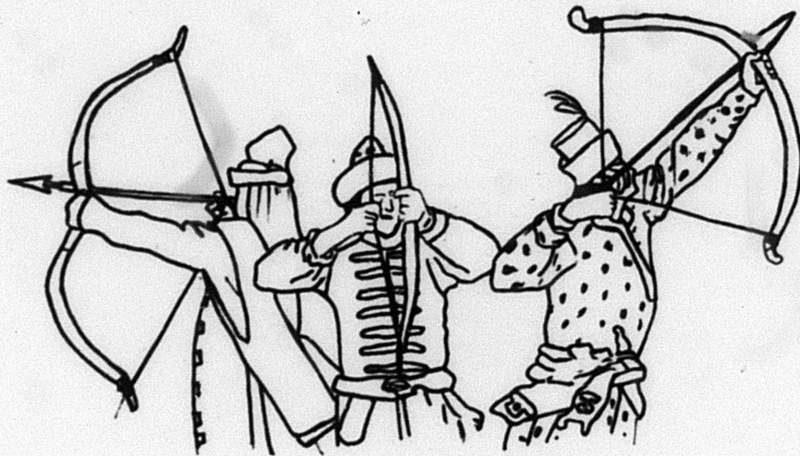


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# **SEXUAL POLITICS**

## **A BASIC READING LIST**



**RELEASE**

**20p**

SEXUAL POLITICS

A basic reading list prepared by the Librarians for Social Change collective

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For some time now we have been asked for lists of books which libraries should have or which people ought to read for a basic grounding in the field of sexual politics. Here is the list.

It is aimed mainly at teachers and librarians to help them in deciding which books should be made available in school and public libraries, in a field where they might feel unsure of what is available. It will be of use to students working on projects as well, and of course to human beings who want to find out about themselves.

In a field with such political implications it must be said immediately that the lists, what is included, what is excluded, and the annotations are the opinions of the compilers. Where books are positively harmful we feel that they should not be included on library shelves, where books are bad in parts, their weaknesses should be made explicit and where they are good, people should be directed to them. Yes, this is censorship. But you don't have to follow our opinions if you don't agree with them. And we don't control what gets published either.

The list consists of:-

1. Women's Liberation
2. Gay Liberation
3. Women's Fiction
4. Male Gay Literature
5. Sex Education
6. Children's Books

Obviously these sections overlap and books will sometimes be included two or three times but this just shows how ideas have interacted with one another.

We have also included a list of the bookshops where you might be able to get those titles not stocked by the large dealers. Remember the public library can always get them on inter-library loan for you to have a look at first.

## WOMENS LIBERATION

This section is an attempt to list some of the more important books in this area. We have tried to list books which cover history, health, the movement in Britain today, radical feminism and the law. This is in no way a comprehensive list but one which could provide a base for a larger collection.

### Women's Liberation - General, Non-Fiction

ALLEN, Sandra ed., Conditions of illusion; papers from the women's movement. Leeds: Feminist Books, 1974. Paperback, 0904426033, 44pp, £1.85. Casebound, 0904426025, £4.75.

Collection which gives clear idea of interests and ideas of British movement. Useful for what has been happening since 1970 in Britain.

BEAUVOIR, Simone de. The second sex. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1972. Paperback 140034633. 762pp, £0.75. Casebound (Cape) 224613979, £6.00

The classic statement of female oppression.

BOSTON Women's Health Book Collective. Our bodies ourselves; a book by and for women. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1971. Paperback 671214357. 276pp, £1.50; Casebound, 671214349.

Includes sections on sexuality, birth control, childbirth, menopause. Best book available on women and health.

COMER, Lee. Wedlocked women. Leeds: Feminist Books, 1974. Paperback 0904426009, 285pp, £1.00; Casebound, 0904426017, £3.95.

Excellently written. What it's really like to be married.

COOTE, Anna and Gill. Tess ed. Women's rights; a practical guide. Harmondsworth, Penguin, 1974. Paperback 0140523057; 349pp, £0.60.

Indispensable guide to the law and women covering marriage and divorce, children, housing, sex, work and how to get legal aid when you need it.

DAVIS, Elizabeth Gould. The first sex. Dent, 1973. Casebound 460041169. 382pp, £2.95

A history of Western culture showing its base in a gynocratic world. Basic premise that women have given more to civilisation than men.



FIGES, Eva. Patriarchal attitudes; women in society. Faber, 1970.  
Casebound 571087086. 191pp, £1.80. Paperback (Panther)  
586037349, £0.40.

The attitudes of famous men in history to women. Society  
a male creation which women learn to fit into.

FIRESTONE, Shulamith. The dialectic of sex; the case for the feminist  
revolution. Cape, 1971. Casebound 224005413. 277pp, £2.50.

The model for all oppression is the sexual class system.  
Radical feminist theory outlined.

FRIEDAN, Betty. The feminine mystique. Harmondsworth, Penguin, 1971.  
Paperback 140022619, £0.45. Casebound (Gollancz) 575009519.  
416pp, £2.25.

Women in the United States before the women's movement.  
Describes the 'problem that has no name', the feeling  
among women that there should be more to life than home,  
husband, and children.

GREER, Germaine. The female eunuch. MacGibbon and Kee, 1970.  
Casebound 0261632086. 368pp, £2.25. Paperback (Paladin)  
0586080554, 354pp, £0.50.

Describes the condition of women and suggests that change  
begins not with the world but with the individual.

