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Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- CONTENTS -- Acknowledgments -- Chronology of the U.S.Woman Suffrage Campaign -- Introduction -- PART I. Declaring Sentiments, 1846-1891 -- Introduction -- "Petition for Woman's Rights" (1846) / Vincent, Eleanor / Ormsby, Susan / Williams, Lydia / Ormsby, Amy / Osborn, Lydia / Bishop, Anna -- "Declaration of Sentiments" (1848) / Cady Stanton, Elizabeth / Douglass, Frederick -- Speech at Akron, Ohio, Woman's Rights Convention (1851) / Truth, Sojourner -- Christine, or, Woman's Trials and Triumphs (1856) / Curtis, Laura J. -- "Independence" (1859) "Shall Women Vote?" (1860) / Willis Parton, Sara -- "Woman and the Ballot" (1870) / Douglass, Frederick -- "Aunt Chloe's Politics" (1871) "John and Jacob-A Dialogue on Woman's Rights" (1885) / Watkins Harper, Frances Ellen -- My Wife and I; or, Harry Henderson's History (1871) / Beecher Stowe, Harriet -- "Cupid and Chow-Chow" (1872) / Alcott, Louisa May -- "Trotty's Lecture Bureau" (1877) / Stuart Phelps, Elizabeth -- "How I went to 'lection" (1877) / Holley, Marietta -- Fettered for Life, or, Lord and Master (1874) "A Divided Republic: An Allegory of the Future" (1885) / Devereux Blake, Lillie -- "Another Chapter of 'The Bostonians'" (1887) / Whitehead, Celia B. -- Wynema: A Child of the Forest (1891) / Callahan, Sophia Alice -- PART II. Searching for Sisterhood: Two Case Studies of Transnational Feminism, 1907-1914 -- Introduction -- Interactions

between U.S. and British Campaigns -- Votes for Women (1907) / Robins, Elizabeth -- "The March of the Women" (1911) / Smyth, Dame Ethel / Hamilton, Cicely -- "The Diary of a Newsy" (1911) / Anthony, Jessie -- Julia France and Her Times (1912) / Atherton, Gert Rude -- "How it Feels to be Forcibly Fed" (1914) / Barnes, Djuna -- Interactions between U.S. and Chinese Campaigns -- "The Inferior Woman" (1910) / Maude Eaton, Edith -- "The Oppression of Women" (1915) "In All Earnestness, I speak to all my sisters" (1915) -- "Catching Up with China" Banner (1912) -- "Heathen Chinees" Cartoon (1912) -- PART III. Making Woman New! 1897-1920 -- Introduction -- "Women Do Not Want It" (1897) "The Anti-Suffragists" (1898) "The Socialist and the Suffragist" (1911) Charlotte Perkins Gilman / Gilman, Charlotte Perkins -- "The Australian Ballot System" (1898) / Ervin, Mabel Clare -- Portia Politics (1911-1912) / Bailey, Edith -- "Disfranchisement" from Mother Goose as a Suffragette (1912) "Taffy" from Mother Goose as a Suffragette (1912) -- "Women March" (1912) / Hopkins, Mary Alden -- "The Arrest of Suffrage" (1912) / Whitehead, Ethel -- "Brother Baptis' on Woman Suffrage" (1912) / Jonas, Rosalie -- "Mirandy on 'Why Women Can't Vote'" (1912) / Gilmer, Elizabeth Meriwether -- Hagar (1913) / Johnston, Mary -- "The Parade: A Suffrage Playlet in One Act and an After-Act" (1913) / Dawson, Nell Perkins -- "The Woman with Empty Hands: The Evolution of a Suffragette" (1913) / Hamilton Carter, Marion -- "How it Feels to be the Husband of a Suffragette" (1914) -- "Our Own Twelve Anti-Suffragist Reasons" (1914) "Representation" (1914) "The Revolt of Mother" (1915) "A Consistent Anti to Her Son" (1915) / Duer Miller, Alice -- "A Plea for Suffrage" (1915) / Moore, Marianne -- "The President's Valentine" (1916) / Allender, Nina E. -- Fanny Herself (1917) / Ferber, Edna -- The Sturdy Oak, chapter 7 (1917) / O'Hagan, Anne -- For Rent-One Pedestal (1917) / Shuler, Marjorie -- "President Wilson says 'Godspeed to the Cause'" Cartoon (1917) "Come to Mother" Cartoon (1917) / Allender, Nina E. -- "President Wilson's War Message" Banner (1917) -- "Telling the Truth at the White House" (1917) / Howe, Marie Jenney / Jakobi, Paula -- "We Worried Woody Wood" (1917) -- "Prison Notes, Smuggled to Friends from the District Jail" (1917) / Wenclawska, Ruza -- "Switchboard Suffrage" (1920) / Haskell, Oreola Williams -- PART IV. Carrying the Suffrage Torch, 1920-1946 -- Introduction -- Jailed For Freedom (1920) / Stevens, Doris -- "Upon this marble bust that is not I" (1923) / Vincent Millay, Edna St. -- "The Suffrage Torch: Memories of a Militant" (1929) / Havemeyer, Louisine W. -- The Mother of Us All (1946) / Stein, Gertrude -- Notes -- Selected Bibliography of U.S. Suffrage Literature -- Index -- ABOUT THE EDITORS

Sommario/riassunto

Treacherous Texts collects more than sixty literary texts written by smart, savvy writers who experimented with genre, aesthetics, humor, and sex appeal in an effort to persuade American readers to support woman suffrage. Although the suffrage campaign is often associated in popular memory with oratory, this anthology affirms that suffragists recognized early on that literature could also exert a power to move readers to imagine new roles for women in the public sphere. Uncovering startling affinities between popular literature and propaganda, Treacherous Texts samples a rich, decades-long tradition of suffrage literature created by writers from diverse racial, class, and regional backgrounds. Beginning with sentimental fiction and polemic, progressing through modernist and middlebrow experiments, and concluding with post-ratification memoirs and tributes, this anthology showcases lost and neglected fiction, poetry, drama, literary journalism, and autobiography; it also samples innovative print cultural forms devised for the campaign, such as valentines, banners, and

cartoons. Featured writers include canonical figures such as Stowe, Fern, Alcott, Gilman, Djuna Barnes, Marianne Moore, Millay, Sui Sin Far, and Gertrude Stein, as well as writers popular in their day but, until now, lost to ours.
