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Our Human Sexuality Collection

FROM A "CASE OF IMPOTENCY DEBATED" TO CROSS-DRESSING PERFORMERS

By Brenda Marston

As many of you know, a special feature of Cornell is the accessibility of important documents on the history of sexuality. Cornell is home to the Human Sexuality Collection, a premier collection of rare printed material and unique manuscripts documenting sexual politics.

This past year, researchers for the gay history documentary, "After Stonewall," did extensive work with our Phil Zwicker videos, and classes from across the University have made productive use of the variety of resources here. The classes included:

- Rachel Safman's "AIDS and Societies" (Rural Soc 109)
- Jennifer Good's "Writing for Magazines" (Comm 350)

- Richard Juang's "Crossing Gendered Lines" (Eng 105.3/Women's St 106.3)
- Michelle Elleray's "Writing and Politics: Sapphic Modernisms" (Eng 111.2)
- Jae Wise's "AIDS and the Destiny of Desire" (BioES164)
- Anne Russ' "Women in American Social and Cultural Life," (Soc 385), Wells College.

The Human Sexuality Collection provides a very accessible route for teaching undergraduates about the rewards of primary source research.

Rural Sociology instructor Rachel Safman reported that on her course evaluations, many students identified

their work with primary sources as the highlight of the class. The students realized that the process of reading and interpreting letters and personal diaries in the Human Sexuality Collection meant so much more "than, say, writing

Continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 OUR HUMAN SEXUALITY COLLECTION
- 4 CONSTRUCTION UPDATE
- 6 PEOPLE NEWS
- 7 RECOGNITION
- 7 DIVINE ORDER

Our —continued from page 1

a book report on cocker spaniels.” The students conducted serious, advanced, and thoughtful work, exploring issues such as family communication, ways of dealing with death, workplace issues, religion, medical treatment for the terminally ill, and social support in the context of society’s views of homosexuality and AIDS.

New Help For Online Users

Introducing remote users to primary source research is a different challenge. This fall, we released a new *Sexuality Research Guide* to assist online users. We found that these users were frequently less aware than in house visitors about the kinds of materials preserved in the Human Sexuality Collection and the nature of primary source research in general. The research guide is designed to answer frequently asked questions and to help direct people to the appropriate places to ask questions or find relevant materials. It provides general background about the goals and practices of archives and rare book repositories.

At the Society of American Archivists meeting in Pittsburgh at the end of August, others reported similar findings about online users. Tanya Marshall of the University of Maryland had studied genealogists as a specific research group to see how well archival Web sites served them. She found that inexperienced genealogists are *more* likely to use the Web. Marshall found that we can’t transfer what we know about researchers who visit our institutions to researchers who visit our Web sites. She recommended explaining the



1860

concept of “archives” and archival research on archival Web sites to meet users’ needs.

Our new *Sexuality Research Guide* was designed to do just this—to accommodate the needs of people inexperienced with archival research. In addition, I worked to take advantage of the many other sources available in the online environment. There are tips for people seeking quick answers to basic questions (including links to Dr. Ruth’s Web site and recommendations to talk to a local reference librarian). And there are tips for those who want to learn more about advanced research strategies. There is background on the academic study of sexuality.

Now we’ll see how it works! Please take a look at the *Sexuality Research Guide* and offer your feedback about its effectiveness. I look forward to improving it based on the responses I receive. You can find it at: <<http://rmc.library.cornell.edu/hsc>>.

New Acquisitions

Recently acquired materials include:

- a popular 19th century marriage guide covering aphrodisiacs, human biology, and birth control: *The marriage guide, or Natural history of generation; a private instructor for married persons and those about to marry, both male and female ...* / By Frederick Hollick. New York: American News Co., 1860. (Human Sexuality tiny HQ 56 .H73 1860)
- a rare zine, *Judy!*, that spoofs Judith Butler, the author of a pivotal work on gender theory (Human Sexuality HQ 75 .J93)
- Sex instruction pamphlets (collection #7638) rescued from the trash cans at Martha Van Rensselaer Hall
- documents from a honeymoon in Europe taken by two lesbian Cornellians (collection #7635).

