## ARTICLE

## WOMEN AND JOURNALISM

Journalism has been during the last seventy years a popular profession among women in Arab countries as well as in the West. Some women journalists have been internationally known. One of them is the French Geneviève Tabouis, a distinguished foreign correspondent who flourished in the second quarter of this century. Another is the Mexican Maria-Eugenia Moreno, president of the World Association of Women Journalists and Writers since 1973. She has worked as a dedicated supporter of women's causes and president of the Social Work service of the Mexican Institute for Social Security. While in that office, she organized a successful campaign against drug addiction among young people.

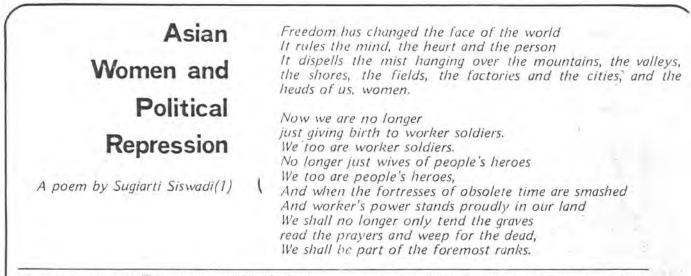
In the Arab countries, feminine journalism flourished in Egypt, Lebanon and Syria during the early part of the 20th century. About 40 magazines founded and edited by women appeared between 1892 and 1950. These magazines supported women's claims for education and freedom from oppressive tradition.(1) The number of women's magazines in these countries has presently dwindled to less than ten. Yet the number of women journalists who contribute to various papers and magazines has greatly increased. In Lebanon, they form over 22 per cent of the whole body of journalists in this country. Many of them are highly cultured and have distinguished themselves as poets or novelists as well as journalists.

Yet the vast majority of them occupy the positions of reporters, art critics, reviewers, correspondents, fashion critics. We rarely come across a woman editor or columnist especially in the political field. One reason is that the have been unable to secure supporters among the majorit of men who stubbornly believe that women should kee away from politics. Another reason is that wome themselves, as a group or as individuals, have nc displayed sufficient efforts by way of promotion. At th age when they have to plan their future, highly educate young girls who take journalism or any other work as career, cannot make sure that their career will not b interrupted by marriage.

Yet the idea that marriage and motherhood shoul not interfere with a woman's career seems to be gainin ground. According to Miss Denise Ammoun, an eminen journalist who occupies the position of editing secretar at the "Orient-Le Jour" daily paper, Beirut, women hav proved to be so efficient in the journalistic field that i will not be long before they gain admission into th upper echelons. Her claims as journalist are the same a those of men, namely, defining the criteria of admission to the journalist's syndicate, and the installation of socia security which would encourage women to stick to their work and overcome any inconveniences that migh hamper it. (2)

 Anis Khuri Makdisi. Literary trends in the Arab World, par II, Im Arabic), Beirut, Lebanon, 1952, p.61-64.

(2) L'Orient-Le Jour, 23-5-1978.



(1) An Indonesian poet. This poem was published in Quest, a feminist quarterly, (Washington D.C.I. vol IV, no.2 Winter 1978.