Rita Arditti, Jessie Bernard, Gena Corea, Mary Daly, Suzette Haden Elgin, Olivia Espin, Sonia Johnson, Machiko Matsui, Janet Palmer Mullaney, Melissa Ragona, Shulamit Reinharz and Sonia Sanchez. Retail \$9.50

Bookstore discount - 40% returnable; 45% non-returnable.

Distributed through Inland or order direct from:

Margaretdaughters, Inc.
P.O. Box 907
Buffalo, NY 14215-0907

I have to be especially fond of a book that's dedicated to a feminist bookstore worker: **Competition: A Feminist Taboo** is dedicated to Natalie Lando "who has done so much, behind the scenes, for women readers and writers" by its editors Valerie Miner and Helen E. Longino. Natalie was one of the founders of A Woman's Place Bookstore in Oakland sixteen years ago. She worked untold hours a week there for many years and was also part of the gang that started Mama Bear's Coffeehouse and Bookstore.

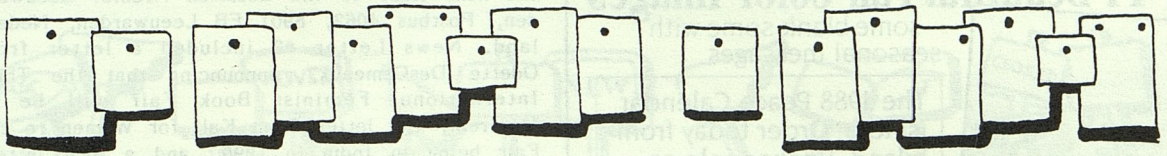
If you're paying more than \$60 or \$70 per month in Mastercharge/Visa charges you might want to join up with some of the Northern California Booksellers Association members and go in a National Bankcard Association (NBA) deal that allows participating booksellers to pool their bankcard sales to get a rate in the 1.7% or 1.65% neighborhood. The catch is this -- NBA can offer these low rates because it uses an "immediate capture" program (Electronic Draft Capture) that does an immediate debit to the bankcard holder's account (and an immediate credit to your bank account). To do "immediate capture", you have to rent (Aha! You didn't think there was a bankcard rate this low without a catch, did you????) a nifty combination terminal, printer, and bankcard-reader that hooks up via your telephone to a master computer somewhere. You also need to have two telephone lines or call-waiting. The nifty machine rents for \$49 a month -- so it will save you money only if you're already spending a bit more than the cost of the rental.

Other charges include ten or twenty cents (local or Watts) per call, a \$4.00 monthly service charge, \$105 one-time application fee. The terminal/printer rents for \$49/month for 39 months (\$1911) after which it is yours, or you can buy it outright for \$1295.

Advantages: Instant authorization, the printer prints out a receipt for the customer to sign (and a copy for the customer), sparing you the pleasure (and time) of writing out a receipt and running it through the imprinter, and the sale is deposited to your account immediately. No adding up charge slips to make a deposit. You also get a day's end printout of all the day's charge transactions and the dollar total.

For more information contact Trish Lewandowski at 415-446-784 or write NBA, 2000 Powell St. 7th Floor, Emeryville CA 94608.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



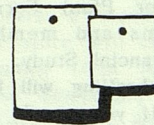
Sisterwrite Co-op Bookstore (London) is looking for a full-time worker and asked FBN to run their announcement on the chance any American bookstore workers are interested in a change of scenery....

"Sisterwrite opened in 1978 and is a registered cooperative (all profits go back into the business.) All workers share the jobs, some of which are rotated and we all get the same pay. The stock in the bookshop is generally along "feminist" lines and we try as best as we can to ensure that the books are positive about women, not biased towards privileged groups of women. We have separate sections in the shop for books by and about Black Women/Women of Color, Jewish, Irish, working class, young and older women, women with disabilities and lesbians. Other general sections include Health, Psychology, History, Literary Criticism, Education, Birth and Childcare, Death and Dying, Violence Against Women and Children, Poetry, Peace and Technology, Lives, Women's Studies, Spirituality, and Women's Fiction. We also stock anti-sexist and anti-racist books for children as well as a range of other items such as badges and stickers. In December 1986 the Collective opened and Arts and Crafts Shop. It includes a Gallery and exhibition space, as well as a shop area for the sale of women's arts and crafts.

"Workers do a 4 day week plus a weekly collective meeting. Take home pay is £100/week with some allowance for women who have childcare or dependent care responsibilities. Experience in one or more of the following areas would be helpful: booktrade or arts & crafts work, book-keeping, computer experience, and/or working in cooperatives and collectives."

Write to Sisterwrite, 190 Upper St., London N1.

Naiad Press is now offering Canadian bookstores a 50% discount on books ordered directly from Naiad on the condition that at least half of the extra 10% discount be passed on to the customers. Naiad's goal with this offer is to reduce the retail price of their books in Canada to something more nearly affordable. The special discount is available to stores which carry most of Naiad's titles.



Now is the time to get your listing in for the **1988 Index/Directory of Women's Media**. Fewer than half of the feminist bookstores in the country are listed in the directory. Send your name, address, phone and 25 words about your store to The Women's Institute for Freedom of The Press, 3306 Ross Place, NW, Washington DC 20008 (202-966-7783). The directory also includes similar listings for women's periodicals, press & publishers, film groups, media groups, library collections on women, mail order and a directory of individual media women and media-concerned women. It's an incredible resource. \$12.00, 40% discount for 5+. \$10 @ to individuals and organizations who are listed who order and pay for their copies when they send in their listing.

The ABA membership year is half-over and ABA offers new memberships at half-price (\$62.50) for the remainder of the calendar year. New members who subscribe under this plan receive all the available resources: **The ABA Book**

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Buyers Handbook, subscriptions to **American Bookseller** and **ABA Newswire**, the right to buy STOP (Single Title Order Plan) Forms and access to insurance programs and member prices on the ABACUS 1985 Financial Study. The fourth edition of **Manual on Bookselling** will be mailed to members in October. If you aren't already a member, or don't already have a copy of **The ABA Handbook**, this is a great chance to get a copy at half the price of a regular membership. The handbook includes address, discount schedules, return terms, toll free numbers, and a wealth of information for all the major publishers and many of the smaller ones. I don't even like to think about running a bookstore without one. Send your check to the ABA at their new address: 137 West 25th St., NY NY 10001.

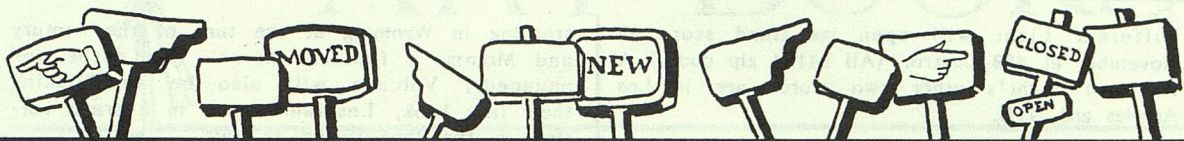
Publishers who wish to be listed in **The ABA Handbook** may write to Maryann Tennenhouse at the above address to request a worksheet for inclusion in the handbook.

If you haven't already sent your postcard to Naiad Press telling them that you want to be included on the list of bookstores they're sending to their direct mail customers, now's the time. Include a statement that you will stock at least 72 of their titles regularly, with your name and address. It's too good an opportunity to miss. Naiad Press, PO Box 10543, Tallahassee FL 32302.

The second issue of the Lesbian Newsletter that evolved out of frustrations with the mainstream nature of the Oslo feminist bookfair is out. Send information, news, and articles for the next issue to the Lesbisch Archief Leeuwarden, Postbus 4062, 8901 EB Leeuwarden, Nederland. News Letter #2 included a letter from Odette DesOrmeaux, announcing that the Third International Feminist Book Fair will be in Montreal, the letter from Kali for Women re the Fair being in India in 1990, and a long letter/article about feminist publishing in Sweden that will be included in the next issue of FBN. Odette's letter says, in part, "As a participant in the morning meetings in Oslo, I am very happy to undertake this job, together with Diana Bronson and Ariane Brunet, women who have been active in the feminist movement for several years. One of the novelties of this fair is that it will be held in two official languages, French and English, with simultaneous translation provided. We are currently working at securing financial support for the organization of the Fair (it looks promising) and getting a complete mailing list together. A number of issues about the previous fairs have been raised in various feminist publications. Many of these issues were discussed during our morning meetings. Therefore, in an effort to improve the organization of the fair in every possible way, so that it corresponds to the work, interests and realities of lesbian and feminist publishers internationally your comments, proposals and ideas are greatly appreciated.... The Book Fair's offices are located in the back of Montreal's feminist bookstore, l'Essentielle. (Write to us at) Third International Feminist Book Fair, 420 est rue Rachel, Montreal Quebec, Canada H2J 2G7.

The Fort Bragg Public Library was completely destroyed by arson fire on Sunday September 20, 1987 and is asking for publishers' assistance in restocking the library. The Fort Bragg library has served the rural Mendocino Coast, home of **Country Woman** magazine, Times Change and Tough Dove Presses. Send books to Sylvia Kozak-Budd, Librarian, Fort Bragg Library, c/o Fort Bragg City Hall, 416 Franklin St., Fort Bragg CA 95437.

THEY WENT THAT-A-WAY



NEWBOOKSTORES

The newest (and largest) feminist bookstore on the block is The Common Woman, a 2000 (!) square foot bookstore and coffeehouse in Lincoln, Nebraska. (And that doesn't include the 1000 square foot kitchen or the 2000 square foot basement that will become community meeting space! It would be worth moving to Nebraska to afford space like that.) The 6'x9' sign on top of a high pole announces the store and can be seen for 2 blocks making the store easy to find. There's a laundromat next door and there's free parking as well. The store stocks books, jewelry, records, tapes, magazines. The Common Woman opened on the Harmonic Convergence with nearly a thousand titles. The five woman founding group expects to double the number of books within the first six months. How do you finance a feminist bookstore/coffeehouse in Nebraska? "We approached women in the community for loans. Once we were open, and women could see that we were serious about providing a really fine bookstore, it was pretty easy to reach our \$20,000 goal." The opening events include a Heather Bishop performance, a reading /book discussion of *Different Daughters* by editor Louise Rafkin, and, of course, a reading by Judy Grahn (*The Work of a Common Woman*) is in the works.

Mary Ellen Kavanaugh is opening A Room of Her Own in Syracuse on October 4! (Grand opening party is from 2-5 if you're in the neighborhood. A Room of Her Own's address is 304 N. McBride St., Syracuse NY 13203.

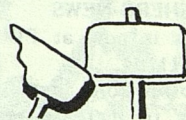
Four women are organizing to set up a women's community bookstore in Tempe, Arizona to serve the Phoenix/Tempe area. Opening is scheduled for March, but please send information to Shelly Mince in the meantime. Her address is 19602 N. Cave Creek Road Lot 102, Phoenix AZ 85024.

By the Book is a general bookstore expanding their feminist and new age section as fast as possible. Send information to Nancy Coughlin at By the Book, 106 W. Main St., Bloomsburg PA 17815.

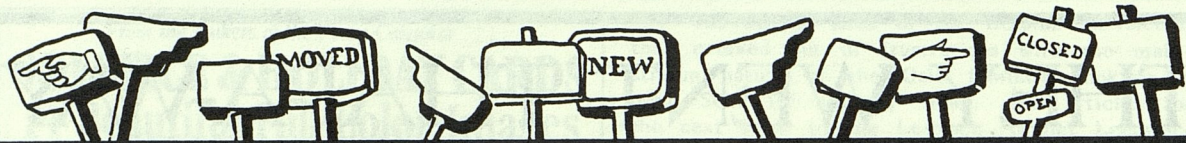
Carrie Richerson of Richerson's Books in Blanco, Texas is branching out from used books only to stocking new books as well. She wants to carry a sizable feminist section. Send her information at PO Box 181, Blanco Tx 78606.

Paula Winters is opening a general store that will incorporate a sizable number of women's books. The store will be in a mall at the other end of Tucson from Antigone. Send her information at her temporary address: 7157 E. Port-Au-Prince, Tucson, AZ 85710.

Greetings From The Hill, at 2040 Auburn Avenue in Columbus, Georgia 31906 is beginning to carry women's, lesbian, and gay material -- and would like to get "everything under the sun" in the way of information from publishers. Send catalogs, etc., to the attention of Puddin' Averett.



In San Francisco, it looks like it's going to be battle-of-bookstores time this fall. Or maybe SF **does** have a large enough gay and lesbian population to support three bookstores within three blocks of each other in the Castro district? There's the Walt Whitman Bookshop at 2319 Market Street that's been at that location for several years despite changing ownership. The Love That Dared opened up September 1 at 506 Castro. The Love That Dared is the project of four NYC refugees including Calvin Lowery, former manager of NYC's Oscar Wilde Bookstore. A



Different Light will open its third store in November at 489 Castro. (All 94114 zip code.) A Different Light's other two stores are in Los Angeles and NYC.

The Lavender Menace in Edinburgh, Scotland has undergone a metamorphosis and emerged as West & Wilde Bookshop. The shop moved from Lavender Menace's basement quarters to a bright new street level shop with three times as much space at 25 A Dundas Street. "We are going to be able to offer a far better choice of books. Just to continue to expand and provide an ever better service we desperately needed more space to run things. We felt cut off in Forth Street, too, and when we were offered these premises we jumped at the chance. A new approach, away from the back streets, 70's image of alternative bookselling, meant a change of name, too. The new name 'West & Wilde' come from Vita Sackville-West and Oscar Wilde, if you hadn't already guessed, two giants of our literary heritage." The new shop will stock books for lesbian, feminist and other unconventional women as well as gay men. The women of West and Wilde are Kate, Sigrid and Margaret.

MOVING PUBLISHERS NEWS

Biblio Press is now at PO Box 4271, Sunnyside, Qns., NY 11104.

Lilith Publications has left Winnipeg for Montreal, hoping to increase access to the feminist/lesbian market and to get involved in the planning of the 1988 Feminist Book Fair. 2191 Clifton Ave., Montreal Quebec, H4A 2NA.

Volcano Press has moved to its namesake, Volcano, California. PO Box 270, zip 95689. 209-296-3445. Volcano is also launching a new imprint -- Kazan Books -- (which means "Volcano" in Japanese), to explore issues linking the Pacific Rim and the United States. The first Kazan title will be a revised edition of **Goddesses** by Mayumi Oda. Also forthcoming is **Berchik**, a children's story about a Jewish family home-

steading in Wyoming at the turn of the century and Momma's fabulous horse. (No dates announced.) Volcano will also be republishing their first book, **Lesbian/Woman** in a trade edition in the late spring or fall.

Library B Books (**The Dress and The Sharda Stories** and **Two Willow Chairs** by Jess Wells) is now at 584 Castro #224, San Francisco CA 94114. 415-552-4807. Books also available from BP & IN.

Media Report to Women will now be published by Communication Research Associates and will be edited by CRA vice president and senior editor Sheila Gibbons, according to its longtime editor Donna Allen. No, CRA isn't a woman-owned company, so this will be an interesting experiment. Plans are to move to monthly publication. Questions can be directed to business manager Betty Russo, at **Media Report's** new address, 10606 Mantz Road, Silver Spring MD 20903.

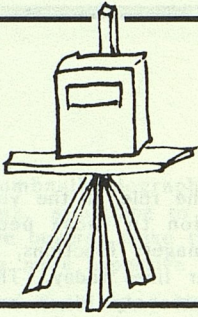
GONE TO DISTRIBUTORS, EVERYONE

Banned Books (AKA Edward-William Publishing Co.) are now available from Bookpeople as well as Inland. Includes **Dreams of the Woman Who Loved Sex, Cass and the Stone Butch**, and **Death-strip**.

Silverleaf Press' collection of short stories **Crossing the Mainstream** that I very positively reviewed in the last FBN ("From Our Own Presses") is now available at Inland, Bookpeople, and Pacific Pipeline.

Radiance -- The Magazine for Large Women is now available from Ingram Periodicals. For the 99% of us that don't get our magazines from Ingram -- write directly to the women at **Radiance** to set up a standing order at PO Box 31701, Oakland CA 94604.

The Nicole Hollander/National Lawyers Guild poster (Ed Meese denying that he only reads "Classic Comics" versions of the U.S. Constitution to Sylvia's "Fess up, Ed.") and the Gone With The Wind/Ronald and Nancy Reagan poster on pages 47 and 48 of the Sidelines Issue of FBN are available from Syracuse Cultural Workers, PO Box 6367B, Syracuse NY 13217. 315-474-1132.



ART BOOKS

by Tee Corinne

Arriving just in time to make this column are two important and handsome books: one on **Gwen John** and the second on **Berthe Morisot** by Kathleen Adler and Tamar Garb. Morisot (1841-1895), along with Mary Cassatt, was part of the larger circle of Impressionist painters in Paris near the end of the last century. Adler & Garb have made Morisot's life as vibrant as her paintings, which glow. The text is easy to follow and compelling, the pictures inviting, and the production lavish. **Berthe Morisot** is published by Cornell Univ. Press, large cloth: 0-8014-2038-5, \$29.95 and worth every penny.

Gwen John by Mary Taubman is the most comprehensive study I've seen of this elusive and private painter, (1876-1939), whose obsessive interest in certain themes could be understood as insistent, as Gertrude Stein might have said. Somehow it pleases me that the wicker chair which figures frequently in her interiors from 1905 still interests her in 1926. Repeated themes have been sensibly grouped together, making comparisons and a deeper understanding of John's work possible. This is a very satisfying book. I've hopes that a softcover edition may soon follow. Cornell Univ. Press, large cloth: 0-8014-1894-1, \$35.00.

Mary Cassatt, An American Observer, is an exhibition catalog whose fine quality reproductions are a major selling point. Cassatt (1844-1926), an Impressionist, painted women alone or with children. The images are truly luminous. The book includes an interesting introductory text and useful chronology. Universe books, dist. by St. Martins, large paper: 0-87663-517-6, \$10.95.

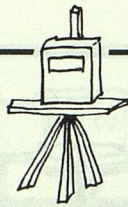
Heavenly Visions, The Art of Minnie Evans, is a lovely exhibition catalog about a self-

trained artist who began drawing at the age of 42 in 1935. She drew spiritual, joyful, visionary images that came to her in dreams. Evans was employed as a domestic worker and later as a gatekeeper at a southern plantation. She sold her drawings from the gatehouse. North Carolina Museum of Art, dis. by U. of N.C. Press, Chapel Hill, paper: 0-88259-951-8, \$8. (Trade discount.)