HERSCHBERGER, Ruth. Adam's rib. Harper and Row, 1970. Paperback  
0060870036. 238pp, £0.95.

Women's oppression described well and wittily. Covers  
biology, language, politics and society.

MILLET, Kate. Sexual politics. Abacus, 1972. Paperback 349123292.  
393pp, £0.60; Casebound (Hart-Davis) 246640278 £2.50.

Analysis of women in literature, society, psychology.  
This book helped to start the American women's movement.

MITCHELL, Juliet. Psychoanalysis and feminism. Lane, 1974. Casebound  
0713901551. 456pp, £4.00.

Looks at theories of psychoanalysis as they relate to the  
condition of women in male-dominated society. Considers  
Freud, Reich, Laing - and feels most can be gained from a  
study of Freud.

MITCHELL, Juliet. Woman's estate. Harmondsworth, Penguin, 1971.  
Paperback 140214259. 182pp, £0.25

Good description of the movement and its aims from the  
1960's on. Analysis of the position of women, the home  
and family, and connections of feminism and socialism.

MORGAN, Robin ed., Sisterhood is powerful; an anthology of writings from the women's liberation movement. New York, Vintage, 1973. Paperback 394705394. 602pp, £1.00.

Covers work, psychology, black women, consciousness-raising - and includes poems and historical documents.

ROSSI, Alice ed. The feminist papers; from Adams to de Beauvoir Toronto, London: Bantam, 1974. Paperback 0552682667. 716pp, £0.60. Casebound (Columbia University Press) 0231037953, £6.75.

Excerpts from writings by feminists from 18th century to present.

ROWBOTHAM, Sheila. Hidden from history: 300 years of women's oppression and the fight against it. Pluto, 1973. Paperback 902818287, £1.50. Casebound 902818295. 182pp, £3.30.

Brings women who fought and worked for freedom and were forgotten into the light of day.

ROWBOTHAM, Sheila. Woman's consciousness, man's world. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1973. Paperback 140217177. 136pp, £0.35.

Specifically describes women's oppression within capitalist society. Links women's liberation to a socialist revolution.

ROWBOTHAM, Sheila. Women, resistance and revolution. Lane, 1973. Casebound, 713903465, £2.95. Paperback (Penguin) 0140216151. 288pp, £0.60.

A history of feminism showing its relationship to social revolution - looks at China and Cuba as well as the West.

ROWBOTHAM, Sheila. Women's liberation and revolution: a bibliography Bristol: Falling Wall Press, 2nd ed. 1973. Paperback 24pp £0.18.

Annotated list of books and articles on women's liberation, history of feminism, gay liberation etc.

SCHNEIR, Miriam ed. Feminism: the essential historical writings. New York: Vintage, 1972. Paperback 0394717384. 360pp, \$2.45.

Includes Mary Wollstonecraft, Sojourner Truth, Lucy Stone, Emmeline Pankhurst, Virginia Woolf.

SOLANAS, Valerie. Scum manifesto Olympia Press, 1971. Paperback 0700410309. 52pp, £0.25.

Statement of a radical feminist. Strong language, revolutionary views. Invaluable.

WANDOR, Michelene ed. The body politic; writings from the women's liberation movement in Britain 1969-1972. Stage 1, 1972. Paperback 850350131. 262pp, £0.60. Casebound 85035014X, £2.40.

Articles on work, crime, the movement, society. Written by women from all over Britain.



## GAY LIBERATION

Books on gay liberation are always (well, almost <sup>\*</sup>always) books on gay men so gay women will find more of use to them in the women's section. All these entries have been checked, either in British Books in Print or in Bowker's Books in print, so they ought to be easy enough to get. Where the details are incomplete it is because it was either a matter of getting this out eventually or never at all.

ABBOTT, Sidney. Sappho was a right-on woman, a liberated view of lesbianism (by) Sidney Abbott and Barbara Love. New York: Stein and Day, 1974 (1972). 192pp, Paperback ISBN 8128 1590 4 £1.00, Casebound ISBN 8128 1409 6.

A bit dated now and reading like a twin-set but still worth having in a field where there is little enough.

ALTMAN, Denis. Homosexual: oppression and liberation. New York: Avon books, 1973 (1971). 256pp, bibl. Paperback ISBN 87690 039 2 £0.85. Casebound ISBN 207 12459 0 £2.50.

Still one of the basic texts placing gay oppression and gay liberation firmly in its political position. Should be in every library.

BARNETT, Leonard. Homosexuality - time to tell the truth.

No further information at present but the author is a methodist who has written quite a lot on sex education. I suspect that it is liberal and "tolerant".

BIRKBY, Phyllis ed Amazon expedition, a lesbian feminist anthology (by) Phyllis Birkby and others. New York: Times Change Press, 1973. 93pp, Paperback ISBN 87810 026 1 £0.80, Casebound ISBN 87810 526 3.

Style a bit like Abbott and Love but positive and should be read.

BLAMIERES, David. Homosexuality from the inside. London: Social responsibility council of the Society of Friends, 1973. 45pp, £0.20.

Written by a Quaker for Christians it must be a help for Christians for there is so little that is positive but unlikely to be much use to anyone else.

GAY INFORMATION. Psychiatry and the homosexual, a brief analysis of oppression. London: Gay Information, 1973 32pp, £0.15. Gay liberation pamphlet No 1.

