

# September '57

## NEWSLETTER



**special REVIEW**

**issue** ▶

of the  
**LOS ANGELES AREA COUNCIL  
OF THE  
MATTACHINE SOCIETY**

**LOS ANGELES**

*Mattachine*

coming in October

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found in every large city... written by a woman who  
knows her subject from the inside out! The humor....  
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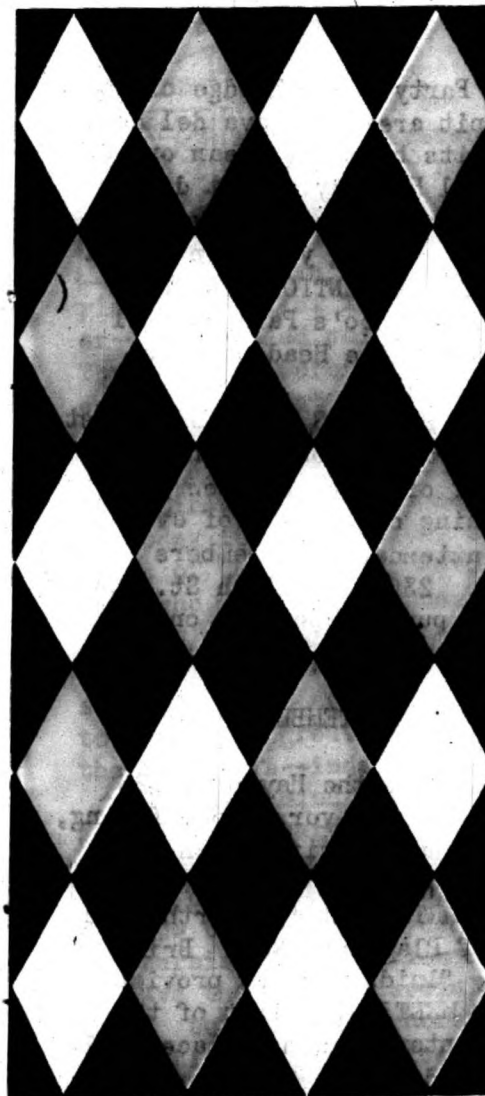
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LOS ANGELES

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# PROGRAM

- AUG 25 SUN 11:00am Beach Party. North edge of the fire pit area at Playa del Rey. Fire pits begin at ocean end of Imperial Highway. Soft drinks or lemonade furnished by the Society. Bring your own lunch.
- AUG 31--SEPT 2 ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION: to be held in San Francisco's Palace Hotel and at the Mattachine Headquarters, 693 Mission Street.
- SEPT 11 WED 8:00pm Monthly BUSINESS MEETING. First meeting after convention; election of officers for new year; outlining of program of events. 100% attendance of members is urged. 2302 West 11th St. Coffee or punch depending on the weather.

## NO DISCUSSION GROUP IN SEPTEMBER

- SEPT 25 WED 8:00pm WORK NITE at the Hayloft, 826 Fedora St. Conversation, filing, typing and classification of materials, etc.
- SEPT 29 SUN 11:00am BEACH PARTY. At far north fire pits of Playa del Rey. Bring lunch; fluids will be provided.
- OCT 7 MON 6:30pm DINNER MEETING. First of the fall-winter season. Place to be announced in the October Newsletter.

DISCUSSION GROUPS will be resumed in October.

# EDITORIAL



Every school boy is familiar with those great and highly revered names looming out of our struggle for national independence. In their time they were the renegades and rebels who dared to proclaim the rights of the colonists with a fearless conviction born of strong and righteous belief in their cause. Britain, a world power--a tentacled colossus, was the formidable adversary. The colonies were unorganized and loosely knit together, yet so great was the passion for democracy and the cognizance that truth was on their side that they rallied against overwhelming odds and struck off the chains of domination with a vehemence born of desperation.

Today it is difficult to believe that the hallowed names of the American Revolution were then opposed by many who did not have the foresight to envisage conquest of a top power, nor did these dissenters have the vision to realize that it sometimes takes more than numerical superiority to achieve victory, for men have been known to face the greatest deprivations and hardships for their beliefs--indeed they have died for their ideas.

The human mind is the greatest weapon in bringing about a necessary change and any struggle or movement which does not recognize this truth is doomed to failure at the outset. We of Mattachine are aware of this fact--we know that years of dedication to a program of quiet but persistent education and enlightenment is necessary to pave the way for social and legal acceptance of the small but very real homophilic segment of the general population. The prejudices we must overcome seem almost overwhelming. We are facing erroneous thought patterns which have been formed during centuries of civilization and we must not expect over-night miracles. Ours is a slow but STEADY program based upon truth and fact.

Unfortunately, very little scientific data has been thus far collected in this area of sexuality but the



next decades should see a great change, for the last few years has seen the beginning of painstaking effort to amass information from a wider segment of the population. The homophile group will never be fully understood until homosexuals from all strata of society come forward and allow themselves to be exposed to medical and scientific evaluation on a wide scale. This, of course, can only be possible when the lethal stigma is removed. It is most obvious, therefore, that this is the crux of our over-all plan--to ameliorate relationship between ourselves and the public--to create a wedge of understanding in the vast sea of bias and misinformation--to open the doors to wider study and more complete knowledge of homosexuality. This, in turn, will inevitably lead to more mature social attitudes and greater legal flexibility.

Currently, there are chapters of our organization in several larger American cities and we are happy to state that a Mattachine business office has now been organized in England--we are becoming international. However, we have great need for much more representation in all American cities and this is imperative if our work is to be effective. We must show the public that homosexuality exists universally and is not necessarily a product of the large city.

At this time we are striving to consolidate the West Coast area. Both San Francisco and Los Angeles chapters have experienced an encouraging enthusiasm and increased tempo of activity in recent months. Distinguished doctors, lawyers, psychiatrists, writers and public spirited people in various walks of life, have unselfishly given their time and effort to The Mattachine Society and One Inc., by participating in discussions and meetings in the Los Angeles area.

