STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Lesbian Herstory Archives exists to gather and preserve records of Lesbian lives and activities so that future generations of Lesbians will have ready access to materials relevant to their lives. The process of gathering this material will also serve to uncover and collect our herstory denied to us previously by patriarchal historians in the interests of the culture which they serve. The existence of these Archives will enable us to analyze and reevaluate the Lesbian experience.

We anticipate that the existence of these Archives will encourage Lesbians to record their experiences in order to formulate our living Herstory.

We will collect and preserve ANY materials that are relevant to the lives and experiences of Lesbians: books, magazines, journals, news clippings (from establishment, feminist and Lesbian media), photos, bibliographies, herstorical information, tapes, films, diaries, oral herstories, poetry and prose, biographies, autobiographies, notices of events, posters, graphics, and other memorabilia and obscure references to our lives.

All Lesbians are welcome to use the Archives. Call or write for a visit.

LESBIAN HERSTORY ARCHIVES
LESBIAN HERSTORY EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION, Inc.
P.O. Box 1258
New York, New York 10001
212-874-7232 212-874-9443

Collective Members: Deborah Edel, Joan Nestle, Judy Schwarz, Julia Penelope, Valerie Itnyre

Newsletter prepared by: Deborah, Valerie and Joan

Cover Photograph of Mabel Hampton, now 76 years strong, taken in New York when she was seventeen years old, living her life as a Lesbian woman.

Newsletter printed by Tower Press

A PLEA FOR COMING OUT

We need women to tell us if they should be part of the Archives. Help us end silences if not for now at least for the future.
The room seems to be a collection of papers, books, stray pieces of paper... just a library. But the vision behind the room is much larger; the room is an entrance way, a portal that leads both to the past and to the future and for me its existence is the expression of a terrible hunger. I am a 38 year old Lesbian feminist woman. When I first loved women in the late 50's, I was living the life of a colonized subject. I did not know it then; I thought it was accidental that I found no references in the surrounding culture to Lesbian creations. Sometimes believing the colonizers view of myself, I did not even search for markings because I knew we were not a people, just deviant sad wanderers, meeting in dark places. It is the memory of this time, with its sense of homelessness, that is at the core of my commitment to the Archives. The Archives room is a healing place; it is filled with voices announcing our autonomy and self possession. The roots of the Archives lie in the silenced voices, the love letters destroyed, the pronouns changed, the diaries carefully edited, the pictures never taken, the euphemized distortions that patriarchy would let pass. But I have lived through the time of willful deprivation and now it is our time to discover and to cherish and to preserve. We ask every Lesbian woman to participate in weaving this tapestry of Lesbian life. We ask for a sign; a letter, a drawing, a photograph, a song, a voice, a song in all the languages we speak. The women in the Archives collective have undertaken the responsibility of collecting the published material but we know the vast greater power of the waiting words, the voices who think they have nothing to say and yet live the strength and beauty of our culture every day. We ask for moments of self cherishing. How we preserve and share our culture will help to answer the question of how deeply we were committed to changing our relationship to patriarchy and its death encouraging institutions. Our Archives must never be for sale; it must never be housed in an institution created by those who exiled us from generational continuity; it must be accessible to all Lesbian women; it must show its dedication to denying the rule of racism and classism as separators of Lesbian women. The Archives must never be a dead place, a worshipping of the past, but it must show its connection with the Lesbian present, with the struggles and glories of each Lesbian generation. We have never had the chance before to listen to a full generational discussion, to argue with or refine the visions that worked for one age but not another. The Archives in the deepest sense is a political act. Whenever a despised people say no to their assigned place in time and leave the hating world behind to concentrate on creating a culture that shows the possibilities of another life without the master and his rules, they will be watched. But most importantly if the Archives is to end our generational loss of memory, every Lesbian woman must add her voice.

From Paula Bennett in FOCUS (Feb/March 1979)

I've known about the Lesbian Herstory Archives for ages. It was just one more of those things women had started somewhere, with a chic title and, I assumed, no funding to speak of. I also assumed it wouldn't last, wouldn't work, and wouldn't be worth a trip over to investigate whether any of my assumptions were in fact accurate or not. Well, by chance and through none of my own doing, I did manage to get to the archives this winter, on December 30th, to be exact, for a wind-up party celebrating the conclusion of this year's MLA convention (my professional, if you will, organization).

The cramped New York City apartment was overflowing with women. It was late, we were tired, but still had the drive back to Boston before us — and three days of absolutely exhausting conference to recover from. I figured we would come and run. But we stayed. We stayed because the archives is there and it is a warm and beautiful place.

