

The material in this collection largely contains records of the Corrective Collective, a feminist writing group active in the 1970's. In addition to its immediate interest, the material also has some bearing on the following:

- feminist publishing of the 1970's, including the creation of feminist presses;
- the importance of writing for second-wave feminists;
- small Canadian publishing houses of the period;
- educational book buying by Public School Boards.

#### THE CORRECTIVE COLLECTIVE

Composed of four writers, Barbara Todd, Patricia Davitt, Marge Hollibaugh and Andrea Lebowitz, and a writer/illustrator, Colette French, the collective published two books: *She Named It Canada*(1971), a pictorial, popular history of Canada and *Never Done*(1974), a history of non-aboriginal women in Canada. The decision to omit native women was at their request. Both books went through several editions and were bought by school boards as educational material.

The first book came about as a result of a conference held between Vietnamese and North American women in 1971. Since the USA would not issue visas to the Vietnamese women, the conference was in Vancouver. The Vancouver Women's Caucus organized the event and after a joint planning session, it was recognized that our American cousins as well as the overseas guests would benefit from a short history of Canada. Written as a popular history in a pictorial narrative, *She Named It Canada*, quickly became more than a conference handout. It was reprinted many times. Eventually the Toronto Publisher, James Lorimer, took over printing and distribution. Correspondence regarding this is in the collection. The format of the book, which was originally in tabloid form, eventually changed to a bound, book style. It was bought and distributed widely and mentioned in works such as Margaret Atwood's seminal book, *Survival*.

The members of the Collective were all also members of the Women's Caucus and two (Davitt and Lebowitz) were also involved in feminist activities at Simon Fraser University. Part of the efforts of feminists in the 1970's was the recuperation of the history of women which had either never been recorded or had dropped from view. To this end, the Collective's second project was a history of non-aboriginal women in Canada, *Never Done*. Again written in an accessible manner with generous illustration, this work was published by the Women's Education Press (later Women's Press) of Toronto. Both the accumulation and dissemination of material by and about women was one of the main projects of feminists in the 1970's and the Collective as well as the Press are examples of these undertakings.

Again the book was a success and went through several printings although an application for a Canada Council grant was denied despite the stature of the referees—the writer Margaret Laurence, the art historian Doris Shadbolt and the sociologist Dorothy Smith. That the project attracted such support is indicative of the wide-ranging commitment of women to the recovery of the history of women and the ferment and involvement of women from different professions in feminist projects. Since a paucity of historical works on women is no longer the case, it is surprising to note that *Never Done* was the first Canadian work to attempt an overview of the lives of women in this country. The rapid development of research on women in Canada in only 30 years is a testimony to the work of groups such as the Corrective Collective.

As the first of its kind, *Never Done* was purchased by several school boards and made available to teachers throughout the province. Record of these transactions are in the collection. As a result of the sale of over 10,000 books, the group realized unexpected profits. Several grants were given to women working on feminist projects. Another volume on the politics of food and women's involvement in the preparation and meaning of it was begun. However, two members (Todd and French) left Vancouver to pursue careers elsewhere and another member (Hollibaugh) became seriously ill. Recognizing that it was unlikely to produce another work, the Collective agreed to divide the existing monies with each member deciding on how to further feminist work with her share of the revenue. Two members (Todd and Lebowitz) established university scholarships for women's studies and the other three members supported feminist

artists and women's organizations. Consequently the profits from the original work were ploughed back into the reclamation and creation of information concerning the lives and achievements of women.

#### ANDREA PINTO LEBOWITZ

Born and educated in the USA, Andrea Pinto Lebowitz immigrated to Canada to become a charter faculty member at Simon Fraser University in 1965. Prior to emigrating, she had been involved in civil rights campaigns in the USA. At Simon Fraser, she taught in the Department of English and became involved with the Women's Caucus in 1968. This group undertook many projects from day care to health care as well as working for more representation of women in courses at the University. The feminist journal, *The Pedestal*, was begun and published at Simon Fraser. When the Caucus left the university to establish an office in Vancouver, Lebowitz stayed involved in feminist activities both on and off campus. At the University she was part of the group that began to design and foster a program in Women's Studies.

This program was finally implemented in 1975 and Lebowitz was its first Coordinator. While this was occurring, she was also a member of the writing collective noted above. As a consequence of this work, she was invited to lecture to BC Teacher's Federation personnel at their summer workshops and to produce audio tapes for the Provincial Media Educational Center. She also became involved in academic administration and was Associate Chair of the Department of English and Associate Dean of Arts. In 1995, she transferred her faculty appointment from the Department of English to the Department of Women's Studies. She was the first Graduate Chair of the Department of Women's Studies when its Masters degree was established. At the time of her retirement in 2001, Women's Studies was working for the creation of a PhD Program.

In addition to the works noted above (*She Named It Canada*, and *Never Done*) Lebowitz wrote a brief guide to feminist literary criticism, *Stargazing*. She also edited a collection of women's nature writing in Canada, *Living in Harmony*, and co-authored a biography of the Canadian nature writer Gilean Douglas. *Gilean Douglas: Writing Nature, Finding Home* was written with Jill Milton.

Throughout her career, Lebowitz combined her passion for reclaiming the works of women with her commitment to working with other women who shared this goal.