

Subject: Library Currents**Date:** Mon, 01 Mar 1999 21:00:30 -0600**From:** Lelan McLemore <lmclemor@carroll1.cc.edu>**Organization:** Carroll College**To:** faculty@carroll1.cc.edu, staff@carroll1.cc.edu**LIBRARY CURRENTS**

Volume 1, Number 7 March 1, 1999

Mission impossible wasn't impossible. With the help of more than ^{eighty} student and faculty volunteers the library moved more than 38,000 books in one week. The library staff wishes to express its sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to this effort. This voluntary effort is another reminder of the quality of the Carroll Community.

Renovation of the library remains on schedule and should be completed before the end of April.

The New Reference Service Area
By Jim Van Ess, Reference Librarian

The library staff has moved into the relocated and renovated Reference Area of the Todd Wehr Memorial Library. We used this opportunity to plan a space that we hope will be functional as well as comfortable for library research and study.

The center of the area is a Reference Desk to be staffed as a new service for library users. It is centrally located between the traditional print collection of reference sources and the database workstations. It is also located in the main traffic pattern through the building.

The print collection will be shelved in new bookcases. Volumes of heaviest use, encyclopedias and indexes, will be located in counter-top shelving for convenient use of these larger volumes. The original atlas case, a truly unique and beautiful piece of furniture from 1942, is being refinished for this area.

The electronic database area will house approximately 12 workstations with terminals having access to all library databases and the internet. The area will also contain several printers, E-mail terminals, and the public photocopy machine.

All service areas and workstations will offer the choice of counter-top or sit-down work areas. The entire Reference Area has been designed to be wheelchair accessible.

Above all, we would wish the Reference Area, as well as the completed library renovation, to be an inviting atmosphere for reading, research, and study for our patrons. We hope it will also be a comfortable and efficient environment in which to work for our staff and a facility adaptable to meet the future needs and programs of the library and its mission.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH
By Becky Steffes, Access Services Librarian

Writing as a woman, I am proud and thrilled to remind you all that, since the first official Congressional Resolution in 1987, March has continued to be Women's History Month. As a member of the library staff, I am doubly thrilled because I can honestly say that during the last six months we in the library have made a sincere, and I think by any standards a successful, attempt to enrich our library collection with the addition of a number of books dealing in some way or other with women's history. In every intellectual area touched by our curriculum, we have been able to purchase many high quality items. I noticed that our art library has incorporated ten new items ranging in topic from autobiography to the role of women in art history. Our history collection now includes more documents which emanate from a feminine perspective. And biographies of famous women in the sciences are now more easily

accessible.

The following titles do not purport to be exhaustive; nor do these examples necessarily represent the best of the material which we have purchased (remember that one of the beauties of the printed word is that it is not necessarily tailored, as are TV and movies, for the mass market; in books, therefore, each person can find her/his own favorite). I merely list these are titles in which I personally take some interest. And I hope that you too will find some of these enlightening.

The reviews which follow the title are intended to give you some idea of the content of the items; they are copied from Choice Online, a reviewing tool for books for academic libraries. And don't forget to visit our library homepage where I have placed links representative of electronic information brought together to celebrate Women's History Month.

Borzello, Frances *Seeing ourselves: women's self-portraits*. Abrams, 1998. 224p, bibl index ISBN 0810941880

Beginning with 14th-century manuscripts, Borzello (an independent scholar) traces the development of this small but phenomenal genre. Two chronologically narrower and more theoretical works, Marsha Meskimmon's *The Art of Reflection: Women Artists' Self-Portraiture in the Twentieth Century* (1996) and *Mirror Images: Women, Surrealism, and Self-representation*, ed. by Whitney Chadwick, are also far less well illustrated. Through painting, photography, and sculpture, Borzello reveals female artists who, like Rembrandt, depicted themselves through bloom, maturity, and decline. Whether in black and white or color, the 240 illustrations admirably convey the genre's visual language, conventions, and modern lack of taboos. A chronologically arranged social history, the book introduces artists and notes their contributions to the genre. A major theme is the visual messages artists sent about themselves not just as women, but as fledgling members of the artistic profession. Portraits of women as artists (painted by male colleagues) contrast with the self-portraits. Consequently, the book is an intriguing art historical "he says, she says" rather than a theoretical or formalistic critique. Biographical notes on more than a hundred artists; list of illustrations.

Nokes, David *Jane Austen: a Life*. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1997. 578p, index ISBN 0374113262 \$35.00.

