

GLTF NEWSLETTER

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VOLUME 5, NUMBER 2, SUMMER 1993

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

GLTF Annual Conference Schedule

NEW ORLEANS
June 24 - July 1, 1993

Friday, June 25
Bisexuality Discussion Group:
Doubletree Hotel, Madewood B
4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Steering Committee:
Le Meridien Hotel, Suite 801
8 - 10 p.m.

Saturday, June 26
New Orleans Pride Day Activities:
Washington Park at 10 a.m. and
Parade at noon.

1994 Program Planning Committee:
New Orleans Convention Center, 96
9:30 - 11 a.m.

Social:
The Mint, 504 Esplanade
6 p.m.

Dinner: Dutch treat, place to be announced
8 p.m.

Sunday, June 27
Book Awards Committee Meeting:
(CLOSED MEETING)
Monteleone Hotel, Bonnet Carre
9:30 - 11 a.m.

Book Awards Presentation:
Monteleone Hotel, Queen Anne Room
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

GLTF Program:
Monteleone Hotel, Nouvell West
2 - 4 p.m.

GLTF Read-Aloud:
Monteleone Hotel, Vieux Carre
4:30 - 6 p.m.

Monday, June 28
Membership Meeting:
New Orleans Convention Center, 8
9:30 - 11 a.m.

Tuesday, June 29
Steering Committee Meeting:
New Orleans Convention Center, 1
9:30 - 11 a.m.

1994 Program Planning Committee:
New Orleans Convention Center, 33
2 - 4 p.m.

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More on Annual Conference

The Book Awards Presentation will feature both award-winning authors in person. Essex Hemphill for *Ceremonies* and Eric Marcus for *Making History: The Struggle for Gay and Lesbian Equal Rights, 1945-1990*.

The title of the GLTF Program is "I Read You Loud and Queer: The New Demand for Gay and Lesbian Literature." The keynote speaker is David Leavitt, author of *A Place I've Never Been* and *Equal Affections*, which were both GLTF Book Award Finalists for 1991 and 1990 respectively, and *The Lost Language of Cranes* and *Family Dancing: Stories*.

The GLTF Social is in the planning stages, but so far, it will begin at 6 p.m. at The Mint, 504 Esplanade. They have a patio bar which they have reserved for us. A Dutch treat dinner is being planned to begin at around 8 p.m. We are negotiating to have it at the Napoleon House. At this point, anyone interested will meet there, and we are hoping to be grouped together either in the restaurant, or in a separate reception room. Details will be available at Conference ALA Offices at the OLOS table.

Agenda Items for GLTF Meetings:

Not necessarily in working order.

1. Minutes from Midwinter; Treasurer's Report (Roland Hansen)
2. Appointment of new Steering Committee Members:
 - A. Interim Female Co-Chair
 - B. Book Award Committee Chair
 - C. Newsletter Editor
 - D. Male Co-Chair
3. 1994 Program Committee Report
4. 1995 Program Planning Committee nominations
 - A. Anniversary plans for 1995 Conference
5. Clearinghouse issues
 - A. Relocating
 - B. Future Coordinator
 - C. Philosophies and functions of C'House
 - D. New publications/revisions of current titles
6. Domestic partnership policies for ALA and/or other libraries in general. Is this an issue members want to get involved in, etc.?

7. Newsletter Issues/Editors' Report

- A. Update on ALA production and distribution
- B. Subscription rate

8. Other Old Business

9. New Business

Agenda items are being accepted now. I am leaving for New Orleans on June 24 and returning on June 30. I am staying at the Hotel St. Pierre, contrary to what it may say on the registration lists. The hotel telephone is (504) 524-4401. To contact me in Chicago: Roland Hansen, GLTF Male Co-Chair, SAIC John M. Flaxman Library, 37 S. Wabash, Chicago, IL 60603 (312) 899-5097.

FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

Karen L. Whittlesey, Female Co-Chair:

Effective immediately, I have resigned as co-chair of the Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Beginning June 21, I will be working at ALA headquarters as Deputy Executive Director for the Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS). There I will have responsibility for planning ALCTS programs and projects, a job I look forward to very much. There will be other aspects to my work, of course, and I know I will be a very busy person, but not too busy to want to hear from you as you move along in your careers and lives.

The Task Force has been a source of enormous pleasure to me. I am grateful that I had the opportunity to take some leadership as we lesbian, gay and bisexual librarians came together both to celebrate and to anguish over events and decisions which affect our lives. The people on the Task Force, its members, you, are a group of caring, passionate, involved, and really interesting folks. It has been wonderful being part of your lives professionally and socially. Thank you all for welcoming me.

In my new position I will attend ALA midwinter and annual conferences. And I will read about GLTF and SRRT activities, events, controversies and celebrations. Please know that you will be in my thoughts as I begin a new chapter of my life. That new chapter also includes a slight name change which I think will make things easier. I am dropping "First" from my name and will now be known as Karen L. Whittlesey.