South of us is the large city of San Diego which has no representation of our society. We are most anxious to establish a chapter in that community. We wish to create a firm southern anchor for the western chapters of Mattachine. Before we can spread our work on a much broader scale we must first establish ourselves firmly in the larger cities.

Our open meetings and discussions must continue on an ever expanding and far reaching scale. We must place ourselves in the public eye constantly, in a positive and constructive way to dissolve present day conceptions of the homosexual. If this program is continued in the larger cities, it goes without saying that the formation of chapters in smaller communities will surely take place in time. Few people have the courage (or financial or social freedom) to be able to stand alone against overwhelming public opinion but once the effects of our program reach a sizable segment of the population we will have created IDENTIFICATION. Others who have lived clandestinely or in a complete vacuum will suddenly become aware of countless others who think and feel exactly as they do. This feeling of BELONGING is a basic human need, for man is a gregarious creature. It must surely be self evident to the thoughtful individual that a person's courage and morale will be greatly strengthened with the knowledge that he does not stand alone; that he is not a freak and that there are millions like him all over the world.

We are calling upon our friends in other cities who understand the necessity for spreading our program, to join us and start the formation of a chapter in their city. It is difficult to get the ball rolling at the outset but once this is done the impetus will create a chain reaction which will eventually spread to the smaller towns and cities.

Those among you who can see the problem in its totality and are aware of the precarious position of the homosexual today in social, legal and economic spheres, should come forward and start organizing in their communities. This, of course, requires great courage and conviction but it can give one great strength and assurance to know that he is far ahead of his time, as were those monumental intellects who framed the Declaration of Independence.

Bob Bishop

\*\*\*

The morality of an action depends upon the motive from which we act. Dr. Johnson



# A NEW VIEW OF THE HOMOPHILE

For several years, homophiles in Southern California have been tossing around a lot of thought-provoking questions: What causes prejudice against homosexuality? Are there any factors in society now that might erase that prejudice? How is homosexuality caused? Can it (or should it) be cured? Can homophiles ever find a respected and acceptable place in society? Have they ever done so? How do homophiles fit into the "scheme of things"?

But despite the fact that a wealth of information has lain under our noses to supply the answers to these questions, we have not had the answers. Except for the halfbaked opinions of Bergler or the scandal magazines, many of us haven't even known what responsible psychologists, lawyers, doctors or moralists have had to say on the subject. Yet the information is available. Homophiles have the means for a deep and balanced understanding of themselves and society.

The members of the staff of ONE INSTITUTE have spent many months preparing a popular study course to meet this need. We have uncovered an astonishing wealth of fascinating and informative material which we will introduce this year in our 36-week Survey Course: AN INTRODUCTION TO HOMOPHILE STUDIES. The first Semester will begin Tuesday, September 10th and will continue for 18 Tuesdays, from 8 to 10 in the evening. Classes will be held in room 332, at 233 South Broadway. The tuition (an unusually reasonable fee) will be \$12.50 per semester.

On Thursday nights, beginning September 5th, an advanced class will be given dealing with the Homophile and Homosexuals in History. The tuition for this class will be \$15 for the 18 weeks and it will be followed by a Psychology survey.

We feel sure that anyone, homophile or not, who takes these studies, will come out with a much better understanding of himself and society.

Write to ONE INSTITUTE, 233 So. Broadway, Los Angeles, 12 for particulars.



Throughout the Christian world, religious observances have been marked by odd mixtures of pagan rituals carried over from the pagan to the Christian.

Close by in Arizona, the Yaqui Indians present a rich example of the pagan and the Christian intermingled in one great Easter pageant.

The strange ritual, representing the battle between good and evil, begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sunrise on Easter morn. Costumes range from drab everyday clothing to elaborately designed and painted creations, depending on the characters in the pageant. The maestros, or teachers, wear ordinary clothing; the evil forces, or chapayekas, wear the most grotesque costumes; the matachinis, who are the good forces, wear distinctive head-dresses, said to be replicas of the crown of the Virgin. "Brightly-colored paper streamers, attached to the top, give a nice motion to the rhythm of their dancing to the ever-present swish, swish, swish, of the gravel-filled gourd rattles."

"The intricate dance of the matachinis is done to the weird accompaniment of violins, perhaps a guitar or two, even a horn if one is available."

In one elaborate ritual, the evil ones storm the church early Holy Saturday, seeking to recapture the body of Christ which they had stolen earlier, but are repulsed by the forces of good (the matachinis). "As night wraps its protective cloak about the church,...triumphal dances are performed by the matachinis....The dancing is almost continuous throughout the night."

From National Motorist  
March-April, 1957



# BOOK REVIEW

DEER PARK  
Norman Mailer

Just as he did with "THE NAKED AND THE DEAD," Norman Mailer, in his second novel, erupts a storm of controversy amongst critics and readers alike. While the former was heralded by many as the "greatest war novel of all time," it is doubtful that this latest missile will achieve such glowing plaudits.

Long associated with social reform, Mailer now aims his sometimes caustic, often scathing, but usually entertaining, pen at the nation's film capital. Hollywood and its citizens are dealt a heavy blow in this tale that makes current "Confidential" stories seem like children's lessons.

The plot, if there is one, is told in the first person by one Sergius Shaugnessy, a handsome, worldly slob who gets involved, much to his own liking, with the film colony at their own private desert resort. Through him, we meet and get to know prostitutes, pimps, homosexuals, dope-addicts, alcoholics, Communists and any other of the so-called degenerates that make up the Park. It isn't hard to pick out the prototypes if one wants to bother.

Mailer's chief interest seems to be, not in creating a plot, but in exposing the wilful degeneracy apparently running rampant among these people. As the title implies, he likens it to a Government range where wild-life are allowed to run and play in the constant security of protection.

Certainly there is a great deal to be said for Mailer's theme. One often wonders if the movie star is a privileged lot. Yet, we can't help but wonder, too, if they should all be criticized for the guilt of a few. Mailer forgets to mention these.