Austen devotees will enjoy this new biography because Nokes draws heavily on letters to suggest a social milieu not unlike that in Austen's own novels. One sees Austen as a real person, not the familiar austere canonized version of the writer. In other words, Austen is seen as one who is intrigued with relationships among family and friends, the twists and turns of the Napoleonic wars, the current literary scene, and petty gossip, and as a drinker of too much wine on occasion, who is capable of carrying on to silly extremes with her nieces, and who loves to calculate what sort of royalties she can squeeze out of her novels. Nokes creates this closeness by entering into the mind of Austen much in the manner of a fictionalized character. In doing so he creates a believable continuum of thoughts and events—a continuum that also helps span missing information. His witty and articulate discourse suits his subject. He is particularly good on Austen's tendency toward invective, her closeness to her sister Cassandra, and how the publication of her novels changed her.

Caplan, Paula J. *Gender Differences in Human Cognition*. by Paula J. Caplan et al. bibl indexes afp. 182p, 1997, Oxford, ISBN 0195112903 \$39.95.

The basic issue considered in this study is whether (and if so, how) women and men differ in terms of intellectual skills. The authors present a brief review of the literature on research dealing with the differences in the intellectual abilities of women and men. One chapter discusses the use of meta-analysis to assess the results of numerous studies. Another chapter includes a treatment of various problems that were a part of previous studies examined. The effect of environmental factors on intelligence is also considered. The last chapter offers conclusions drawn from the discussion in previous chapters.

Brenner, Rachel Feldhay *Writing as Resistance: Four Women Confronting the Holocaust: Edith Stein,*

Simone Weil, Anne Frank, Etty Hillesum. Pennsylvania State, 1997. 216p, bibl index ISBN 027101623X \$26.50.

Prominent diarists of the Holocaust like Chaim Kaplan and Emmanuel Ringelblum, who wrote in the Warsaw ghetto, "felt compelled to document the unfolding history of the destruction" of Polish Jewry. But Brenner examines Holocaust writing of a very unique and contrasting nature. The four women of her study were all Jewish and all killed by the Nazis. Ironically, however, they had no close ties with Judaism and no true sense of Jewishness. Instead, their education brought them to identify with Western liberalism. Each approached the final solution not as a Jewish phenomenon but as an ideological and spiritual problem that "represented a total collapse of the ideals of humanism." The biographies of these women further reveal that each had strong ethical convictions, a preoccupation with what Brenner labels "moral self-actualization," predisposing them to such convictions. Brenner compares the writings of these female intellectuals with the work of Albert Camus, who, in his novel *The Plague*, develops the metaphor of a sick world. Like Camus, Stein, Weil, Frank, and Hillesum believed in humanism as its healing force. Their writing was a form of resistance, not of Jews protesting the annihilation of Jews, but of women voicing a responsibility for humanity at large. The dynamics of writing appear to have given them a sense of control in a world in a state of moral collapse. Brenner's prose is lucid, and the book is richly documented. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.

Oates, Stephen B *A Woman of Valor: Clara Barton and the Civil War*. Free Press, 1994. 527p, index ISBN 0029234050 \$27.95.

Readers familiar with Oates's previous work will recognize many of his trademarks: this book is meticulously researched, minutely detailed, and beautifully written. Oates places a larger-than-life character in the midst of a dramatic historical event, sprinkles in a little light psychoanalysis, and lets the story unfold as dramatically as possible. Unlike his other books, however, this one does not attempt a full, definitive biographic treatment of its subject. And unlike his other subjects, this one is a woman. Both of these exceptions are problematic. Concerned only with the Civil War years, Oates recounts Barton's battlefield nursing experiences, but readers get little prewar background and nothing about her long career after the war's end. The narrow focus leaves readers with numerous unanswered questions about Barton's motivations and personality, as well as the context of her activities. Women's historians are likely to find frustrating the "great woman" approach of this biography, and most undergraduates will find the length prohibitive.

Women and Power in Native North America, ed. by Laura F. Klein and Lillian A. Ackerman. Oklahoma, 1995. 294p, bibl index afp ISBN 080612752X \$24.95.

Using detailed analyses of women's roles in 11 contemporary North American tribes, Klein and Ackerman seek to answer questions concerning the power of Native American women to control their own and others' lives. Specifically, the authors want to know what kind of autonomy native women have today. In presenting their findings the authors not only bring native women into clearer focus in terms of specific cultures but also underscore the variations that exist. The final chapter offers a comparative and theoretical summary. Despite differences in approach—some chapters are more historical than others—all chapters maintain the general focus and are short, descriptive, and clearly written. The book provides a ready reference on native women in different regions. By showing how these women have adapted to the modern situation, especially to work outside the home, the book demonstrates the differences between present and former tribal life. More important, the book moves away from popular polemics about native women as "equal" or "oppressed" and provides actual examples of women's abilities to control their lives.

