

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This book evolved from the conversations of an international group of historians who gathered in April 2006 at a conference at the Rothermere American Institute, University of Oxford, to discuss the work of American women missionaries in American cultural expansion. Our purpose was to go beyond an examination of women's experiences to contextualize and historicize their achievements across cultural and political systems. To accomplish this, we invited historians of the United States together with historians of the Middle East, Africa, Japan, China, and India to join us. These historians' fields crossed the boundaries of women's history, religious studies, and foreign relations. Their essays, published here for the first time, bring an interdisciplinary, transnational perspective to the study of American women and the expansion of American culture beyond the borders of the United States.

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