

REFLECTIONS ON PANEL QUESTIONS:
SUSAN MOSHER STUART ROUNDTABLE
MARGARET SCHAUS

Following the four panelists' presentations, there were lively questions and comments from the audience. A panelist's earlier remark about graduate student use of archives led to a string of audience reactions, which explained the problem, including cross-disciplinary issues, the influence of different theoretical methodologies, and pressures on graduate students to finish in shorter periods of time. Subjects under discussion also included the periodization of women's history and ways to make students more sensitive to authors' points of view. Bonnie Wheeler (Southern Methodist University) drew the audience's attention to another aspect of Susan Mosher Stuart's career: her notable success as a woman in academia. She serves as a model for others in her teaching, scholarship, publications, collaboration, and service to colleagues, students, and organizations. Over the years she has worked on a guide and resource list to restore women's history to western civilization courses (1983) led a Ford Foundation grant to integrate women into the newly coed environment at Haverford College (mid 1980s), and, as the Medieval Academy's representative to the American Council of Learned Societies, she obtained the data and produced a report on fellowships given to medievalists (2007). In these cases and many more, Sue has seen a need and committed herself to provide an answer.

What many people have come to appreciate in particular is Sue's personal support and encouragement. She mentors graduate students, critiques the works of colleagues, puts people in touch with one another, and keeps her office door open to everyone. I have been a fortunate recipient of her support in developing the online index *Feminae* <www.haverford.edu/library/reference/mschaus/mfi/mfi.html>. The need for such an index of recent journal articles and essays first became apparent in the early 1990s when I was working with students from Sue's medieval history

class who needed to research a “found woman,” that is, a person whom historians had misrepresented or largely ignored. Since the existing indexes did not provide good access to material, I took advantage of the new capacities of the Internet in 1996 to build a freely accessible index which currently has over twenty thousand records and, in April 2008, more than three thousand users. Throughout this process Sue has generously given advice, solved problems, looked at long-range issues, and supported *Feminae* in many different venues.

As a faithful reader of the current literature, including footnotes and bibliographies, I would like to note in closing the importance of Sue’s ideas. Authors regularly refer to her work, in particular her arguments concerning slavery, historiography, fashion and consumption, and masculinity. They extend her observations and confirm the importance of her thinking for ongoing work.

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