
Almanac II

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We all think we know what an almanac is, but do we really? Almanacs have some unexpected histories that I accidentally discovered when doing archival research for a feminist genealogy of the Parisian seamstress (Tamboukou, 2015). When in 1851 Jeanne Deroin was released from the Saint-Lazare's Prison in Paris, serving a 6 months' sentence for political conspiracy against Napoleon Bonaparte's government, she went back to her political work and among other activities she published the first volume of *L'Almanach des Femmes* (Women's Almanac). In her introduction to the first volume Deroin felt the need to justify the title to her readers: 'Today an Almanac should not only indicate variations in temperature and the course of the stars, but also the variations in the diverse tendencies of the spirits and the progress of the social truths that contain the prophesy of a better future' she wrote (Deroin, 1852, p.9). The title was obviously chosen to avoid censorship, but soon after its publication, Deroin took the role of exile to London to avoid the persecutions of Bonaparte's coup. While in London and struggling to survive, she published two more volumes of the Almanac in 1853 and 1854. The 1853 edition was bilingual, the first feminist bilingual publication marking the internationalization of the feminist movement and confronting issues of not being lost in translation that are still prevalent in contemporary feminism and beyond.

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