Unlike his first book, which this writer found difficult to absorb, "Deer Park," is delightful reading from start to finish. It is not for the sexually uninitiated, nor for the family fireside readings on Sunday evening. But if you have a strong stomach and if you can look at his message objectively, this can be a highly enjoyable book.

D. O.

# FRANKLY SPEAKING

'56-'57 was a time of flux for Los Angeles, the founding area of Mattachine. Interest flagged. Society vitality waned. The monthly office rental, eked out from dwindling revenues, became a worrisome thorn in the tissues of an already harassed organization.

The annual summer slump hit hard. (It has hit hard this year too--only one member at the last Beach Party, and from 3 to 5 at discussion groups.) A reorganization attempt followed. At the same time some of the most active members in the area dropped out. The new officers made a valiant effort to revive a faltering organization. By Spring they had injected new life into the area, whether lasting or not remains to be seen. Membership hit 25 (not the 22 stated on the next page). Discord reared its rankled head at our meetings. An aroused interest often manifests itself in the form of disagreement. We welcomed our dissentious moments as a sign of returning health. Some of our meetings reached new highs in the excitement of altercation; by the same token they indicated a revitalized Area Council.

We realized also that, as a Society unit, we were not doing nearly enough. Impressive strides in "group discussion" in San Francisco--in group study sponsored by One Institute pointed out that we were somehow failing to keep abreast. It is a problem we still have not solved. We freely admit however that part of the problem is a lack of dedicated personnel willing to devote a sustained effort toward the work of the Society.

We wish to thank everyone who has sent in contributions during the past 12 months--a surprising number have made repeated donations. Letters from interested persons have been appreciated, too. May we thank One, Inc. individually and collectively for their encouragement and support. Two brunches, which many persons interested in One attended, remain memorable and pleasant occasions. In particular,  
(concluded on back page of L.A. Newsletter)





# HIGHLIGHTS

## OF THE PAST YEAR

In general, the Los Angeles Area Council has found 1957 a year of heartening progress. Membership rose to 22, twice last year's total. Dues of \$1 a month from active members swelled our limping bank balance until we now have almost \$150.00. Donation of rent-free office space by a member considerably lightened our burden of expense. Attendance at most society functions topped previous years. Highlights of the year were a bang-up Christmas Party, the brunch at the time of the One Institute, a talk by an authority on Walt Whitman, an evening of handwriting analysis... Whoppingest meeting of all was the dinner at which Dr. Hooker spoke.

If controversy is a sign of active interest, the LAAC evidenced a burgeoning spirit, for there was no lack of disagreement on several issues. One of them was the area's newsletter which in reaching new highs in quantity and quality--as well as a couple of new lows--called forth considerable argument. A second issue concerned Mattachine policy and its aims. An interest so active as to arouse spirited discussion, sometimes even to the point of striking sparks from clashing tempers, indicates a continued high level of concern with Mattachine affairs. A special meeting was convened to answer charges of apathy among members and dry rot weakening the very fiber of the Society. An exciting exchange of reminiscences and opinions between Foundation members and the newest recruits convinced most of us, on that memorable afternoon, that the stagnation was more imagined than real.

In this connection it should be noted that the early days of the Society spawned many grandiose and extravagant schemes. As someone remarked, "Them crazy characters was wadin' in way over their flattops." In the light of present rock-hard

achievements, the persistent rumor about a proposed Cadillac ambulance with Mattachine Society lettered in gold seems a trifle absurd. Flights of fancy, altho as impressive as soaring rockets, are similarly short-lived. The achievements of a maturing Society may dazzle less than the brilliant proposals of other periods but nevertheless we are treading a way destined, I think, to bring lasting credit to the Society and tangible results for the homophile.

## SOCIETY-HISTORY *Being Collected*

Los Angeles took upon itself a project which seems to be routine at first glance: A "History of the Mattachine Movement." This we hope to make as complete as humanly possible. But there will be some errors no doubt, and the aid and cooperation of all is asked in correcting or eliminating these errors.

Altho we have been working on this project only for the past four months, already we have run into problems. Missing material seems to be the paramount nuisance at present. Elsewhere in this Newsletter is a request for missing Newsletters. If you have these and don't really need them please send to: History, Los Angeles Area Council, Box 1925, L. A. 53, Calif. If the various Area Councils have these on hand in extra copies, we would appreciate if they would forward a copy of each.

To help you anticipate what will be coming up in the work ahead, if you were a member of the Board of Directors, Area Council Officer, or Chairman of a chapter, you might give some thought to making notes on your own interpretation of the history of the Movement. One of the sections of the "History" will be a section of subjective views of the Movement. These are to be written by the persons who helped shape the past. There will be no editing or changes whatsoever in this section. There are always two

MATTACHINE phone number **NO 3-2616**  
in Los Angeles is:



sides to any story, but instead of only two sides, we will have many.

Another aspect to the "History" will be a chronological record of events of the past. We sometimes shudder when we think of this aspect of the project. It will require hours of reading minutes, programs, etc.

Probably the most voluminous section of the "History" will be the copies of all the business meetings of the Society. It is hoped that this will be complete but with the situation with the Newsletters being what it is, there is some doubt if we can get them all.

All of these documents will be assembled and presented to the National Offices to be placed in the Archives. This will be available to researchers and other agencies who would have need for a comprehensive study of the Mattachine Movement. An edited edition of the "History" will be written as a preface to these documents and will also be available for public distribution.

R.A.

## PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR

In the coming year Los Angeles hopes to establish a positive dynamic program. We anticipate the establishment of working committees in the fields of promotions, legislature, and library.

Discussion of this type of program has been going on at our business meetings. Because of Los Angeles' unique problem of area, a program in which interested persons in outlying areas could participate had to be found. This is not to be a static program and may be adapted if conditions warrant changes.

Just prior to the summer months plans were laid down for the establishment of chapters in various parts of the metropolitan area. When things get back to normal, after vacation-time, this will be carried out.

