

GAY AMERICAN HISTORY

LESBIANS AND GAY MEN IN THE U.S.A.

A Documentary History by
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REVISED EDITION
With a new Preface
and Bibliography

1992



A MERIDIAN BOOK

Handwritten note on a small paper strip on the right edge of the book.

Handwritten name 'Hirschfeld' on a larger paper strip on the right edge of the book.

85. *New York Times*, Feb. 1, 1927, p. 1, col. 5.
 86. *New York Times*, Feb. 1, 1927, p. 3, col. 1.
 87. *New York Times*, Feb. 3, 1927, p. 1, col. 6.
 88. *New York Times*, Feb. 9, 1927, p. 1, col. 8.
 89. *New York Times*, Feb. 11, 1927, p. 1, col. 1.
 90. *New York Times*, Feb. 13, 1927, p. 1, col. 4.
 91. *New York Times*, Feb. 21, 1927, p. 19, col. 1.
 92. *New York Times*, Feb. 26, 1927, p. 15, col. 2.
 93. *New York Times*, March 7, 1927, p. 11, cols. 1, 3. *Sappho*, a play by Alphonse Daudet and Adolph Bêlot, appears to have been first performed in the U.S. in 1895, and revived in 1900 when it caused a great scandal (see clippings and material in the Theater Collection of the New York Public Library at Lincoln Center). Also see Alphonse R. Favreua, "The Reception of Daudet's *Sappho* in the United States" (Michigan Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters. Papers, vol. 30 [1945], p. 581-88).
 94. *New York Times*, March 9, 1927, p. 27, col. 1.
 95. *New York Times*, March 19, 1927, p. 3, col. 1.
 96. *Laws of the State of New York* (Albany: J. B. Lyon, 1927), p. 1731-32. This law appears to have been amended in Sept. 1931 to exclude actors and musicians. This statute remained in effect until the revision in 1967 of the entire penal code of New York State. I wish to thank E. Carrington Boggan and Robert Roth for help with this research.

An incredible homosexual witch-hunt dating to the late 1930s, in one of the smaller cities of the U.S., is reported by an anonymous "reliable source" in Arno Karlen's *Sexuality and Homosexuality: A New View* (N.Y.: Norton, 1971), p. 313. The arrest and confession of an eminent married man led to the arrest of some thirty others. The judge sentenced all to six months on the road gang or an alternative of surgical emasculation. He claimed that in the last five years many men had chosen the operation and that the results were perfect. This alternative was not accepted. The suicide of a local doctor ended this antihomosexual crusade.

On April 23, 1941, William C. Bullitt brought to President Franklin D. Roosevelt reports of alleged homosexual acts committed by Roosevelt's Under Secretary of State, Sumner Welles. Welles had long been a close friend of both FDR and Eleanor Roosevelt. The President told Bullitt he already "had a full report" on Welles, and was sure his future action would be more careful. Bullitt urged FDR to dismiss Welles for his "past crimes" and reported that Secretary of State Cordell Hull "considered Welles worse than a murderer." FDR indicated that he would retain Welles, and the interview ended in extreme acrimony.

In Aug., 1943, FDR, informed that Bullitt had been spreading tales of Welles's homosexuality—and that Drew Pearson and Robert Allen were about to publish rumors—was forced to request Welles's resignation. After this, FDR, in a fury, ended his close association with Bullitt. A tactfully edited version of Bullitt's long memorandum of his 1941 interview with FDR and a discussion of the case are in *For the President, Personal and Secret: Correspondence between Franklin D. Roosevelt and William C. Bullitt*, ed. Orville H. Bullitt (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1972), p. 512-18. Bullitt's original memorandum detailing Welles's "crime" is in the private collection of a Bullitt family member (Orville H. Bullitt to J.K., May 17, 1974).

