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André Burguière and Bernard Vincent, eds., *Un siècle d'historiennes*. Paris: Edition des femmes, 2014. 350 pp. Bibliographies. 19.00€. (cl). ISBN 978-2-7210-0634-9.

Review by Bonnie G. Smith, Rutgers University.

This anthology covers the careers of twenty women historians of the past century, half from France, two each from the United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, and the United States, and one each from Japan and Argentina/Spain. The editors contend that the accomplishments of women historians have been ignored until now and that they will rescue them and thereby give them their proper luster. The cast of biographers is exclusively male. The aim is not so much to give an overall appraisal of women's role in the production of history or to examine the ways in which the field has been gendered, rather it is to chronicle briefly individual lives and historical achievements in highly readable, informed accounts.

The collection has many virtues, among them implicit commonalities that strike the reader, if not individual authors of the biographies. For one, the impression is that these historians are at the frontiers of the profession, breaking barriers and crossing borders—terms that are used in more than one essay. Second, the role of interdisciplinary and especially the influence of anthropology and ethnography are important to a number of them. Finally, the peripatetic life comes into play for good and for ill in their experience. Sometimes the actual crossing of borders and cultures is the result of circumstances and choice, but at other times political menace and even persecution affects these women's lives.

There are also valuable overviews of debates in a variety of fields and the historian's engagement with these contestations, unifying the essays as a primer in historiography. Mamadou Diouf's appreciation of Catherine Coquery-Vidrovitch's work in African history sets her in postwar discussions among proponents of ethnography versus history, oral versus written sources, and Marxism versus liberal colonialism. Coquery-Vidrovitch forged her own path, choosing history, written sources, and a complex analysis of African states, economic forms, and gender relationships. Somewhat differently, Pierre-François Souryri sets the writing of Takamure Itsue in the unbelievably fraught intellectual, political, and legal climate of pre- and postwar Japan. Takamure Itsue moved among anarchism, anti-Marxism, expansionism, feminism, and nativism as she produced her studies of ancient marriage, kinship, and the position of women. Her trajectory was rather odd in comparison with most other subjects, but what is not mentioned is that it was not uncommon for women writers of history over the past centuries. Currents in medieval, Renaissance, and early modern history, including art history, also inform the reader, especially because more than half the historians work in these fields, while among the modernists the focus is on France or the French empire.

There is, however, variety among the historians despite these common thematic threads or the other commonality of being a collaborator or acquaintance of French male historians, or in a very few cases, someone who inspired those male scholars. The historians range from several who died young, that is, before they reached intellectual maturity or recognized status to those who are today internationally celebrated or who were so in their own time. Hedwig Hintze and Lucie Varga fit the first category, both dying prematurely during World War II, while Natalie Zemon Davis, Lynn Hunt, Christiane Klapisch, and Frances Yates—to name just a very few—would fit the category of global celebrity. The types of

history and publications also diverge, with some focused on articles, others producing a great quantity of books, and still others concentrating on a smaller number of masterworks. Those who lived truncated lives hardly produced at all in the conventional sense. Despite these divergences, the collective picture is one of doggedness and devotion to their metier. In many cases, more than a whiff of eccentricity propelled that doggedness and devotion in the cause of research and scholarly productivity. It is well worth the reader's time to gain an appreciation of this road to brilliant scholarship.

The biographies have few other common themes, except perhaps for the unusual ways that many women historians pick their way through the minefields of male rejection or social disapprobation in order to have careers. Hedwig Hintze attended her husband's salon but was hardly welcome to many of the attendees. They disapproved of her uttering opinions about history and, in particular, her rather leftist views on German politics. Even so talented, generous, and distinguished a historian as Natalie Zemon Davis drew her share of snide remarks, though this unfortunate side of our profession is not mentioned by her biographer. For some, it was the topic of women's history that drew opprobrium of men and even of some women. Again, the collection is somewhat light on representing that extraordinary phenomenon of the twentieth century. The breakthroughs in women's history, indeed its creation as a distinct field, is often subsumed under the more acceptable rubric of "recovering the voiceless" or concerns for humanity as a whole. Despite the relative muting of the women's history powerhouse created by a large group of these historians, careful reading of the essays will show the ways in which they have transformed history as a whole through their work on gender.

Some never felt rejection, according to these accounts. Eileen Power, who, her biographer notes, loved to shop in Paris and did so often especially once she had the means, was someone many men fell in love with, including Arnold Toynbee. Her talent and energy helped her find mentors from both sexes, including those with the financial wherewithal to support her work. Using her connections and personal power, she co-founded the *Economic History Review*, as did Christiane Klapish-Zuber the journal *Penelope* and later *Clio*.

Hedwig Hintze, Reyna Pastor, Takamure Itsue, and Lucie Varga were drawn into the web of the twentieth century's violent politics. Hedwig Hintze lost her job during the Hitler years but was commented on as Jewish even before then, although raised a Protestant. Moving to the Netherlands in 1939, while ducking into Germany to care for her aging husband, she committed suicide in 1942, destitute and forgotten. After building a career in Argentina, Reyna Pastor fled during the dictatorship in the 1970s. Taught medieval history by exiles from Franco's Spain, she lived in a political milieu and came to participate actively in politics herself. Carmen Bernand simultaneously moved from place to place, as did the parents of Evelyne Patlagean. Long before Pastor's involvement, Christiane Klapish spent ten months in the Roquette prison for supporting the FLN, rehabilitated and accepted for graduate studies thanks to Fernand Braudel's recognition of her enormous talent. Politics infused, sometimes only temporarily, the lives of others, including Natalie Z. Davis and Lynn Hunt, who respectively faced anti-communist witch hunts (Davis's passport was confiscated by U.S. officials) and uprisings of the late 1960s.

