



## Praising Girls: The Rhetoric of Young Women, 1895-1930

By Henrietta Rix Wood

Southern Illinois University Press. Hardback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Praising Girls: The Rhetoric of Young Women, 1895-1930, Henrietta Rix Wood, Exploring the persuasive discourse of ordinary girls at the beginning of the twentieth century In Praising Girls , Henrietta Rix Wood explores how ordinary schoolgirls engaged in extraordinary rhetorical activities during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in the United States. Focusing on high school girls' public writing, Wood analyzes newspaper editorials and articles, creative writing projects, yearbook entries, and literary magazines, revealing how young women employed epideictic rhetoric--traditionally used to praise and blame in ceremonial situations--to define their individual and collective identities. Many girls, Wood argues, intervened rhetorically in national and international discourses on class, race, education, immigration, racism, and imperialism, confronting the gender politics that denigrated young women and often deprived them of positions of authority. Although the site of this study is one midwestern locale, Kansas City, Missouri, it reflects the diverse rhetorical experiences of girls in cities across the United States at the beginning of the last century. Wood's analysis reveals a contemporary concept of epideictic rhetoric that accounts for issues of gender, race, class, and age.



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