On March 14, 1942, naval intelligence police raided a homosexual brothel on Pacific Street, Brooklyn, near the navy yard. Gustave Beekman, the brothel's manager, was arrested; he was told that by cooperating with the federal investigating agencies he could lighten his sentence. His cooperation led to the arrest of several foreign agents. On May 1 the *New York Post* carried the first news story of the incident and named the chairman of the Senate Naval Affairs Committee as a regular patron of the brothel. This was

David I. Walsh, Democrat of Massachusetts. On May 20, in the U.S. Senate, Alben Barkley of Kentucky read excerpts from an FBI report on the case which denied that Senator Walsh had ever visited the brothel. The case was closed. As his reward, Gustave Beekman was double-crossed by federal agents and the judge. He was arraigned on a common sodomy charge and received the maximum sentence—twenty years! He entered Sing Sing on Oct. 5, 1942, and was released on April 1, 1963, at the age of seventy-eight (C. A. Tripp, *The Homosexual Matrix* [N.Y.: McGraw-Hill, 1975], p. 224-27, citing *New York Post*, May 1, 1942, May 5, May 6; *New York Times*, May 20, May 21, Oct. 6, 1942). Also see "The Walsh Case," *Nation*, May 30, 1942; "The Case of Senator Walsh," *Time*, June 1, 1942; "Scandal Scotched," *Newsweek*, June 1, 1942.

Between Jan. 1, 1947, and Oct. 31, 1950, it is reported that "4,954 cases involving a charge of homosexuality or other types of sex perversion had been handled" by the armed services or civilian agencies of the federal government. "The bulk of these (4,380) were in the Armed Services, while only 574 were in civilian service" (Committee on Cooperation with Governmental [Federal] Agencies of the Group for the Advancement of Psychiatry, "Report on Homosexuality with Particular Emphasis on This Problem in Governmental Agencies," Report No. 30 [Topeka, Kan.: Jan. 1955], p. 5).

97. *New York Times*, March 1, 1950, p. 2, col. 8.

98. *New York Times*, March 9, 1950, p. 5, col. 4.

99. *New York Times*, March 15, 1950, p. 3, col. 15.

100. *New York Times*, March 20, 1950, p. 5, col. 1.

101. *New York Times*, April 19, 1950, p. 25, col. 3.

102. *New York Times*, April 25, 1950, p. 5, col. 1.

103. *New York Times*, April 26, 1950, p. 3, col. 2.

104. *New York Times*, May 5, 1950, p. 15, col. 3.

105. *New York Times*, May 20, 1950, p. 8, col. 2.

106. *New York Times*, May 22, 1950, p. 8, col. 6.

107. *New York Times*, June 15, 1950, p. 6, col. 4.

108. *New York Times*, June 17, 1950, p. 6, col. 3.

109. *New York Times*, July 13, 1950, p. 1, col. 2, p. 12, col. 5.

110. Lerner's *New York Post* article dated July 11, 1950, is reprinted in the volume of his collected writings titled *The Unfinished Country; A Book of American Symbols* (N.Y.: Simon and Schuster, 1959), p. 311-13. His following articles are quoted from this same edition. I wish to thank Stephen W. Foster for informing me of these documents.

111. Lerner, p. 313-16.

112. Lerner, p. 316-19.

113. U.S. Congress, Senate, Committee on Expenditures in the Executive Departments, *Employment of Homosexuals and Other Sex Perverts in Government; Interim Report Submitted to the Committee on Expenditures in the Executive Departments by Its Subcommittee on Investigations Pursuant to S. Res. 280, 81st Cong., 2nd Sess., 15 Dec. 1950, Sen. Doc. 241. Photo reprint in *Government Versus Homosexuals* (N.Y.: Arno, 1975).*

114. *New York Times*, Dec. 16, 1950, p. 3 col. 4.

115. *New York Times*, March 28, 1951, p. 1, col. 6.

116. *New York Times*, April 28, 1951, p. 7, col. 3.

117. *New York Times*, Oct. 5, 1951, p. 2, col. 4.

118. *New York Times*, Dec. 20, 1951, p. 20, col. 4.

119. Jack Lait and Lee Mortimer, *Washington Confidential* (N.Y.: Crown, 1951), p.

90, 94.

