

Where Feminist Philosophy Found its Voice:
SIUE and the Founding of *Hypatia*

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The *Hypatia* Archive

Some Timing and Context

1973- Indications that members of that Society for Women in Philosophy (SWIP) began discussions of creating a journal dedicated to feminist philosophy

1978- Azizah al-Hibri emerges as candidate for journal's first editor and regular correspondence about the journal's formation gathers pace

1986 (May 10) Margaret "Peg" Simons, signs the *Hypatia* incorporation (IL) document and the first volume appears as Spring 1986

In a letter to the IRS, for incorporation purposes, Peg writes:

“Without *Hypatia*, such [feminist philosophy] research would not be available to scholars”

Forming *Hypatia*: Two Struggles

- ❖ A Practical Struggle
- ❖ A Struggle for Identity
 - Types of Publications
 - Composition of the Editorial Board
 - The Journal's Name

Regarding the name...

In one correspondence, there was a recollection of— only half-jokingly— naming the journal, “The Journal of Half-Baked Ideas”

Linda Lopez recollected the first discussion of naming it Hypatia was SP1973 at an Eastern SWIP meeting

Joyce Trebilcoe wrote, “What I know about Hypatia inclines me against HYPATHIA. Could someone please tell us about her, why she should be so honored? I like SPINSTER. Another possibility CONCEIVINGS”

One al-Hibri letter to the board notes that she changed the name in Trebilcoe’s publisher prospectus from HYPATHIA to PHILOSOPHY AND FEMINIST ISSUES.

A memo summarizing a meeting with Ellen and Earl Coleman, potential publishers, states, “regarding Title: We agreed that ‘Hypatia’ might be too esoteric a title to attract readers, especially outside of philosophy”

A letter from Ann Garry says, “Philosophy and Feminist Issues is OK with me. I wouldn’t mind several variations on it either—any of which is preferable to Hypatia”

A memo from al-Hibri offers, “Concerning the name of the journal: I like very much Joyce’s suggested title FEMINIST PHILOSOPHY... So, let us adopt this name”

Embracing Hypatia

A letter from al-Hibri to Judy Chicago:

“The Society for Women and Philosophy is starting a scholarly journal Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy. We are interested in securing your permission to use your design of Hypatia’s plate in The Dinner Party as a permanent cover design.”

Hypatia’s plate at Chicago’s The Dinner Party art exhibition housed at the Brooklyn Museum