Just out is **Sarah M. Peal: America's First Woman Artist**, by Joan King, a fictional recreation of Peal's life (1800-1885). Peal, born into a family of painters, became quite famous for her portraits. This book reads like a young adult romance so you might want to file it with YA as well as Art. Branden Publishing, cloth: 0-8283-1999-5, \$18.95.

Betty Edwards' superb book about how to gain access to our creativity, **Drawing on the Artist Within**, is now available in a softcover edition. I can rave on and on about this volume and her earlier **Drawing on the Right Side Of the**





Brain. Drawing on the Artist Within, Simon and Schuster, cloth: 0-671-49386-8, \$17.95; paper: 0-671-63514-X, \$9.95.

Painting and Drawings by Sue Coe is a substantial volume of Coe's political/satirical work. They are powerful and very difficult to view. Her themes include addiction, corruption, rape, war, deceit, torture, etc. Coe, born in 1951, has been widely published in places like the New York Times and the Sunday Times of London. These images are solid, serious and consistently confrontive. Scarecrow Press, large cloth: 0-8108-1782-9, \$24.50.

Jacqueline Morreau: Drawings and Graphics is the work of a mature artist in the humanist tradition of figurative art: rather grand and metaphorical. Includes images in homage to earlier feminists, reversals of religious imagery and presentations of the mysteries of nature. Morreau was born in 1929. Her work is informed by a sometimes playful, always searching intelligence. Scarecrow Press, large cloth: 0-8108-1888-4 \$29.50.

Maud: The Illustrated Diary of a Victorian Woman, edited by Flora Fraser, is an odd and charming book of watercolor drawings and diary entries. Maud Tomlinson Berkeley (1859-1949) remained a spinster until her early thirties. She began drawing and writing as a way out of the dreariness of taking care of her aging (and grumpy) parents. Chronicle Books, distributed by Inland, large cloth: 0-87701-429-9, \$19.95.

Two books about ways to understand visual imagery came to my attention recently. Neither is particularly easy to read but both are highly rewarding to those who delight in rigorous intellectual discussions.

Wendy Steiner in **The Colors of Rhetoric** leads the reader through a complex maze of ideas about the connections between the visual arts and literature. It is a very sophisticated and dramatic presentation, full of details from a wide range of disciplines. The Univ. of Chicago Press, large trade paper: 0-226-77228-4, \$12.95.

Margaret R. Miles, in **Image As Insight, Visual Understanding in Western Christianity and**

Secular Culture, examines the role of the visual arts in conveying information to those people who did not read, and how imagery functions, and might function better, in our lives today. There are important, even inspirational, ideas here, useful to those of us who want to change the world through our art. Beacon Press, cloth: 0-8070-1006-5, \$27.95;; paper: 0-8070-1007-3, \$12.95.

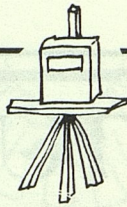


on the stairs

Maud Berkeley in Maud

Gertrude Stein's **Lectures in America** is entertaining, quirky and thought-provoking. Of special interest to artists are lectures on "Pictures" and on "Portraits and Repetition" as well as an informative introduction by Wendy Steiner. Steiner makes an excellent case for Stein's relevance to contemporary aesthetics. Beacon Press, trade paper: 0-8070-6353-3, \$10.95. Also available in cloth: 0-8070-6352-5.

A biography of sculptor Harriet Hosmer (1830-1908) by Dolly Sherwood has been announced by Academy Chicago at \$29.95. I'll tell you more when I've seen the book. With someone as famous in the art world, but as generally unknown otherwise as Hosmer is, I wish publishers would put out a small teaser book as well as large, definitive publications. What I want is something under \$10 with a photo of the artist,



thumbnail biography and several photos of her work, something to whet the appetite of prospective buyers, make them want to make the leap to the more expensive volume.

Artist Mary Meigs has a new book, this one about her parents' lives, **The Box Closet**. This might be a good time to make sure you have copies of her autobiography, **Lily Briscoe: A Self-Portrait**, shelved in the art section. All of Meigs books are published by Talon. **Lily Briscoe**, trade paper: 88922-195-2, \$11.95/ **The Box Closet** (which doesn't seem to be about art from the blurb), 88922-53-3, \$10.95.

Check also for **Vanessa Bell** by Frances Spalding. It's an excellent biography of Virginia Woolf's sister who lived a fascinating and highly unconventional life. Bell (1879-1961) was a central figure among Bloomsbury's visual artists. Rave! Rave! Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, trade paper: 0-15-693350-0, \$14.95.

Revival!, drawings by Eleanor Dickinson, text by Barbara Benziger, was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in 1974. Dickinson produces powerful, elegant line drawings of a Southern religious revival. Part anthropology, part sociology, this book is an act of love. Originally published by Harper and Row, it is now available from Eleanor Dickinson, 2125 Broderick St., San Francisco, CA 94115 or from Barbara Benziger, 347 W. 55th St., N.Y.C., NY 10019. \$7.95 (usual discount to dealers).



Maud Berkeley in Maud

A Woman's Touch, Women in Design from 1860 to the Present Day, by Isabelle Anscombe, is a wonderful study of how women like Vanessa Bell, Sonia Delaunay and Elsie de Wolfe, among many others, revolutionized ideas about form and function in the home. Book includes very interesting photographs. Penguin, large paper: 0-1400-8100-3, \$12.95.

Brenda Ueland's **If you Want to Write** is subtitled "A Book About Art, Independence and Spirit" and I found it to be just that: a gutsy, swaggering encouragement to everyone to nurture the creative sparkles within, not for money but for the good of the inner spirit. Originally published in 1938, the book suffers from a pervasive generic "he" which the author's warmth, knowledge and good sense do much to overcome. Graywolf Press, trade paper: 0-915308-94-0, \$6.50.

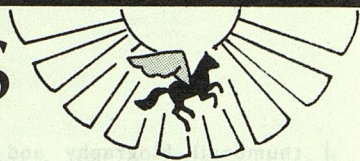
Artist Lilly Kwong has self-published **Art of the Orient, Basic Chinese Painting for Self Practice**, a delightful mixture of brush painting demonstrations, cryptic and philosophical comments, and poems. The cover is made up of newspaper articles and photographs of Lilly Kwong winning honors for flower arrangements. At \$19.95 I'm not sure how it's going to sell but think that every artist should have a copy to meditate upon. Large paper, the Lilly's Art Gallery, 253 Kentucky St., Petaluma, CA 94952, (707) 762-0857, discount: 30% - 50% depending on volume.

Another self-published book is **By the Way** by Eleanor Lawrence, photographs taken of greenery and grassy spaces within urban settings and of people within those spaces. It's a very gentle, loving book by the sister of the late Malvina Reynolds. Many of Lawrence's photos have appeared on Reynolds' album covers. Lawrence is also the aunt of storyteller Nancy Schimmel, for those of you who love to know how interconnected our world is! **By the Way** is a medium-sized soft cover. Order from E.M. Lawrence, 1628 Bonita, Berkeley, CA 94709, (415) 848-3622, retails at \$7.50, \$5.00 to bookstores.

SUSANNA STURGIS

ON

SCIENCE FICTION



In case any of you were wondering, I saw a photograph of C.S. Friedman, author of **In Conquest Born** (DAW Books), and she is definitely a woman.

Two bits of periodical news, both related to Marion Zimmer Bradley. Your local Darkover fans may be interested in the long-running **Darkover Newsletter**, which is available by subscription for \$7/year U.S., \$10/Canada. And March 1988 is the tentative inaugural date for **Marion Zimmer Bradley's Fantasy Forum**. Details are not all available, but some bookstore distribution is planned. For more info about either/both, write MZB Enterprises, Box 72, Berkeley, CA 94701. Writer's guidelines are available for an SASE.

Finally, I read an extraordinary fantasy novel this summer: **The Unconquered Country**, by Geoff Ryman (Bantam/Spectra, \$2.95). Based on events in Cambodia before and after the "victory" of the Khmer Rouge, it is the horrifying, understated tale of Third, a girl who loses everything in the war, then loses more, yet survives. Were I carrying any f/sf (or, for that matter, antiwar books) at all by male writers, I'd stock this one.



ACADEMY CHICAGO

Fall **The Best of Pamela Sargent**, ed. by Martin H. Greenberg, price n/a (cloth and trade paper).

ACE BOOKS

Teot's War, by Heather Gladney, \$2.95. At the heart of this startlingly good sword-and-sorcery adventure is the complex, erotically tinged relationship between a king and a renegade swordsman. Unfortunately, they and all the major characters in the book are men. Makes me want to reread Joanna Russ's essay on the Kirk/Spock phenomenon among female Trekkies.

War for the Oaks, by Emma Bull, \$3.50. The perfect read for a dull day at the office, this imaginative fantasy brings Celtic-style Faerie into the streets and parks of contemporary Minneapolis and stars the female lead singer of a rock band.

Dec. **Web of Wind**, by J.F. Rivkin, price n/a. A welcome sequel to **Silverglass**, the fantasy adventure that introduced a swordman-sorceress duo whose relationship crackles, first with friction, then with... Recommended!

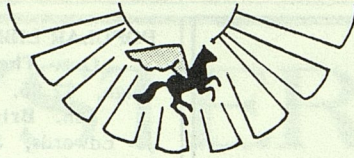


ARBOR HOUSE

Nov. **The Bridge of Lost Desire**, by Samuel R. Delaney, \$16.95 (cloth). Readers of Delaney's "Neveryon" stories will recognize the title's reference to Neveryon's red-light district. Diverse sexualities form an essential part of Delaney's tapestry.

ATLANTIC MONTHLY PRESS

Faces, by Leigh Kennedy, \$15.95. These competent short stories, by the author of **The Journal of Nicholas the American**, skirt the borderlands between fantasy and "mainstream"



psychological fiction. "Her Fuzzy Face" is a standout, but I'd wait for the paperback.

AVON BOOKS

Daughter of the Bear King, by Eleanor Arnason, \$3.50. "A Minnesota housewife, battling slimy monsters, wading through blood? And loving it!" Sounds interesting!!

The People: No Different Flesh, by Zenna Henderson, \$3.50. Reprint of an sf classic, about telepathic aliens whose desire to settle peacefully on Earth is thwarted by human persecution.

Sept. **Pilgrimage**, by Zenna Henderson, price n/a. Another in Henderson's novels about "the People."

BANTAM/SPECTRA

Mindplayers, by Pat Cadigan, \$3.50. In this well-sketched and apparently nonsexist future, mindplayers are psychological explorers who enter their clients' minds to stimulate, titillate, diagnose, and/or heal. An utterly engrossing speculation on the nature of mind, creativity, emotion, etc.

Oct. **The Shore of Women**, by Pamela Sargent, \$4.95.

Nov. **A Mask for the General**, by Lisa Goldstein, \$14.95. Set after an economic collapse in a vividly portrayed and dreary 21st century U.S., this intriguing novel focuses on a variety of dissidents, particularly the flamboyant mask-maker Layla and her chosen but ambivalent apprentice Mary. Recommended, though I found the resolution of their conflict dissatisfyingly ambiguous.

Dec. **After Long Silence**, by Sheri S. Tepper, \$3.95. "Dark fantasy" and horror isn't my genre of choice, but I do admire Tepper's work.

CAPRA PRESS

Sept. **Buffalo Gals and Other Animal Presences**, by Ursula K. LeGuin, \$15.95 (cloth). "Primarily for LeGuin fans" said PW, which

seemed (surprise!) put off by the fact that in this collection of poems and stories "women, children, and the natural world are celebrated in hosannas against the threat of male power and destructiveness."



DAW BOOKS

Double Nocturne, by Cynthia Felice, \$3.50. A spaceman crash-lands on a planet where men are deemed suitable only for menial work and sex and the ruling women occupy themselves with political intrigues. What I heard most clearly was a tired old tirade against women who don't realize they need men. More to the point, the characters, both male and female, were so flat that I dropped out on p. 94.

Sept. **Arrow's Flight**, by Mercedes Lackey, \$3.50. A good read -- how can you miss, with plucky female heroines and intelligent horse-like Companions that bond with their Chosen riders like Anne McCaffrey's dragons? Nevertheless, protagonist Talia's self-aggravated angst seems less part of her character and more a device to complicate the plot.

Nov. **Red Sun of Darkover**, by Marion Zimmer Bradley with the Friends of Darkover, \$3.95.

Dec. **Lady Blade, Lord Fighter**, by Sharon Green, \$3.50. Green's heroines generally fall into the female-equivalents-of-Conan-the-Barbarian category, but hey, it takes all kinds, right? This one begins a new series. (One account gives the title as **Lady Blade, Sword Fighter**.)

Dec. **Skeen's Search**, by Jo Clayton, \$3.50. Concluding novel of the Skeen trilogy.

Jan. **Exile's Gate**, by C.J. Cherryh, \$3.95. The long-awaited fourth and concluding volume of the Morgaine novels. Who is Morgaine, you ask? The most enigmatic, courageous, and solitary of fantasy heroines, re-weaver of time itself, and last but not least goddess-mother of my computer.

WHEN I AM AN OLD WOMAN I SHALL WEAR PURPLE

An anthology devoted to the theme of women and aging—poignant, deeply moving, and sometimes funny. There are more than 50 poems and a dozen well crafted stories accompanied by a number of unusual and evocative photographs. The collection moves from observation of the aging process and those around us, through acknowledgement of our own aging, to acceptance and the discovery of unexpected rewards. The authors and photographers—male and female, young and old, from a variety of lifestyles and ethnic backgrounds—have together woven a rich tapestry in this exceptional volume.

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POPULAR LIBRARY/QUESTAR

Oct. **The Leopard's Daughter**, by Lee Kilough, \$2.95. "An African fantasy."

Jan. **Bright and Shining Tiger**, by Claudia J. Edwards, \$2.95. The powerful sorceress Runa becomes the protector of a medieval-like kingdom under seige by evil magic and barbarian hordes.

ST. MARTIN'S PRESS

Nov. **The Hidden Side of the Moon**, by Joanna Russ, price n/a (probably cloth). That's all I know, but I'll bet it's significant!

TOR BOOKS

Sept. **The Falling Woman**, by Pat Murphy, \$3.95. Halfway through, I'm totally hooked and very impressed. Like its protagonist Liz Butler, an archeologist supervising the excavation of a Mayan site, the novel moves seamlessly between worlds, ancient and modern, spiritual and scientific. Among the characters are Liz's longestranged daughter and a long-dead Mayan priestess. Highly recommended.

Sept. **Tales of the Witch World**, ed. by Andre Norton, \$15.95 (cloth). Sixteen writers (including Ardath Mayhar, Elizabeth Scarborough, and Norton herself) accepted Norton's invitation to contribute to this shared-world anthology.

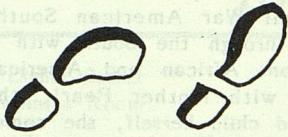
Sept. **The Witchfires of Leth**, by Dan Greenberg, \$3.50. This game/novel is based on C.J. Cherryh's Morgaine novel **Gate of Ivrel**, but the protagonist is Morgaine's vassal Vanye -- which probably suggests the game's intended (adolescent male) audience.

Oct. **A Flame in Byzantium**, by Chelsea Quinn Yarbro, \$17.95 (cloth). A historical (female) vampire novel, first in a new series, set in the centuries after the fall of Rome, called by one reviewer "a backward-looking version of **The Handmaid's Tale**, set in a dystopia that once was all too real."

VIRAGO

Cry Wolf, by Aileen La Tourette, \$6.95. The sensibility is feminist, the premise potentially absorbing: An elder, survivor of nuclear holocaust, tries to protect the next generation from knowledge of the world that destroyed itself. Yet the writer kept me at arm's length, and I felt only the barest flickers of involvement with any of the characters. Disappointing.

MYSTERIES



by Karen Axness
A Room of One's Own

Some of the coming attractions of the Fall publishing season:

SEPTEMBER

She Came Too Late, Mary Wings (Crossing \$7.95). The second "Woman Sleuth" title is the first American publication of Wings' first novel which was published in England by the Women's Press. I'm very pleased to see it become readily available at a more reasonable price because it's very entertaining indeed. Set in Boston and written in the hard-boiled style, it features Emma Victor, a lesbian-feminist activist. Don't miss this one!

Marriage is Murder, Nancy Pickard (Scribner's \$14.95 cloth). Pickard's fourth Jenny Cain mystery sees cloth release this month. I mention it because the second and third are coming out in paper this fall. Jenny, who is constantly referred to as "bright and beautiful" in publisher blurbs, is the director of a civic foundation in a New England town. The reviews have been good, but I have yet to read one. This one concerns domestic violence.

OCTOBER

Study in Lilac, Maria-Antonia Oliver (Seal Press \$8.95). A feminist thriller set in Barcelona and translated from the Catalan, this has detective Lonia Guiu and her male assistant Quinn seeking three men. They are working for an antique dealer, Ms. Gaudi, who claims the three defrauded her. One by one, the men turn up murdered. Kudos to Seal for their translation program.

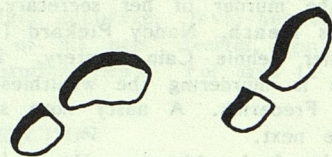
I Am the Only Running Footman, Martha

Grimes (Dell \$3.95). First paperback publication of the eighth in Grimes' very popular Richard Jury/Melrose Plant series.

No Word from Winifred, Amanda Cross (Ballantine \$3.95). Finally the latest Kate Fansler story will be available in paperback. Her fans in their legions will be delighted. No great admirer of this -- to my taste -- overly mannered series, I enjoyed this particular novel, which has Kate looking for a missing person.

A Taste for Death, P.D. James (Warner \$4.95). I confess (and this is quite a confession for a supposed mystery expert) that this was the first James novel I read. Thoroughly hooked, I've been reading my way back through her work. Though this is an Adam Dalgliesh story, James introduces a very interesting young woman police detective. Highly recommended.

The Suspect and Sleep While I Sing both by L.R. Wright (Penguin \$3.95 each). First American paperback editions of these well received mysteries by a Canadian writer. **The Suspect** won an Edgar Award in 1985. Both books feature Staff Sergeant Karl Alberg and librarian Cassandra Mitchell and are set in a British Columbian coastal village. They have been praised for their suspense and psychological depth.



