THE RED BOOK

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In 1985 I was serving on the AWAR (Rome) board with my friend Gloria, who was president.  She was going to the FAWCO Conference in Dusseldorf, why didn’t I come too?  Why not?  I wanted to travel and see the world.  And so began my journey with FAWCO, in Germany in a Japanese hotel.  Gloria and I were FAWCO roommates for the next 15 years in such places as Madrid, Casablanca, London and Vienna.  I continued on for another 15 years.  Along the way I was asked to co-edit FAWCO’s 75th Anniversary Book.

In 1931, Caroline Curtis Brown, who was president of the American Women’s Club of London, invited 7 other American clubs to form a Federation - Antwerp, Amsterdam, Berlin, The Hague, Vienna and Zurich.  All were concerned with world peace.  They met annually up through 1939, when the Nazis invaded Norway and the next meeting scheduled for Oslo was cancelled.  Its president, Mrs. Morganstienne, destroyed the FAWCO papers as she just escaped being deported; bank accounts were cancelled, archives were lost, and FAWCO went dark.  1949 was the first post-war conference in Copenhagen.

I was asked to edit the 75th FAWCO History, 1931 to 2006, by my fellow-editor, Georgia Regnault.  Our references were small.  The earliest came from Elizabeth Tine of Rome, one and a half pages written in 1963.  More detailed histories were published in 1971, ’81, ’91 and 2001, by this time known as The Red Book, that being the color on the cover. The 75th edition was a special hardcover publication, 244 pages in black & white and color featuring essays on people and places, detailed lists, honors and accomplishments, photographs and more.  The section entitled The Red Book History detailed every conference and milestone along the way.

Georgia and I have edited two more updates, 2011 and 2016.  We have tried to be careful editors, wanting to preserve the tones and phrases of past authors (i.e. until 1957 presidents were referred to by their married names; in 1977 “hostess” became “host club” and “chairman” became “chair.”)  The 2016 edition is available on the FAUSA website at [**https://www.fawco.org/images/stories/aboutfawco/FAWCO%20History%20March%202016%20-%20after%20publication.pdf**](https://www.fawco.org/images/stories/aboutfawco/FAWCO%20History%20March%202016%20-%20after%20publication.pdf)**.**