Clio

Women, Gender, History

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When Medicine Meets Gender

To our readers

Translator: Siân Reynolds

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- 1 The same format, the same layout inside, but a new sub-title – *Femmes, Genre, Histoire* [Women, gender, history]. A modified cover, but one that preserves the visual identity of *CLIO, Histoire, Femmes et Sociétés*. Together, these features indicate both the continuity of our journal and its new direction.
- 2 *CLIO HFS* was launched in 1995, in a context marked both by the creation of similar journals in several European countries, and by the publication of the five volumes of *Histoire des femmes en Occident* (1991-1992) [History of Women in the West], providing an impetus to be followed up. The University of Toulouse-Le Mirail had been since the 1970s one of the few centres of women's studies in France. Its University Press (PUM) took on the journal, and handled it efficiently and sympathetically for the 18 years (36 issues) during which we worked together, gradually positioning the journal in the French and international intellectual context.
- 3 The term *genre* (gender) was not originally included in our subtitle, for fear that in France it would not be readily understood. When the editorial board later raised the question of introducing it, our publishers found it difficult to agree, largely because of the problems it would generate for title indexes. With issue No 37 we have taken this step: but for the editorial team, today as in the past, women's history, gender history, and the histories of masculinity and sexuality remain complementary and inter-related fields of study.
- 4 In the years since 2000, the fields of women's/gender history, previously marginalized in France, have acquired intellectual and institutional legitimacy. In this changed environment, *CLIO HFS* recently received twofold recognition of its standing from the CNRS (Centre national de la recherche scientifique). First, the journal has been granted a full-time post of editorial secretary, as from 1 January 2013. Cécile Thiébault, who was already sharing her expertise with us, has been appointed to this position. Since the editorial secretariat now has an institutional base in Paris,¹ it became desirable, for logistical reasons, to move to a Parisian publisher. From now on, *CLIO Femmes, Genre, Histoire* will be handled by the publishing house of Belin. Several members of the editorial committee have already worked with this publisher on a previous venture: the textbook for schools and universities edited by the Mnémosyne collective: *La Place des*

femmes dans l'histoire: une histoire mixte [*The Place of Women in History: a mixed history*] (2010).

- 5 Secondly, the journal has been granted the financing to become a bilingual publication, with versions in French and English. In view of this major change, five new members have joined the enlarged editorial board: a sociologist, a political scientist and three historians, including one British-based and one American-based colleague. The French version will continue to be issued twice a year in a paper edition – we remain attached to this identity and format – and in digital form on the website *revues.org* to which we have been linked since early in its existence. The English version of which *Clio* 37 is the first to be translated will be digital only, and will be published on English-language portals on the internet, with the aim of moving quickly towards self-financing. It will make *Clio. Femmes, Genre, Histoire* better known internationally, including in countries where English is accessible but not the main language. At the same time this will bring us new contributors.
- 6 Publishing our journal in two languages is exciting, but it is also a challenge. *CLIO* has always aimed, in its thematic issues, to tackle all historical periods and a range of geographical territories, as well as to be open to early-career researchers. Since the journal's beginnings, we have also set out to make known research from abroad, by translating articles from different historiographical traditions and other methodological or theoretical approaches. In this spirit, the workshop held to celebrate our first 15 years was dedicated to global history, as one way of indicating this. At different stages in its development, such intellectual interchange has considerably enriched women's/ gender history, through mutual borrowings, transpositions and adaptations, while maintaining critical awareness and not avoiding controversy. With the translation of our articles into English, we expect to be able to take an even greater part in the debates ranging across national and disciplinary frontiers, and in the many interactions that go to make up scholarly dialogue. We hope thereby to increase further the intellectual interest arising from our field of research – one which is deeply engaged in key issues in society. To our new readers : welcome !

The editorial board

NOTES

1. In the Groupement d'Intérêt Scientifique: Institut du Genre, created in 2012 by the Institut des Sciences Humaines et Sociales of the CNRS.