This leads me to Carolyn Bynum's *Holy Feast and Holy Fast* which confirms my sense that women were not passive victims of male domination in their choice of spiritual genres but that rather they found the genre congenial because it expressed a particularly female kind of power: their voices combined with past voices in the act of translation of psalms and meditative works, their voices speaking for many in the writing of prayers. Perhaps sixteenth century women would not necessarily have preferred to work in other genres.

Notes

1 Dain Trafton, "Politics and the Praise of Women" in Castiglione: The Ideal and the Real in Renaissance Culture (New Haven and London: Yale, 1983) argues that the stories of great women teach about men by implication, that is a young courtier with his eyes open could learn real politics from the example of the women. "Here is a tale to be pondered by courtiers who would instruct princes. The Magnifico does not call attention to the fact that his very first extended example of a virtuous woman introduces a new and more realistic tone into the discussion" (35).

OBTAINING SUPPORT FOR FEMINIST RESEARCH: A SURVEY

What follows is a report on the informal survey on "Obtaining Support for Feminist Research" distributed to MFN subscribers with the November Newsletter. We received 26 responses which are summarized below. Thanks to all of you who contributed!

Publication

1. Where have you succeeded in publishing research on women?
Eight respondents indicated collections of essays as a viable outlet for research on women and listed the following publishers in particular:
   Univ. of Georgia Press, A forthcoming sourcebook on medieval Women’s history (tentative)

The remaining responses varied widely citing the following publishers for:

Books
   Harper and Row
   Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies

Articles
   Speculum
   PMLA
   Chaucer Review (2 responses for this one)
   Viator
   The Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion
   The Journal of Homosexuality
   Feminist Studies
   Allegorica
Texas Studies in Literature and Language
Law and History Review
Women's Studies International Quarterly
Assays: Critical Approaches to Medieval and Renaissance Texta
Medievalia et Humanistica
Signa
Medievalia (SUNY-Albany)
Conference Proceedings
Selected Papers of the International Conference of the International Courtly Literature Society

2. Where have you published feminist books or articles? i.e. work on women written from an avowedly feminist perspective?

Collections of Essays
- Syracuse Univ. Press (no title given)
- Univ. of Wisconsin Press
- University of Georgia Press
- Univ. of Georgia Press, Women in Medieval Literature, ed. Katharina Wilson, Cistercian Press
- Indiana Univ. Press, Women and Work in Pre-Industrial Europe, ed. B. Hanawalt, 1986
- Univ. of Georgia Press, Women and Power in the Middle Ages, ed. M. Erler and M. Kowaleski, 1988

Books
- Basil Blackwell
- Edwin Mellen Press, A book on Joan of Arc
- Indiana Univ. Press (three times)
- Indiana Univ. Press- series on women
- Harper and Row (twice)
- Univ. of Pennsylvania Press (twice)
- Univ. of Pennsylvania Press- medieval series
- Univ. of Georgia Press
- Univ. of Illinois Press
- Univ. of Chicago Press- Women in Culture Series ed. by Catharine Stimpson
- Syracuse Univ. Press
- Rice Univ. Press
- Garland Publishers (New York)
- Harvester (Brighton)

(One respondent reports that Cornell Univ. Press and Univ. of Tennessee Press have both expressed an interest in a current book-project on gender and authorship in Chaucer)

Articles
- Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion (twice)
- Journal of Medieval History
- Old Westbury Review
- Feminist Studies
- English Studies
- Journal of Homosexuality
- Signs
- Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature
- Victorian Newsletter
3. What specific suggestions do you have for those seeking to publish

   a) research on women, a summary of comments:

      Know feminist theory and use it. Be particularly aware of recent work in anthropology. Present several sides of an argument rather than interpret material only with a feminist critique. Make connections with other women scholars. Know your market and your audience.

      Try regular journals. Don’t limit your options to specifically feminist journals. But also try "Feminist Studies and Signs. Both journals have in the past published articles on women in the Middle Ages and Classical Antiquity. Try Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion. From Germany: "I do not know the situation in America but I think it is good not only to publish in feminist journals but to 'penetrate'."