NOVEMBER

Deadly Intent, Gayle Rosellini (Chicago \$4.95). Another of Academy's "First Mysteries", its heroine is Julie Langton, a California social worker threatened by a convicted rapist

about to be released from jail.

The Little Dog Laughed, Joseph Hansen (Holt \$3.95). First paperback of this Dave Brandstetter mystery.

Early Graves, Joseph Hansen (Mysterious Press \$15.95 cloth). Dave Brandstetter, Hansen's gay sleuth, returns in this story of his investigation of the murder of a real estate mogul suffering from AIDS.

A Trouble of Fools, Linda Barnes (St. Martin's \$15.95 cloth). Barnes, who has written three mysteries featuring a male sleuth, introduces a female P.I. Carlotta Carlyle, red-headed and 6'1" tall, having lost her job with the Boston police department, drives cab and starts her own detective agency. Sounds promising.

A Dinner to Die For, Susan Dunlap (St. Martin's \$15.95 cloth). Dunlap's latest is another "Jill Smith" story, with her Berkeley police detective investigating the murder of the owner of a chic restaurant -- poisoned by his own carrot soup. I've enjoyed several of Dunlap's books which inexplicably have not yet found a paperback publisher.

The Legend of the Slain Soldiers, Marcia Muller (NAL \$3.50). A second novel featuring Elena Oliverez, curator of the Museum of Mexican Art and amateur sleuth. In this story, Elena's mother persuades her to look into the death of a writer on Mexican-American agricultural workers.

No Body, Nancy Pickard (Pocket \$3.50). The third Jenny Cain mystery is one I plan to read. Praised for its wit and well-constructed plot, it concerns the disappearance of all the bodies from an historic cemetery and the murder of a funeral home employee.

DECEMBER

Advent of Dying, Sister Carol Anne O'Marie (Dell \$3.50)). This second novel featuring Sister Mary Helen has the septuagenarian sleuth investigating the murder of her secretary.

Generous Death, Nancy Pickard (Pocket \$3.50). Another Jennie Cain mystery. In this one, someone is murdering the wealthiest citizens of Port Frederick. A nasty note suggests Jennie will be next.

The Right Jack, Margaret Maron (Bantam \$3.50). Bantam is comparing Maron to Paretsky and Grafton and plans to issue two other of her "Sigrid Harald" books as well. Sigrid is a police detective in New York City. More on these next time.

BUDDING FEMINISTS, Cont. from p. 51

The Magical Adventures of Pretty Pearl by Virginia Hamilton. (Harper Trophy, \$4.95 0-06-440178-2.) God child Pretty Pearl, younger sister of John de Conquer and John Henry, comes down from Mount Kenya to try life as a mortal child in the post-Civil War American South. After a long journey through the South with a cast of characters from African and American folklore, as well as with Mother Pearl, the adult aspect of the god child herself, she comes upon the Inside Folks, a separatist community of Free Blacks, linked to the outside world through their connections with the Shawnee and Cherokee Nations. Drawn to the humans and their "winning ways," Pearl must eventually choose between her own immortal power and her newly emerging identity within a struggling mortal community. Hamilton skillfully weaves myth, legend, and history into a complex pattern of hopes and dreams to create a truly American odyssey. A masterpiece of contemporary children's literature that adults should not overlook, **Pretty Pearl** should be cross-referenced in Black literature. (Age 12 and older)

Handles by Jan Mark. (Puffin, \$3.95 0-14-031587-X.) Spending the summer in a small English town with dull relatives is sure to be unbearable for Erica Timperly, who loves fast motorcycles and quick wit better than anything. She is bored stiff, that is, until she meets the local motorcycle mechanic, Elsie Wainwright, whose wry observations and unusual outlook on life suit Erica just fine. One of Elsie's most endearing traits is that he nicknames everybody and everything, so that even the pothole in his parking lot ("Copernicus") is invested with personality. This habit allows Erica to share Elsie's world view and to begin creating one of her own, different from her family's and from Elsie's. Running throughout this absolutely hilarious and completely enjoyable novel are the very serious themes of identity and the power and importance of names. And besides, the girl digs bikes. Don't miss it! (Age 12 and older)

* **Nobody Wants a Nuclear War** was just awarded the Jane Addams Children's Book Award given annually to the children's book that most effectively promotes the cause of peace, justice and world community. The award is sponsored by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and the Jane Addams Peace Association.

GAY MEN'S LIT

for Feminist Bookstores

by Donna Szeker
Giovanni's Room

Stonewall Inn Editions from St. Martin's Press: We've just received the first four titles in this handsome, uniform series of contemporary gay classics...

Buddies, by Ethan Mordden, 1987, 240 pp. \$7.95 pb. The 14 stories in this popular gay author's most recent offering revolve around the idea that men crave the friendship of other men, the non-erotic affection you can have only for your best buddy. With insight and a wonderful wit, Mordden plots a course through both gay and straight buddy relationships, calling up memorable characters and situations.

Blackbird, by Larry Duplechan, 1987, 182 pp., \$7.95 pb. A really great guy, Johnnie Ray Rousseau, a black gay teenager, is having a month he'll never forget: his girlfriend suddenly wants to get "serious," his best pal gets beat up by his dad, his idol (a star fullback) gets the minister's daughter pregnant, and good old Johnnie falls in love with another boy. Then there was the exorcism. He's the most likeable kid you've ever met; we think you'll enjoy this second novel by the author of **Eight Days a Week**.

Joseph and the Old Man, by Christopher Davis, 1987, 195 pp. \$7.95 pb. In the autumnal glow of post-season Fire Island is played out an intergenerational love story between the Old Man, a celebrated novelist, and Joe, a former student. Their bliss is complete until Fate deals them an unexpected and crippling hand. This haunting and beautiful tale has been favorable compared to Holleran's **Dancer from the Dance**.

Gay Priest: An Inner Journey, by Malcomb Boyd, foreword by the Rt. Rev. Paul Moore, Bishop of New York, 1987, 163 pp., \$7.95 pb. The enlightened and enlightening spiritual odyssey of a gay priest whose career in the church spans 30 years. Father Boyd's words will be welcomed mightily by the millions of gay women and men

who feel that their Church has kept them from their faith, with the odious admonition, "Tell a lie for Christ."

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Gaywyck, by Vincent Virga (GMP), 1987, (orig. pub. 1980), 375 pp., \$7.95 pb. How we remember when Virga's **Gaywyck** was published, the first ever gay men's gothic romance complete with all the sinister trappings, the overblown passion and larger-than-life characters. This story of young Robert Whyte, hired at 17 to catalog the vast library at baronial Gaywyck, provides an attractive alternative to today's literary realism. Good fun.

Better Angel, by Richard Meeker, introduction by Hubert Kennedy (Alyson), 1987, (orig. pub. 1933), 284 pp., \$5.95 pb. This growing-up-gay novel chronicles the struggles and joys of a young man between the wars. First published over 50 years ago, it is probably the first positive depiction of male homosexuality in fiction in the US. Even the ending is vaguely happy, no mean feat for the period. Have a look at this gay classic and see what growing up gay was like 55 years ago.

Good-bye Tomorrow, by Gloria Miklowitz (Delacorte), 1987, 150 pp., \$13.95 cl. A well-written story told from the viewpoints of four teenagers one of whom has been diagnosed with ARC (AIDS-related complex) many weeks after a blood transfusion following an accident. Alex, who is not gay, then becomes the central character in this accurate, level-headed, realistic portrayal of his pals' fearful, guilty reactions to the disturbing news. For ages 12 and up.

NEW NONFICTION

The Homosexual Matrix, 2nd ed., by C.A. Tripp (Meridian), 1987, (orig. pub. 1975), 330 pp., \$10.95 pb. Psychotherapist and sex researcher, C. A. Tripp has updated his monumental and judicious study of homosexuality to include much new material and recent developments. The

BOOKMARK UPDATES

1988 *places of interest to* WOMEN

After our guides had gone to the printer in May, 1987, changes took place in the women's community that were important to women travelers. Therefore, we have decided to "insert" into every guide our "Bookmark Updates" for your convenience and use. Happy travels from the women at Places of Interest to Women!

Phoenix, AZ. (602)

Bars & Dance Bars

1. NEW TALK OF THE TOWN NIGHT-CLUB, 4301 N 7th Ave, 248-8573, opens 2pm Mon-Fri, noon Sat & Sunday, live entertainment Thurs-Sun, DJ Mon-Wed
2. FARRAH'S, 4158 Grand Ave, 841-7711, mixed men and women but many women on weekends

Provincetown, MA (617)

Women's Accommodations

1. LADY JANE'S INN, 7 Central St, 487-3387, continental breakfast, private baths & separate entrances, open April-November

Albuquerque, NM (505)

Bars & Dance Bars

1. CHAMPAGNE TASTE (OPEN JUNE 1987), 8201 San Pedro NE, 828-1024, bar & restaurant with disco and art gallery of women's art, open Wed-Sat 6pm-2am, Sun 11am-8pm with brunch.

BOOKMARK • UPDATES •

More than a bookmark, our "Bookmark Updates" are more than just a way to keep your place. Important changes in the women's community should be noted in all copies of *Places of Interest to Women 1988* guides. If your order hasn't arrived with Bookmark Updates already inserted in the inside front cover, drop us a line, and we'll send bookmarks for your stock ASAP.

Places of Interest
to Women
PO Box 35875
Phoenix, AZ 85069
(602) 863-2408

first edition has been out of print for a number of years; if you've never looked into it, and if you're interested, Wardell Pomeroy (co-author of *The Kinsey Reports*) says it is "... the best book I have ever read on the subject of homosexuality...", you owe it to yourself to read this book.

Gay Spirit: Myth and Meaning, by Mark Thompson (St. Martin's), 1987, 310 pp., \$18.95 cl. In this volume Thompson has condensed 10 years of investigative cultural reporting and research into ethnicity of the gay subculture: a wide range of topics covered in a variety of essays by the like of Dennis Altman, Judy Grahn, William S. Burroughs and Malcolm Boyd. The argument that ties the work together is that gay people are different from non-gays not only in their sexual preference, but--more importantly--also on a deeper, more spiritual plane. Because of this, gay contributions are a necessary and integral part of society. This book, along with Grahn's *Another Mother Tongue*, will form the cornerstone of future research into gay spirituality. Photo-illustrated.

FORTHCOMING TITLES

LIBERTY PRESS

In the Fields, by Scott Winnett (Liberty Press), due 11/87, \$8.95 pb. A gothic novel set in the 1870's in rural Texas--a story of spiritualism, religious mania, and hidden sexual passion.

DOUBLEDAY

The Golden Droplet, by Michel Tournier, translated by Barbara Wright, due 10/87, 216 pp., \$16.95 cl. A new novel by the distinguished French writer; it joins the ranks containing *The Ogre*, *Friday*, and *The Fetishist*, some of the finest French fiction available in English. 0-385--23759-6

WEIDENFELD & NICOLSON

Malcolm, by James Purdy, due 9/87, 192 pp., \$6.95 pb. In 1959 the eponymous hero, one of the great innocents in all of modern fiction, first sailed across the skies of what Miss Dorothy Parker called "these heavy-hanging times." 1-55584--084-1

The Nephew, by James Purdy, due 9/87, \$6.95 pb. In the wake of a young soldier's disappearance in action, the inhabitants of a small American town find their past triumphs and disasters paraded down their figurative Main Street.

HENRY HOLT

Reuben, by John Edgar Wideman, due 10/87, 256 pp., \$16.95 cl. A new novel by the author of **A Glance Away, Brothers and Keepers**, and **Hiding Place**. Wideman, one of America's major black authors, is a P.E.N. - Faulkner Award winner who was also nominated for the National Book Critics Circle Award. 0-8050-0375-4

The Little Dog Laughed, by Joseph Hansen, due 11/87, 192 pp., \$3.95 pb. This is the eighth paperback title in Hansen's acclaimed Dave Brandstetter mystery series. The exciting whodunit involves plots and counterplots extending from wealthy Los Angeles to the strife-worn misery of a Central American republic. Dave Brandstetter--wealthy, fearless, courageous, cultivated, and gay--is one of our most visible heroes. 0-8050--0627-3

The Pink Triangle: The Nazi War Against Homosexuals, by David Plant, due 2/88, 272 pp., \$9.95 pb. The author, himself a refugee from Nazi Germany, examines the conditions and climate that gave rise to and fostered Himmler's campaign against homosexuals. The most comprehensive and most authoritative book on this subject in English. 0-8050--0600-1



ALYSON PUBLICATIONS

Ulrichs: The Life and Works of Karl Heinrich Ulrichs, Pioneer of the Modern Gay Movement by Hubert Kennedy, due 12/87, \$17.95 cl. \$7.95 pb. It is believed that Ulrichs (1825-1895) was the first person ever to have proclaimed himself an "Urning" (the term homosexual had not yet been coined). A well-researched biography of the gay pioneer. 1-55583--124-9 (cl); 1-55583--109-5 (pb).

The Boiled Frog Syndrome, by Marty Rubin, due 9/87, \$7.95 pb. A novel of love, sex and politics in a post-AIDS era during which gay exiles (those who escaped the purge) must fight to return freedom to their country.

Rat & the Devil: Journal Letters of F.O. Matthiessen and Russel Cheney, edited by Louis Hyde, due 11/87, \$9.95 pb. A chronicle of the durable, loving relationship between Cheney, an exceptional painter, and Matthiessen, a well-known literary historian. They first met in 1924 and over the years exchanged over 3100 letters, writing each other almost every day when separated. Never before in paperback. 1-55583--110-9

The Gay Desk Calendar, compiled by John Preston, due 9/87, \$7.95 pb. Day-by-day listings of important milestones in gay history, with photos of prominent gay men and lesbians, and works by talented gay artists, fill each day of 1988 with gay pride. (Please note that there will not be a Main Street Press **Gay Engagement Calendar** for 1988.) 1-55583--122-2

Lethal Silence, by John Preston, due 11/87, \$6.95 pb. The newest installment in the Mission of Alex Kane series, with Alex and his lover Danny doing battle with gay-hating mega-businessmen who've vowed to endanger the lives of thousands of gay-rights marchers in Chicago.

The Gay Book of Lists, compiled by Leigh Ritledge, due 11/87, \$6.95 pb. An absolute must for gay-trivia buffs, here are fascinating lists that range from historical and political to hysterical and outrageous. Informative and highly entertaining. 1-55583--120-6

Lucky in Love, by Don Saker, due 11/87, \$4.95 pb. In Sakers' **Act Well Your Part**, Keith Graff left Kinwood High and moved away to find love and acceptance, leaving his best friend, Frank Beale, behind. **Lucky in Love** is Frank's story, how he tried to fill the gap in his life and how a serious accident changed his life forever. 1-55583--112-5

Plague: A Novel About Healing, by Toby Johnson, due 9/87, \$7.95 pb. While the chilling plot of an "experiment" gone horribly wrong seems all too real, the author also develops a philosophy of death and dying and a holistic approach to healing that makes this more than just another AIDS thriller. 1-55583--125-7

Growing Up Gay in the Eighties, by Andy Humm, due 11/87, \$3.95 pb. Similar to Alyson's well-known and popular **One Teenager in Ten** and **Young, Gay and Proud** but with a heavy emphasis on AIDS prevention, the point of the book is that gay teens can be sexually active if they wish without exposing themselves to the virus. 1-55583--132-X

Something's Working: One Man's Approach to Healing AIDS, by Steven Fox, due 10/87, \$7.95 pb. Traces how a 41-year-old gay man, diagnosed as having AIDS, changed emotional and psychological patterns that made him susceptible to disease, using visualizations, diet, meditation and a positive attitude, in addition to medical treatment. 1-55583--135-4

W.W. NORTON

Maurice, by E. M. Forster, due 8/87, \$4.95 pb. New reprint of Forster's classic 1913-1914 novel about homosexuality, and about a gay relationship that ends happily. "Happiness," he wrote, "is its keynote." 0-393-00026-5

The Life to Come and Other Stories, by E. M. Forster, due 8/87, \$5.95 pb. Reprint of the 14 stories, representing every phase of Forster's career, that went unpublished for so long because homosexuality figured fearlessly in all but two. 0-393-30442-6

NAL

Faggots, by Larry Kramer, due 9/87, 384 pp., \$7.95 pb. It knocked both the literary and gay communities on their ears in 1978; it's now the newest title in the distinguished Plume paperback reprint series. It's the story of fortyish Fred Lemish and his odyssey to find a lover and a permanent relationship in NYC. - Moving, funny and compassionate. 0-452--25997-5

HARPER & ROW

Celebration, by Mary Lee Settle, due 10/87, 368 pp., \$7.95 pb. A satisfying, well-composed novel about a young couple, Teresa and Ewan, settling in London, and their circle of memorable friends, among them an up-front gay man and his Hong Kong lover. Fine fiction. 0-06-097114-2

White Shroud: Poems 1980-1985, by Allen Ginsberg, due 11/87, 112 pp., \$8.95 pb. Reprint in paperback of last year's outstanding collection of Ginsberg's later poems, confirming his reputation as the USA's boldest and most provocative poet. 0-06-091429-7

HARRINGTON PARK

Perverts by Official Order: The Campaign Against Homosexuals in the US Navy, by Lawrence

R. Murphy, due 12/87, \$19.95 pb. Persecution began after WWI and contributed to McCarthyite policies of the early '50s. 0-918393-44-2

The Pursuit of Sodomy: Male Homosexuality in Renaissance and Enlightenment Europe, edited by Kent Gerard and Gert Hekma, due 11/87, \$19.95 pb. Discovers and explores the role of the male homosexual in the period 1400 to 1800. A remarkable achievement by two eminent historians. 0-918393-49-3

METHUEN

Gay Plays: Volume Three, edited by Michael Wilcox (Methuen), due 12/87, 128 pp., \$11.95 pb. The third anthology of plays dealing with gay relationships contains four new works. 0-413-14740-1



FORTHCOMING TITLES

AIDS: A Self-Care Manual, edited by Betty Clare Moffatt, Judith Spiegel, et al. (AIDS Project LA), due 7/87, 320 pp., \$12.95 pb. New up-dated version of the self-care guide that examines many aspects of personal AIDS management. 0-9616605-1-1

International Directory of Gay and Lesbian Periodicals, by H. Robert Malinowsky (Oryx Press), 1987, 240 pp., \$55.00 pb. Over 2000 entries (!!) with very specific data for each listing. An expensive but invaluable resource. 0-89774-297-4

Answered Prayers: The Unfinished Novel, by Truman Capote (Random House), due 9/87, 208 pp., \$16.95 cl. Long delayed and hugely anticipated, finally to be published three years after Capote's death. 0-394-55645-6

A Capote Reader, by Truman Capote (Random House), due 9/87, 736 pp., \$25.00 cl. Novellas, short fiction, sketches, travel writing, reportage, portraits and essays--virtually everything except his major length novels. 0-39455647-X

Gay Signs, by James E. Kneeland (Hay House), due 12/87, 256 pp., \$10.00 pb. At last! A new astrological guide for gay men (**Gay Love Signs** is, alas, definitely out of print). Kne-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 80

Books for Budding Feminists



by KT Horning

Books for Budding Feminists is a new column which will bring recently published books for children and teenagers to your attention. Because space is limited, I will choose to review only those books which I can recommend as a children's literature specialist and as a lesbian feminist. In every other issue, this column will provide an annotated list of recommended titles, grouped according to age level, concentrating on newly issued paperbacks and highlighting one or two recently published hardcover books that feminists should know about. In alternating issues, I will focus on a specific subject, theme or trend; e.g. Women's History in Newly Published Children's Books; Asian Americans in Children's Books: Where Are They? The thematic approach will serve to place new books and feminist ideals in the context of children's literature as a whole. I welcome suggestions, responses and questions from FBN readers. You can write me at: 2020 University Ave. #216 Madison, WI 53705.

