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NEW ANTHOLOGIES ON WOMEN'S STUDIES TOPICS draw praise from *American Studies* correspondents. LA CHICANA: The Mexican-American Woman, by Alfredo Mirandé and Evangelina Enriquez (Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, 1979, \$19.50) is, according to Stella T. Clark, "comprehensive" and "well-documented," although marred by "numerous errata. The exposition is uneven, no doubt because of the opposing and clashing points of view of the authors (as mentioned in the preface) and because of the constraints imposed on such an emotional topic by scholarly demands. Nevertheless, the book is an engaging and informative attempt to review and vindicate the role of the Chicana."

Of CRITICAL ESSAYS ON HARRIET BEECHER STOWE, edited by Elizabeth Ammons (Boston: G.K. Hall and Co. 1980, \$18.50), Ted Hovet says, "As James Nagel the General Editor of this series points out, this is 'the first collection of criticism on Harriet Beecher Stowe ever assembled.' While this body of criticism 'has reached no firm conclusions, no consensus,' Ammons accurately observes, it does constitute 'some of the liveliest and most distinguished criticism in American literature.' Ammons' judicious selections not only make for excellent reading but will also become a valuable resource first for the scholar of American literature, and also for cultural and intellectual historians seeking to understand the emotional and ideological dimensions of both the slavery controversy and the emergence of the cult of domesticity after the civil war."

Hovet says that most of the essays in WOMEN IN AMERICAN RELIGION, edited by Janet Wilson James (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1980, \$16.00; paper: \$6.95) "first appeared in *American Quarterly*," and praises the "striking fashion" in which the collection establishes how "religion provided American women with some of the intellectual opportunities, career possibilities, administrative experience and political training which secular society denied them. The collection also re-affirms the recent shift in religious history away from an almost obsessive concern with elite Protestant groups (clergy and theologians) to a study of American religion through the membership not only of Protestant churches but also of other faiths, partic-

ularly Catholic and Jewish. The result is a much more balanced and richer picture of American religious life and its role in the building of American culture. James provides an informative 'overview' of the essays."

ADAMS PAPERS: A letter from Robert J. Taylor brings us up to date on the progress of this notable project. It will take a hundred or more volumes, he writes, to make it complete; "work will probably go on into the next century." The three statesmen, John, John Quincy and Charles Francis and "the qualities of the Adams women" provide focus for the project when selection is necessary. In Series I, "Diaries of the Statesmen," there is no selection; the diaries are presented complete. In Series II, "Family Correspondence," and III, "General Correspondence and Other Papers of the Three Statesmen," the editors have picked and chosen. But everything omitted from this remarkable family collection is available on microfilm.

The two volumes sent us are volumes 3 and 4 of the "Papers of John Adams," edited by Robert J. Taylor (Cambridge: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1979, \$50.00 set). Coverage of editions in this column is not meant to substitute for scholarly reviews; our intention is to brief readers on the state and nature of on-going editions. It is difficult, however, to pass by material this interesting; I opened at random first to a letter dated June 20, 1775 which John Adams sent to James Warren by George Washington; next comes Warren's letter to Adams of the same date describing the battle of "Bunker" Hill. And so it goes.

SCIENCE FICTION reference volumes are the subject of a useful communication from Jim Gunn, novelist, essayist, critic, scholar, *bon vivant* and man-about-town. We asked him what he thought of TWENTIETH-CENTURY AMERICAN SCIENCE FICTION WRITERS (two volumes), edited by David Cowart and Thomas L. Wymer (Detroit: Gale Research Company, 1981, \$116.00 set., volume 8 of the *Dictionary of Literary Biography*). This is what he wrote:

In the last three years, as if to make up for previous neglect, publishers have produced a stack of science fiction reference books too heavy to carry: E. F. Bleiler updated his

Checklist and Robert Reginald came out with his two-volume checklist, *Science Fiction and Fantasy Literature*; Neil Barron edited a revised edition of his *Anatomy of Wonder*; Peter Nichols and a group of English critics produced *The Science Fiction Encyclopedia*; L. W. Currey produced a bibliography of first printings, *Science Fiction and Fantasy Authors*; Magill published a five-volume *Survey of Science Fiction Literature* (and is preparing a matching set for fantasy), Marshall Tymn edited *The Science Fiction Reference Book*, and so on.

