

Robert W. Dimand, Mary Ann Dimand, and Evelyn Forget, *A Biographical Dictionary of Women Economists* (Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar, 2000) pp. xxviii, 491, \$150. ISBN 1 85278 964 6.

In its introduction to 120 female contributors in non-contemporary economic thought, the *Biographical Dictionary* ventures boldly into intellectual economic *herstory*, serving fundamentally as an invitation to stimulate more investigation into the subject. The volume sketches female academics with active teaching and scholarly records, both with and without advanced degrees, with interdisciplinary appointments in fields such as economics, sociology, social work, and home economics. Non-academic public sector employees, social reformers, and political activists making fundamental contributions to economic thought are highlighted. Better-known pioneer female economists from the U. S. and Europe are included, and this volume provides the first known introduction to Asian pioneers such as Kikue Yamakawa from Japan and Krishna Bharadwaj from India. Written by eighty contributors, the essays vary in style and content. Some focus more heavily upon biographical sketches and explanations of the life choices made by the female economists. Others more heavily emphasize intellectual contributions and connections (or disconnections as the cases warrant) with the discipline.

In reviewing the essays in this volume, a number of themes stand out. First, and as noted in numerous essays in the history of female economic thought, many of the women were marginalized from the discipline: their questions, methods of inquiry, their answers and/or their social activism often did not jibe with traditional economic thought. Although lacking academic credentials, considered a pioneer in household economics and well known in feminist circles, Charlotte Perkins Gilman remains a name unknown to the vast majority of contemporary economists. Scholar and social reform advocate Sophonisba Breckinridge earned both a law degree and a Ph.D. in economics and political science. She taught in the Department of Household Administration at the University of Chicago rather than in economics, and established its school of social work. The labor economist and economic historian of early twentieth century University of Chicago, Edith Abbott, had a career centered in social work in part because “social reform advocacy by economists lost its legitimacy within the profession” (p. 6). Abbott and Breckinridge both had extensive research backgrounds, including collecting and analyzing their own survey data which led to the conclusion “that poverty and ‘civic neglect’ were the underlying causes of many urban problems” such as crime and juvenile delinquency (p. 85).

Following many of the norms of the discipline, Elizabeth Waterman Gilboy earned a Ph.D. from Radcliffe and contributed extensively to journals in economic history, empirical studies of demand and consumer behavior, and also worked on input–output analysis with Wassily Leontief. Although referred to with the title “Dr.” at Radcliffe she was “Mrs.” Gilboy at Harvard. In contrast, Katharine Coman was “self-taught in economics” and without a Ph.D. established the Department of Economics and Sociology at Wellesley College and chaired it until 1915 (p. 117). Thus, academic credentials mattered not for disciplinary recognition of female economists; even the most academically qualified found it difficult to break into the discipline.

Second, beyond sharing the same gender and gender-based difficulties in establishing a foothold within the discipline, the female economists cannot be pigeon-holed into a single economic school of thought. For instance, Helen Dendy Bosanquet was an economic liberal of the nineteenth-century tradition who studied under Alfred Marshall and promoted individualism, *laissez-faire* economics, and free trade. In contrast, Raya Dunayevskaya, “[m]ore philosopher and political theorist than economist,” was a devoted Marxist (p. 149). Once recognized in the canon of economics, the work of these early women pioneers will encourage a welcomed extension of the scope of economics. Caroline Augusta Foley Rhys Davids provided the first known contributions in economics to Buddhist economic history, and ultimately she made a name for herself in oriental studies. Institutional analysis, household economics, and social reform advocacy are other topics that will be substantially enriched with the mainstreaming of women’s contributions into the history of economic thought.

Third, this collection of biographical essays provides a wealth of leads for more scrutiny of the lives, ideas, connections, and disconnections with the “male-stream” and female-stream of economic thought. There is enough material concerning this topic to fill research hours of interested historians of thought into the twenty-second century. Having undertaken research concerning this topic for a number of years myself, I am continually amazed at how much more there is to research and learn. In a comparison of the bibliographies of this collection to bibliographies for women I have consolidated over the past few years, there are more than 300 references that do not overlap the two collections. As the editors of the *Biographical Dictionary* are clearly aware, it is not “an exhaustive account of women’s contributions to the discipline” (p. xvii). The volume leaves out women who could have been included; and there are likely still many women contributors unknown to historians of thought. Not intended as an exhaustive collection, the “volume is produced with the hope that some readers will be inspired to help us fill the gaps in our institutional memory” (p. xvii). I, too, must encourage you with open mind to read, to learn, and to explore.

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Alan Ebenstein, *Friedrich Hayek: A Biography* (New York: Palgrave for St. Martin’s Press, 2001) pp. xiii, 403, \$29.95, ISBN 0 312 23344 2.

It is a pity that the publishers of Alan Ebenstein’s *Friedrich Hayek: A Biography* did not provide the book with a subject index, adequate notes, and a good editor. Contained therein is a fair amount of information about Hayek’s life and career, which ranged from Vienna to Chicago by way of London and back to Salzburg and Freiburg. His ideas ranged from the family interest in botany to the subjectivist economics of Menger and the psychology of Ernst Mach, to concepts of social and political theory that began with Max Weber and the