

Penny Colman: Showcasing the Invisible



International Reading Association Annual Convention
San Francisco, CA 2002
Tuesday, April 30 (9:00 - 11:45 am session)

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We are extremely grateful to Scholastic Press for sponsoring Penny Colman's visit at the IRA Literacy and Social Responsibility session this year!

From the work, one knows the worker. Penny's work reveals that she is an advocate for women and for justice, an adventurer, an historian, and an educator attempting to set the record straight regarding the extremely valuable but often overlooked contributions of the "fairer sex," the "51% minority."

Books for All Ages by Penny Colman



Where the Action Was: Women War Correspondents in World War II. (2002). Illustrated with photographs. NY: Crown Publishers.

This book tells about those brave women journalists in World War II who risked their lives on the front lines so others on the home front would have personal glimpses of what was happening.

Girls: A History of Growing up Female in America (2000). Illustrated with photographs. NY: Scholastic Reference.

Traces the history of the U.S. through the stories of many of the individuals from the earliest inhabitants to modern day. Many anecdotes are excerpts of journals, household slave narratives, and other primary sources. Includes bibliographic references and index.

- Corpses, Coffins, and Crypts: A History of Burial.*** (1997). Photographs by author. NY: Henry Holt.
Documents the burial process throughout the centuries in different cultures.
- Rosie the Riveter: Women Working on the Home Front in World War II.*** (1995). Illustrated with photographs. NY: Crown Publishers.
Chronicles the experiences of women in the U.S. during World War II who left the home to take on jobs previously filled by men. Includes bibliographic references and index.
- Strike!: The Bitter Struggle of American Workers from Colonial Times to the Present.*** (1995).
Illustrated with photographs. Brookfield, CT: Millbrook Press.
Historical chronicle of American laborers struggling to better working conditions.
- Toilets, Bathtubs, Sinks, and Sewers: A History of the Bathroom.*** (1995). Illustrated with photographs.
NY: Atheneum.
From ancient days through space exploration and in various cultural settings, people have had to figure out how to deal with human waste; this book tells the tale. Includes bibliographical references and index.
- Madame C. J. Walker: Building a Business Empire.*** (1994). Illustrated with photographs. Brookfield, CT: Millbrook Press.
Though born in poverty on a Louisiana plantation, this woman forged a thriving business in hair care and made more money than ANY woman had ever made before at this time in the history of America. A Gateway Biography.
- Mother Jones and the March of the Mill Children*** (1994). Illustrated with photographs. Brookfield, CT: Millbrook Press.
Though in her day it was a common practice to exploit child labor, Mother Jones took a stand against the practice.
- Women in Society.*** (1994). NY: Marshal Cavendish; /Singapore: Times International.
Presents a concise history of women in the United States.
- 101 Ways to Do Better in School.*** (1993). Illustrated by Pamela Keating. Mahway, NJ: Troll Publications.
- Fannie Lou Hamer and the Fight for the Vote.*** (1993). Illustrated with photographs. Brookfield, CT: Millbrook Press.
This civil rights activist devoted her life to helping black people gain a national political voice by devoting her life to helping them register to vote.
- A Woman Unafraid: The Achievements of Frances Perkins.*** (1993). Illustrated with photographs. NY: Atheneum.
A biography of FDR's Secretary of Labor, the first woman Cabinet member and a pioneer in Labor reform who established unemployment insurance, minimum wages, maximum hours, safety regulations, and social security.
- Spies!: Women in the Civil War.*** (1992). Illustrated with photographs. White Hall, VA: Shoe Tree Press.
Presents the lives of courageous women who served as spies for the North and South during the Civil War, including "The Siren of the Shenandoah," "Crazy Bet," and Harriet Tubman.
- Breaking the Chains: The Crusade of Dorothea Lynde Dix.*** (1991). Illustrated with photographs. White Hall, VA: Shoe Tree Press.
Recounts Dix's lifelong fight to improve the lives of others, including her own family, the mentally ill, prisoners, the physically ill, and the retarded.
- Dark Closets and Noises in the Night.*** (1991). Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press. [Fiction]
- I Never Do Anything Bad.*** (1988). Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press. [Fiction]

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For more information, see her website at <http://www.pennycolman.com>
Photo and book jackets from www.pennycolman.com and amazon.com (4-19-02).

Please visit the website of the **IRA Social Responsibility and Literacy Special Interest Group** at <http://www.soe.usfca.edu/socialresponsibility> where you can find more information about this SIG including how to join.

We invite you to share your ideas with us and to suggest ways that we might work together to facilitate our mutual interests and goals.