

along with comments and suggestions.

In December 1987, we sent the complete manuscript to Yale for publication. Gloria had taken charge of all negotiations with Yale and of assembling our collaborative effort. She was in charge of communicating with Yale and of conveying the Press's pleasure or displeasure back to Mathé and me. She was, it must be added, a demon negotiator.

Our collaboration worked because Gloria and I tend to have similar working styles and to think alike. We managed to get together at various conferences (which meant that our institutions paid at least part of the bill), and we communicated often by phone. We spent a lot of money on photocopying, as we tried to share materials back and forth. Who knows what access to a FAX line would have meant for us? It was very useful to be able to pass rough drafts back and forth, because Gloria and I are not specialists in the same field. If she did not understand something I had written, it was unlikely that our audience would, and vice versa. The arrival of a packet of materials from Gloria would spur me on to do more work, rather than letting the project lie fallow for a few more weeks. I suspect the same was true at the other end. While the chronology of the project may seem long (1982-1989), I doubt that any one of the team members could have done the whole job more quickly on her own.

I enjoyed my collaborative efforts and would willingly work with Gloria Fiero again. I learned from her expertise and I hope she learned from mine. My one suggestion when selecting a co-worker is to find one who shares your sense of humor, sense of deadlines, and sense of limits. That way, you can laugh and cry together, not at each other.

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WORKING TOGETHER WITH E-MAIL

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E-MAIL (Electronic Mail) is a way of communicating with scholars at other universities almost instantaneously. It is much quicker than the Postal Service (especially when communicating with other countries) or even Federal Express, yet it doesn't require the recipient to be in her/his office at the moment you call, as the phone does.

There are two main E-Mail networks used in the U.S. and Canada: BITNET and INTERNET. (There is also USENET for UNIX machines, which works in much the same way). They connect the mainframes at various universities to each other. There are "gateways" which make it possible to communicate with people at schools on another network. The main network in the U.K. is called JANET and it is also gatewayed to BITNET, and you can also reach scholars in other countries around the world.

To use E-Mail you must have an account on your school's mainframe (since E-Mail doesn't use much CPU time at all, these are usually very cheap, if not free), and you need a way of accessing that account—either by modem from home computer, by local network from your office, by using a terminal in the library, or whatever. When you get your account, ask someone at the computer center to tell you how to use BITNET or INTERNET; access protocols differ from one system to another.

Then all you have to do is send messages. You can either write notes from your mainframe account, or (especially if you want to send longer documents) you can write them on your PC in your normal word processor, and then upload them and send them. This is an ideal way to do collaborative work. You need to know the recipient's E-Mail

address or addresses. For example, my address on BITNET is RKARRAS@PENNSAS; on INTERNET it is RKARRAS@PENNSAS.UPENN.EDU. If you tried one and it didn't work, the other might. Then when I log onto my account your message would be waiting for me. If the recipient doesn't log on, of course, s/he will never get the message.

In addition to individual messages, there is another important use for E-Mail: discussion groups. These are usually run using LISTSERV software. Whenever anyone sends a message it automatically goes to everyone on the list. There are hundreds of these electronic discussion groups. Some have very few messages, some have a dozen a day. Some that are of special interest to medievalists include Chaucernet (contact Tom Bestul, TBESTU@CRCMVS.UNL.EDU) and Ansaxnet (contact Pat Conner, U47C2@WVNVN). Jennifer Rondeau is currently attempting to set one up for the *Medieval Feminist Newsletter*. This would be a forum for queries, comments, whatever you wish to share. If you are interested, and have or can get an E-Mail account, send a message to JRONDEAU@IUBACS, or if you can't get through to her, send one to me at one of the above addresses. Even if you signed the list of E-Mail addresses circulated at the *MFN* meeting at Kalamazoo, you might drop her a note to make sure that your address and hers can communicate.

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COLLABORATION: WHEN MORE IS LESS

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ALTHOUGH feminists in the humanities have brought about important changes in curricula, I wonder whether we have had an equal impact on the exclusionary practices that often determine our promotions and tenure (and therefore our salaries). We may find ourselves facing a reward system that depends on certain very narrow assumptions about intellectual process. The structure's linchpin is the single-authored work, particularly a book or monograph, that seeks "the true nature of things,"¹ in solitary demonstration of the writer's mastery and authority. But what of the many collaborative research and