CLOTH WORTH STOCKING

Nobody Wants a Nuclear War* by Judith Vigna. (Albert Whitman & Co., 5747 W. Howard St., Niles IL 60648, \$10.95 0-8075-5739-0.) One of the greatest challenges adults face in the nuclear age is answering children's questions about nuclear war. This 32 page picture book manages, remarkably, to be honest and reassuring

KT Horning is the Coordinator of Special Collections at the Cooperative Children's Book Center in Madison. Beginning in this issue she'll be doing a regular column on new and forthcoming non-sexist and anti-racist children's books.

at the same time, certainly what every responsible adult would hope to be able to accomplish in answering a child's questions. Vigna's story involves two children who are so frightened by the prospect of nuclear war that they build a backyard shelter and, upon finding them, their mother talks to them about the atomic bomb dropped on Japan in 1945, her own childhood experiences with air-raid drills in the 1950's, and finally about the ways she and other adults are involved as activists in the peace movement. The clear, low-key prose is powerful but never preachy or didactic, and it is accompanied by attractive pen and ink and watercolor illustrations. As there is no other book on this subject for young children, we are lucky that the one we do have is excellent.



MAU BLOSSOM

From *Awakening*

The Singing Stone by O. R. Melling. (Viking Kestrel, \$13.95 0-670-80817-2.) Wow! Here's an action-packed Celtic quest fantasy with two female heroines doing it all! Haunted by strong dreams and visions, an independent 17 year old leaves Canada for Ireland and magically slips back through time to the final days of the Tuatha de Danann. There she joins forces with a 14 year old girl and the two of them embark on a quest to find the four lost treasures of the Tuatha de Danann: a sword, a cauldron, a spear

and a stone. Their adventures are set against a marvelous backdrop of matriarchal culture, where women rulers and warriors are the norm, and frequent mention is made of the Goddess. And, as if that isn't enough, it's a great story of female friendship and the search for identity. (Ages 10-15)

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED PAPERBACKS

For preschoolers and early elementary school:

The New Baby At Your House by Joanna Cole. (Photos by Hella Hammid. William Morrow, \$4.95 0-688-07418-9.) Simple, reassuring text and over 50 black and white photographs introduce young children to changes they can expect with the arrival of a newborn sibling. Cole's respectful tone and Hammid's outstanding photographs of brothers and sisters from diverse ethnic backgrounds make this one of the best of the many books on the subject of new babies and sibling rivalry. (Ages 3-7)

Truck Song by Diane Siebert. (Illustrated by Byron Barton. Harper Trophy, \$3.95 0-06-443134-7.) Siebert's rhymed text is a lyrical tribute to trucks and truckers. The boldly colored illustrations include a white woman and a Black man as two of the three truckers appearing throughout the story. (Ages 3-6)

What's Inside?: The Alphabet Book by Satoshi Kitamura. (Farrar/Sunburst, \$3.95 0-374-443146-0.) This innovative ABC book is full of visual surprises. Each double-page spread shows a city scene containing objects beginning with paired letters (e.g. "apples" and "bananas"), while at the same time giving a clue (e.g. cat and dog paws poking out of a garbage can) for what pair will appear on the next page (dog chasing cat). Kitamura's full-color gouache paintings burst with energy and excitement. (Ages 3-6)

For middle readers:

No One is Going to Nashville by Mavis Jukes. (Illustrated by Lloyd Bloom. Knopf/Borzoi Sprinter, \$2.95 0-394-89264-X.) Young Sonia is certain that she'll grow up to be a veterinarian, so she sees the stray dog that shows up on her doorstep one morning as more than a potential pet -- he's an opportunity for professional experience. At least, that's the tact she takes with her dog-hating father, who insists on placing ads in the newspaper to try to find another home for "Max." The conflict between Sonia and her father is at once touching and humorous, and is finally resolved by Sonia's

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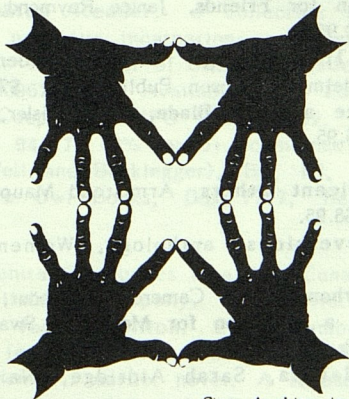
wonderfully strong stepmother, who states simply, "We're keeping the dog. Discussion closed." This is the first book by an enormously gifted new writer who can always be counted upon to write truthfully and sensitively about subtle shifts in relationships within blended and extended families, in addition to telling a satisfying, witty story. (Ages 7-11)

Not-Just-Anybody Family by Betsy Byers.

(Illustrated by Jacqueline Rogers. Dell/Yearling, \$2.95 0-440-45951-6.) One of the most popular writers of contemporary children's fiction has just completed a series of four books about the Blossoms, a working class family consisting of two brothers and one sister who live with their grandfather and sometimes with their mother, a rider on the rodeo circuit. In the first volume, **The Not-Just-Anybody Family**, the three children are temporarily separated from their grandfather and each other due to a series of unexpected events. A funny, episodic story results, told from four alternating points of view as each of the characters struggles to be reunited with the family. Subsequent volumes (not yet available in paper) are: **The Blossoms Meet the Vulture Lady**; **The Blossoms and the Green Phantom**; and **A Blossom Promise**. All are recommended but wait for the paperback editions. (Ages 8-12)

The Stories Julian Tells by Ann Cameron.

(Illustrated by Ann Strugnell. Knopf/Borzoi Sprinter, \$2.95 0-394-89262-3.) Julian is an imaginative boy whose passion for telling fanciful tales to his trusting little brother, Huey, often gets him into trouble with his father, who is a gifted story-teller in his own right. Julian's stories abound with positive images of



Sine Anahita in **Awakening**

liberated males: his dad cooks, gardens, and cares for the children, and Julian himself helps in the kitchen, secretly engages in ritualistic growing dances for his fig tree, and considers a girl to be his best friend. The content, voca-



bulary and format of the book are all successfully aimed at newly independent readers, which makes it rare, and all of the characters are Black, which makes it rarer still. A sequel, **More Stories Julian Tells** (Knopf, \$10.95), was published in 1986, and is also highly recommended. (Ages 7-10)

For teenagers:

Blossom Culp and the Sleep of Death by

Richard Peck. (Dell/Yearling, \$2.95 0-440-40676-5. Will probably be issued in a Dell/Laurel-Leaf edition soon, which would appeal more to teens.) Blossom Culp is no ordinary teenager -- she has the gift of second sight and she can travel backward and forward in time. The fourth volume in a deservedly popular series about a teenage psychic living in a small Midwestern city just after the turn of the century is of particular interest to feminists due to Peck's sensitive treatment of women's political and spiritual issues. Here Blossom's mentor is a history teacher, newly arrived in Bluff City, who is active in the Woman's Suffrage Movement, and Blossom's "client" is the troubled soul of an ancient Egyptian princess whose tomb has been pillaged by treasure seekers. Peck metaphorically uses symbols of women's power, such as snakes, to draw parallels between the teacher and the princess, separated by the centuries but united in their quest to reclaim a power which was stolen from them. (Age 12 and older)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 44

BEST SELLERS

LIONESS BOOKS AUGUST BESTSELLERS LIST (Sacramento, Ca.)

Fiction:

1. **Murder at the Nightwood Bar**, Forrest.
2. **Leave a Light On for Me**, Swallow.
3. **Lesbian Etiquette**, Sausser.
4. **Murder in the English Department**, Miner.
5. **Shoulders**, Cotrell.
6. **Tales of the City**, Maupin.
7. **Dusty's Queen of Hearts Diner**, Lynch.
8. **High Hearts**, Brown.
9. **Wingwomen of Hera**, Hall.
10. **Emergence of Green**, Forrest.

Non-fiction:

1. **Healing the Child Within**, Whitfield.
2. **Places of Interest to Women**, Ferrari.
3. **After the Tears**, Middleton-Moz & Dinell.
4. **Outgrowing the Pain**, Gil.
5. **Going Out of Our Minds**, Johnson.
6. **Thoughts & Feelings**, McKay, Davis & Fanning.
7. **Lesbian Sex**, Loulan.
8. **Self Esteem**, McKay, Davis & Fanning.
9. **It Will Never Happen to Me**, Black.
10. **Messages**, McKay, Davis & Fanning.

CHOICES BOOKS APRIL-JUNE BESTSELLERS

1. **Places of Interest to Women**, M. Ferrari & P. Williams, eds., Ferrari Publications, \$7.00.
2. **Choices**, N. Toder, Alyson, \$7.95.
3. **Travels with Diana Hunter**, R. Sands, Lace Pub., \$8.95.
4. **Father Gander Nursery Rhymes**, Larche, Advocacy, \$12.95.
5. **Murder at the Nightwood Bar** K. Forrest, Naiad, \$8.95.
6. **Last Summer at Bluefish Cove**, J. Chambers, JH Press, \$6.95.
7. **Curious Wine**, K. Forrest, Naiad, \$7.95.
8. **The Love of Good Women**, I. Miller, Naiad, \$8.95.
9. **Leave a Light on for Me**, J. Swallow, Spinster Ink, \$8.95.
10. **Lesbian Sex**, J. Loulan, Spinster Ink, \$8.95.
11. **Daughters of Copper Women**, A. Cameron, Press Gang, \$7.95.

12. **Hear the Silence**, Zahava, Crossing Press, \$8.95.
13. **Shoulders**, Cotrell, Firebrand, \$8.95.
14. **Different Daughters**, L. Rafkin, Cleis Press, \$8.95.
15. **Emergence of Green**, K. Forrest, Naiad, \$8.95.
16. **Desert of the heart**, J. Rule, Naiad, \$7.95.
17. **House at Pelham Falls**, B. Weathers, Naiad, \$7.95.
18. **Look Me in the Eye**. B. MacDonald, Spinsters Ink, \$5.95.
19. **Why We Lost the ERA**, J. Mansbridge, University of Chicago Press, \$9.95.
20. **Daughters of Coral Dawn**, K. Forrest, Naiad, \$7.95.



WOMEN AND CHILDREN FIRST JULY LESBIAN BESTSELLERS

Non-fiction:

1. **Lesbian Psychologies**, Boston Women's Psychology Collective, U. of Illinois Press, \$12.95.
2. **Different Daughters**, ed. Louise Rafkin, Cleis, \$8.95.
3. **Passion for Friends**, Janice Raymond, Harper & Row, \$10.95.
4. **Long Time Passing: Lives of Older Lesbians**, Marcy Adelman, Alyson Publications, \$7.95.
5. **Chalice and the Blade**, Riane Eisler, Harper & Row, \$16.95.

Fiction:

1. **Significant Others**, Armistead Maupin, Harper & Row, \$8.95.
2. **Dykeversions**, anthology, Women's Press, \$9.95.
3. **Dzelarhons**, Anne Cameron, Harbour, \$8.95.
4. **Leave a Light on for Me**, Jean Swallow, Spinster's Ink, \$8.95.
5. **Magdalena**, Sarah Aldridge, Naiad Press, \$8.95.

FROM OUR OWN PRESSES



Barn Owl Books re-enters the publishing gamble with **Windbreak**, the journal of a woman rancher on the plains of South Dakota by Linda Hasselstrom. Through her vivid descriptions, readers wade through blizzards, struggle to save the lives of newborn calves, greet the first meadowlark of spring, and feel the terror of prairie fires. Hasselstrom's journal entries echo the experiences and concerns of women -- and ranchers -- everywhere. She brings the history of women in the west alive and kicking into the present, addressing issues including nuclear waste disposal, corporate takeovers of family ranches, and feminism on the range. Hasselstrom has several books of poetry in print and another book **Going Over East: Reflections of a Woman Rancher** coming out this fall from Fulcrom. (\$13.95 cl, 1-55591-018-1, Fulcrom Inc., 350 Indiana St. #510, Golden Co 80401, also avail. B&T and Ingram.) **Windbreak** has just been selected as a Book of the Month Club alternate selection for March 1988. Barn Owl, in a previous incarnation was Amazon Press, publisher of **The Lesbian Reader**, a collection of articles from its previous incarnation as **Amazon Quarterly**, the foremother of **Sinister Wisdom**. \$12.95 pb, 0-9609626-3-8. Available from Pacific Publishers' Cooperative (PO Box 170052, San Francisco CA 94117. 40% for 5+, combines with Frog in the Well and Booklegger), BP, IN, and direct from Barn Owl Books, Box 7727, Berkeley CA 94707.

Amanita Enterprises is a new Canadian feminist publishing company. Their first book will be **Work for a Million**, Eve Zaremba's second mystery featuring lesbian detective Helen Kermos. Zaremba's earlier novel, **A Reason to Kill** was originally published by Paperjacks, a Cana-

dian mass market house and was readily available to U.S. booksellers -- as long as you could handle a 25 copy order, that is. Amanita will make Zaremba much more accessible. 40% for 5+, 20% for 2-4 copies. Oh, about the book?? Margaret Atwood says, "Eve Zaremba's fast-paced-thriller features a female detective who's a cross between Philip Marlow and Lily Tomlin. The one-liners alone are worth the trip." I'd order it on that comment alone, never mind that I raced through her first one, and I **never** read thrillers! \$8.95 (US) pb. 0-921299-00-1. Amanita Enterprises, PO Box 784 Station P, Toronto Ont. M5S 2Z1. Maybe BP or IN will pick it up soon???

Women with long-term memories may remember seeing an early version of Cathy Cade's **A Lesbian Photo Album: The Lives of Seven Lesbian Feminists** at the 1981 Women in Print Conference. Several years and several versions later, **A Lesbian Photo Album** is finally a reality. The book documents the lives of seven diverse women ("your typical lesbian" in a range of ages, races and ethnicities, education, class, lifestyle, body type, assumptions, desires, and



Allison Bechdel in Making It



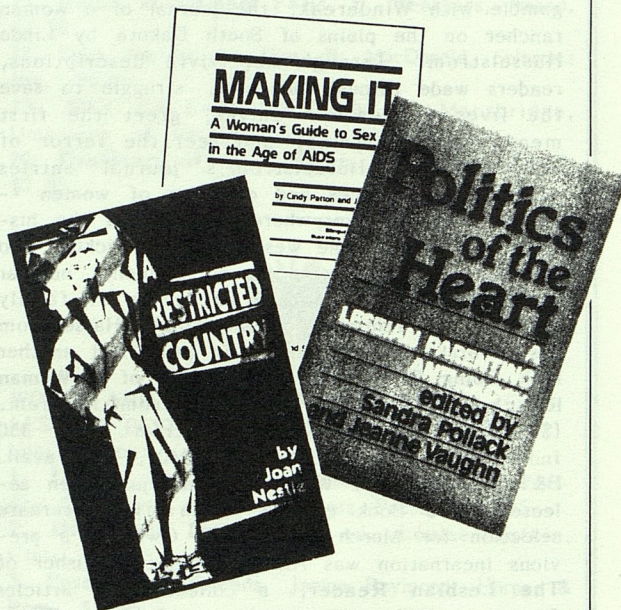
histories) with photos taken by Cathy Cade, childhood photos, and first-person accounts of their lives to date. Possibly my favorite photo is a young Willyce Kim (**Dancer Dawkins and the California Kid**) dressed for the prom.... This book is rich with integrating the many parts of individuals, the many individuals that make our community. Certainly a book that no feminist bookstore will want to be without -- and on that will inspire many women to collect our photos and our pasts and create our own and our friend's histories. \$14.95 pb, 0-9618452-2-5. Waterwomen Books, 3022 Ashbrook Ct., Oakland Ca 94601. 40% for 5+ prepaid, also at Inland and Bookpeople.

Firebrand's classic fall list includes a pamphlet on AIDS, a lesbian parenting anthology, a mystery and a collection of fiction and essays by Joan Nestle:

Politics of the Heart: A Lesbian Parenting Anthology edited by Sandra Pollack and Jeanne Vaughn. An anthology of writings by 60 + lesbians who are mothers, who are coparents, who decide not to have children; lesbians who are artificially inseminated, who adopt, who are foster parents; lesbians in heterosexual marriages or extended feminist families; lesbians who have had their children taken from them, who found it necessary to give them up; lesbians who were mothers before there were lesbians and, increasingly, lesbians who are choosing to become mothers... About time for this book, eh!? 360 pgs (!) \$11.95 pb 0-932379-35-4. \$24.95 cl 0-932379-36-2.

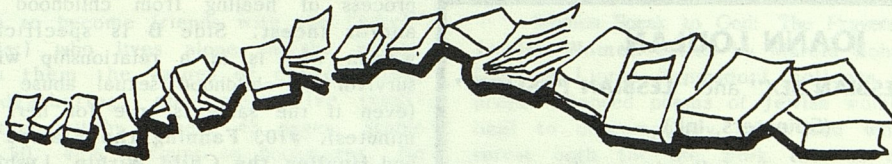
The Monarchs Are Flying, a who-dun-it by Canadian writer Marion Foster begins with "a small town community, a homophobic investigator, a young married woman dead in a cheap motel room -- and a web of evidence ensnaring the victim's ex-lover Leslie Taylor. Rather than face the double jeopardy of being tried for both murder and her lifestyle, Leslie is determined to plead

guilty. But Harriet Croft, the big-city lawyer brought into the case by the murdered woman's husband, is equally committed to having Leslie stand trial. The result is a courtroom drama that changes the lives of both women forever." \$8.95 pb 0-932379-33-8, \$18.95 cl 0-932379-34-6.