It is a narrow room, even by New York City standards, just wide enough for bookcases and a small wooden reading desk. I think it once was probably a pantry. Now it holds a different kind of food, the kind that will nourish and sustain a community of women.

I can't tell you how exciting it was to stand beside those bookcases and survey our history (or herstory) in print, to see gathered together in one small room so much that can enrich all life and space. There were many books there I never knew existed, many that I had only heard rumors of, plus, of course, innumerable books and journals with which I was familiar, including our own beloved FOCUS.

I am not the sort of person who can go somewhere uninvited. And my guess is that many find it hard for the same reason to take advantage of the space provided for us. But if you get to New York, go. And if you can't, then send the material you can spare. It will be well cared for and it could be put to better use.
from Susanna Sturgis in In Our Own Write

...Once the Archives women trundled samples from their collection in shopping bags around to wherever interested lesbians asked them to speak. Out of consideration for the size and variety of the holdings and because so much of the material was irreplaceable, they developed the slide show and oral accompaniment that were presented at Women's Nite Out to over 50 women. Like the Archives themselves, these are vital and continually evolving. The last sequence of slides features women in their daily lives. Joan and Debby took pictures of sisters in the audience after the show, to be incorporated into future presentations, in a powerful and inspiring statement of what herstory is: not the wars and diplomatic dealings of a handful of men, but ourselves, our lives, our interpretations of our experiences.

While watching the immense variety of lesbian works illustrated by the slides, I was especially struck by the ephemeral nature of our publications and organizations. This and their frequently local orientation make it too easy for them to be lost forever. Patriarchal institutions have suppressed and denied the culture of all women in the past. Now it is essential that we do not by our carelessness cooperate in their efforts. When the womenenergy that sustains a newsletter or a collective dissipates, the recorded evidence of their work must be preserved. The Archives are the instrument by which this can be done.

The Lesbian Herstory Archives are committed to making all this priceless material available to every lesbian who wants to use it. Thus the lives of women who lived in different eras or cities or nations may touch each other. Individual lesbians and lesbian communities need never be be fragmented or isolated again....

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN READING MORE ABOUT THE ARCHIVES:

Susanna Sturgis. "Women's Night Out" In Our Own Write (June 1978)5.

ANNOUNCING THE START OF OUR NATIONAL LESBIAN PHOTOGRAPHY DRIVE

The Lesbian Herstory Archives announces the start of a National Lesbian Photography Drive. The roots of the Archives lie in the silenced voices, the love letters destroyed, the pronouns changed, the pictures never taken, the euphemized distortions that patriarchy would let pass. To end the legacy of lost faces we are asking lesbians all across the country to send a photograph of themselves, friends, children, homes, pets, activities, to the Archives. Help us make sure our future sisters will be able to see us.
Research Questions...Information Needs

FROM THE ARCHIVES:

- Does anyone know what ever happened to the "Stars and Dykes" Flag which was flown at the Gay Pride March, NYC June 1973, carried by the Lesbian Feminist contingent?

- Does anyone know if the book by L. Lepie Lost in America: Odyssey of a Radical Lesbian ever came out? Can anyone send us a copy?

- We are looking for a copy of O.P Gilbert's Women in Men's Disguise.

- Do you have any spare copies of Lesbians Fight Back (Pa), Portcullis: East/West (Ca), Uva Ursi or Mother: A Lesbian Newsletter (Ca). We know these newsletters/journals existed. Any copies, leads or information about publishing histories would be appreciated.

- Have you worked out releases for oral history tapes and photographs? We would be interested in receiving a copy.

- Thanks to the donation of Katy Kasten and Sandra deHelen from the Actors Sorority in Kansas City, Mo. we have begun to collect original scripts of Lesbian plays. If you have an unpublished script we would very much appreciate receiving a copy. Be assured that we respect all copyright, whether filed formally or held informally. Let other sister performers and readers know about your work. Send us a copy.

FROM OTHER WOMEN:

- Martha Kearns is always on the lookout for additional references to the life of Queen Christina of Sweden.

- A woman from Washington is doing research on "Spirituality and the Native American Lesbian through the Ages". She would like to hook up with other similarly interested women and is also interested in references.

- Circle of Lesbian Indexers: We are Lesbian women who have been meeting for several months to discuss developing a Lesbians periodical index. We began by drawing up tentative list of Lesbian serials published in the US and are now working to create a list of indexing terms for Lesbian culture. We need support from the Lesbian community to make the index happen. Women could help by sending spare issues for us to index, by supplying the names of omitted titles or making corrections to the list, or providing information about the publishing history of the periodicals. The records and materials gathered for the project will be deposited at the Lesbian Herstory Archives in New York City. Please write us c/o Clare Potter, 122 Oxford St., #2B, Cambridge, Ma. 02138---and thanks to everybody.

