# RCHIVES NEWS 8 WINTER 1984



THE INTERNATIONAL COLLECTION

The Lesbian Herstory Archives exists to gather and preserve records of Lesbian lives and activities so that future generations of Lesbians will have ready access to materials relevant to their lives. The process of gathering this material will also serve to uncover and collect our herstory denied to us previously by patriarchal historians in the interests of the culture that they serve. The existence of these Archives will enable us to analyze and reevaluate the Lesbian experience.

We anticipate that the existence of these Archives will encourage Lesbians to record their experiences in order to formulate our living Herstory.

We will collect and preserve *any* materials that are relevant to the lives and experiences of Lesbians: books, magazines, journals, news clippings (from establishment, feminist, and Lesbian media), photos, bibliographies, historical information, tapes, films, diaries, oral herstories, poetry and prose, biographies, autobiographies, notices of events, posters, graphics, and other memorabilia and obscure references to our lives.

All Lesbians are welcome to use the Archives. Call or write for a visit.

# DEDICATION

This newsletter is dedicated to our international friend, Joke Peters from The Netherlands, who brought to the Archives her wit, her style, her diligence, her radical visionand her patience. She taught one of us how to wear a scarf, introduced us to our beloved Claire, accompanied us on late night visits to underground sex clubs, went on long walks with the Archives' dog, Denver, and managed, through weeks of work, to make sense out of our subject file collection. We miss her.

#### SPECIAL THANK YOUS

- to Beth Haskell for pulling the Archives into the twentieth century by putting together the group of women who put our mailing list on computer and for teaching the women the skills that were needed to accomplish this. Throughout the year, she has been a persistent and giving presence—and she also makes a wonderful beer.
- to Morgan Gwenwald who has been a steadfast contributor of skills and time to all of the Archives' projects. Her availability, her talent and encouragement keep us growing. And her blonde hair is punky beautiful.
- to our present core group of volunteers: Jan, Vicky, Terry, Jean, Lisa, Beth, and Morgan.
- and to the other women who have donated their time throughout these last two years: Sabrina, Nancy, Leslie, Claire, Sam, Jeanette, Linda, Joyce, Claudia, Marcyne, Rose, Megan, Penny, Elizabeth, Cheryl, Julie, Dottie, and Ellen.

#### ABOUT THE COVER

The cover photograph is of a poster donated to the Archives by Lesbian feminist visitors from Mexico. We know little about the work other than the signature on the poster itself, *OIKABETH Lesbianas socialistas*. If you have any information about the poster please let us know.

Following is the English translation of the poster:

Who know how to love other women
Who look above your servile condition
Who are strong in your own sense of self
Who know your sexual selves
You
Lesbian
You are an indespensable arm for
The Revolution

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LESBIAN HERSTORY ARCHIVES
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# THANK YOU!

To all the friends who have donated material and time to the Archives over the last few years:

to Anna, Frog, Shirley, Nancy, Isaaca, Cary, Bambi and Dawn, Susan, Victoria, Jean, Louise, Allan, Dorothy, Kathy, Eileen, Ann, Dorothy and Barbara, JEB, Katherine, Audrey, Joy, Gayle, Rosemary, Gayle and Rebecca, Nancy, Tara, Vicki, Michiyo, Edward, Diane, Geri and Hog, Eric, the Atlantic Gay Center, Marlene, Lenore, Beth, Bet, Harmony, Elizabeth, Bettye Lane, Jini and Lynn, Peg, Batya, Elana, Susan, John, Joan, Trudy, Redwood Records, Gail, Joyce, Sharon, Greta, Brooks, GALAS, KJS, Ladyslipper Music, Alice, Chocolate, Judith, Alix, Diane, Ellen, Liz, Suzanne, Carol, Sandy, Bert, Blue, Judith Sidney, J. Lee, Maureen, Audre, Womancraft, EJ, Claire, Debra, Dottie, Shi, Brad, Lesbian Switchboard, Marion, Buddy, Buckwheat, Susan, the estates of Jinx, Shay and Ann, International Gay History Archive, Susan, Shelly, Estelle, Gloria and Laddie, Wendy, Fern, Kate, Lesbian Community Theater, Sandra and Kate, Candida, Bunny, Elana, Gerard, Graduate Women's Research Netwook, Kathy, Irene, Ishtar Films, Keltie, Ellen, Morey, Fotographia, Robin and Sarah, Janis, Ada, Catherine, Sharon, Robin, Olivia Records, Luna, Martha, Doreen and Edith, Sherry, Linda, BJ and Annette, Audrey and Rose, Anne, Marj, Regina and Camille, Lena, Lise, Chris, Yvonne, Jonathan and David, Lynn and Dorothy, Jane, Arthur, Rosemary, Megan, Fran, Betty, Flying Cloud, Renee, Circle of Lesbian Indexers, Julia, Lesbian Defense Fund, the Gathering women, Paula, Jean and Cara, Marily, a special thank you to Julie Lee and Barbara Gittings and to all the others who have shared their unpublished papers, letters and poetry than you for given us and the future a part of yourselves.

We have many women to thank who over the years both in person and through the mails have helped us keep an international voice in the Archives, some of you are: from Germany-Ilse Kokula, Gunda, Odile, the women of Emma, Gudrun Schwarz and the Berlin Lesbian Archives, Helga Media Frauenverlag. from the Netherlandsthe Lesbian Archives of Leeuwarden, Joke, the women of Diva, Els, Helen, Mieke, Maaike, Dorian, Bernadette, de Feeks, Marji... from New Zealand and Australia-Maggie, Jo, Jan, Miriam... Karin from Denmark from England-Norma, Erica, Brigid, Lilian Rosemary... the women from Italy and the women's bookfrom Mexico-Yolanda and Margerita



from France-Marie Jo,
Michelle, Denoël
Gothier Publishers...
the women of Les
Lesbianaires from
Belgium...
the women from Norway,
Sweden, Switzerland
and so many, many more,
thank you.
Soon we three, Deb,
Judith and Joan,hope
we can come visit your
countries.

Without the proceeds of Taking Liberties, a Lesbian spectacular performed in New York in March 1984, the financing of this Newsletter would have been difficult. We thank the multitude of women who made this event a night to remember and a special thank you to Anne, Marilyn, Manuela and Sara.

photo of JeePee (Joke Peters) by Morgan Gwenwald

To the authors and publishers who have sent us their works: to Monica Raymond, Barbara Grier and Naiad Press, Sherry Redding, Diaspora Press, I Rose, Maida Tilchen, Helen McKenna, Patricia Bailey, Sarah Isnati, Juana Marie Paz, Ginny Foster, Nora Kerr, Alicejames Books, Adrienne Rich, Nancy Bereano and Crossing Press, Antelope Publications, Cathy Cockrell, Diane Stein, Susan Wiseheart, Timely Books, Jean Sirius, Persephone Press, New Society Press, Cleis Press, Cynthia McAdams, Pearl Time's Child, Tee Corinne, Valerie Miner, Alfred Knopf Inc, University of Illinois Press, Putnam Publishing Group, Becky Birtha, Hanging Loose Press, Joanna Russ, Michelle Cliff, Donna Smith, Aunt Lute Books, Long Haul Press, Sanguinaria Publishers, St. Martin's Press, Jess Wells, Prentice Hall, Blazon Books, Sudie Rakusin and Beth Karbe, Sandy Potter, New American Library, Boston Women's Health Collective, Lee Lynch, Merlin Stone, John D'Emelio, Lin Farley, Audre Lorde, Jonathan Katz, Kitty Tsui, Chocolate Waters and all the others who have helped the Archives grow.

# IN MEMORY OF THE VOICES WE HAVE LOST

The Archives is a place to commemorate lost lovers and friends. As a people we have been deprived of the rituals of communal sorrow. Many Lesbians have already experienced the pain of silent mourning. Often in newspapers, a euphemism for the death of a Lesbian is "there are no known survivors". This is not true. WE ARE EACH OTHER'S SURVIVORS.

"I am very grateful to you for publishing the note "No Known Survivors" in your recent newsletter. It had not occurred to me before that there might be a way to commemorate my former lover...I know very well the pain of silent mourning which you describe—I was prevented even from attending her funeral on the grounds that her relatives might deduce that she was a lesbian."...

from a letter to the Archives

This memorial list names those Lesbians whose death and life came to the attention of the Lesbian Herstory Archives since December 1981, when our last Newsletter appeared. Some of the women, like Leslie Gordon, are still only a name in an article or published obituary. For some, we do not have any more information than you see here, and even that is incomplete. We hope that someone who reads this and knows more about a friend listed here will write us with a fuller account.

We hope that you will remember the Lesbians in your community, your sisters, your friends, through memorials and letters to the Lesbian Herstory Archives, so that we may all honor their lives. Their voices and lives should not be lost or made invisible when we are no longer here ourselves to tell their stories.

Ann Novotny (10/3/36-12/6/82), New York, New York Carole Perriello (4/20/42-9/14/81), Nashua, New Hampshire Claudia Scott (10/31/48-12/22/79) Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Connie White ( ? - 1982), Boston, Massachusetts Djuna Barnes (1392 - 6/17/82), New York, New York Eva Winne (8/16/1892 - 11/30/76), Massachusetts Gayle Wilson (1934? - 4/83), Los Angeles, California Jane Chambers (1938? - 2/15/83), New York City Judith A. Fredin (3/9/53 - 1/10/83), Chicago, Illinois Kat Perkoff (? - 6/25/80), New Orleans, Louisiana Leslie Gordon (? - 1981), Los Vegas, Nevada Linda Brogan (1944 - 8/23/83), Durham, North Carolina Linda Knox (5/19/45 - 2/18/82), Iowa City, Iowa Marion Dickerman (1890 - 5/16/83), Kennett Square, Pennsylvania Shay [Sheila] Coveny (4/26/36 - 1/9/82), Shirley Ada Myers (1926? - 3/23/81), Middletown, New York Trudy E. Darty (10/14/42 - 5/31/83), Harrisonburg, Virginia Victoria Mercado (1951 - 1982), San Francisco, California Kate Silver (?-3/12/64) Massachusetts Winifred Bryher (9/2/1894-2/1/83) England/Switzerland Jackie Young (?-1983) Lowell, Massachusetts Helen Mariska (?-2/12/84) Springfield, Missouri Marion Glass (?-3/12/84) Florida

In memory of Claudia Scott a Special Collection has been established at LHA to preserve her journals and unpublished writings.

Ann Novotny was the driving force working to establish Alice Austen House, the home of a Lesbian photographer, as a museum. Since her death the funding for the restoration has been assured by the National Parks Service and the Friends of Alice Austen House.

