



Marianne Veronika Goztonyi Ainley, 1937—2008

Dr Mariane (Marika) Ainley, a distinguished historian of science in Canada, died in Victoria in September 2008 at the age of seventy. Marika was a pioneer in the history of ornithology and women in Canadian science; author of books and countless journal articles and book chapters; former principal of the Simone de Beauvoir Institute; and associate professor emerita of Concordia University and professor emerita of the University of Northern British Columbia.

Born in Budapest in 1937, Marika began her studies in industrial chemistry as a teenager, completing her Diploma at the Petrik Lagos Polytechnical College. After the 1956 uprising, she left Hungary, first for Sweden and then for Montreal. While employed as a lab technician by Chemaco and Imperial Tobacco, she was also completing a degree in English and French literatures and psychology (1964) at Sir George Williams University (now Concordia). Such intellectual breadth and energy marked Marika's scholarship and life.

One of Marika's deepest passions was for birds. She completed Cornell's certificate in ornithology in 1979 while working on her MSc in the history of science at the Université de Montréal. Her thesis, "La professionalization de l'ornithologie Americaine, 1870—1979," was completed in 1980. She then pursued her PhD in history of science at McGill University. Her dissertation, "From Natural History to Avian Biology: Canadian Ornithology, 1860—1950," was accepted in 1985.

Marika's doctoral dissertation, she later wrote, "lacked a gender analysis"; at the same time, her work experience "as an invisible woman chemist, combined with my activities as an amateur ornithologist, led to a scholarly interest in those on the margins of the Western scientific community." Influenced by the work of American historian of science Margaret Rossiter, she attended the First International Interdisciplinary Conference on Women in the History of Science in Hungary in 1983, an experience she described as a "major turning point."

For the following decade, she worked on two linked projects, both of which bore the marks of her feminist perspective on the history of science. Her work on women in Canadian science, funded by the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women and by a SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship, led to *Despite the Odds: Essays on Canadian Women and Science*, published in 1990. Simultaneously, Marika completed a "feminist scientific biography," in her words, of a pioneering ornithologist and founder of the Zoology department at the University of Alberta. *Restless Energy: A Biography of William Rowan, 1891—1957* was published in 1993.

Marika's first regular academic appointment was as Principal of the Simone de Beauvoir Institute and Associate Professor of Women's Studies at Concordia University, a post in which she served from 1991 to 1995. She left the institute in 1995 to become Professor and founding Chair of Women's Studies at the new University of Northern British Columbia in Prince George, BC. During her time at UNBC, Marika served as president of both the Canadian Women's Studies Association and the Canadian Science and Technology Historical Association.

While supervising graduate students, teaching undergraduates, and publishing a steady stream of articles and book chapters, Marika also engaged with the Prince George arts community and enjoyed the birds of the boreal forest. She continued to work on the project that seemed to her most urgent and was dearest to her heart: the history of women in scientific work. This research led her to a profound engagement with oral history, as she recorded interviews with some of Canada's pioneering women scientists, many of them of advanced age.

Marika's interest in the margins and silences of Western science also led her to an interest in indigenous scientific and environmental knowledge and its transfer in Canada and Australia, the topic of her final SSHRC grant (2001). During this period her work was facilitated by Visiting Scholar appointments at Central Queensland University (2003, 2000) and the Institute for the Study of Gender at Auckland University (2001). As usual, Marika was entranced not only by her academic research but by Australia's natural environment.

Marika retired from her position at UNBC in 2003, moving to Victoria with her husband David in 2004. Soon afterward, cancer interfered with her characteristically busy schedule of painting, research, and birding. Marika met this new challenge with her usual indefatigable spirit and inimitable style, continuing to

work with her painting group, the Madronas, and completing her manuscript on the history of women and scientific work at Canadian universities from 1884 to 1980.

On 26 September 2008, with her husband and children at her side and her dear sister on the telephone, Marianne Gosztonyi Ainley passed away. Celebrations of her life held in Victoria, Prince George, and Montreal made clear her contributions to communities of scholarship, advocacy, and friendship. She is deeply missed.

Jacqueline Holler

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