



GLBTRT Newsletter

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A publication of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered
Round Table of the American Library Association



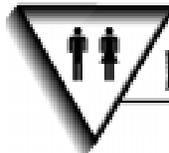
From the Editor

Greetings!!

It's time for another issue of the GLBTRT Newsletter, and once again I've had an enormous amount of contributions from Round Table members. Thank you all so very much for contributing such useful and interesting material to this publication. Without you, I could do nothing. If anyone is interested in contributing to the next issue, just send me an email. August 15 is the deadline!

Thanks for your continued support!

Ken Wells, *GLBTRT Newsletter Editor*
kenwells@ufl.edu



From the Co-Chairs

As we approach the 2003 annual conference, there is the usual excitement around the great authors, programs, and events that are a part of ALA. More information on the programs and events will be listed in this issue of the newsletter.

Beyond the usual array of events, this conference holds special interest for several of us in the Round Table, who are either from Ontario or attended library school in Ontario. For those of you who have not been to Toronto, it is a wonderful city.

As we look forward to the time in Toronto, we are aware that budget cuts and health concerns may curtail some of our members from attending. For those of you who cannot attend ALA, we would encourage you to still participate in the Round Table. If you would like to participate on a committee or do work for the Round Table, please contact Steve or myself.

After some delays, we are proceeding with changes to the web site. The site will be moved to the ALA site, to provide an easy address and ready access. Our web committee chair, TJ Lusher, is pursuing the work of moving the material.

I would also like to thank everyone involved in the recent elections. Thanks to Ron, Michael, Steve and Margaret for putting their names forward for the open positions. Michael and Ron – we look forward to having you continue to be involved in the Round Table.

Sincerely
Anne, On behalf of Steve and Anne

Anne L. Moore, Coordinator for Access Services
W.E.B. Du Bois Library
University of Massachusetts
amoore@library.umass.edu

Steve Stratton, Social & Behavioral Sciences Librarian
Virginia Commonwealth University
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Clearinghouse / Web Committee

Hello everyone! During the past few months, the Clearinghouse/web committee and the RT's website has been on the move with a few changes.

First among the changes is a new committee chairperson. Ellen Greenblatt had to step down when she had to take on unexpected extra duties at work. TJ Lusher has stepped in as the new chairperson to take Ellen's place.

By the time you read this newsletter, TJ and the committee will have completed the second change- moving the GLBT RT website to the ALA website server. The need for a stable location and a permanent URL formed the basis for the decision to move the website to the ALA server.

<http://www.ala.org/glbtrt>

Having a stable location will provide future Clearinghouse/Web Committee chair people with immediate access to the website so they can continue to update the website in a timely fashion. A permanent URL will end our past habit of changing book-marks to the site's new URL as it moved from server to server.

If you have new material to be placed on the website or updates to the site, please contact:

TJ Lusher, Clearinghouse / Web Committee
tlusher@niu.edu





Stonewall Awards

The committee for the 2004 Stonewall Book Awards has been formed and we would love to hear from you about what GLBT titles you have enjoyed this year. Nominations are currently being accepted. Nominations must be English-language books of exceptional merit relating to the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered experience. Only books published from October 1, 2002 through September 30, 2003 will be considered. Reprints of previously published books will not be considered. However, substantially changed new editions of previously published works and English translations of foreign-language books are eligible for the award. A short statement describing why the book is being nominated should accompany the nomination. Nominations will not be accepted from the author, publisher of a proposed book, agents or representative of the author, or any one else who may stand to benefit directly from the nomination of the book. The Stonewall Book Award (formerly the GLBTRT Book Award) is the oldest book award given for outstanding achievement in Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered literature. The Stonewall Book Award is an official award of the American Library Association and is given annually at the American Library Association's annual conference. Nominations will be accepted until October 31, 2003. Send nominations to: chixon@nypl.org
SUBJ: Nomination- (Title of book)

Members of the 2004 Stonewall Book Awards are: Cecil Hixon, Chair, Cal Zunt, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, Norman Eriksen, Lynn Evarts, Roland C. Hansen, Robert L. Jaquay, Katie Lynds, Jamie McGrath, Chet Mulawka, Teresa Y. Neely, Katia Roberto, Nick Rosselli, Marshall Shore, Barbara Stevens

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Treasurer's Report

This is the final report that I will be writing as your appointed/elected treasurer. It has been a interesting four years. The things we as a roundtable set out to do are done(fiscal procedures and operations) or in progress(endowment account). We have made a tremendous impression on the accounting staff at the ALA offices and the roundtable has a good reputation for wise fiscal management.

