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## The Love - Scarcity

Think of days as the deaths of Love  
Neglected, because higher needs are satisfied.  
Love dies of public decency on special occasions,  
As protocol thwarts feelings,  
And decorum snubs emotion.

Social commitments are but a cortege,  
The funeral of obvious caring,  
Due to be buried under the soil  
Of sentiment.  
A shallow sorrow passes by  
A mourning (kinder the self)  
For something deeper.

Gillian Fisher

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## Sex-Role Stereotyping

In July I went to the International Conference on Sex-Role Stereotyping at Cardiff - the first such conference ever held in Europe.

As paper succeeded paper, it became more and more obvious that sex-role stereotyping is an extraordinary source of pain and suffering to women, and hardly less harmful to men.

What a stereotype does is to tell us how we *should* be behaving as a woman, or as a man. Each stereotype has a content - a set of detailed statements about how you should be. Women should be warm, tender, sensitive to the needs of others, compassionate, gentle, sympathetic and eager to soothe hurt feelings. Men should be aggressive, acting like a leader, dominant, willing to take a stand, possessed of leadership qualities, competitive and brave and have a strong personality. Women who don't live up to these things feel guilty; men who don't live up to them are made to feel ashamed. Women shouldn't be cool, critical or selfish; men shouldn't be submissive, sheeplike or soft.

In reality, of course, women are sometimes warm and sometimes cool; men are sometimes aggressive and sometimes submissive. They need to be so, because of changing circumstances and situations, and they are so. Sometimes men and women do