Thank you all for a wonderful year.

Roland Hansen, Male Co-Chair:

Many things have happened since we last wrote, or met, or talked. As you will have read in Karen's section of this article, she has accepted a job with ALA Headquarters. Congratulations, Karen! Of course the bad news is that Karen will not be able to stay on as Female Co-Chair. This creates problems, but none that we can't weather.

I would like at this point to thank Karen for all her work and dedication on behalf of the Task Force. She worked very hard to raise consciousness and visibility, and she did an excellent job. All of the Denver activities related to Amendment Two would not have been nearly as successful without her at the helm. She also worked with Terry Allison in organizing the 1993 schedule and programs in to one of the busiest conferences we've ever had. I will really miss working with her, and I really want to thank her again. I'm just glad we will be neighbors.

I have received one nomination to fill the remaining time of Karen's term, until the end of the 1994 conference. If there are any more volunteers and/or nominations, please forward them to me immediately. I would like to see an appointment made at the first Steering Committee Meeting in New Orleans. The major duty for the new Female Co-Chair will be coordinating the 1994 activities of the GLTF, and finalizing what planning may have already been started.

After some thought and deliberation, I would like to volunteer to stay on as Male Co-Chair for another term. That is unless someone else is eager to do it. My concern is in maintaining the continuity we have already set in place, particularly in our relationship with ALA. Also, I think it would be very unfair to ask two new chairs to start at the same time. We will still have to appoint a new Female Co-Chair at the end of the Miami conference, but hopefully the interim Female Co-Chair might be willing to then serve a full term until the end of the 1996 conference. I discussed this with Karen and Mattye Nelson, Director of the ALA Office for Library Outreach Services (OLOS), and because of their encouragement, I am interested in "running" for another term. I would appreciate any input on this from any of the membership.

FROM THE EDITOR

Kathy Anderson, Outgoing Newsletter Editor:

This is my last issue as editor and I'd like to share some thoughts and thanks with GLTF readers. First and most importantly, thanks to all of you who have supported the newsletter's work by sending in – faithfully and regularly – news from their area that GLTF readers needed to know. Almost every day, fat envelopes from all over the country and from other countries, too, would arrive in my office. I work in a small South Jersey town complete with one stop light and the county courthouse across the street. Despite my relative geographic isolation, thanks to the GLTF "clippers" I was able to keep up with the fast-breaking news that affects us all. And along with my deep gratitude, one last message – YOU CAN ALL STOP NOW – that is sending to me. Please direct all future editorial information and news to the new GLTF Newsletter editor:

Karl Fattig, University of Nebraska,
Love Library, 209 N,
Lincoln, NE 68588-0410
Office (402) 472-3545/474-4500,
FAX (402) 472-5131
Internet: karlf@unllib.unl.edu

Editing the newsletter has been the most empowering professional activity for me. While I had previously been fairly open at work, being the GLTF editor brought a new level of visibility – many faxes, piles of mail, stacks of review books, copying and mailing from our print shop, co-workers typing, etc. Thanks are due to my wonderfully supportive administration and crew at the Atlantic County (NJ) Library System. I'd like to think that every time the "gay" or "lesbian" word flew out and landed on our desks in front of us at work, we all became a little less afraid, a little more knowledgeable, and better librarians and library workers as a result.

GLTF NEWS

Gay/Lesbian Book Award

The Gay and Lesbian Book Awards Committee is pleased to announce the winners of the 1993 Gay/Lesbian Book Awards. The awards are given annually to two books of exceptional merit examining lesbian and/or gay experience and published in the year prior to when the award is granted. The Gay and Lesbian Task Force Book Awards are the nation's oldest and long-lived, having been established by ALA in 1971.

The two award-winning books were selected by a group of twelve academic and public librarians from libraries throughout the United States. This year the eleven "finalist" titles considered for the awards were selected from a list of 45 nominated titles, which in turn were drawn from a listing of over five hundred titles, fiction and non-fiction, that were identified as having gay or lesbian content.

In the Literature category, the 1993 award goes to Essex Hemphill for *Ceremonies: Prose and Poetry* (Plume) whose passionate voice — tender, angry, argumentative, and persuasive — articulates his experiences as an African-American gay man, an individual in and in between community. He explores the confounding and often painful events of our time: AIDS, homophobia, racial bigotry and alienation from oneself — in a restless search for wholeness and connection. It is a powerful and welcome work.

Making History: The Struggle for Gay and Lesbian Equal Rights, 1945-1990 (HarperCollins) has been selected as the 1993 winner of the Nonfiction Award. Eric Marcus, the editor of *Making History*, has assembled oral histories of fifty-three Americans involved in community history-making. Marcus lets his subjects talk about their lives and times and the particular circumstances that drew each to find a public vehicle to express his or her identity. *Making History* adds to a growing body of excellent histories uncovering and embellishing on contemporary lesbian and gay social, political and cultural history.