"I deeply mourn the personal loss of my much-missed sister/friend, Trudy Darty. She died after a seven year battle with cancer, in the arms of her youngest daughter, Cindy, and her lover Sandee Potter. Her laughter, her joy in life, and her fight to finish hers and Sandee's book, Women-Identified Women will stay with me till the day I join her." '----Judith

From "Names" by Claudia Scott, published in Lesbian Writer: Collected Work of Claudia Scott, edd. Frances Hanckel and Susan Windle. Tallahassee, Fl: Naiad Press, 1981

....there was a beginning a point in this roll of names when my name joined but it no longer matters I have been accepted I belong from the beginning to the end my name will have its own existence

....hearing names

this moment slides and
I have suddenly remembered
different, and the same, the same
we move on, we move each other on
quite reasonably
to new old names
the whole point is
and our lives are not strange
you know this story
it begins with names

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

We want to thank the women of Common Lives/Lesbian Lives for sending the manuscripts submitted to them for every issue to the Lesbian Herstory Archives. This gift both preserves the original form of the printed material, as well as work that does not get into print. We ask other editors to consider a similar project. Also remember to suggest to writers whose work you do not accept that they send a copy of their creative efforts to the Archives. This process will insure that every Lesbian will find a home for her work, and that her work will be read by other Lesbians.

The Circle of Lesbian Indexers has finished indexing many early Lesbian journals. We know from our experience at the Archives what a crucial resource this index will be. The Index project needs all our financial support if it is to become available to the Lesbian community as quickly as possible. Contributions can be sent to Clare Potter, 2260 Yale St., Palo Alto, Ca. 94306

Grupo Lambda, a Lesbian and Gay liberation group in Mexico is seeking international support to help keep its community center open. The center is the only place in Mexico where Lesbians and Gay men can meet openly for political and social activities, and it is deeply in debt. Send financial donations in international postal money orders payable to Grupo Lambda to:
Manuel Alvarez Reyes/ Apartado Postal 73-130, Mexico,12,DF

Amazones D'Heir, Lesbiennes D'Aujourd'hui is inviting"all Lesbians to participate to a dossier on oppressions. We think it is important that we acknowledge and recognize our respective realities and that we rid ourselves of the prejudices that permeate our relations... on oppressions with a Lesbian perspective on the double, triple, multi-oppressions that many of us face...there can't be political and radical lesbianism without facing the multiple realities of oppression in society." Please send articles, drawings, photographs or whatever means to:

Ariane Brunet c/o Louise Turcotte CP 1721, Succ La Cite, Montreal H2W 2R7 Quebec deadline: July 15,1984

Tia Cross is compiling an anthology by and about white women and racism. She writes:

"This book is part of taking a visible, outspoken stand as white women against racism. I hope it will facilitate our networking, and gathering our collective power as trustworthy allies of people of color. I hope it will provide a resource to enhance healing, and develop deeper trust between whites and people of color, and among white people, in the fight against racism"

She is looking for contributions from any white women struggling with racism in any way. For more information, working outline and guidelines for contributors write to her:

Tia Cross, RFD, Woodstock, Vt. 05091 (SASE also)

deadline for contributions: August 1,1984

Asian Lesbians of the East Coast started organizing in August of 1983. In our formation we began to realize that we needed a history. Without a history, we had no past from which to identify ourselves. No points of reference. June Chan had read that "Lesbian practices" in Chinese translated into English meant"the grinding of tofu." It was an expression that she found while reading an excerpt on the Silkworkers of Kwangtung Province (a/k/a the marriage resistors) many who were lesbians who existed during the late 1800's and early 1900's. An artifact of the society had been found, a "tofu dildo" and it is described as being made of finely woven silk and speculated that it was filled with tofu and once moist would "expand." Interesting. We wanted to know more so we ventured up to the Lesbian Herstory Archives where we found a fine collection of Asian Lesbian and gay books, periodicals, photographs, letters, etc., all on us Asians. Fantastic! Kitty Tsui's the words of a woman who breathes fire; Willyce Kim's Artichoke ; "The Pink Triangle," a gay Chinese journal from Hong Kong (Homosexuality is outlawed in China so we found this quite a surprise); "Sapphic Matrix," another Asian/pacific islander gay and Lesbian Newsjournal from Hawaii; from Connexions, an international women's quarterly we found out about Qui Chin, a Chinese revolutionary dyke from the early 1900's who was executed for organizing women against imperialist forces; and more...we read about Asian Lesbians from India, Malaysia, Japan, China, HawaiiPhilippines-we were elated. We couldn't believe there was so much written about Asian Lesbians and Gays! We weren't quite as invisible as we had thought. That's when we decided to start an Asian Lesbian History Project. Since that time, we have started doing oral histories and are pursuing more research on Qui Chan and the Silkworkers of Kwangtung Province, also we are collecting any art, literature, letters, memorabilia, photographs, etc, that Asian Lesbians may want to contribute. Many thank you's to the Lesbian Herstory Archives for your support and assistance in helping Asian Lesbians of the East Coast in finding their roots.

ALOĒC c/o K. Hall Apt 6D 320 Eastern Parkway; Brooklyn NY 11225

Beebo Brinker will be in Boston next fall-in a play adapted from Ann Bannon's novel. Beebo Brinker. The rights have been granted for the production by Naiad Press, and Ann Bannon herself has promised to attend the show "even if I have to skateboard in from California. "Paula Resslar has done the stage adaptation, Susie Chancey will be directing, and Maida Tilchen is handling publicity and fundraising. Open auditions for the roles of Beebo, Jack, Venus et al will be held this summer. Community support is called for in terms of volunteers , financial backers and women interested in doing historical research on costumes, scenery etc. Write: Beebo Brinker c/o Box 795, Gay Community News, 167 Tremont St, 5th Floor, Boston, Ma. 02111 for further information, dates...

If you are in or near Detroit Michigan and would like to do some research for Joan Nestle on Lesbian history at Wayne State University Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs please write to her at LHA.

# ARCHIVES & LIBRARIES: National Listing

Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America 10 Garden Street, Radcliffe College Cambridge, Ma. 02138 Ceres (Center for Research and Education in Sexuality), San Francisco State Univ. Psychology Building, Room 502, 1600 Holloway Ave, San Francisco, Ca. 94132 Connecticut Lesbian Archives c/o The Hill Center, 350 Farminton Ave. Hartford, Ct. 06105 Gay and Lesbian Archives of Texas PO Box 16041, c/o IH, Houston, Tx. 77222 Harvey Milk Archives PO Box 14405, San Francisco, Ca. 94114 Henry Gerber-Pearl M. Hart Library Midwest Lesbian and Gay Resource Center 3225 N. Sheffield Ave., Chicago, Il 60657

Homosexual Information Center
6758 Hollywood Blvd Suite 208
Los Angeles, Ca 90028
International Gay History Archive
PO Box 2, Village Station, NY, NY 10014
International Woman Artist Archives,
PO Box 1033, Hadley, Ma 01035
Kentucky Collection of Lesbian Her-Story
PO Box 1701, Louisville, Ky 40201
Kinsey Institute for Social Research
416 Morrison Hall, Bloomington, In 45401

Lavender Archives
PO Box 2337, Philadelphia Pa. 19103
Lesbian and Gay Archives of Naiad Press
PO Box 10543, Tallahasee, Fl 32302
Lesbian Herstory Archives
PO Box 1258, New York, NY 10116
Lesbian Heritage Group
c/o Pacific Women's Resource,
4253 Roosevelt St, NE, Seattle Wa. 98105

Gay and Lesbian Archives of Philadelphia c/o T. Avicolli; 1329 Pine St. Philadelphia Pa. 19107 National Archives for Black Women's History, National Council of Negro Women, 1318 Vermont Ave, NW, Washington DC 20005

National Coalition of Black Gay Archives PO Box 57236, Washington, DC 20037 National Gay Archives

PO Box 38100, Los Angeles, Ca. 90038

New Alexandria Lesbian Library PO Box 402, Florence, Ma. 01060

One Institute: Blanche M. Baker Memorial Library, 3340 Country Club Dr. Los Angeles, Ca 90019

Postcard Archives Project Helaine Victoria Press Box 1779; Martinsville.In.46151

Sopnia Smith Collection Smith College, Northampton, Ma 01063

Southeastern Lesbian Archives: Atlanta Lesbian Feminist Alliance; PO Box 5502 Atlanta, Ga. 30307

Southern Gay Archives
PO Box 2118, Boca Raton, Fl 33432
Stonewall Library and Archives
PO Box 2084, Hollywood, Fl 33022

Suppressed Histories Archives
Max Dashu, 3901-C Clark St., Oakland
Ca. 94609

Tennessee Lesbian Archives c/o Catherine Risingflame Moirai PO Box 252,Rt 2,Okra Ridge Farm Lyttrell,Tn 37779 (do not use Archives name on letters)

Third World Women's Archives
PO Box 159, Bush Terminal Station,
Brooklyn, NY 11232

West Coast Lesbian Collections PO Box 23753,Oakland,Ca 94623 Women's Music Archives

208 Wildflower Lane, Fairfield, Ct 06430

Lesbian Heritage/D.C.

# SOME NEW PERIODICALS...

ACHÉ: A black lesbian journal. P.O.Box 11469 Oakland, CA. 94611-1469 A.L.O.E.C. Newsletter: Asian Lesbians of the East Coast, 320 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn N.Y. 11225 c/o Hali. Between Ourselves: A Women of Color Newspaper. P.O. Box 3277, Durham, N.C. 27705 Habari-Daftari: The NCBG Newsmagazine, Informational News Services, P.O.Box 11493, Chicago, Ill. 60611. If the Shoe Fits: A new San Diego paper for the women's Community, 4183 Highland Ave. #8, San Diego, CA. 92105 Island Lesbians Magazine, P.O. Box 1371, Honolulu, Hawaii 96807. Maize: A lesbian country magazine, Box 568, Preston Hollow, NY. 12469. Matriarchal Mothers: Lesbians and motherhood, Ocala Nighthawk, P.O. Box 5728, Chula Vista, CA. 92012-5728.

On Our Backs . PO Box 421916. San Francisco, Ca. 94142

Outrageous Women: a feminist pro s/m journal PO Box 23, Somerville, Ma 02143
The Power Exchange: a Newsletter for Women on the Sexual Fringe. PO Box 527, Richmond Hill, NY 11418

SAGE: A Scholarly Journal on Black Women PO Box 42741, Atlanta, Ga 30311

Skip Two Periods: A new women's quarterly newsletter, Box 3337, Roanoke, Va. 24015. Woman of Power: a magazine of feminism, spirituality and politics, 121 Inman St. Cambridge, Mass. 02139.

Lezzie-Fair.PO Box 1034, Brattleboro,Vt 05301

The Lesbian Frequency: a Journal on

cassette #1, the first Lesbian periodical available only on tape, is now available. Features a diverse collection of conversations, readings, humor, music and stories of Dykes fighting back by many Lesbians. Two 90 min. tapes, \$6.75. Plain mailer. For Lesbians only. Radical Rose Recordings, P.O. Box 8122, Minneapolis, MN 55408.