During reunion, I showed visitors many of these items, along with a remarkable new collection of early 20th century



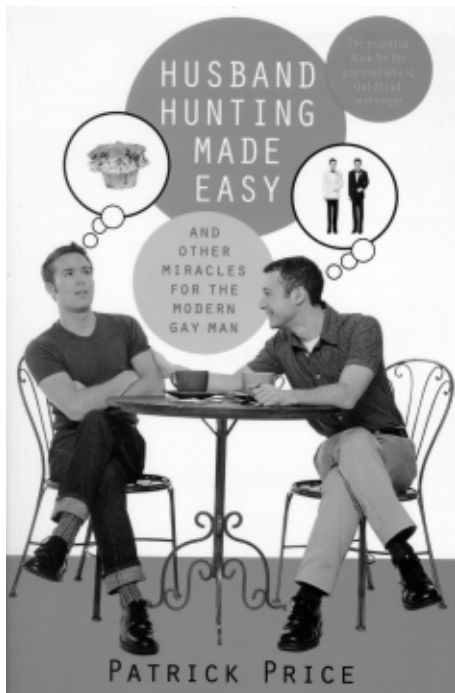
postcards featuring photographs of German male transvestites. The postcard collection consists of 62 different images portraying 29 individuals in their *Damen-Imitator* (female impersonator) personas. They date from 1903 to 1914, a golden age for postcards. In Germany, this was the late-Wilhelmine period. On the cards, references are made to gay cabarets throughout the country, in small cities as well as Berlin. Individuals identified themselves on the cards with their real names and then sent the cards through the official mail. It is obvious from these cards that male cross dressing was a



social phenomenon that extended across the Second Reich.

This seems to be a good year for German sexuality materials. After acquiring the set of German cross-dresser postcards, I was able to add five volumes of *Geschlecht und Gesellschaft*, 1908-1911 and 1921, the leading magazine for sexual reform in Germany during the period, and Erich Wulffen's 1928 work on sexual behavior and the law, *Der Sexualverbrecher*.

Significant among the manuscript collections acquired this year are the papers of Claudia Brenner, a Cornellian and local resident who has become a national spokesperson against homophobic violence. Given the number of hate-based violence



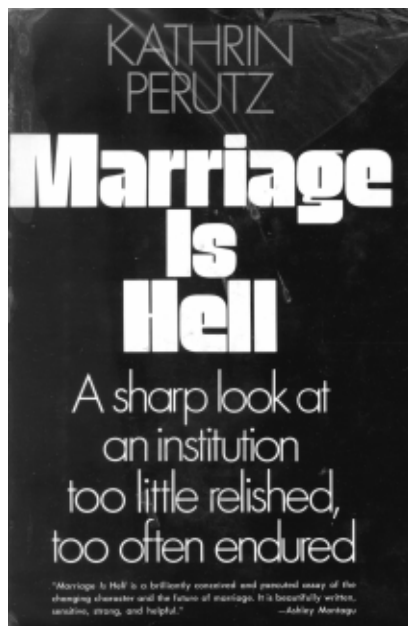
incidents we've seen in 1999, these records seem particularly important. In 1988 Brenner and her lover Rebecca Wight were attacked by Stephen Roy Carr while they were camping along the Appalachian Trail. The gunshots wounded Brenner and killed Wight. Afterwards, Brenner has collaborated with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and their Anti-Violence

Project headed by Kevin Berrill. She wrote *Eight Bullets: One Woman's Story of Surviving Anti-Gay Violence* (Firebrand Books, 1995). Her papers document her public speaking and activism on the issue and include an "evidence tag" that police placed on her backpack.

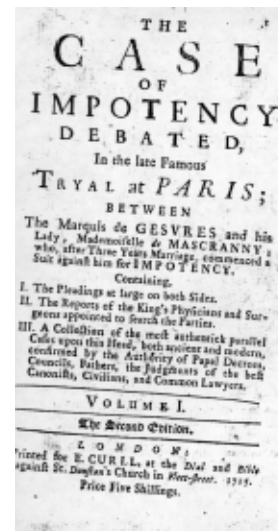
We also started acquiring the records of an important New York State organization, the Empire State Pride Agenda. Incorporated in 1990, the Pride Agenda adopts legislative agendas each year and has lobbied on the state level for a bias-related violence bill, a civil rights bill, and a domestic partnership bill. The organization endorses pro-gay candidates for local and state office, and advocated legislation recognizing domestic partners in New York City, which New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani signed into law in July 1998.

Views on Marriage

Over the summer, additional books have arrived that will help people track the changing nature of marriage, partner selection, and the expected relationship between wife and husband from the 18th century to today. Over this time, spouse selection has become more of a choice for the individuals in the couple and less of an economic and political arrangement orchestrated by families.

