



# International Gay and Lesbian Archives

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### BULLETIN

May 1986

#### ANNUAL MEETING OF MARCH 10, 1986

President Walter Williams presided over the meeting. Present were Board members Gary Booher, Jim Kepner, June Mazer, David Moore, Donna Smith, Gary Steele, Jean Nicholas Tretter, and Walter Williams. Also present was guest David Cameron, President of ONE, Inc. Absent were Board members Barbara Gittings, Foster Gunnison, Gene LaPietra, Jim Levin, Del Martinez, and Bunny MacCulloch.

Reports were first presented by the officers and committee chairs: Treasurer, Membership, Relocation, Library, Curator, and President. The meeting concluded with official business and consisted of unanimously re-electing the already constituted officers and redeclaring the membership of the Board of Directors as already constituted. The officers for the next year remain: Walter Williams as President, June Mazer as Vice-President, Donna Smith as Treasurer, and Gary Booher as Secretary.

#### Membership Committee Report - by June Mazer

The Membership Committee recorded 124 new members and 207 renewals for a total of 331 members in 1985, contributing a total of approximately \$13,400. The 1984-85 membership drive, which had been initiated in the fall of 1984, continued in 1985 with a mailing contributed by Whitman-Brooks and an additional mailing to our entire mailing list in Gay Pride month.

Special renewal notice mailings were sent to all contributors from 1982 and 1983. Renewal notices were sent to all 1984 contributors in the month their membership expired and a second notice was sent the following month if there was no response. Renewals ran between 40% and 50%. Partly due to illness of the Membership Chair and partly because of a lack of new prospective contributors, no mailing was done to initiate a 1985-86 campaign.

#### Treasurer's Report - by Donna Smith

The Treasurer's Report was presented for the calendar year 1985. Total revenues were \$26,497, and total expenses were \$27,395, for an overall loss of \$897. However, after incorporating the Kepner Fund into the Archives books, total revenues were \$27,497, leaving net excess revenues of \$103.

Most of the revenue (84%) came from new memberships, renewals, and contributions. Memberships and renewals increased by \$2,508, and contributions decreased by \$2,056. Events were more successful in 1985: revenues of \$2,877, less expenses of \$1,631, resulted in a net gain of \$1,246. The regular organizational contributors continued to be Christopher Street West and Southern California Women for Understanding. The largest contribution by an individual person totaled \$3,800.

Most of the expenses (66%) were for building-related items such as building rent, document storage, building maintenance and repair, and energy utilities. The remaining expenses were primarily for office and administrative costs (banking, delivery, stationary, parking, postage, printing, trash pick-up, telephone, etc.).

The assets of the Archives increased \$29,545 during 1985, from a beginning net worth of \$60,584 to a new net worth of \$90,129 by year's end. The increase consists of: \$ 24,920 for archival material, \$4,100 for library material, \$225 for furniture and equipment, and \$300 miscellaneous.

#### Relocation Committee Report - by Gary Booher

The search for relocating the Archives to a new facility prior to the expiration of the current lease in 1988 has not provided an obvious or concrete solution. Informal discussions have occurred with the City of West Hollywood, Metropolitan Community Church in the Valley, City of Los Angeles, the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, Christopher Street West, and Project Rainbow. The Board rejected investigating becoming a special collection library within the Los Angeles County Library system. The major objection to this alternative was loss of control over the collection.

#### Library Committee Report - by David Moore

The Library Committee was revived in September 1985, and has met a total of five times, with seven persons currently active. The Committee has determined that its foremost objective is to catalog the book collection. Toward that end, the Committee has evaluated various kinds of data base software programs, both general and for specific library application. Once selected,

the software will be installed on the computer's hard disk, and cataloging will commence. Persons with computer or library expertise are encouraged to join the Library Committee for helping select a computer software program and cataloging the Archives' book collection.

Curator's Report - by Jim Kepner

Visitors came from all over the United States and abroad, several from Australia (steadily our chief overseas source of visitors), Japan, Germany, Israel, France, Canada, and Latin America. More than 12 visitors were averaged per week from outside Southern California, and several from outside the Los Angeles metropolitan area. A number of them repeated visits.