# What We've Been Doing Throughout the Year

"At Home With the Archives"

"At Home with the Archives" was a series of cultural events held at LHA in which Lesbians shared their cultural work with the New York community . We asked a \$2(more if/less if) donation at the door; half the hat went to the cultural worker the other half to help defray ongoing Archives expenses. The Archives did not pick particular women to do events, rather, Lesbians who had something they wanted to share contacted us and were scheduled in when possible. During the fall 1983 and spring 1984 we have taken a break from this series. Over the last two years "At Homes" have included Nancy Manahan and Barbara Evans leading a discussion for Lesbian Nuns, ExNuns; April Martin discussing Lesbians Having Babies,; Sarah Hoagland on Lesbian Ethics; Black and White Women Working Together discussing loving and working together; Susan McConnaughy and Flavia Rando -Quilts: A craft and a comfort; A memorial evening with Frances Hanckel and Susan Windle reading the work of Claudia Scott; Melanie Kaye and Irena Klepfisz: An evening of Jewish Poetry Prose and Discussion: A reading of a work in progress, a play by Minerva Negron; Slide shows by Tee Corinne, Karla Jay, Judith Schwarz, the National Lesbian Slideshow and Competition from Herizon, Women against Pornography,; films by Barbara Hammer; music by Anna Dembska , Ann McKay, Maxine Feldman, Laura Wetzler; Reading from their work: Arlene Goldberg, Sahli Cavallero, Martha Shelley, Elana dykewoman, Maureen Brady, Judy Grahn, Joan Nestle, Rota Silverstrini, Ruth Herstien, Sonny Wainwright, Emily Warn, Jewelle Gomez, Cathy Cockrell, Linda Smukler, Lorraine Currelley, Brunilda Vega, Sonny Wainwright, Jan Clausen, Juanita Ramos and Cass Dowden for the Latina Lesbian anthology, and Roberta Gould.

The Lesbian Herstory Archives Slide Show "Preserving Our Heritage: Issues and Challanges of Doing Lesbian History Research"

The purpose of the slide show is to give a brief history of LHA, to focus in on some special ways all Lesbians can be part of the collection and to end with a celebration of Lesbian faces and music showing the cultural complexity of our people. We make a special appeal to Lesbian women who came out before 1970 because they give the strongest testimony about how we survived as a colonized people. Since our last newsletter we have presented the slide show to the following groups Lesbian Brunch of the Gay Synagogue , GAA of Morris County, Philadelphia Lesbian and Gay Community Center, Lavender Express, Gay Community Center of Orange County, Brooklyn Lesbians of Taste, Amazon Autumn, Barnwood, Sarah Lawrence College, Gay People at NYU, Roanoke Valley Women's Retreat, Women's Studies, Cornell.

#### Awards and Honors:

Herizon, Binghampton, NY. 1983.
"In recognition of your participation in the National Lesbian Slideshow and Competition, and your efforts to promote Lesbian Visibility."

Helaine Victoria Press. 1983.

Postcard Archives Project.

"Thanks and Appreciation for contribuing to this Historic and Educational Collection."

Oasis Award, Boston, MA. 1984.

"For Setting and Carrying On the
Lesbian Tradition of Pride, Humor and
Integrity."

Stonewall Foundation, New York, NY. 1983. Nominee for Organization of the Year.

#### Other Activities at the Archives

A One Day Conference sponsored by Wages for Housework Campaign: "Sex:Business Before Pleasure:Taking Back Our Bodies Night and Day"

A showing of Eric Garber's slide show"Tain't Nobodies Bizness" with a discussion

An informal discussion with Harry Haye one of the founders of the Mattachine Society

Various Lesbian Studies and Lesbian Literature classes have come to the Archives to get a tour and have a discussion about resources and Lesbian History.

A reception and open house for International Women's History Week

#### Art at the Archives

The Lesbian Herstory Archives has a permanent collection of work by Lesbian artists and photographers on display at all times. In addition we have mounted several focussed exhibits from time to time, each one lasting approximately one month. Since the last newsletter we have had two such shows:

Patina:Drawings by Rota Silverstrini Lesbian Photography:A Lesbian Pride Month Show.

#### Other Activities

The American Library Association Gay Task Force sponsored a panel discussion on Lesbian and Gay Archiving at the ALA Convention in Los Angeles. Jem Kempner of the National Gay Archives and Judith Schwarz of LHA were the panelists.

A presentation about the Archives and Lesbian History during International Womens History Month on WBAI.

A showing of a slide show created specifically for the Moody Garden Gang's Reunion A showing of "...She Even Chewed Tobacco" at NYU, co-sponsored by the NYU women's Center as a benefit for LHA

## JUDITH'S SUMMER 1983 REPORT

From letter of July 13, 1983, dateline New York City, to Joan and Deb in New Hampshire:

"For the last hour I've been surrounded by nearly a thousand magazines and newsletters all over the living room, most of them (except for the ten million that start with "L") already catalogued, sorted and piled neatly waiting to go back into the boxes under the window. All this in only two nights of many women's efforts and much energy and laughter. The work parties on Sunday and Tuesday were wonderful—eight of us on Sunday, with a good potluck, too; seven last night including Clare and Dottie both nights. Otherwise there are probably going to be varying crews on different nights, according to their other meetings and commitments (and love affairs). Even in 90 degrees and high humidity with no air conditioning, we did so much and everyone seemed to enjoy it.

I went for a job interview . . . as I walked home through Central Park, I thought again about NY City versus D.C., and how D.C. is slipping away from my life in real ways, yet still it feels more "livable" than NY in terms of housing, rent, parking, access to the outdoors, trees and other daily little things this gorgeous but hard city makes difficult to find. Yet what is also becoming clearer is that working here at the Archives feels wonderful, like a piece of my life that's finally slipped into place. Most of all, I now feel like there is a real contribution that I can make to LHA. It could be a very good year, and I'd love spending more time with you (including play time)."

Well, it happened, and here I am. After travelling around the countryside with the Heterodoxy Club slideshow (including Salem, Ma., Halifax, Nova Scotia, upstate NY, Hartford, Ct, Baltimore and Philadelphia), I landed a job in a very odd but interesting place where the dykes-inhiding are wonderful and atmosphere for Gay rights is horrible. This should be a very interesting year. The job pays the rent on a sublet not far from the Archives,... there's a park nearby. Eugene, the fifteen year old LHA cat, came to live with me, and has livened up considerably from the hustle and bustle. (We both seem to need more quiet than these New York gals.) My special LHA projects are the individual biographical and historical files, which now number nearly 1000---and would easily go far beyond that if each of you reading this sent us materials on your own lives. My other interest is in keeping up with the periodicals collection, which comes in by the hundreds. There's never enough time to do all that needs doing, seldom much money, yet just when our energy/spirits start flagging, here comes a new woman or two to join the great group of volunteers at LHA and help keep it all growing. But it would be hard to top the experience working with the marvelous crew from the summer of 1983.

Overall, around twenty-five Lesbians from the New York/New Jersey area came on a regular basis to work on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday nights. Women contributed homemade food and deli sandwiches to the Sunday potlucks; we catalogued thousands upon thousands of periodicals; pulled hundreds of duplicate copies for eventual exchange with other Archives; and clipped, sorted and filed away a large backlog of materials for the subject, individual biography and organizational files. Most of all, we learned that many women will volunteer even under the most trying circumstances if there is a definite goal in sight. Lesbians who had just put in a hard day's work would take a crowded subway or drive in from New Jersey to spend another two or three hours a night cataloging, yet still enjoy the camaraderie of working with other Lesbians on a project that made the periodical collection here at LHA much more accessible to the hundreds who use it each year. There is now a complete and up-to-date listing of every single newspaper, newsletter, magazine and periodical in the collection-not just the titles.

And to all of you who worked so hard, THANK YOU for your dedication, your laughter at the heat and humidity, and all those hours of hard work. Some of you are still coming on volunteer work nights, to help with the always-there work load of running such a large project. It can't be done without your help. Thank you, fine women.

# If You Want to Use the ARCHIVES

IF YOU WANT TO USE THE ARCHIVES PLEASE CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT. ALL OF US WHO STAFF THE ARCHIVES WORK REGULAR JOBS SO YOU WILL MOST LIKELY GET THE ANSWERING MACHINE. PLEASE MAKE SURE TO LEAVE A MESSAGE AND WE WILL GET BACK TO YOU AS QUICKLY AS WE CAN. IT IS DIFFICULT FOR US TO RESPOND TO LAST MINUTE REQUESTS TO USE THE ARCHIVES BUT WE DO THE BEST WE CAN TO ACCOMODATE EVERYONE. IF POSSIBLE CALL AT LEAST A WEEK BEFORE YOU NEED TO USE IT. IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO COME TO NEW YORK GIVE US A CALL AND LEAVE YOUR NUMBER. WE DO RETURN LONG DISTANCE CALLS. BY GIVING US THE EXTRA TIME YOU WILL ENSURE THAT YOU WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED IN GETTING TO USE THE ARCHIVES.

# MONEY—WHERE IT COMES FROM...WHERE IT GOES

From the beginning funding for the Archives has been based on the belief that we will do the best we can with what we have, that if we show our committment to preserving Lesbian culture the community will respond by sharing with us what they can and that no one will be denied access to any materials of the Archives or events at the Archives because of costs. This has all proven to be true.

In the first few years a good part of the money to keep us going came from a tithing of the LHA members as they could give. Over the last few years the balance has shifted so that the ongoing expenses are being met by community donations. The Archives does not have to pay rent. It has always been housed in a space provided by Joan Nestle and Deborah Edel in their apartment...(and it is quickly taking it over!). The Archives does not have to pay an electricity bill either. The telephone bill (the Archives number) is paid by Joan and Deb, the long distance calls are reimbursed by LHA.

The Archives does not charge a set fee for presenting the slide show. We will show it to Lesbian groups for free if they have no money available, but we do ask to be reimbursed for travel if you are outside New York. University organizations which have access to funding are asked for a respectable honorarium. All honorarium and donations we receive for speaking go directly into the Archives account.

Financial records have been kept since the beginning of the Archives. The numbers presented here represent the figures for 1982 and 1983, the time period since our last newsletter.

The financial listing can in no way reflect the generous donations of books and materials from individuals or the incredible number of volunteer hours. Without these the Archives could not have grown as it has.

# WHERE IT COMES FROM...WHERE IT GOES

Donations	1982 \$2899.85	1983 \$27 <mark>61.2</mark> 7	
Benefits	674.00	969.00	Printed
Honorariums	125.00	740.00	Materials
Poster	288.20	59.75	Equipment
Donation can	138.00	346.60	Printing
Grants	2550.00	500.00	Mailing
Building Fund	68.65	35.00	Archival an Stationary
Coordinating Committee	109.70	0.00	Supplies Audio-Visua
Other	0.00	2982.57	Photo Supp
Interest	85.30	188.21	Other
Total	\$6938.70	\$8582.40	Total

Donations are from individual women visiting the Archives, reading our newsletter, in 1983, responding to our first direct mail appeal.

