

*Three Observations
and a Dialogue:
Round and About SF*



by
Sylvia Kelso



Conversation Pieces

*Three Observations and
a Dialogue: Round and About SF*

Conversation Pieces



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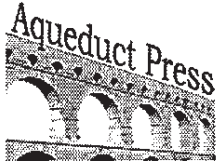
About the Aqueduct Press Conversation Pieces Series

The feminist engaged with sf is passionately interested in challenging the way things are, passionately determined to understand how everything works. It is my constant sense of our feminist-sf present as a grand conversation that enables me to trace its existence into the past and from there see its trajectory extending into our future. A genealogy for feminist sf would not constitute a chart depicting direct lineages but would offer us an ever-shifting, fluid mosaic, the individual tiles of which we will probably only ever partially access. What could be more in the spirit of feminist sf than to conceptualize a genealogy that explicitly manifests our own communities across not only space but also time?

Aqueduct's small paperback series, *Conversation Pieces*, aims to both document and facilitate the "grand conversation." The *Conversation Pieces* series presents a wide variety of texts, including short fiction (which may not always be sf and may not necessarily even be feminist), essays, speeches, manifestoes, poetry, interviews, correspondence, and group discussions. Many of the texts are reprinted material, but some are new. The grand conversation reaches at least as far back as Mary Shelley and extends, in our speculations and visions, into the continually-created future. In Jonathan Goldberg's words, "To look forward to the history that will be, one must look at and retell the history that has been told." And that is what *Conversation Pieces* is all about.

L. Timmel Duchamp

Jonathan Goldberg, "The History That Will Be" in Louise Fradenburg and Carla Freccero, eds., *Premodern Sexualities* (New York and London: Routledge, 1996)



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“Loud Achievements: Lois McMaster Bujold’s Science Fiction.” *New York Review of Science Fiction*, No 122, 1+. No 123, 1998. 13-15.

“Letterspace: Letters between Lois McMaster Bujold and Sylvia Kelso.” *Women of Other Worlds: Excursions through Science Fiction and Feminism*. Eds. Helen Merrick and Tess Williams. Perth: University of Western Australia, September 1999. 383-409.

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With thanks to my long-suffering PhD supervisor, Professor Robert Dixon, and to Dave Willingham, who published my first fully-fledged academic article. And affectionate and respectful thanks to the many SF writers who over the years have entertained, fascinated, provoked me to thought, and on whose work these speculations were built.”

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