



DECEMBER 1957

MATTACHINE NEWSLETTER

SONGS SPOKE UP TO ALL NEWSLETTER READERS

We send our thanks to all of you for your friendly encouragement, financial support, active interest and for your hard work as well. You are our source of progress.

This year has brought growth and some growing pains. It has brought expanded facilities in the form of a combination lounge-reading-meeting room. It has brought several new memberships, and increased leadership potential. It has brought a local reorganization which has resulted in the reactivation of chapters and the subsequent renewed interest in the aims and projects of these chapters. New equipment, new people, new ideas bring changes, some invigorating, some disappointing, all challenging.

We have been host to many of you, for you were present at our Fourth Annual Convention at the Sheraton-Palace, or you have attended our public lectures, social meetings, or chapter functions. Some of you are new friends; others have been our steady supporters and co-workers. Whatever your status, won't you renew the acquaintance--by your membership and subscriptions, but more importantly by your personal interest. We would like to know you better and feel sure you would have greater satisfaction through participation in the chapter activities.

Next year gives the promise of continuing advancement. We plan to complete our reorganization, to develop new interest groups, and to focus upon keeping you better informed of our projects and progress.

With these plans and resolutions, all of us here in The Mattachine Society send you our most sincere wishes for a very pleasant holiday season and the best new year ever.

55th Issue-----December, 1957

PUBLISHED BY THE SAN FRANCISCO AREA COUNCIL OF THE
MATTACHINE SOCIETY, INC., 633 MISSION ST., ROOM 312
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA. TELEPHONE EXbrook 7-0773
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a sealed plain envelope.

IT'S UP TO YOU

"Why is the Newsletter late?" "Why isn't it
more readable?" "Can't we have a different type
public discussion group?" "Why can't we have a
better social program?" "Why don't more people
use the library?"

These are questions we hear every day from the
membership. These questions are not without
foundation, nor are they unreasonable. They come
from people who are vitally interested in The
Mattachine Society.

Unfortunately, however, these people, for the
most part are only interested. When asked what
they are doing about these things, the most frequent
answer is, "That isn't my job." Their job is be-
ing interested and calling attention to our short-
comings and failures.

Enough material was prepared so that this issue
of the Newsletter could have run to 20 pages. To
get it printed we had to revert to an old nine-
graph machine that is not suitable for this type
of work. Our public discussion groups are made up
by accepting offers from people who are willing
to assist. Our social program must depend on per-
sons who have the time to plan and make necessary
arrangements. We can only maintain the library;
we cannot force people to make use of the facility.
In other words, we can only take advantage of what
we have. Attempting to work beyond that or to
(Cont'd on Page 10)

DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS ANNIVERSARY

The October issue of THE LADDER marked the first anniversary of the official publication of the Daughters of Bilitis. It also marked the end of two years of growing pains for the Daughters.

The Daughters of Bilitis had its beginning when eight women gathered together looking for a social outlet and some answers to a few of the problems which Lesbians face, and, as is inevitable, one idea led to another, and the present program of the organization gradually evolved.

The primary problem during the first year was that of meeting new people and spreading the word that the club did exist complete with constitution and by-laws. The going was slow indeed. Although the fact that the Daughters were in existence was an unguarded secret, the word just wasn't getting around. Interest wavered, and membership fluctuated from a low of six to the 15 on the rolls at the end of the first year.

In an all-out push, "do or die" effort, the 15 set up public discussion meetings in a rented hall with professional people invited to speak on the subject of FEAR as it relates to the homophile. For FEAR and the dispelling of it was the immediate problem to be faced if the organization was to be effective and continue to grow.

But setting up the meetings was not enough. How were the events to be publicized so that there would be anyone in attendance? And so THE LADDER came into being as a mimeographed newsletter just one year ago. As the first issue went to press there were 17 paid subscribers (at \$1 per year) and a mailing list of some 200 names and addresses, including psychiatrists, psychologists, attorneys and other professional people.

The first effort at publishing "snowballed." Mail came in faster than it could be read - let alone answered. The organization, as well as the publication, was suffering from growing pains, and a handful of not-too-unwilling people were in for a lot of hard work!

