

ingrained from personal experience have informed her research and provided particular insights, passions, and an awareness of deeper issues that have undoubtedly made her work more compelling and convincing.

Much the same can be said for the other contributors, indeed for all historians who draw upon their deep well of personal experience, whether or not they are conscious of doing so or care to admit it. The difference here is that these connections are made more explicit than is commonly the case. The editors and participants in this experiment have taken a risk, as many historians may be uncomfortable with the notion that their personal lives are so much a part of their scholarly endeavors. Yet as this collection demonstrates, the resulting history is richer and more honest for revealing all of the sources of the historical imagination, not just those that can be placed in footnotes.

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*Women Building Chicago, 1790–1990: A Biographical Dictionary.*

Edited by Rima Lunin Schultz and Adele Hast. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2001. Pp. lxi, 1088. Illustrations, introduction, [historical survey], sources, index. \$75.00.)

*Women Building Chicago, 1790–1990: A Biographical Dictionary* is the collective effort of the Chicago Area Women's History Conference and its Historical Encyclopedia of Chicago Women Project. Two principal editors, Rima Lunin Schultz and Adele Hast—both senior research associates at the Center for Research on Women and Gender at the University of Illinois Chicago—assisted by six associate editors and a ten-member editorial board commissioned and assembled the entries.

Most of the women whose biographies are included in *Women Building Chicago* are rarely included in standard biographical dictionaries and often are familiar only to specialists in Chicago women's history. The editors, however, see this volume as more than a standard presentation of information. They envision a "synthesis of Chicago history that provides the beginnings of a new narrative . . . for understanding the growth and development" of the city (p. xix). This volume succeeds admirably in reaching this goal. It identifies women who lived *in* the city, but more than that, it depicts how Chicago women were *of* the city: their lives and work have been an integral component of Chicago's growth that scholars have too long ignored.

To accomplish this broader aim, *Women Building Chicago* has a superb introduction that gives historical context to its 423 entries. Schultz wrote the introduction but acknowledges that the "major

themes . . . emerged from a collective reading of the biographies" (p. xix). The forty-one major identified themes range from the chronological—"Women contribute to the commercial and social development of Chicago, 1790–1860"—to the topical—"Women and work"; from the broadly general—"Women and Modernization"—to the highly specific—"The Illinois Women's Alliance." They include themes of ethnicity, race, religion, and class; suffrage, feminism, and sexual liberation; popular culture, high culture, and political culture; and women as workers, professionals, and volunteers.

To fulfill the aim of rethinking Chicago history through its women, every woman included had to play a role in the city's history beginning with the well known such as Jane Addams and Ida B. Wells-Barnett. Yet, the editors redefine the meaning of "role" beyond a visible public one to include women less evident in the public sphere but whose lives made an impact on their city. The entry for Sister Albertus Magnus McGrath (1911–1978), a history professor at Rosary College in River Forest, is an example. Through her teaching, publishing, and membership in women's organizations, this Catholic nun "exercised a profound influence . . . She challenged her women students, especially to use their intelligence to its fullest capacity and to use their hearts, daring, and instinct to transform unjust social structures" (p. 567). Another example is Chauncina Yellow Robe White Horse (1909–1981), a Native American woman acknowledged as one of that community's leaders but who, like McGrath in her lifetime, was rarely seen as important to the city's history. Newspapers and politicians rarely acknowledged McGrath and White Horse; their legacy was neither in concrete edifices nor in economic developments. Rather, their work shaped institutions and social structures in the city just as the work of Addams had done earlier in the century.

This volume is well illustrated with black and white photographs of individuals, women at work, and institutions that women built. The twenty-two color plates include portraits of several women and of works of art produced by Chicago women. Each entry is followed by a list of sources and, when applicable, cross-listing to other women in the volume.

The price of ignoring women has been an incomplete picture of Chicago and of the processes of urbanization in the United States. With *Women Building Chicago* scholars can no longer fail to appreciate women's crucial roles in building the city. This volume will be an invaluable guide to be followed for other cities. Just as important, it makes the lives and work of these women easily accessible to all non-specialists who want to know more about Chicago and its women.

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