Chapters will function as recruitment centers and social functions for the promotion of public relations. Individuals will be members of the chapter within

their area, but are able to be members of as many committees as they feel they have interest and time for. Los Angeles spawned the Society and feels that it should try to recapture the persons who were once with us. Under this program we are anticipating an increase in membership and interest in this area. R.A.

## NEEDED!

BACK ISSUES of the following NEWSLETTERS are needed to complete files for use in compiling the "History of the Mattachine Movement," the LAAC's Society-project for the coming year. In particular, these numbers:

For the Los Angeles Area: 1956--May, July, Aug.; 1955--May, June, July, Oct.; 1954--May; 1953--Vol. 1, No. 2.

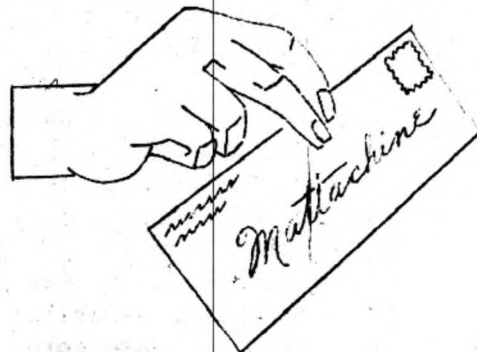
San Francisco: Nos. 1 thru 11, 15, 18 thru 37, 44, 46, 47, 50.

Chicago: 1954--Vol. 1, Nos. 4 thru 12; 1955--Vol. 11, all Nos. except 3 and 4; 1956--any Newsletters published this year.

Long Beach: 1954--Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec; 1955--Mar, May, June, July, Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec; 1956--any published this year.

New York: 1956--1, 4, 8, 9, 11; 1957--13.

Washington: 1956--Vol. 1, Nos. 3, 4, 5.





## THE INNOCENT VOYAGE

by Richard Hughes



### AN EXCERPT



WHAT'S in a child's mind? Who hasn't wondered in adulthood, just what our first wordless concepts were really like, before we clothed them in ever more luxuriant trappings of words and emotional experiences. Here is a story of children written with that flair peculiar to the British. As an insightful, rewarding experience, it ranks with Alice in Wonderland and Peter Pan.

Jamaica, where the story starts, "was a kind of paradise for English children to come to, whatever it might be for their parents: especially at that time, when no one lived in at all a wild way at home. Here, one had to be a little ahead of the times: or decadent, whichever you like to call it. The difference between boys and girls, for instance, had to be left to look after itself. Long hair would have made the evening search for grass-ticks and nits interminable: Emily and Rachel had their hair cut short, and were allowed to do everything the boys did: to climb trees, swim, and trap animals and birds: they even had two pockets in their frocks."

It was after a particularly devastating hurricane that the five children were sent back to England-- to safety and to school. As the ship left the shelter of the islands and headed toward the open Atlantic, the children entered their fascinating piratical adventure whose description occupies the greater portion of the book. The author describes the encounter with the pirate ship in these words: "on that passenger-schooner" (the disguised pirate ship)....

"sighted drifting towards them...the ladies had left the shade of the awning and were crowding at the rail, parasols twirling, lorgnettes and opera-glasses in action, all twittering like a cage of linnets...They were so interested that presently a boat was hoisted out and the ladies--and some gentlemen as well--crowded into it...That was how the Clorinda really was taken. There was no display of artillery...The actual number of the men who had effected the capture cannot have been more than eight or nine, most of them 'women' at that, and not armed--at least with any visible weapon. But a second boatload soon followed them from the schooner. These, for form's sake, were armed with muskets."

The children accepted their new life on the pirate schooner with complete equanimity. Children cannot make such sweeping comparisons as adults; they haven't the experiences behind them. But certain things about their captors' vessel did excite their interest. It was their second day on the ship that they encountered the mechanics of the unique system by which the pirates effected their bloodless conquests. It is described to us as follows: "At the same time there emerged from somewhere aft a collection of the oddest-looking young men. Margaret decided she had never seen such beautiful young men before. They were slim, yet nicely rounded; and dressed in exquisite clothes (if a trifle thread-bare). But their faces! Those beautiful olive-tinted ovals! Those large, black-ringed, soft brown eyes, those unnaturally carmine lips! They minced across the deck, chattering to each other in high-pitched tones, 'twittering like a cage of linnets...' and made their way on shore."

"Who are they?" Emily asked the captain, who had just emerged from below.

"Who are who" he murmured, absently, without looking round: "Oh, those?--Fairies."

"Hey! Yey! Yey!" cried the mate, more disapprovingly than ever.

"Fairies?" cried Emily in astonishment.

She was acquainted with fairies, of course. Her

own particular fairy acquaintances lived "in a small hole in the hill guarded by two dagger plants." But they were most certainly not to be confused, to her way of thinking, with the young men she had just observed!

T.S.

\* \* \*

Every month we receive addresses and donations from several people interested in getting the Newsletter. But also we have a monthly quota of Newsletters returned, marked by the Post Office--moved, no address.

If you like the Newsletter, please send us your changes of address promptly. We like to keep in touch even if only by mailing you the monthly Newsletter.

\* \* \*

(Frankly Speaking--concluded.)

we thank Lyn Pedersen for his good natured willingness to fill in (at our last minute begging) for a scheduled speaker who couldn't "make it."

