

Beyond Bylines: Media Workers and Women's Rights in Canada

Barbara M. Freeman

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Margaret Colpitts as "Joan Marshall" of CBC Halifax, on the air with announcer Carl McCaull and technician Ross McNaughton.

Beyond Bylines

MEDIA WORKERS AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN CANADA

Barbara M. Freeman

of engagements Borden and Mrs. to Winnipeg to- McClung made unity to ask the federal fran- and Canadian ding the foreign lung was speak- and not for the of the suffrage ens to me regret- dld have spoken without first hav- eed by the lead- s. Many of our ably believe, as that it would be

arose I would rise up and take it out and bury it in a nice deep grave, and pray that it might have no resurrection day.

So it seems to me that if democ- racy is good when applied to our- selves it is good when applied to the Icelandic women who worked so hard to get the vote and to the Polish and Ruthenian and other women who took a keener interest in the suffrage petition than many of our British women.

Mrs. McClung also overlooked the fact that unless a discrimination is to be made between provinces it would mean dis-franchising the foreign born women in Manitoba and British Columbia, always a difficult

still doing sus women, but ha the public pla again the tyra tive governm debarring any from the fran- cident of hirt to that unjust another woma whatsoever.

The foreig here largely as onization prog Government. T own urgent in suffer just as g have done in th view does not.

the ground that democracy is right still believe in democracy.

Personally if I had a religious faith or a political conviction which

Although the essays that make up *Beyond Bylines* explore remarkably different terrain, from the pre-suffrage era to the present and from mainstream to alternative print, to radio and film, together they mark major milestones in the progress of women's rights and women's status as media workers. Keeping a tight focus on each unique voice, Freeman reveals the balancing act her subjects maintained as they weighed personal and professional success against the constraints of their social and historical contexts and the demands of the causes they embraced.

– Marjory Lang, Langara College, Vancouver, BC

In this volume, Barbara Freeman explores how a fascinatingly varied group of prominent and lesser-known female journalists in Canada negotiated the tension between "conventional journalism and advocacy" over more than 130 years. Their perspectives ranged from cautious Christian feminism to Marxism-Leninism; the issues they addressed included everything from women's fashion in the 1890s to lesbian sexuality; they worked in mainstream newspapers, public broadcasting, alternative publications, and documentary filmmaking. What unites them is Freeman's sympathetic and deeply informed attention to how they all, in one way or another, sought to advance women's interests while struggling to make room for themselves in the Canadian journalistic landscape.

– Gene Allen, Ryerson University, Toronto, ON

In *Beyond Bylines* Barbara Freeman introduces scholars and students of history, journalism, communication studies and women's/gender studies to a delightful lineup of feminist foremothers including writers, broadcasters and filmmakers. In seven lively biographical essays spanning more than a century, the reader encounters a cast of diverse women whose media work in print, over the air waves, and on the screen challenged the status quo and advanced women's issues of the day. These essays are sure to spark lively discussion in the classroom and beyond. No doubt those conversations will centre on questions of women and activism, both past and present, but they might also lead to reflection on what comes next as feminists ponder their media and their message.

– Linda Ambrose, Laurentian University, Sudbury, ON

Beyond Bylines: Media Workers and Women's Rights in Canada explores the ways in which several of Canada's women journalists, broadcasters and other media workers reached well beyond the glory of their personal bylines to advocate for the most controversial women's rights of their eras. To do so, some of them adopted conventional feminine identities, while others refused to conform altogether, openly and defiantly challenging the gender expectations of their day.

The book consists of a series of case studies of the women in question as they grappled with the concerns close to their hearts: higher education for women, healthy dress reforms, the vote, equal opportunities at work, abortion, lesbianism and Aboriginal women's rights. Their media reflected their respective eras: intellectual magazines, daily and weekly newspapers, radio, feminist public relations, alternative women's periodicals and documentary film made for television.

Barbara Freeman takes an interdisciplinary approach, combining biography, history and communication studies to demonstrate how their use of different media both enabled and limited these women in their ability to be daring advocates for gender equality. She shows how a number of these women were linked through the generations by their memberships in activist women's organizations.

Barbara M. Freeman is a media historian and former newswoman who has spent her teaching career at Carleton University, Ottawa. She is the author of *The Satellite Sex: The Media and Women's Issues in English Canada, 1966–1971* (WLU Press, 2001) and *Kit's Kingdom—The Journalism of Kathleen Blake Coleman* (1989).

CONTENTS

Acknowledgements

Introduction

- 1 "A More Beautiful, More Perfect Lily": Agnes Maule Machar, Women's Sphere and Canada's Magazines, 1870s–1890s
- 2 Laced In and Let Down: Toronto Journalists Write About Fashion and Health in the Daily Press, 1890–1900
- 3 Suffragist and Peace Advocate: Francis Marion Beynon, the *Grain Grower's Guide*, and the Politics of the First World War
- 4 "We Were ONLY WOMEN": Elizabeth Long, Equality Feminism and CBC Radio, 1938–1956
- 5 "My Body Belongs to Me, Not the Government": Anne Roberts, Kathryn Keate and the Abortion Caravan Publicity Campaign of 1970
- 6 Collective Visions: Lesbian Identity and Sexuality in Feminist Periodicals, 1979–1994
- 7 "When a Woman Speaks": Aboriginal Women and Their Rights in Alanis Obomsawin's Documentaries, 1975–2007

Conclusion

Notes

Bibliography

Index

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