

FROM THE EDITORS

PHOEBE: An interdisciplinary Journal of Feminist scholarship, theory and aesthetics. We are pleased to see in print this first issue of a journal intended to increase dialogue among feminist scholars in the SUNY system and others who are working in the field of women's studies. PHOEBE is committed to publishing high quality work by both established and emerging scholars, artists and writers. PHOEBE is also committed to a cross-cultural perspective: work that examines the intersection of racial, sexual or ethnic minorities is especially encouraged here.

When PHOEBE's editorial board decided last May to devote our first issue to women's lives, and sent out a call for papers for an issue on "Life Portraits: Biography and Autobiography in Cross-Cultural Perspective," we had no idea that the work we received would lead us to a particular focus on the lives of *radical women*. That such a focus did emerge seems to us fortunate for the first issue of a feminist journal. The journal opens with Naomi Weisstein's controversial memoir of the early days of the women's movement in Chicago. We are thankful to Amy Kesselman for her effort in transcribing this document in the history of the 1960's and the women's movement. In the interest of giving voice to diverse points of view we welcome other (T)emoirs and analyses of the WLM of that time for future issues of PHOEBE.

The other work on radical women includes biographical accounts of two mentor relationships—that of Emma Goldman and labor organizer Rose Pesotta, and that of Margaret Sanger and the Japanese family planning activist, Shidzue Ishimoto-Kato—and finally, a discussion of anthropologist Eleanor Leacock's contribution to scholarship on the relations between marxism and feminism.

The remainder of this first issue of PHOEBE includes an article on biographical studies of Colette, a pedagogical essay on the collecting of memoirs in a women's studies class, three creative prose pieces, and several poems. In addition, we are honored to include examples of the photography of Andrea Modica, as well as our cover reproduction of Libby Kowalski's textile designs.

One of our goals for PHOEBE is to provide a forum for writing by and about non-elite and Third World women. Pleased though we are with this first issue of the journal, we were unable to obtain as fully cross-cultural a balance as we were hoping for. As the subject of women's lives has yielded material of great interest, we plan to continue the same topic in our second issue, with a focus on the lives of Asian, African, African-American, Native American and Latin American women. Our call for papers has already gone out, and is reprinted in this issue.

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