

biographical information that makes so many of the entries in the compendium fascinating and readable beyond the scope of a standard reference book.

The explanation of the process through which Dagg defined the parameters for this collection is equally interesting and informative. The guidelines that Dagg sets out not only demonstrate the necessary limitations imposed on the material with which she was confronted - for example, defining a "book" quite rigidly to mean a publication over 48 pages, or excluding cookbooks, manuals, and school primers, and the decision to include books that straddle the line between fiction and non-fiction - but also open up a space for further research into the works that fall outside of the definitions and limits of this work. What is surprising is that with the number of limitations that Dagg has set for her book, the compendium is still so full of variety and material.

Dagg's introduction also outlines the purposes behind the writing of non-fiction for women, particularly women in the nineteenth-century. She explores the material circumstances of the production of these texts, and the intellectual and political climate within which the texts were produced. Ultimately, *The Feminine Gaze* is, and will be, a good source for historians of Canadian women's writing and will provide a broader and more comprehensive context for those interested in the history of women's varied and often surprising participation in Canadian culture.

Karen E Macfarlane  
Mount Saint Vincent University

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***No More Secrets: The Talking Circle- Pt. I; No More Secrets: Understanding Violence Against Women-Pt. II.*** Sylvia Hamilton, Producer/Director. Halifax, Nova Scotia: Maroon Films and the African Baptist Association Women's Institute, 1999; 2 videos plus workshop guide; \$250.00.

Over the past thirty years, feminist activists and scholars have made tremendous strides in placing the issue of violence against women and children on the public agenda, yet we have done very little to eradicate that violence. Our only solution, in particular with relation to domestic violence, is in the end a very liberal-individualistic one - success is measured by a woman's ability to leave her male partner and become an independently functioning member of society. Other than incarceration, we have made little progress in dealing with the offenders. Court-ordered rehabilitation programs are notoriously ineffective, and the man usually moves on to abuse someone else.

These two videos by Nova Scotia filmmaker Sylvia Hamilton are a courageous effort to find another way to confront the important issue of violence against women.

Many will remember Ms. Hamilton's wonderful NFB film, *Black Mother, Black Daughter* where she first introduced us to the rich cultural heritage of the black women of Nova Scotia, grounded in their local churches. She returns to this community for *No More Secrets*, documenting the struggles of the members of the African United Baptist Association Women's Institute to come to terms with the reality of woman abuse within their own tightly-knit network. This is where the courage comes in - it is no easy thing to undertake this kind of self-critique which can be seen as betraying neighbours and kin, exposing them to unfriendly, even racist outsider scrutiny. The Black community has been subjected to much stereotyping, including the myth that their men are inherently violent. Within their Baptist church, they face a male-dominated leadership which may not always be responsive to this issue. Undeterred, these brave and wise women insist that the problem is one that the community must deal with together, involving both men and women.

Parts I and II are just under 38 and 29 minutes long respectively and are easily divided into shorter thematic sections. They are intended to serve as the basis for group discussions, and come with a clear and helpful workshop guide. The first video takes its inspiration from aboriginal talking/healing circles, bringing together a multi-generational group of African Nova Scotian women to discuss violence against women in their community. The second video gives an overview of woman abuse, relying on survivors of abuse, experts in the field and religious leaders within the Black community. Both videos are essentially introductions to violence against women, presenting many important themes that will serve as a useful entry point for groups of any race or ethnicity new to the issue.

This documentation of a Canadian community coming to grips with gendered violence was made with the financial support of The Women's Program of Status of Women Canada and the Multiculturalism Program of the Department of Canadian Heritage. It's really heartening for once to see our tax dollars being spent wisely to support such a worthwhile and important project.

Katherine M.J. McKenna  
The University of Western Ontario

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***Gender in the Legal Profession: Fitting or Breaking the Mould.*** Joan Brockman. Vancouver and Toronto: UBC Press, 2001; xiii+259 pages; ISBN 0-7748-0835-7; \$29.95 (paper).

Joan Brockman presents a compelling look into the experiences of one hundred members of British Columbia's legal profession. Based on interviews conducted with fifty male and fifty female lawyers called to