- Frontiers: A journal of women studies will be having a special issue on Lesbian history. The deadline is soon. For more information write to them at: c/o Women Studies, Hillside Court 104, University of Colorado, Boulder, Co. 80309 or write to Judith Schwarz who will be the guest consulting editor: 1830 Colombia Pike, Apt 314, Arlington, Va 22204.

- A Lesbian Feminist Study Clearinghouse has been formed. They will be publishing academic and grassroots research and study of the Lesbian experience. It will be distributed by KNOW, Inc. For more information write to: Coralyn Fontaine, 813 LRDC Building, U. of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15260.

WANT TO CONTACT US? WRITE OR CALL...EVENINGS AND WEEKENDS O.K.
About Incorporation

The Lesbian Herstory Archives is proud to announce our incorporation as a not-for-profit organization. Our next step is to apply to the federal government for their recognition. This will lower our postage rates greatly and allow you to deduct contributions of materials and dollars. We have been incorporated under the name of the Lesbian Herstory Educational Foundation, Inc. This broadens our scope to be an information service that publishes a newsletter, does public speaking and in as many ways as possible gathers and shares information about the Lesbian Experience. The Archives functions as the "resource room". For the Lesbian community the two titles will be used interchangeably. For formal business we will be using the new one. It is our hope however that the Foundation will become more than just a beaurocratic structure. It is our vision that in the future the Foundation will help develop a Lesbian Cultural Center in the fullest sense of the word, that will be able to facilitate the creation, researching, sharing and preservation of Lesbian culture, and that will be able to provide a support network for Lesbian cultural workers and a place where all Lesbian sisters will feel comfortable.

WE ARE EXCITED TO LET YOU KNOW OF OTHER GRASSROOTS LESBIAN ARCHIVES AND HISTORY PROJECTS.

The New Alexandria Lesbian Library
P.O.Box 11371 Chicago, IL 60611
"a lending and resource/research library for Lesbians".

-White Mare Archives
  c/o Liza Cowan
  Preston Hollow, N.Y. 12469
  "a collection specializing in magazines, journals and ephemera, particularly flyers, posters and buttons."

-Tennessee Regional Archives
  c/o Catherine Moiria
  Oak Ridge Farm, Rt 2, Box 252
  Luttrell, Tn. 37779
  just starting up.

-San Francisco Gay History Project
  Box 1653, San Francisco, Ca 94103

-Washington D.C. area Archives is in beginning stages. For more information contact Judith Schwarz
  1830 Colombia Pike, Apt 314
  Arlington, Va. 22204.

HAVE WE MISSED YOUR PROJECT, LIBRARY OR ARCHIVES. PLEASE LET US KNOW.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN STARTING A REGIONAL ARCHIVES WRITE TO US. WE WILL GLADLY SHARE OUR INFORMATION WITH YOU.

A BRIEF NOTE ON HOW WE GET FUNDED

Women often ask us how we get funded. LHA exists as a labor of love by the women who collectively run it. We are all working women and not all of us live in New York. Much of the money which got us started and which keeps us going comes from a sharing of part of our salaries, each person giving as much as she can. We have, from time to time, received small but loving grants from Lesbian organizations. In addition Lesbian women have donated varying sums to us and this has helped sustain us. We have also had several fund raisers and will have more in the future. The question of grants is still politically debatable and we are working on the issue. We also rely very greatly on your sending us your work, your extra copies of books and newspapers, your tapes, photographs, diaries and letters, etc. The latter is invaluable and there is no way for us to purchase those bits of your lives. Running the Archives is expensive. All help is appreciated.

WATCH FOR---BLACK LESBIANS:
AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY.
compiled by J.R. Roberts
C/o Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St.
Cambridge, Ma. 02139
This bibliography is based on the Archives collection so it is a cataloging of our holdings. We hope this list will inspire women to send us a copy of their stories, particularly the unpublished tales hidden away. Also, we call for stories in other languages and on tape. Another purpose of this list is to enrich women's studies classes. No longer can a teacher say "but there is not enough material to do a study on the Lesbian short story". If we have not included someone, please let us know where we can get copies of her work. In our Archival tradition, we continue to list authors under their first, name, in an attempt to deemphasize patriarchal lineage.

This short story bibliographer recognizes the artificiality of genre labeling. "Short Story" here includes some autobiographical tales and narratives as well as stories called stories. In a sense all our writings are tellings. If anyone feels I have led them astray please let me know.