Media coverage improved considerably in 1985, with articles about the Archives appearing in the Los Angeles Times, the Los Angeles Herald Examiner, USA Today, and in many local, national and overseas gay and lesbian papers. There were also interviews on several radio and television stations. This coverage dealt with the Archives generally, and with the Gay Pride Parades, Boy Love, the Archives' AIDS History Project, the Men's Art Show, Gay and Lesbian History, the Freedom of Information Act case, discrimination, etc. Press releases sent out by David Grossman and Olaf Odegaard prompted many of these, but we need more work on his. Each such story brings us immeasurable gains.

Early in the year the Archives withdrew from active participation in the Freedom of Information Act suit brought against the FBI by Professor Dan Simonovsky.

The Curator in 1985 spoke to Humanist groups in West Hollywood and Pomona, to a Gay community awards in Santa Barbara, San Diego's Gay Democratic Club, the Desert Business Association in Palm Springs, to Gay People in Science locally, a regional Gay Students conference held at California State University at Northridge, and several talks in Salt Lake City at the University of Utah Gay Pride week. Jim appeared on two panels on the bath closing issue, one during the Black and White Men Together International Conference in Los Angeles. Jim was also a judge late in June in Los Angeles' Gay Erotic Film Festival - a far more enjoyable experience than expected.

Library growth was the smallest of any year, partly because several batches of books were given away (to Connexus, Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, the Long Beach Center, etc.), and some duplicates were sold. Our growth was considerable, however, in audio and videotapes, posters, periodicals and other special collections. Our total book collection at year's end was almost 22,000 volumes.

Staff changes were constant, as short-term arrangements were made through different agencies for some paid workers. At times during 1985 there were four or five people working full-time at the Archives, with some coming in frequently, while at other times staffing would be down to one person staffing the office. Volunteer staffing was also notable. David Grossman developed the AIDS History Project by organizing the Archives' AIDS files and contacting AIDS groups nationwide. Olaf Odegaard organized the Archives' gay male art exhibit in February 1986.

Donated material additions included two more file cabinets, a typewriter, a new American XT computer (IBM compatible), additional shelves (built by Jim), chart shelves on top of the main row of file cabinets (built by Olaf), plus many more piles of personal papers.

Archives public involvement included participation (with a handsome banner prepared by Bunny MacCulloch) on successive June weekends in gay parades in San Diego, Long Beach, Los Angeles and San Francisco, and staffing booths in the last three cities as well as at the Sunset Junction Fair, West Hollywood Days, and Pioneer Days.

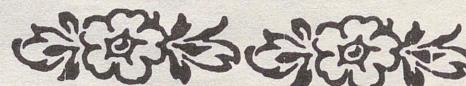
1985 was the Archives' weakest year for publications: Gay Goals, a pamphlet written by the Curator, the first issue of which is nearly sold out; a synopsis of the 1984 Annual Report; and a trimmed-down issue of the Bulletin.

Olaf sent out announcement of the Archives' Videotape Project, and received several promising responses, but follow-up is needed. The Archives' video equipment needs to be upgraded to improve the technical quality of the interviews so they may become available for distribution.

In June, after the Curator had again been without income for awhile, Board President Walter Williams offered to raise funds from friends of his to support the Curator for several months while Jim wrote the rough draft of a personalized history of the gay movement. By November, Jim had completed over 1,000 pages of rough draft material covering all years up through 1985, but not yet anything resembling a full account of the movement to that date.

Staff members have continued to put out feelers on finding a larger location, but no substantial progress has been made, though several dangling possibilities remain. Our rent, actually quite moderate for the size and quality of the present space, is an onerous burden, always using up a major portion of income. The present location has become far too crowded to keep things neat, a common problem with most archives.

Time hits worse than space. Even if the Curator were not working on a book, he could spend 16 hours every day just keeping up with current clipping and filing - with no time for the backlog - and at least eight hours daily rearranging things and putting back what Archives' users take out of the files or off the shelves; another eight hours a day answering letters (and we need to initiate correspondence) a few hours for errands - and someone has to clean the place - but in fact most of the Curator's time during the hours the Archives is open are taken up helping people who are using the Archives - and while we are officially open only from 1-5 PM, Tuesday through Saturday, those hours usually stretch to over 50 hours a week. Not to say that it isn't fun, but each day the piles of unfinished work get higher.



President's Report - by Walter Williams

I would like to express my appreciation to our contributors and to the other people on the Board. I can genuinely say that it has been a pleasure working on the Board. We are all striving to see that the Archives, this precious resource for our community, continues to grow and improve.

