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Work and The Human Condition
Annotated Bibliography
Beck
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This bibliography is the foundation for a project relating to the impact that womens associations had on American society. Although the primary focus is on womens musical organizations, the focus has been expanded to include all womens organizations. The history of womens organizations is a history that is interwoven in American history. It is because of this influence of American society that makes women's organizations such a valuable resource. This is by no means of comprehensive list of resources. It is nigh impossible to include a resource relating to every aspect of society that women's organizations have affected in a project of this size. However, I have attempted to include a variety of sources that reflect the impact that women had on American society through their volunteer work and organizations.

Blair , Karen J. The clubwoman as feminist: true womanhood defined, 1868-1914. New York: Holmes & Meier Publishing, 1980.

Blair explores the history of women's organizations by examining the factors that led to women creating these organizations. It was as an expectation at the time that women would act to uphold the moral code. This meant that women had more opportunities to assume organizational roles in the church. Women started exerting more influence over the church's policies. Eventually, these women started to organize Moral Reform societies that focused on ameliorating moral decay. These efforts evolved into

Domestic Feminism. This is an fascinating perspective of how women's organizations created the beginnings of feminism.

Blair, Karen J. "The Seattle Ladies Musical Club, 1890-1930" Women in Pacific Northwest History Ed. Karen J. Blair. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2001. 267-283

"Everybody knows America wouldn't have any music if it weren't for women". Harold Bauer made this claim in 1924, recognizing the impact that women's musical clubs had on the United States from 1900 to 1930. This engaging article describes the women's musical organizations that were formed as a reaction to women being excluded from mainstream musical performances. The Seattle Ladies Musical Club was one such organization. It was founded in 1891 by a group of twenty-four women for the purpose of supporting musical talent in their members and encouraging musical interest in Seattle. This organization began as a women only club with different levels of membership. In order to survive, membership was expanded to include men. It is one of the few organizations that is still in existence today.

Blair, Karen J. The Torchbearers: Women and their amateur arts associations in America, 1890-1930. Bloomington, Indiana University Press, 1994.

This book offers an insightful view of issues that had an effect on women's lives. Blair begins with a description of how the arts were a vital part of the “Cult of True Womanhood”. The book continues with an overview of how women’s organizations came into existence, the focus that they had and the effect that they had on their communities. She also describes how women's and musical societies evolved into the women's rights movement. There is wealth of information relating to womens organizations, the struggles that they encountered and how the community was changed as a result of these organizations contained in this book.

Bourne, Miriam Anne. The Ladies of Castine: from the Minutes of the Castine, Maine Woman's Club. New York: Arbor House, 1986.

The Castine, Maine Woman’s Club was one of many women’s organizations that was founded in the early twentieth century. It begins of a description of the women that founded the club and what they hoped to accomplish with their organization. This book offers a unique perspective of events that affected the world by describing them through the lens of a small town women’s club. This book has a tremendous amount of detail about the women, their goals and values as well as the activities that the the club supported.

Boylan, Anne M. The Origins of Women’s Activism: New York and Boston, 1797-1840 Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2002.

The history of women's organization is intrinsically bound to the history of activism. After all, many of these organizations began by advocating for other people. It was a logical next step for them to begin demanding equal rights for themselves. This book is a unique perspective of how women's service organization evolved into the women's movement.

"City of Olympia's Historic Places Woman's Club of Olympia". City of Olympia. March 2, 2009<<http://www.trpc.org/external/programs/historic+preservation/olyhistoric/olyhistoric/15.htm>>.

This is a very short yet informative article about the history of the Women's Club of Olympia. It begins with the first club meeting at the house of Edmund and Clara Sylvester. The Women's Club of Olympia was instrumental in establishing a library in Olympia by securing a grant from Andrew Carnegie.

Cornish, Nellie C. Miss Aunt Nellie The Autobiography Of Nellie C. Cornish. Browne, Ellen Van Volkenburg and Edward Nordhoff Beck, eds. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1964.

One of the flaws that exists with a person writing their own history is a tendency to portray events in such a way that keeps them in a favorable light. This book is no exception. However, it does provide valuable insights about the woman who founded the

Cornish School. She takes the reader through the whole process of founding the school from deciding on a name to deciding on a curriculum. Her descriptions of the early days of the school gives a better understanding of its nature and how it has evolved into the institution that it is today.

De Barros, Paul. Jackson Street after hours: The roots of jazz in Seattle. Seattle: Sasquatch Books, 1994.

This is not a history of women's contributions to jazz. However, included in this history are a few references to the few women that were a part of the music scene in Seattle. The chapter that is focused on Ernestine Anderson is as much about the people she performed with as it is about her. Nevertheless, this is a fascinating history about women's contributions to the music culture of Seattle. The occasional mention of women musicians provides a valuable insight into the struggles that they faced.

"Editorials." Nation 22 Feb. 1906: 150+. Academic Search Complete. EBSCO.

Evergreen State College Library. Olympia.WA. 3 March 2009. <<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=13870463&site=ehost-live>>.

This is an extremely intriguing editorial that responds to the idea that women going to work is the cause of societal problems. The author very astutely points out that a vast number of problems were blamed on the woman wage-earner because they were a convenient target. They also recognize the fact that womanhood has never been idle and women have been an active part of labor in America. This is a fascinating insight into the mindset of the time.

“Editorials.” Nation 16 Jan 1913: 48+. Academic Search Complete. EBSCO. Evergreen State College, Olympia, WA. 3 March 2009.<<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=13755397&site=ehostlive>>

Another fascinating editorial from this time period. It is a well written exploration of the idea that a large portion of significant legislation has been introduced by women's organization. This particular editorial reflects on the way that these pieces are received and the flaws in that approach.