This and three other pamphlets on this list are still probably the best simple introduction to what it is all about. As pamphlets there is a resistance to stocking them, a pity the four couldn't be bound into a book.

GAY LIBERATION FRONT. Manifesto group. The gay liberation front manifesto. London GLF, 1971.  
16pp, illus. £0.10.

This is the second of the pamphlets and still remarkably good.

HODGES, Andrew. With downcast gays, aspects of homosexual self-oppression (by) A. Hodges and David Hutter. London: Pomegranate Press, 1974.  
40pp, £0.20.

This is the third of them, dealing with false consciousness and how external pressures are internalised by gay people, then reflected in their behaviour to society and to one another.

HUMPHREYS, Laud. Out of the closets: a sociology of sexual liberation. New York: Prentice-Hall, 1972.  
192pp, Paperback ISBN 13 645317 1 £1.25, Casebound ISBN 13 645325 2 £3.00.

Positive and worth stocking although not quite as uplifting as Altman. It is important that books for gay people should positively lift them out of their self-oppression even if this means a bit of imbalance.

HUMPHREYS, Laud. Tea-room trade: impersonal sex in public places. New York: Duckworth, 1970.  
200pp, ISBN 7156 0551 8 £3.25

Interesting for its subject matter and as a work of sociology but not likely to fill a gay person with light and hope.

HYDE, Harford Montgomery. Other Love. London: Heineman, 1970.  
320pp, Casebound ISBN 434 35902 5 £3.00

General history of superqueens, a who's who to the gay past. Weaker when he gets to the present.

JAY, Karla ed Out of the closets: voices of gay liberation (by) K. Jay and Allen Young. New York: Douglas/Links, 1972.  
403pp, bibl, illus, Paperback ISBN 8256 3400 8 £2.30.  
Casebound ISBN 8256 3404 0. Also Pyramid Pubs, 1974 (1972)  
Paperback ISBN 515 03545 9.

Probably the best anthology of writings for gay liberation. Covers America and Britain with descriptions of life before liberation, the liberation process and gay activism. A good antidote for self-oppression.



JOHNSTON, Jill. Lesbian nation, the feminist solution. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1973, (1970). 283pp, bibl, Paperback ISBN 671 21729 1 £1.50. Casebound ISBN 671 21433 0.

Autobiographical account of life in New York in straight society as a lesbian and in the lesbian community, out of which comes the realisation that only by complete withdrawal from men can women liberate themselves.

MARTIN, Arno. Sexuality and homosexuality. The complete account of male and female sexual behaviour and deviation - with case histories. London: McDonald, 1972. 666pp, bibl, Casebound ISBN 356 03056 3 £7.00.

A weighty tome, useful for its historical study but the position of its author is ambivalent. Still thinks that gay people are a phenomenon for study.

KENYON, F.E. Homosexuality. London: British Medical Association, 1973. 31pp, Paperback ISBN 900221 82 8 £0.20. Family doctor series booklet.

Considering where it came from it is quite a step forward and a "respectable" source, but it is them talking about us.

KLAICH, Dolores. Woman plus woman, attitudes towards lesbianism. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1974. ISBN 671 21695 3.

LAURITSEN, John. The early homosexual rights movements 1864-1935 (by) John Lauritsen and David Thorsted. New York: Times Change Press, 1974. Paperback ISBN 87810 027 X \$2.25. Casebound ISBN 87810 527 1 \$6.95.

One of the first to show us that we have a history after all.

LAURITSEN, John. Religious roots of the taboo on homosexuality. £0.30

This is a roneo-ed pamphlet which I have read and seen cited so I know it exists and is worth reading but I haven't been able to get hold of a copy.

MARCH, Sue. Gay liberation versus homosexuality. (by) S. March and Walter C. Alvarez. New York: Pyramid Publications, 1974. ISBN 515 03412 6 \$1.75.

It exists but I haven't seen it.

MARTIN, Del. Lesbian/woman. (by) Del Martin and Phyllis Lyong. New York: Glide, 1972. Paperback (Bantam Books) £0.75 Casebound ISBN 912 07820 0 \$7.95.

MAGEE, Bryan. One in twenty: a study of homosexuality in men and women. London: Secker & Warburg, 1968  
181pp, Casebound ISBN 436 27101 X £1.75.

Liberal and tolerant study of them but safe for something to give to mummy.

MILLIGAN, Don. The politics of homosexuality. London: Pluto Press, 1973  
19pp, Paperback ISBN 092818 325 £0.20

The fourth of the pamphlets. Still very good on placing sexual politics firmly in its place as very important to an understanding of human liberation.

PERRY, Troy. The lord is my shepherd and he knows I'm gay (by) T.Perry and Charles Lucas. New York: Bantam Books, 1973.

Probably helpful and uplifting if you are a christian.

PITTENGER, Norman. Time for consent: a christian's approach to homosexuality. London SCM, 1970.  
124pp, Paperback ISBN 334 01658 4 £0.50.

Liberal and tolerant, give it to your clergyman or doctor but won't help a gay person much, unless maybe he's a christian.

RICHMOND, Len ed The gay liberation book (by) Len Richmond and Garry Noguera. San Francisco: Ramparts press, 1973.  
208pp, illus, Paperback ISBN 87867 031 9 £2.00, Casebound ISBN 87867 030 0.

A good collection of readings but not as exciting as Jay and Young.