In June I will turn the office over to my friend and colleague Margaret Pas. I have worked with her for many years at BPL and know that she is very capable of doing the job. I know that she will maintain the high standards for fiscal management that have been established but she will be a bit low key in terms of presentation.

She will continue to serve as the ex-officio member of the fundraising committee so I issue her a challenge- If the next goal of \$75,000 is reached during her term in office she will have to attend the social wearing a dress, stockings and heels. I expect Jim and Ron will make sure that this goal is met soon.

In my last report I made an error in our history- I forgot to mention that it was Steven Stillwell and Tom Wilding who started the entire book award fundraising process with the donation of \$10,000 which was announced at the 30th anniversary gala in 2000. The other donations were made after this announcement. To those people who reminded me of the fact thank you and by the way I found the handwritten notes from that evening noting these facts.

I am in the process of sorting out the many years of files so that the relevant paperwork can be passed on to Margaret and the rest of the material can be archived.

I look forward to my two years on the book award committee and maybe I can get started on the periodical list for the website that had been discussed long ago.

Yours in Black Ink,

Norman Eriksen, Treasurer GLBTRT
neriksen@pb.net



Fundraising Committee

33,000 and Climbing

The Fundraising Committee is pleased to announce that over \$33,000 has now been raised in contributions or pledges from GLBTRT members and friends for the Stonewall Book Awards Endowment. Thanks so much for your support for the Endowment. This level of support shows how important the Stonewall Book Awards are to the Round Table and will strengthen any application we make to foundations for support.

Letters have been sent to all individuals who have donated through April 14, 2003. If you have not received a letter from the Fund Raising Committee thanking you for your donation, please contact me at 315-445-4321 or simonis@lemoyne.edu so that I can check our records and verify whether or not we received your name from the ALA Development Office. If we have not received your name, you will need to contact the ALA Development Office directly at 800-545-2433, ext. 5050, to check how your donation was credited.

Several initiatives are in process to raise additional funds for the Endowment. A Stonewall Book Awards Endowment Fact Sheet has been developed. It will be used as background information to solicit additional contributions from individuals and foundations. Copies will be available at the Round Table's booth in Toronto if you want to pick up some to share with friends or colleagues. I can also email you a pdf version. The Fact Sheets will be included with a mailing that will go out in early June to ALA leaders requesting a contribution to the Endowment. They will also be included in letters being sent in June to foundations requesting information regarding the Round Table's eligibility for grants.

Jim Simonis, Chair, Fund Raising Committee
simonis@lemoyne.edu



External Relations Committee

I need able men and women who are willing to work on the External Relations committee of the GLBT-Roundtable. Many are enthusiastic at the conferences but are less than responsive during the rest of the year when we really need you. I am looking for people who fit the bill of being responsible, motivated as well being light-hearted and gay. If you'd like to help the Roundtable in a very real way (and its not that time consuming) then contact me.

Richard DiRusso
rdiruss1@ci.tucson.az.us



Programming Committee

GLBT events in Toronto

I'd like to remind the members of the RT of our scheduled programs in Toronto. On Saturday at 1:30 we have The Glass Closet: Queers in High Places. This will be a panel discussion by gay and lesbian librarians on the adversities they faced and the effects they've had in their rise to top level positions in their respective library systems.

Sunday morning brings a general membership meeting to be held in the Sigani Room of the Radisson at 9:30. I'd like to encourage all RT members to attend and participate in the RT's agenda. That evening, Toronto City Councillor Kyle Rae will host our annual conference social. It will be held from 6-8pm in the Rotunda of Toronto City Hall.

Our annual Book Awards Breakfast will be held at 7:30 Monday morning in the Mountbatten Salon of the Delta Chelsea. This will be followed at 10:30 by our Read Aloud in the Spadina Room of the Courtyard by Marriott. We will feature RT member and budding author, Tatiana de la Tierra and Canadian authors Caro Soles and Shyam Selvadurai. Our final program will be a panel discussion on Intellectual Freedom. In Jeopardy? The Freedom to Read and Write GLBT Literature will be at 1:30 in the Simcoe/Dufferin rooms of the Sheraton Centre Toronto.