These brief biographies are fascinating and in many cases full of the human touch, including sometimes eccentric paths to historical scholarship. One understands on reflection that many of these historians deserve full biographies to begin to capture fully the development, accomplishment and import of their work. Maxine Berg's life of Eileen Power shows what twelve-page essays cannot convey of these luminaries. Moreover, for all the virtues of these prosopographies, the collection generally avoids any overall theme, except that these are women who deserve recognition. There are hints in some of the essays at generally applicable, unifying statements. For example, André Burguière, co-editor and author of the essay on Christiane Klapish-Zuber, describes the ways in which Klapish's interpretation of fifteenth century showed patriarchy, not individualism, as the accompaniment to mercantile development. Her ability to decipher the gross subordination of women at the foundation of the system

stems, Burguière suggests, from women intellectuals' positioning at the margins of society and power themselves. From that vantage point, they make breakthroughs that men do not, among other things by seeing important details that men overlook. Others such as Frances Yates and Natalie Davis also took that detail in revolutionary historiographical directions, crossing boundaries as is said of Yates and working to understand "the other," as is said not just of Davis but of so many scholars covered in the collection. Portraying the voiceless and ordinary (Perrot), the conquered and their descendents (as in the magnificent work of Bernand), and the everyday meanings found in art characterizes still other writing.

A reader of this collection may well be torn in her reactions. On the one hand, the essays, although brief, fill one with unalloyed admiration for both the biographers and their subjects. The challenges many of these women faced were not just difficult, but in many cases life-threatening. Such conditions make the innovative work they did stunning and memorable. What the authors succeed in conveying in each essay is a rounded sense of these historians' accomplishments, most of them multi-faceted and not susceptible to easy analysis. Aside from being a primer in contemporary historiography, in this regard the collection should be required reading for graduate students and even for many academics who tend to substitute strings of criticisms for understanding of a work of scholarship, to say nothing of a life of scholarship. Not sentimental, the essays plumb the depths of innovative accomplishment and transformation in graceful historiographical prose.

On the other hand, the preface and overall plan of the collection will raise some hackles, and indeed the editors explicitly invite such a reaction while they ostensibly seek to avert it. The essays are written exclusively by men as a gallant homage to the women. The editors claim that people did look askance at the plan, seeing in gallantry one of the main guardians of male privilege. They take pride, however, in the fact that no woman criticized their plan but acknowledge that Sanjay Subrahmanyam refused to participate on these and other convincing grounds, among them the condescension infusing the all-male cast of authors. Why they wanted to provoke hostile reactions is never clear, though the preface explains that people simply don't understand the meaning of gallantry in France. Rather than serving as a cover for male privilege, French gallantry, the editors explain, dates from the seventeenth century when women in salons more or less ruled over men, civilizing them and shaping behavior and even ideas. Thus it is a positive form of expression. That said, they acknowledge the paradoxical situation that women have experienced throughout history and down to our own time. Let me leave it to the readers to see whether they are convinced by the contortions made to justify, yet again, the exclusion of women from an important project.

This reviewer keeps the paradox firmly in mind while writing this overview, for it reflects the situation that has shaped and still shapes both historical scholarship and the profession. Because the profession mirrors social and political values as a whole, the collection resonates with both male privilege and the desire to be fair, truthful, and egalitarian. Still, in the final analysis, the collection so values the scholarship of the twenty women historians and provides such persuasive accounts of their innovative work that one cannot but endorse it.

LIST OF ESSAYS

André Burguière and Bernard Vincent, "Preface"

Serge Gruzinski, "Les mondes mêlés de Carmen Bernand"

Jacques Le Goff, "Sofia Boesch Gajano. Une histoire laïque et intégrale de la sainteté"

Mamadou Diouf, "Catherine Coquery-Vidrovitch. Une histoire de l'Afrique dans le temps to monde"

Denis Crouzet, "Dans la fascination de l'histoire: Natalie Zemon Davis, entre espérance et passion"

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Hinnerk Bruhns, "Hedwig Hintze (1884-1942). Une historienne en avance sur son temps, un destin tragique, une reconnaissance tardive"

Jacques Revel, "Lynn Hunt. La Révolution, laudance et la raison"

André Burguière, "De marbre de Barrare aux croix de Golgotha: le parcours d'historienne de Christiane Klapisch-Zuber"

Marc Lazar, "Annie Kriegel (1926-1995), une historienne engagé"

François Polignac, "Claude Mossé, la passion d'Athènes"

Yann Faucois, "Mona Ozouf: l'école du temps"

Bernard Vincent, "Reyna Pastor, une trajectoire, deux continents, deux vies"

Jean-Marie Martin, "Evelyne Patlagean (1932-2008), une anthropologue structuraliste à Byzance"

Dominique Kalifa, "Michelle Perrot: l'histoire ou la quête des vies perdues"

François-Olivier Touati, "Eileen Power (1889-1940), la grâce du papillon et le travail de l'abeille"

Christophe Duhamelle, "Barbara Stollberg-Rilinger, l'empire en cérémonie"

Pierre-François Souyri, "Takamure Itsue (1894-1964), une pionnière de l'histoire des femmes au Japon"

François Pouillon, "Passages de Lucette Valensi"

Peter Schöttler, "Lucie Varga (1904-1941), l'entraîneuse' des *Annales*"

Jean-Philippe Antoine, "Une nomade en chambre, Dame Frances Amelia Yates (1889-1981)"

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