Both books were selected from a list of eleven finalists. Runners up of the awards, all worthy of recognition as some of the best books of 1992, include:

LITERATURE

Almost History. Christopher Bram. Donald J. Fine.
The Easy Way Out. Stephen McCauley. Simon & Schuster.
Vital Ties. Karen Kringle. Spinsters Ink.
Written on the Body. Jeannette Winterson. Jonathan Cape.

NONFICTION

Becoming a Man: Half a Life Story. Paul Monette. Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich.
Earth House. Jeanne DuPrau. New Chapter Press.
A Member of the Family: Gay Men Write About Their Families. John Preston, ed. Dutton.
Mother Clap's Molly House: The Gay Subculture in England, 1700-1820. Rictor Norton. Gay Men's Press.
Positively Gay: New Approaches to Gay and Lesbian Life. Betty Berzon. Celestial Arts.

The book awards will be presented in June during an awards ceremony at the American Library Association Annual Conference in New Orleans.

With the selection of the 1993 award winners, the committee now turns its attention to reading titles for the 1994 awards. The committee welcomes and encourages nominations from the general public, excluding only those person affiliated with book publishing firms. Nominations should include a brief statement — no longer than one-half a page — as to why the title is being recommended. Nominations may be sent by regular mail to Ellen Greenblatt, Chair-Elect, Central Technical Services, Lockwood Library Building, State University of New York at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY 14260-2200 or Susan Hoffman, Outgoing Chair, 180 Wilson Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455.

Alternative Press Panel

The *GLTF Newsletter* will be represented at an ALA Conference program sponsored by the Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT) Alternatives in Print Task Force. Titled "The Alternative Press: What Is It — And Why Do We Need It?", scheduled for Sunday, June 27, 9:30 - 11 a.m., the panel will address the need for such outspoken, activist and irreverent media as *Sipapu*, *Fugitive Pope*, *Progressive Librarian*, *Green Library Journal*, *Gay and Lesbian Task Force Newsletter*, and

Women Library Workers Journal. The program will be moderated by Jim Danky and Sandy Berman, editors of *Alternative Library Literature: a Biennial Anthology*.

Resolution on Gay Rights and Materials

The March 1993 issue of the *Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom*, ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee, published the text of the Resolution on Gay Rights and Materials and Resolution Reaffirming the Library Bill of Rights to Include Gender and Sexual Orientation, adopted by the ALA Council on January 27, 1993.

NEWS IN BRIEF

▼ The Alternatives in Print Task Force of the Social Responsibilities Roundtable (SRRT) of ALA is sponsoring "Food for Thought: A Free Speech Buffet" at the Annual Conference in New Orleans on Friday, June 25, 6 - 10 p.m. (Location in the final ALA conference program.) The program will offer exposure to the political, literary, artistic and unconventional voices of Louisiana's alternative publishing community. For more information, contact Dan Hodge, DataCenter, 464 19th St., Oakland, CA 94612, phone ((510) 835-4692, fax (510) 835-3017.

▼ Jonathan Ned Katz, author of *Gay American History*, is available to speak on "The Invention of Heterosexuality." For information and availability, contact Katz, 81 Jane St., New York, NY 10014-1731.

▼ The 1993 Canadian Library Association Annual Conference, held June 16 - 20, featured the following program in its schedule: "Public Library Service to Gays and Lesbians -- The Toronto Public Library Experience." Topics: need for service, library's response to requests in terms of programs, outreach and collection development. A basic bibliography of recommended materials was provided. For further conference information, write: Conference Office, Canadian Library Association, 200 Elgin St. Ottawa, ONT. K2P 1L5.

▼ *Library Journal*, April 15, 1993 (p. 106-109), carried a feature article by Eric Bryant, "Making Things Perfectly Queer." The article, in preparation for Gay/Lesbian Book Month in June, features reviews, sources, exhibit information and more.

▼ *School Library Journal* featured an article by Meg Tillapaugh, "AIDS: A Problem for Today's YA Problem Novel," in its May, 1993 issue (p. 21-25.)

▼ The papers of Joseph Beam, best known for collecting and editing the groundbreaking book *In the Life* (Alyson, 1986) the first collection of poetry and prose by African American gay men, have been acquired by New York Library's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. Beam, who also co-edited *Brother to Brother* (Alyson, 1991), died of complications related to AIDS in 1988.

from *Philadelphia Gay News*, March 5-11, 1993, p. 3

▼ Martin Duberman, Director of the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies (CLAGS) at The City University of New York, will be general editor for a series of non-fiction books primarily for gay and lesbian young adults (ages 14 - 19) to be published by Chelsea House. At a minimum the series will consist of 30 biographies of notable gay men and lesbians and 10 "issues" books. The first three titles are slated for publication in fall of 1993.

