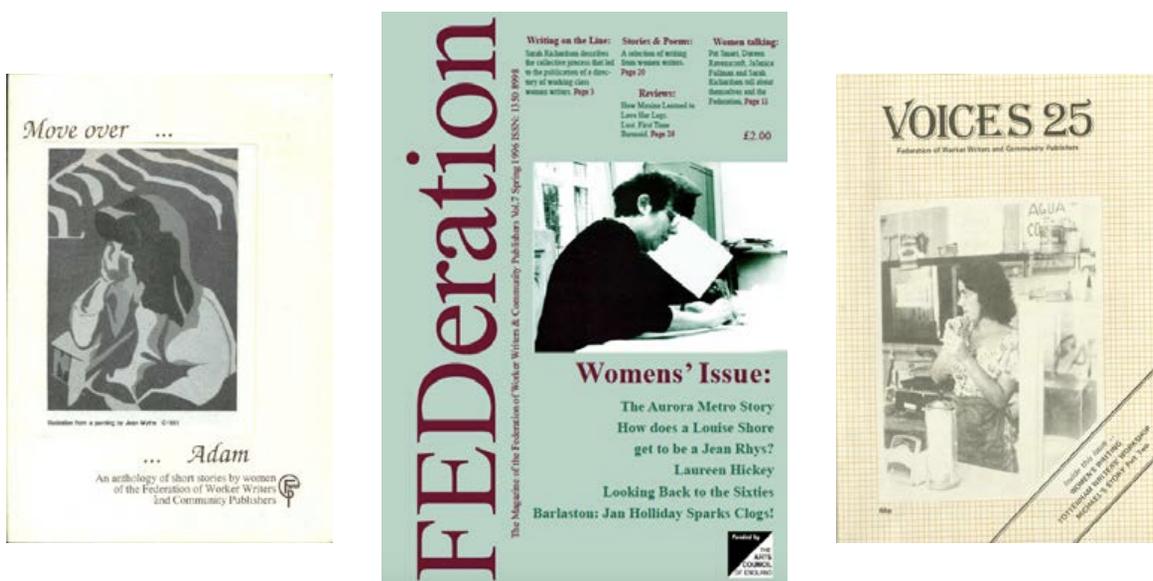


# Gender

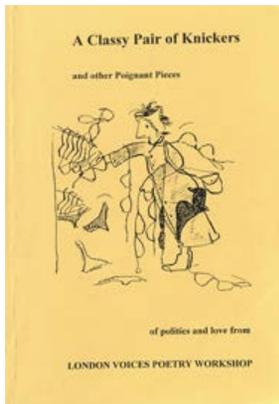
The specific readings listed in the FWWCP Gender Reading Guide are all written by women, with publication dates spanning from 1978 to 1991. In these pieces, some women were overtly rejecting the societal systems they lived in, while other were merely writing about their lives. Regardless, all of these women wrote about political and societal issues in one way or another through detailing their personal experiences with domestic life, motherhood, migration, race, politics, the working-class life, World War II, and more.



Images by the FWWCP

Stories about gender within the FWWCP collection not only discuss a variety of topics, but also span multiple generations, ethnicities, languages, and genres. The publications selected for this collection alone include essays, memoirs, poems, and short stories in many different formats, such as anthologies, magazines, books, and pamphlets.

Within the FWWCP materials, there are pieces written by individuals focused on gender issues and social concerns in their own lives. These might include gendered work, sexuality, masculinity, femininity, raising children, and family. In other cases, there are anthologies, such as *Move on Adam* that represent an organisation-wide publication written by women, in order to highlight women's voices. Even more, though, throughout the Collection, there are discussions about the role of gender in connection to class identity (see *Voices 25*).



## A Classy Pair of Knickers and Other Poignant Pieces of Politics and Love #34

London Voices, 1996

FWWCPC/08 L 05

This substantial collection has 81 pieces of creative writing from the London Voices Poetry Workshop. Topics cover feminist issues (“a woman,” “If love is the same”), economic issues about socialism and poverty (“I stifled a yawn,” “Unemployment balance sheet”), and sex (“A classy pair of knickers”). The poems range in voices from sentimental to unforgiving.

**Keywords:** class | feminism | gender | poverty | women’s writing

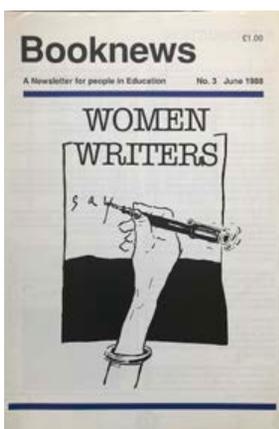
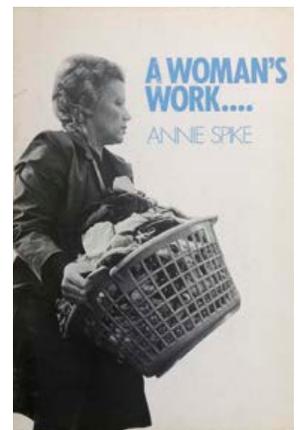
## A Woman’s Work

Annie Spike, 1978

FWWCPC/08 L 03

Annie Spike chronicles her life through her relationship to work in this short memoir. She describes her time working in Ireland and Hackney, London, as a factory girl, while also detailing her relationship with labour unions, her office jobs, her work as a cleaning lady, and time spent being a mother and wife. The story was originally written for a book about thirteen people who live and perform multiple work in Hackney, *Working Lives Volume Two*.

