

Joslyn Gage in the United States.

The 1995 World Conference on Women in China calls for action in these areas through campaigns of legal literacy to inform women of their rights under international conventions as well as under national laws. Women's human rights education must be included in all educational curricula.

Women write to keep our memories alive, to re-visit and re-write what has been erased over and over again. Women write to conquer misogyny and inquisitorial institutions. We write in hope that women's words will never again be covered over. So be it.

Carolyn Lehmann is a crone, witch, clown, dreamer, educator and poet of sorts. After 20 years of living and working in Chile, she completed her Master of Arts at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education in 1990. She currently coordinates educational and support group programs for Catholic Children's Aid in Riverdale.

¹Today the Holy Office is called "The Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith." It currently makes such

decisions as to allow a woman to have a hysterectomy only if her uterus poses an immediate danger to her life, not a threat contingent on a future pregnancy. (*Conscience*, Washington, D.C. Autumn 1994)

²This is movingly portrayed in a film of Sor Juana's life, *Yo, La Peor de Todas*, by Argentinean film-maker Maria Luisa Bemberg.

References

Arenal, Electa and Amanda Powell, trans. *Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz: The Answer/La Respuesta*. New York: The Feminist Press at the City University of New York, 1994.

Gage, Matilda Joslyn. *Women, Church and State*. Persephone Press, 1980. Reprint of 1893 edition.

Schons, Dorothy. "The First Feminist in the New World." *Equal Rights* 31 October 1925: 11-12.

Summers, Montague, trans. *The Malleus Malificarum*. London: Dover Editions, 1971.

Trueblood, Alan S., ed. and trans. *A Sor Juana Anthology*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1988.

RENEE NORMAN

Prodigal Mother

Sometimes when I drive away
A daughter waving smiling sadly
from the window
The others invisible until
an extra arm or head
appear behind beside her
Glass gargoyle gazing

I remember Suzanne
talk to me over our restaurant meal
Speak
about her husband and children
in England
still wondering about the day Suzanne
Left
just a toothbrush in her purse
She never went back

I see Suzanne's sensitive stricken features
Soft behind her eyes in her words
They know where I am now
If they ever need me
If they want to call

I was childless then
I didn't understand
all Suzanne could be
She gave birth at 19
too quickly in a toilet
then again a year later
She didn't like her husband

When I first drove away
for just an hour
I didn't like it
Worried
the umbilical cord that tied me to my children
Unsevered and secure

Soon I learned to leave
longer times
Worried less
needed to go
Understanding I was not my children
We were joined but
Separate too

These days I drive away
feeling freedom in my flight
Fear
Knowing all I've left behind
Return

Everyone rushes
to prodigal mother
Returned to the fold
And I am grateful
Relieved
I did not bring my toothbrush
like Suzanne

Renee Norman is a graduate student at the University of British Columbia. She has three daughters.