A Restricted Country by Joan Nestle. "From the fevered interiors of '50's butch-femme bars, through the fervor of the Selma-Montgomery Civil Rights march, to the hotheaded feminist sex wars of today, the founder of the Lesbian Herstory Archives presents it like she lives it -- fully engaged with her head, her heart, and her body. Joan Nestle writes true, writes sexy. This is a politically astute, powerful collection drawn from her lesbian activist life." \$8.95 pb 0-932379-37-0. \$18.95 cl 0-932379-38-9.

Making It: A Woman's Guide to Sex in the Age of AIDS, by Cindy Patton and Janis Kelly, the second title in the Firebrand Sparks Pam-



phlet Series, moves beyond the clinical do's and don'ts of sex and AIDS to inform and encourage women to explore the many ways of lowering risk to themselves, their partners, and their children without sacrificing sex to safety. It offers practical suggestions for making sexual, drug use, and health changes based on interviews with women who have gone through them. Illustrations by Alison Bechdel. \$3.95, 48 pgs, 0-932379-32-X. Bilingual English /Spanish.

All due out October 15th. Bookstores please order Firebrand books from Inland or Bookpeople. Individuals, direct from Firebrand (+\$1.50 post for the first book and .50 for each additional book.) 141 The Commons, Ithaca NY 14850.

Herbooks announces a reprint and four new books:

To Live With the Weeds, by D. A. Clarke. This is the second printing of this title: the first edition was something of an underground lesbian hit. Beautifully printed and bound. Will sell if you are selling any lesbian poetry at all. 64 pgs, perfect bound. \$7.00. (Gift edition with rice paper endsheets available at \$8.00 retail.

Love Me Like You Mean It, poems by Lesléa Newman. "Conversational, passionate poetry by a Jewish lesbian feminist author of **Good Enough to Eat** (Firebrand 1986) about bulimia, lesbian

identity, work, incest, and relationships." 104 pgs, perfect bound. \$6.00 pb. 0-939821-28-1. November 1.

The Lesbian In Front of the Classroom: Writings by Lesbian Teachers. "An anthology by teachers working in elementary, junior high, high schools and colleges addressing the issue of being out or not being out in the classroom and the effects of closeting on their teaching." \$6.50, 60 pbs. December 1.

Love, Politics, and Rescue in Lesbian Relationships, an essay by lesbian therapist Diana Rabenoild addressing co-dependency in lesbian relationships and how it is fostered by women's socialization and heterosexism. \$3.50. December.

Between the Lines: An Anthology by Pacific-Asian Lesbians of Santa Cruz. "Photographs, essays, poetry and lithography by six Asian lesbians plus a fantastic bibliography. The first Asian lesbian anthology?" \$5.00, perfect bound. Available now.

HerBooks is an energetic three year old, 11 title lesbian feminist press based in Santa Cruz, CA, run by Irene Reti with the assistance of Sara-Hope Parmeter. HerBooks is dedicated to publishing ethical, unassimilated, strongly lesbian and feminist books with a concentration on poetry and the lesbian-feminist essay series.

HerBooks are available direct from HerBooks, 40%, no minimum, PO Box 7467, Santa Cruz, CA 95061 and from Inland.

Why wait for the book? Now you can get JoAnn Loulan's lesbian sexuality lecture series on cassette tape. (Just the thing for those long commutes through rush hour traffic...). #101 **Lesbians, CEBV, AIDS & Safe Sex** provides information on what currently constitutes "safe sex" for lesbians, how AIDS is transmitted, who is at risk and other relevant issues. \$9.95, (55 minutes). #102, **Incest Survivors and Partners of Incest Survivors**. Side A offers reassurance, hope, and caring suggestions in beginning the



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author of "LESBIAN SEX" and "LESBIAN PASSION"

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#102 "Incest Survivors"

"Partners of Incest Survivors" 12.95 list

#103 "Fanning the Flames for Couples"

"Healing the Child Within" 12.95 list

Available from Bookpeople, Ladyslipper, Inland or

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process of healing from childhood sexual abuse and/or incest. Side B is specifically for the woman who is in a relationship with a woman survivor of childhood sexual abuse and/or incest (even if the same is true for her. \$12.95, (90 minutes). #103 **Fanning the Flames for Couples** and **Healing the Child Within**. Lesbian couples in long-term relationships are quicker than most groups to lose their sexual spark. With warmth and humor, JoAnn suggests reasons for this loss of sexual desire, and offers insightful techniques for heating things back up. \$12.95 (90 minutes).

New and selling well from the Seal Press Women in Translation series is **To Live and to Write: Selections by Japanese Women Writers 1913-1938**. Stories by nine leading women writers are introduced by biographical essays. The stories and essays are linked both by time -- all set during 25 years of tumult and change and blossoming feminist consciousness -- and by theme: the struggle of women to find artistic and personal freedom. All wrapped up in one of the most inviting covers of the season. \$9.95 pb. 0-931188-43-1. BP, IN, Consortium, etc.

New from The Feminist Press: **The Harem Years: The Memoirs of an Egyptian Feminist** by Huda Shaarawi is a fascinating account of this early Egyptian feminist's childhood, quest for education and travel, life in a harem, and feminist work. She died in 1947. \$9.95 pb. 0-935312-70-6.

Awakening is the third almanac of Lesbian lore and vision (following **Ripening** and **Dreaming**) from Word Weaver. "Pieces of who we are as Lesbians, of what we know to be true...our oneness with the earth...our lore, our heritage as a people...our generative powers, creating from old and new, that which is precisely our own -- our own language, celebrations, images, identity...our visions that form our reality". Nett Hart, Lee Lanning, and other word weavers. \$6.95 pb. Standard bookstore terms. Word Weaver, Box 8742, Mpls MN 55408.

The Wisewoman, by Naomi Strichartz, illustrations by Ella Moore, is an interlocking set of short stories for children featuring two children from a middle class family who defy

their parents to become friends with the "witch" (read feminist) who lives alone in the woods. She teaches them the values of conservation, natural foodgathering, non-competitive traditions and other witchy values. 43 pages, staple stitched, \$3.50. 40% discount to bookstores. No distributors. Order direct from Cranehill Press, 708 Comfort Rd., Spencer NY 14883. "Cranehill is brand new and **The Wisewoman** is our first title. We hope to publish work by other woman authors, for children and adults, as funds permit. We are feminist in orientation and mainly interested in fiction that portrays positive images of women of all ages, color and sexual preference, and to show alternative life style possibilities.

L'ESSENTIELLE is both a French and English bookstore in Montreal and a publisher. Their first book, published to coincide with the bookstore opening is **Sous La Langue/Under Tongue**, a five-page erotic prose poem by Nicole Brossard, (English translation by Susanne de Lotbiniere-Harwood), written in the tradition of Japanese "pillow-books." 16 pages, very elegantly printed (letterpressed?) in Montreal on Strathmore Pastelle deckle edge paper by Louise Gauthier. Embossing and hot-stamping by Monique C. Dechaine. 1150 copies printed and numbered. The first 150 copies signed by the author and translator. Intended as a gift for one's beloved (or would-be lover.) For all the women who have enjoyed the erotic aspects of Anne Cameron's poetry and want poetry that takes the next step. \$15.00 for numbered copies, \$25 for signed copies. 40% discount. Distributed to the French language stores by L'Essentielle editrices inc, 420 est rue Rachel, Montreal Quebec, Canada H2J 2G7. Distributed to English language bookstores by Gynergy Books (an imprint of Ragweed Press that publishes feminist and lesbian poetry and fiction), 145 Pownal St. (Box 132), Charlottetown P.E.I., Canada C1A 7N7. May be available from Inland.

Also from Gynergy: **Unnatural Acts**, Marg Yeo. Yeo writes that the poems in **Unnatural Acts** "are autobiographies. They show me that I've grown up in my feminism, in my lesbianism, and perhaps most importantly in my anger, and they remind me too that they, and I, owe everything we are to other women." Same gorgeous and eminently salable book design as Gynergy/Ragweed's **The Fat Woman Measures Up**. \$9.95. Inland.

Women Speak to God: The Prayers & Poems of Jewish Women edited by Marcia Cohn Spiegel and Deborah Lipton Kremsdorf collects prayers and prayer-oriented poems of Jewish women from Biblical to contemporary times and will be of interest both for the work that is collected and preserved here as well as women creating contemporary rituals. \$8.95 pb 0-9608054-6-X. Published by the Women's Institute for Continuing Jewish Education, 4079 54th St., San Diego Ca 92105.

The most recent WIRE (Women's International Resource Exchange) publication is **Philippine Women: From Assembly Line to Firing Line**, a 40 page collection of articles looking at the Women's movement in the Philippines, the political economy of women's oppression, discrimination and women's work, working at/for Dole, the lives of activist and revolutionary women, of political prisoners, the thriving tourist prostitution business and more. \$4.00. 40% discount for bookstores. WIRE,, 2700 Broadway, NY NY 10025. Write for their list of publications.

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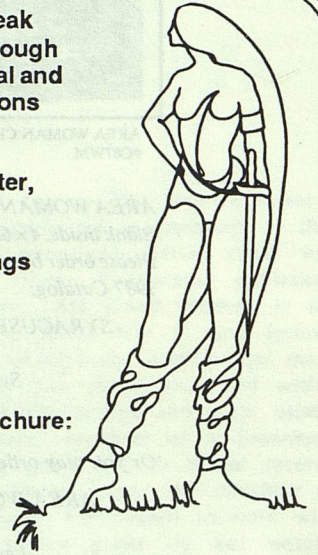
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These notecards are the first visual images of AREA WOMAN anywhere, already recognized as collectors' items by feminists, nostalgia buffs and herstorians. As befits a hero who represents all women, the figure of AREA WOMAN reflects ethnic and cultural diversity as well as maturity, wisdom and wit. She is portrayed in bold, bright colors with a high-gloss finish.



AREA WOMAN SEES THE LIGHT!
#C88WM



AREA WOMAN GIVES THANKS!
#C89WM

FROM THE SMALL PRESSES



Crossing's Fall list includes a reprint of Rita Mae Brown's early poetry, a new Diane Mariechild, a stunning mystery in their Woman-Sleuth series, Joy Gardner on health during pregnancy and novels by Valerie Miner and Jane Lazarre.

Songs to a Handsome Woman and **The Hand That Cradles the Rock** are two of the most-requested out-of-print books in the bookstore. Crossing has reprinted both volumes together with a new introduction by Brown titled simply **Poems**. All the words are there -- but I missed the rich paper and elegant bindings of the original Diana Press editions. Something vital is lost in that translation, though many will be delighted to have any edition in print. \$8.95 pb 0-89597-247-X, \$20.95 cl 0-89594-248-8.

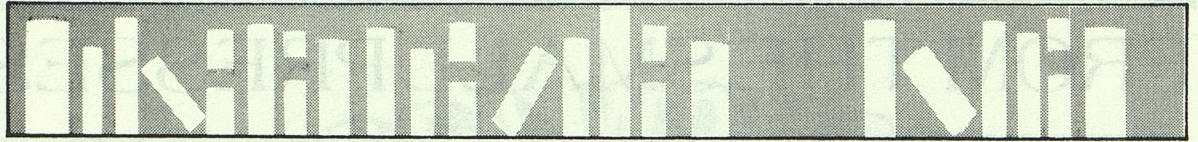
Crossing Press has the U.S. edition of **She Came Too Late**, Mary Wings fast-paced (and fast-selling) whodunit featuring new feminist detective Emma Victor. Emma, at work at The Women's Hotline, agrees to a meeting with a caller, finds a corpse instead and is soon caught up in a web of mystery linking a women's clinic and a yachting accident, drug trafficking and a high-society home. Written in the Chandler tradition, you know she'll get the killer in the end -- but will she get the girl? A great read! \$7.95 pb 0-89594-243-7, \$20.95 cl 0-89594-244-5.

The Inner Dance: A Guide to Psychological and Spiritual Unfolding, Diane Mariechild, is the third book by author of the bestselling **Motherwit**. She and her partner Shuli Goodman will be touring the U.S. and Canada. Bookstores interested in sponsoring a workshop should contact Shuli at 413-259-1657 or write to Full Circle Workshops, RFD #3, Pratt Corner Road, Amherst MA 01002. \$8.95 pb 0-89594-245-3, \$22.95 cl 0-89594-246-1.

Joy Gardner, author of **Healing Yourself** (100,000 copies in print -- most sold through alternative book sources) and **Abortion: A Difficult Decision** has a new book, **Healing Yourself During Pregnancy**. Everything from what **not** to take during pregnancy to alternative remedies to information on ultrasound and amniocentesis to avoiding perineal tears through massage. \$10.95 pb 0-89594-251-8.



It will be hard to wait for Valerie Miner's **All Good Women** to come out in paperback -- that combined with the excellent fifties cover will help to sell it in cloth. Previously published in Britain by Methuen. **All Good Women** is set against the canvas of World War II and follows the lives of four working-class women who meet in a typing class as they share lives and ambitions, lose and find themselves and each other, and continue.... Wanda, daughter of a Japanese-American family, is taken off to brutal internment in the Arizona desert, Ann, the daughter of Jewish immigrants leaves for London to work with refugee children. Moira gives up her acting ambitions for war work. Teddy, also involved in the war effort, discovers she is a lesbian. "But they would always remain friends. They were all good women." \$20.95 cl 0-89594-250-X.



The Powers of Charlotte, a new novel by Jane Lazarre (**The Mother Knot** and **Some Kind of Innocence**) describes the development of the consciousness of one woman, about the the sub-culture of the American Jewish left, about art, and about the art of the novel. \$18.95 cloth 0-89594-249-6.

All from Crossing Press, PO Box 1048, Freedom CA 95019, BP and IN.

Don't Be Afraid, Gringo: A Honduran Woman Speaks from the Heart, The Story of Elvia Alvarado translated and edited by Medea Benjamin, is one of those books I picked up to look at for a minute -- and stayed for half the book. A fascinating and compelling telling of one woman's life -- on her own at thirteen, a mother at

fifteen, currently grandmother of eleven -- and also a leader in the movement to gain land for landless campesino families and an organizer of women. She is articulate, impassioned, boisterous, funny, and uses a storyteller's skill to illuminate the compensina's lives and lay bare the bizarre politics of Central America. \$9.95 pb 0-935028-24-2. Published by Food First, 145 Ninth St., San Francisco CA 94103. BP and IN.

Picture Bride was one of my best finds at ABA this year. Published by Northland Press, **Picture Bride** is an adult novel by much-loved children's author Yoshiko Uchida. (**Journey to Topaz** and **Desert Exile**.) It tells the story of a young Japanese girl who chooses to come to America to marry a man she's met only through

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his uncle's kind words and an outdated photograph, of the many adjustments she had to make here, the hostility and discrimination against Japanese immigrants and her later internment in a desert internment camp throughout World War II. It is also a novel of courage and strength, of a young woman's courage evolving into an older woman's wisdom. One of the most moving books I've read this fall. Except for the fine print, it's a very beautifully designed book as well. \$14.95 cloth 0-87358-429-5.



Two new books from Canadian publishers: **Being Pregnant: Conversations with Women** edited by Daphne Morrison. Most books about pregnancy and childbirth are practical guides -- what do eat, keeping fit, how to give birth. This book is about **being** pregnant. Fifteen women from a variety of cultures talk about how being pregnant affected their daily lives, their relationships and their visions of the future. Women talk about pregnancies that ended in abortion or miscarriage. It's a profoundly personal and powerful book -- for women who are pregnant, want to be pregnant, or are just considering the possibility. And everyone else. A wonderful read! New Star Books (2504 York Avenue, Vancouver BC, Canada V6K 1E3), 0-919573-71-1.

Amazing Space: Writing Canadian Women Writing, Edited by Shirley Neuman and Smaro Kamboureli, is an amazing (400+ pages) collection of essays, diaries, personal narratives compiled into the most extensive and in-dept collection of feminist literary criticism about Canadian women writers. Essays place Susannah

Moodie, Louky Bersianik, Aritha van Herk, Nicole Brossard, Daphne Marlatt, Phyllis Webb, Sharon Riis, Sharon Pollack, Margaret Laurence, Alice Munro, Mavis Gallant, Audrey Thomas and others in a new context. Reading Canadian literature -- or any women's writing -- will never be the same. If you haven't ordered from Newest before, you might also want to pick up **Housebroken**, a prairies based novel by Leona Gom that explores the friendship between two women, neighbors, one a lonely widow, the other an outspoken feminist. (\$8.95 pb, 0-920316-95-6); **The Cutting Season**, a novel set on a remote lake in northwestern Ontario two strong-willed, difficult women -- mother and daughter -- whose relationship finally matures into a supportive and accepting friendship. (\$8.95 pb 0-920316-64-4); **A Place to Stand On: Essays by and about Margaret Laurence** edited by George Woodcock (\$8.95 pb 0-920316-66-2); and **Summer of the Hungry Pup**, a novel by Byrna Barclay, a novel telling the story of the 1885 Cree participants in the Riel Rebellion told through the eyes of Old Woman who is now telling the story to a young girl (\$17.95 cl 0-920316-19-0). Longspoon/Newest, Suite 204 8631 - 109 Street, Edmonton Alberta, Canada T6G 1E8), \$19.95 pb, 0-920897-12-6. 40% for 5-25 copies.



Africa World Press offers two new books: **Women in African Literature Today** edited by Eldred Jones, Eustace Palmer and Marjorie Jones and **Under a Soprano Sky**, a new collection of poetry by Sonia Sanchez. **Women in African Literature Today** looks at the the female writer and her commitment, women without men, the feminist

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novel, feminist issues in Kenyan fiction, images of women, the oral tradition, the house of slavery, and women and resistance. Writers whose works are considered include Efua Sutherland, Bessie Head, Mariama Ba, Nadine Gordimer and Ama Ata Aidoo. \$8.95 pb 0-86543-057-8, \$29.95 cl 0-86543-056-X.