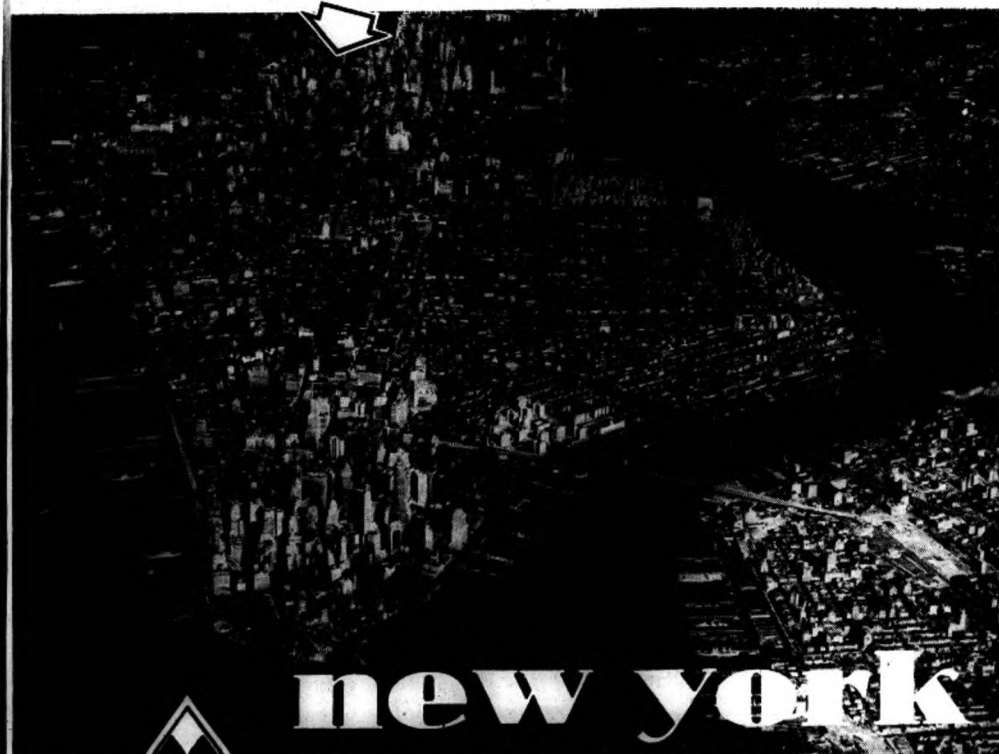
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NEWSLETTER of the Los Angeles Area Council of The Mattachine Society, Inc. Address of the Society in this area is: Post Office Box 1925, Main Post Office, Los Angeles 53, California. Phone number for the Los Angeles area is: Normandie 3-2525

SEPTEMBER 1957

WE HAVE A NEW ADDRESS:

1183 Avenue of the Americas (Sixth Ave.) near 46th St.  
New York 36, New York



new york

mattachine  
newsletter

NEW YORK AREA COUNCIL  
of the Mattachine Society, Inc.



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New York 36, New York



new york  
mattachine  
newsletter

NEW YORK AREA COUNCIL  
of the Mattachine Society, Inc.

The **NEW YORK MATTACHINE NEWSLETTER** is published monthly by the New York Area Council of the Mattachine Society, Inc., 1183 Avenue of the Americas, New York 36, New York. Please address all correspondence relating to the New York regional area to this address. Subscription rate, \$1.00 for 12 issues.

**NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS** of the Mattachine Society, Inc. is located at 693 Mission Street, San Francisco 5, Calif., telephone EXbrook 7-0773. Other branches are located in Washington (D.C.), Chicago, Denver and Los Angeles.

## OUR MAGAZINE NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT....

All members of the Mattachine Society receive the *Mattachine Review* (monthly), Interim (national news quarterly) and the local area newsletter automatically from a part of the \$10 annual membership dues paid.

Many members and friends who now receive the *Review* have other friends and associates who do not now receive the magazine, but would appreciate receiving their own personal copy.

Why not fill out the coupon below and enter a subscription for one or more of your associates who would like to receive the magazine? In that way you will be helping their understanding, and at the same time, you will be giving valuable support to the *Mattachine Review*.

### *mattachine Review*

693 Mission Street, San Francisco 5, Calif.

Please enter a subscription for the following for \_\_\_\_\_ year(s), at the rate of \$4 per year enclosed. Start with the \_\_\_\_\_ issue.

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## MATTACHINE NEWSLETTER

16th ISSUE

SEPTEMBER, 1957

Published by the Publications Chapter of the New York Area Council of the Mattachine Society, Inc., 1183 Ave. of the Americas, New York 36, New York.  
Telephone: Circle 5 - 1868.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Unless otherwise indicated, all meetings will take place at the offices of the Mattachine Society, Inc., at 8:30 p. m.

- September 9, Monday - Theater group meeting.
- September 10, Tuesday - Meeting of Board of Advisors (for members of the Board and Liaison Committee only. Not at the Mattachine offices).
- September 11, Wednesday - Report on the National Convention. All members are urged to attend.
- September 12, Thursday - Philosophy and Science. First of a series of formal lectures to be presented every Thursday.
- September 14, Saturday - Fall quarterly meeting. Speaker: Dr. SOLOMON MACHOVER, of the College of Medicine of the State University of New York. Subject: Outline of an important research project, HOMOSEXUALITY AND ALCOHOLISM, undertaken in cooperation with the Mattachine Society. Preceded by informal dinner at 7:00 p. m. Both dinner and lecture at YUGOSLAV HALL, 405 West 41st Street.
- September 15, Sunday - Discussion of the problems which confront the religious homosexual. Three groups will meet in separate rooms:  
Jewish: The Jewish Family Traditions.  
Protestant: Organizational meeting.  
Catholic: Attitudes of the Clergy.
- September 16, Monday - Theater group meeting.
- September 17, Tuesday - Orientation meeting: THE MATTACHINE SOCIETY: WHAT IT IS, WHAT IT DOES. Visitors urged to attend.
- September 18, Wednesday - Publications Chapter meeting.
- September 18, Wednesday - Seminar. Topic: PROPER TERMINOLOGY
- September 19, Thursday - Philosophy and Science lecture.
- September 23, Monday - Theater group meeting.
- September 24, Tuesday - Informal discussion: THE LESBIAN NOVEL.
- September 25, Wednesday - Public Relations Chapter meeting.
- September 26, Thursday - Philosophy and Science lecture.
- September 28, Saturday - Informal discussion. Topic: THE HOMOSEXUAL AND THE PERVERT.
- September 30, Monday - Theater group meeting.
- October 1st, Tuesday - General monthly meeting. Presentation of Dr. Evelyn Hooker's epoch-making paper: THE ADJUSTMENT OF THE MALE OVERT HOMOSEXUAL. At Yugoslav Hall.
- October 5, Saturday - Coffee & Gab Session. Enlivened by a theatrical performance. Details in the October Newsletter. At Yugoslav Hall.
- November 9, Saturday - MAE WEST in one of her most delightful films. No admission charge. Details next month. At Yugoslav Hall

## SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MEETING

SOLOMON MACHOVER, Ph. D., eminent psychologist and researcher, professor at the College of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry of the State University of New York, will speak on:

### "ALCOHOLISM AND HOMOSEXUALITY"

The monthly meeting will be held at Yugoslav Hall, 405 West 41st Street, at 8:30 P.M. As usual, an informal dinner precedes the meeting in the air-conditioned restaurant in the basement at 7:00.