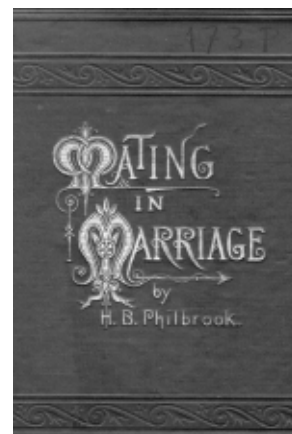


A French divorce trial hinging on the issue of impotency was translated into English in 1715, giving us a very early look at ideas about a proper marriage and justifications for ending it:



The case of impotency debated, in the late famous trial at Paris; between the Marquis de Gesvres and his lady, Mademoiselle de Mascranny; who, after three years marriage, commenced a suit against him for impotency. London, Printed for E. Curil, 1715. (Rare HQ 1024 .G39 1715)

Moving into the 19th century, we have added this volume:



Mating in marriage, ... A discussion of the question of a proper mating of sexes in marriage, and a complete description of the means of discovering a good or bad

Continued on page 8

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

By Elizabeth Fontana

Catherwood (ILR) Library

Following the completion in March '98 of a 30,000 square foot addition to Catherwood Library, planning has been under way for the second phase of construction at the School of Industrial and Labor Relations (ILR). Scheduled to be completed by 2003, this includes substantial renovation of the original library facility, which was built in 1962.

During the renovation period, which is expected to begin by the end of this year, new electrical power and data "drops" will be added to the building's infrastructure to ensure the most flexibility for computer connectivity in coming years. New temperature and humidity controls will be installed on all three levels of the library. The third floor will continue to house open stacks, while the second level will be devoted entirely to reference services. Level I will include space for a silent study area, a reserve reading room, and workspace for the library's technical services staff.

All of the renovations to Catherwood are expected to be completed by the start of fall semester 2001 and the space on levels II and III will be turned over to the library at that time. However, for approximately two years while work is still under way at the ILR School's Extension, Research, and Conference Center buildings on Garden Avenue, the first floor of the library building will be used as office space for displaced ILR faculty and staff. When that part of the project is completed, level I will revert to use by the library.

When the entire ILR construction project is completed in 2003, program space for Catherwood Library will have doubled to 60,000 square feet.

Engineering Library Opens New Computing Center



Jean Poland, AUL, and John Saylor, Director of the Engineering Library, in the new ELECC

Wireless network connections, new computers, laptop connections, high resolution printing, and free scanning only just begin to cover the technology offered by a new university-wide computer center located in the Engineering Library in Carpenter Hall.

The Engineering Library Educational Computing Center (ELECC) opened last spring and consists of five classrooms, one of which is the Library's refurbished electronic classroom on the first floor. There are a total of 80 computers throughout the new facility and four of the classrooms are equipped with computer projection systems. The facility is used for instruction by faculty in the Engineering College, and is available for other courses as well. When not scheduled for classes, all of the Center's rooms are available to students, faculty, and staff for individual use.

Laptop network and power connections are available at each desktop in the ELECC, and a wireless networking service is slated to be up and running later this year. To use the wireless connection, students and faculty members will check out a radio network card, which will enable them to connect

to the Computing Center from almost anywhere in the building.

Construction of the new computing center was funded by the College of Engineering and the Faculty Advisory Board on Information Technology (FABIT). FABIT's mission is to "provide a qualitatively better learning environment for our students, by developing integrated information resource centers where students live, study, and congregate with friends and classmates."

Mann Library Addition to Open Fall 2000



Photo by University Photography

When patrons walk into Mann Library's addition for the first time in the Fall of 2000, they will enter Cornell's first fully fiber optic building. Nearly 38 miles of

cable will snake through the floors and ceilings of the building, providing high speed network access to some 2,500 computer jacks scattered throughout the stacks and sitting areas.

The Mann addition and its long list of improvements, such as fiber optics and state-of-the-art environmental controls, has been a long time coming. Originally scheduled for 1975, construction was delayed until 1996 when ground on the building's north and east sides was finally broken. Now, as the glass panels go in and interior spaces are framed and drywalled, the end is in sight and library staff are preparing to move. While the addition will add approximately 75,000 square feet to the library, it still will be several years before the entire building is renovated and ready for use.

Planning for the renovation of the existing library, built in 1952, began last spring. The first step is a detailed survey for asbestos abatement of the entire building. While this effort is under way, the architects are developing plans for where various library units—technical services, collection development, etc.—will be located in the new facility. They must also include space for the Bailey Hortorium within the existing building.

The current timeline from the State University Construction Fund calls for completion of the entire renovation project by the Spring of 2005, but the architects believe it may be possible to complete the project as soon as Fall 2004.