Sonia Sanchez's poetry is always strong, always powerful. Often angry and almost always tender. Says Gloria Hull, "Sanchez is undoubtedly one of the most under-appreciated poets writing today. Her pristine lyricism combined with her strong voice and black female themes make her special." Sanchez was an 1985 winner of the American Book Award for **Homegirls and Handgrenades**. Gorgeous four-color cover. **Under the Soprano Sky**, \$9.95 pb 0-86543-053-5, \$16.95 cl 0-86543-052-7. Africa World Press, PO Box 1892, Trenton NJ 08607. Also available from Inland.

Valiant Women in War and Exile, edited by Sally Hayton-Keeva, collects the stories of thirty-eight women with diverse political loyalties and range from pre-World War I Europe to Central America in the 1980's, telling the stories of combat soldiers, nurses, prisoners, prostitutes, pacifists, spies and snipers. Grace Paley says "It's as though these women are talking to you, the reader. Sit down, they seem to say. I want to tell you what happened. The stories are...about heroes without heroics, suffering without self-pity. Simply, I have been forced into exile. I have lived my life in war. This is the way it was." \$9.95 pb 0-87286-203-8. City Lights Books, 261 Columbus, San Francisco CA 94133. BP and IN.

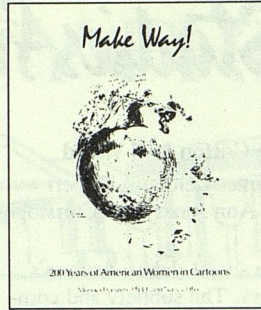


The Circumcision of Women: A strategy for Eradication by Olayinka Koso-Thomas sets out a detailed and practical proposal for a 20 year program to end the practice of female circumcision. Based on her extensive experience as a

general practitioner in Sierra Leone, she has provided a clear and down-to-earth model which could be adopted by other countries where female circumcision is the norm. \$9.95 pb 0-86232-701-6, \$29.95 cl 0-86232-700-8. Zed Press. Distributed in the U.S. by Humanities Press and Inland.

I have to say that I enjoyed **Cass and the Stone Butch** enormously. Few feminist novels have tackled the "old butch"/new feminist conflict (or should I say attraction?) as successfully (or as warmly) as Antoinette Azolakov does in **Cass and the Stoned Butch**. In **Cass** we meet a whole community of lesbians -- women as regular as your neighbor. We watch as this community deals with the death of one of it's members and watch as Cass, in particular, makes a place for the woman's young (stone) butch friend and helps her in an older-dyke/younger-dyke way, find a place to stand. The death notwithstanding, this is a warm, funny, tender novel that is almost but not quite a murder mystery. Alcohol-conscious readers will notice that Cass seldom relaxes -- or thinks deeply -- without a beer in hand and that the one place the community has to meet to share grief is the bar, both reflecting common contemporary reality. There's a fine line between portraying alcohol consumption and being unconscious of alcohol abuse. **Cass** seems to stay on the preferred side of the line. \$7.95 (?) pb, 0-934411-06-9. Banned Books, Number 231 PO Box 33280, Austin TX 78764. BP and IN.

Make Way! 200 Years of American Women in Cartoons edited by Monika Franzen and Nancy Ethiel, compiles a wonderful collection of pro- and anti-feminist cartoons from the history of American humor. The introduction includes one of the briefest (and most humorous) histories of women's struggles in this country and the text is informative. It was something of a comfort to see all those anti-feminist cartoons (the one's that raise your hopes by raising the issue, then dash them --and likely your spirits as well) put in context. And a pleasure to find the feminist cartoonists who managed to publish their work over the years. \$9.95 pb 1-55652-023-9. Published by The Chicago Review Press, 814 N. Franklin St., Chicago IL 60610.



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Cass and the Stone Butch

By Antoinette Azolakov ISBN 0-934411-06-9 \$8.95

Cass and the Stone Butch is a little bit love story, a little bit mystery, and mainly a book about lesbian friendship. After reading the advance galleys of Tony's book, Lee Lynch said: "*Cass and the Stone Butch* is a gift without measure. Never have I felt so talked to, so represented in a lesbian novel."

BANNED BOOKS is an imprint of
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Women's Studies from North Carolina

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FROM THE UNIVERSITY PRESSES



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS PRESS

Daughters of Joy, Sisters of Misery: Prostitution in the American West 1865-1890 Anne M. Butler, 232p, 23 illus., \$9.95. Butler documents prostitutes' origins, paying particular attention to the experience of women of color, describes their lives of poverty and violence and discusses their constant struggle for influence over their circumstances. Butler's comments on the importance of prostitution in the economic development of the Western states are intriguing. Unfortunately, since the author focuses on how prostitutes dealt with their society and because evidence of their lives consists mostly of court records and newspaper accounts, she says little about prostitutes' relations with each other. Nonetheless, this book is full of evidence about what 19th century prostitution was like, and was **not** like the Westerns. Also makes a useful antecedent to Ruth Rosen's wonderful study of turn-of-the-century prostitution (**Lost Sisterhood** Johns Hopkins, \$8.95).

City of Women: Sex and Class in New York, 1789-1860 Christine Stansell, 320p, \$9.95, Nov. 87. Though it occupies a somewhat obscure spot

Kris Hoover was born in Hollywood in 1958, grew up around Chicago, studied in Minnesota and New York and worked briefly in Japan before returning to Minneapolis to live with her partner and two housemates. She's worked at Amazon Bookstore since 1985, doing university press and trade buying among other things. Before joining the Amazon staff, Kris worked at B Dalton for a year and a half ("A lot longer than I intended to!") and at Kroh and Brentano's before that. Kris is the coordinator for the Book Exhibit at the 1988 NWSA in Minneapolis.

in the Illinois catalog (perhaps because it was a Knopf hardcover, not an Illinois original), **City of Women** is one of this season's best university press books, an outstanding work of accessible scholarship. Assuming her audience is inquiring, but unfamiliar with pre-Civil War history, Stansell weaves a rich background with a lively description of poor and working class women's lives in this formative period of US social and economic order. Her original research also pushes our knowledge of women organizing as and for women back nearly two decades before the Seneca Falls Woman's Right Convention.

Women Making Music: the Western Art Tradition, 1150-1950 Jane Bowers & Judith Tick, eds., 424p, illus., \$14.95, Aug. 87. This handy encyclopedia of women composers and musicians in Western Art (i.e. not folk) music will be out in paperback in time for the holidays.

Romance Revolution, Erotic Novels for Women and the Quest for New Sexual Identity Carol Thurston, 256p, \$9.95. Thurston's research on romance novels is more provocative than earlier studies, for she claims that their content shapes as well as reflects women's changing self-perceptions. Her careless reading of feminist approaches to pornography in a minor passage is irksome, but her many insights into the marketing and content of romances are fascinating, and certainly jive with my observations while working for a certain bookstore chain. Given the tremendous popularity of romances, feminists interested in books should take the opportunity Thurston gives us to learn more about them.

Feminist Scholarship, Kindling in the Groves of Academe Ellen Carol DuBois et al., 240p, \$8.95. Academic women may find a refreshing sense of perspective in this smoothly writ-

ten summary of ongoing feminist research in a variety of disciplines, current theories of, for example, the origins of sexism, and discussion of what academic women are still up against institutionally in doing feminist work. The rest of us will find here a unique and useful visitors' guide to women's studies.

Caring by the Hour Karen Brodtkin Sacks, 280p, \$11.95, Jan. 88. Sacks' study of Duke University health care workers' efforts to unionize illustrates the two benefits of a good case study. Her work is grounded in the lives of real people, here principally the network of black women workers who formed the core of the campaign. And, her analysis of what happened at Duke and what personal backgrounds, social networks and economic conditions make for successful organizing are broadly applicable to the expanding "service" sector of the economy with its low wages, limited opportunities, race and sex stratification, etc. Sacks also has a gift for memorable detail: did you know that Duke U's massive medical center is funded by a cigarette fortune?

Poet and the Dream Girl, Love Letters of Lilian Steichen and Carl Sandburg Margaret Sand-

burg, ed., 304p illus, \$9.95 (U of I catalog omits the paperback), Sept. 87. Steichen and Sandburg had boundless enthusiasm for each other and for socialism, and some progressive ideas about marriage. Since the letters are more successful at establishing Lilian's stature as an influence on Carl than they are at introducing her as an individual, this is better for a general progressive bookstore than for a feminist store.

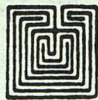
Clearly, U of I has a strong feminist list this season. The catalog lists at least two more paperbacks of interest and hardcovers on Mormon women and the Women's Trade Union League. Don't miss **Lesbian Psychologies** \$12.95 along with the Hurston books on the backlist.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS PRESS

Women of the Left Bank, Paris 1900-1940 Shari Benstock, 566p illus, \$12.95, Sept. 86. Previously praised in FBN, this veritable catalog of the lives and relationships of the lesbian and other expatriate women who made Paris a center for women's writing and art will be out in paperback this fall with the same striking red and black cover art as the hardcover. Congrats to Carol Seajay, whose authoritative comments are quoted in the U of Texas catalog.

Laura Gilpin, an Enduring Grace Martha Sandweiss, 336p illus: 7 color, 120 tritone, 40 duotone, \$39.95 pb. A gallery of Gilpin's magnificent photographs of the land and people of the Southwest US reproduced on heavy cream paper. Sandweiss' long biographical essay is well-documented, compassionate without romanticizing and marred only by its superficial treatment of Gilpin as a lesbian. This is a breathtakingly beautiful book -- if you can sell art books at all, try it for the holidays.

Kinship to Kingship Christine Ward Gailey, 328p illus, \$12.95, Dec. 87. Gailey studied a 300-year period of women's status in the South Pacific island group of Tonga, concluding that evolution from a kinship-based to class-based society **necessarily** entailed the subordination of women. She suggests the same process is common throughout the neocolonial world, making this book of substantial general interest. Though I haven't seen a copy of this yet, Gailey's promising earlier work suggests this may turn out to be a landmark in feminist ethno-history.



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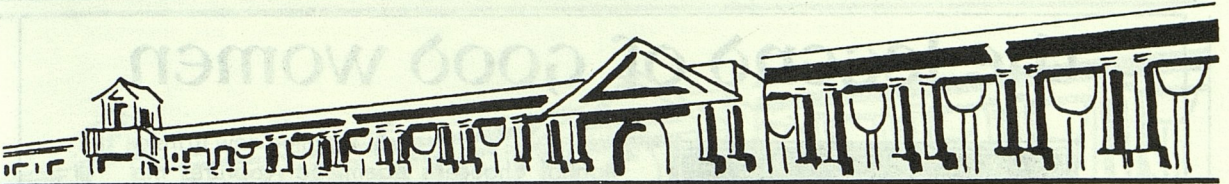
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UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA PRESS

Farm Women Rachel Rosenfield, 354p, \$9.95. A good corrective to the media and others' practice of overlooking women's lives even during the current family farm crisis. Rosenfield has gathered and interpreted a wealth of data on farm women's work in the home, on and off the farm and in voluntary organizations. Includes a comprehensive bibliography.

Reading Doris Lessing Claire Sprague, 220p, \$9.95, Nov. 87. Sprague revises and extends feminist approaches to 35 years of Lessing's fiction by emphasizing dialectical patterns of doubling and repetition. Always on the cutting edge of social thought and a brilliant and complex writer, Lessing deserves wide attention from feminists despite her insistence that she is not one of us.

Also note: **The Patriarch's Wife: Literary Evidence and the History of the Family** Margaret J.M. Ezell, 340p, \$24.95cl, Dec. You might mention this feminist critique of historians' use of literary sources to hardcore history and lit. crit. customers. Ezell's experiments with alternative sources such as correspondence networks suggest more articulate and less passive 17th century Englishwomen than are commonly portrayed.

MIT PRESS

Ada: A Life and Legacy Dorothy Stein, 360p, \$9.95, Sept. 87. Augusta Ada Byron, Countess Lovelace (1815-52) invented the science of computer programming and wrote with insight about the scientific and social implications of her work. MIT's catalog promises a social-historical analysis of Ada's dramatic life among Victorian luminaries, but the author's reading of Ada herself appears to be mainly psychological. Nonetheless, a biography of this pioneering scientist is long overdue. Also overdue is a change in MIT's 10-copy paperback minimum. Fortunately this trade title will be available from Baker & Taylor and Ingram for at least the next couple of years.

UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO PRESS

Jailing of Cecilia Capture Janet Campbell Hale, 280p, \$10.95, Aug. 87. You may have carried this poignant, memorable novel (Random, I think). U of NM has rescued this fine piece of writing in which a half-Indian, half-white woman's humiliating arrest precipitates reflection on her reservation heritage and experiences as a single mother, wife of a white liberal and law student and concludes with her renewed sense of determination.

Cannery Women, Cannery Lives Vicki I. Ruiz, 224p illus., \$10.95, Nov. 87. This is the history of Southern California Chicanas' family and work lives and the 2 decades (1930-50) of their remarkably autonomous and powerful union local. Though McCarthy era red-baiting and a brutal takeover attempt by the Teamsters ultimately destroyed their union, this careful account of these women's successful militancy is a major contribution to women's and labor history. (Also see Cornell for Chicana studies.)

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Women's Work and Chicano Families Patricia Zavella, 216p, \$10.95, Aug. 87. Zavella presents the lives and aspirations of Northern California Chicana Cannery workers in their own words and, analyzing their home and workplace experiences, argues that the rigidity of the cannery labor market reinforces traditional family roles and undercuts these women's efforts toward greater equality in the home.

From Working Daughters to Working Mothers Louise Lamphere, 410p, 33 illus, \$14.95, Aug. 87. Underscoring the slogan that "women have always worked," anthropologist Lamphere documents the changes in women's working lives over several generations, from a time when most wage workers were young, single, rural or immigrant women to today's workforce of women with children. She also shows these working-class New England women to be dynamic individuals with a range of strategies for dealing with the demands of family and employers.

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Translation & Introduction by Ann McMillan

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UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA PRESS

Scribbling Sisters Dale Spender & Lynne Spender, 185p, \$7.95, Sept. 87. This unusual dialog/autobiography consists of letters exchanged almost daily by two learned and very funny feminist writers. Though the wide-ranging letters are full of insights about both women's writing processes, I enjoyed them even more for the example they give of feminism-as-lived! I wish I'd had a copy this week for the young woman who asked me for something basic on feminism. Preface by their mom.

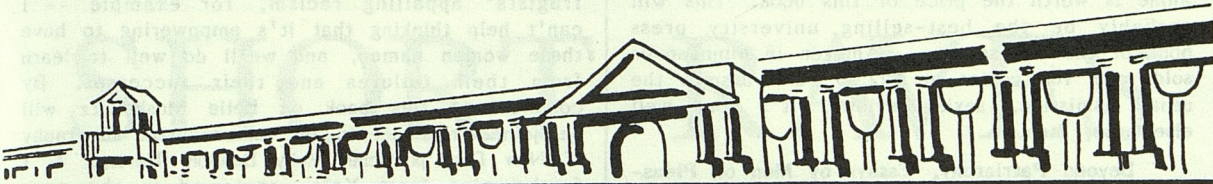
Also note: **Maria: the Potter of San Ildefonso** Alice Marriot, 320p, 35 drawings (though not by Maria herself), \$11.95. Something about the catalog copy makes me suspect this is a stodgy biography, but Maria, like her famous luminous black pottery, may shine through regardless.

To fill a minimum order, remember that Oklahoma has several books on women in the southwest, especially the comprehensive **Women's West** 309p, \$12.95 and also **White Awareness** \$7.95, a workbook to help white people overcome their racism.

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

From Reverence to Rape: the Treatment of Women in the Movies, 2nd Edition Molly Haskell, 440p, \$14.95, Dec. 87. Originally written in 1974, this is a standard work on women and film in the US. Since I haven't seen the revised edition, I don't know if it reflects contemporary feminist thinking on class and race, but Haskell's lively writing style should help it to have general appeal.

The Female Autograph: Theory and Practice of Autobiography from the 10th to the 20th Century Donna Stanton, ed., 288p illus, \$12.95, Nov. 87. Feminist scholars have access to women's memoirs, diaries, etc. dating back over 1000 years and coming from Asia and the Middle East as well as the West -- no small thing given patriarchy's demand in so many times and places that we erase ourselves, and the array of attacks on women who wrote anyway (see **How to Suppress Women's Writing** Joanna Russ, U of TX, \$8.95). This collection of essays by Nancy Cott, Catherine Stimpson, Susan Gubar and others and selections from a range of autobiographical "texts" investigates women's many strategies for



"writing the self."

Also note new paperback offerings in the Women & Society series edited by Catherine Stimpson: **Prostitution in Medieval Society** Leah H. Otis, 240p, \$11.95, Aug. 87 and **The Lady and the Virgin: Image, Attitude and Experience in 12th Century France** Penny Schine Gold, 182p, \$9.95, Aug. 87. You might also try Rudolph Bell's study of Italy's female fasting saints as part of a larger struggle for liberation from patriarchy: **Holy Anorexia** 248p, \$11.95, and Annales School historian Christine Klapisch-Zuber's essays: **Women, Family & Ritual in Renaissance Italy**. 338p, \$13.95, Aug. 87.

HOWARD UNIVERSITY PRESS

Soul Clap Hands and Sing Paule Marshall, 208p, \$7.95, Sept. 87. New short stories set in Barbados, Brazil, British Guiana and New York by a beloved feminist author. In each story a woman creates an opportunity for a man to overcome his fear or indifference, but each in his own way fails to love or care, forming a commentary on the absurdity of life without passion or commitment. Howard has announced this book previously, so you might want to contact them to see if you have outstanding backorders.

Women in Africa and the African Diaspora Rosalyn Terborg-Penn, Sharon Harley & Andrea Benton Rushing, eds., 256p, \$17.95 cl, Nov. 87. 13 essays provide cross-cultural and interdisciplinary analyses of the experience of Black women worldwide, highlight methodological issues in studying the African diaspora and suggest directions for further research.

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Anne of Austria, Queen of France Ruth Kleinman, 350p, \$12.95. Most historians have found Anne (1601-1666), long-suffering wife of Louis XIII and mother of Louis XIV, to be a dull figure. Kleinman's lively biography, however, shows Anne, who ruled France for a number of years, to have been an astute political survivor. Avoiding the narrow and worshipful qualities

of much royal biography, the author also presents a realistic and comprehensive picture of aristocrats' preoccupations, attitudes, beliefs and daily lives.