By the third issue THE LADDER graduated from the mimeographed newsletter to a bona fide printed format - the printing taking place before and after working hours in a local commercial concern unbeknownst to the proprietors. In due time this arrangement proved to be rather confining, since the circulation was growing steadily each month, and the job was farmed out to a commercial firm.

From a newsletter, THE LADDER has graduated into the classification of a magazine and as of June 1, when the rates were raised from \$1 to \$2.50 per year, it had a circulation of approximately 400 subscribers. It offers reportorial coverage of the activities of the various homophile organizations, articles relating to or of interest to the homophile, as well as fiction and poetry.

In January 1957, the Daughters of Bilitis applied for and received a charter from the State of California as a non-profit corporation. And office was rented in the Williams Building, quarters being shared with the San Francisco Area Council of the Mattachine Society.

Public discussion meetings - on fear, employment, the law, and other related homophile problems - met with a favorable response, attendance ranging from 15 to 55. Many men attend these meetings as well as women.

Social activities are another important part of the DCB program. Aside from the opportunity they afford for getting better acquainted, they have also proved to be very successful fund-raising activities. Several "annual" events have evolved during the past two years, one of which was the St. Patrick's Day brunch to which members of the Mattachine Society are invited. Also, during the recent Mattachine Society Convention, the Daughters entertained delegates and visitors at a cocktail party.

The DOB library, while still very limited, has been established and books are available on loan at their office, Room 308, 693 Mission Street. The books and periodicals range from strictly homophile subjects to the better-known established classical works.

Although some of the members of the DOB also hold membership in the Mattachine Society, it should be noted that the Daughters of Bilitis is a separate and distinct organization with its own policies and goals. While the scope of its activities is similar to that of The Mattachine Society in some respects, the organization is primarily concerned with the problems that confront the Lesbian, which are distinctly different than those problems with which the male homosexual is faced. For such a specialized program to have been set in operation in conjunction with a generalized program such as is carried on by Mattachine or ONE, Inc. would have been impossible for many years to come.

LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

Plans have been discussed for the formation of a Leadership Workshop to be conducted by Group Discussion Chapter No. 108.

It is becoming increasingly apparent that Mattachine needs leaders, and that those leaders must for the most part come from within the ranks of the organization.

The date of the first Workshop meeting will be set in the very near future, and for the present time will be limited to approximately eight persons. Some of the subjects to be considered are: Study of the hidden potentials such as leadership, creativity, and the development of an awareness of our own responsibility to ourselves and to the people with whom we live and work.

IS A NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTION OR SUBSCRIPTION ON YOUR CHRISTMAS LIST?

THE NOVEMBER LECTURE

The main theme of the November public lecture given by Mary F. Faiva, R.S.W., and personal and marital counselor, was how knowledge of oneself and one's partner aids in creating a satisfactory emotional relationship. As was pointed out by Miss Faiva, it is now believed by many authorities in the psychological field that attractions between people often result from an unconscious need to find in someone else some sort of unattainable self. The other person corresponds to the image of what one has always wanted to be and that is why one is drawn to him.

It was also commented by her that people are often most strongly attracted to their opposites. In such cases neither side will always understand the other and conflicts will develop as a result.

The affable person, she said, is not always understood by his partner. He is informal, intimate and friendly. His antithesis, with whom he is most likely to become involved and who is equally incomprehensible to him, is the discriminating person, who is formal, discriminating in his friendships and sometimes unintentionally gives the impression of high-hatting people.

Another person whose primary trait can lead to trouble is the dominant one. He tends to be a non-conformist, has his own personal concepts on how to live and everything else and usually has a one-track mind. His antithesis is the resourceful person who is inclined to have a great many irons in the fire and is usually passive or "plethoric". As examples of this type, she mentioned a marriage she knows of where the husband is plethoric and the wife dominant. The wife is always carrying out some project with great intensity and single-minded vigor. The husband usually gives the impression of inactivity, but on the rare occasions when he

Does set out to do something, he gets more done than his wife.