Benefits refers to monies raised through "At Home with the Archives," an on-going series of cultural events; the partial proceeds from two Alix Dobkin concerts; and from a showing of the slide-tape "She Even Chewed Tobacco."

Honorariums are the monies we receive for speaking engagements and slide show presentations.

Poster--We are still selling our poster. (See p. for ordering information. Most of the sales are now through bookstores and occasional mail orders.

Donation can--We have one set up at LHA and occasionally at a conference. It includes the monies women give us for photocopying as well as other anonymous donations at LHA.

1	1982	1983
Printed Materials	\$1328.57	\$939.57
Equipment	8181.94	1357.30
Printing	213.47	1014.74
Mailing	1479.65	786.24
Archival and Stationary Supplies	604.84	725.76
Audio-Visual and Photo Supplies	281.27	324.20
Other	1369.43	1719.62
Total \$1	3,644.46	\$6958.75

Printed materials—includes pamphlets, posters, out-of-print works, resource materials, newly published materials...We thank individual authors, publishers and journals who have sent their work to us so that we haven't had to purchase books or subscriptions.

Equipment--over these two years has included the purchase of our Minolta photocopying machine, a tape recorder and mike stand, a bulk eraser, a storage cabinet, file cabinets, shelving and a card catalogue.

Printing--refers to ongoing costs of running the photocopy machine, occasional outside photocopying (particularly if reduction is needed), printing of fliers and announcements. Next year's costs will of course include this newsletter.

Mailing--includes the bulk mail permit renewal, post office box rental, bulk mailings, and postage for correspondence.

Grants-- In 1982 we once again received a grant from the Louis and Pauline Cowan Foundation. We deeply appreciate their continued support. In 1983 we received a grant from the Funding Exchange/National Community Funds and we thank them for their support. We are planning to apply for other grants in 1984.

Building Fund--These are donations specifically earmarked for our Building Fund. A large scale fundraising project will be starting up soon. Watch for it.

LHA Coordinating Committee Donations are monies from Judith's sales of some of her author's copies of Radical Feminists of Heterodoxy: Greenwich Village 1912-1940. At this point most of the contributions from LHA coordinating women are "in kind" rather than cash.

Other--Money raised at our Gala LHA Fundraiser

Interest--The interest received on our savings

The Archives has twice been the recipient of part of the proceeds from Alix Dobkin concerts held in New York City. In addition, at each event the hat was passed around for further contributions and women dug into their pockets willingly. In both cases our involvement with organizing the events was minimal. Both times all we did was send out an announcement of the event to our mailing list. Our costs were low, under \$75 each time. We thank the women who organized the events and Alix for their generosity.

1982 \$170 proceeds, \$153 hat Total \$323 1983 \$150 proceeds, \$245 hat Total \$395

The Archives is also to share in the proceeds from Taking Liberties: The First Lesbian Musical Extravaganza on Broadway , written and produced by the women who brought us Midsummer Revels and Cruise. This Lesbian theatrical celebration of the Statue of Liberty's Centennial Birthday is to be held March 30 and 31, 1984. We thank all the women involved in the production for thinking of us.

In early November we sent out a letter to update our mailing list in preparation for the mailing of this newsletter. The mailing went to individuals only. In addition to the address check we did a low keyed appeal for funds. We were delighted by the response

We mailed out 2470 letters to individuals on our US mailing list. We got 442 returns from the post office some with address changes others with addresses no longer in effect. We received 94 responses for a total of \$2271.75 dollars. Friends of ours who do bulk mailings says this is a very good return.

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: LHEF, INC. or LESBIAN HERSTORY EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC. Archival and Stationary Supplies -- costs include such Archival preservation materials as file folders, Hollinger boxes, rust-proof staples, acid free paper, mylar book jackets, etc...stationary supplies include envelopes, paper, pens and pencils. Much of these latter costs have been reduced through generous donations from friends of the Arch-

Audio-Visual Supplies and Photography Supplies --includes cassette tapes for oral histories and events as well as tapes for duplication, film for photo duplication and slide shows as well as processing costs, video tapes for projects and film for snapshot documentation of the community.

Other -- expenses include bank service charges, safe deposit rental, storage unit rental, paper goods for events, filing fees, long distance calls, calender listings, occasional membership fees, conference registration fees, expenses for the Gala Benefit, etc...

On May 14,1983 the Lesbian Herstory Archives held its second gala fund raiser at the Gay Synagogue in NYC. Judy Reagan sang accompanied by bass player Mary Scott. Cheryl Clarke read excerpts from Narratives. Food and beverages were plenty but most of all the wonder of the evening was the huge turnout both of helpers and celebrants. Our Archives banner and posters decorated the outer room; here women sat at small candle lit tables while in the larger room music spilled out, d.j.'ed by Cheryl and women danced late into the night. This event could not have been as successful as it was without the love and care of much of the New York and New Jersey Lesbian communities; particularly the working committees that met for months before the event spending every Sunday working out all the details such an event calls for. We think of this night often when we get tired or overwhelmed and the love we felt that night rekindles our dedication.

The following are our fixed costs....

\$190/year Post Office Box Rental Bulk Mail Permit Renewal \$40/year Minolta Service Contract \$400/year \$48/year Safety Deposit Box \$144/year Storage Unit rental

> \$822/year TOTAL

Curious about other Costs?

Archival boxes range in cost from \$1.50-\$4.00 per unit

1000 Permalife file folders cost \$117.00

The 60,000 copy overhaul we need for our Minolta will cost us \$500 plus \$67 for the starter and \$14 for the blade. One bottle of toner costs \$28.75 One bottle of fuser oil costs \$21.50 Plain paper for the copier averages around \$30 for a carton. Acid free and 100% rag is even more.

# The Well of Lonliness: A Cultural Survey

Cultural surveys will be a regular part of our irregular newsletter. They will be an attempt to understand how we use and judge our own cultural roots. This first survey takes as its subject The Well of Loneliness by Radclyffe Hall. Please take the time to fill out the survey, adding whatever information you feel is important. We will discuss the results in future editions.

"Dexter went to her hall closet to get the jug of wine. She stopped before Diana as she poured out two little glasses of wine. "You really don't care much for liquor or

smoking, do you, Diana?"

"Not very much." They looked at each other and smiled. Diana looked at her friend trustingly, knowing Dexter would understand happiness without stimulant.

"I like you in this mood, Diana." Dexter sipped her wine and searched the other girl's face. Then she put down the wine and started the music again.

"Mind if I rest a bit? I'm so tired." Dexter lay down beside Diana, who felt nervous all of a sudden. Diana felt her friend's pulse with her small strong fingers: it was beating rapidly. As always, the nearness of Dexter gave Diana a certain joyous nervousness.

"Dexter.' "What is it?"

"Will you be angry with me if I ask you something?'

"What did you think of the Well of Loneliness? I mean, not for publication."

... She stopped before Fran, controlling her overwhelming desire to put her arms around Fran's shoulders, by holding her arms rigidly to her side. In a moment she lit one of the new cigarettes. Her uneasiness brought back in a flash that prelude to the one wonderful night with Dexter; and as a part of that prelude, the mention of the Well of Loneliness. Diana decided to plunge at the risk of Fran's thinking her obvious. So, standing away from Fran, on the other side of the fireplace, she threw on a fresh log, and remarked:

"Being to all intents a boy hasn't bothered you a bit. I like that... it was different in the Well of Loneliness..."

> from: Eric Ward. Uncharted Seas. Paris: Obelisk Press, 1937

1. How old were you when you first heard of the Well of Loneliness? What year did you come out?

What year was it?

How old are you?

How old were you when you read the book?

Where were you living?

3. How and what did you hear about it?

4. How did you find it to read it?

How would you describe your class status when you read it?

5. What was your reaction to the book?	
	Ċ
. Were there any characters you especially identified with or hated?	
B. Did you discuss the book with other people?	
9. Have you reread the book recently and what was your reaction? If there is a dining in your reaction now from when you first read it, what do you think are the reason for this difference?	fference is
10. Was this the first Lesbian book you read? If not, what was? 11. Do you still have your copy?	
12. Have you made a decision not to read the book and why?	
13. Other comments;	

# LESBIAN HERSTORY SOURCES

# A GUIDE TO THE LESBIAN HERSTORY COLLECTION

**▼**special collections **▼**bibliographies **▼**documents

One of the principles of the Archives is the clarity of the word *Lesbian*. In many women's and gay collections, Lesbian material is either buried or euphemistically described. We will use this section of the Newsletter on a regular basis to list our materials; this will be our way of cataloging, so hold on to the Newsletter. We will also use this section to reproduce Archival documents.

# thinking about history

If we ask decorous questions of history, we will get a genteel history. If we assume that because sex was a secret it did not exist, we will get a sexless history. If we assume that in periods of oppression, Lesbians lost their autonomy and acted as victims only, we destroy not only history but lives. For many years the psychologists told us we were both emotionally and physically deviant; they measured our nipples and clitorises to chart our queerness, they talked about how we wanted to be men and how our sexual styles were pathetic imitations of the real thing and all along under this barrage of hatred and fear, we loved. They told us that we should hate ourselves and sometimes we did but we were also angry, resilient and creative. We were part of a community that took care of itself. And most of all we were Lesbian women, revolutionizing each of these terms. We create history as much as we discover it. What we call history becomes history and since this is a naming time, we must be on guard against our own class prejudices and discomforts. If close friends are to be part of Lesbian history, so must be also, and to me even more importantly, the Lesbians of the fifties who left no doubt about their sexuality or their courage.

This is a short list of Do's and Don'ts for anyone who cares about her own letters, photographs, and other momentos of her life. If you want to preserve your own "Special Collection" at home, the following hints will help make sure that your papers stay in good condition so that you may enjoy the memories yourself in your rockin' rocking chair sixty years from now. Then, when you leave your papers and photos to an archives, future generations of Lesbians will thank you.

#### DOS

- Unfold all papers and documents. Creases tear easily as paper ages.
- Date your own letters and the letters you receive as well as flyers for events.

  Use pencil to date things. Pen runs over time.
- If you are involved with a group, date all fliers and announcements with the year and the city if possible while doing layout.
- Remember that your home reflects your life in many ways. Record the important spaces and places of your life through photos. Take a picture of your bedroom, of your favorite pot, of your cat...
- Find a good closet away from sunshine, heat, waterpipes, etc--not for you, silly--for your papers. Try to find one that isn't too hot in summer or too cold in winter. Build shelves if possible so that boxes of papers aren't stacked more than two high.
- Photocopy most newspaper clippings as they will yellow and fade much faster than other papers. If you want to keep them write us for more information on ways to preserve newspaper (it's a long tedious process and only a good method if you have very few items).
- If your slides and photos are in color think about having a duplicate set made of your most precious images in black and white.