Dr. Machover's past experiments have been primarily concerned with the study of alcoholism, which appears to be connected in many cases with repressed homosexuality. His talk will outline the opinions generally held in the psychiatric field and previous research that has been conducted on this subject.

Dr. Machover will also head the experiments and tests conducted upon Mattachine volunteers by the State University of New York. The results of these tests may prove invaluable to the study of alcoholism and its causes.

## AUGUST MONTHLY MEETING

A controversial talk was given by DONALD WEBSTER CORY, author of "HOMOSEXUALS IN AMERICA," "21 VARIATIONS" and "HOMOSEXUALITY - A CROSS-CULTURAL APPROACH." Mr. Cory was well received by the group and some of the points of his speech are outlined below.

Mr. Cory feels that much progress has been made for the homosexual cause in the past generation. This has been due to the throwing off of Victorianism, the emancipation of women and changing modes of thinking.

In the past, the defenders were defenseless, but now times have changed to the point that the leadership of thinking is ahead of the thinking of the masses. Attempts at sympathy and understanding are being made more frequently. We are starting to hear ideas of helping the homosexual adjust to society and of helping him or her lead a happy life. Advanced intellectual groups and writers are now taking a sympathetic attitude, rather than the former one of ridicule.

Mr. Cory believes, however, that we are now finding champions of normalcy within homosexuality who may be distorting their thinking in order to equate homosexuality with heterosexuality. He stated that showing well-adjusted homosexuals as a sample of homosexuality is wrong because it isn't true. Rather, we should show homosexuality and all its disturbances just as it is, if we wish the sympathy and understanding of society.

He felt that a homosexual should compromise with society in the following ways:

1. By fully understanding his problem.
2. By giving light and truth to his problem.
3. By not shutting the door on heterosexuality from the point of social contact and the possibility of becoming a heterosexual.

## THE WOMAN'S VIEWPOINT

There is an erroneous impression that Mattachine is run exclusively by and for men. This has been partly caused by the absence of articles and stories in the Mattachine Review dealing with the problems of women. Also, all but one of the Society's officers are men. The fact is, however, that Mattachine is most anxious for women leaders, and there is great need for stories and articles by and for women. For those who are shy about attending a meeting where the membership body seems to be predominantly male, a new group is being formed to discuss the problem of the Lesbian. But whatever meetings you may wish to attend, one thing is certain: you will immediately feel at home; you will be among friends who understand you.

The August 10th. discussion on permanent relationships particularly benefited by women's contributions. A lovely newcomer supplied living proof that a permanent relationship is indeed very much possible - provided, of course, that there is genuine devotion and that both persons are sufficiently mature.

The Lesbian novel - "Wind Woman" - was the subject for another discussion which brought out some rather original and positive opinions from those attending with regard to the problems a homosexual faces in her adjustment to heterosexuals.

"Club des Femmes," an old French film seen in a New York revival by one of the editors, seems worthy of mention in the Newsletter. The "Club" is a French hotel for women, something like the YWCA on a lavish scale. The unlikely plot features the extremes of behavior of women in a cloistered environment - runs the gamut from unmarried motherhood to more or less repressed Lesbianism. Its tragic theme centers about the story of a young woman who has been enticed into a "call girl" racket and the intense reactions of the girl who loves her. In a shocking sequence, the young lover, aware that her friend will not return, poisons the woman who has served as procurateur. Justice is served, however, when she is sent away by the doctor (who might be a Lesbian a la "Well of Loneliness") who guesses her guilt, to become a volunteer nurse in a leper colony. Danielle Darrieux presents the completely heterosexual in a charming subplot, and the tenor of the movie as a whole is rather amusing, despite the rather fantastic poisoning scene. Many scenes in this film appear to have been cut in the middle; as a result, the homosexual element loses much of its meaning, carries little message for the individual who would wish to understand this segment of humanity. The film is, however, of interest to those who enjoy women on the screen... only one young man appears, and he is disguised as a woman for the greater part of the film!

"Odd Girl Out," a Gold Medal Book by A. Bannon, is now available at certain book stores. The author may possibly be a young married woman. If this is NOT the case, the insight she shows into the mind and machinations of a normal young woman undergoing a homosexual affair is even more extraordinary. Women may like the honesty and sincerity of the author in portraying the two young women, one homo- and one heterosexual.



# variations

A Saturday night discussion group held August 10th on "Permanent Relationships" and "Homosexual Marriage" proved so successful that this special chapter will meet every Saturday night from now on.

A gratifying turnout of 17 members and guests attended the meeting. The subject elicited absorbing personal histories which drew extensive questions and comments. The special problems of female homosexual relationships received particular emphasis. The discussion touched on number of types of permanent relationships: (1) between two unmarried homosexuals who demand fidelity; (2) between two unmarried homosexuals who allow occasional straying; (3) between a legally married couple both of whom are homosexuals; and (4) between a homosexual and a person who is legally married to a heterosexual mate.

The group agreed that both economic and social pressures usually operate to keep a heterosexual married couple together, but to drive a homosexual couple apart. Nevertheless, a joint investment in a home and furnishings may prompt a homosexual as well as a heterosexual couple to "keep trying" in spite of quarrels and infidelities.

