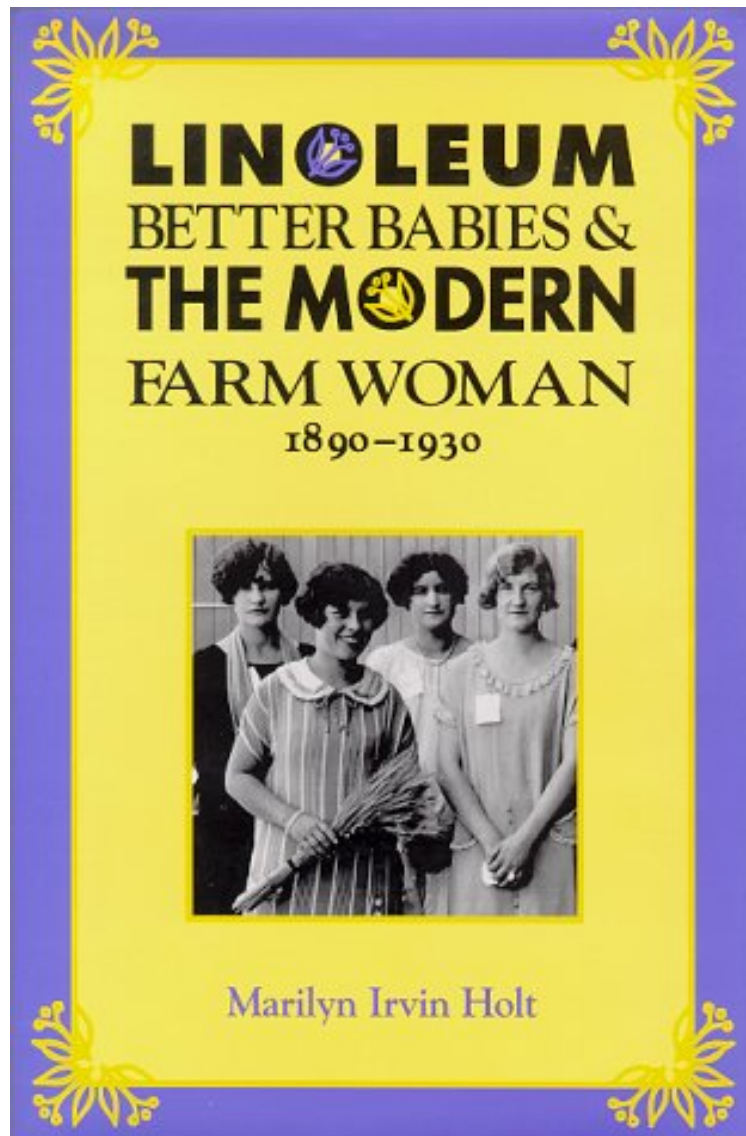


[Library ebook] Linoleum, Better Babies the Modern Farm Woman, 1890-1930

Linoleum, Better Babies the Modern Farm Woman, 1890-1930

Marilyn Irvin Holt

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Marilyn Irvin Holt : Linoleum, Better Babies the Modern Farm Woman, 1890-1930 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Linoleum, Better Babies the Modern Farm Woman, 1890-1930:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Farm Women, Domestic Economy, and Home EconomicsBy Alicia Crumpton1890-1930 sets the stage for this book. Holt specifically explores the domestic economic movement which evolved out of "the era's push for progress and reform. it centered on rural women and their education. . . . the push for

rural change was as likely to come from outside agricultural districts as from inside" (pp. 3, 5). Holt provides a unique perspective in specifically discussing the domestic economic movement and largely portraying this movement as a positive thing for rural contexts and for rural women. Other authors have criticized the domestic economic movement due to the underlying biases and assumptions about the urban ideal as being superior to rurality, rural culture, and the dullness of rural working women. I would have liked to have read a pros/cons discussion about the domestic economic movement generally and a discussion about urban/rural policies and ideals. Even so, Holt's research, discussion, and bibliographic notes informed my understanding of the domestic economic movement. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. *Insight into Rural Life* By L. Naylor In this work, Holt makes a strong case for women's agency in the domestic economy movement. Focusing on the rural midwest, Holt looks at how women accepted and participated in educational programs run through the Children's Bureau and the Department of Agriculture, which served to make rural farm life more attractive to women. Her examples provide insight into early twentieth century life for rural women and the challenges they faced.

The Progressive Era promoted a vision of America united by an emphasis on science and progressive reform. During the years under this study, every facet of American life came under scrutiny for the possibility of reform. Both experts and laymen believed better management would benefit everyone. Women, as well as men, could be managers. For women in agriculture, reform messages, experts, and science came together to preach a new form of education in domestic economy. In *Linoleum, Better Babies, and the Modern Farm Woman, 1890-1930*, Holt argues that women in agriculture were not passive receptors of this advice. Reformers generally agreed that farm women were the glue that held the rural world together, and farm women saw their place in agriculture as multifaceted and important, so they eagerly accepted improved education. At the same time, they rejected suggestions that conflicted with their own views of the rewards and values of farm life. Holt also offers a better understanding of the role of women in agriculture from the period where farm women were seen as beasts of burden until they developed their own view of themselves as equal contributors to the success of the farm. She writes with wit and clarity about an important time in the lives of women farmers, "Lines of labor blurred, with couples 'working in harness'--side by side, heading for the same goal--just as plow horses worked together to get the job done."