Damian Lambert, Chair, Program Planning Committee
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Letters to the editor, correspondence to the above address care of:

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GLBT Awards for Teen Lit

GAY TEENS SCORE BIG IN '03 AWARDS

As literary awards and best lists were announced during the last few months, GLBT literature for teens came into prominence.

The Margaret A. Edwards Award was established in 1988 to honor an author for their "lifetime achievement in writing books that have been popular over a period of time" and for the author's role in "helping adolescents become aware of themselves and addressing questions about their role and importance in relationships, society and the world". This year the recipient, Nancy Garden, is the embodiment of the award and its criteria. In giving the award, the YALSA committee, usually lists two or more specific books for which they are recognizing the author. In Nancy Garden's case they cited only one book, *Annie on My Mind*, published in 1982 by Farrar Straus & Giroux. This groundbreaking novel is the bittersweet recounting of the love between two young women. It was the first novel depicting gay teens to end on a positive note. The award to be presented in Toronto, honors a singular, distinguished book and a singular and deserving author, who continues to speak with a unique voice.

The Michael L. Printz Award for Excellence in Young Adult Literature for 2003 has been awarded to *Postcards from No Man's Land* by Aidan Chambers, published by Dutton/Penguin Putnam. Jacob Todd comes to Amsterdam to honor his grandfather who was killed nearby in World War II, as British soldiers vainly tried to out flank the German occupying army. In this complex, superbly written novel, Jacob finds that nothing is as it seems. The relationship between his grandfather and the young woman who tried to save his life is much more complex than he had been told. He also finds that sex, love and sexuality, in his own life, is complex and unexpected. Flirting with a girl in a coffee shop he discovers that the girl is, in fact, a boy who is in love with the young man with whom he shares lodging. Jacob discovers love in many places: at the grave of his grandfather, beside the death bed of the woman who tried to save his grandfather, and in the streets of Amsterdam. This is one of a few examples of young adult literature to truly deserve the title literature. It also deserves a wide audience of teens and adults.

In January each year the editors of *Booklist*, select their best books for adults, young adults, and children. They then select a title from each category for their "top of the list" award. This year's accolade for young adult fiction was given to *My Heartbeat* by Garrett Freymann-Weyr, published by Houghton Mifflin. Ellen deeply loves her brother, Link, and is in love with his best friend James. One day a classmate tells Ellen how lucky it is that Link and James found one another. The reality of their relationship dawns on her. Ellen sets off on a quest to understand herself, her relationship to Link and James and what it means to have a gay brother and be in love with a gay young man. *My Heartbeat* was also a Printz honor book.

Dr. Raymond W. Barber, Director of Libraries
The William Penn Charter School
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Philadelphia, PA. 19144
rbarber@penncharter.com

Meeting Schedule
Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered Round Table
American Library Association 2003 Annual Meeting
Toronto, Ontario June 19 - 25, 2003

<u>Mtg #</u>	<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Hotel Room</u>
260857	Steering Com. I	6/20/2003 Friday	08:00 pm - 10:00 pm	SHER Wentworth
260856	All Com. Mtg.	6/21/2003 Saturday	08:30 am - 11:00 am	SUT London
260218	The Glass Closet: Queers in High Places	6/21/2003 Saturday	01:30 pm - 03:30 pm	SHER Conf. Rm. D/E
260858	Book Award Com. I	6/21/2003 Saturday	02:00 pm - 05:30 pm	DEL Windsor
260859	Book Award Com. II	6/22/2003 Sunday	08:30 am - 11:00 am	ROY Confederation 5
260861	Membership Mtg.	6/22/2003 Sunday	09:30 am - 12:30 pm	RAD Sigal Room
260729	GLBTRT Social Event	6/22/2003 Sunday	06:00 pm - 08:00 pm	OS Toronto City Hall
260489	Annual GLBTRT Book Awards Breakfast	6/23/2003 Monday	07:30 am - 10:00 am	DEL Mountbatten Salon
260217	Read Out In Canada	6/23/2003 Monday	10:30 am - 12:00 pm	COURT Spadina
260216	In Jeopardy? Freedom to Read & Write GLBT Literature	6/23/2003 Monday	01:30 pm - 03:30 pm	SHER Simcoe/Dufferin
260860	Steering Com. II	6/24/2003 Tuesday	08:30 am - 11:00 am	MTCC 717B
<u>YALSA and CLA Program</u>				
262137	Lesbian and Gay Literature for Young Adults: Reviews, Readers, and Collections	6/22/2003 Sunday	04:00 pm - 05:30 pm	MTCC 205C/D

