MFN BUSINESS MEETING

KALAMAZOO, May 1988

The following suggestions were voiced at the MFN Cash Bar and Business Meeting this year or conveyed to us subsequently in writing:

1) That we reprint and recirculate the teaching issue (MFN No. 3, Spring 1987) perhaps in conjunction with a supplement that would focus less on entire courses and course syllabi and more on "how to" teach a particular work, topic, or female author. How to incorporate a feminist reading of the "Wife of Bath's Tale," for example, into a course on Western Civilization. Or how to offer a feminist analysis of Chrétien de Troyes' works in a survey of Medieval and Renaissance Literature. What works and what doesn't.

2) That we issue a reprint and update of bibliography collected to date.

3) That we question the very format of sessions at the Kalamazoo conference, exploring new possibilities that might suit our needs better. This year's session on Feminist Theory organized by Beth Robertaon offered six speakers giving short presentations in an attempt to foster a maximum of discussion.

4) That in the future session titles at Kalamazoo be broad enough to include the Renaissance if possible

5) That the Newsletter be renamed "Medieval and Renaissance Feminist Newsletter" (this suggestion was controversial and no final decision was reached)

6) That we investigate the possibility of holding an NEH Summer Seminar on Feminist Theory and the Middle Ages.

7) That a future "commentary" column address Carolyn Walker Bynum's Holy Feast and Holy Fast and Rudolph Bell's Holy Anorexia. Anyone interested in contributing? Contact Thelma Fenster.

8) That future issues of MFN address in some manner the following:

a) the education of women in the Middle Ages
b) how to integrate women mystics and visionary literature
c) the problem of genres and their relative value or weight in the canon (i.e. how to teach women without presenting them as representative of "lesser" genres)
d) how to revamp courses to include women especially in Art History and other difficult areas
e) integrating theory into critical practice
f) listing the ongoing projects of subscribers and calls for collaboration.

Come to the Cash Bar at next year's Kalamazoo Conference. Bring your ideas and your cameras!