**Keywords:** autobiography | class | gender | factory life | family | London | memoir | politics | relationships | women’s writing | working-class



## Booknews No. 3, Women Writers magazine

FWWCPC, 1988

FWWCPC/08 L 12

*Booknews No. 3, Women Writers* is an educational magazine focused solely on women’s writing groups within the FWWCPC. It was primarily for “teachers who want to know about writing and publishing outside the mainstream and like to encourage active involvement by their students in the writing process.” By encouraging a range of works across the FWWCPC, they hoped to showcase the rich tradition of women’s writing through a variety of forms and genres.

**Keywords:** autobiography | class | education | gender | London | school | women’s writing | working-class



## Every Birth it Comes Different

Hackney Reading Centre, 1980

FWWCP/08 L 03

This collection of writings is from the Hackney Reading Centre, a group that helps adult learners improve their reading, writing, and speaking skills. The stories, written with the help of tutors, vary in form, but all stem from the lives of multiple women and their experiences with childbirth. Compiling these stories allowed the women to explore the uniting theme of pregnancy and childbirth, and childbirth customs from London and beyond.

**Keywords:** autobiography | childbirth | gender | memoir | motherhood | London | relationships | women's writing | working-class

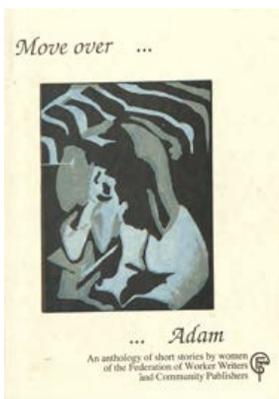
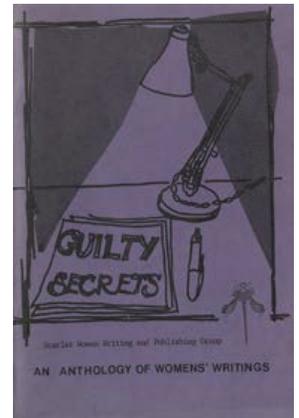
## Guilty Secrets: Anthology of Women's Writing

Scarlet Women Writing and Publishing Group, 1989

FWWCP/05 EM 02

*Guilty Secrets* was inspired by a feminist women's writing workshop that discovered most feminist writings fall into the category of "guilty" secrets. These selections include poetry and prose about the secrets women hold every day. The anthology is meant to empower women to tell the stories they previously felt they had to hide.

**Keywords:** family | feminism | feminist | gender | sexuality | women's writing



## Move Over Adam: an anthology of short stories

Women Writers of the FWWCP, 1990

FWWCP/ RM 01

This collection of short stories is noted for not only the quality of the stories, but the fact that the space was created specifically for women's writers. Although creating a space for one group within the Federation was controversial, *Move Over Adam* presents an important moment within the FWWCP's history to celebrate women writers.

**Keywords:** gender | London | Liverpool | relationships | women's writing | working-class



## Paper Talk

Sally Flood, no date

FWWCPC/08 L 02

In this book of poetry, Sally Flood describes life at her home in East London. Here, she writes about sleepless nights with family life, as well as drawn out days working as an embroidery machinist. Her poetry simultaneously draws attention to the beauty and hardships as a working-class woman.

**Keywords:** class | community | family | gender | migration | poetry | poverty | working-class | women's writing

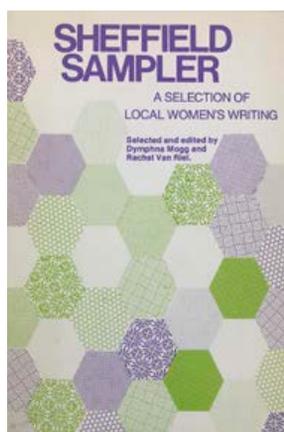
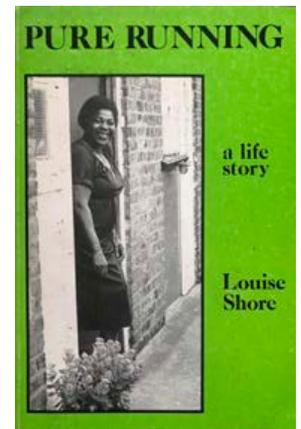
## Pure Running

Louise Shore, 1982

FWWCPC/08 L 03

*Pure Running* is a memoir of a working-class woman, Louise Shore, and her migration to London from Jamaica in 1960. Her aspiration to write books was stalled by a lack of education and encouragement. Yet, when she began attending the Hackney Reading Centre, she worked with tutors to achieve her goal. Her story chronicles facets of her life including issues of migration, work, housing, and relationships, and navigating all of them as a Black woman.