120. Lait and Mortimer, p. 91, 96.

121. Drew Pearson, *Diaries, 1949-1959*, ed. Tyler Abell (N.Y.: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1974), p. 188-89, 190, 192. I wish to thank Stephen W. Foster for informing me of this document, which I was not permitted to reprint.

122. *New York Times*, June 26, 1952, p. 4, col. 4.

123. *New York Times*, Aug. 31, 1952, p. 32, col. 6.

124. *New York Times*, April 13, 1953, p. 20, col. 2.

125. ("Miss") E. M., "To Be Accused Is To Be Guilty: 2. The Ever-Present Past," *ONE* (Los Angeles), vol. 1, no. 4 (April 1953), p. 3-4.

126. *New York Times*, March 13, 1954, p. 7, col. 2.

127. *New York Times*, March 15, 1954, p. 16, col. 4.

128. *New York Times*, May 14, 1954, p. 1, col. 1, p. 13, col. 3.

129. *New York Times*, Aug. 27, 1954, p. 7, col. 1.

130. *New York Times*, Jan. 4, 1955, p. 14, col. 4.

131. Kenneth Frank, "America, on Guard: Homosexuals, Inc.," *Confidential*, vol. 2, no. 2 (May 1954), p. 18. I wish to thank Warren Johansson for locating and providing me with a copy of this document. Hay recalls that an earlier story on Mattachine had appeared in *Confidential* in the spring of 1952. Hay says this first article had reported that he himself had appeared before HUAC, which was untrue. Hay also says the 1954 *Confidential* story is in error concerning "the protests when the Steering Committee hired Michael (Fred) Snider. Snider had first been hired in March 1951, before we had even finalized the name Mattachine" (H.H. to J.K., n.d.; postmarked Feb. 9, 1976).

132. Henry Hay, ten typescript documents: (1-3) "On Associations" numbers "I-III"; (4) "Do you want to leave these hearings?"; (5) "On Recollections"; (6) "On Whether Certain 'Stooling' Is True"; (7) "(in answer to any queries concerning persons, associations, or opinions)"; (8) "A Tactic to Nullify the \$64.00 Question?"; (9) "More standard tactics"; (10) "(in answer to so-called non-incriminatory queries)"; in the collection of Hay. I wish to thank Henry Hay for providing me with carbons and photocopies of these documents.

133. The official transcript of Hay's testimony before HUAC, according to Hay, omits some of his testimony, and so differs from his recollections. See "Testimony of Harry Hay, Accompanied by Counsel, Frank Pestana," in U.S. Congress, Un-American Activities Committee, House, *Hearings, 84th Cong., 1st. Sess., vol. 1, 1955. Investigation of Communist Activities in Los Angeles, California area, hearings, 84th Congress, 1st Session, June 27-July 2, 1955*, 4 parts, part 4, p. 1872-75. Informer Stephen A. Wereb's testimony concerning Hay, p. 1790-91.

134. John Gerassi, *The Boys of Boise; Furor, Vice and Folly in an American City*, (N.Y.: Collier, 1968), paperback reprint, p. 20-22.

135. Margaret H. Pierce, reporter, *Cases Decided in the United States Court of Claims . . .* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Gov. Ptg. Ofc., 1962), p. 405-10. Legal citation: [Fannie Mae] Clackum v. the United States, 148 Ct. of Claims 404 (1960).

On the night of Sept. 2, 1960, in Northampton, Mass., Professor of English Newton Arvin and a fellow instructor in the classics department at Smith College were arrested in their homes on charges of possessing obscene photographs and literature (what would now probably appear to be positively tame pornography). Arvin was also charged with "being a lewd and lascivious person in speech and behavior." He was identified in the press as the author of books on Hawthorne, Whitman, and Melville. The arrests were made after an investigation by the State Police Bureau of Pornography, the local police, and a postal inspector (suggesting the involvement of the federal government). This was the start of a classic, tragic, and obscene antihomosexual witch-hunt whose history is still to be researched and written (hopefully, while some of those who witnessed it and were its victims might still be interviewed). The headlines of the local papers suggest the train of events: "2 Smith Educators Deny Immoral Picture Charges," *Springfield Union*, Sept. 3, 1960; "Morals Probe Brings About More Arrests," same, Sept. 6; "New Raid Is Made