from CLAGS newsletter, Spring 1993, p. 2

▼ The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, which opened in Washington, D.C. on April 26, 1993, is seeking material on homosexual victims of Nazism. If you have material or know someone who witnessed the persecution of homosexuals during the Holocaust, contact the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, 2000 L Street N.W., Suite 717, Washington, D.C. 20036 Phone: (202) 822-6464 Fax: (202) 861-0520

from CLAGS newsletter, Spring 1993, p. 2

▼ A total of 6 \$37,000 stipends to advance scholarly research in gay and lesbian studies will be awarded by The Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies (CLAGS) at The City University of New York over the next three years. For 1993-1994, the theme is "Race and Class in Lesbian and Gay Communities." Application forms are available from Martin Duberman, CLAGS, CUNY Graduate School, 33 W. 42 St., New York City, NY 10036.

from CLAGS newsletter, Spring 1993, p. 2

▼ "With Equal Pride: Gay and Lesbian Studies at UCLA", an exhibit of books pamphlets, paintings, sheet music and other printed material was on display during March at the University Research Library lobby and the Department of Special Collections lower lobby level. Curator Dan Luckenbill assembled the exhibit. For more information, call (310) 825-4988.

from *Frontiers*, 2/26/93 p. 78

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▼ Tax deductible contributions for The Gay and Lesbian Studies Collection Development Endowment Fund at the UCLA are now being solicited in a major fund drive. The endowment fund is one of the first of its kind in the U.S. and is established specifically for the acquisition and care of books and rare and unique archival materials supporting these studies. Checks should be sent to UCLA Foundation Fund 6128, 21520 University Research Library, 405 Hilgard Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90024-1575, (310) 206-8551.

from pamphlet

▼ GAY-LIBN is an electronic forum for discussions of interest to gay, lesbian and bisexual librarians and friends. Discussions on the list will often be directly related to libraries or library associations. List owner: Keith R. Trimmer (trimmer@vm.usc.edu) To join the list and receive mailings from GAY-LIBN:

At Bitnet nodes (IBM machines), type the following at your system "ready-prompt": TELL LISTSERV AT USCVM SUB GAY-LIBN Firstname Lastname

At Bitnet nodes (VAX machines), type the following at your system "ready-prompt": SEND LISTSERV@USCVM SUB GAY-LIBN Firstname Lastname

At other nodes, send mail to LISTSERV@USCVM.BITNET or to SUB GAY-LIBN Firstname Last name (Note: Leave the "subject:" line blank. Do not include any other text, such as a signature file, in your mail to LISTSERV@VM.USC.EDU.)

LISTSERV will forward subscription requests to the list owner, will process the requests and add new subscribers as quickly as possible.

from GAY-LIBN printout, 12/92

▼ Celestial Arts/Ten Speed Press announced in April that it had sent a copy of the new edition of *Positively Gay* (reviewed on page 11) to every member of the United States Congress in an effort to provide them with accurate information as to who the gay and lesbian citizens of this country are. Anticipating the Congressional hearings on lifting the ban on gays in the military, Editor Dr. Betty Berzon urged members to come to these discussions prepared to represent the lives of their gay and lesbian constituents knowledgeably. Copies of the book were also sent to General Colin Powell and other top military and defense officials.

from *Celestial Arts Publishing News*, April 9, 1993

▼ Outwrite '93, the Fourth Annual Queer Writers Conference, is scheduled for October 8 - 10 in Boston. Panels, workshops, round tables, caucuses and networking, keynote addresses are featured. For more information, call (617) 426-4469.

from Conference flyer

▼ New York City's Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center National Museum and Archive of Lesbian and Gay History is seeking curators, designers, artists and writers for its June 1994 exhibit, "Windows on Gay Life", in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall riots. Employing Christopher Street as a central locale and metaphor for contemporary lesbian and gay experience, the exhibit will employ the shop windows and storefronts of the street's businesses as display cases. For more information, call Joe E. Jeffreys, Phone/Fax (212) 691-0455.

from flyer

▼ The International Gay and Lesbian Archives needs scripts and theatre memorabilia for its collection. Send materials to IGLA, P.O. Box 38100, Los Angeles, CA 90038 Attn: Theatre Project

from *On the Purple Circuit*, Spring 1993, 6.

▼ The Cape Cod/Brewster chapter of the Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) has bought \$200 worth of books for the Snow Library of Orleans, part of the regional CLAMS system.

from *PFLAGpole Newsletter*, Spring 1993.

▼ An annotated bibliography of over 75 picture books for children (birth to age 11) of gay/lesbian parents, updated for Spring 1993, is available for \$1 and a stamped business-size envelope from Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International (GLPCI), P. O. Box 50360, Washington, D.C. 20091. Also available (\$5) is "Bibliography on Gays and Lesbians and their Families."

from *GLPCI Network Newsletter*, Spring 1993, p. 12

▼ The City Council in Minneapolis voted on April 2 to give a form of health benefit to same-sex partners, in a case involving three lesbian librarians.

from *Star Tribune*, 4/3/93, p. 1.5 B

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▼ June 1993 is the Second Annual National Lesbian and Gay Book Month. Sponsored by The Publishing Triangle, an association for lesbians and gay men working in the publishing industry, the observance is a way to bring lesbian and gay titles to the attention of a wider reading public. To receive a press kit, which includes booklists and other promotional items, contact Michele Karlsberg, 585 North Railroad Ave., Penthouse, Staten Island, NY 10304 or call/fax from Monday - Friday, 10 am - 7 pm EST to (718) 351-9599.

from press release

▼ "For Sex: See Librarian: Librarians, Sexologists, and Sexuality Education," an article authored by Martha Cornog and Timothy Perper, appeared in *SIECUS Report*, February/March 1993, p. 9 - 13. Topics addressed include: censorship, homophobia and sexphobia, book selection, and more.

