

Linear Critic

by Ann Bogle

1) I used to view women's studies research of lost women writers as similar to archaeology — the discovery of valuable ruins or *historia*.

2) Women's studies professors in literature, not all, told us that “the boys” excluded women writers from literary canons throughout time.

3) Now I feel that women exclude one another from canon consideration after one dies — expertly in review publications — or before, upfront

4) Whereas, in considering men writers who have earned their names, even long ago, even after they have died, all of us protect and defend.

5) Understanding contributions of men writers is more variegated. Men land suitably in specific lineages, one more dominant than others.

6) There are collective poetries and figures in literature, including poets. Collective poetries flow from cities, meet in private and online.

7) Flash fiction flows online and travels to meet in cities as possible. Flash fiction includes stories 6 words to 1,000 words in length.

8) An exercise online calls for the first sentence on page 45 of the book nearest you as a suggested description of your love life. The book

9) nearest me still is *The Quarterly*, 1, spring 1987, that I have on my desk in preparing to write an essay. The first sentence on page 45

10) is from the story by J.S. Marcus, “It's Freezing Here in Milwaukee,” and goes as follows: “The company liked using real people instead

11) of models for their brochures, and I remember one of the vice-presidents coming around every July to pick people out." I paused to reread

12) the story I'd read living in upstate New York when it appeared. Milwaukee seemed an eastern point west of Binghamton related to New York.

13) Twenty-seven years ago will be half my life in two years. One participant posted the following as the first sentence on page 45 of Sylvia

14) Plath's *Collected*: "Call here with flying colors all watchful birds/To people the twigged aisles; lead babel tongues/Of animals to choir:

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15) 'Look what thresh of wings/Wields guard of honor over these!'" The fifteenth tweet of 140 characters in manuscript format is kill page.