Women Writing Culture, ed. by Ruth Behar and Deborah A. Gordon. California, 1995. 457p, index afp ISBN 0520202074 \$48.00

The multiple meanings suggested by the title of this volume point to some of the authors' most central concerns: women, writing, and culture; the active production of ethnography by women; and a feminist response to *Writing Culture*, ed. by James Clifford and George Marcus. Additional interpretations are possible and, indeed, offered in this lively and important book, which challenges readers to rethink

ethnographic traditions in the face of experimental feminist writing and to envision another history of anthropology in which women's theoretical and literary contributions are prominent and important. Included among the 23 articles are works in which contributors write anthropology as fiction and others in which they study fiction writers as ethnographers. Authors also examine canonical agendas that have placed women's anthropological writing at the periphery of their discipline, while others contemplate the borders they cross and recross, from theory to practice, from home to the field, and from writers of the "conventional" to the "experimental." A core group of articles examines women's early efforts in writing anthropology as well as their fates within a gendered academy. Strongly recommended for all college and university libraries. All levels

Rhode, Deborah L. *Speaking of Sex: the Denial of Gender Inequality*. Harvard, 1997. 341p, index ISBN 0674831772

Rhode examines the partial progress and perceptions of women's rights in multiple areas: socialization, work, media, schools, law, and political movements. Progress has occurred, but not parity. Rhode contends many Americans refuse to see institutionalized sex discrimination and thus deny it as a serious problem. This refusal rests on the American penchant for individual solutions, selective perception, differing experiences, and contradictory values. Consequences include weak enforcement of existing laws (e.g., regarding domestic violence); improvements that are not comprehensive (e.g., unpaid parental leave); and multiple conflicts (e.g., formal rights versus social expectations). The book is highly readable yet rich in data. Rhode discusses topics ranging from Barbie dolls, Tailhook, and alleged meritocracy, and case studies such as Ann Hopkins's suit for partnership at Price Waterhouse. Experienced scholars will learn little new, but the organization, analysis, and presentation are excellent. Rhode is correct about denial; this reader recently saw a national news segment that denigrated feminism and NOW and ignored discrimination. Although Rhode presents some strategies for change, i.e., one hour a week for social justice, greater emphasis here would have made a stronger work. Highly recommended nevertheless. All levels.

Lee, Hermione Virginia Woolf. Knopf, 1997 (c1996). 893p, bibl index 0679447075 \$39.95. OAB Winner!

The best biography of Virginia Woolf since Lyndall Gordan's *Virginia Woolf: A Writer's Life* Lee's volume creates an integrated portrait of a life of writing without reducing the writing to the life. The author's extensive use of Woolf's autobiographical writings, *Moments of Being*, ed. by J. Schulkind (CH, May '77), diaries, letters, and essays makes for an expansive view of Woolf as an experimental writer—exploring the boundaries of biography, fiction, and poetry—and an iconoclastic individual synthesizing political, social, and aesthetic thought. Lee describes Woolf as plagued by both physical and emotional trauma as she maintains a complex, interdependent web of relationships with husband and coworker Leonard, the Bloomsbury family, and the numerous women who shaped her life, beginning with her mother, Julia Stephen. Lee captures the "many selves" that Woolf claimed the biographer often missed, leaving the reader with the sense that further exploration of the fiction and other writings will result in discovering the "many thousand" selves yet unexplored. Suitable for all academic libraries, undergraduate and graduate, and general readers interested in an aesthetic, literary, political, and historical perspective on 20th-century Britain.

Notable women in mathematics: a biographical dictionary. ed. by Charlene Morrow and Teri Perl. bibl index 302p, 1998, Greenwood, ISBN 0313291314

Profiles of 59 mathematicians and computing researchers around the world are featured in *Notable Women in Mathematics*. Each five- to six-page profile describes the subject's major life events, educational and career milestones, and her areas of mathematical research in less technical language than *Notable Mathematicians: From Ancient Times to the Present*, ed. by Robyn V. Young with Zoran Minderovic (CH, Nov '98). Twenty-three of the women in the present collective biography are among the 303 women in the Young-Minderovic biography. The contributors are practicing mathematicians (21 with doctorates, 15 with masters). More than 60 percent of the profiles are based on personal interviews

with the subjects (compared with only six in Young-Minderovic, which, however, lists Web sites where appropriate). The present work adds profiles of three African American mathematicians, one Latina, and one Asian. All profiles are accompanied by a photograph. Cross-references are printed in boldface.

JSTOR

JSTOR is a digital archive of the complete backfiles of core scholarly journals. Many of the titles included in JSTOR date back to the 1800s. Since the library introduced JSTOR at the start of fall semester, its content has grown to include 25 more titles. In total JSTOR has 91 titles in the humanities and social sciences. The digitization of these core journals is an ongoing project that will eventually include 125 titles. We will publish new content in Library Currents as it becomes available.

<u>Part 1.2</u>	Name: lmclemor.vcf Type: text/x-vcard Encoding: 7bit Description: Card for Lelan McLemore
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