**Keywords:** Black writers | class | gender | housing | London | memoir | migration | race | relationships | women's writing | working-class



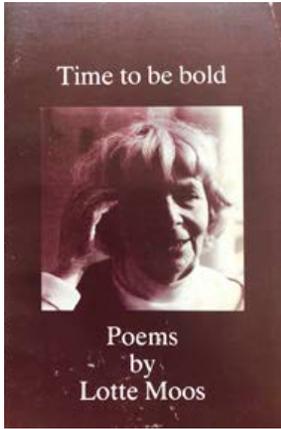
## Sheffield Sampler, A Selection of Local Women's Writing

Mogg, Dymphna and  
Rachel Van Riel, editors,  
1985

FWWCPC/03 Y 04

This anthology of women's writing was collected to coincide with International Women's Day in 1985. The anthology exists primarily to celebrate the tradition of female writing. This particular selection was chosen from over 100 texts sent to the editors, with the intent to represent a broad aspect of the female experience and "local women's responses to life," and, as such, touch on a variety of subjects.

**Keywords:** autobiography | domestic life | family | feminism | gender | memoir | motherhood | poetry | women's writing | working-class | Yorkshire



## Time to be Bold

Lotte Moos, 1981

FWWCP/08 L 03

Lotte Moos' collection of poems is a response to working-class life in Hackney, London. Lotte wrote poetry at a young age, but was interrupted by WWII when home and work responsibilities took precedence. When the urge to create was too strong, she began writing again, eventually joining the Hackney Writer's Group, where this volume was compiled. These autobiographical poems chart her life through her political views, labor, heartbreak, and relationship with family.

**Keywords:** domestic life | family | gender | Hackney | London | poetry | politics | relationships | women's writing | working-class | World War II

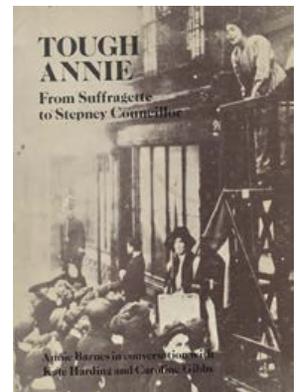
## Tough Annie: From Suffragette to Stepney Councillor

Annie Barnes, Kate Harding, Caroline Gibbs, 1980

FWWCP/08 L 14

*Tough Annie* was written through a series of taped conversations. Barnes tells about her involvement with the Suffragettes, her family life, her work in the Labour Party, and her eventual ascension to Stepney Councillor, where she fought for the rights of working-class people and other individuals.

**Keywords:** family | gender | Labour Party | London | memoir | politics | Suffragette | women's writing | working class | World War I



## Voices 25: Magazine of the Federation of Worker Writers and Community Publishers

FWWCP, no date

FWWCP/01 NW 08

Two pieces in this issue of *Voices* sparked conversations about gender within the FWWCP. In the piece, "*Feminist Groups*," Jimmy McGovern argues that admitting feminist-focused group Women and Words to the FWWCP would compromise the movement's focus on the working-class. Women and Words responded, expressing the value they bring to the FWWCP.

**Keywords:** feminism | gender | Manchester | women's writing | working-class

# Further Reading in the FWWCP Collection:

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## **An Independent Woman**

Icilda. Centerprise, London, 1983.

FWWCP/08 L 03

**Digital Collection:** <http://fwwcp.gn.apc.org/node/6810>

## **Feel My Words**

Goodman, Gwendolyn. Centerprise, London, 1987.

FWWCP/08 L 03

**Digital Collection:** <http://fwwcp.gn.apc.org/node/6843>

## **Herzone**

Kkoullas, E.M., et al. Commonword, 1991.

FWWCP/01 NW 07

## **One Over The Bakers Dozen**

Vodden, Betty. Centerprise, 1985.

FWWCP/08 L 03

## **Reminiscences of a Bradford Mill Girl**

Newbery, Maggie. Libraries Division, 1980.

FWWCP/03 Y 12

## **Scribe Sistren**

Benji. Centerprise, London, 1987.

FWWCP/08 L 03

**Digital Collection:** <http://fwwcp.gn.apc.org/node/6812>

## **Upon Reflection. Women's Writing Group**

Printed Resource Unit for Continuing Education, June 1987.

FWWCP/03 Y 07

## **Writing on the Line: 20th Century**

### **Working-Class Women Writers**

Richardson, Sarah, et al. Working Press, 1996.

FWWCP/08 L 10