▼ The first issue of *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies*, produced by Gordon and Breach Science Publishers, is due June 1993. For a free sample copy or contributors' guidelines, write: Philip Rappaport, Gordon & Breach, P.O.B. 786 Cooper Station, NY, NY 10276.

from *LGSN: Lesbian and Gay Studies Newsletter*, Vol. 19, No. 3, 1992, p. 1

▼ The Canadian Gay Archives moved in November 1992 from 464 Yonge Street to 56 Temperance Street, Suite 201. The Archives is now the only independent specialized gay and lesbian archival collection in Ontario, celebrating its 20th year of operation in 1993. For information about the collection, write to Canadian Gay Archives, Box 639, Station A, Toronto ON M5W 1G2.

from *Angles*, March 1993

▼ Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund has released new publications for lesbians, gay men and people with HIV, including: *Life Planning: Legal Documents and Protections for Lesbians and Gay Men*; *OUT on the Job*, *OUT of a Job: An Overview of the Employment Rights of Lesbians and Gay Men*.

From news release, 4/5/93

▼ "Out on the Shelves" is the oldest and largest gay/lesbian library in Canada. Staffed by volunteers, the collection includes books, magazines, reference, videos and more. Located in Vancouver at 1170 Bute St., the library owns over 4,000 volumes.

▼ The Cataloging Consumers Network (CCN) has announced a petition drive to reform Library of Congress headings regarding sex. For more information or a copy of the petition, contact Sanford Berman, Convenor, Cataloging Consumers Network, 4400 Morningside Rd., Edina, MN 55416.

from press release, 4/9/93

▼ The nation's oldest and largest book club, Book-Of-the-Month Club, is now publishing a line called Triangle Classics, signature editions of gay literary classics. For more information on the series call (800) 233-1066.

from *Washington (DC) Blade*, 3/26/93, p. 53.

▼ Call for essays: for a history of gay/lesbian aesthetics -- papers on historical/theoretical subjects or profiles of individuals/groups of artists. 1500 - 3000 words. For more information, contact Tee Corinne at (503) 476-0425. Submissions due by October 31, 1993 to: James Van Buskirk, Gay and Lesbian Center, San Francisco Public Library, Civic Center, San Francisco, CA 94102.

▼ "Silverlake Life: The View From Here" will kick off the sixth season of P.O.V. (Television with a Point of View), American public television's acclaimed series of independently produced non-fiction films, on Tuesday, June 15 at 10 p.m. ET. Winner of the Grand Jury Prize and the Freedom of Expression Award at this year's Sundance Film Festival, "Silverlake Life" has achieved world-wide praise since its completion in January 1993 and has also won awards in Berlin and San Francisco.

Set in the heart of Los Angeles' Silver Lake neighborhood, the video diary follows a couple with AIDS, Tom Joslin and Mark Massi, through their daily lives.

"No one who sees [the film] through to its unexpectedly buoyant final scene will regret the time spent or be unchanged by the experience," said *Los Angeles Times* critic Kenneth Turan.

The film will air internationally on the same night it airs on PBS. For more information, contact P.O.V. at (212) 989-8121.

From press release

▼ Two Vermont women have launched Heartland Books, a catalog business carrying exclusively lesbian and feminist books. A 16 page annotated catalog is now available free on request to: Heartland Books, P.O. Box 1105E, East Corinth, VT 05040.

from press release

▼ *Women Library Workers Journal*, Winter 1992-3 (p. 13) carried an article by Marge Loch-Wouters, "Whose Family's Values? Gay and Lesbian Families in Children's Books."

from *WLW Journal*, Vol. 15, No. 4.

▼ The *Washington Blade* will remain part of the collection of the Fairfax County Public Library, Virginia, by a vote of the Library Board on March 24. The Goshen Branch of the Clermont County Public Library, Batavia, Ohio, will carry *The Advocate* for an 18-month trial period, by decision of the library's Board of Trustees during a meeting on March 22. The decisions are the outcome of recent censorship battles over gay periodicals in the two libraries.

from *Library Hotline*, 4/5/93; *The Advocate*, 3/23/93; *Washington (DC) Blade*, 3/26/93; *Library Journal*, 4/15/93; and others.