RIGHTON, Peter. Counselling homosexuals, a study of personal needs and public attitudes. London: Bedford Square press, for the National Council of Social Services, 1973.  
34pp, Paperback ISBN 7199 0862 0 £0.30

Them talking about us again but people who are involved in 'helping' "us" might find it useful. Certainly better than the 'how to be happy while sick' stuff.

RUITENBEEK, Hendrik ed Homosexuality: a changing picture. London: Souvenir Press, 1973.  
218pp, ISBN 285 62061 4 £2.75.

SCHUR, Edwin M. Crimes without victims - deviant behaviour and public policy: abortion, homosexuality and addiction. New York: Prentice Hall, 1965.  
Paperback (Spectrum books) ISBN 13192930 5 £1.25



SZASZ, Thomas S. The manufacture of madness: a comparative study of the inquisition and the mental health movement. New York: Harper and Row, 1970.

416pp, Paperback (Paladin) ISBN 586 08154 2 £0.75, Casebound (Routledge) ISBN 7100 7221 X £3.50

A very good study of homophobia giving a reasonable account of why it has been so important in western society.

TOBIN, Kay The gay crusaders (by) K. Tobin and Randy Wicher.

New York: Paperback Library, 1972

238pp, bibl, illus, £1.25

WEINBERG, George. Society and the healthy homosexual. New York: Anchor books, 1973.

148pp, bibl, Paperback ISBN 385 05083, Casebound (Doubleday).

The best them about us available. Should be of use to people who deal with gays and to parents. At least it is easily available.

WEINBERG, Martin ed Homosexuality: an annotated bibliography (by) M. Weinberg and Alan Bell. New York: Harper, 1972.

ISBN 06 014541 2 \$15.

An important work for scholars which will need to be updated if it is going to reflect ongoing gay liberation. At the moment a catalogue of gay oppression by lawyers, doctors and others in need of employment.

WEINBERG, Martin. Male homosexuals: their problems and adaptations (by) M.S. Weinberg and Colin J. Williams. London: OUP, 1974.

316pp, illus, tables, Casebound ISBN 19501 758 7 £3.00.

An interesting study of America, Holland and Denmark. Pity there is nothing about England. Still them about us though.

WEST, Donald James. Homosexuality. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1969.

288pp, Paperback ISBN 14020477 6 £0.35, Casebound (Duckworth)

ISBN 7156 0164 4 £2.10

Probably the most widely-read study and really bad. He is writing a revised edition we are told - I only hope he has learned something.

WOLFF, Charlotte. Love between women. London: Duckworth, 1973.

Paperback ISBN 7156 0726 X £1.50, Casebound 7156 0725 1 £3.95.

## WOMENS FICTION

All the details of these books were checked in July 1975 so it should be quite easy to get hold of them. This is in no way a comprehensive list, but the selected readings of a few women, in the hope that their experience might be of use to others.

BECKMAN, Gunnel. Mia London: Bodley Head, 1974 (translated from Swedish).  
120pp, £1.35 ISBN 370 10928 7

A schoolgirl copes with a suspected pregnancy and the breakdown of her parent's marriage. Usually put in kids' libraries but also suitable for young adults.

BROOKE, Dinah. Sink songs: plays by Dinah Brooke and Michelene Wandor. Published privately, 1975. (Available from M. Wandor, 71 Belsize Lane, London N.W.3)  
70pp, £0.45 ISBN 904732 00 2

Short plays by feminist writers. Local feminist groups in particular might like to use them.

BROWN, Rita Mae. Rubyfruit jungle. Plainfield, Vermont: Daughters Inc, 1973.  
217pp, \$3.00 ISBN 913 780 02 2

Very well written and moving account of growing up a lesbian in the United States. Hysterically funny.

EMECHETA, Buchi. Second class citizen. London: Allison and Busby, 1974.  
£2.50 ISBN 85031 137 3

Shows what it means to be a woman in the Nigerian culture both here and in her own country, and to be black in Britain. It does this through an account of one woman's efforts to have a career and deal with an exploiting husband, and the responsibility of her children. Should be in all libraries.

GOOCH, Steve. Female transport. London: Pluto Press, 1974.  
71pp, £0.75 ISBN 902818 62 7

Six female convicts are being transported to Australia. This earthy, well written play shows their oppression by the men in charge and their solidarity and resistance.



IBSEN, Henrik. A doll's house (in) A doll's house and other plays. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1965.  
pp 145-232, £0.50 ISBN 1404 4146 8

Nora, for years a doll-wife, realises that her duty to herself is to go away and find out reality for herself. Controversial in its day, and a classic work about equality.

JONG, Erica. Fear of flying. New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1973.  
340pp, £3.50 ISBN 0301 0731 8

An entertaining voyage of self-discovery for a Jewish poet, who feels that "if you were female and talented, life was a trap no matter which way you turn".

KAUFMAN, Sue. Diary of a mad housewife. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1971(1968).  
267pp, £0.30 ISBN 1400 3218 5

Tina Balser keeps this diary for a short period while she is trying to cope with the pressures put on her by her husband's demands and social pretensions. It ends as both of them come to some new and hopeful self-knowledge. Funny, but the subject is serious.

LEGUIN, Ursula K. The left hand of darkness. London: MacDonald, 1969.  
286pp, £1.50 ISBN 356 02947 6. Also St Albans: Panther, 1973  
208pp, £0.35. ISBN 586 03641 5

About an androgenous society and a man from earth who lands on their planet. Shows the difficulty of relating to alien sexuality and throws sex roles into question.

