



EXAMPLES OF THE “COMMODIFICATION” OF WOMEN BY INTERNATIONAL MARRIAGE BROKERS (IMBs)*

Business Practices: Establishing the Male Client-Female Commodity Dynamic

“Romance Tours” designed to preview as many as a few thousand women for the benefit of a dozen men:

http://www.russianbrides.com/anastasia_tours/tours_dates.asp

<http://www loveme.com/tour>

Women “sold” like items via an online shopping cart-type feature or implied as goods:

<http://www.datingdepot.com/women/info48872.htm> (e.g., “Add Olga (48872) to my order” (visited 3/27/03))

<http://www.abc.net.au/ra/asiapac/programs/s1074951.htm> (re: listing of Vietnamese women on E-bay by marriage broker).

<http://www.loveme.com/information/maxim.shtml> (“A Foreign Affair” website “reprints” article from Maxim magazine that boasts, “Luckily, AFA [A Foreign Affair] has made searching its voluminous database as easy as ordering a pizza.”).

“Satisfaction Guaranteed” Promises:

<http://www.getmarriednow.com/guarantee.shtml>

<http://www.encount.com/membership/>

<http://www.natashaclub.com/refundpolicy.html>

Marketing Techniques: Essentially Promoting “Buy Foreign, Not Domestic”

“Women from Asia are feminine. They are normally Petite and slender with delicate bone structure. They typically have smooth, silky, hairless skin....Women from Asia value marriage. They do not believe in divorce. They marry for life. They believe in finding the right man and sticking by him, in good times and bad....Women from Asia value family. Family is all important. Husband, children, parents, relatives come first. Husband and children never take second place to her career.” (<http://www.heart-of-asia.com/gen/whyasia.html>)

“While many women that you are used to would never cater to you like in old-fashioned times, a filipina will insist that she make you more comfortable. . . She will do everything to shows that she appreciates having you as her man. There are not too many girls like this anymore (especially domestically), but rest assured that this character trait is ingrained in the mind of the average filipina.” (<http://manilabeauty.com/faq.phtml>)

“Like the United Nations, I am here to serve mankind.” (Caption on an e-postcard that features a scantily clad Russian “mail-order bride” that website members can send their friends, at http://www.getmarriednow.com/ecards/card_creator.cgi?card=08).

“In Russia, she doesn’t have a choice to stay home to take care of her husband, house, and children – for her, it is a dream. The Russian woman’s attitude about herself is feminine. She expects to be treated as a lady, she is the weaker gender and knows it. The Russian woman has not been exposed to the world of rampant feminism that asserts its rights in America.” (www.chanceforlove.com)

“These women have a different outlook on life and marriage. They are less materialistic than their American counterparts and are more family oriented. As wives, they desire to build a loving home, follow their husband's lead, and stick with the marriage, even when times get tough and things stop being ‘fun.’” (<http://www.encount.com/ladies/>)

“[Russian women] are much more patient and can tolerate things that Western women will never be able to bear. ... Another important difference is that Russian women (and Russians in general) have very low self-esteem. While Western women think that they are goddesses and able to cope with anything on their own, a Russian woman will rarely leave a bad (really BAD) husband because of the fear that she won't find another one. For many years the state and men have been oppressing them, and they don't think much about themselves.” (<http://www.womenrussia.com/faq.htm#husbands>)

“Serving you hot Latin women since 2002. Go on a Safari today to meet a sexy Latin woman. Latin Tours are going mainstream with popularity. Men from all over the world are flocking to South America to get married to traditional women. Dont wait until its too late as American feminist groups are trying to shut all foreign women and wives including Latin women out of the USA....” (<http://www.sexysafari.net/>)

“Get real, every man wants to have beautiful Latin women starring him down on the beach. The women will look you in the eyes with a lust and hunger you have never seen outside Latin America. Its nature at its finest with the beach girls of Rio Brazil....Stare back at these women and smile, they will smile back unlike the cold women of the US and Europe. Most women will then approach you and see wahat kind of fun you want to have. Your in Brazil, have fun and be safe, its a candy store.” (<http://www.brazilianwomen-braziliangirls.com/id20.html>)

* Compiled by Tahirih Justice Center (www.tahirih.org), a legal services and public policy advocacy organization for refugee and immigrant women in Falls Church, VA. For more information, please contact justice@tahirih.org or call (703) 575-0070. (Websites last visited 1/18/07).