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Review of Academic Women on the Move by Alice S. Rossi, Ann Calderwood

The Feminist Press

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NEW AND RECOMMENDED BOOKS

Academic Women on the Move edited by Alice S. Rossi and Ann Calderwood (Russell Sage Foundation, New York, 1973: hardcover, \$12.50) is the first complete survey, since the development of political activism among academic women, of the status of women in higher education. The book consists of twenty qualitative essays, each documenting one particular area in which academic women have been challenging sexism in academe: curriculum, counseling, recruitment, training, affirmative action, professional associations. One example is Laura Morlock's "Discipline Variation in the Status of Academic Women," the first comparative analysis of the numerous studies done by women's commissions and caucuses on the status of women in their particular academic professions. Especially useful is Alice Rossi's "Summary and Prospects" which provides an overview of the current situation of academic women, particularly as it points to future prospects. This collection should serve as a model for feminist action and research in other fields of employment as well as strengthen the feminist movement in academe.

American Black Women in the Arts and Social Sciences: A Bibliographic Survey by Ora Williams (Scarecrow; Metuchen, New Jersey, 1973: \$5.00) provides a clear, well-organized listing of close to 2,000 works by and about Black women in the U.S. One could wish that the entries had been annotated, some recommendations made, some value judgments expressed. The intelligent introduction, however, compensates and even without annotation, the value of the book is clear: it demonstrates the creative vitality of American Black women during two hundred years of their history; it provides pragmatic assistance to those seeking references in this area; and it provides an unanswerable argument to reluctant educators and administrators, who, asked to approve new courses on Black women or to revise old curricula to include them, have responded with, "But there isn't enough material." Incidentally, it is also a handsome book, complete with photographs.

American Voices, American Women edited and with an introduction by Lee Edwards and Arlyn Diamond (Avon, New York, 1973: paperback, \$1.95) provides a new resource for the teacher of literature and women's studies. One of the first collections of "lost" fiction by nineteenth and early twentieth century United States women writers, this book includes short stories by Mary Wilkins Freeman, Kate Chopin and Jessie Redmon Fauset; a single short story each by Dorothy Canfield Fisher, Susan Keating Spofford and Harriet Presscott Spofford; and a section from novels by Mary Austin and Elizabeth Stuart Phelps. One of the features of the collection is the variety of writing styles which attests to the richness of women's literary tradition.

The Crystal Nights by Michele Murray (Seabury Press, New York, 1973: hardback, \$6.95) is an unusual addition to young adult fiction because it is written with a feminist perspective that deals with the inter-related issues of class and ethnicity and therefore speaks realistically to the feelings and experiences of many adolescent women. Powerful enough for an adult audience as well, the story centers on Elly Joseph, a teenager growing up working class in Connecticut in the late 1930's. The author portrays Elly's conflicting emotions about an aunt and cousin who have fled Hitler's Germany to invade her home; and follows her painful awakening to her sexuality and Jewish identity. She struggles to put her dreams and fantasies into the context of the disturbing world around her. One of the unique features of the book is its proliferation of strong female characters: Elly's Bohemian classmate, drama teacher, Tolstoian mother and grandmother (who discovers she needs a life of her own), and Elly's adult friend, an unmarried weaver. Useful for women's studies courses that deal with growing up female.

TILLIE OLSEN'S READING LIST IV A LIST OUT OF WHICH TO READ, EXTEND RANGE, COMPREHENSION

Tillie Olsen is the author of Tell Me A Riddle, stories about the lives of working-class women and men, used frequently in literature, writing and women's studies courses. She has been sharing her often-requested reading lists with us in past issues of the Women's Studies Newsletter (No. 2 Winter 1972, No. 3 Spring 1973, No. 4 Summer 1973), and continues to do so in this issue with her reading list on the younger years of women's lives.

- * = a classic of its kind and essential reading
- # = only part of the book is concerned with these years
- j = merits adult attention, although usually classified as children's book
- pb = paperback h = hardcover op = out of print
- d = drama f = fiction p = poetry
- b = biography or autobiography
- t = written by young women (thirty or under)

FORMS AND FORMINGS: THE YOUNGER YEARS

These books are listed in their own kind of order, arranged in a spectrum by the period of time they cover, or in clusters for special reasons.

The Younger Years: a Spectrum of Girlhoods

- * Charlotte Bronte. *Jane Eyre*. pb/f/t
- * George Eliot. *Mill On the Floss*. pb/f
- * Louisa May Alcott. *Little Women*. pb/f/j/t
- * Benjamin A. Botkin. "Jenny Proctor's Story" in *Lay My Burden Down: A Folk History of Slavery*. pb/b
- * Olive Schreiner. *Story of An African Farm*. pb/f/t
- * Sarah Grand. *The Beth Book*. op/f
- * Elizabeth Cady Stanton. *Eighty Years Or More*. #/pb/b
- Nancy Lurie, ed. *Mountain Wolf Woman*. #/pb/b
- * Laura Ingalls Wilder. *Little House in the Big Woods to These Happy Golden Years*. (Pioneer Series) pb/b/j
- * Mary Johnston. *Hagar*. op/f
- * Agnes Smedley. *Daughter of Earth*. pb/f/t
- Vera Brittain. *Testimony of Youth*. op/b
- * Catherine Cookson. *Our Kate*. #/b/pb
- Olivia. *Olivia*. op/b
- * Elizabeth Maddox Roberts. *Time of Man*. op/f
- * Katherine Anne Porter. "The Grave," and Miranda in "Old Order" in *Leaning Tower and Other Stories*. pb/f
- * Dawn Powell. *My Home is Far Away*. op/f
- * James Agee. Young Emma and Ivy in *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men*. pb/b
- * Christina Stead. *The Man Who Loved Children* (patriarchy). pb/f
- Lore Segal. *Other People's Houses*. op/f
- * Paule Marshall. *Brown Girl, Brown Stones*. pb/f
- * Toni Morrison. *The Bluest Eye*. pb/f
- Alix Kate Shulman. *Memoirs of an Ex-Prom Queen*. #/pb/f
- A trilogy of the 1950's, preferably read as a cluster:
 - Sylvia Plath. *The Bell Jar*. pb/f/t
 - * Hannah Green (Joanna Greenberg). *I Never Promised You a Rose Garden*. pb/f/t
 - Barbara Probst Solomon. *The Beat of Life*. op/f/t
- H. C. Brown. *Grandmother Brown: Her First Hundred Years*. #/op/b
- Zdena Berger. *Tell Me Another Morning* (girlhood in Auschwitz). op/f
- Jeanette Everly. *Bonnie Jo, Go Home* (a pregnant teenager). pb/f/j