---Joan Nestle


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"Bonnir Gray.
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"Caron Lynk.
"Carol Pugliese.
"Catherine Cruikshank.
"Catherine Stimpson.
"Catherine Wells.
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"Women's Group" Ms. 4 (June 1976) 72.
"The Bionic Butch" Dinah (March 1977) 17.
"Kansas in the Spring" Conditions Four (Winter 1979) 80.
"Mountain Radio" Ms. 3 (April 1975) 82.
"Nothing Safe in Crabtree Meadow" Sinister Wisdom 6 (Summ 1978) 49.
"Short Work" Azalea (Winter 78-79) 34.
"I could call this 'New Friends' or 'The Waterfall' or ' Isn't it fine on the country on weekends' or 'can three be' and it is an excerpt from A Whole Long Story about Some Women." Focus (Dec 1973) 2.
Sophie Agronsky. "We Went Thataway" The Ladder (June 1964) 17.
Susan Daily. "There are No Gypsies in N.Y. City" The Ladder (Aug-Sept 1972) 49.
"On Writing Her Infinitive Vanity" Chrysalis (6) 53.
"Masquerade" Lesbian Voices (Nos. 2-3) 29.
"Memory of 1965" Sisters (Vol v, No. 6) 10.
Sue Whitson.
"Tales of Three Sisters" A Feminist Fable" Sisters (Vol v, No. 6) 20.
"Clonin" The Puce Mongoose (May 1978) 5. Note: Tadpole has a short tale in every issue of the Puce Mongoose.

Terry.
"The Little Amazon's Dilemma" Lesbian Voices (March 1975) 10.
Thyme S. Seagull. "My Mother Was a Lighthouse Keeper" Sinister Wisdom 6 (Summer 1978) 59.
Tirza Latimer.
"Listen To 's Your Old Lady (Feb 1975) 22.
"Take a Left" So's Your Old Lady (March 1977) 20.

Unsigned.
Valerie Taylor.
Vern Niven.
"Saturday Conversation" The Ladder (June 1965) 9.
"Climbing the Family Tree" The Ladder (April 1967) 5.
"No Hamburgers" The Ladder (March 1972) 22.
"Perfect Control" The Ladder (Nov. 1958) 9.
"Will Call" The Ladder (May 1959) 17.
Vicki Daniels.
Wendy Mays.
"The Giant Person and Her Hell-Hound Sisters" (March 1974) 28.
Wendy Stevens.
Will Chase.
"Head and Tail" The Ladder (Feb-March 1971) 19.
Willa Cather.
Stories by Willa Cather, Collette, Gertrude Stein, Catherine Mansfield.
Zee Newell.
"Echo" The Ladder (Sept 1962) 17.
Zee Paulsen.

And, of course, the works of Colette, Katherine Mansfield, Virginia Woolf and Willa Cather.

To all Lesbians who read this newsletter. The Archives grows in fullness only when you take the time to send us a contribution—a photo, a tape, a letter, something of your lives. We cannot personally attend every Lesbian event, go to every organizational meeting, but a grassroots network can. Please make tapes of events in your area, clip articles, write your impressions and send them to the Archives.

We need all your voices!
POETRY COLLECTION UPDATE


Barbara Louise Jean. "Chicana Blues" (Oct 1977) "Sandi" (Feb 1978) sent to Archives.


Collection of original drafts, reprints, etc., sent to Archives.


Cheryl. "Her" (1978) Poem sent to Archives by a friend.

Chocolate Waters. Original Drafts of "A Sky with No Women"; "An Evening with Sergio" (1973), "Moment of Depression" "To my Journalism Professor".


Diane L. Johns: "Kali Poem for My Beloved" (1977), "Konarak" (1977), "like the fast, silent, magic opening" (April 1978) "My Sister" (June 1978) poems sent to Archives.

Dorothy Peola. "A.W.O.L." (1976), "To Die in Georgia" (1976), "Renegade Woman/Armed and Dangerous" (Dec 1976) "Betrayal" (Winter 76/77) A Set of Poems for Connie" (Sept. 1975). reprints sent to Archives.


Georgia M. Brooks. "Outraged #1" (4/22/78), "Successfully" (4/22/78), "Uncle Ed" (4/22/78), "Alice" (4/22/78), "Choices" (4/22/78) sent to Archives.


Honor Moore. "Poem in Four Movements for My Sister Marion" (August 1978) sent to Archives.

Irare Sahasu. "Answer for the Last Time to Hearing "You Don't Love Me" (March 1978) "I want You" (March, 1978) "You Are as Comfortable" (March 1978) "Did I Imagine It" (March 1978) Poems sent to Archives.


