

Media Matters

Author Bio and Brief Vita

Florence Weinberg

Born in the high desert country, in Alamogordo, New Mexico, Florence loved exploring the wilderness on foot and horseback. Those grandiose landscapes formed her sensibility. Hidden pockets of unexpected greenery tucked away near springs in folds of barren mountainsides spoke to her of gentleness and beauty in an otherwise harsh world. She published her first poem in a children's magazine shortly after she learned to read at age four; wrote her first 'novel' at age six, entitled "Ywain, King of All Cats." She illustrated the 'book' herself.

Before settling in San Antonio, Texas, she traveled extensively with her military family during World War II. With her husband the brilliant scholar and teacher, Kurt Weinberg, she worked and traveled in Canada, Germany, France, and Spain. After earning her PhD, she taught for twenty-two years at St. John Fisher College in Rochester, NY, and for ten at Trinity University in San Antonio. She published four scholarly books, many articles and book reviews, doing research in the U.S. and abroad.

When, after retiring in 1999, she was freed from academe to devote herself to writing fiction, she produced eight novels, ranging from fantasy to historical romance and mystery. Five are in print as well as one in press: three historical novels, a romance about the French Renaissance, published in France in French translation, a novel about the founding of San Antonio, and a third novel about the so-called Chamuscado/Rodriguez Expedition, in 1581, forty years after Coronado's. Three historical mysteries star the eighteenth-century Jesuit missionary Fr. Ignaz (Ygnacio) Pfefferkorn. Two of these are set in the Sonora Desert and the third in an ancient monastery in Spain. The book in press is the second Sonora mystery novel, *Sonora Wind*.

Her favorite animals are horses—an intense love affair over many years—and cats, her constant companions. She enjoys music, traveling, hiking, biking, gardening, and swimming.

FLORENCE M. BYHAM WEINBERG

BRIEF VITA

Degrees:

A.B. Park College, 1954, M.A. University of British Columbia, 1963; Ph.D. University of Rochester, NY, 1968

Teaching Experience:

Saint John Fisher College, Rochester, NY, 1967-1989
Trinity University, San Antonio, TX, 1989-1999 (Now Professor Emerita)

Administrative Experience:

Chair, Department of Modern Languages and Classical Studies, St. John Fisher College, 1972-1979
Director, International Studies Program, St. John Fisher College, 1983-1986
Chair, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, Trinity University, 1989-1996

Consulting:

Consultant-Panelist for the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities
Reader for the following presses: Wayne State University Press; University of Missouri Press; Center for Medieval and Early Renaissance Studies; Vanderbilt University Press
Referee for articles submitted to *PMLA* (*Publications of the Modern Language Association*) and for the *New Mexico Historical Review*.

Awards:

National Endowment for the Humanities Senior Fellowship, 1980-81 (and a number of other grants and fellowships)

Publications and Research:

Books (Scholarly):

The Wine and the Will: Rabelais's Bacchic Christianity (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1972)

Gargantua in a Convex Mirror: Fischart's View of Rabelais (New York and Berne: Peter Lang, 1986)

The Cave: The Evolution of a Metaphoric Field from Homer to Ariosto (New York and Berne: Peter Lang, 1986)

Rabelais et les leçons du rire: paraboles évangéliques et néoplatoniciennes (Orléans: Editions Paradigme, 2000)

In addition, many articles in learned journals on French and Spanish Renaissance subjects, contributions to literary dictionaries, Festschriften, collected volumes, etc. Also, many reviews in specialized journals on French literature both in this country and abroad.

Books (Fiction):

Longs désirs (Lyon, France: Editions Lyonnaises d'Art et d'Histoire, 2002) [historical fiction featuring Louise Labé, poetess and knight in 16th century France]

Sonora Moonlight (Kingsport, TN: Twilight Times Books, 2008) [first Pfefferkorn historical mystery novel]

Sonora Wind (Kingsport, TN: Twilight Times Books, forthcoming 2009) [second Pfefferkorn historical mystery novel]

The Storks of La Caridad (Kingsport, TN: Twilight Times Books, 2005) [third Pfefferkorn historical mystery novel]
Apache Lance, Franciscan Cross (Kingsport: Paladin Timeless Books, 2005) [historical novel]
The Seven Cities of Mud (Kingsport, TN: Twilight Times Books, 2008) [historical novel]