

Women's Studies Journals: *A Review*

by Sherrill Cheda

No one seems to argue anymore about whether there is a feminist criticism but within that criticism, they do argue varying points of view. Current debate about a feminist point of view within academe most usually takes place in women's studies journals; as well as criticism, these journals also include original research, study guides, bibliographies and polemic. Many academic women engaged in women's studies subscribe to these journals on their own or share them within a department; but it would be wise to request them at the college library so that more people on campus will have access to the wealth of information therein.

Canadian Newsletter of Research on Women/Recherches sur la Femme-Bulletin d'Information Canadien. c/o Margrit Eichler, Department of Sociology, OISE, 252 Bloor Street West, Toronto, Ontario. \$5 individual; \$12 institutional. (quarterly)

Of interest to all women's studies teachers, this fine newsletter, edited

by Margrit Eichler and Marylee Stephenson, concentrates on the Social Sciences and Humanities. It lists and abstracts ongoing research in Canada, research reports, periodicals, bibliographies, book reviews, conferences and courses. Outlines and abstracts of courses on women and sex-roles in Canadian universities help keep readers in touch with the format and content of other courses as well as the people who teach them. Each issue usually has a special bibliography; recent ones have been Feminist Criticism and Men's Liberation. It also provides a forum for discussion on specific issues within Women's Studies. This is the most complete source of women's studies information in Canada.

Chrysalis: a magazine of women's culture. The Woman's Building, 1727 N. Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90012. \$10/individual; \$15/institutional. (quarterly)

Chrysalis carries scholarly articles,

poetry, book reviews, interviews and listings of feminist resources in a most attractive format with illustrations and photographs. Its editors, Kirsten Grimstad and Susan Rennie, are well known for their New Woman's Survival Sourcebook and have gathered some outstanding writers for their magazine. Recent contributors have included Robin Morgan, Lucy Lippard, Elizabeth Janeway, Susan Griffin, Adrienne Rich and Florence Rush. Major articles have been "Freud and the Sexual Abuse of Children" which is a startling, well documented study of Freud's misuse of clinical data about female sexual experience; "The Tyranny of Women's Clothes," a historical look at the issue of what women wore in the first wave of feminism; and "The judgement of Patricia Hearst," a feminist analysis of that ordeal. Each issue has articles on women as artists, fine poetry and original creative contributions. In the latter category, an excerpt from Susan Griffin's yet to be published new book, "Women and Nature" and Robin Morgan's "Art and Feminism: A one-act Whimsical Amusement" are outstanding examples. Chrysalis avoids the aloofness of an academic journal and the dilution of a commercial glossy. It promises interviews with Simone de Beauvoir and Susan Sontag in future issues.

Feminist Studies. c/o Women's Studies Program, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, 20742. \$10/in-

dividual; \$16/institutions + \$1.50 Canada. (three numbers per volume year)

For the editors of Feminist Studies, "feminist thought represents a transformation of consciousness, social forms and modes of action." Running to nearly one hundred pages each issue, the journal carries scholarly articles, fully footnoted, from the humanities and social sciences, of interest to the university and college teacher and advanced student. While past issues have emphasized women's history, future issues promise also to include topical subjects of interest to those teaching women's studies. Articles such as "Social Biology, Family Studies, and Anti-Feminist Backlash" and "Conversations with Feminist Activists" will balance the historical with the contemporary.

Heresies: a feminist publication on art and politics. 105 Hudson Street, New York, New York 10013. \$10/individuals; \$16/institutions. Single copy, \$3.00. (quarterly)

Heresies is an idea-oriented journal devoted to the examination of art and politics from a feminist perspective. Beautifully designed and illustrated, each issue runs to about 120 pages. The issues are developed around specific themes with Fall 1977 devoted to "Lesbian Art and Artists" and Summer 1977 on "Patterns of Communication." Outstanding contributors make

this journal a joy to read. The first issue featured a short but far-reaching article on feminist ethics by Adrienne Rich entitled "On Honor" and the second issue's finest selection was the well researched "Women and Anarchy" by Lizzie Borden. Issue number three also includes Adrienne Rich on "Conditions for Work" and Bertha Harris's "What we mean to say: Notes toward defining the nature of Lesbian Literature" which puts to rest forever the myth that Lesbian literature is the matter of a woman plus a woman in bed. The words "art" and "politics" are defined broadly and there is material here for almost every feminist studies class.

International Journal of Women's Studies. Eden Press Inc., 1538 Sherbrooke Street West, Suite 201, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3G 1L5. \$22.50/individual; \$30/institutions. (bimonthly) Vol. 1, no. 1, Jan/Feb 1978.