"General Federation of Women's Clubs". General Federation of Women's Clubs. March, 2 2009 <<http://www.gfwc.org/gfwc/default.asp?SnID=1853846190>>.

The home page for the General Federation of Women's Club has a very well put together webpage. It's easy to navigate and there is a great deal of information to be

found there. The GFWC has been advocating for women's organizations ever since they were founded in 1890. Their work has had an incredible impact on society.

Houde, Mary Jean. Reaching Out A Story Of The General Federation Of Women's Clubs.

Chicago: The Mobium Press, 1989.

In 1889, Jennie June, pioneer journalist, posed this question at her readers. “ Is it possible that women may have a life of their own, may learn to know and honor each other, may find solace in companionship, and lose sight of smaller troubles in larger aims?” It’s interesting to note that she was asking this question rhetorically. She had answered many years before it was asked. It was at this time, she had organized a club, Sorosis, to advocate for the needs and rights of women. Eventually, this club would evolve into the General Federation of Women’s Club. This organization is still in existence today. Its primary focus is to support women by offering leadership opportunities, personal development and national and international perspective in club and community work

“Juliette Gordon Low Biography Founder of Girl Scouts of the USA” Official Web Site of Girl Scouts of America Girl Scouts of America. 28 February 2009.<http://www.girlscouts.org/who_we_are/history/low_biography/

In 1912, Juliette Gordon Low gathered a group of girls who would become the first group of Girl Scouts. It was her idea to create an inclusive organization for girls that would teach them the needed skills for homemaking and to begin a professional career.

Although this is a somewhat biased biography, it does offer an interesting perspective of the woman who created an organization for girls and young women that is still in existence.

Knupfer, Anna Meis, and Christine Woyshener, ed. The Educational Work Of Women's Organizations, 1890-1960. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008.

This fascinating compilation reflects on how much influence that women's organizations have had on American society. From study clubs to social service organizations to political and social advocacy groups, there has been few aspects of society that haven't been impacted in a positive fashion by a women's organization. This book describes how women's organizations have affected higher education, politics and social reform institutions, race relations and the public education of children. It's a fascinating examination of how women were able to influence society and bring about positive change.

Lewenhark, Sheila. Women and Work Ed. Heather Gordon. New York: St. Martin's, 1980.

This is a interesting history of the work that women have done throughout history. It begins with an examination of the work that women had in hunter/gather societies. For

every era of history, there is a description of the work that women were doing. Not only does it describe the work, but how it was divided and how the same work evolved over the years.

Martin, Theodora Penny. The sound of our own voices: women's study clubs 1860-1910.

Boston : Beacon Press, 1987.

This book begins with a genealogy of women's study clubs and ends with a description of one such women's club, The Decatur Art Class. The author takes great effort in explaining how these clubs evolved, what their role in the community was and the effect that they had on their members. She describes the challenges that were faced by the members in forming and maintaining their organizations. Not only did they have to contend with a male dominated society, they had to bridge the various gaps that existed between due to ethnic, financial, religious and social differences. This is a valuable resource in this research because of the time and effort that the author put into detailing the process that was required to establish an organization.

Reed, Evelyn. Problems Of Women's Liberation; A Marxist Approach. New

York: Pathfinder Press, 1971.

Although it is clear that this book has been written with a bias towards Marxist thought, it always provides an interesting perspective on the evolving role of women

from a means of production to a social force to be reckoned with. Some of these arguments are dated because of the time period that they were written in. However, this is an interesting critique.

Rowbotham, Sheila. A History Of Women and Revolution In The Modern World
Women, Resistance and Revolution. New York: Vintage Books, 1974.

This book was written with the intent of exploring the connection between women's activism and social change. Rowbotham includes various historical perspectives that support the idea that a great deal of social change and reform has been brought about by women. This book is extremely informative because Rowbotham does not tell the reader about the early incarnations of feminism; she shows them where it began. This is a very well researched history of women's issues and organizations.

Steinschneider, Janice C. An Improved Woman: the Wisconsin Federation of Women's Clubs, 1895-1920. Brooklyn: Carlson Pub., 1994.

This is an incredibly engaging book that describes the rise of women's organizations after the Civil War. This increase in women's public participation became known as the "Woman Movement". Steinschneider describes how women's organizations enabled women to begin exerting influence in the previously forbidden public spaces. Like many of books that are focused on women's history, she begins with

a broad overview and concludes with an examination of an individual women's organization. However, this does not make this book any less of a valuable resource. She manages to include statistical information without becoming too dry or boring.

Wieranga, Saskia, ed. Subversive Women Historical Experiences of Gender and Resistance. New Jersey: Zed Books Ltd, 1995.

This anthology uses a variety of essays to describe how women have brought about change with various forms of resistance in several countries. Contributors examine how resistance has manifested itself in their cultures. This anthology offers a perspective that is not found in history textbooks very often. Women have always been a subversive element in society, challenging existing power relations and extending their boundaries. I found this book to be an extremely insightful overview of the commonalities that have occurred in different women's movements.

"Woman's Club of Olympia". Women's Club of Olympia. March 2, 2009

<<http://www.womansclubofolympia.org/>>.

The Women's Club of Olympia is the oldest women's organization in the West. This organization had a profound effect on Olympia by spearheading efforts to establish a library. This organization is still active in Olympia. Their work includes supporting indigent mothers, contributing to local charities and providing college scholarships.

However, their website has very little information about the organization and their history.