  Many color prints and slides from the forties and fifties have already faded to invisibility.
- Buy tapes only of sixty minute (ninety at the maximum) length. Anything more has a tendency to break or shred as the tape is used.
- The following supplies are helpful if you can afford them. Most can be purchased at any good stationary store. The more you buy of anything the cheaper it will be, so see if any of your friends want to start preserving their papers too.
- Acid free or 100% rag paper for photocopying and for mounting photographs. Acid free storage cartons and acid free file folders are also available.
- Mylar sheets and sleves for photographs, slides and precious or torn documents.
- Among other places you can order supplies from:
  -Hollinger Corp: 3810 South Four Mile Dr. Run
  PO Box 6185, Arlington Va. 22206
  -Light Impressions Corp., Box 3012, Rochester,
  New York 14614
- -Conservation Resources International;33-35 Markham St.; Chelsea Green; London SW3 3NR England.

#### **DON'Ts**

- -store anything where sunlight, water or heat will shorten the lifespan.
- -use regular staples. They leave rust marks. Use plastic clips or rustproof staples.
- -use scotch tape. It pulls off, or dries up and leaves a gummy surface yellowing the page. There is an archival quality tape available to mend papers. Rust proof stables can be used instead. Mylar sheets will hold torn papers together.
- -keep anything that is already mildewed or moldy. Photocopies of good quality should be made and originals thrown out. If the original is essential to you there are paper restores and processes for treating the paper. For most of us however photocopying is the best system available. Don't place mildewed paper next to other papers or books.
- -store papers in your basement.
- -let your tapes sit around neglected. Store them away from heat, cold and sunlight. Rewind them on a systematic basis whether you listen to them or not (a bout once a year) Identify them on the tape as well as the box, things do get separated. If you are taping an event, discussion or party try to talk into the mike stating the date, place event, persons the listener will be hearing and anything else of importance.
- -mark the back of photographs with ink or ball point pens. Use pencil or special labels. But do identify those unforgettable friends of yours on the slight chance that forty years from now you may have trouble remembering.
- -buy those photo albums you see in every drug store and Woolworth's -- the ones with the plastic see-thru sheets over the coated backing. It's guaranteed to eat through your photographs in record time. If your photos are already in those albums try to remove them as carefully as you can . If it is impossible as it very well may be remove as much as you can and cut the rest out of the book. Do get them out of the books as soon as you can if you care about your photos. Mylar plastic sleeves (without backing) are good preservers and come in many sizes. They won't dry out and crack as other plastics do. They will cost more but are worth it. Buy acid free paper and mount each photo on it like your grandmother did. Have you seen her album lately? Bet the pictures look better than the ones in your Woolworth album.

# 1927: "A Good Deal of Tragedy"

By Judith Schwarz

Author Helen Hull (1889-1971) wrote over sixty short stories and twentyfive novels during her lifetime, including one short story and two novels cited by Jeannette Foster in Sex Variant Women in Literature (1956): "The Fire," published in Century Magazine in 1918, Quest (1922), and The Labyrinth (1923). In each, she wrote of what she knew from first hand experience-women loving women, and women in couples. Her writing was based in part upon her life with Mabel Louise Robinson, whom she had met when they were both instructors at Wellesley College in 1912. In their collected papers are glowing tributes of their fifty years together, including hand-made booklets of poetry and photographs tied with scarlet ribbon. One dated 1914 states that it is from "a knight to his lady" (Helen Hull to Louise). That was the year they left the confines of Wellesley to become English instructors (eventually, professors) at Columbia University. They enjoyed their life together as a New York middle-class lesbian couple, spending the winters teaching, going to the theater, attending literary events and suffrage meetings as they developed a wide circle of friends. In the summer, they sublet their apartment and retreated to their farm on the coast of Maine, where they wrote during the mornings and sailed away the afternoons, often in the company of selected lesbian friends.

Somehow in the first few years in New York, Helen Hull became a member of a small but vital women's group in Greenwich Village called Heterodoxy. The club's name has a dictionary definition of "differing from an acknowledged standard"; one member put it better when she recalled that Heterodoxy was a "club for unorthodox women; women who did things and did them openly". Most of the women were political activists, particularly but not exclusively on behalf of feminism, which they broadly defined as including birth control, Black civil rights, economic issues, health, legal issues, sexual freedom and suffrage. However, I have never seen a reference to lesbianism or lesbian rights in any of the few surviving accounts of their meetings. This, in spite of the fact that at least fifteen active members were lesbians. That includes two lesbian couples fully acknowledged as such by other members who were themselves asexual or heterosexual.

Helen Hull was one of the members who cared little for hiding her sexuality or her relationship with Louise (who never joined Heterodoxy but went to some of the parties and functions). She was also one of very few women writers in the group who referred openly to women couples in her published work. But by the mid-1920's, Freud's theories and other psychological/medical testimony calling lesbians "sick," "perverted," and "deviant had filtered down into the magazines, newspapers and public consciousness so throughly (along with other Freudian theories) that, as



Heterodite Susan Glaspell said, "You couldn't go out to buy a bun without hearing of someone's complex." After <u>The Labyrinth</u>, Helen Hull stopped writing about healthy women couples, turning instead to tales of complex unhappy heterosexual relationships. Her writing gained in popularity and sales. An awareness of changing public attitudes towards women-loving-women and her own growing desire for privacy drove her publishers frantic as she refused most of their requests to submit to interviews and autograph sessions. Some of the more personal circumstances driving her so deeply into privacy are not yet known. However, one particular moment of pain was witnessed by a guest of a Heterodoxy member at the January 9th, 1927 luncheon meeting. As you read the following excerpts from Mrs. C.B. Pinchot's account of that meeting, note her ease with the 1920's popular psychology jargon. Never having met Helen Hull before, she is attempting to make sense of Helen's horror in hearing respected friends and co-members state flatly that women who refused heterosexual marriage for any reason, women who choose a career or a life with a woman which precluded bearing children (in that era) over the virtues of motherhood could not be considered as embodying the highest feminist ideals or values.

In other words, by 1927, even within Heterodoxy's haven from unquestioned majority views, feminism had gone from the open-ended 1910's hope of sexual and economic freedom to the narrow limitations of heterosexual marriage and motherhood all over again. No lesbians need apply.

I really did enjoy the Heterodoxites (sic) immensely yesterday. and I am so grateful to you for taking me. You don't know how exciting it was to hear (literally) those women's minds clash and function. After the stodgy silliness of the talkative Republican ladies and the complacent chatterings of the Harrisburg elite, it seemed wonderful and gay--and very much worth while.

She then went on to add:

One thing interested or rather bothered me terribly in that meeting. I wonder whether you noticed it--or whether it was all my imagination? It was the woman who sat two places to the left of Doctor Hollingworth. I think her name was Miss Hull. It seemed to me that something awfully cruel was done to her at that meeting -- and I felt that she was going through hell all the time. I had a feeling that she had gone through a hell of a life when she was younger--realizing that she was starved emotionally-and that she was lonely and becoming embittered -- and then later on, perhaps a few years ago, she had built up through the modern philosophical jargon a kind of protective philosophy for her own sublimination -- and all the rest of it--which had brought her some kind of peace.

When Doctor Hollingworth included in her definition of the perfect feminist a woman happily married and with children, it shattered all Miss Hull's defense mechanism. Did you notice how she turned to the other psychoanalyst with white hair (Doctor Potter, wasn't it?) and to one or two others, and hoped they would back her up--and when they did not, did you see her face and notice that she never spoke again?

I wonder whether you know anything about her? I may be a fool, but I think there was a good deal of tragedy for her involved in that situation. I don't see that there is anything to be done about it--but it seemed too pitiful to destroy someone's way of life -- and it seemed to me that she was the kind of person who had made a philosophy out of words.

Ruth Pickering replied:

. . Perhaps you were right about Helen Hull, but I didn't notice it. Helen Hull has written two successful novels and I gathered from what she said is about to publish another. I'll get the names of her books and send them to you. I don't know why but I never was drawn to her much--didn't know her well at all. I do know she used to teach at Columbia in the English department, but she may have resigned since her stories sell so well. I thought in a round-about way, she was trying to get either Leta Hollingworth or Grace Potter to tell her that in creating literature she had fulfilled herself as well as if she had created a baby. Possibly this did show an unhappy doubt in her mind. But I don't think she learned anything new during that discussion; I should guess she was fairly well onto herself.

I wish to thank Nancy Cott for informing me about these letters, originals of which are located in the C.B. Pinchot Collection, Box 105, in the Library of Congress. I would appreciate any furreferences to Helen Hull, Mabel Louise Robinson, and Heterodoxy, which may be sent to LHA.

### Survival Literature Reprint Series

- Ann Bannon, Odd Girl Out, I Am A Woman, Women In The Shadows, Journey To A Woman, Beebo Brinker,
  Tallahassee, FL., A Volute Book Series, Naiad Press,
- Claire Morgan, The Price of Salt, Tallahassee, FL., A Volute Book, Naiad Press, 1983.
- Jane Rule, Desert of the Heart, Tallahassee, FL., A
- Volute Book, Naiad Press, 1983.
  Paula Christian, This Side of Love(1978), Edge of Twilight(1978, Leve Is Where You Find It(1979), Another Kind of Love(1980), The Other Side of Desire(1981),
- Amanda (1981), Timely Books, New Milford, CT.

  Valerie Taylor, A World Without Men, Return To Lesbos,

  Journey To Fulfillment, Tallahassee, FL., A Volute Book Series, Naiad Press, 1982.

## "I Live in Kansas-How Can I Help?"

Send us articles from your local mainstream newspapers about Lesbian lives, loves and activities. If the article is by or about a Lesbian, even if the word is never used send it along. Don't forget the homophobic articles too. Please put newspaper, date, page and the city on the article.

Send us fliers from your local organizations. Don't forget to add the city. Make a tape about your area. Talk about where you like to go, the history of local organizations, bars, activities, desribe the issues important to your community...

Do you type?We always have lots for you to do.

# Pre-1970 Lesbian Life

By Joan Nestle

I hope the readers of the Archives' newsletter will not mind if I put forth here some ideas I have been thinking about as an introduction to the documents that follow. These are my own ideas, not the formal position of the Archives.