Many other mutually attracting types were described by Miss Paiva, such as the persons who lead with their hearts who find themselves drawn to those who lead with their heads, and she said the list could go on for the entire evening. The principal point was how personality traits determine everything about us; how we walk, how we talk, our environmental reactions, etc. An exact knowledge of our own traits and those with whom we become involved is a necessary and important aid in achieving emotionally satisfactory relationships, and assists two partners to realize that neither truly intends to hurt the other.

It was brought out during the discussion period which followed that probably one of the most common causes of marital problems is the failure of two people to communicate. Also, sometimes persons enter into a relationship expecting the other to conform to a previously conceived ideal image. Frustration then develops when one turns out not to be what the other had expected.

—Jack Parrish

ONE INSTITUTE SYMPOSIUM

For those attending, the symposium given by ONE Institute November 11 to 17 was an impressive and exciting experience. The sessions, each two hours long, examined homosexuality from the viewpoints of history, biology, medicine, psychology, sociology, philosophy and religion. Each session covered a remarkable range in presentation of material, and such an abundance of it was given that at the end of the symposium those attending went away feeling like the intellectual equivalent of a well-nigh overstuffed Thanksgiving turkey.

One of the most interesting sessions concerned the homophilic side of German history from Roman

times through Frederic the Great and Ludwig of Bavaria, down to the Hitlerian regime and the present legal situation. As was carefully pointed out by the speaker, this side exists to the history of every European country. With England, for example, one could discuss the mores of the Normans, Edward the II, the debate concerning Queen Elizabeth, Charles the II, Florence Nightingale and Edward Fitzgerald. The only real difference between Germany and the rest of Europe seems to be that there have been more persons in crucial governmental positions there at crucial turning-points of history than in the rest of them.

In the session devoted to religious doctrines the history of Jewish and Christian sexual attitudes was gone into. Among other things, it was pointed out that Christianity has always had several different attitudes towards sexual mores and that it was not until shortly before or at the beginning of the Christian era that Jewish religious leaders began to declare that the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah was homosexuality and not pride, as their earlier ones had done.

At the final session the various types of homosexual organizations were described. An interesting and provocative point made was that the European organizations have an entirely different approach from the main American ones. Their magazines are sold only to subscribers and never on newsstands. There is little or no attempt made to interest the public and even less to contact psychiatrists, doctors, law enforcement officers, etc. In most European countries there is less to fear, and yet the homosexual seems to be more afraid than here, and a tendency to withdraw from society into his own little private circle. As was said by the speaker, we actually have far more to hope for and our outlook for the future is far more encouraging in this country.

The whole symposium was a remarkable experience and those attending came away with great respect for

for the monumental labors that had gone into the assembling and compilation of the material presented. It was truly a Herculean task to do so, and a task which deserves the highest praise of all acquainted with it. As yet a textbook summarizing the material presented is not yet published, but when this is accomplished, a great contribution will have been made to the homophile world. While most of the books and articles from which this material was drawn are available to the general reader, it is unfortunately true that the greater body of it is scattered throughout the works of virtually an army of authorities and thus it is unknown to him.

—Jack Parrish

JANUARY PUBLIC DISCUSSION MEETING

The January Public Discussion Meeting which has been moved up to January 9th due to the close proximity of the first Thursday of January to New Years, will be devoted to discussion of the San Francisco Area Council activities and how they tie into the program of the National organization.

This will be followed up on January 28th at a combined meeting of the Society and the Daughters of Bilitis with a panel discussion entitled "Where are we headed?"

IT'S UP TO YOU (Cont'd from Page 3.)

offer services we do not have would be only an escape from reality.

Matching is your organization. It can work for you only to the extent you work for it. It can be what you want it to be only if you make it so. It can become a well-oiled, smoothly-operating organization; or it can become an organization of vitally interested people who sit at home and think about it. It is strictly up to you.

BOB CASTLICK
Chairman, SFAC

ONE INSTITUTE SYMPOSIUM

Sponsored by the Daughters of Bilitis, the Education Division of ONE INSTITUTE presented a symposium: How Homosexuality Fits In: fits into religion, philosophy, politics, everyday living, etc.