Math Library Moves to Malott Hall

The Mathematics Library, along with the Mathematics Department, moved this summer to newly renovated facilities in Malott Hall.

The new quarters offer major improvements over the space the Math Library occupied in White Hall for more

than a century. Floor space tripled, and with a fifty percent increase in shelf space, there is now plenty of room for the library's 50,000 volumes and for a predicted fifteen years of collection growth. Air conditioning vastly improves the comfort level for patrons and staff alike. The new facility also boasts a media/conference room, a current periodicals area displaying more than 550 journal titles in mathematics and statistics, some 60 study carrels, and a photocopying room.

The Math collection at Cornell is one of the finest in the nation and supports research and instruction in mathematics and statistics for the Cornell community. The additional space in Malott Hall also has allowed the library to bring together mathematics material from other campus libraries, including holdings in math education that were previously housed in Mann Library.

Music Library Under Construction



Photo by University Photography

In June, the Music Library moved to its temporary location in White Hall (formerly the Math Library) to allow for construction of an addition and the total renovation of the interior of Lincoln Hall. Work on the addition began last

Spring with excavating, pouring foundations, and erecting the steel infrastructure. The topping off ceremony took place on August 12.

During the summer, construction crews poured the concrete floors in the new wing and began demolishing the interior of Lincoln Hall. The project is on schedule and the Music Library should move to its new quarters in July 2000.



Photo by University Photography

Meanwhile the library staff is making the spaces in White Hall as accommodating as possible for the reference materials, periodicals, scores, and audiovisual materials in the music collection. The books have been moved to Olin Library for this year, while the rare materials are housed temporarily in the Division of Rare & Manuscript Collections in Kroch Library. During the coming year the library staff will experiment with streaming digital audio reserve material for courses with a music listening component, and will develop plans to have the system up and running in the new library by Fall 2000.

Elizabeth Fontana is communications manager in Library External Relations.

8/1/99-9/1/99

WELCOME

Library Administrative Operations would like to welcome **Lyndsi Abbey** as a human resources assistant. Lyndsi recently graduated from Elmira Collge.

O/K/U Circulation would like to welcome **Steven Adkins** as a public services assistant. Steven is also working in the Library Annex as a collections assistant.

The Library Annex welcomes **LuAnn Beebe** as a new collections assistant.

Valerie Brown is joining the Technical Services Support Unit as a technical services assistant.

Anne Carson is welcomed back by the Law Library in a temporary position until December. Anne is working on retrospective conversion of rare law materials, as well as a foreign law inventory and guide for the Law Library's online legal research encyclopedia.

Eric Cooper has accepted the position of Sr. Assistant Librarian in the Law Library, where he is the new head of acquisitions. Eric previously worked at the University of Illinois Law Library as Assistant Professor of Library Administration. He earned a JD and MLS from Indiana University, Bloomington, and a BS from Ball State University. Prior to Illinois, he was Information/Electronic Services Librarian at the University of Oklahoma Law Library. In his new job he will also serve as reference librarian.

The Library Annex also welcomes **Darla Critchfield** as a new collections assistant.

Lee-Anne Gunn Flandreau is the new interlibrary lending specialist at Mann Library. She also works in Access Services providing assistance for patrons with circulation, reserve, and interlibrary loan needs. Lee-Anne studied education at Cornell, and has a BA from Lenoir-Rhyne College, and an AA from Simon's Rock College of Bard.

Morna Hilderbrand is welcomed by the Management and Fine Arts Libraries where she splits her time both in public and technical services.

Samuel Hultzman has accepted the position of public services assistant in O/K/U Circulation. Samuel earned a BA in history at SUNY Albany.

Padmini Kantety has recently joined O/K/U Circulation as a public services assistant. Padmini comes to us from India.

The Law Library welcomes **Brandy Kreisler** as a temporary reference librarian until December. Brandy comes with a Master's in Law Librarianship from the University of Washington, and a JD from Texas Tech. She earned her BA at the University of Texas, Austin.

The Law Library would also like to welcome **Elaine Krikorian** as a new reference librarian. Elaine comes from the Harvard Business School where she worked at the Information Service Center. She earned a BA in literature from Wells College, a JD from New England School of Law, and an MLS from Simmons College.

Preservation & Conservation welcomes **Erika Lindensmith** as assistant conservator. Erika previously worked as a conservator at the University of Dundee and the National Library of Wales. She is a graduate of the University of Texas library school.