The problem of infidelity was admitted to be a crucial one, possibly more so for the homosexual couple than for the heterosexual because of the lesser emotional stability of the first. The practice of frequenting gay bars was declared highly detrimental to the average homosexual relationship. In brief, the group reminded one another that any monogamous relationship, whether heterosexual or homosexual, calls for self-discipline, as, unfortunately, falling in love does not automatically remove the attractiveness of everyone other than the beloved. Emotional maturity is thus the key to a lasting relationship, for it renders a person capable of withstanding temptations to promiscuity in order to achieve a superior joy, the blessings of a shared life and true love.

A Research - Educational Seminar to be held on September 18 will have as its subject: "Proper Terminology." We have all come across words used both in professional and lay publications and talks to which we as individuals have taken violent exception. Twelve of these words have been selected in an effort to come to some sort of agreement as to their proper usage. We request that those who intend to participate in the seminar work up from professional, scientific, and regular sources the meanings, etymology, emotional context, etc., of the following words for the discussion:

Deviation	Homosexual	Normal
Illness	Masculine & Feminine	Pederasty
Inversion	Natural	Perversion
		Sodomy

The Roman Catholic Group met for the first time on August 11th. The meeting was basically organizational. This group is to be devoted solely to the homosexual problem as it affects the Roman Catholic.

A short new play concerning women and Lesbianism by Carle (author of stories in ONE and the Dutch publication VRIENDSCHAP) was given a reading at the last meeting of the theater group. Casting has been completed but the performance is as yet unscheduled.

The scene from "The Green Bay Tree" which had been announced for the August

meeting has been deferred till fall. At that time, the well-known Broadway actor, Edgar Franken, assisted by Anthony Cox, will present a scene from the first act and, according to repeated requests, will give again the same scene from the second act that proved so tremendously successful last spring.

SETTLING: Like the pioneers, the Pilgrims, and other Americans, "We've found us a home!" Building it up and keeping it clean will take more than the money a few enthusiastic members can provide, more than the brooms and wax and paint and elbow grease already put into it. Discussion groups and activities are on the increase, interest is on the upgrade. The new office is in constant use. All who wish to participate will benefit by the improvements we can make upon the property in terms of more relaxing, functional surroundings... to say nothing of the way the appearance of our office presents us to the world!

A Coke machine is being investigated as a possible feature for pauses that refresh in the new office. The chair problem was attacked at the last Public Relations meeting by asking for "pledges." Eighteen chairs were pledged - 'twas almost like a revivalist meeting with people arising and making pledges. The exact cost is being investigated, should be around \$2.50 each. Two dozen more chairs will be needed however, and no one has yet volunteered to put up the money for these. Pledges for chairs should be addressed to the Public Relations Chapter; the matter is urgent since the chairs should be bought all at once in order to qualify for a quantity discount and present seating is highly inadequate.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: On Saturday, November 5th: a Movie Cafe Night, presenting MAE WEST at her best. At 8:30, Yugoslav Hall, 405 West 41st Street. This will be a regular full-length movie; no admission charge; the atmosphere will be informal. You'll be able to sup your coffee or beer while watching a movie.

Future plans for full-length movies include American and foreign films that have appeared through the years which contain homosexual themes. We do not know if these films will be available, but we certainly intend to find out!

A "college-type" adult-education course on Philosophy and Science begins in September at Mattachine headquarters (see Calendar). This will be a serious course, on university level, and we hope that the many philosophers in our group plan to enroll.

Brooms, brushes, paint ash trays, all the trappings of a new office are still desperately needed! Further details on painting parties and clean-up combines were worked out at the PR meeting, so any interested individual need not allow confusion to hinder him or her from volunteering for these details... any member will be able to point out the head of some task force ready to spring into organized action. Please come and help us.

The second discussion on "Homosexuals and Perverts" is scheduled for September. This important topic requires the attention of everyone interested in correcting false impressions among lay persons as to the proper meaning and relationship between the homosexual and the pervert. We hope a large group will attend.

DO BORROW BOOKS FROM OUR LIBRARY but be sure to return them promptly. Mattachine is more than happy to reserve a special book for you and for a few cents, which supply our only income with which to buy more books, you can be well read on the topic of homosexuality. Many books in the library do not have homosexuality as a topic however, and if you like to read about other things, we're sure there's just the perfect book for you on our shelves.

The Newsletter is also in great need of contributions such as book reviews, reactions to discussion groups, witty sayings and anecdotes, reactions to speaker, etc. It is our hope to make this four-sheeter into more than a carrier of announcements for the coming month - the Newsletter should also represent our thoughts and aspirations.

**ALMS:** Checks, money orders, silver, postal money orders, foreign notes, stocks, bonds and even plain old ten-dollar bills (also one-dollar bills, by the way), are in unusually great demand at Mattachine these days. Contributions will be used to help lighten the increased expenses in our new offices - and to give you a better newsletter also. Dividends on your investment will come in terms of increasing possibilities for the participation of larger groups in Mattachine activities through expanded facilities - and, we believe, the eventual betterment of all of mankind through self-knowledge, understanding, and tolerance for others.

The work of the Mattachine in New York is in its infancy - there are hundreds right here in New York who need our help - who need YOUR help. "No man is an island, sufficient unto himself..." For persons of all races, colors, and creeds, and for all we stand for, we appeal to you.

**COMING NEXT MONTH....** reports on contacts being made among professionals: psychologists, psychiatrists, lawyers, ministers and priests, etc. .... Details on other research projects... discussion of means to get publicity through other publications... such as technical journals, literary magazines, etc. This is to be the real McCoy, not just idle talk - some spade work has already been done.

There is a strong feeling within the Mattachine group in New York that the American ideals and principles of free speech upheld within the organization should be re-emphasized by deed as well as word. Members have suggested that we appeal more often in the Newsletter for suggestions from those who may not have expressed themselves in reference to their own needs. What can the organization do for YOU? Please let us know if you would like to see some particular topic placed under discussion, or to have meetings on some specific date for greater convenience to you. Address such requests to the Newsletter - we will forward them to the proper parties.