LESSING, Doris. The summer before the dark. London: Jonathan Cape, 1973.  
224pp, £1.95 ISBN 224 00832 3

A woman in her forties with grown-up children feels useless in the role of wife and mother. She leaves her family for the summer to live alone and discovers her relationship to the world around her as a woman - but returns to the situation as it was.

MORGAN, Robin. Monster. Privately published, 1973.  
88pp, illus, £0.45 (available from Womens' Centres and the Women's Liberation Workshop).

Poems of a committed feminist.

MORTIMER, Penelope. The home. London: Hutchinson, 1971.  
231pp, £1.75 ISBN 0910 8810 0 Also Harmondsworth: Penguin  
1973. 176pp, £0.30 ISBN 1400 3612 1

Eleanor's husband is living with a younger woman and her children no longer need her to provide a home for them. But she has no other real occupation ... This is the account of her attempt to fall back on her own inadequate resources.

PLATH, Sylvia. The bell jar. London: Faber, 1967.  
258pp, £1.75 ISBN 571 06782 4 casebound  
£0.75 ISBN 571 08178 9 paperbound

Very readable novel about the mental illness of an American student. It contains ideas, expressed as Esther's own thinking, on the problems faced by women.

RHYS, Jean. Voyage in the dark. London: Deutsch, 1967(1934).  
192pp, £1.25 ISBN 233 95897 5 Also Harmondsworth: Penguin,  
1969. 159pp, £0.20

Anna comes to Britain and works as a chorus-girl. After a liason with a rich man who drops her, she drifts into the demi-monde, has an abortion and ends up facing a future where this pattern will be endlessly repeated.

WELDON, Fay. Down among the women. London: Heinemann, 1971.  
224pp, £2.00 ISBN 434 85190 6 Also Harmondsworth: Penguin  
1973. 240pp, £0.30 ISBN 1400 3613 X

The story of three generations of women, with the accent on their relationships with men and seen from a feminist angle. Basically optimistic. An important book.

WITTIG, Monique. The guerilleres. London: Owen, 1971.  
144pp, £2.10 ISBN 7206 0031 6 Also London: Picador, 1972.  
165pp, £0.40 ISBN 330 23350 5

About a futuristic society of strong women and a battle they fight, with an interwoven feminist mythology. Innovative in form, with fine imagery.



## MALE GAY LITERATURE

Women should consult the section on women's literature. There is little here which will give a man encouragement, nothing a woman.

This list is even more difficult to compile than the one on gay liberation. The books here can be divided into that which makes you feel grotesque, ugly and ignoble; that which romanticises but comes to a sticky end, just to prove that right and not love conquers all; and that which fills you with a revolutionary and crusading zeal, liberated with the fire of being gay. In a more general sense literature can be regarded as giving a sense of totality, a partial and essentially entertaining view, or a completely distorted but titillating view. Your reading of these annotations must then depend on whether you are reading to be elated, illuminated or elongated.

The novel as a great bourgeois art form has reflected the striving hopes and desires of the bourgeoisie; during its decline it has represented the futility, introspection and self-destruction of a declining class. During the whole period it has played an ideological role romanticising, fatalising, trivialising: defending, defusing and defeating. It is now up to us to change "the little shopkeeper idea of writer and reader", to produce for ourselves and for one another a literature which can lead to our liberation in one another as gay people.

One further point: some authors in the past, in order to publish and avoid the stake are generally accepted to have changed the gender of the characters. There are many texts which may be read altering the names and pronouns if you regard the exercise as worthwhile.

Once more we have concentrated on that which is easily obtainable and all entries have been checked in Books in Print.

AMORY, Richard. Frost. Olympia, 1972. 256pp, £0.70.  
ISBN 7004 1131 X.

Just to start the list, probably one of the better treatments of a gay adventure story with Daddy as the baddy. Not as romantically delightful as the Song of the Loon cycle but very real.

BALDWIN, James Giovanni's room. Corgi 1969(1957). 128pp, £0.30  
ISBN 552 07765 8.

It is a pity that this writer could not turn the fire of his liberation as a black into something for gays. This novel deals with all the usual traumaturgy of male relationships plus the necessary unhappy ending.

BARR, James. Quatrefoil

Now out of print, this and the Occasional Man are early but depressing examples of men in love against all the slings and arrows of outraged fortune.

BURROUGHS, William. Naked lunch. Corgi, 1968. 288pp, £0.35.  
ISBN 552 09396 3.

No doubt about it, you either think Burroughs presents a picture of the future which the future hardly understands or you think it incomprehensible nonsense. Certainly worth reading but possibly mainly if you fancy a diet of razor blades and acid.

COHEN, Leonard. Beautiful losers, Cape, 1970. 25 , £1.45.  
ISBN 224 61833 4.

There is something to be got out of Cohen, even when he is not being particularly gay, but it might just be the romantic memory of growing up when we thought everything actually was going to be all right.

D'ARCANGELO, Angelo. The homosexual handbook. Olympia Press 1971(1968)  
286pp, £0.65. ISBN 700 41070 8

This ought to have been included in the serious list but it's lighthearted irreverence is needed to give a glitter to the depressing procession down this page. Tells you what to do, how to do it and who has done it.

DAVIDSON, Michael. Some boys. Bruce & Watson, 1970. 200pp, £2.10.  
ISBN 85127 090 5.