      For historians: "I would ask what were the factors that contributed to women’s progress and regress, what were the particulars she had to deal with because of her gender?" "Choose a topic which would be of interest if you were working in any other field of history, ie. one which affects both men and women even if in very different ways. Work in a field in which you have previously published articles or books not particularly concerned with women."

      "If in the field of history of English Literature, try Harvester Press, Ship Street, Brighton, England-- they’re very keen."

   b) feminist research, a summary of comments:

      It is important and useful to step outside disciplinary boundaries; use relevant anthropological, psychological and sociological research. Start with a broad methodological ‘apologia’ for using feminist criteria. Send your piece to journals etc. which you know have already published feminist work. Seek out other feminist researchers for collaborative ventures. Cultivate contacts with other women who work on gender-related issues and follow their advice about collections, journals etc.

      "Keep trying. Ignore hostile comments and send piece to another journal or press."

      "There’s a new journal called Gender coming out from Univ. of Texas at Austin. ...Looks to me like a very good place for feminist research."

      For historians: "I would juxtapose women, whenever possible, in their society with males. For example, regarding female Italian writers of the 15th century, did their writing differ from that of males? Why and how?"

Answers addressing both a) research on women and b) feminist research

   "Keep at it; keep sending ideas and pieces. Be prepared to rewrite. It is not all political when our ideas or work are criticized."

   "Find those publishers/journals that have a track record of publishing such work."
"The best approach appears to be collaborative works. Publishers seem to be able to overcome their misgivings about feminist scholarship when we back each other up in our writing."

GRANTS
1. What granting agencies have funded your research on women?
   Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, N.J. and Arthur M. Cole Grant-in-Aid--Economic History:--Dowry in Mediterranean City States
   Newberry Library in Chicago, The Monticello College Foundation Fellowship (6 mo.): Women in twelfth-century France (Specifically for a woman early in her career, preferably doing women's studies research. The Newberry has other fellowships as well and is an excellent place for humanists to apply for funding).
   Money for Women: Dictionary of Continental Women Writers. (One time grant of $750).
   NEH: Joan of Arc: Heretic, Mystic, Shaman
   Berkshire Conference and Bunting Institute: With Tears and Petitions: The Power and Influence of Medieval Pious Wives (summer)
   NEH Fellowship: Medieval Nuns (applied as unemployed and unaffiliated scholar)
   NEH: Feminist Critique of Courtly Romance
   NEH: Chaucer and Medieval Romance
   NEH: The Community of Women "Alle Pertiche" of Pavia, Italy
   NEH and National Gallery of Art: Christine de Pisan's Epistre Othea
   Fulbright Commission: The Convent and the Community in Late Medieval England
   Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada: Pastoral Care and the Changing Status of Women in the Middle Ages (3 yrs plus 2 yrs renewal possible)
   NEH: Women in Frankish Society
   NEH, Ford Foundation: Female Sanctity and "Deviancy"
   ACLS: The Language of Echo: Textuality and Feminity in Late Medieval Allegory and the Canterbury Tales

2. Did you consciously "slant" your proposal to make it more acceptable to the granting institution (i.e. using the term "gender studies" instead of "feminist studies")?
   Eleven responded "no", 4 "not really," and only one "yes", although most projects did invoke "gender studies" or "women's studies" rather than "feminist studies". Sample comments included:
   "No. And my only advice (if I have any of use) is not to attempt to write what any agency or audience might want to see, but what one truly feels willing and competent to write. I believe our best and most serious work is more likely to be meaningful than some distortion of it." (Recipient of an NEH)
   "No. I wrote an avowedly feminist proposal, but grounded in very specific texts and problems. I tried to justify the feminist methodology without being too polemical" (Recipient of an NEH)
   "None of this really applies to me since I got a state grant for my doctoral thesis before I got "into" feminism! But now that my thesis (which I am writing up) has become openly feminist my