An Erudite and Original Challenge
Publishing *The Politics of Reproduction*

BY PHILIPPA BREWSTER

It was my pleasure and privilege to be Mary O’Brien’s editor on her pioneering book, *The Politics of Reproduction*, which Routledge and Kegan Paul (RKP, before it metamorphosed into merely Routledge) published in 1981. Dale Spender introduced me to the book and its author. “It’s a remarkable book, by a remarkable feminist thinker,” she said, “publish it and speedily.” Dale was of course right—on all counts. When I’d read the manuscript of *The Politics of Reproduction*, which Mary had kindly sent me from Toronto, I proposed the book in those very terms to my colleagues on RKP’s editorial board. “A philosopher?” they said, in tones of discovery (female philosophers being a new sort of animal to them). “Deals with Plato and his successors?” they added, their voices now tinged with respect. “Proposes the revolution in creation?” they concluded. On my own bookshelves, the paperback edition of *The Politics of Reproduction* rests shoulders with Millett, Firestone, de Beauvoir, and their successors. The book is of course a major work of feminist thought, original, erudite, challenging. I don’t believe that it is still in print, and searches on the Internet reveal that *Reproducing the World*, too, is not currently available. However, on the train yesterday reading a fine new article on “Motherhood and Apple Pie,” by English feminist writer Helen Carr, there it is, too, is not currently available. I don’t believe that it is still in print, and searches on the Internet reveal that *Reproducing the World*, too, is not currently available. However, on the train yesterday reading a fine new article on “Motherhood and Apple Pie,” by English feminist writer Helen Carr, there it is, too, is not currently available. However, on the train yesterday reading a fine new article on “Motherhood and Apple Pie,” by English feminist writer Helen Carr, there it is, too, is not currently available. However, on the train yesterday reading a fine new article on “Motherhood and Apple Pie,” by English feminist writer Helen Carr, there it is, too, is not currently available. However, on the train yesterday reading a fine new article on “Motherhood and Apple Pie,” by English feminist writer Helen Carr, there it is, too, is not currently available. However, on the train yesterday reading a fine new article on “Motherhood and Apple Pie,” by English feminist writer Helen Carr, there it is, too, is not currently available. However, on the train yesterday reading a fine new article on “Motherhood and Apple Pie,” by English feminist writer Helen Carr, there it is, too, is not currently available. However, on the train yesterday reading a fine new article on “Motherhood and Apple Pie,” by English feminist writer Helen Carr, there it is, too, is not currently available. However, on the train yesterday reading a fine new article on “Motherhood and Apple Pie,” by English feminist writer Helen Carr, there it is, too,