The set at hand is not duplicated—yet; more such collections of author essays are in the works. This one offers essays ranging from two to twenty pages by a variety of critics about the life and work of a selected 91 authors: I counted the Gs and Galouye, Garrett, Godwin, Goldin, Goulart, Green, and Gunn are omitted—comprehensiveness is not one of its virtues. But Gunn is one of four Gs included. In such cases, I've found that a good critical method is to check the accuracy of one's own entry: I don't agree with all the judgments in the article, which is not surprising, though the piece is generally favorable, but, more important, I noted three major errors, including confusing the film version of *The Immortals* with the novel that inspired it, *The Immortals*, and several minor mistakes. Since the entries have different authors, the accuracy of the other articles may be better.

Nevertheless, the volumes would be a useful addition to a university or personal library (but watch for similar volumes as possible sub-

stitutions). Interesting features of this book are reproductions of a manuscript page for most authors, a photograph, often book covers, and extensive and useful appendices (six appendices, 12 parts). One thing the book lacks that would be useful for cross-referencing is an index.

TWO NEW RESOURCES IN MUSIC are reported by Dick Wright and J. Bunker Clark. Wright writes about V-DISCS: A History and Discography, by Richard S. Sears (Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1980, \$67.50.): "A monumental work detailing an era in American music almost completely ignored: the making of V-Discs for distribution to servicemen and women throughout the world between 1943 and 1949. Along with the history, the author offers an annotated discography of all issued Army and Navy V-Discs. This discography is set up alphabetically by artist and in chronological order according to recording dates. A most welcome addition to the body of literature concerning the music business in general and the recording industry in particular." And Clark, dealing with a more encyclopedic project, reports that RESOURCES OF AMERICAN MUSIC HISTORY: A Directory of Source Material from Colonial Times to World War II, by D.W. Krummel, Jean Geil, Doris J. Dyen and Deane L. Root (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1981, \$70.00), is "a major research tool, funded by NEH, covering all aspects of American music. Institutions great and small are represented, and the detailed index is invaluable."

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SEXIST DEADLINES make it impossible for us to run a call for papers for the special *American Transcendental Quarterly* issue on unrecognized women writers in nineteenth-century New England. The deadline was 1 December, 1981. But we can at least tell you of the project; you can learn more from Women's Issue *ATQ*, Department of English, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, Rhode Island, 02881.

INDUSTRIOUS WOMEN were studied in a conference so titled held in late September at the Hagley Museum, Wilmington, Delaware. The focus was on the Mid-Atlantic region in the early industrial period. Post-conference information from Box 3630, Wilmington, Delaware 19807.

SLAVE NARRATIVES: *Essays in Literature* proposes a volume of essays on literary approaches to Afro-American slave narratives.

The deadline is March 1, 1982; information comes from John Sekora, English, Western Illinois University, Macomb, Illinois 61455.

EXCELSIOR SPRINGS in the spring of 1982 is where and when the Missouri Conference on History is planned. Information is available from Peter L. Viscusi, History, Central Missouri State University, Warrensburg, Missouri 64093. The conference runs April 16 and 17.

A GREAT PLAINS SYMPOSIUM is planned for March 18-20, 1982 by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Center for Great Plains Studies. Details from Frances W. Kaye, English, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 68588.

CRISIS AND CULTURE in Midwest cities was the subject of a conference of related events—walks, exhibitions, readings—run by the University of Toledo. Guy Szuberla, a contributor to this journal, was in charge, and could put you in touch with papers or people. He's in the English department there; the zip is 43606.