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON PRESS

Reclaiming Paradise: American Women Photograph the Land Gretchen Garner, 64p, illus: 21 halftone, 5 color, \$14.95, Aug. 87. Attractive and relatively inexpensive introduction to the work of 26 photographers from 1900 to the present. Garner suggests that these women have contributed to a distinctive form of landscape photography which does not split nature from culture but rather emphasizes humans' relationship to the land.

Life of Emily Carr Paula Blanchard, 352p illus, \$19.95 hc, Sept. 87. A feminist introduction to the life and work of this tough, independent-spirited British Columbia painter and writer.

U of WA backlist offers Monica Sone's **Nisei Daughter** \$8.95, two volumes of Imogen Cunningham's photos and other suitable paperbacks to help you make their 5-copy minimum.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

Oxford's trade list isn't as rich as it was a year or so ago, but it's got a strong "patriarchy" theme and an incredible series (if you can sell hardcovers) on 19th century Black women writers.

Creation of Patriarchy Gerda Lerner, 368p, 24 illus, \$8.95k, Sept. 87. This is a landmark in feminist scholarship not for the newness of its argument but for the clarity with which it is stated and the wealth of feminist historical, archeological, literary and art research it summarizes. Most of us sensibly take it for granted that patriarchy is neither biological nor divinely-inspired, but here is a sweeping, plausible explanation of the historical processes that created Western patriarchy to back up our assumptions. Most won't buy all of Lerner's conclusions, but her phrasing of the questions

alone is worth the price of this book. This will probably be the best-selling university press book of the fall season -- Amazon in Minneapolis sold over 100 copies at \$22.95, and despite the usual dismissive, sexist reviews, it's done well elsewhere, too.

Beyond Patriarchy, Essays by Men on Pleasure, Power and Change Michael Kaufman, ed. 192p, \$11.95k, Aug. 87. This appears to be a collection by and for men on what feminism has to offer them. Contributions come from several Western countries, but the catalog isn't clear on the diversity of the authors' backgrounds otherwise. Sounds good in theory -- will let you know if I see a copy.

Last, and least especially because of the price, there's: **Neopatriarchy, a Theory of Distorted Change in Arab Society** Hisham Sharabla (male author*), 160p, \$17.95w (30% disc.), Sept. 87. Defines political, economic and other factors that blocked authentic change in the Arab world (200 million people alone) and elsewhere in the third world as well, leading to a takeover by religious fundamentalists and other symptoms of neopatriarchy. Don't know quite where he's coming from politically, but it sounds like interesting theory -- mention it to women's studies people you know.

The Schomberg Library of 19th Century Black Women Writers Henry Louis Gates, general editor, 30 volumes (!), \$575 for the set, available separately for \$16.95-\$22.95. Some volumes are fiction reprints while others are new anthologies like the works of Alice Dunbar Nelson in 3 volumes edited by Gloria T. Hull. All the volumes have new introductions by the likes of Barbara Christian and Hortense Spillers. Only 2 or 3 of the works are available in paperback from a different publisher. Oxford has tentative plans to issue the series in paperback at some point.

Belle Moskowitz Elizabeth Israels Perry, 320p, \$24.95t cl, Nov. 87. Moskowitz was chief advisor to powerful New York governor Alfred E. Smith in the 1920s and her ideas on social reform and labor relations influenced the policies of the New Deal. The author, Moskowitz' grandniece, had access to unpublished sources and untapped informants in rescuing her illustrious aunt from obscurity. Even if we find some of the policies and prejudices of women leaders of the past profoundly disturbing -- many suf-

fragists' appalling racism, for example -- I can't help thinking that it's empowering to have these women named, and we'll do well to learn from their failures and their successes. By coincidence, this book on Belle Moskowitz will be joined this season by a wonderful biography of New Deal politician Molly Dewson (**Partner & I** forthcoming from Yale, reviewed in the next issue of FBN).

Just a Housewife, the Rise and Fall of Domesticity in the United States Glenna Matthews, 305p, \$19.95t cl, Oct. 87. An historical survey that argues that pre-industrial and early industrial era housewives had substantial respect and self-esteem. The author is clearly writing a corrective to the denigration of women's domestic experience, and suggests reevaluating the potential of the home. By focusing on the position of housewife, given that many 19th century homes had servants, I'm concerned that the author has narrowed her study to women of privileged families -- you might ask about this before buying it.

All in Good Time Marian McPartland, 160p illus, \$14.95 cl, Sept. 87. Jazz pianist McPartland's autobiography is part lively reminiscence and part engaging history of women in jazz. Whereas Oxford has clearly mastered "patriarchy," I'm not so sure of their comfort with "feminism." The catalog says McPartland has a "special interest in the position of women in jazz." I trust they mean she's a feminist. Ah, marketing ...

MISCELLANEOUS

You'll note in the British catalogs like Oxford and Methuen that some hardcovers (those printed in Britain) have astonishing prices like \$95. this season. This is due to the pound/dollar exchange rate.

Don't miss Yale's catalog this year! There are over a dozen new titles of interest to feminist bookstores -- reviews next time.

Thanks to Rose Katz who formerly wrote this column for setting a fine example!

Some university presses are enthusiastic enough about **FBN** that they send me galleys of their books. Sometimes I've broken down and bought them. But as you've seen many of these announcements are based on catalog copy and my buying experience alone. If there turns out to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 80

SHORT RAVES

Lunatic Villas by Marian Engel. \$4.95, New Canadian Library N189/McClelland and Stewart (XUSA. 25 Hollinger Rd, Toronto Ontario M4B 3G2, 40% for \$50), 0-7710-9343-8.

The real find of the summer for me, **Lunatic Villas**, is a gem of a novel. Written with considerable style and humor, it is the story of a single mother doing her best to provide physically and emotionally for the gaggle of children and adolescents she has accumulated over the years. The title refers to the bizarrely renovated street she lives on -- a rich woman's hobby gone awry -- which also provides a cheerfully odd assortment of friends and neighbors who float in and out of her house as well. I loved the way Engel matter-of-factly integrates a pair of lesbian moms, a wheelchair-bound aviarist, a sometimes-feminist writer, and a gay male couple -- all of whom are warmly themselves and not anyone's stereotypes. My favorite, though, is the spry old woman who arrives on her bicycle one midnight in the midst of a driving Toronto snowstorm and stays for the rest of the novel. Despite the fact that I didn't want this book to end, it has a truly satisfying (and exciting) finish. **Lunatic Villas** is one of those novels you would happily reach for when a customer asks that real stumper, "Don't you have anything feminist, well-written and funny?"

--Rose Katz.

Has anyone else noticed that the Mercedes Lackey's Heralds of Valdemar Trilogy (**Arrows of the Queen** and **Arrows Flight** -- DAW) are mythic tales of a young girl recovering from childhood sexual abuse and battery and reclaiming her self-esteem, self-worth, and her power? This is probably the only place in fiction that I've seen an abuser subjected to experiencing the grief that he's inflicted on children. The things that can be done in f/sf! Shelve them in incest/abuse recovery? Does anyone else shelve fiction in the recovery sections? Other f/sf? Suggestions? The third book in this series **Arrows Fall** will be out in January.

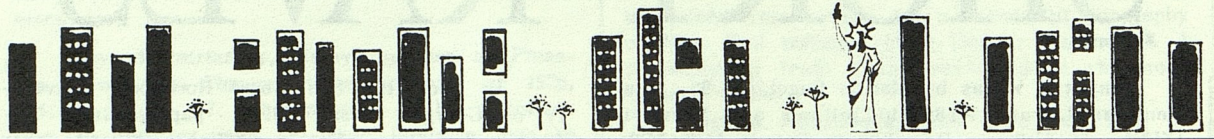
--CS

To Spoil the Sun (Joyce Rockwood, University of Georgia Press, \$9.95, paper,) is a fictionalized telling of the smallpox epidemic that swept through the Cherokee nation in the 1520's as might have been seen by a medicine woman just coming of age as tales of floating longhouses and the theft of a hundred warriors reached her village. The confusion of the times and the incredible toll of the epidemics that followed in the wake of invasions by the explorers from across the sea, as well as the joys and traumas of daily life are recreated in this engrossing novel. Excellent fiction for feminist bookstores -- as well as a book that should be required reading in every high school literature class. **To Spoil the Sun** was honored by both the ALA and the International Reading Association as an outstanding work for young adults when it was published in 1976 and has been translated into Norwegian, German, French and Dutch. Rockwood's other books include the well received **Long Man's Song**, **Groundhog's Horse** and **Enoch's Place**. --CS.



Please send "short raves" (50-400 words) about the books that move you -- favorite fiction, rediscovered works, an unexpected find, a title you liked much better than FBN's reviewer did, the books you talk up to customers, books that deserve more attention and a wider readership, your favorite backlist from an obscure publisher -- whatever moves you. This column is open to all FBN readers and is an easy way to bring a book you value to the attention of the feminist bookselling community. Rants are cheerfully accepted as well! Please mark your submissions "Short Raves", include price, publisher, ISBN, and publisher's address and terms if necessary, and send to FBN, PO Box 882554, San Francisco CA 94188.

AND ON PUBLISHER'S ROW



compiled by Sandi Torkildson
A Room Of One's Own, Madison.

ABBEVILLE PRESS

Women Artists, Nancy Heller, \$39.95 cl, 089659-748-2. This survey of painters and sculptors from the Renaissance to the present features 132 colorplates and 47 black and white photos of the artists. Dr. Heller's book shows both the obstacles the artists encountered and the contributions they made.

DOUBLEDAY

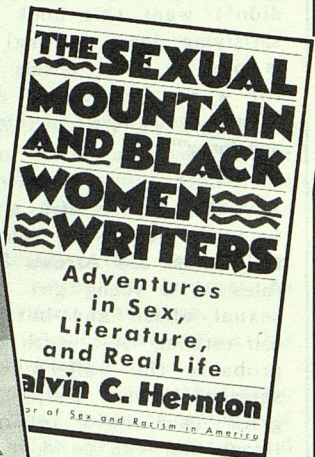
Dry Your Smile, Robin Morgan, \$18.95, 8/87, 0-385-23226-8. In a novel that appears to be significantly autobiographical Robin Morgan explores one of the classic stories of our times -- an exciting, vital woman, married, who then recognizes in herself an attraction to a woman. Should do as well as cloth fiction can...

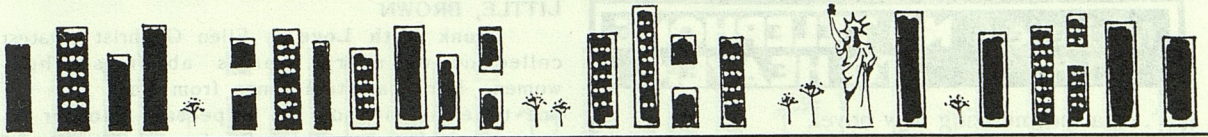
The Medical Self-Care Book of Women's Health: The Authoritative Guide for Taking Control of Your Own Well Being by Bobbie Hasselbring, Sadjia Greenwood M.D., and Michael Castleman. \$12.95 pb, 0-385-23325-6. A good, practical, guide to women's health care with information on both traditional and alternative therapies. A bit short on AIDS information for women for a book published in 1987. Includes chapters on addictions, recovering from rape and incest, anorexia and bulimia, cosmetics ("Avoiding the Not-So-Pretty Hazards") and lesbian health care. Sadjia Greenwood is also the author of **Menopause Naturally**, published by Volcano Press.

The Sexual Mountain and Black Women Writers: Adventures in Sex, Literature, and Real Life, by Calvin C. Hernton. "A definitive appraisal of the much-maligned writings of today's

Black women, this important and ground-breaking book examines the controversial role that Black women have played.-- and are continuing to play -- in the shaping of Afro-American literature." \$16.95 cl, 9/87, 0-385-23325-6.

The Myth of Two Minds: What Gender Means and Doesn't Mean, Beryl Liefly Benderly. Intending to write a book that would explain to lay readers the latest research and scientific findings surrounding the differences in gender, Benderly discovered that the physiological differences were quite minimal, and that the differences that have been accepted as physical over the course of history have no physiological basis and are in fact **cultural**. (!?) Not exactly news, but good documentation is always welcome. \$16.96 cl, 10/87, 0-385-19672-5.





The Biological Clock: Reconciling Careers and Motherhood in the 1980's, Molly McKaughan. "In this eloquent and wonderfully informative volume, American women from 25-45 -- 'clock-watchers' -- both married and single, from all walks of life, and various stages in their adult lives -- speak out about their lives, jobs and choices as they struggle to resolve the enormous questions surrounding motherhood". \$18.95 cl, 11/87, 0-385-23064-8.

Now out in paperback from Doubleday: **Re-Making Love: The Feminization of Sex** by Barbara Ehrenreich (*For Her Own Good*), Elizabeth Hess and Gloria Jacobs, "destroys the myth that only men had a sexual revolution and reclaims the power and pleasure inherent in sex for us all." \$8.95 pb, 9/87, 0-385-18499-9. **The Black Woman's Career Guide**, Beatryce Nivens. Revised edition of the only career guide directed specifically to Black women. Includes career planning exercises, interviewing tips and a step-by-step guide to starting a business. \$10.95 pb, 10/87, 0-385-24160-7.



HOLT

The Women's Decameron, Julia Voznesenskaya, \$9.95 pb, 10/87, 0-8050-0601-X. This novel about ten women in a Leningrad maternity ward was written by the founder of Maria, the first Russian independent women's group. She was imprisoned and later exiled for her social and literary activities. The ten women share stories from their lives which show the stark reality of a society torn apart by suicide, divorce, and alcoholism. These stories about everyday Soviet life show the spiritual strength of Russian women.

Three Continents, Ruth Praver Jhabvala, \$18.95 cl, 8/87, 0-688-07184-8. Set in New York, London, and India, this novel portrays a sister and brother from a wealthy background whose

quest for something more in life leads them to become followers of the Rawal, a would-be world leader who promises a better future for everyone. Their idealism and passion threatens the destruction of all they hold dear.

Reflecting Men: At Twice their Natural Size, Sally Cline and Dale Spender, \$17.95 cloth, 10/87, 0-8050-0639-7. Cline and Spender explore the causes and effects of "man-pleasing" behavior of many women. They see that little progress has been made in the struggle for a more equal society. They have collected stories from 280+ women of all ages and social groups. Though often sad, these are also stores of much courage and wit.

Perfection Salad: Women and Cooking at the Turn of the Century, Laura Shapiro, \$8.95 pb, 9/87, 0-8050-0228-6. The social history of the turn-of-the-century scientific cookery reform movement that brought such delights as fruit salad with marshmallows to the heart of American cuisine. These food reformers -- many affiliated with the Boston Cooking School -- influenced American cooking with their idealism as well as their frequently bizarre and misguided ideals.

The Tiger's Milk: Women of Nicaragua, Adriana Angel and Fiona Macintosh, \$18.95 cl, 9/87, 0-8050-0638-9. This book records the experiences of Nicaraguan women with their new-found freedoms and responsibilities and their challenge to the long-standing macho attitudes. It also gives a voice to Indian women and the history of the conflict between ethnic groups. Accompanied by 100 black and white photographs, **Tiger's Milk** reflects the making of the revolutionary process.

HOUGHTON-MIFFLIN

Intervention, Julian May. A new science fiction novel about peace throughout the galaxies. By 2013 the world is on the brink of an all-out war. In desperation the most powerful "metas" (humans possessing higher mind-power)

Michelle
Cliff

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agree to send a plea for help to the stars. Their appeal is answered and thus begins an extraordinary adventure based on the most current psychic research and exploring the human potential. \$18.95 cloth, 8/87 0-395-43782-2.

Selected Poems .1, Margaret Atwood. This volume of selections from Atwood's poetry of the last ten years contains 73 poems, including 17 new poems not previously published in the U.S. in book form. Her current poetry centers on the consciousness of physicality, on "sadness of the body" and conveys a sense of the body's remoteness from others. Underlying oppression and injustice, we hear the music of compassion and fellowship. \$9.95 paper, 11/87, 0-395-45406-9.

Having Your Baby by Donor Insemination, Elizabeth Noble. This book addressed the problems of infertile couples and draws from her own family's experience with donor insemination. She looks at the practical, legal, and ethical problems and the crucial need for a complete genetic history for any child. May be a help to the current lesbian baby boom, but it's hard to tell. Worth a look. \$11.95 paper, 11/87, 0-395-31543-3.

LITTLE, BROWN

Drunk With Love is Ellen Gilchrist's latest collection of short stories about southern women. Her characters range from Nora Jane the one-time bandit now an expectant mother of twins, to the outrageous Southern belle Crystal and her maid/confidante Traceleen, to Sally Sykes born into "a world so polite no one ever told the truth about anything." \$7.95 paper, 9/87, 0316-313149.

Falling Through Space: The Journals of Ellen Gilchrist. NPR contributor Gilchrist's journals explore the making of a writer. She explores the Mississippi plantation life that shaped her as a child; the books, teachers and artists who influenced her development; and her thoughts about writing and life in general. \$15.95 cloth, 10/87, 0-316-31315-7.



Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit, Jeanette Winterson. This coming-out story of a young British girl in the 1960's was awarded England's prestigious Whitbread Prize for best first fiction in 1985. This novel describes the coming-of-age of a rebellious orphan adopted into a Pentecostal household. The peculiar balance of this God-fearing household dissolves as she comes of age and to terms with her sexuality. Hilarious. Originally published by Pandora Press. \$6.95 paper, 9/87, 0-87113-163-3. (Published by Atlantic Monthly, distributed by Little, Brown.)

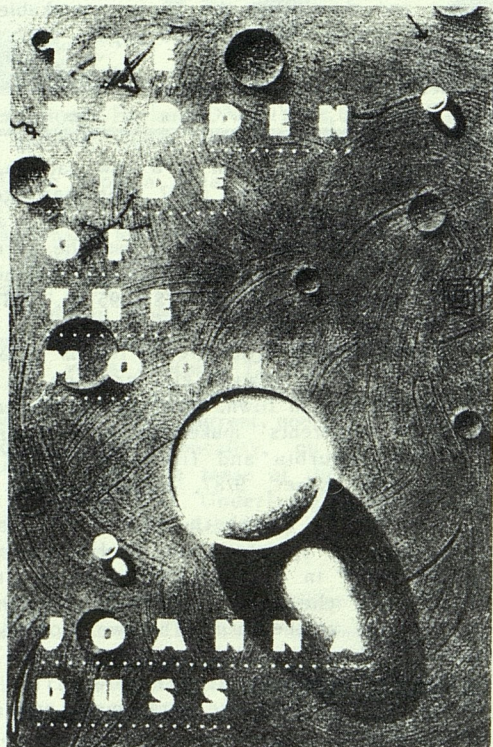
The Madwoman's Underclothes, Germaine Greer. This collection of essays by the provocative Greer strikes right at the heart of the matter whether it be artificial insemination or the famine in Ethiopia. These essays, sometimes angry, often funny, reflect both the changing ideas and concerns of our era, and the changes in Greer's perspective.