There is still time to register for the Feminist Task Force's Breakfast Program "**Super Girls, Super Teens.**"

Join us Sunday morning for a discussion about writing, editing and publishing feminist books for young readers. We will hear from authors Deborah Ellis (*The Breadwinner, Parvana's Journey*), Tonya Bolden (*33 Things Every Girl Should Know About Women's History*), and Nikki Grimes (*Talkin' About Bessie*), and publisher Ken Geist (Scholastic, Inc.) about the risks involved in writing and publishing books with strong female characters. We will begin with a continental breakfast at 7:00 am, followed by discussion and questions, closing at 8:30 am.

To register, send your name, email address, and telephone number, with a check payable to FTF-SRRT for \$15.00 in US currency, to FTF Chair Jennifer Baltes, Forest Hill Elementary School, 2407 Rocks Road, Forest Hill, MD 21050. Contact Jennifer at jenny_baltes@hotmail.com for more information.

Jane Cothron
otterweiler@hotmail.com

Women's Night Out has been a tradition with the Feminist Task Force of the Social Responsibilities Round Table for a number of years. It happens at the ALA Annual Conference on Monday evening-this year on June 23-and will be at the Toronto Women's Bookstore from 6:30 or so until 9:00 pm. The address is 73 Harbord Street, Toronto (phone 416.922.8744), the southwest corner of Harbord & Spadina, 2 blocks south of the Spadina subway station.

There will be light refreshments, an open garden area and the Toronto Women's Bookstore (the people actually hosting the whole thing) offers a 10% discount for participants for that evening only.

Jane Cothron
otterweiler@hotmail.com





Going OUT in Toronto??



Awards Breakfast

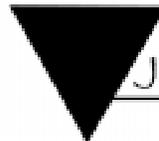
STONEWALL BOOK AWARDS BREAKFAST 2003

Plans are being finalized for our Annual Celebration of the Stonewall Book Awards (GLBT-RT Book Awards) in Toronto.

The committee has put together a winning program for your enjoyment. Our guest speakers this year are Michael Rowe, award-winning journalist, essayist, editor and author (*Queer Fear I & II*) and writer and storyteller Ivan E. Coyote, author of *One Man's Trash* and *Closer to Spider Man*. As an added treat, we are being joined by Nancy Garden, beloved author and recipient of this year's Margaret Edwards Award.

The Breakfast is being held on Monday, June 23 @ 7:30 a.m. This is a very popular event and tickets (\$50 each) are required. There are no sales at the breakfast, so if you know anyone who might be interested have them contact Bob Jaquay ASAP at rl_jaquay@yahoo.com

The breakfast is being held at the **Delta Chelsea Hotel**.



Johns Committee in Florida

Do you know about the history of the Florida Legislative Investigation Committee, also known as the Johns Committee? Many people have never heard of it, but it was a VERY real and terrifying group in Florida in the 1960s. This State committee was responsible for investigating the existence of homosexuals in Florida's universities, and focused much of their attention on the University of Florida, in Gainesville, Florida. Homosexuals in the university community, both students and faculty, were terrified that they would be exposed, lose their jobs, and face public shame. The Johns Committee was able to push a system of terrorization and fear on a large number of people with state support, and lives were ruined in the process! Yet today, many people even in Florida have never heard of Senator Charlie Johns and his committee. That may now change due to the efforts of a digitization project coordinated by the Florida Center for Library Automation, entitled the PALMM Project (Publication of Archival, Library and Museum Materials). A publication of the Johns Committee, entitled *Homosexuality and Citizenship in Florida*, also known as the "Purple Pamphlet," has been made freely available within the Florida Heritage Collection of the PALMM Project. To learn more about this and to see the document, visit the PALMM Project website and perform a search on the Johns Committee:

<http://susdl.fcla.edu/>

The actions of the Florida Legislative Investigation Committee are truly horrifying, and the only way to stop it from happening again is to learn about it, and to tell others. With knowledge of our past, we can educate others to keep history from repeating itself!