In the early seventies, a group of books appeared asserting the American's Lesbian right to a new appraisal. These works argued that Sappho was a right on woman, that Lesbians were more than the subculture stereotype that both media and psychological presentations had depicted. In their early pages, these books usually had a disclaimer about butch fem Lesbians or the bar culture and seldom ever considered these people and these places as more than expressions of internalized oppression. Passing women, Lesbian sex workers or working class Lesbian "married" couples were either completely missing or dismissed as examples of victimization. And all of this is understandable as well as sad. Like many other liberation movements, we felt it necessary to offer disguised apologies for the more controversial, more marginal women in our community. In this period of magnificent rage, we won new territory, but in the process we created a history of middle and upper class role models; we had three communities as major frames of reference- the literary worlds of France, England and America; the academic and professional circles of America and the new voice of the women identified women movement. A historical continum was set up moving from the romantic friends of the 1800s through the literary salons of France in the first quarter of the twentieth century to the Lesbian feminists of the early seventies. Yet I suggest this view of Lesbian history is prescriptive rather than descriptive, that it allows whole generations of Lesbians who did not fit these categories to fall out of history. It is now almost fifteen years since the proclamations of the early seventies. Our civil and psychological freedoms need no longer be bought with the sacrifice of our own cultural complexity, especially within our own institutions. Researchers can no longer say, "but working class Lesbian history is so hard to do because there aren't any sources." Something else is keeping women from doing this work. Perhaps the problem is deeper, perhaps it is preconceived judgements about what is feminism, what is valuable Lesbian history that keeps the lives of working class Lesbians of the past at such a distance. One example of this dilemma is the tendency to use the concepts and vocabulary of history when discussing literary or romantic letter writing "Lesbians" while using the vocabulary of sociology when working class Lesbians are discussed. A people are free from oppression only when they no longer shape their histories, their collective memories to prove how human they are to those who have set up the self-serving definition in the first place. Our memories must belong to ourselves; they must be as full and varied, as real as our lives have been. We must sacrifice no one to the abstract concept of what a Lesbian should be. If we do not do this, we will become collaborators with those who make history the home of the powerful and the prechosen. The following documents help give us a fuller sense of who Lesbians have been, what they have endured and how they





In this picture, Blue and Stormy are with Doris ("Big Daddy") King outside Sy's 435 Lounge, a gay bar, on Esplonade in the French Quarter, spring of 1954. Blue tended bar there and had just gotten off work at 8 a.m. She was pregnant at the time.

Stacey ("Stormy") Lawrence, famous Lesbian dance performer in New Orleans' French Quarter was one of the best known strippers; her dance routine was an art form. Everyone in the Quarter knew she was a lesbian. Stormy started stripping in high school and put herself through college stripping. She also worked in radio and film. She earned her nickname when a man reached out to touch her during a performance and she flew into a rage. "Stormy Weather" became her theme song. Usually she was very self-possessed with Bette Davis-like mannerisms. She was an alcoholic. Her ex-husband took their little boy away

Stormy was about forty when this picture was taken. At that time she was lovers with Doris Dubois (later Doris Lunden, later Blue Lunden), who was then seventeen and "passing."

Information about the picture and "Stormy" was told to Nancy Manahan by Blue Lunden, December 1982 in Blue's home in Sugarloaf Key, Florida for L.H.A.

### "Women Who Pass For Men"

For 30 years, a hefty Mississippi woman lived as a man, sternly bossing a 10-acre farm and caring for an attractive, creamcolored "wife" and her daughter by a previous marriage. When the "man" died two years ago, an amazed undertaker discovered that Pete Bell was really a woman.

At the wife's request, the masquerade was hushed and the burial certificate listed no sex. The widow explained that her husband was an unwanted child who adopted mannish poses and attitudes in order to please a father who wanted a male heir. Incredulous citizens in the small town pooh-poohed the report, claiming, "old Pete just couldn't have fooled me."

The deception which characterized Pete Bell's life mirrors the problems of hundreds of women who are trapped in the half-shadow, noman's land of the man-woman. Despised by society, they travel an uncharted road which

often leads to a jail cell.

Very often the masquerade is only uncovered by an accident or a necessary visit to a doctor. After an automobile accident, Cincinatti doctors discovered that "Charlie Harris"—who had posed as a man for 45 years—was a woman. Harris' true sex was revealed to a woman who knew her as her stepfather. Mrs. Ida Belle Redd said Harris (who died recently in Cincinnati at the age of 107) married her mother in 1902.

At the other end of the spectrum are parttime men: women who for various reasons reject feminine roles and, while retaining female trappings, compete with men for jobsand other women. These "sometimes women" feel contempt for girlish pursuits. Some are athletic women; others intellectual or executive

one of these is a famous Harlem woman executive, attractive and youngish, who rejected feminity for a manlike existence. She attends stag parties, takes an active part in jokes aimed at "silly, gullible" women. Her constant companion is an attractive secretary who shares her lavish, one-bedroom apartment.

Problems posed by man-like women are so deep that the public has hardly begun to understand them. Doctors and psychiatrists are co-ordinating their work in the light of new psycho-sexual findings. Their research indicates that operations and psychiatric treatment can free many women of maleness caused by an imbalance of female and male hormones.

Other cases may prove more difficult, although extended psychiatric treatment may cure those whose maladjustments started in childhood. Parents, fathers particularly, often drive girls to the brink of abnormality. Stuck with an unwanted daughter, they force the youngster to play rough and impress upon her mind a love for everything masculine. Later, these same parents are furious when the girl rejects masculine suitors. Without adequate guidance, the girl will become a jealous, possessive man-woman facing the frustration of living in a society which in most instances has not provided an answer to her problems.

This type of jealousy is often reflected in police records. In Detroit, Leatrice Calloway, 21, was sentenced to 10-20 years for the murder of her female "sweetheart" Marion Ware. Miss Calloway said she shot Miss Ware for dating a man. Ohio was shocked by a similar love slaying. Mrs. Evelyn Butler, 25-years-old mother of two children, was sentenced to the electric chair for strangling and drowning Mrs. Evelyn Clark. Testimony indicated that the two women had been lovers. Mrs. Clark has appealed the death verdict.

The lives of some strange women, however, have happy endings. Gladys Bentley, entertainer, says injections of female sex hormones three times a week hastened her return to womanhood.

Now writing a book on her experiences in the "twilight zone of sex," Mrs. Bentley--who is happily married to a West Coast cook--said: "I want the world to know that those of us who have taken the unusual paths to love are not hopeless."

#### "Women Who Fall For Lesbians

During the man-shortage years of World War II, a masculine-looking freshman coed, who walked with a swaggering gait, checked into the girl's dormitory of a well-known midwestern college and promptly struck up a more-than-casual friendship with another first-year coed. In a short while the campus was buzzing with gossip of their hush-hush romance.

Soon thereafter, the offending student was expelled, and her impressionable young victim went on to become a writer for a national broadcasting firm.

Many such young women, however, are not so lucky as to escape the designs of female sex deviates. For according to Dr. Alfred Kinsey in his book, Sexual Behavior In The Human Female nearly one out of five American women experience homsexual relations of some type, either as a pursuer or pursued, and their ages range from early childhood to middle life.

Just why some women fall for lesbians is perhaps best summed up in an observation made by writer-researcher Arthur Guy Mathews who stated recently in a health magazine: "The lesbian makes a point of seeking out widows, lonesome women, the victims of broken love affairs, and those who have suffered from nervous breakdowns and other mental ills." Additional victims come from the ranks of the sexually unitiated, as was true in the case of the college coed. And, with one woman in four remaining unmarried in the U.S. today spinsters more and more are becoming likely prey for lesbians.

One Missouri school teacher for example, who found herself getting on in years without the comfort and companionship of a man, succumbed to the wily advances of a lesbian of similar age, and opened her home to her. They

lived together in presume d'spinsterhood" the remaining days of their lives. When the lesbian finally died of a heart attack, the thenretired teacher, griefstricken, soon followed her in death.

Similarly, a romance between a New York woman doctor and her nurse has been winked at and accepted by Harlem society for years.

Many women who fall for lesbians possess all the physical attractiveness--including good looks and shapely figures--with which to attract desirable males. Neverthe less, they wander into the shadowed world of sex perversion on thrill-seeking jaunts, or out of boredome, as a result of neurotic tendencies. Usually such women, if they are of sound mind, tarry with their lady lovers only long enough to "see what it's like," then return to normal courtship with men.

The lesbian, like the male homosexual, who stalks a married home is to be considered a dangerous person. Dr. Mathews points out: "If she so much as gets one foot into a good woman's home with the intention of seducing her, she will leave no stone unturned to win the love of the person, and eventually destroy her life for good."

When the Negro wife of a traveling husband became lonely and depressed in a small Texas town, she fell into company with a lesbian and became so infatuated that she finally divorced her husband.

Because a heavy toll can be taken from the mentally maladjusted, hospitals and social agencies are sometimes loaded with lesbians who pose as befrienders of the weak.

A young colored war widow who cracked up under the shock of her husband's death was sent to a mental hospital where a homosexual female took her under her wing. When the woman was well enough to leave the institution, the lesbian took her into her own home for the period of readjustment. There, in the quiet of a country cottage, the woman was seduced and told that she was intended for a new way of sex life. Six months later the widow suffered a second mental collapse and was back in the hospital. Again she was released in the care of her lady lover. Within another month the widow was once more a mental patient. The vicious cycle continued until a doctor discovered what was going on, then called in the lesbian and banished her under threat of imprisonment.

Yet, despite the lesbian's power of persuasion or slyness of approach, she stands a slim chance of debauchinga normally-sexed woman who is happily married or deeply in love with a man. Studies show that most women feel it is still much nicer to have a man around the house.

# Ways to Document Your Lives and Loves

Put together an album documenting different periods in your life. Include photos of places where you liked to spend time, pictures of your home, fliers and notices of events, photos of your friends. See the article on preserving your papers for helpful hints on how to do it. Make a tape to go with it. Talk about important memories...people, places, experiences, things that touched you deeply or angered you. Don't lose your own history in the rush of daily life.

#### The Old Moody Gardens Gang, 1950's

IN NEWSLETTER #7 WE DOCUMENTED THE OLD MOODY GARDENS GANG, A LESBIAN COMMUNITY FROM LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS THAT BEGAN IN THE 1950'S. THE FOLLOWING LETTER WAS WRITTEN BY JEAN, WHO WAS PART OF THE ORIGINAL ALL WOMEN'S BAND WHICH PLAYED AT THE "MOODY GARDENS" BAR. IN HER COVER LETTER TO US JEAN WROTE:
"You asked me to write a story of the Moody Gardens and so I enclose a poorly written "book". If I wait to rewrite it, I'll never get it in the mail so overlook all the mistakes and see if you can figure it out."

Are You "Gay"

I must have had a very stupid look on my face when Emma asked me that. If she had said "queer" or "lesbian" I would have known what she was talking about but the word "gay" didn't mean anything to me. When I realized what she meant I clung to the word, feeling at last a name I could swallow "gay". I've always hated the word "Lesbian" it makes me feel dirty, maybe because the way people have of saying it.

Today there is hardly a T.V. program or book without the gay element used and our young sisters have come out boldly and with so much confidence because in a small way the world is making room for gay people but not too many years ago, you felt so alone, you were the ugly duckling in a world of swans.

I can remember saying to myself "why me" and I'm sure all over the world these words were being said by millions of others and the same lonelyness being felt.

