MATTACHINE NEWSLETTER. . . . . 43rd ISSUE.

Published by Newsletter Committee of S.F.A.C.

DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec. 6  PUBLIC DISCUSSION MEETING, Friend's Center, 1830 Sutter St., 8 p.m.
Speaker: Miss Alice LaVere, psychologist.

Dec. 9  KOFFEE KLATCH and pot luck dinner
7:30 p.m., 1560A Haight Street,
Moderated Discussion (see page 5)

Dec. 14  ANNUAL MATTACHINE CHRISTMAS PARTY
Members and invited guests (see more at bottom of this page)

Dec. 27  Monthly Business Meeting, members
693 Mission St., Room 307

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Annual Mattachine Christmas Party will be held this year December 14, 8 p.m., and will include dinner, entertainment, an exchange of inexpensive gifts, etc. Each person is asked to bring one gift (not more than one dollar in cost) for exchange among the people present. Special invitations will be mailed later and the charge for this event will be $2.50 per person.

A CHRISTMAS GREETING

By the time the next Newsletter has been received Christmas will have come and gone. What this festival means for each person depends on his own individual circumstances. For some it is a major religious event. For others it is essentially a time of present-giving and party-going. For those who have left the denomination they were brought up in, as all too many homophiles seem to have to do, it brings back memories, happy ones for some, unhappy ones for others.

The orthodox Christian regards it as the commemoration of the birth of his Savior. The heterodox person regards it as nothing of the sort. Persons on both sides find themselves considerably irked by the arrant commercialism of the stores, and the incessant playing and replaying of essentially lovely carols ad nauseam.

The historically-minded know that the present date of the event was arbitrarily fixed at this time by Dionysius Exiguus, a Byzantine monk of the 4th century A.D. This particular time was picked out because it was the same one when the Roman Saturnalia was held all over the Roman empire with much wild revelry and present-giving, in memory of when a legendary golden age had existed in Italy under the reign of Saturn. It was highly popular festival which was easier to alter than abolish, and anyway, the actual date of Christ's birth is unknown.

The historically-minded also point out that this time-period was a major festival
all over the Northern hemisphere till Christian times, because this was when the winter solstice, which this year falls on December 21, took place. Now the sun which had gone as far south as it could go, would start returning to the lands of the Northern peoples. The days would grow longer and longer, warmth would return, and the world which had apparently died beneath the onslaught of the powers of darkness, as symbolized among the Norsemen by the frost Giants, would be reborn into the youth of springtime. And so, assert some groups of people today, we too can be reborn as new persons, just as the world around us is being reborn into something fresh and new.

Whatever the interpretation, most of us are more or less glad to see Yuletide approach, and to think that for at least a few minutes during the year a world apparently in incessant conflict from the beginning of time, thinks momentarily of universal peace and kindness. It is in this spirit that we address to our readers the following invocation from a Southern Buddhist scripture whose essential spirit surely no one could disagree with, no matter what his creed.

May all beings be happy.
May they be joyous and live in safety.
May all beings, whether weak or strong,
In high or middle, or low realms of existence,
Small or great, visible or invisible, near or far,
Born, or to be born,
May all beings be happy.

Every Magazine Is New Until You’ve READ It!

Yes, because the publisher habitually sets aside extra copies for future use. Mattachine Review is still available as a “package” from the beginning, and single copies may be obtained of almost all editions.

Here’s how it works:

1. PACKAGE UNIT—All Back issues for 1955. Six big bi-monthly editions, plus “Bonus” December number, total 290 pages. Sold as a unit only for $3, postpaid.

2. SINGLE COPIES of back issues available for all 1955 numbers (except 2nd and 3rd) and all 1956 issues to date (except January), sent first class mail, 50c each.

3. BACKDATED SUBSCRIPTIONS. Any subscription may be ordered to start with any issue back to and including July-August, 1955. Thus a new subscription ordered to start with that issue and run for two years would expire in August 1957. Rate, $2.50 per year.


EVERY ISSUE IS NEW UNTIL YOU HAVE READ IT: Content of Mattachine Review is not outdated by the calendar. And premiere editions of this magazine will have greater historical value in years to come.

Here are the contents of the issues to date:

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1955: California’s Vag-Lewd Statute Criticized; James Barr Fugate’s Facing Friends in a Small Town; Study of homosexuals as a Personality Type; An Open Letter to Sen. Dirksen.

MARCH-APRIL 1955: Carl B. Hardin’s Deep Are the Roots; Sex Pervert, Age 7; Justice Scored in Provoo Case; Review of North Carolina Sex Laws; History of Mattachine Society; Sex Offenders in Denmark.

MAY-JUNE 1955: James Barr’s Under Honorable Conditions; the Problem of Appearance; Dr. R. S. Rood’s discussion of treating California Sex Psychopaths; a Minneapolis Father Discovers Homosexuality; theComing Model Penal Code, the Bride-groom wore a Dress.

JULY-AUGUST 1955: Mattachine Salutes Judge Learned Hand; Lyn Pedersen’s Play Without a Stage (a review of James Barr Fugate’s Game of Fools); Luther Allen’s article on Handicap vs Talent; Why So Much Hysteria: The Bi-Sexuality of Man; a Lesbian asks, Must I Be Different? Redemption of Oscar Wilde: Rights of the Homosexual Veteran.

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1955: Culture & Sexuality; Dr. Albert Ellis’ Heterosexual Culture and Homosexual Attitudes; Sex Variants Find Their Own Answer: Homosexuality and the Liberal Mind; The Importance of Being Honest; Take My Name Off Your Mailing List!