Ken Wells
kenwells@ufl.edu

BARS

Bar 501 (M & W)
501 Church St
(416) 944-3272
Drag shows

Black Eagle (M)
457 Church Street
(416)413-1219
Leather/SM bar
<http://www.blackeagletoronto.com/>

Byzantium Martini Bar (M & W)
499 Church Street
<http://www.interlog.com/~byz/>

Crews / Tango (M & W)
508 Church Street
(416)972-1662
Mostly women

Fly (M & W)
8 Gloucester Street
(416) 410-5426
Open til 6am

Five (M & W)
5 St. Joseph Street
1blk north of Wellesley
off Yonge st.
Great dance bar
Sat: Bear / Leather

Slack Alice (M & W)
562 Church Street
(416) 969-8742
Mostly women

The Barn / Stables (M & W)
418 Church Street
(416) 977-4634
Dancing, great music
Sun: Men's underwear party

The Croissant Tree (W)
625 Church St
(416)593-0311

The Toolbox (M)
508 Eastern Avenue
(416) 466-8616
<http://www.toolboxtoronto.com/>
Leather / Levi / Bear

Trax V (M & W)
529 Yonge Street
(416) 983-5196
Dance bar

Woody's & Sailors (M & W)
465-467 Church Street
(416)921-8142
<http://www.woodystoronto.com>
Very popular meeting place

BOOKSTORES

Chapters
834 Yonge St
(416)975-4370

Glad Day Bookshop
598A Yonge Street
(416)961-4161

BOOKSTORES (cont.)

Out on the Street
551 Church Street
(416)967-2759

This Aint the Rosedale Library
483 Church Street
(416)929-9912

COFFEE SHOPS

Timothy's
500 Church Street
(416) 925-8550
Lots of room to hang out

Starbuck's
485 Church Street
(416) 922-2440
Not much room to hang out

P.A.M.S. Coffee & Tea Co.
585 Church Street
Nice coffee shop

RESTAURANTS

Byzantium
499 Church Street
(416) 922-3859
<http://www.interlog.com/~byz/facts.htm>

Hernando's Highway
545 Yonge Street
(416) 929-3629
Good Mexican food

PJ Mellon's
489 Church Street
(416) 966-3241

Slack Alice
562 Church Street
(416) 969-8742

The Garage Sandwich Co
504 Church Street
(416) 929-7575

Vagara Bistro
475 Church Street
(416) 964-0403
Very good food

Wild Oscars
518 Church Street
(416) 921-8142

Zelda's
542 Church Street
(416) 922-2526
a MUST!!
<http://www.zeldas.ca/>

For more info visit:

<http://www.toronto.com>
<http://www.outintoronto.com>
<http://www.gaytoronto.com>
<http://www.gayguidetoronto.com>
<http://www.the519.org>



GLBT material in the NYPL

Gay and Lesbian Collections at The New York Public Library

Coming to New York City? Between pilgrimages to the Village, Chelsea, boybars, and cocktailing, take a few moments to visit us at The New York Public Library. A pretty amazing collection awaits!

Historically, attempts at identifying and collecting materials relating to the gay and lesbian experience has been inhibited by the need of many lesbians and gay men to lead hidden lives, fearful that self-disclosure would result in a loss of employment or legal difficulties. Of course, this very secrecy has made research strategies into the area of gay studies problematic, with scholars either attempting to intuit meanings not overtly expressed in historical records or employing materials (such as court or police reports) to identify behavior not discussed in more conventional sources.

Despite these problems, The Research Libraries of The New York Public Library have managed, since their beginnings in 1911, to collect materials relating to this large, but submerged, population. Although the subject entries in the *Dictionary Catalog of the Research Libraries, 1911-1971*, employ terms that appear today to be abstruse or arcane, the very presence of these works, some quite rare, attests to the Library's interest in acquiring in this field. CATNYP, the online catalog that lists the Library's acquisitions since 1972, (as well as most older records, retrospectively added) reflects the recent expansion of scholarly and popular interest in gay and lesbian studies.

The published materials in the Research Libraries are complemented by manuscript and archival collections reflecting gifts that have found a permanent home here. In giving these collections to the Research Libraries, individuals and institutions are confident that they will be both treasured and preserved, as well as heavily used. Access to these collections, though moderated to ensure their security and safety, is easily and freely available to anyone.

