

AN ECONOMIC HISTORY OF WOMEN IN AMERICA

Women's Work, the Sexual Division
of Labor, and the Development
of Capitalism

JULIE A. MATTHAEI

SCHOCKEN BOOKS • NEW YORK
THE HARVESTER PRESS • SUSSEX

Contents

List of Tables	xi
Acknowledgments	xiii
Introduction	3
 Part I: WOMEN'S WORK IN THE COLONIAL FAMILY ECONOMY	
1. THE FAMILY ECONOMY	15
The Development of the Family Economy in Britain	15
The Establishment of the Colonial Family Economy	22
The Sexual Division of Labor in the Colonial Family Economy	28
2. HOMEMAKING: THE WORK OF THE MARRIED WOMAN	36
The Core of Homemaking: The Homemaker as Mother	38
The Provision of Meals	40
Clothing the Family	44
Nursing the Family	47
The Ultimate Content of Homemaking in the Family Economy	49
3. HUSBANDLESS WOMEN IN THE COLONIAL ECONOMY: WOMEN WORKING FOR INCOME	51
The Problem of the Husbandless Woman	51
Homemaking for Income	53
Women Doing Men's Work	65
4. WOMEN'S WORK AND THE SEXUAL DIVISION OF LABOR UNDER SLAVERY	74
The Southern Slave Economy	74
The Master-Slave Relationship	76

The Sexual Division in Slave Family Life	79
The Sexual Division of Slave Labor	86
The Work of the Slave Woman	94

Part II: WOMEN'S WORK AND THE SEXUAL DIVISION OF LABOR UNDER THE CULT OF DOMESTICITY

5. THE DEVELOPMENT OF SEPARATE SEXUAL SPHERES OF ACTIVITY AND OF MASCULINE AND FEMININE SELF-SEEKING	101
The Development of the Capitalist Economy and of Masculine Self-seeking	101
The Development of the Home as a Separate Feminine Sphere and of Feminine Self-seeking	106
Economy and Family as Separate Sexual Spheres: Man and Woman as Separate but Equal	114
6. HOMEMAKING UNDER THE CULT OF DOMESTICITY: UNITY AND DIVERSITY	120
White Homemakers: Unity and Difference	120
Making Ends Meet: Homemaking in Poor White Families	124
Homemaking in the Black Family	133
Husbandless Homemakers	136
Privileged Homemakers and Their Mission	139
7. THE WORKING GIRL	141
The Woman Worker as "Working Girl"	141
The Roots of the Working Girl Phenomenon	143
The Transformation of the Working Girl	153
8. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HOMEMAKING PROFESSION, AND OF WOMEN AS HOMEMAKERS	157
The Development of the Homemaking Profession: Scientific Homemaking	157
The Development of the Homemaking Profession: The Particularization of Family Life	167
Homemaking Out-reaches the Home: Social Homemaking	173
Homemaking Develops Woman	178

9. THE DEVELOPMENT OF SEX-TYPED JOBS	187
The Existence of Sex-typed Jobs	187
The Roots of Sex-typed Jobs	193
Feminine and Masculine Service: Domestic and Protective Service	197
The Creation of Sex-typed Professions	203
The Sex-typing of Blue-collar Work	209
The Sexual Division of Labor in the Office	218
The Typing of Feminine Jobs According to Marital Status, Race, Ethnicity, and Class	223
Women's Labor-force Participation and the Sexual Separation of Spheres	230
 Part III: THE BREAKDOWN OF THE SEXUAL DIVISION OF LABOR	
 10. THE ENTRANCE OF HOMEMAKERS INTO THE LABOR FORCE AS HOMEMAKERS	 235
The Development of a System of Commodity Needs	235
Homemakers Enter the Labor Force	245
 11. THE CAREER GIRL AND THE SECOND-CAREER WOMAN	 256
Women's Education, Women's Professions, and the Emergence of the Career Girl	256
Marriage and Career: From Either/Or to Both/And	263
The Homebound Homemaker: From Ideal to "Just a Housewife"	272
 12. THE BREAKDOWN OF THE SEX-TYPING OF JOBS	 278
Homemakers in the Labor Force as Consumers: The Extension of Feminine Jobs	279
The Entrance of Career Women into Masculine Jobs	285
Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment: The Trials of Women in Men's Jobs	293
 13. THE BREAKDOWN OF THE SEXUAL DIVISION OF LABOR IN MARRIAGE	 301
Reasserting the Sexual Division of Labor	304

Movement in Two Different Directions: The War Between the Sexes	307
Similar and Equal: The Symmetrical Marriage	312
Conclusion: THE BREAKDOWN OF THE SEXUAL DIVISION OF LABOR	321
Notes	329
Index	373