When I was asked to play at the "Silver Star Cafe" in the 50's there wasn't a place around for the gay people and the few friends you had found, would get together but always felt that fear of being asked to leave a bar or physically being hurt when you left the bar at night. But here was a chance to be myself and be accepted for what I was. We started playing friday, saturday and sunday's all day and within a short time you had to be there early to get a seat. The "kids" poured in and even though it was still a straight bar, we outnumbered the "straights" four to one and sometimes more than that. They came from all around, some travelling for two or three hours just for an evening with us. It was our "Mecca" we were family and we had

I left the band after a year or so, as in so many cases a place will use the gay people until they get to a point they feel they don't need our business and we are pushed aside. I went to a small bar in Lowell-Nora's, a lovely lady ran this family bar and after an outing she ran and I had brought along my guitar she asked me to play at the club for her customers. Soon the kids found the place and again were made welcome by all (almost all).

I played there on week-ends for about a year and was asked by "Tiny" a girl guitar player at the Moody Gardens to take her place when she went into the hospital. I agreed to fill-in for her for the couple of weeks she would be in the hospital and the rest was history. At the time the place was at rock bottom. Their credit was shut off and if they had two dozen people on a week-end they were doing good. Within the two weeks the kids poured in and once again we were safe.



The owner asked me to stay on and Tiny being the wonderful person she is--said to me take the job, you belong here and she walked away giving us our "Moody Gardens."

So many of the kids ask--so what's so special about Moody Gardens? To us it was our world, a small world yes but if you are starving you don't refuse a slice of bread and we were starving--just for the feeling of having others around us, we were the kings of the hill, we were the Moody Gardens. And today the word Moody Gardens is as much a part of our lives as it was then. There isn't a person today that was part of that era that doesn't remember the good times and the bad, the friends that even after thirty years still take time to come together and remember. And if when you sing a song that brings back those years and you see a tear in eyes that have seen so much you can rest assured you are looking through misty eyes yourself. We are a small part of our history and that's why I have to write and tell our sisters of today

if there hadn't been little Moody Gardens all over the world we wouldn't even be allowed to get together as we do today and feel in a small way, we are being accepted and we are not alone.

#### A Letter to DOB, 1969

THE FOLLOWING LETTER IS PART OF THE ARCHIVES COLLECTION OF DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS (DOB) CORRESPONDENCE AND ORGANIZATIONAL MATERIALS. ALL IDENTIFYING FEATURES OF THE LETTER HAVE BEEN CHANGED TO PROTECT THE ORIGINAL WRITER.

1969

Dear D.O.B. Sisters,

For some time now I have been receiving mail from you, I feel quite close to you through your newsletter. It is much like a letter from home each month. I would love to come to the meetings and functions but my late working hours and our two small children at home make that quite impossible to do. My wife Delores and I feel we know all of you through your names and articles in the newsletter, your truly a household word. Our neighborhood is not at all oriented to gay life, nor is there any gay socializing near-by, most of our friends are straight, though it's pleasant, it is not as rewarding as one letter from D.O.B. each month, it is our only link to a chain too far away to get to. I thank you for that.

I have read so often of the heartaches, and humiliation suffered in trying to make a world of people who don't understand, just try too. I understand these problems very well. After a year has been completed, and we look back just to remember as we all do before a new year starts, we must remember all the struggles we have gone through for recognition as a wholesome, normals society in itself. All the marches, debates, and the terrible degredatione some of us had to endure. All of this is our reason for God placing us here. If at one point in the year just one of the thousands of people we have encountered turns to a friend and says "You know, I think I understand them, I couldn't go along with it, but I think I do understand it". Well....then we've really made it haven't we?

My wife Delores and I have done just this, and I thought you might like to know about

In the beginning of 1969 we found ourselves pretty much in hot water.

I had left a job in New York to live in Jersey with Delores. She wanted to move to New Jersey and so we did. Finding an apartment was pretty rough because I had not yet gotten settled in a job yet, but we did manage eventually to get into a housing project that was still very nice for the kids and Delores.

After all was settled furniture and all, we set ourselves down to living normally again with all the chaos involved with moving, you all know that is not an easy task, such as finding the asprin bottle down on the bottom of a barrel you forgot to label, or getting the coffee cups, coffee, sugar, and milk but where the heck are the spoons? This was done rather quickly I might add, My wife is very capable and neat, with the help of me, leaving her alone and taking the kids out for the after-noon she really got the house together. When I returned I found a home where I had left a barren apartment that echoed everything I said. Delores even managed to hang kitchen curtains.

We sent Jean our oldest out to play, and soon after she came home crying, a little girl she had been trying to play with told her, her mother said not to play with her, after much comforting, all settled down and we shrugged it off as being strangers moving into the building were not often welcomed right away. Time went on and soon we found out there had never been any lesbians in this project before nor were there any "known" lesbians in this area. Delores and I were almost totally ignored. Delores did have one or two who would say hello to her but me they wouldn't speak to. I am very pronounced in my appearance, there is no mistaking me for what I am, I am a butch and Delores loves me that way. Everything I wear she picks out for me and she gives me my hair cuts, I am a product of her, and we are entirely content with it.

Although the men and women in the building seemed to feel my appearance was a threat to them, getting on the elevator with me was out of the question, with Delores they would hesitate, and get on anyway.

I believe to this day the only thing that helped was Delores' way with the house and the children. Delores kept a spotless home and she is an excellent mother. Slowly she would run into a woman in the laundermat, who might comment on how well behaved the children were. Each time Delores would run home simply elated, nothing could have been better then someone really talking to her, it was such a small thing that meant so much to me. I thought I would ask her to move but she said she is here and she will stay whether they liked it or not.

Then I decided I would take her out for a night, go into New York, be with other gay people for a while, she might feel better. Delores asked one of the teenage girls in the building if she would sit for the children that night, the girl said no first then said that her mother "finally" consented. All was fine until the day after we went out I came home and found Delores totally wrecked! It seems the girl went home after sitting for us and was asked by her mother if she was propositioned, molested, or asked to return when we were both home. Well, I think Delores' heart was broken, she adores children and teenagers to Delores are still babies. Delores is from a fine professional family, her mother and father have an accounting firm near by, so I believe Delores went over to talk to the mother that evening, I don't know what was said to this day, but the girl is

still babysitting for us no questions asked. Soon after we were known as "Pretty nice people, but don't be alone with them".

Delores asked a woman one day if she wanted a ride to the store with her. The woman said alright as long as her husband did not know. Each month passed until summer finally came and the usual habit of the women in this building was to sit outside with their chaise lounges and talk, or sun bathe. We passed this group of sun bathers quite often, and usually the air was pretty tense or the conversations would cease. It was very heartbreaking for Delores, she had not wanted to be a part of any gossip or coffee clotch, but the complete withdrawal from her was I think a bit too much. My heart went out to her then as it does when she does something really great, which is pretty

Slowly people started giving credit where it belonged, Delores and the kids won them over whether they liked it or not. First with the children then with our home, the kids were spotless and respectable this had to be acknowledged and so it was. One day the electricity went out. Our Jean walked a man all the way up to the twelvth floor holding his hand because he had a heart condition she even saw him to his door. Delores is very attractive in her appearance, and this too had to be acknowledged.

Then the day came when Delores and I were giving a birthday party for Jean, the children were to come at 1pm and 1eave at 3 pm. The party lasted until 8 pm that night. Delores even cooked dinner for all fourteen kids, they loved it, the kids just wouldn't go home.

The next day our phone rang constantly, mothers calling asking what we did the children never stopped talking about how wonderful Delores and Lou Ellen was, how they loved us. From the mouths of babes came the answer.

Now when Delores and I go out the door ten kids rush to kiss her hello, and could-n't they please come with us? Even the mothers are surprised at the affection they have for Delores a truly wholesome and normal affection too. Today they know in this community that lesbians are not stag film replicas or are they degrating in any way. Today when they need a good meat loaf recipe or their hair done, even an interior decorator or baby sitter, they simply call on the two lesbians who moved up on the twlvth floor two years ago.

We all have our struggles isn't it just great when we just make enough headway to walk into a restaurant and not have the waitresses huddle in a corner whispering, or walk down the theatre aisle and everyone keeps watching the picture, or walk down a street unnoticed.

Love to all of you

Delores, Lou Ellen, Jean, Peter

# POETRY UPDATE

The following listing is an update of our Lesbian Poetry Collection. The initial listing was in issue #4 (February 1974) of the Newsletter with updates in #5 (Spring 1979) and #6 (July 1980). The listing represents the work of published and unpublished voices of the Lesbian community. Where a work has been published, we have listed the title, as we have done with unpublished manuscripts. If someone has sent us a poem or two, we have listed the titles of the unpublished works; however, where someone has sent us many pieces, we have indicated just "poems". We apologize for not listing all the titles but space just doesn't allow. We want to encourage all Lesbians who write poetry to send us copies of their work in whatever form they are written. Our poetry collection includes rough drafts, poems written late at night on scraps of paper, poems sent out for publication, poems of the famous, and poems of women who would never have been read in any other place. The Archives is a home for all your work. The Archives is a place where the work will be read by other Lesbians who will be delighted, moved and encouraged by your words. Do send us your work. As this list and the international listing indicate, we have works in many different languages. We are a multicultural, multilingual collection and we want your work.

Amiga pequeña cuando te espero mi aliento marca el aturdido ritmo de un tambor gigantesco que se apordera de mi pecho

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Lavender Women Collection

Mia Albright

A Woman's Place

THE FUTURE NEEDS ALL OF US. SEND US SNAPSHOTS OF YOURSELF, YOUR FRIENDS, YOUR ACTIVITIES.

CAN'T PART WITH ORIGINALS?..WE CAN MAKE COPIES.

Sara Heslep/Isnati

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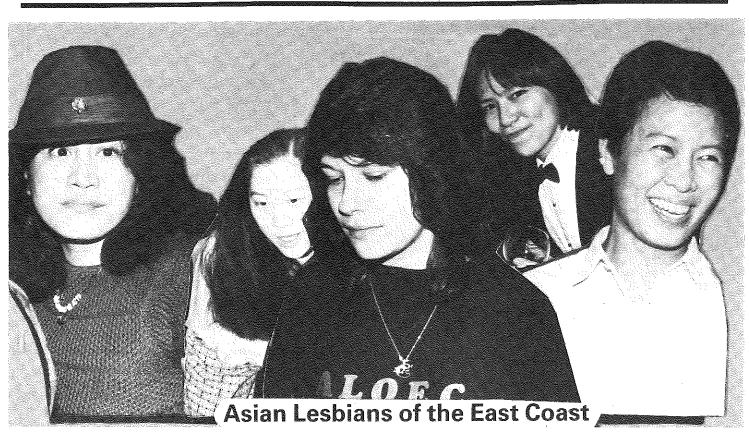
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The American Lesbian community has long had connections with the international Lesbian community. One of our first homophile organizations for women echoed a French writer when it called itself the Daughters of Bilitis; The Well of Loneliness, a British publication, made a great impact on American lesbians and became part of a generation's way of identifying itself. Film and theater presentations such as "Madchen in Uniform" and "The Captive" had long lines of American lesbians waiting impatiently to see them. These connections and more with other parts of the world have been continued in person as the Lesbian Herstory Archives has grown over the years.