Among the many important collections in the library are:

- International Gay Information Center, Gay Activists Alliance, and the Mattachine Society Archives
- Personal papers of Martin Duberman, Karla Jay, Vito Russo, Billy Blackwell, Perry Brass, Walter Porczak, Leo Adams, Roger Austen and others
- Over 2000 Lesbian and Gay Periodical titles, dating back to 1953
- Ephemera such as posters, flyers, buttons, coloring books, games, banners, calendars, and more
- Over 300 AudioVisual items from 1970-1983, including audiotapes of interviews and meetings, as well as videos of many public access television programs
- ACT UP/NY Records
- Fierce Pussy Collection
- Gay Men's Health Crisis Records

Finding aids have been created for many of these collections, and are accessible online. In addition, **Becoming visible : an illustrated history of lesbian and gay life in twentieth-century America** documents a 1994 exhibition held at The New York Public Library.

Visit our web site to learn more about these, and other collections at <http://www.nypl.org/humanities>

Gary A. Wasdin, New York Public Library
gwasdin@nypl.org



"Out in the Castro"

Out in the Castro: Desire, Promise, Activism. Edited by Winston Leyland. Leyland Publications, 2002. 352 pp. \$24.95 pbk / \$49.95 signed limited cloth ed.

San Francisco's Castro is surely the most famous gay neighborhood in the United States, and this groundbreaking book is long overdue. Winston Leyland, best known as the founder of Gay Sunshine Press, has assembled an impressive anthology of writings by some of San Francisco's better known (and less known as well) gay and lesbian personalities. As Leyland points out in his introduction, the book is not so much a history of queer San Francisco as it is a study of the emergence of the Castro as the quintessential gay neighborhood, and as a worldwide symbol of gay liberation and celebration- our very own mecca. My first trip to the Castro in 1992 was inspiring and unforgettable; it felt like I had made the ultimate pilgrimage and landed smack in the center of the gay universe.

Trevor Hailey's well known walking tours of the Castro and KQED's 1997 television documentary (part of its Neighborhoods series) give a good overall introduction to the history and significance of this remarkable neighborhood. Leyland's book goes deeper- way deeper, exploring not only the historical and political events, but also the less publicized sexually liberating features of life in the Castro.

Out in the Castro is divided into five sections: "The Creation of the Castro: An Overview," "The 1970s: Harvey Milk and Gay Power", "The 1980s-1990s: AIDS, Activism, Innovation," "Castro Literary Essays, Poetry, Erotic Fiction, Cartoons," and "A Neighborhood in Transition: The Castro in the Early 21st Century." The growth of the neighborhood over the years is chronicled primarily through personal memoirs and interviews.

While books about gay and lesbian San Francisco and memoirs of the Castro have been published in recent years, *Out in the Castro* is the first book in which the spirit and variety of the neighborhood is presented in a comprehensive way. It is extremely well edited (clearly a labor of love, as Winston Leyland admits) and lavishly illustrated with amazing photographs and drawings. While the lack of an index and bibliography would preclude this book from being used as a reference tool, it is one of the most important books on gay history and culture to emerge in recent years. Along with Jim Van Buskirk and Susan Stryker's 1996 *Gay by the Bay*, it belongs on the shelves of our libraries. Reading *Out in the Castro* is the next best thing to actually being there.

John DeSantis
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Your feedback, please

In Search of "Unconventional" Postcolonial Masculinities

Last year while writing my thesis for a Master of Letters at the University of Sydney, I came across an article entitled "Snapshots of Postcolonial Masculinities," by Brenda Cooper.¹ The piece explored male gendering through a comparison of two novels, Ben Okri's *The Famished Road* (1991) and Alan Hollinghurst's *The Swimming-Pool Library* (1988). Though Okri is a straight black Nigerian and Hollinghurst a white English gay man, both wrote their novels in London. Cooper asserted the "hybrid world of global travelling" guarantees that the two authors use similar images and fictive devices (136). However, she argued that while 'white' writing employs a "dense discursive articulation"² of sexuality, 'black' African fiction is relatively silent on the topic.