In Morals Case," same, Sept. 7; "Four More Deny Guilt in Morals Probe," same, Sept. 7; "Trio In Smith Morals Probe Given Leave," same, Sept. 9; "'Smut Ring' Stories Said Not Correct," same, Sept. 10; "Court Denies Dorius on All but a Single Motion," Sept. 19, *Springfield Daily News*; "Prose and Pix," *Newsweek*, Sept. 19; "Smith Will Take Action in Scandal, *Springfield Union*, Sept. 21; "'Hamp Morals Cases Result in Fines, Jail," same, Sept. 21; "Smith Teacher Is Convicted On Morals Charge," same, Oct. 14; "Prof. Arvin Retired By College," Oct. 27, *Springfield Daily News*; "Steps Are Taken In Morals Appeals," same, Nov. 2; "Smith Professor's Cases Appealed," Nov. 6, *Springfield Union*; "Smith Prof. Accused in Morals Case," April 15, 1961, *Springfield Daily News*; "Smith Vice Case Ruling Overturned," same, March 1, 1962; "Newton Arvin Dies in 'Hamp," *Springfield Union*, March 23, 1963. Antihomosexual hysteria in Washington at the same date as the Northampton events suggests the larger political context in which it must be understood (see *New York Times* Sept. 7, 1960, p. 1, col. 7; Sept. 8, p. 16, cols. 5, 8; Sept. 12, p. 7, col. 1; Sept. 16, p. 5, col. 4; Sept. 17, p. 8, col. 4). I wish to thank Sidney Kaplan for help with this research.

136. Sara Harris, *The Puritan Jungle; America's Sexual Underground* (N.Y.: Putnam, 1969), p. 165-69, 171-72. I wish to thank Stephen W. Foster for informing me of this document.

137. The "Purple Pamphlet" is officially titled "Homosexuality and Citizenship in Florida; A Report of the Florida Legislative Investigative Committee," Tallahassee, Fla., Jan. 1964; photo reprint in *Government Versus Homosexuals* (N.Y.: Arno, 1975).

138. Harris, p. 175-79, 184-86.

139. *Southern Reporter; Second Series; Volume 193 So. 2nd; Cases Argued and Determined in the Courts of . . . Louisiana . . .* (St. Paul, Minn.: West, 1967), p. 243-45. Legal citation: *State v. Young* [, Mary, and DeBlanc, Dawn,] La., 193 So. 2d 243.

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"Three Boise Men Admit Sex Charges," *Idaho Daily Statesman*, Nov. 2, 1955, p. 1.

"Crush the Monster" (editorial), *Idaho Daily Statesman*, Nov. 3, 1955.

"This Mess Must Be Removed" (editorial), *Idaho Daily Statesman*, Nov. 18, 1955. See Gerassi, John.

Anonymous. Interviewed by Jonathan Katz, N.Y.C., Dec. 18, 1973.

Bourdet, Edouard. *The Captive*. A play trans. from *La Prisonnière*. Adapted by Arthur Hornblow, Jr. Produced by the Charles Frohman Co. at the Empire Theatre, N.Y.C., Sept. 29, 1926.

A list of all the relevant news items of the period of *The Captive's* production can be found in the *New York Times Index* under "Theatre-Censorship-NYC." An annotated, chronological list of most important *New York Times* news items follows:

Sept. 30, 1926, p. 23, col. 1. Atkinson, J. Brooks. Review of *The Captive*.

Oct. 10, 1926, sec. 8, p. 1, col. 1. Atkinson, J. Brooks. "Trenchant Tragedy" (review).

Oct. 25, 1926, p. 34, col. 1. Mayor Walker predicts interference in theater if no change is made.

Oct. 29, 1926, p. 12, col. 2. Three plays under investigation; names withheld.

Nov. 15, 1926, p. 23, col. 7. Play jury will deliberate on *The Captive*; review of organization.