BOOK REVIEWS

Nonfiction

Becoming a Man. By Paul Monette. Harcourt, Brace, and Jovanovich, 1992. Hardcover . \$19.95 (ISBN 0-15-1115-192) Harper San Francisco, 1993. Paperback. \$12.95 (0-06-250724-9)

In his previous book *Borrowed Time: An AIDS Memoir* (Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, 1988), Paul Monette passionately pursues two distinct themes: the havoc wrought by AIDS in the personal lives of those it touches, and how deeply Paul loves Roger, one of the thousands of men that AIDS ultimately destroys.

Written in a searing style whose fevered pitch mirrors Roger's battle with the virus, Monette's memoir is often breathtaking—and completely successful. Monette repeated his double accomplishment with *Love Alone: Eighteen Elegies for Rog* (St. Martin's, 1988), thus giving

readers the unusual choice of reading his moving and horrifying story in either prose or poetry. (A warning, however: the concentrated bitterness and desolation of the poems cannot be borne in a single sitting. These fierce elegies are among the finest of this or any century.)

In his latest project, Monette uses carefully chosen, vividly rendered autobiographical vignettes to expose the subtle as well as the more profound emotional costs of his—or any man's—stubborn insistence on remaining in the closet. Writing with a tone that alternates between anger and melancholy, and with self-effacing humor and irony, Monette drives home his main point again and again. By the end of the story, Monette succeeds totally in convincing the reader that the closet's poisonous atmosphere—and his reluctant agreement to continue breathing it long after it was necessary to do so to survive—crippled him spiritually, just as a birth defect physically crippled his brother's legs.

The minor flaws of Monette's earlier nonfiction mar this work as well. But the author's occasional self-absorption and snobbery are somehow easier to tolerate in his newest book. This is, after all, Monette's own story and one can hardly blame the author for his rather privileged upbringing and his elite cast of supporting characters. Also the annoying features of Monette's otherwise superior writing are tempered this time out by a new-found humility, maturity, and compassion born of the unexpected anguish and anxieties of his most recent experiences. *Borrowed Time* begins "I may not live to finish this..."; the urgency in this premonition is also present in Monette's "half a life's story," the subtitle of his newest book.

Monette was awarded the 1992 ALA Gay/Lesbian Book Award for his novel about "AIDS widows," *Halfway Home* (Crown, 1991). At the awards ceremony last summer, Monette read an excerpt from *Becoming a Man*. His provocative remarks prefacing the reading included the statement that "gay people don't have childhoods." His new book explains what he means by this and tells a compelling and entertaining story in the process.

Monette's masterfully-crafted account of his near-suffocation in the closet is heart-rending and his arguments for self-liberation are persuasive. *Becoming a Man* may coax more gay men out of their own closets than even the most eloquent exhortations of gay political activists. Monette was awarded this year's National Book Award for *Becoming a Man*, and the book was also among the finalists for this year's Gay/Lesbian Book Award.

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For these reasons—and because every gay man, especially every gay man still in his closet, should read it—every library should buy it.

Cal Gough
Atlanta-Fulton Public Library
Atlanta, Georgia

Making Light of It. By James Broughton. City Lights Books, 1992. \$7.95 Paper (ISBN 0-8728626-58)

James Broughton, who will turn 80 in November, has been a major figure of the San Francisco poetry scene since the mid-1940's but is perhaps even better known for his experimental (or what he calls "poetic") films, several of which have won major festival awards and international acclaim. *Making Light of It*, a slightly revised and expanded version of *Seeing the Light* (City Lights, 1977), is Broughton's primer on the art of cinema, which for him is "poetry and love and religion and my duty to the Lords of Creation."

Readers expecting a technical manual, a treatise on film theory, or even much autobiography, will be disappointed. Instead, Broughton offers an epigrammatic, rather vatic prayer book for the novice filmmaker/poet. "I speak in ecclesiastical terms, not out of frivolity, but to emphasize the seriousness of the way of live you will have to live once you have taken the vows," he warns early in the book.

Probably the most important spiritual model, or "way of seeing," for all creative artists, in Broughton's view, is that of Zen. "The only films worth looking at more than once are those with Zen in them." But the truly inspired filmmaker, or novice in the "Brotherhood of Light," must balance Zen ("where you see what is"; "the land of the zany sage") with Oz ("where you see what isn't"; "the land of the laughing boy").

Next, the film must go through the alchemical process of editing: the editing table is the "altar of transformation mysteries." Finally, the artist must "let [the] film go," a process analogous to the Tao, "the realization that one's effortful works are merely clouds in the wind."

The book's penultimate chapter, and the only significant addition to the 1977 edition, provides brief descriptions, in chronological order, and some autobiographical context for the twenty-two films he has made, from his first solo

effort ("Mother's Day," 1948) through his most recent ("Scattered Remains," 1988).

The final chapter, also new, is one of the shortest but also the most moving. In it, Broughton urges all of us (those who attempt to live poetically, not just poetic filmmakers) to use cinema as "an instrument of redemption instead of a repository for triviality." The universal brotherhood of light and love he has described may not be realized, but he asks us to act as if it were going to happen. All art, after all, is impossible.

