

REPORT ON THE PUBLICATION OF
'ALL WORK AND NO PAY'

When it was first suggested that we as Power of Women Collective produce a Wages for Housework anthology, there were grave misgivings. Many of us in the Collective did not see how useful it would be to have a book, nor the significance of being co-publishers of a book. But we were urged that a book is "a weapon in our hands, a weapon in every woman's hands", and we all agreed to the venture. The women who were most certain of its importance got on with producing the book.

Now as the Campaign for Wages for Housework grows, we have a reasonably priced book which makes clear the connection between the many struggles that women are making as Wages for Housework struggles, which announces the existence of a WFH campaign, which has a presense beyond where we physically go and speak or organise, and which is a valuable back-up for women who know WFH only through a meeting or an article. The book is selling very well - many women we come into contact with for the first time are keen to buy it - and we see getting the book into as many bookshops and libraries as possible as an important part of our ongoing political work.

Political significance of publishing

Publishing is obviously an important part of the campaign for Wages for Housework. Publications take many forms - leaflets, the Journal, pamphlets, records, books. Each of these will reach a somewhat different audience (of course there's much overlap) - we are building a campaign for the wage for all women and we aim to reach many different kinds of women through our different kinds of publication. Publication and distribution of literature/records is therefore a natural and regular part of our political activity.

Doing our own publishing

Publishing involves editorial work (preparing material for publication, deciding what to publish etc), design work, production (typing/typesetting, duplicating/printing, finishing - collating, stapling etc). We may or may not want to do our own production work, but we obviously want as much control as possible over the content (editorial work) and appearance (design) of our material. Publishing our material ourselves gives us that control. Once something is published, it has to be distributed - again we may not want to do all the distribution work ourselves, but we certainly want control over some of it - we want to know we can use the material exactly as we please in our political work.

Finance - we may not want to raise all the money necessary for publication ourselves - it can be a lot of money - but we want some control over finance, i.e.

first and foremost the price at which the publication sells.

It's clearly a power for us if we publish our own material

- a) having our name on a publication is in itself a measure of power - it means that we have a strong enough organisation to do our own publishing.
- b) In terms of distribution it also means, if we do a lot of the distribution ourselves, that we are developing our distribution outlets, not somebody else's, and we will then be sure that any distribution network that's built up by moving one of our publications around will be used to move around other wages for housework publications.
- c) The money and work involved in publishing, and the continuity needed in distribution, means that there are advantages too in having a publishing organisation involved, especially if we can be joint publishers.

Publication of 'All Work and No Pay'

The book has been published jointly by the Power of Women Collective and the Falling Wall Press.

A joint publication like this has a lot of advantages: below are the details of what this publication meant in practical terms - in terms of control, finance and work. We've developed a lot of new skills through doing this publication, and we've also learned much more clearly what it means to have our name on a publication: if we had known this better before, we would have used the name of Wages for Housework Campaign rather than Power of Women Collective. It would have meant a lot more when the bourgeois media review the book; in saying who it's published by, Power of Women Collective doesn't mean as much as it should, i.e. it's not immediately clear that the book is published by the WFH campaign.

Who did the work on the book?

Editorial work was done by a group of women from POW Collective (Wendy Edmond and Suzie Fleming are named as editors, but a number of other women worked on this too). One of the women on the Collective editorial committee also works at Falling Wall Press. (Falling Wall Press is run by two people - a woman and a man. The woman, Suzie Fleming, is in POW. FWP published 'Power of Women and the Subversion of the Community' before the Collective existed, and since the existence of the Collective has published WFH material with the Collective. As publishers, FWP are publicly identified with the WFH perspective.) All the editorial decisions were made by this editorial committee.

Design was decided on jointly by the POW editorial group and FWP

Typesetting was done by women from the Collective and FWP

Production - the printing and production of the book was organised by FWP (finding a big commercial printer who could do it, organising production etc)

Finances

Production work on the book, including that done by Collective members, is

being paid for and has been included in the price of the book. This means that production work which is easily counted (typesetting, layout etc). Some of the editorial work is also being paid for; it has been calculated at 200 hours, but in fact we haven't really counted all the hours involved, and it is only a fraction of the time spent. The book cost £3,678 to produce (this is not counting distribution costs). £3,678 is roughly 7,500 U.S. dollars. This was for 10,000 copies - 9,500 paperback, 500 hardback.

Costs

Editorial work, design, typesetting, layout, administration, publicity,	
costs of bank loan -	£1,458.00
Printers' bill (Butler and Tanner)	£2,220.00
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	£3,678.00
less gifts donated	£ 256.00
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	£3,413.00

Distribution costs are also included in the price. The money allowed for the work of distribution is passed on to bookshops/groups distributing the book in the form of discounts on the selling price.

Money for the book

Loans from the WFH network and sympathisers	£1,125.00
Gifts from the WFH network and sympathisers	£ 265.00
Balance raised by FWP (via bank loan against security of their house and personal loans)	£2,288.00
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	£3,678.00

Responsibility for finance

FWP has overall responsibility for paying back the network loan and the bank loan.

Distribution of the book

Britain Falling Wall Press is responsible for dealing with mail order from bookshops, has overall responsibility for bookshop distribution and mail order from individuals. Ditto with distribution for Europe, Australia etc. But visiting bookshops and general publicity work is also done by POW. Collective members in London have been going round the London bookshops - especially visiting "straight" bookshops who might not have been willing to take pamphlet publications but are ready to handle the book. A visit to show them the book and talk them into taking it helps. In Bristol, members of the Bristol WFH group have done the same, and so have Collective members in other towns.

Responsibility for sending out review copies, contacting the media etc, is shared by POW and FWP.

Everyone in WFH is taking responsibility for selling the book where they can,

getting it into libraries, etc. etc.

Canada Overall responsibility for the distribution of the book is with the Toronto WFH Committee.

United States Each group is to deal with their own town/area and order the book direct from the Falling Wall Press. (Notes on distribution have been sent to each group) New York is taking overall responsibility for national publicity, (where we can get it), and sending out review copies etc.

Discount rates on orders direct from FWP

Cash with order: 40% for at least 10 copies

Credit (max. 3 months) 33 1/3%

Bulk orders (over 50): 45% cash with order, credit for New York and Toronto only.

All post free, surface mail, (allow 6-8 weeks).

We are hoping that we will all be able to use the book as a lead in getting WFH material in places we haven't reached before - straight bookshops, women's studies courses. (We need to do a lot more work to contact women's studies courses. Please let us know about any women's studies contacts you may have so they can all be mailed, ditto libraries.)

We regard the publication of our first book in English as a major achievement for the whole WFH network. It should be regarded by everyone as an important political instrument and used as such.

Power of Women Collective.