There has been, in other words, a tradition in African cultural politics of rejecting sexual politics as an indulgence within the urgencies of national liberation struggles. ... This has given rise to a degree of impatience with what is seen as the luxury of battling over issues relating to gender, be they issues of feminism, or even more, of gay and lesbian struggles. At times this has even taken the form of rejecting gay sexuality as unnatural and unAfrican. (153)

This sparked my interest in the depiction of postcolonial masculinities, especially the treatment of gay characters and themes in contemporary literary fiction. Rather than looking at the broad range of postcolonial Anglophone literature, I am more interested in the writings of indigenous peoples affected by the aftermath of British colonialism. As a part of this investigation, I want to examine Aboriginal, Maori, and Native American narratives, as well as those from former African and Asian colonies. In our postmodern, neo-imperial, globalised world do the representations of postcolonial masculinities offer a different perspective?

I am working on the assumption that among these representative cultures gender roles, both social and sexual, were different from the Anglo-European Judeo-Christian ones. The imposition of colonial moralities affected the traditional cultures and resulted in an amalgamation of old and new ideas. In addition, ethnic boundaries are becoming increasingly irrelevant in contemporary literature. Ato Quayson attributes this to the post-independence spread of public education and the ever-growing migration and immigration to Europe and North America.³ He was referring specifically to Nigeria, but the same is true in all formerly colonized nations. So for me, the term 'postcolonial' becomes a pointer, an indicator of historical time and sociopolitical (originating) space, rather than a critical theory or ideology alone.

One of the problems inherent in much of postcolonial theory, both early and more recent, is the idea that colonial history and culture unavoidably create the environment and groundwork which gives rise to postcolonial society and mores. Therefore, the postcolonial cannot extricate itself from the stranglehold of imperialism and be truly emancipated (or emancipating). However, it is possible for the postcolonial 'other' to overcome antagonizing or alienating

inequalities and "debilitating displacements," according to Edna Aizenberg.⁴ The acknowledged offspring of imperialism *can* "point to a space beyond that of an illegitimate and refractory foil to Europe, to a hybridity that refuses colonial authority" (465). Aizenberg coined a fresh term, 'supracolonialism,' for this new kind of literary and critical practice.

Aizenberg posited Okri, among others, as a multilingual artist conversant in the idioms of oppression and liberation, prejudice and personal dignity, traditional spiritualism and postmodern realism, Yoruba mythology and Western literature. He emerges through this jumble of discourses with an "all-consuming vision of a less-anxious creativity," a hybrid himself who couldn't care less whether the medium of his expression is "the white man's invention" (466). This is the type of author I am interested in reading: the product of multiple cultural influences and an internationalized (or at least Westernized) education, (possibly) writing within an Anglo-American context from a non-Anglo-American point of view.

My stated area of interest is necessarily broad, vague, ambiguous. Contemporary 'postcolonial' literature provides the framework for my investigation. Focusing on fiction produced since 1980, at the very earliest, allows for the changes in world-wide attitudes towards civil or human rights and an increasing awareness of and openness to gay-related issues. I do not intend to draw some type of analytical template or make broad generalizations about contemporary postcolonial depictions of queer masculinities. My main interest is simply to examine some of those representations not only as illustrative of a new movement but also as the basis for alternate understandings and a greater awareness of formerly and formally marginalized and "unconventional" masculinities in an ever-changing world.

Timotheos Roussos, April 2003
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Note: I gladly welcome and appreciate any suggestions from the members of the GLBT Round Table. I have already read Selvadurai's *Funny Boy*, *Both Sides of the Moon* by Duff, and Ihimaera's *Bulibasha*. However, I am finding it more difficult to identify relevant literary novels from countries such as Malaysia, Jamaica, Belize, Kenya, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and a host of other former British colonies. Many books are not labeled as "gay," but do contain characters, themes, or situations which could be categorised as such. I am not interested in porn or pulp fiction. My criteria are fairly rigid: the novel must have been written in English (no translations), by a male non-European native of a former British colony, within the past two decades.

¹ Brenda Cooper, "Snapshots of Postcolonial Masculinities," *Journal of Commonwealth Literature* 34.1 (1999) 135-157.

² Here, Cooper quotes from Abdul JanMohamed's paper, "Sexuality on/of the Racial Border," *Discourses of Sexuality: From Aristotle to Aids*, ed. Domna Stanton (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1992) 94.

³ Ato Quayson, *Strategic Transformations in Nigerian Writing* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1997) 101.

⁴ Edna Aizenberg, "I Walked with a Zombie": The Pleasures and Perils of Postcolonial Hybridity," *World Literature Today*, 73.3 (1999), 461-467.

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