One of our greatest assets is our Curator, Jim Kepner. We can never forget that it has been his diligence in building up the collection over the years, and his hard work in the day-to-day operations of the Archives, that is the basis for its existence. Few people can look back on their life's work and genuinely say that they have had an impact on improving people's lives in an entire community, and on changing history.

Our treasurer, Donna Smith, is another person who sometimes gets taken for granted, since she, like Jim has been doing committed duty for such a long time. Year after year, she keeps our finances in order. She is one of our community's Founding Parents, contributing in a valuable way to many organizations. And like Jim, she has done this hard work for us when she could have been earning money for her own benefit.

I have a feeling that when I reach old age, I will be telling younger gays and lesbians, "Yes, I was fortunate enough to know many of those founding activists." And I hope it will not be said to my generation's shame, that we did not adequately recognize them for their great deeds, or help to provide for them in their retirement. Donna and Jim were out there putting themselves on the line, in order to make it easier for younger lesbians and gay males like myself. When I think of their dedication, it reinspires me to try to make a difference for the next generation.

Our Vice President, June Mazer, has been a special gift. Her efforts on the membership campaign have been largely responsible for the continued solvency of the Archives. The fact that she and Bunny have continued to be active and make a contribution, despite June's cancer surgery, is a mark of their dedication and strength.

Our former Secretary, David Moore, who resigned from this office after several years, also needs to be complimented. David is now reactivating the Library Committee, thereby putting his skills to excellent use. His Library Classification System, which he and Jim and I worked on this year, is a major long-term accomplishment for the Archives. The fact that this system is being adopted by the Canadian Gay Archives and other institutions, indicates its importance. It is up to all of us to make sure that this project is followed through to completion, so that our collection will be more accessible for users as it continues to grow.

In my role as President, I have tried to give us a vision, and set long-term goals rather than just lurch from one crisis to another with no long-term planning. By doing this, I feel a sense of accomplishment in several areas.

The first accomplishment is getting Jim to focus more on his writings, rather than be totally absorbed in the daily administration of the Archives. While the day-to-day operations may have suffered somewhat, I feel that in the long run it will be more valuable

to have some of Jim's incredible memory down on paper and on computer disk. My feeling of accomplishment on this is also based on the fact that it is the biggest fundraising project that I have ever taken on singlehandedly. Not being a fundraiser myself, I am pleased that I was able to raise \$1,400 from a group of my friends for Jim to pursue the writing project. I just wish we had the finances to support Jim's writing on a more permanent basis.

Second, I feel accomplished in having gotten grants to hire two work-study students to work on the Archives Cataloging Project. Having all those books typed into the computer will make it much easier for the cataloging to proceed.

Third, I consider it a major accomplishment that we now have approved a Library Classification System. This will provide the basis for transforming the Archives from a major collection (which it is now) into an organized resource for more widespread scholarly and community use.

Fourth, is the attraction of other workers into the Archives besides Jim. The Archives has grown too big to be a one-person operation. Anticipating this, I wrote a 12-page Instructions for Volunteers which now is printed and available for our new workers. We have been fortunate to attract our office manager Olaf Odegaard. Olaf has brought many talents to our daily operations. His organization of the Art Show in February 1986 definitely gave us notice in the artistic community and enriched us with the donation of more artworks and provided us with much positive publicity.

Fifth, is the compiling of major finding aids for our collection of gay/lesbian newspapers. Don Thompson and I compiled xeroxes of all gay/lesbian references in all volumes of the Alternative Press Index. This source is a makeshift finding aid until adequate indexes are produced of these newspapers. I would like us to sponsor further compilations of indices. I also compiled abstracts of articles on homosexuality in scholarly journals, which I gathered by computer reports based on several indexing sources. These types of finding aids are a step in building the Archives as a research center.

Sixth, I did an analysis of our big contributors. Besides individual persons, our biggest support has been from a relatively few gay/lesbian organizations (especially Christopher Street West, Southern California Women for Understanding, Valley Business Alliance, and the Imperial Courts) and individuals. Those which give on a regular monthly basis, providing dependable sources of income, provide the biggest amounts over time. Accordingly, we need to get more people and organizations to commit to a dependable monthly stipend, even if it does not seem to be that large of an amount.

My report also found that businesses provided the least impressive donations, with only a few (like Gene's TV, Circus Disco, and Potvin Printing) making substantial contributions. We need to be more effective in soliciting individual businesses, and to be more active in getting large donations (especially a monthly stipend commitment).