Edited by Sherri Clarkson, this new women's studies journal hopes "to provide a forum where cool and critical discussion can be conducted." The first issue contains well written and extensively researched articles on a broad spectrum of topics from "avoidance of success" to "myths about menstruation." Authors seem to be from academia and include both men and women. Future issues promise articles on "Medieval Women" as well as "American Women as a Minority." Although

published in Canada, there was no Canadian content in the first issue.

Isis; international bulletin. Case Postale 301, CH-1227 Carouge, Switzerland. \$10 individual and women's groups; \$20 institutions (send cheques to: Account no. Cl-605.667/0 in the name of ISIS, Société de Banque Suisse, 11 rue du Marché, 1227 Carouge, Switzerland)

Born out of the International Tribunal on Crimes Against Women, Isis is the only consistent source of international feminist information and as such is of vital importance. It covers women's groups not only in Europe but also in Africa, Asia, Australia and Latin America. Every issue is formed around a theme, most recent ones being "battered women" and "Feminism and Socialism." Each issue runs to about forty pages and includes bibliographies, resource lists from around the world, news, researched articles and notices of meetings and conferences with feminist communication and information exchange being the goal.

Signs: a Journal of Women in Culture and Society. The University of Chicago Press, 1103 Langley Avenue, Chicago, Ill. 60628. \$15/individuals; \$20/institutions. (quarterly)

Signs is a very fine scholarly feminist journal devoted to the humanities, social sciences and science. Each issue

runs to nearly 300 pages and includes academic and research articles, interviews, criticism and book reviews by well-known feminist scholars. Edited by Catherine Stimpson, it covers a wide range of topics: film, women in the professions, art, literary criticism from various points of view and an opinions exchange. An outstanding interview with Marguerite Duras, and Carol Ohmann's "Historical reality and 'Divine Appointment' in Charlotte Bronte's fiction" were highlights in the first two volumes. Their special issues, "The Women of China" and "Women and Religion," could stand as textbooks in their own right. Each issue is divided into an articles section, review essays, reports, book reviews, international notes and letters/comments. Of consistently high quality, a journal useful with upper level university students and women's studies professors.

Sinister Wisdom. 3116 Country Club Drive, Charlotte, North Carolina 28205. \$4.50/individual; \$9/institutions. (three numbers per volume year)

Edited by Harriet Desmoines and Catherine Nicholson, Sinister Wisdom defines itself as a journal of words and pictures for the lesbian imagination in all women. It contains poetry, short stories, articles, and ideas. Authors include Deena Metzger, Audre Lorde, Susan Griffin, Beth Hodges, Bertha Harris and Adrienne Rich. No. 2

was a special issue on "Lesbian writing and publishing" edited by Beth Hodges and contained many excellent articles on both aesthetics and the politics of publishing as well as outstanding reviews. Included in this issue was the MLA panel, "Lesbians and Literature," with discussion between June Arnold, Sandy Boucher, Susan Griffin, Melanie Kaye and Judith McDaniel. One of the finest journals around.

Women's Studies Abstracts. P.O. Box 1, Rush, New York, 14543. \$12/individuals; Library editions/\$25. (quarterly)

Women's Studies Abstracts is the brain-child of hard working editor Sara Whaley and has been going since 1972. A complete run of WSA provides the most thorough, up-to-date index to articles about women, ranging from the most scholarly to the popular, that exists in North America. In addition to abstracts of those articles that appear in the U.S. and Canada, they also include abstracts of special periodical issues on women, book reviews, and a subject and name index. Broad subject headings divide the listings in a most helpful manner: education and socialization, sex-roles and sex characteristics, employment, sexuality, family, society and government, religion, mental and physical health, family planning and abortion, history, literature, media, resources, interpersonal relations and the Women's Liberation Movement. Ex-

cellent for keeping up in personal areas of research or interest as well as giving an overview of the Women's Studies field.

Women's Studies; an Interdisciplinary Journal. Gordon and Breach Science Publishers Inc., One Park Ave., N.Y. 10016. \$10/individual; \$29/institutions. (three issues per volume)

Women's Studies, edited by Wendy Martin provides a forum for feminist criticism and the teaching of women's studies as well as research articles, poetry and an exploration of women's culture. Articles are scholarly without being pedantic and include such well known scholars as Annette Kolodny, Elaine Showalter and Catherine Stimpson. Poets Adrienne Rich and Gary Snyder

have contributed their work. An excellent source of feminist criticism.

Women's Studies Newsletter. Feminist Press's Clearinghouse on Women's Studies, Box 334, Old Westbury, New York 11568. \$7/individuals, \$12/institutions. (quarterly)

Edited by Florence Howe, the Women's Studies Newsletter is a joint publication of The Feminist Press and the National Women's Studies Association and acts as a newsletter for Women's Studies teachers. It includes news, articles, bibliographies, ideas and an information exchange and as such should be invaluable for the Women's Studies teacher in the United States. Also of value to the Canadian teacher wanting to keep in touch with U.S. developments in this field.