Persons concerned with matters of freedom of the press or interested in legal aspects of the sex deviant questions should familiarize themselves with the court case of ONE magazine. Implications of the last court decision may prove important to those interested in the welfare of the homosexual of either sex.

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## PUBLICATIONS CHAPTER

The October issue of the MATTACHINE REVIEW will be the result of the labors of the New York Publications Chapter. Unusual material will include an early XIX Century Peruvian poem.

Articles have been translated from foreign homophile magazines or were written especially for this issue by persons abroad or residents of the United States today with extensive knowledge of foreign laws, customs. We may be prejudiced, since this is our own "flesh and blood," but no matter how objective we try to be, we keep thinking that this is the best issue of the Mattachine Review yet... be sure to get your copy - or better still, subscribe: 12 fat and fascinating issues for only \$4. Subscribers in the New York area who may prefer it, may have their subscriptions mailed to our offices, where they can be picked up later.

## BOOK NOTES

The Winston Book Service, 250 Fulton Avenue, Hempstead, Long Island, announces as its dual selection Yourcenar's "Coup de Grace" and Sir Compton MacKenzie's "Thin Ice." The latter was recently reviewed in the Mattachine Review; the former will be reviewed soon. They are both excellent and valuable addition to your bookshelves.

The Village Theater Center, 116 Christopher Street, continues to offer a large variety of very unusual items... we still have not recovered from "Lord Byron's Marriage." A review of this significant and scholarly work will soon appear in the Mattachine Review.

And in the meantime our library continues to grow. Recent additions:

The Homosexual Neurosis - Wilhelm Stekel  
 The End of My Life - Vance Bourjaily  
 A Season in Hell: The Life of Rimbaud - Jean-Marie Carre  
 A Doctor Looks at Love and Life - Joseph Collins  
 L'agonie (in French) - Jean Lombard  
 The Opening of a Door - George Davis  
 Never the Same Again - Gerald Tesch  
 Les amours buissonnières (in French) - Andre du Dognon  
 Oscar Wilde: His Life and Confessions - Frank Harris  
 Studies in the Psychology of Sex - Havelock Ellis  
 A Problem in Greek Ethics - John Addington Symonds  
 Hermaphrodites: The Human Intersex - A. P. Cawadias  
 Le monde inverse (in French) - Andre du Dognon  
 Sex Symbolism and Psychology in Literature - Roy P. Basler  
 Stalky and Company - Rudyard Kipling  
 Hemlock and After - Angus Wilson  
 Sexual Life in Ancient Rome - Otto Kiefer  
 Sexual Freedom - Rene Guyon  
 New York Confidential - Lait & Mortimer  
 The Sexual Criminal - J. Paul de Renner  
 The Sexual Perversionist Abnormalities - Clifford Allen  
 Sex and its Mysteries - George Ryley Scott  
 Monsieur Venus - Rachilde

## NEW RESEARCH PROJECT

The Mattachine Society has been requested by the Psychology Department of New York University to assist them in obtaining volunteers for a research project which will begin early in September and run throughout the Fall and Winter of 1957-58. A pilot study has already been completed which indicates that there is a probable relationship between the psychological make-up of the male homosexual and his father. The present research project hopes to establish the nature of this relationship and to determine if it is instrumental as a cause for homosexuality.

The Mattachine Society has agreed to cooperate to the fullest possible extent in this project, and we therefore request that all homosexual members and friends of the Society whose fathers are living in the United States please fill out and return the blank form outlined below.

All that is asked is that both father and son take a short - and quite enjoyable - series of psychological tests, such as the Rorschach (ink-blot test). These tests will require no preparation whatsoever, and you can take our word for it: they are a lot of fun to take. The results of these tests would be better if the father does not know that the son is a homosexual; however, this is not a requirement - even if your father is "in the know," therefore, you can still participate.

Complete and absolute anonymity is guaranteed to all participants, before and after the tests. A code number will be assigned to each volunteer immediately upon receipt of the blank below. This code number will be the only thing used from then on.

Even if the father knows the inclinations of the son, it is better if he is not told the purpose of the project, for this may influence or prejudice some of the responses. For this reason it would be preferable if the father were given some other reason for the project. For example, this could be in connection with college or graduate school entrance exams, club or fraternity application, job application, helping a friend who is making a special psychological or sociological study of some particular ethnic group (your own), some profession (your own), etc., a survey being conducted by an advertising firm, etc., etc. And if you cannot think of a suitably plausible reason, just let us know - we shall put our most fertile brains at your service. Then, all you have to do is contact your father and make arrangements with him to meet the psychologist for the administration of the tests. Needless to say, the psychologist should know what sort of story Pappa was told to make sure there is no slip. So, if you qualify and your father resides in the United States please fill out AND return immediately the following:

**MATTACHINE SOCIETY, INC.**

1183 Avenue of the Americas  
New York 36, New York

I wish to participate in the Father and Son Psychological Relationship research project being conducted by New York University.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

CODE No. \_\_\_\_\_

Street No. \_\_\_\_\_

City & State \_\_\_\_\_

My father resides in (city & state) \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE DO  
NOT WRITE  
HERE).

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WHAT HAS

# **mattachine**

DONE?

Accomplishments of the Mattachine Society, Inc., are outlined in detail in a new folder now available for distribution to readers of this newsletter.

These folders may be obtained in quantity for distribution to friends who may be interested in the work of the Society in casting a spotlight on human sex problems for thinking adults.

Write today for a copy of this new folder. Prices for quantities will be furnished upon application.

The new folder, "What Does Mattachine DO?" is an ideal mailing piece to accompany a previous folder, "In Case You Didn't Know," copies of which are now also available in quantity from Mattachine headquarters and area council offices. If you wish additional copies of this folder also, please specify when ordering the new folder.

Address inquiries to:

NEW YORK AREA COUNCIL

**Mattachine Society, Inc.**

1183 Avenue of the Americas

New York 36, New York