The Archives' guest book for a six month period shows visitors from Mexico, England, Australia, France, the Netherlands, Germany, Norway, Canada, Finland, Italy, Belgium, Israel, New Zealand, Sweden, Scotland, and Denmark writing their messages in Spanish, Dutch, German, French, Chinese, Italian and Danish as well as English. Over the years, we have received correspondence from Roumania and Kenya, from Costa Rica and New Zealand, from Brazil and Scotland, from Hong Kong and Yugoslavia, and from many of the countries in between. All over the world Lesbians are taking the political and cultural responsibility for finding, preserving and sharing the documents of their own culture's Lesbian herstory. We at the Lesbian Herstory Archives have been lucky enough to meet many of the women who are doing this work, to have received their books, articles, photographs, posters, buttons and tapes. We have sat around the table, hearing stories of struggles and victories, of coffee house and bookstores collectives, of peace movement demonstrations, of collective housing attempts, of love affairs and frustrations, of attempts to close the breach between bar women and movement women, of battles against American involvement in other people's countries, of coming out in small towns and big cities. We have seen the many different styles of Lesbian dress and heard the word Lesbian in many different languages.

In celebration of this diversity and in recognition of the need for international ties, we have decided to dedicate this issue of the newsletter to a partial listing of our international collection. We say partial because we are still cataloging the poster, graphics, buttons, and tapes within the Lesbian Herstory Archives. We realize the irony of doing the newsletter in one language when its theme is internationality, and we ask you all to translate as much as you desire and can of this newsletter into your languages. Eventually the Archives hopes to have a group of women who will help us with this task. Let us know if you would like to be one of them.

We have included the works of women living and writing in their own countries; the works of American writers who have been published in other countries and in other languages; the works of women who though living in the U.S. now have expressed publicly a strong identity with their country of birth and early years. We have also included authors such as Jane Rule who, though born in the United States, have taken the citizenship of another country. For this newsletter we have not chosen to include Lesbians like Gertrude Stein and Natalie Clifford Barney who though American lived in other countries for many years, unless LHA has their work published in other countries. We have chosen to omit the names of some Lesbians who we feel we could not in safety list. We have also included works about international Lesbians by non-Lesbian authors. We have not included in this listing the multi-ethnic material of American Lesbians. We will devote another newsletter to our material on Asian-American, Afro-American, Native American, Latina and Chicana Lesbians.

In undertaking to do this task, we were hit by our own provincialism. If we have made a mistake in spelling a name or title, if we have confused publisher or city, if we have wrongly included or excluded, please let us know and we will change our listings. Remember that this list reflects what we have in the Archives; if you know of material that you feel should be included, or that you as an individual would like to be included, please send the material to the Lesbian Herstory Archives. Finally, please help us spread the word, send a photograph or a story, a letter or an organizational flyer, a button, a tape, a record or a card. Share with us the herstorical discoveries you make about your own Lesbian peoples.

Je vois ici [Lesbian Herstory Archives], la véritable idée matérialisée qui m'avait, il y a dix ans saisie: que l'existence lesbienne n'est pas une note en bas de page du féminisme, ni un note en bas de page de l'homosexualité, mais qu'elle est un continent caché, une partie du monde encore à peine découverte, un mode de vie qui n'est pas seulement une forme de révolte, mais une résistance en elle-même.

...Maaike Meijer "Le Lesbian Herstory Archives de NY" Les Lesbianaires No.5, Mai 1982 Bruxelles, Belgium SUBJECT AND BIOGRAPHICAL FILES refers to file folders containing newspaper clippings, fliers, short pamphlets, letters, organizational information and other relevant ephemera. Some file folders have only one or two pieces of paper in them, others are bulging. Please help us keep these folders growing.

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SUBJECT AND BIOGRAPHICAL FILES
Subject file on Lesbians in Argentina

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Subject file on Lesbians in Australia

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Australian Gay Archives PO Box 124; Parkville, Australia 305

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# POTEN

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Women-Poets-Reading

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SUBJECT AND BIOGRAPHICAL FILES

Chris Bearchell Elsa Gidlow Emily Carr Jane Rule Marie Clair-Blais Subject file on Lesbians in Canada ARCHIVES/LIBRARIES

Canadian Gay Archives Box 639 Station A; Toronto, Ontario M5W 1G2

Gay Archives Collective PO Box 3130 MPO, Vancouver, BC U6B 3X6

Lesbian and Gay History Project of Toronto c/o Canadian Gay Archives

Traces-Archives Lesbiennes CP 244 succ. Beaubien; Montreal, Ouebec H2G 3C9

Women's Movement Archives PO Box 928 Station Q; Toronto, Ontario M5W 1G2

#### CHILE

BOOKS/PAMPHLETS

See the Updated Poetry Bibliography for the work of: Gabriela Mistral

SUBJECT AND BIOGRAPHICAL FILES

Gabriela Mistral (Lucila Godoy y Alcayaga)

#### CHINA

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#### COLOMBIA

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SUBJECT AND BIOGRAPHICAL FILES

LEG EA Ann Novotny (1936-1982) Edith Ellis Florence Nightingale "James Barry" Marie Corelli esrisk Maureen Colquhoun Maureen Duffy Sylvia Townsend Warner (1893-1978) Subject file on Lesbians in England Radclyffe Hall (1886-1943) Sophia Jex Blake (1840-1912) Vernon Lee (Violet Page) (1856-1935) Virginia Woolf

#### ARCHIVES/LIBRARIES

Vita Sackville West

Campaign for Homosexual Equality Archives 42 Formosa Street London W9 England

The Feminist Archive 8 St. Saviour's Terrace, Larkhall, Bath Avon BAl 6RL England

Fawcett Library City of London Polytechnic-Old Castle Street London El 7NT England

Hall-Carpenter Archives c/o BM Archives; London WCLN 3XX England

Lesbian Archives Collective c/o 61A Bloom Street; Manchester Ml 3L4 England Women's Research and Resources Centre 190 Upper Street; London N1

#### FINLAND

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SETA (Helsinki)

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# UNPUBLISHED PAPERS

The number of women who are published is very small compared to the creativity and interesting ideas which are part of our community. In the hope of showing that there are other ways to share ideas than just through publishing, the Archives encourages all of you who have written papers for classes, for your own enjoyment, for study groups, or drafts of work which later were published, to send copies to the Archives. If you would like readers of your work to be able to discuss its content with you, write such a comment on the front page with your address. We are interested in all work by Lesbians, whether it is on a Lesbian theme or not. We also have material written by straight women whose work focused on Lesbian lives and experiences. Put aside all the voices which say "my writing is not good enough" or "it's only a class paper". Your work is an expression both of your individual self and of the time period in which you live. It deserves to be preserved. We hope also that this listing will encourage all of you to start your autobiographies; if writing is comfortable for you, send an autobiographical statement about any experience in your life about which you want others to know. And, please write in a language that is your own. The Archives is a multilingual collection and has many multilingual visitors.

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# LESBIAN & GAY HISTORY SOURCES: UPDATE

SLIDE SHOWS

#### BOOKS/ARTICLES

- Allen Berube," Comming Out Under Fire: The Untold Story Of The World War 11 Soldiers Who Fought In The Front Lines Of Gay And Lesbian Liberation", Mother Jones, Feb.-March 1983 pp.23-29.
- Anıta Cornwell, Black Lesbian In White America Naiad Press, Tallahassee, FL., 1983.
- Ann Snitow, Christine Stansell and Sharon Thompson, Powers Of Desire: The Politics Of Sexuality, Monthly Review Press, New York, N.Y. 1983
- Audre Lorde, Zami: A New Spelling Of My Name The Crossing Press, Trumansburg, N.Y.
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- For more information about a particular slide show contact us and we will put you in touch with the creators.
- "A Family of Friends:Portrait of a Lesbian Friendship Group, 1912-1973. "Frances Doughty "A Room of One's Own: A Ten Year Documentation of the Womens Liberation Movement" Bettye
- "Finding Lesbian Herstory: A Slide Show" Frances Rooney, Canadian Lesbian history. "From'Boston Marriage' to the Tell-All 1970's: 100 Years of the Lesbian in Biography." Marie Kuda.
- "Lesbian Images in Photography 1850-1982" JEB "Lesbian Sexual Imagery in the Fine Arts" Tee Corinne
- "Marching to a Different Drummer: Coming Out in World War II. "A slide talk with a focus on Gay Men. Allan Berube.
- "Our Boston Heritage:Lesbians and Gay Men in the Boston Area 17th Century to the Present" Boston Area Lesbian and Gay History Project.
- Preserving Our Heritage: Issues and Challanges of Doing Lesbian History Research." LHA
- "Radical Feminists of Heterodoxy: Greenwich Village 1912-1940." Judith Schwarz
- "Rocking the Cradle: A History of the Gay and Lesbian Movement in Philadelphia, 1960-1980. Tommi Avicolli.
- "...She Even Chewed Tobacco" a slide talk prepared by the San Francisco Lesbian and Gay History Project. Estelle Freedman and Liz Stevens.
- "Tain't Nobody's Bizness: Gay People and the Harlem Renaissance. "Eric Garber

SPECIAL ISSUES OF STRAIGHT JOURNALS

- Connexions: an International Women's Quarterly. Global Lesbianism Winter 1982 No. 3.
- Connexions: an International Women's Quarterly. Global Lesbianism 2, Fall 1983 No. 10.
- Fireweed: A Feminist Quarterly. (Canada) Lesbianantics, issue 13, 1982.
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- Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society. Lesbian issue, April 1984.
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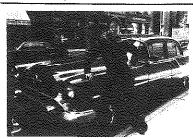
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NEWS	LETTER	Partial Contents:
#1	June 1975	Serial media with Lesbian content; Research Project Ideas; \$1.00
#2	Mar. 1975	Bibliography of Lesbian, Feminist, and Gay Bibliographies; \$1.00.
#3	Nov. 1976	Lesbian Paperbacks from the 1930s through the 1950s; \$1.00
#4	Feb. 1978	Poetry Collection; \$1.50
#5	Spr. 1979	Short Story Collection; \$2.00
#6	July 1980	Lesbian Herstory Sources; Special Collections Listing; \$3.00
#7	Winter 1981	Lesbian Sexuality Bibliography; Special Book Collections Listing; \$4.00

## NOTE: ALL MATERIALS FROM THE ARCHIVES ARE MAILED IN PLAIN WRAPPERS.

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