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1955: On the Cure of Homosexuality; Sex Religion & Myth: Regulating the Sex Urge; Conditioning Factor; Hadrian & Antinous; a Forgotten Commonplace; What Mattachine Means.
Two special orientation meetings during November were sponsored by the Mattachine Society's San Francisco Area Council. Early in the month the Publications Director met with 14 persons interested in the organization, and outlined Mattachine goals and its method of operation. Later in the month a forum on the legal subject was presented to this same group. Characteristic of the second meeting was the admonition "Don't commit illegal acts." The Society's long-standing policy against any sexual activity in public, against any sexual activity involving adults and minors (especially the young), and against any human relationships which involved fraud, violence and spread of disease, was clearly emphasized.

Counselor is December Speaker

Miss Alice LaVere, of Personal Adjustment Bureau, San Francisco, will be the speaker at the December 6 public discussion meeting of the San Francisco Area Council, to be held as usual on the first Thursday evening, 8 p.m., at the Center of the American Friends Service Committee, 1830 Sutter Street.

She will tell of the operation of her service agency which has for many years aided persons with adjustment problems. The service offered includes emotional re-education, marital counseling and speech re-education. This presentation promises to be one of the outstanding topics of the year by a speaker who knows her subject and has vast experience in helping others.
the Review's

1956

bound volume

12 issues of the magazine's second year--the six big issues which appeared on the newsstands, PLUS the six alternate-month issues which were mailed to subscribers but did not appear on any newsstand for public sale.

In addition it will contain a complete index for both 1955 and 1956. This is truly a collector's item with 422 pages, distinctive blue fabrikoid binding and 24-karat gold leaf stamping.

PRICE: $7, postpaid. Add 3% sales tax in California.

Orders for the bound volume should be sent now in order to assure early delivery in 1957 when the first binding will be made. Christmas gift orders should be so specified, and recipients of such gift books will receive a special gift announcement card at the proper time.

DID YOU MISS THE COMPLETE 1955 VOLUME?


mattachine REVIEW

693 Mission Street San Francisco 5, Calif.
Abigail thought it over and sent back the reply:
On nature consideration
Of this unique narration
Of thy infatuation,
Without further hesitation,
With no coy dissimulation,
But with maidenly elation,
And perhaps some perturbation,
I agree to annexation,
And life-long assimilation.

They married in 1786 and had ten children, so that proposing with poetry would seem as good a method as any to insure a permanent marriage.

KOFFEE KLASTCH

November 8 marked the beginning of a new series of informal discussion meetings officially designated as Koffee Klatches. This discussion group is designed and intended as a kind of interim meeting in addition to the Public Monthly Discussion Meetings. The Koffee Klatch is moderated by Ray Frisby. The November meeting drew an audience of a reported fourteen people; an excellent start. Subjects for discussion will vary with each meeting; the participants indicating their choice in this matter, and it may well range from a purely personal problem to a broader inclusion of general cultural attitudes and perplexities. The Koffee Klatch is held at 1560A Height St., beginning at 7:30 p.m. The next one is scheduled for December 9, a Sunday evening, and will include a pot-luck dinner.

CHAIRMAN RESIGNS

In Los Angeles, the Chairman of the Mattachine Society, along with the recording secretary, resigned recently from their official positions; the Chairman's resignation to become effective January 1, 1957. Their resignations came as a result of changes in their professional work. It is regrettable since they have worked long and hard on the Society's welfare since its inception. We send our best wishes for their continued welfare. The position of Chairman will be assumed by the Vice-Chairman.

NEWSSTAND ITEMS

Most human beings experience a considerable amount of disillusionment as they grow up. Homophiles as a group, experience even more, in fact, it might well be said that they have their faces ground in the dirt of human relationships. Either they see persons engaging in contacts all too often engendered under highly sordid circumstances, or else they see their fellows perpetually proceeding from one exaggeratedly colored and extremely brief infatuation to another, with only a rare few persons existing in the happy medium in between. This, of course, is more true in Anglo-Saxon than non-Anglo-Saxon countries.

Consequently it is a pleasure to report that Either is Love by Elisabeth Craigin, is once again on the stands in pocketbook form. This story, told in the form of letters written by a wife who had once experienced a lesbian relationship to her dearly beloved husband is a specialist's item rather than one for pop-
ular consumption. But it is a lovely one, and if it were solely about heterophiles would receive its due share of appreciation. It is hard not to believe that this is essentially an autobiography. Both the husband and wife sound as if they were exceptional human beings, with a remarkable quality of breeding and emotional depth to them. It is a pleasure to have come into contact with such persons, and to be reminded that both homophiles and heterophiles sometimes form relationships on a high level. The advertisement on the cover is a highly suggestive one, of course.

Another highly valuable pocketbook is Sex Without Tears by Norman Lockridge. Ostensibly, this is a work of humor. However, as Albert Ellis has pointed out, Americans find it difficult to accept the facts of life other than in the guise of humor or under a microscope. The consequence is that Lockridge, a supposed humorist, has produced a book that contains more realistic and advanced views on sexual relationships than the works of many contemporary scientists.

To do justice to it in this brief space is impossible. All we can do is quote the penetrating comment made by one gentleman of our acquaintance, just out of his teens who pursues every activity with energy and enterprise.

We loaned it to him. Two weeks later we asked him what he thought of it. "Well," he said, "as you know, I've very little time for reading right now. However, I went through the section on mistresses quite carefully."