If the reader of *Making Light of It* was not familiar with Broughton's poetry written over the past fifteen years, or his memoir *Androgyne Journal*, he or she might not be able to state conclusively Broughton's sexual orientation from reading this book. It is as a poetic filmmaker and even as a Zen filmmaker — a filmmaker very much devoted to the erotic in all its manifestations and of personal liberation in general, but not as a gay filmmaker — that Broughton comes across here. (Nevertheless, meeting Joel Singer in 1976 at age 62 was a major turning point in Broughton's life; all but one of his films since that time have been collaborations with Singer and almost all of his books, including this one, have been dedicated to him.) In this sense, the book is not essential for a basic or study-level gay studies collection.

Libraries which own the 1977 edition and have extremely tight budgets may also forego this; those which don't should not. For libraries collecting comprehensively in the fields of contemporary American poetry and experimental film, though, this edition is an essential purchase. As the most important in-sight into one of our most influential avant-garde filmmakers, and as an antidote for the novice filmmaker to both the superficial and the highly technical books on the subject, it is indispensable.

Rob Melton
University of Kansas Libraries
Lawrence, Kansas

The First Gay Pope and Other Records. By Lynne Yagamuchi Fletcher. Alyson Publications, 1992. Paperback. \$7.95 (ISBN 1-555-983206-7)

Fletcher's newest book conveniently gathers together information on the people, places, and dates representing the achievements of lesbians and gay men. This is a great service to anyone interested in the history of lesbians and

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gay men, a history that has until recently been extremely well hidden or altogether suppressed. (Try finding the accomplishments of gays and lesbians in Kane's *Book of Firsts* and you'll see what I mean.)

This slim compendium is not only what might be called the inevitable gay/lesbian reference book, but it is also a highly browseable item for the casual reader. Fletcher's 368 entries cover the whole range of human achievement and the merely fascinating as well as the truly important. The sprinkling of trivia ("the first gay doll," "the first comic-strip character to die of AIDS") is entertaining and these less-than-earthshaking "firsts" do, in fact, represent eruptions of gay or lesbian reality into the heavily-defended heterosexist mainstream culture.

Fletcher labels here facts with key words and arranges them alphabetically under sixteen broad subjects. As the book's index is primarily (and unfortunately) a mere listing of names, organizations, and titles rather than subjects, the topical arrangement of entries makes for easier reference access.

However, by no means are the facts Fletcher has unearthed evenly distributed among the topics she uses. The largest section, accounting for almost a fifth of the total number of entries, is the one listing accomplishments or firsts in the gay/lesbian liberation movement itself ("the first telephone directory listing to contain the word gay," "the first gay-owned financial institution").

Another third of the book is given over to accomplishments or firsts in the entertainment arena or in the literary, visual, or performing arts. The entries in these two largest sections together comprise over half the book. The other half is devoted to sections—again, of quite unequal lengths—labeled history, education, religion, politics, and law. As Fletcher mentions in her introduction, research for future editions of the book will undoubtedly result in more entries for some of the sparser sections in this edition. (For example, there are only three facts each under "visual arts" and "radio" and only six under the film heading.) Also to be expected from future editions, as Fletcher also acknowledges, would be less emphasis on purely American firsts, accomplishments, and records.

Some of the material in *The First Gay Pope* was derived from the two editions of *The Alyson Almanac*, Leigh Rutledge's *Gay Book of Lists*, Dell Richards' *Lesbian Lists*,

and Fletcher's and Adrien Saks' *Lavender Lists*. Libraries who somehow neglected to purchase these handy reference works should certainly buy a few circulating copies of this inexpensive and informative book as well as a copy for their reference collections.

Cal Gough
Atlanta-Fulton Public Library
Atlanta, Georgia

Looking for Genet: Literary Essays and Reviews .By Alfred Chester. Edited by Edward Field. Black Sparrow Press, 1992. \$25.00, cloth. (ISBN 0-87685-873-6) \$12.50, paper. (ISBN 0-87685-872-8)

The selections in *Looking for Genet* are both humorous and acerbic. It is evident after reading the foreword by Edward Field that Chester's work was way ahead of its time. Chester's alternative sexuality may also have been a hindrance to his becoming more popular in his lifetime due to the excessive homophobia in the field of publishing during the 1950's and 1960's.

Chester was better known more for his numerous essays and reviews than for his novels, although the reviews which came out following the publication of his first book, *Jamie is My Heart's Desire* (1957), were quite favorable. His two other books, *Behold Goliath*, a short story collection (1964) and *The Exquisite Corpse* (1967) were not as financially lucrative. It was in his literary essays and reviews of other, more recognized authors, that Chester really excelled.

