

A HISTORY OF
EUROPEAN
WOMEN'S WORK

1700 to the present

Deborah Simonton



London and New York

CONTENTS

<i>List of illustrations</i>	x
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xi
1 Introduction	1
PART I	
The eighteenth century, c. 1700–90	11
2 Women, household and farm	13
<i>The idea of woman in society and economy</i>	13
<i>Domestic responsibilities</i>	18
<i>Household, life cycle and female upbringing</i>	23
<i>Women as farm workers</i>	27
<i>Gender and the tasks of the field</i>	30
3 Making, selling, serving	37
<i>The Verlagsystem and proto-industry</i>	37
<i>Women and rural industry</i>	39
<i>Women in towns: the guild model</i>	47
<i>Apprenticeship</i>	50
<i>Urban women and family working</i>	54
<i>Masterless women: life cycle and independence</i>	57
<i>Woman as worker</i>	68
4 Location, skill and status	70
<i>Domesticity, time and place</i>	70
<i>Gender and skill</i>	76

PART II

The nineteenth century, c. 1790–1880 85

- 5 Domesticity, the invention of housework, and domestic service 87

Domesticity 87

Housework 91

Context and chronology of domestic service 96

Who were the domestic servants? 99

The experience of domestic service 102

Living-out servants 110

- 6 Rural women – farmhouse and agriculture 112

Periods and trends 112

Field work and its organization 115

Dairying 122

Fishing 125

Women's skills and gender differences 127

- 7 Industry, commerce and public service 133

Women and industrial change 133

Technology, skill and gender 141

Handicrafts, homeworking and sweating 148

Businesswomen and public service 155

- 8 Continuity and change: gender, skill and status 162

Woman as worker 162

Domestic roles, family issues and women's work 165

The family wage 170

Gender, skill and craft traditions 176

PART III

The twentieth century, c. 1880–1980 179

- 9 Home and work 181

The shape of work 181

The meaning of the wars 184

Domesticity and beyond: redefining women, wives and mothers 187

Life cycle: 'birds of passage' 191

CONTENTS

	<i>Housework</i>	195
	<i>Domestic service</i>	200
10	Continuities in country and town	207
	<i>Agriculture and rural women</i>	207
	<i>Homework and sweated trades</i>	214
	<i>Manufacturing and 'new industries'</i>	222
11	New work: white blouses in the tertiary sector	233
	<i>The tertiary sector and 'white blouse' work</i>	233
	<i>Change in the tertiary sector</i>	236
	<i>Women as workers</i>	246
	<i>The work experience</i>	251
	<i>Skill, status and segregation</i>	254
12	Conclusion: gender, skill and status	261
	<i>Gendering the workplace; gendering the worker</i>	261
	<i>Gendering skill</i>	264
	<i>Gendering technology</i>	267
	<i>Gendering control</i>	268
	<i>The woman worker; the working woman</i>	269
	<i>Notes</i>	271
	<i>Bibliography</i>	294
	<i>Index</i>	326