Georgia O'Keeffe, Cowart and Hamilton. 110 color reproductions of works that will appear in the first major exhibition of O'Keeffe's work in nearly 20 years (opens in November '87 at the National Gallery.) The book features an essay by Jack Cowart and more than 120 letters written by O'Keeffe. This book is for those who can't afford the \$100 collection of her work being published by Random House. \$40.00 cloth, 9/87, 08212-1686-4.

storytellers writing today. She writes simply about the complexities of emotions that bind people together. \$6.95 paper, 9/87, 0-14-009879-8.

Days Like This, Phyllis Gillis. The spirited account of a woman's struggle to survive her divorce. After her heat and electricity are cut off, her car insurance cancelled, and child support stopped, Gillis took a job as a cook in a local bar. She had to face divorce laws that favored her ex-husband and fight to put her life back together. She looks at what it means to be an "unmarried woman" in today's no-fault divorce environment. \$4.95 pb, 9/87, 0-14-010156-X.

Complete Prose of Marianne Moore edited by Patricia Willis brings together all of Moore's prose work -- over 400 reviews, essays and short stories -- in the centenary celebration of her birth. \$10.95 paper, 9/87, 0-14-009436-9.



The Female Malady, Elaine Showalter. Showalter charts the treatment of "madwomen" over the last hundred and fifty years and shows

how cultural ideas about the proper behavior of women have affected methods of diagnosis and therapeutic care. \$8.95 paper, 9/87, 014-010169-1.

Anagrams, Lorrie Moore. A novel by the author of the short story collection **Selfhelp**. Benna, aerobics instructor, night club singer and poetry professor, moves through her life joking with her friend-lover Gerard and comforting her precocious child Georgianne. Funny and witty, this novel sparkles with intelligence and tenderness. \$6.95 pb, 10/87, 014-010328-7.

Travel Light, Naomi Mitchison. A fairy tale about Halla, raised in a mystical wood by bears and dragons. She meets the All-Father who sends her on a fantastic adventure through time armed only with a magic clock and the gift of interpretation. This tale weaves together history, imagination, myth and magic. \$6.95 pb, 10/87, 0-14-016174-0.

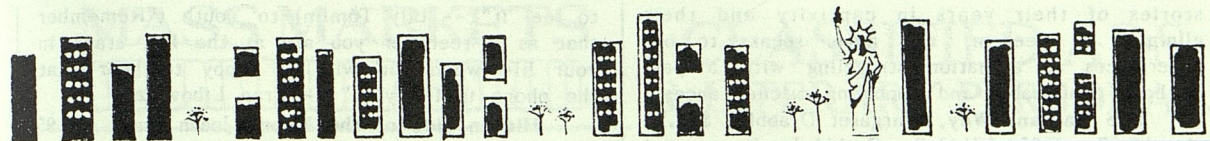
Bobbin Up, Dorothy Hewett. A Virago Modern Classic. First published in 1959, this novel depicts women's struggle against poverty through the force of militant social unionism. It is written from the author's own experience working the line in a Sydney textile mill.

God's Snake, Irini Spanidou. Anna, the daughter of a proud, brutal, authoritarian army officer, struggles to grow up in the war-ravaged landscape of Greece in the 1950's. Her father attempts to imprint upon Anna his harsh view of life, but Anna searches for her own meaning in life. Grace Paley called this "the best book by a new writer that I've read this year." \$6.95 pb, 11/87, 0-14-010360-0.

Lilian's Story Kate Grenville. This novel won the Australian Vogel Award in 1984. Lilian Singer is large and ungainly, a problem child who cannot be controlled by either her too-ladylike mother or her cruel father. He beats her and locks her away, but is never able to break her eccentric, imaginative spirit. \$6.95 pb, 11/87, 0-14-008547-5.

Turn: The Journal of an Artist, Anne Truitt. Sculptor and painter Anne Truitt's second journal is a remarkable record of a reconciliation of art, motherhood, memories of childhood and present day demands. \$6.95 pb, 11/87, 0-14-009249-8.

Summer Will Show, Sylvia Townsend Warner. After the death of her children, Sophia Willaughby follows her husband Frederick to Paris in the spring of the revolution in 1848.



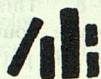
Sophia's relationship with Minna, a woman on the edge of the revolutionary circle changes her life by challenging her assumptions and values. \$6.95 pb, 11/87, 0-14-016176-7.

Stories from the Warm Zone and Sydney Stories, Jessica Anderson. In stories told from the point of view of a young girl, Anderson recreates the "warm zone" of family life -- sibling rivalries, alliances and interplay among family members as they try to establish separate identities in the family, school and society. \$15.95 cl, 11/87, 0-076-816264.

The Newspaper of Claremont Street, Elizabeth Jolley. As Marguerite Morris, known to everyone as "Newspaper", makes her living cleaning the houses on Claremont St., she gathers the latest tragedies, triumphs and oddities of the neighborhood. She always keeps her eyes on the future and the one thing she has always wanted: a piece of land of her own. (See also **The Well**, above.) \$15.95 cl, 12/87, 0-670-80946-2.

Frieze, Cecile Pineda. This tale of an 8th century Hindu stone carver is a parable that opposes the pride and power of the state to the slow resistances of human life. \$6.95 pb, 12/87, 014-009251-X.

Saints and Strangers, Angela Carter. A collection of stories that blend historical fact, legend, and myth to achieve spellbinding effects. These stories include evocations of the past lives of Lizzie Borden to Edgar Allen Poe and take place from the steppes of Central Asia to the bizarre enchanted forest of a Midsummer Night's Dream. \$5.95 pb, 12/87, 014-008973-X.



RANDOM HOUSE

The Woman Destroyed, Simone De Beauvoir. A long out-of-print collection of three stories about women and their problems re-issued as part of the Pantheon Modern Writers series. \$7.95 pb, 9/87, 0-394-71103-3.

L'Amante Anglaise, Marguerite Duras, is the story of a brutal murder in a small town and a writer who comes to learn the story behind the crime. \$10.95 pb, 9/87, 0-394-750022-5.



Therese of Lisieux, Monica Furlong. This biography of the French Catholic saint is part of the Virago/Pantheon Pioneers series that offers a fresh look at the lives of important women from a contemporary feminist viewpoint. Furlong shows us that Therese's popularity is based on her ability to represent the conservative ideal of women as obedient, modest and passive, but that paradoxically she was also headstrong and triumphant over discouraging circumstances. Also in this series is a new biography of George Eliot. (**George Eliot**, \$8.95 pb, 10/87, 0-394-75359-3.) \$7.95 pb, 10/87, 0-394-75360-7.

Rebecca West: A Life, Victoria Glendinning, \$19.95 cl, 10/87. The first full-scale biography of this extraordinary British writer shows us that she was "both an agent and a victim of change." 0-394-53935-4.

Until We Meet Again, Elena Poniatowska, \$16.95 cl, 1/88, 0-394-54479-X. Drawing on her extensive interviews with Jesusa Palancares, a peasant woman, Elena Poniatowska blends fiction and oral history to create a remarkable portrait of a woman in revolutionary and post-revolutionary Mexico. From a girl hunting turtle eggs to the dance halls after the Revolution we see the world of a woman previously condemned to silence.

Beloved, Toni Morrison, \$18.95 cl, 9/87, 0-394-53597-9. Set in post-Civil War Ohio, this is the story of Sethe, an escaped slave, her daughter, her mother-in-law and the disturbing enchanting intruder, Beloved. Through the

stories of their years in captivity and their glimpses of freedom, this novel speaks to our experiences as a nation struggling with a past of both abominable and ennobling circumstances.

The Radiant Way, Margaret Drabble, \$18.95 cl, 10/87, 0-394-56143-0. Drabble's first novel in seven years focuses on the lives of three English women. Their lives are full and fulfilled, but as we follow them into the 1980's, we see them confront difficult truths about themselves.

Labors of Love, Judith Weissman and Wendy Lavitt, \$50 cl, 11/87, 0-394-54240-1. A lavishly illustrated history of American textile and needlework (1650-1930). This survey of an activity that has played a central role in women's life includes both decorative objects and items of everyday including woven, knotted, sewn, crocheted and embroidered bedding, towels, garments, and table linens made out of linen, wool, cotton, lace and silk.

THE TIGER'S MILK

WOMEN OF NICARAGUA Adriana Angel
Fiona Macintosh



ST. MARTIN'S PRESS

Hammer and Tongues, Brown and O'Conner, \$14.95 cl, 9/87, 0-312-01117-2. This collection of women's wit and humor is arranged by topic from A to Z. It ranges from Afterlife ("There will be sex after death; we just won't be able

to feel it" -- Lily Tomlin) to Youth ("Remember that as a teenager you are at the last stage in your life when you will be happy to hear that the phone is for you." -- Fran Libowitz.)

Hidden Side of the Moon, Joann Russ, \$15.95 cl, 11/87, 0-312-01105-9. A new collection of stories by feminist science fiction writer Joanna Russ. The catalog says nothing about these stories except that they are "often humorous, always breathtaking."

Straight on Till Morning, Mary Lovell, \$16.95 cl, 9/87, 0-312-01096-6. This biography of Beryl Markham covers much that was not included in Markham's memoir **West With the Night**. Lovell, of course, covers Markham's tempestuous love life and "jet" set lifestyle. Lovell puts to rest the claim that Markham's third husband ghostwrote **West With the Night**. CBS will be doing a mini-series on Markham soon.

SALEM HOUSE/ THE WOMEN'S PRESS-ENGLAND

For the Record: The Making and Meaning of Feminist Knowledge, Dale Spender, \$6.95, 11/87, 0-7043-39609. This look at feminist writers and their work of the past twenty years is a stimulating survey of the women's movement since the mid-sixties. Spender looks at the works of Betty Friedan, Shulamith Firestone, Germaine Greer, Kate Millett, Robin Morgan, Mary Daly, Adrienne Rich and others.

What Comes Naturally, Gerd Brantenberg, \$4.95 pb 11/87, 0-7043-4003-8. Another hilarious lesbian novel by Norwegian author Brantenberg is about the predicament of growing up lesbian in a heterosexual world. Find out how the heroine and her lover find themselves locked out of their apartment stark naked in ten degree weather and their tricks to fool their nosey landlady. Brantenberg hits hard at the traditional assumptions about "normal" and "abnormal" behavior.

Where Sixpence Lives, Norma Kitson, \$7.95 pb, 9/87, 0-7012-0772-8. This autobiographical account of a wealthy, white South African woman who abandons her life of privilege to espouse the cause of Black liberation was acclaimed when first published in Britain. From a life of ease and security, Kitson's activities lead her to the horror of interrogation and imprisonment. This book is both a forceful political indictment and a testament of Kitson's courage and independence.

MASS MARKETS



Compiled by Karen Axness

OCTOBER

- Beet Queen. Louise Erdrich, Bantam, 4.50, Fic.
- Love Medicine. Louise Erdrich, Bantam, 4.50, Fic.
- The Family Secret. Eleanore Hill, Dell, 7.95, Incest/Bio.
- Fat is a Feminist Issue II. Susie Orbach, Berkley, 3.95, NF.
- Delivery. Jennifer Crichton, Warner, 4.95, Birth/Bio.
- The Leopard's Daughter. Lee Killough, Pop. Lib., 2.95, SF.
- Bluebeard's Egg & Other Stories. Margaret Atwood. Fawcett, 4.95, Fic.
- Lady Oracle. Margaret Atwood, Fawcett, 4.95, Fic.
- It Will Never Happen to Me. Claudia Black, Ballantine, 3.95, Substance Abuse.
- The Century's Daughter. Pat Barker, Ballantine, 3.95, Fic.

NOVEMBER

- Dancing on My Grave. Gelsey Kirkland, Jove, 4.50, Bio.
- Maiden. Cynthia Buchanan, Dell, 4.95, Fic.
- Cousins. Judy Vernon. Dell, 4.95, Fic.
- The Empress of Earth. Melissa Smith, Pocket, 3.50, SF.

DECEMBER

- Duet for Three. Joan Barfoot. Avon, 3.95, Fic.
- Golden Days. Carolyn See, Fawcett, 3.95, Fic.
- Mermaids. Patty Dann, NAL, 3.95, Fic.
- Mama. Terry McMillan, Pocket/WSP, 5.95, Fic /Women of Color.
- After Long Silence. Sheri S. Tepper, Bantam, 3.95, SF.



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TOURING CANADIAN BOOKSTORES, Cont.

tion for both the booksellers and the would-be record buyers

Relatively few U.S. produced women's albums were available in the Canadian stores. VWB and Ariel both had some U.S. feminist albums, but neither had the depth of stock that would be expected in similarly sized feminist bookstores in the states. None of the other stores stocked even the Olivia and Redwood standards. Given that books published by U.S. feminist presses move fairly rapidly across the border, I was surprised that the music doesn't.

It turns out to be a fairly complex situation. The support for things Canadian in Canada includes music. The women's music scene in Canada is more fully integrated into the larger folk scene in Canada than in the U.S. where "women's music" is nearly synonymous with "lesbian music" and presumes a separate world of independent producers, women's music circuits and women's music festivals -- so there is no parallel structure for music distribution to the WILD network. VWB and Ariel order records from the Vancouver Folk Festival organization that imports some U.S. music for distribution.

On the practical side, by the time the list price is translated into Canadian dollars, and shipping and duty are added, U.S. produced albums carry a very high ticket price -- \$14.00 to \$18.00 @. (Books aren't subject to duty.)

It was wonderful to meet so many Canadian booksellers and to see the stores -- all of them financially solid and holding their own -- and growing! The next issue of FBN will include a listing of Canadian published feminist fiction and non-fiction. Next year, on the way to and from the International Feminist Bookfair in Montreal, I hope to be able visit some of the eastern Canadian bookstores and report on them in FBN.

UNIVERSITY PRESSES, Cont.

be something wrong at the core of one of the ripe-looking apples I've picked, please write and tell me so. Also welcome are ideas for making this column more helpful, questions about ordering and marketing, and "What is the 'Annals School' anyway?" and other lapses in jargon.

*For the convenience of feminist bookstores that do not carry books authored solely by men, I will announce them and tell you if unfamiliar names are male.

UNUSUAL COMPANY, Cont.

the talk nowadays about the success the small presses have been having with lesbian and gay fiction, Dutton would be publishing lesbian novels to the same audience that's been buying them in profitable quantity for the last ten years and would, of course, extend that market in every direction possible. Instead, this seems to be a novel designed to reinforce any homophobe's worst fears about lesbians. Or perhaps its intended market is straight men, with a hoped-for overflow to the lesbian market. The jacket copy is in first-person-lesbian: "...This is the story of how we love: how we arrive at love, and how when we leave it we are haunted by our lovers." How lesbians love, then, is apparently with violence and brutality.

You might want to read this one yourself before ordering it in quantity. And think twice before you shelve it with the exciting new lesbian novels. It's not the book I've been working all these years to be able to sell.

GAY MEN'S LIT, Cont.

land's more serious approach provides guidance in understanding the spiritual challenges associated with being gay. An affirming astrology book for the gay man. 0-937-611-31-X

Letters of Carl Van Vechten, selected and edited by Bruce Kellner (Yale), due 9/87, 352 pp., illustrated, \$25.00 cl. Stein, Toklas, Dinesen, Langston Hughes, Woolcott, Sinclair Lewis, Purdy, Virgil Thomson--all these luminaries (most of them gay) make their bows in this "lively cultural history of the first half of the twentieth century." (Edward Lueders, University of Utah). Van Vechten was flamboyant, a character, a leader of "the splendid drunken Twenties"; he was also acknowledged as a leader in the fields of music, dance, literature and photography. 0-300-03907-7

The New Loving Someone Gay, by Don Clark, Ph.D. (Celestial Arts), due 9/87, 252 pp., \$7.95 pb. Completely revised and updated--over one third more new material relates the many changes that have come about in the gay community since 1977. Clark continues to write in down-to-earth plain language--truly a writer for the people--dispensing good sense, counsel and affirmation to everyone, gay and straight. 0-89087-505-7

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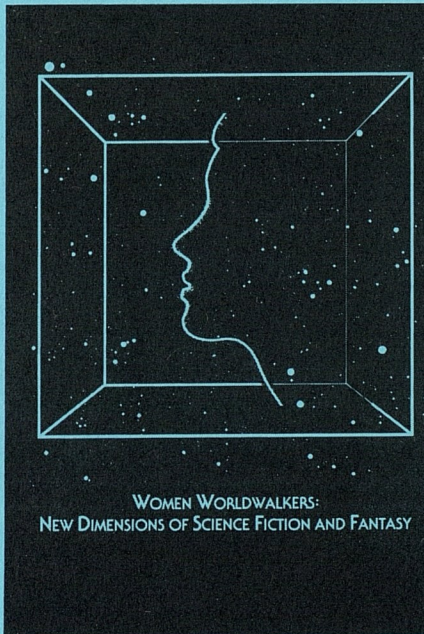
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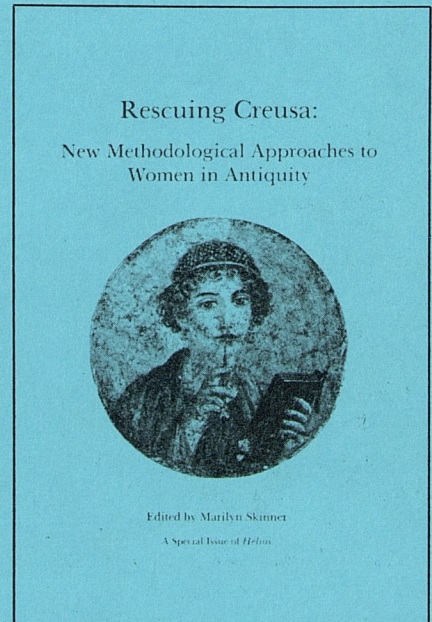
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