At least this autobiography isn't dripping self pity. Not as deep an insight as "The world, the flesh and myself", but a pleasant tale of someone who managed to exploit the world and his fellow man most of his life, even if he didn't take either seriously. Longer than the picture of Dorian Gray.

FORSTER, E.M. Maurice. Arnold 1971. 254pp, £2.00. ISBN 7131 5600 7.

If only this piece of juvenalia had been published when written instead of posthumously it might have made a difference to a lot of people, certainly the author. Ends with hope that a relationship can work out, which at least is nice to think about.

GENET, Jean. The balcony. Faber, 1966. 112pp, £0.45. ISBN 571 04595 2

Just one of a number of plays all as good as his novels. Not particularly dealing with a homosexual theme but his dismissal of our society and all its values can only be of value to us.



GENET, Jean. Funeral rites. Panther, 1971. 240pp, £0.50. ISBN 586 03426 9.

One of the most impressive writers of the time (thank you Guardian), this jailbirdconmanphilosopher puts the ex into existentialism. His degradation is enobling, he lives through everything straight society does to him and still makes a profit. He is one of those people that you can't help but sound like pseuds corner over.

GIDE, Andre. Corydon. Secker & Warburg, 1952. 143pp, £1.05. ISBN 436 175002.

Socrates brought up to date but an interesting writing from one of the earlier 'come-outs'.

GINSBERG, Alan. Howl. Pocket poets, 1967. 44pp, £0.45. ISBN 87286 017 5.

Only his later poetry comes out as gay but we have to try so hard to capture a culture of our own that I don't see why we shouldn't take one of the best minds of the last generation. Modern poetry doesn't have to be limited to bearded guitar-strummers.

HANSEN, Joseph. Fadeout. Quartet, 1973. 160pp, £0.40. ISBN 7043 1068 6.

One of what is threatening to become a Christieline of detective fiction but he lives, enjoys it and hasn't committed suicide and that is something.

ISHERWOOD, Christopher. The single man

It looks as if this is out of print but it is certainly worth trying to get hold of. Probably the best story dealing with grief - the tale of a man whose lover dies and how he deals with rejoining society.

MAUGHAN, Robin. Escape from the shadows. Hodder, 1972. 278pp, £3.50. ISBN 340 14949 3

The process of dragging yourself out of the velvet closet being born into the upper class gives you. A bit less tedious than most of similar tiresome tales.

MAUGHAN, Robin. The link. Heineman, 1969. 240pp, £1.75. ISBN 434 45504 0.

An interesting tale based on the Tichbourne case, with a twist. Not oppressive and for gay people a good tale.

MAUGHAN, Robin. The servant in playscripts. David Poynter, 1972.  
£0.75. ISBN 7067 0041 4.

Dated now, written about 1947, but a play based on the master/servant relationship and the tortuous destruction they wreak on one another.

MISHIMA, Yukio. The sailor who fell from grace with the sea. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1970. Paperback 140028668. 144pp, £0.30

Now a classic of 20th century literature and an insight into the traditional Japanese culture.

PETERS, Fritz. Finisterre. Gollancz, 1966. 288pp, £1.25.  
ISBN 575 01122 X.

Jesuit tutor and student have a mad fling and one walks off the end of the earth. Love must tread a thorny path, preferably over the end of a cliff.

PETRONIUS, Gaius Arbiter. The satyricon. Penguin, 1971(1965). 133pp, £0.30. ISBN 1404 4159 X.

An example from the past. Gay liberation was further on 2000 years ago. Racy, joyous and freely living life.

PEYREFITTE, Roger. Special friendships

Also out of print although quite a few of his other books are still available. Tender story of romantic young love between two schoolboys but the knight in shining armour turns out to have a split lance.

RAVEN, Simon. Friends in low places. Panther, 1969. 256pp, £0.35.  
ISBN 586 02190 6.

One of a series of tales round the morality of the "upper classes". If you desire to spend your life in white flannels wanking off a cucumber sandwich then this is the life for you.

RECHY, John. City of night. Panther, 1965. Paperback 586 019251, 368pp, £0.50. Casebound (MacGibbon and Kee) B64-1486.

His most famous work. A fictional study of male prostitution.

RENAULT, Mary. Charioteer. New English Library, 1972. £0.50.  
ISBN 4500 0174 1.

Here the knight in shining armour flies into a mountain. But at least they got it together (falling towers, trains into tunnels etc, so we presume they did) and came to some sort of recognition of themselves and one another. Why does she have to cop out at the end?



RENAULT, Mary. Mask of Apollo. New English Library, 1972  
ISBN 450 01027 9 £0.50.

One of a series of historical romances in which nothing happens but it happens sweetly. Wait until she gets hold of David and Jonathan.

STEWART, Angus. Sandel. Panther, 1970. 240pp, £0.40.  
ISBN 586 03336 X.

More of the young love sturm and drang but written with care and taste. Here is a writer working from his feeling, not his forced morality.

VANDEN, Dirk. All is well. Olympia, 1972. 256pp, £0.70.  
ISBN 7004 1230 4.

Probably written originally as porn but in fact the closest thing to an uplifting gay novel yet. A man learns to accept his gayness through his son. Hopelessly romantic but fun to read that it all works.

VIDAL, Gore. The city and the pillar. Panther, 1972 (1965).  
160pp, £0.40. ISBN 586 03727 6.

One of the classics. In a funny way it is triumphant although only the Americans could accept it as such. A good story but it does not fill you with fire.