Individual membership dues are the real basis of the Archives' existence. Again, it is usually not the one-time giver but the person who gives regularly over the years who benefits us most.

What is also notable is that only one of our major donors did a donation in the form of a will bequest. We need to promote the idea of making wills and living trusts more than we have in the past. We desperately need someone to be responsible for nurturing and attracting major donors.

With AIDS fundraising taking so much of our community's resources, our local fundraising events do not generate enough money. Planning these events involve tremendous work on the part of our staff and Board. We have to be very careful in committing ourselves to work on such events. If someone from the outside wants to do it on behalf of the Archives, that is great, but we cannot dissipate our energies on such efforts, when we need to put our attention primarily to our rapidly growing collection.

IGLA, like any library, cannot reach its full potential when it has to worry about basic survival expenses of paying the rent and utilities. For the long-term, we need to put our efforts into getting a space provided free-of-charge, so that we can put our fundraising efforts into the things other libraries do: acquisitions. I still think that there is some rich gay man or lesbian out there who would like to donate a building to ensure their name going down in posterity. Another alternative is to get a commitment from some organization or governmental unit to provide a building.

The other area we need to focus on are salaries for our staff. In the short run, grants can provide other resources for salaries and equipment. I have felt frustrated this year in not getting more grants, but I am pleased about the grants that came through the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center.

Let me reiterate my feelings that much of what has been accomplished during this past year has been due to the hard work and dedication of several individuals who stand out above and beyond what one would expect for a volunteer organization. I am proud to have served this year as President, and appreciate the opportunities to support what is a most valuable resource for our community.

#### "NAKED EYES": HISTORIC GAY ART SHOW

[This article consists of reprinted excerpts of a review of the Archives' art show written by Stuart Timmons which appeared in the Advocate, April 1, 1986.]

"Despite rain and planning problems that delayed its opening almost a day, "Naked Eyes", the largest gay men's art exhibit assembled to date, put on a dizzying display Valentine weekend, February 14-16, in Los Angeles.

"A fund-raiser for the International Gay and Lesbian Archives, the show featured work by 116 artists, often with enough pieces by each to give a substantial taste of their individual careers. Surreal eroticism and graceful stylization emerged as motifs. But with more than 300 pieces - some new and many known to generations from books and magazines - the dominant theme was surprise. Gay art showed itself to be a populous genre with living horizons.

"Works by erotic pioneers Tom of Finland, Steve Masters and Domino hung beside those of such newer artists as George Dureau and Philip Core. Many of the artists mingled with onlookers at a closing reception and awards presentation Sunday night. For many of them it was an event to be savored.

"'Naked Eyes' was certainly a once-in-a-lifetime chance to look closely. One single section combined Baron von Gloeden's famous 19th-Century studies of Sicilian boys, a George Platt-Lynes photograph from the 1940s, four black nudes photographed a decade apart by Miles Everitt, works of Bob Mizer, and still others. Mizer's photographs, from his celebrated Athletic Model Guild Studio, revealed new qualities in their original form. His portraits of oiled sailors and centurions showed a glamorous refinement that often disappears in reproductions. A lesser-known photograph of two pompadoured body builders holding hands while balancing on a country railroad track took on the candid charm of a backstage glimpse. Contemporary photographers also captured nuances of gay life, often humorously. Greg Day and Norman Eales both contrasted pristine interiors with earthy desires. Some, like Gene Bagnato, captured friends and characters.

"From aquarelle to video, almost every conceivable medium was represented. Original panels by Howard Cruse, Jerry Mills and Leonard Johnson, among other comic artists, showed layers of white-out and blue pencil but lost no charm. Two oils by an Easterner known only as Perc glowed with antique warmth. Edwardo Vargas' terra cotta busts of fauns and spirits perched on Plexiglas pedestals and smiled over the visual and stylistic cacophony.

"Though there were never more patrons than pieces of art, many felt a deep satisfaction that the show had taken place. Olaf Odegaard, who curated the massive effort, stressed the importance for the gay community to understand itself through its artistic heritage. Some viewers, however, felt that central themes, such as the gay liberation movement, had been left out, and that fewer, better-chosen pieces could have had a stronger impact. . . .

"The general feeling, though, was inspiration. Tom of Finland proclaimed that the show was long overdue and hoped it would generate similar future events."



Bulletin Editor: Gary Booher

President: Walter Williams  
Treasurer: Donna Smith  
Secretary: Gary Booher

Curator: Jim Kepner