Joan Abrams. "I am Angry for My Trust Has Been Violated" Praying Pan (8/77) 35-39.


"O Carol-Dedicated to the Memory of Carol Ann Clark"1976.
Poetry sent to the Archives.
Monica Raymond. "The Turning" (1979) Poem sent to Archives.
Rochelle Holt Dubois. Second Skin (July 1978).
Ruth M. Brown. "Sonnet to a Friend" (7/18/76) "Doubt" (9/17/77), "My Fantasy" (1/2/76)
"My Greatest Agony" (1/24/75). Poems sent to Archives.
Shelly Neiderbach. "Bentham For SKL" (1978) "Edinburgh" (Oct 3, 1978) "Correspondence"
(1978) Poems sent to Archives.
Susan Saxe. Faces for Anne Frank (1976). "I was not born a warrior" (1976) reprints
Susan Windle. Molehills and Mountains (1978) manuscript sent to Archives.

ANTHOLOGIES WHICH INCLUDE LESBIAN POETS

Dreams and Lamentations. Poetry and other Writings by the Fly-By-Night Women
Poetry Collective and Theater Troupe. Artichoke Publ., 1978. (?)
Personal Effects. Robin Becker, Helaqa Minton, Marilyn Zuckerman. Cambridge:
To Know Each Other and Be Known. Beverly Tanenhaus (ed.). Brooklyn: Out and Cut
Women Surviving Massacres and Men. R. Ethelbert Miller, ed. Washington, DC:

We ask disabled Lesbians across the country to add their lives to the Archives.
In what ever way you can, tell your story so our collected voices reflect
all our truths.
Thank You!
The most important source of the Archive's life is the contribution of materials women send us. Without your voices, images, music, ideas the Archives would be an empty place. We want to thank some of the women who over the past year have given a gift to us and the future. There isn't space to list every woman who has written us or sent us some material but we deeply thank you all: Nancy Johnson, Naomi Holoch, Mabel Hampton, Joan Biren, Peg Cruikshank, Barbara Ruth, J.R. Roberts, Chris Lundberg, Kathy Fire, Sarah Hoagland, Susan Wolfe, Tee Corinne, Adrienne Rich, Ann Shockley, Kady Van Deurs, Clare Potter, Irare, Carol B. Beth Hodges, Terry Collins, The women from Germany, Martha Shelley, Ruth Brown, J.Lee Lehman, Mary Farmer, Rhea, Jan Clausen, Katy Kasten and Sandor DeHelen, Dinah Utah and Betty Rowland, Nancy Monahan, Beth and Mary, Susanna Sturgis, Paula Bennett, Karen Vasaturo, Susan Leigh Starr, Evan Morley, Honor Moore, The San Francisco Gay History Project, Our Anonyman Donor and the wonderful Lesbian community who invited us to show our slide show.
A special appreciation for the work of Deborah Edel: her dedication, her hard detailed work, her putting aside of her own work for the Archives, her unselfish giving of time and care, her strength and gentle endurance, her financial contributions - for all of this and so much more the Archives collective says thank you.

--JN

To Lesbian authors and musicians: please ask your publisher or record company to send a review copy to us.

Back Issues?
Every issue of our Newsletter contains a listing of our holdings on some aspect of Lesbian culture. These listings are updated from time to time in subsequent Newsletters. Original copies of back issues are no longer available. We will gladly make xerox copies for you at cost (postage included). The following is a listing of the dates of previous issues, the bibliographic topic and the cost. Remember, each issue contains more than just the bibliography.

Newsletter 1- June 1975- $1
Serial media with Lesbian content Research Project Ideas

Newsletter 2- March 1976-.75
Bibliography of Lesbian, Feminist and Gay Bibliographies.

Newsletter 3- November 1976-.75
Lesbian paperbacks from the 1930's-1950's.

Newsletter 4- February 1978--$1
Poetry Collection

WE NEED YOUR HELP

We would like to publish the Archives Newsletter more regularly because we have so much information to share. It is a time consuming and costly project. We therefore ask your patience. Please do not give up on us if there is a long pause between Newsletters. Be assured that the daily functioning of the Archives is ongoing. We are requesting that women who are able to do so and who value the Newsletter please send us a donation to offset the cost of publishing. Our suggested donation is $3.00 for the next three issues. The Newsletter will continue to be sent free to any woman who has requested it or who requests it in the future.

We must ask Libraries, 'academia' based and funded programs to make their donation at least $6.00.

Please check to make sure we have your correct address. We are charged 25¢ for every Newsletter returned.

Make checks payable to: The Lesbian Herstory Educational Foundation, Inc., or L.H.E.F.

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