VIDAL, Gore. Two sisters. Panther, 1972(1970). 192pp, £0.35.  
ISBN 586 03693 8.

An interesting variation on the historical novel where the tale of the two sisters of Ephesus are simultaneously given modern counterparts.

WARREN, Patricia Nell. The front runner. Bantam, 1975. 314pp, \$1.75.

The first of a new generation of romances where our heroes are into gay liberation and stride across the pages with vigour. Better than flying into mountains, even if the hero does get shot.

## SEX EDUCATION

In recent years there has been a steady growth in the sex education industry, with a mass of pamphlets, books, slides and films purporting to give the "facts". Yet do they? "The sex pamphlets given to our children consist of a few not-very-clear factual statements buried in promotional material: advertising matter on behalf of god-fearing, heterosexual, sexual-apartheid-practising monogamy. The sex-pamphleteers deeply hope their readers will grow up "normal". This term they sometimes seem to intend statistically, though in fact they have a very small grasp of what is statistically normal in sexual behaviour, but more often they use it to mean an ideal of social conformism. They are doing their utmost to turn their readers into meek, unthinking fodder." (1). That statement, made in 1970, is still true in 1975, as a recent survey has shown (2).

Whilst there is now some attempt to present conception, birth, even VD, in a clear way, topics such as homosexuality, abortion and rape are still extremely distorted, e.g. "A sense of devotion and love towards a member of one's own sex is not uncommon in adolescence. In some cases this may include sexual relationships in the form of intimate caressing between the partners. This is usually followed by becoming attracted to a member of the other sex (heterosexual). Sometimes, people appear to be natural homosexuals and remain homosexual for life. Others are attracted to both sexes and are called bisexual. Homosexuality has been accounted for in a number of ways, but the reasons for homosexuality still remain obscure (3).

Most sex education books perpetuate sex-stereotyped roles, e.g. "Most normal boys have strong sexual desires which may influence their behaviour towards girls. Girls are less physical in their approach and tend to date for reassurance of their attractiveness as well as for friendship .... Dating helps a boy to get to know girls better. It helps him to calm his apprehensions about girls, to control his senses better, and to combine feelings of tenderness and loyalty with his physical feelings.... In an adolescent girl, sexuality does not have the same demanding character or the same intensity as in an adolescent boy. Above all, sentimental love is important for her. Physical pleasure takes second place to the delight of being appreciated.. From her first date, she longs for tender words and marks of attention with reassure her of her femininity and her ability to please. Such assurances transport her into a dream world of delight. (4).

There are now a few titles which are relatively free of these faults.



First Level

KNUDSEN, Per Holm. How a baby is made. London, Franklin Watts 1973 (Copenhagen, Borgens Forlag). 085166 420 £1.25. London Pan Books (Piccolo picture books) 1975. 0330 24297 0 £0.40p (paperback).

A frank, amusing, unromantic view which gives simply the basic facts; the man and woman seen on an equal basis, nude and embracing, with pictures of the male's erection, the couple "holding each other tightly" whilst they "move together happily", and birth.

SHEFFIELD, Margaret. Where do babies come from? London, Cape 1972. 0 224 00717 3 £1.25. 0 224 00732 7 £0.50 (paperback).

A straightforward account of conception and birth, giving a clear picture of male/female sex organs, and emphasizing the equal roles played in the process. The illustrations wax rather lyrical, but at least males and females get the same treatment.

Second Level

CLAESSON, Bent H. Boy girl man woman. London, Calder and Boyars 1971, 1973 (paperback) (Copenhagen, Hans Reitzel) 0 7145 0759 8 £2.25. 0 7145 0877 2 £1.25 (paperback).

Covers such topics as contraception, abortion, difficulties in intercourse, sexual minority groups, orgasm. A frank and open discussion, with few of the usual prevarications (though the section on rape could well be rewritten).

WIDERBERG, Siv. The kids' own XYZ of love. London, Spearman 1972. (Goteborg, Zinderman). 0 85435 091 8 £1.05.

Challenges sex-role stereotyping - the only difference between the sexes is in the sex organs. A welcome twist to the old child-asks-adult book. Generally recommended, though there is no mention of homosexuality.

REFERENCES

(1) HILL, Maurice, and LLOYD-JONES, Michael. Sex education; the erroneous zones. London, National Secular Society 1970. Out of print.

(2) BREWER, Joan Scherer. Dick active, Jane passive: a guide to sex education books in Interracial books for children bulletin, Vol 6 nos 3 & 4, 1975, ppl, 12, 13.

(3) HEMMING, James and MAXWELL, Zena (editors). Achieving sexual maturity.

(4) London, Macmillan (Knowing about sex) 1975 (Paris, Librarie Hachette) 0 333 18395 9 £3.95.

## CHILDRENS BOOKS

Books are one way of introducing concepts to children and of helping to explore and interpret the world; as such, they are of great importance and the messages they convey are extremely influential. Yet what are these messages?

Most children's books perpetuate outdated, stereotyped sex roles - passive, "good" girls, adventurous, "naughty" boys, mums in aprons doing housework, dads working and taking the lead. Only a handful of titles can be seen to challenge these attitudes, and a selection follows.

However, whilst portraying unstereotyped sex roles, some of these titles perpetuate other biases - class bias (e.g. Pippi Longstocking) the nuclear family as the sole method of living (e.g. He bear, she bear) - and thus we offer these titles only as a starting place for discussion and are not annotating them.