Starting with a brief anthropology survey, examination was made of the possible beliefs of ancient man, superstitions, and general attitudes toward sex. A study of Greece, a period of 1500 years, showed that homosexuality was a part of the culture, not something separate. Part of the process of a young man reaching maturity was to have the guidance and tutorship of an older man. The history of America is rich with Greek influence in the fields of art, architecture, parliamentary procedure, but lacking in the concept of "Brotherly Love." Acceptance of ourselves as individuals and as members of mankind concluded the first section of the symposium.

A look at the biological factors seems to indicate that the choice of love object is psychological in nature. Germany was used as an example of the contemporary scene; noteworthy men and women working in literature, art, etc. Many attempts are being made to bring religious doctrines and sex mores and practices together on a more sound and practical working basis. A careful study of the Bible proves again that it is still the greatest book ever written and has 'everything' in it.

The second section closed with a discussion of "Homophile organizations: Where are they headed?" Mentioned were some of the problems and pitfalls that groups of this nature should be aware of. It would appear that our culture is on the verge of a new and dynamic development. The homophile has an important place in this change. It takes a strong person to be a 'deviate,' and such strength can well be used for the advancement of mankind.

—HAROLD JENSEN

WITCHES, WISHBONES AND WHIMMYDIDDLES

Pausing momentarily in a cross-country lecture tour, Mr. Richard Chase, well-known Southern folk-lore authority met with members of the San Francisco Area in the SFAC Lounge on Friday Evening, October 25th. Mr. Chase, speaking in such a relaxed, informal manner as to make his talk seem like a chat between friends, told of how folk traditions of songs, stories and dances are a living thing among the people of the Appalachian Mountain chain and in his area of North Carolina.

Among other things, he showed the group a wooden statuette carved by a Cherokee Indian; and ingenious little contrivance called a "whimmydiddle" that is made by hand in his area and sold commercially; played melodies of old ballads on his alto recorder, and after persuading the group to sing with him, sang a few songs by himself. Because it was nearly Halloween, he told an old mountain tale of witches, and gave a formula for making a magic wishbone.

Mr. Chase believes that folk art is the basis from which great art springs. As examples he cited the plays of Shakespeare, which contain so much of English folk beliefs and customs of that time, and the great Greek tragedies. "There is a trend," he said, "to revive the various forms of the folk tradition art forms in this country. If these traditions are kept straight and simple, and are enjoyed with the unself-conscious dignity which is their chief characteristic, then they can play an important and constructive role in our national life, and lighten the mass of commercialized and mechanized forms of recreation all too often thrust upon the general public. And, in time, these forms will be taken over and used by great creative minds, just as the country dances of Europe were taken over and used in the musical compositions of Bach and Beethoven."

Those persons who attended the talk remarked that it was one of the most pleasant social evenings they had experienced in a long while. That it was, most certainly was due to Mr. Chase's warmth, and spontaneous and lively sense of humor.

CALLING ALL BEMS

Do you have green scales for skin? Can you extend your eyes out on stalks like a snail? Do you reach out with taloned claws with felonious intent towards damsels in transparent space suits on the hulls of rocket ships?

If so, obviously you're a BEM - a Bug-Eyed Monster. Certain members of the San Francisco Literary Chapter No. 110 are desirous of forming a group devoted to discussion of science fiction. The first requirement is you must be a science-fiction fan. The second is you must be a monster.

In the past three years there has been a reversal toward the sexual question among science-fiction writers. Before that time most of them, apart from Olaf Stapledon and one or two others, seemed either to completely disregard its existence, or else would only mention it briefly in passing, with a certain clinical, antiseptic quality, as though it were something that could be easily controlled and regulated as easily and in the same way as a virus or bacteria culture.

Now the better magazines and writers seem to be aware that it exists and some of them go so far as to treat it with sophistication and humor. Better still, they are beginning to admit its deviant phases. Wilson Tucker's full-length novel THE CITY BENEATH THE SEA and the story VIRGIN PLANET in a recent issue of VENTURE make no bones about the existence of lesbianism among women soldiers, or its inevitability in a large all-female population. It runs as a thread

thread through several of Theodore Sturgeon's short stories, and one of the best ones in his recent anthology E PLURIBIS UNICORN is completely devoted to it.