Reading his reviews, one has the sense that Chester resented not being recognized by his peers as a "real" writer. The title essay, "Looking for Genet", for example, discusses in great detail the powerful imagery in Genet's brilliant novel, *Our Lady of the Flowers*. Is Chester praising the mastery of Genet in an honest way? Or is he perhaps a little jealous of Genet's fame? That's what makes reading the selections contained in this volume so enjoyable is no real concrete answer.

Looking for Genet is highly recommended for any library collection which has an extensive literary criticism section.

Robert E. McCabe, Jr.
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The Gay Decades: From Stonewall to the Present: The People and Events that Shaped Gay Lives. By Leigh Rutledge. Plume, 1992. \$12.00 (ISBN 0-452-26810-9)

This is the ultimate reference book: a week-by-week chronology of the unfolding of the modern day gay liberation movement in the United States. Even readers who lived through the post-Stonewall period will have their memories jogged or corrected by the facts Rutledge has organized for us here. Some of the now largely forgotten events the author mentions are exhilarating, heartwarming, or hilarious; others are very dismal stories indeed. Many readers will find themselves both inspired by the courage, persistence and creativity of individual lesbians and gay Americans depicted here and dismayed at the deeds heterosexist attitudes have driven some people to commit during the past twenty years.

Partly because the movement for gay and lesbian civil rights is really many different stories of many different struggles—with differing outcomes—in dozens of arenas and in thousands of places throughout the country, not every important fact is included, nor could it be. Some of the material included is trivial or tangential. Rutledge may devote too much attention to media events, fashion trends, and the pronouncements of celebrities. (The chronology begins with Judy Garland's death a week before Stonewall; the last dated entry is about John Travolta.) But most of the material is fascinating, much of it is entertaining, and all of it is informative.

Rutledge's book expands the amount of readily available historical data about the gay liberation movement in this country. Like the author's earlier compendium, *The Gay Decades* is not a scholarly tome. And this chronology certainly does not rescue from oblivion the complete outline of even our recent history, much of which lies either still unrecorded in the memories of our people or in the retrospective issues of our vast and largely unindexed periodical literature. But Rutledge's effort is a start at preserving and presenting the collective memory of the past twenty-odd years, and it's a very entertaining story, especially as chronologies go. The author's index makes the book immediately more useful than similar chronologies published previously as parts of larger works.

As the gay civil rights movement in the United States and elsewhere continues to lurch from victory to defeat and back again, this book and its hoped-for revisions will become increasingly important to library users. Of obvious reference value (the book does include an index),

Rutledge's breezy style and sense of irony make *The Gay Decades* interesting to read from cover to cover as well. Most librarians in all sizes of academic and public libraries will want to order circulating copies as well as one for the reference collection.

Cal Gough
Atlanta-Fulton Public Library
Atlanta, Georgia

Positively Gay. Edited by Betty Berzon. Updated and expanded edition. Celestial Arts, 1992. \$11.95 paperback. (ISBN 0-89087-676-2)

The original version of this book, edited by a Los Angeles psychotherapist, has appeared on recommended reading lists ever since it was published in 1979. That it has remained in print all these years has been remarkable—and fortunate for the librarians who were constantly reordering it.

The updated and expanded *Positively Gay* is likely to remain just as useful and as durable as its predecessor. The essays by its thirty-one contributors contain practical advice on virtually the entire gamut of concerns important to lesbians and gay men: personal identity, socializing with other men-loving men and women-loving women, coupling, family relations, spirituality, financial security, political activism, culture and entertainment, and the AIDS epidemic. Additional essays address the unique experiences and challenges of gay parents and of younger, older, and non-white lesbians and gay men.

Many of the book's contributors will be familiar to librarians ordering gay and lesbian materials produced in the past decade: Michael Bronkski, Betty Fairchild, Phyllis Lyon, Del Martin, Robert Nugent, John Preston, Brain McNaught, and Mark Thompson have all written bestselling books of their own, as has Berzon herself, whose three chapters in this book are among the best in the anthology. The first of her essays, as well as the lengthy and thoughtful forward written by gay U.S. Representative Barney Frank, provides an interesting summary of how differently the American landscape for most gays and lesbians looks today compared to the one of the early 1980's.

Positively Gay's first-person style, its wealth of practical information, and its consistently positive, conversational, compassionate tone help make it one of the few really essential all-purpose books by and for the nonspecialized

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lesbian and gay American. For years now, many of us have been giving away copies of this book to friends or acquaintances who have begun coming to terms with sexual feelings still considered by many Americans as unacceptable or bizarre. For the same reasons that *Positively Gay* makes such a good gift, multiple copies of this excellent and reasonably priced book belongs in every library.

Cal Gough
Atlanta-Fulton Public Library
Atlanta, Georgia

Reviews are a regular feature of the GLTF Newsletter.

If you would like to be a reviewer or would like to receive reviewer guidelines, contact the Reviews editor, David Streeter, GLTF Book Review Editor, Pomona Public Library, P.O. Box 2271, Pomona, CA 91769, (714) 620-2026 (w), (714) 623-0850 (fax)

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