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RECENT BIBLIOGRAPHY IN HISTORY

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I have kept a working bibliography of work on the history of women in medieval and early modern Europe, primarily France and England, and of work on feminist methodology in historiography since the 1970s. It was once a running list of the items, mostly articles, that I had read, and included material on both post-French Revolution Europe and the United States. Due to the proliferation of relevant publications, and to the pressures of work, my bibliography has become both more eclectic and more oriented toward my own research interests.

I no longer try to keep up with work outside medieval and early modern Europe unless the focus is historiographical. I do regularly run across a certain amount of non-European material in abstracting articles from Feminist Studies, Gender & History, Seventeenth Century, and Women’s Studies Quarterly for ABC-CLIO. My bibliography now includes both what I have read and references to material that sounds either interesting or relevant to my own work in progress, or both, as well as new publications that I encounter in the course of my work as a bibliographer at the University of Iowa Libraries.

For this first contribution to the bibliographical section of the Medieval Feminist Newsletter, I have divided the entries into three sections.
1.

Section I lists the contents of several recent collections in the hope that this may be helpful to people who have heard of them but haven’t had a chance to check for material of particular interest for their own teaching and research.


Bennett et al., “Editorial.”
Jane Tibbetts Schulenburg, “Women’s monastic communities, 500-1100: patterns of expansion and decline.”
Mary Martin McLaughlin, “Creating and re-creating communities of women: the case of Corpus Domini, Ferrara, 1406-1452.”
Carol Neel, “The origins of the Beguines.”
Ross S. Kraemer, “Monastic Jewish women in Greco-Roman Egypt: Philo Judaeus on the Therapeutides.”
Sarah Westphal-Wihl, “The Ladies’ tournament: marriage, sex, and honor in thirteenth-century Germany.”
Ruth Mazo Karras, “The regulation of brothels in later medieval England.”
Monica Green, “Women’s medical practice and health care in medieval Europe” (review essay).
Maryanne Kowaleski and Judith M. Bennett, “Crafts, gilds, and women in the Middle Ages: fifty years after Marian K. Dale.”


Mary Erler and Maryanne Kowaleski, “Introduction.”
Judith M. Bennett, “Public power and authority in the medieval English countryside.”
Brigitte Bedos Rezak, “Women, seals, and power in medieval France, 1150-1350.”
Jane Tibbetts Schulenberg, “Female sanctity: public and private roles, ca. 500-1100.”
Stanley Chojnacki, “The power of love: wives and husbands in late medieval Venice.”
Barbara A. Hanawalt, "Lady Honor Lisle's networks of influence."
Joan Ferrante, "Public postures and private maneuvers: roles medieval women play."
Elaine Tuttle Hansen, "The powers of silence: the case of the clerk's Griselda."
Michelle Freeman, "The power of sisterhood: Marie de France's 'Le Fresne'."


Barbara A. Hanawalt, "Introduction."
Barbara A. Hanawalt, "Peasant women's contribution to the home economy in late medieval England."
Judith M. Bennett, "The village ale-wife: women and brewing in fourteenth-century England."
Susan Mosher Stuard, "To town to serve: urban domestic slavery in medieval Ragusa."
Christiane Klapisch-Zuber, "Women servants in Florence during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries."
Leah L. Otis, "Municipal wet nurses in fifteenth-century Montpellier."
Merry E. Wiesner, "Early modern midwifery: a case study."
Kathryn L. Reyerson, "Women in business in medieval Montpellier."
Maryanne Kowaleski, "Women's work in a market town: Exeter in the late fourteenth century."
Natalie Zemon Davis, "Women in the crafts in sixteenth-century Lyon."
Martha C. Howell, "Women, the family economy, and the structure of market production in cities of northern Europe during the late Middle Ages."


Joel T. Rosenthal, "Introduction."
Brigitte Bedos-Rezak, "Medieval women in French sigillographic sources."
Jacques Bertho and Marie Anne Polo de Beaulieu, "Exempla: a discussion and a case study."
James A. Brundage, "Sexual equality in medieval canon law."
John B. Freed, "German source collections: the archdiocese of Salzburg as a case study."
Penny S. Gold, "The charters of Le Ronceray d'Angers: male/female interaction in monastic business."
David Herlihy, "Women and the sources of medieval history: the towns of northern Italy."
Jenny Jochens, "Old Norse sources on women."
Janet Senderowitz Loengard, "'Legal history and the medieval Englishwoman' revisited: some new directions."
Jo Ann McNamara, "De quibusdam mulieribus: reading women's history from hostile sources."
Jane Tibbetts Schulenberg, "Saints' lives as a source for the history of women, 500-1100."
Alan M. Stahl, "Coinage in the name of medieval women."
Susan Mosher Stuard, "Sources on medieval women in Mediterranean archives."


II. Section II is a list of some recent publications on women in medieval and early modern Europe. In the category of those that I have read, I would be interested in hearing reactions from medievalists to the argument of Sarah Hanley’s article. Sharon Kettering’s article raises the question of how one might distinguish between the exercise of influence and power and whether it is useful to do so. Ruth Karras’ "Holy harlots" and Linda Pollock’s "Teach her to live under obedience" are reminiscent of Ruth Kelso’s "Doctrine for the Lady of the Renaissance": women may differ by class, but they are all the same from a perspective that focuses on women and sexuality.

Helen Lemay, “Women and the literature of obstetrics and gynecology.”


III.

The articles in section III are historiographical. I found the Annales article, collectively written by group of French historians, interesting, and welcome its translation into English.

Bennett, Judith M. “Feminism and history.” Gender & History 1 (Autumn 1989): 251-


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ANGLO-SAXON STUDIES
GENDER AND POWER: FEMINISM AND OLD ENGLISH STUDIES

More is being written about women in Old English (OE), but whether or not we might label such criticism feminist, in that it attempts to theorize, reconstruct, or dismantle existing constructions of femininity in non-patriarchal ways, is debatable. We originally aimed each to explore one area of Anglo-Saxon studies; instead, through the collaborative process, we discovered the impossibility of discussing these areas separately. Although we identify some broad trends in scholarship on women in history (Bennett), literature (Overing), and language (Lees), our work shares a general concern to highlight the problems of traditional disciplines and methodologies (binarisms, and other varieties of anti-feminist criticism). The interrelationship between society, language, and power that we detect suggests the inadequacy of traditionally separate disciplines, and clarifies, for us at least, the importance of non-patriarchal approaches that draw on interdisciplinary and cultural methodologies. Our comments here are more selective than Helen Bennett's important 1989 survey. Bennett outlines below how feminist historians have identified the status of women as a central concern of history that recognizes the relationship between the sexes as socially constructed. Questions of methodology, power, and the construction of gender are also central to Gillian Overing's analysis of literary studies. Clare Lees' work on OE language identifies it as the area of Anglo-Saxon studies with the least feminist scholarship. As we move from broad sociohistorical issues to literature to language, we discover that the narrower the field of inquiry, the less feminist work has been done.

More consistently than in literary and linguistic studies in OE, historians have addressed issues raised by contemporary feminism, which pose fundamental challenges to traditional historiography. Analyzing the status of women and women's relationship to men, feminist historians reassess historical periods to point out the consistency with which eras of supposed progressive change are precisely those that mark a relative loss of