Such a trend in "the literature of the world of tomorrow" makes one more optimistic about what sort of world it will be, and is well worth being kept an eye on by the homophile world. If the problem can be dealt with realistically in an intellectual form in this way, then it is much more likely to be dealt with logically and objectively in actuality.

So, if you're a lonely BEM, let us know if you're interested in such a discussion group. It's about time we monsters got together!

A LETTER FROM A READER

"Would like to see more articles which are of a general nature and could be interpreted to problems of a general nature--problems that we all have as individuals--how to handle these problems or how they have been handled by others successfully, so that these principles could be used as a guide for other individuals who have the same problems.

I enjoy your newsletter, but more important, learn something from it."

—J.L. — San Francisco

(While the Newsletter is mainly aimed at keeping its readers informed of activities in the Area, short articles would be given consideration. We would invite our readers' attention to MATTACHINE REVIEW which contains many informative articles. Also, our Area Koffee Klatch which is a round-table discussion conducted once each month by our Group Discussion Chapter No. 108)

DON'T FORGET — The Public Discussion Meeting held at 1830 Sutter Street will be held on the second Thursday, January 9th instead of the first Thursday, January 2nd.

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY AND JOURNAL OF ANDRE GIDE

Three books of Andre Gide, until recently quite expensively priced, have now become available in paper-bound editions. His memoirs, "IF IT DIE," is a classic of outspoken frankness. The last section of this autobiography especially, which describes Gide's meeting with Oscar Wilde in Algiers is an unforgettable portrait. "IF IT DIE" is complete and unabridged in this edition. Also now available in paper-back is the two-volume selection from Gide's JOURNALS which deal mostly with literary and philosophical matters; and the novel "THE IMMORALIST" which was made into a successful play several years ago in which the late James Dean made his last Broadway appearance as the Arab boy.

The above books are now available and may be obtained from VILLAGE BOOKS, 116 Christopher St., New York 14, N. Y. They are priced at 95¢ each plus 15¢ postage for one book, and 10¢ for each additional book up to 50¢. Complete lists of books available from VILLAGE BOOKS is posted in the SFAC Lounge, Room 309, 693 Mission Street.

"DERRICKS" AGAIN AVAILABLE

A limited number of copies of "DERRICKS" by James Barr are now available from PAN GRAPHIC BOOK SERVICE, 693 Mission Street, San Francisco. This is a collection of short stories by Barr, and the book has been out of print for some time, and it is likely that this edition will be sold out nearly as fast as the books are received by the booksellers. The price is \$2.50, plus 30¢ sales tax, postage and handling.

MATTACHINE REVIEW CHRISTMAS SUBSCRIPTION OFFER

For those who wish to give a Review subscription as a Christmas gift to a friend may send their signed Christmas card and \$4.00 to the Review before December 20th, and the card along with the December issue of the Review will be mailed to the recipient. In addition a full-year's subscription for the calendar year 1958 will be entered.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



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- December 5th - Public Discussion Group - 1830 Sutter
Employment Panel - 8 p.m.
- December 13th - Koffee Klatch - 19 Pearl Street
Apt. No. 4 - 7:30 p.m.
- December 14th - Mattachine Annual Christmas Party
1111 Pine Street - Apt. 101
\$2.00 includes buffet dinner
- December 18th - "Getting to know you better" - Social
Evening - Mattachine Lounge - 693 Mission
Coffee will be served. 7 p.m.
- December 26th - SFLC Business Meeting - Mattachine
Lounge - 693 Mission St. - 8 p.m.
- January 9th - Public Discussion Meeting - 1830 Sutter
8 p.m. - Subject to be announced

DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS

- December 17th - Ernest Besig, head of the Northern
California division of the American
Civil Liberties Union, will speak on
"Year Civil Liberties" at 8:15 p.m.
465 Geary Street, Studio 30.