First level

BERENSTAIN, Stan and Jan. He bear, she bear. London, Collins (A beginning beginner book) 1975. (New York, Random House)  
0 00 171217 9 £0.95

HUTCHINS, Pat. Titch. London, Bodley Head 1972. 0 370 01137 6 £1.00  
Harmondsworth, Puffin books (Picture Puffin) 1974. 0 14 150096 0  
£0.25.

KEEPING, Charles. Joseph's yard. London, Oxford University Press 1969.  
0 19 279651 8. £1.25.

WOLDE, Gunilla. Thomas goes to the doctor. London, Brockhampton 1972.  
(Stockholm, Laromedelsforlagen). 0 340 16050 0 £0.35

Second level

CUTLER, Ivor. Meal one. London, Heinemann 1971. 0 434 93350 3 £1.10

DARKE, Marjorie. What can I do? Harmondsworth, Kestrel (Minnor Books)  
1975. 0 7226 5003 5 £1.10.

FITZHUGH, Louise. Harriet the spy. London, Gollancz 1974 (New York and London, Harper and Row). 0 575 01808 9 £1.60

LINDGREN, Astrid. Pippi Longstocking. London, Oxford University Press  
1954, 1971 (paperback). (Stockholm, Raben and Sjogren).  
0 19 271097 4 £0.90  
0 19 272017 1 £0.35 (paperback)

PERL, Lila. That crazy April. London, Collins 1975 (New York, Seabury Press) 0 00 184829 1 £2.50.



VESTLY, Anne-Cath. Hello Aurora! Harmondsworth, Kestrel 1973. (Oslo, Tiden Norsk Forlag). O 7226 6035 9 £1.50

WHITE, Elwyn Brooks. Charlotte's web. London, Hamish Hamilton 1952.  
O 241 90098 0 £1.05 . Harmondsworth, Penguin (Puffin Books)  
1969. O 14 030185 2 £0.25

### Third level

BECKMAN, Gunnel. The loneliness of Mia. London, Bodley Head, 1975.  
(Stockholm, Bonnier) O 370 10958 9 £1.55

CLEAVER, Vera and Bill. The whys and wherefores of Littabelle Lee  
London, Hamish Hamilton 1974. (New York, Atheneum).  
O 241 02493 5 £1.40

GEORGE, Jean. Julie of the wolves. London, Hamish Hamilton, 1973. (New York, Harper and Row). O 241 02474 9 £1.50

MACGIBBON, Jean. Hal. London, Heinemann 1974. O 434 94986 8 £2.10

Further information about bias in children's books may be obtained from L.F.S.C. and the Children's Rights Workshop, 73 Balfour Street, London S.E.17

BOOK SHOPS

The following have good-to-comprehensive stocks of books, pamphlets and magazines in the field of sexual politics.

COMPENDIUM

240 Camden High Street, London NW1 (01-485-8944)

The best selection in Britain - reliable mail order as well.

GAY NEWS MAIL ORDER

1a Normand Gardens, Greyhound Road, W.14 (01-381-2161)

Gay, some feminist, literature - mail order only.

GRASSROOTS

178 Oxford Road, Manchester 13. (061 273 2180)

Best shop for the Manchester district.

HOUSMANS

5 Caledonian Road, London N1 (01-837-4473)

Good selection of gay liberation writings.

NEWS FROM NOWHERE

48 Manchester Street, Liverpool 1 6ER (051-227-2514)

Best shop for Merseyside.

PARTISAN BOOKS

34 Dallow Road, Luton, Bedfordshire (0582-29170)

Often run bookstalls at conferences. Publish some inexpensive pamphlets themselves.

PEACE CENTRE

Ringway, 18 Moor Street, Birmingham 4 (021-643-0996)

Best shop for the Birmingham district.

RISING FREE

197 King's Cross Road, London WC1 (01-837-0182)

Selection of pamphlets is good, also US imports. Mail order as well.

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SHIRLEE'S STALL

Greyfriars Market, 14 Forest Road, Edinburgh.

Gay and women's literature.

SISTERHOOD BOOKS

c/o 22 Great Windmill Street, London W.1.

Women's movement literature - mail order.

WOMEN'S BOOKS

11 Waverley Road, Bristol 6 (0272-38120)

Mail order women's movement literature from Bristol women's centre.

RELEASE PUBLICATIONS LTD

ENTERING AND REMAINING ON PROPERTY - specialist reading on squatting, being the Release evidence to the Law Commission on its proposals for criminal law reform. Individuals and groups 10p: libraries and institutions 45p.

THE FESTIVAL EXPERIENCE - the Release experience of festivals 1968-75 and recommendations for the future. Individuals and groups 15p: libraries and institutions 45p.

GUILTY UNTIL PROVEN INNOCENT - the Release Lawyers Group reply to the proposals of the Criminal Law Revision Committee. Still highly relevant. Individuals and groups 40p: libraries £1.00.

TRUCKER'S BIBLE - drug busts and laws throughout the world. The 1974 2nd edition is updated by JUST ANOTHER TRUCKSTOP. The two in a cellophaned pack £1.00. (Also available separately at 75p and 50p respectively).

TRUNCHEONS IN THE PARK - the Release report on the police actions at the 3rd Windsor Festival (1974). Individuals and groups 15p: libraries and institutions 45p.

We also publish CONNECTION, the occasional Release magazine, at 25p, and the monthly Release NEWSLETTER at 15p.

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