

committed white workers.

In the last section Sacks examines the "rollbacks" of the 1980s. The rise of HMOs, nursing facilities, and for-profit hospitals, which "creamed" the top, left the money-losing parts of health care to the nonprofit hospital. As cost-cutting was intensified, fewer workers had to do more work under closer supervision. Food and cleaning services were contracted out to vendors employing nonunion part-time workers. (Ironically, many employees of the most advanced medical center in the region had no medical insurance.) Technicians and nurses, also pressured by speedup, responded by trying to professionalize; their aim was to resist the addition of nonprofessional tasks to their jobs and the parceling out of some of their duties to lower-paid workers. At the same time increased credentialism cut off avenues for advancement through on-the-job training. The result was a bifurcated work force: an upper tier of largely white college-educated professionals and a lower tier of racially mixed technical, nursing, clerical, and service workers. Though not sanguine about the decline in activism, Sacks suggests that the potential for organizing still resides in the everyday work culture and social networks of workers. More could have been said about the rise of militancy among nurses.

In sum, the book makes an important contribution to our understanding of the effects of the changing economy of health care on the working lives of ordinary women and men. Written with grace and passion, it is accessible to a broad audience including specialists in health care, academicians, and workers.

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Participants in Anthropology

Women Anthropologists. Autobiographical Dictionary. UTE GACS, AISHA KHAN, JERRIE MCINTIRE, and RUTH WEINBERG, Eds. Greenwood, Westport, CT, 1988. xx. 428 pp. \$55.

This is an unusual volume in that it was planned and carried out by students. The editors (three have M.A. degrees in anthropology from San Francisco State University; the fourth is a Ph.D. candidate at the City University of New York Graduate Center) felt that the contributions of women anthropologists were given short shrift in most anthropology courses. This book is their attempt to right the situation. The result is a remarkably interesting volume which be-

longs on the shelf of everyone engaged in the teaching of anthropology or the study of its history.

Fifty-eight women are included in this dictionary, all of them in the Anglo-American tradition, their activities spanning a hundred years. The list is intended to be representative, not exhaustive, and in the best traditions of feminist scholarship it is deliberately non-hierarchical. Theodora Kroeber, Carobeth Laird, and Gitel Steed are given nearly as much space as Margaret Mead, Ruth Benedict, and Elsie Clews Parsons. The editors specifically reject any attempt to rank achievement or significance by the traditional criteria of publications, prestigious positions, or theoretical contributions. They are interested rather in the wide range of women's contributions to anthropology and in the variety of skills and situations represented. This book is feminist also in its interest in the webs of connectedness between the subjects and their friends, family members (including husbands), professional mentors, and informants or colleagues in the field. Instead of the heroic tradition of Great Men in anthropology, we have here materials for sociological analysis of some of the women who have been drawn to the discipline. The unstated assumption (which seems to me absolutely correct) is that we will only understand what anthropology is about and how it came to be what it is if we look at the activities of all of those who have been engaged in it.

The range of interests among women anthropologists is wide. This volume includes patrons (Sara Y. Stevenson, Vera Rubin, Elsie Clews Parsons), dancers and writers (Katherine Dunham, Frances Gillmor, Theodora Kroeber, Zora Neale Hurston), minority women (Hurston, Vera Mae Green, Ella Deloria, Irene Diggs), and political activists (Hilda Kuper, Eleanor Burke Leacock, Gene Weltfish). There are superb essays on the first generation of women in American anthropology (Frances Densmore, Alice Fletcher, Zelia Nuttall, Erminnie Smith, Matilda Coxe Stevenson) and on the best-known of later generations (Mead, Benedict, Parsons, Hortense Powdermaker, Gladys Reichard, Ruth Bunzel). In general the better entries are by authors who have some time perspective on their subjects and have been able to draw on previous historical research. Almost half of the women included (24 out of 58) are active today. Many of the authors writing on these women had their cooperation and occasionally mirror too closely the subject's point of view on controversies in which she was engaged. Yet even these less than objective accounts will be valuable resources for students and future historians.

The distribution across fields and between countries is uneven, as might be expected. The volume includes two physical anthropologists (Alice Brues and Ruth Sawtell Wallis) and nine archeologists (Frederica de Laguna, Isabel Kelly, Dorothy Keur, Mary Leakey, Zelia Nuttall, Lila O'Neale, Tatiana Proskouriakoff, Sara Y. Stevenson, H. Marie Wormington). All the others are social or cultural anthropologists. Ten women belong to the British tradition in anthropology, the rest to the American. Every knowledgeable reader will begin to think of women who have been omitted, but the very fact that we will be thinking about women who might have been included is evidence that the book will in part at least have accomplished its purpose.

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Sedimentary Studies

Desert Sediments. Ancient and Modern. L. E. FROSTICK and I. REID, Eds. Published for the Geological Society by Blackwell Scientific, Palo Alto, CA, 1987. xiv, 401 pp., illus. \$125. Geological Society Special Publication no. 35. Based on a meeting, London, May 1986.

Subtropical deserts cover about a third of the earth's surface. Their sedimentary processes are characterized by episodic transfers of sediments by ephemeral streams and by dust- and sandstorms. Evaporation exceeds precipitation, so evaporites and chemical precipitates accumulate in soils and near-surface sediments. Ancient desert sediments occur throughout the geologic record, especially in formations of Permian to Jurassic age. Interpretation of their depositional environments requires an understanding of the nature and formation of modern desert sediments.

This volume comprises 24 papers presented at a meeting of the Geological Society of London. The papers go some way to correct the impression that aeolian activity dominates sedimentary processes in deserts and that desert sediments consist mainly of the deposits of sand dunes. Three-fourths of the papers are concerned primarily with modern desert sediments and processes, often making no reference to the rock record. The remainder are divided equally between studies of Quaternary sediments and those dealing with ancient sediments. All the papers are based on work carried out in the Old World deserts, and their overall standard is remarkably high for such a volume.