Sasha Skenderija is another new member of the Law Library. He holds the position of Web coordinator. Sasha comes to us from Prague where he was systems librarian and assistant professor of library science at State Tech University. He has a BA from the University of Ssarajevo and a PhD in Information Studies from Charles University in Prague.

Adam Spry is also welcomed by Library Administrative Operations as a mail processor. Adam previously worked for Grand Rental Station, in Cortland, NY.

**TRANSFERS/
PROMOTIONS**

Oliver Habicht has been promoted to Computer Operations Manager in the division of Digital Library and Information Technologies. Previously he worked in the Cornell Institute for Digital Collections.

The Physical Sciences Library would like to welcome **Anthony Joachim** as circulation supervisor. Anthony is a transfer from the Hotel Library.

Zsuzsa Koltay has been appointed Coordinator for Electronic Publishing in the Division of Digital Library and Information Technologies. Zsuzsa holds a degree in English and Hungarian Studies from Kossuth University in Debrecen, Hungary, and an MLS from Indiana University. Previously she was public services librarian in Mann Library.

Brian Krawczyk has transferred from O/K/U Circulation to Media Services where he is a public services assistant. Brian joined the Library in August 1998.

CTS Mediation Services would like to congratulate **Yelena Kurbanova** on her promotion to cataloger within their department.

Gregory McClellan has accepted the position of Digital Projects Librarian in the Division of Preservation & Conservation. Previously he was cataloging librarian for networked information resources in Mann Library. He has a BS in Biology from the University of Georgia, and an MLS from Florida State University.

Nathan Miner has recently transferred from working on the Annex Project to working in O/K/U Circulation. Nathan joined the library in May 1998.

Barbara Morley is the new Media Curator in the Kheel Center for Labor-Management Documentation & Archives. Barbara has a BA from Hartwick College, and an MLS from the University of Albany. Her previous position was Technical Processing Supervisor in the Kheel Center.

Bethany Silfer has been promoted to Library Administrator II, in the O/K/U Circulation department.

CTS Delivery Services welcomes **Dorothy Stiefel** to the position of Technical Services Assistant III. Dorothy is a transfer from CTS Mediation Services.

Robert Willits has accepted the position of Public Services Assistant II in O/K/U Circulation. Robert previously worked in the Hotel Library as a collections assistant.

GOOD-BYE

Good-bye and good luck to **David Zammiello**, who recently left the Library.

RECOGNITION! DIVINE ORDER

By *Debbie Shigley*

Do you have great employees who go above and beyond the call of duty? Do you wish you had a way to reward the group that just completed that project in record time? Are you searching for a way to tell a valued employee that you think they are great? Well, Library Human Resources has just the thing for you.

With a quick logon to our web site <<http://www.library.cornell.edu/staffweb/recog.html>>, supervisors and department heads can request a small token of their appreciation at no cost to the department, to give to that great employee. If nothing there suits your fancy, we have a book of gifts from 15 Steps, appropriate to be used as awards (to be paid for by the department). They will happily gift wrap and deliver most items within a day or two of the order.

If none of the above sounds right, do something on your own. With your department head's approval, let your employee leave early one afternoon, take her out to lunch, or bring him flowers. Even a heartfelt thank you can mean a lot.

If anyone has any questions or suggestions about the recognition program, or other ideas mentioned here, please feel free to give us a call.

Debbie Shigley is assistant director of Library Human Resources.

By *Ardeen White*



There's a free newsletter on the Web called *Organizing Times*, which will give inspiration and ideas to anyone who wants to "create order out of chaos." The address is <<http://www.123sortit.com/resources/newslib.html>>.

The newsletter is written by a professional organizer named Julie Signore, in a fun, light-hearted style. Her spring 1998 issue, for example, is dedicated to organizing the family, with great ideas to get everyone to help. (Even a three-year old can learn to sort her pre-kindergarten papers!) Signore gives this piece of advice: "Parents need to voice their humanness and admit that they cannot do it all—especially alone—without every family member's assistance. In calling out for support, you teach your kids a valuable lesson—that they all play an important, active role in creating a harmonious and more-organized family unit. Now that is a powerful legacy for children to acquire, for they too will eventually become adults and parents themselves!"

While you're there, check out the link to her home page, "Sort It—Organizing Solutions, Innovative Tools," for additional information and resources.

Our—continued from page 3

companion of a man or woman for a wedded existence. Philbrook, H. B. (Harry B.), b. 1841. Chicago, Philbrook & Dean, 1886. (Rare HQ 503 .P54)

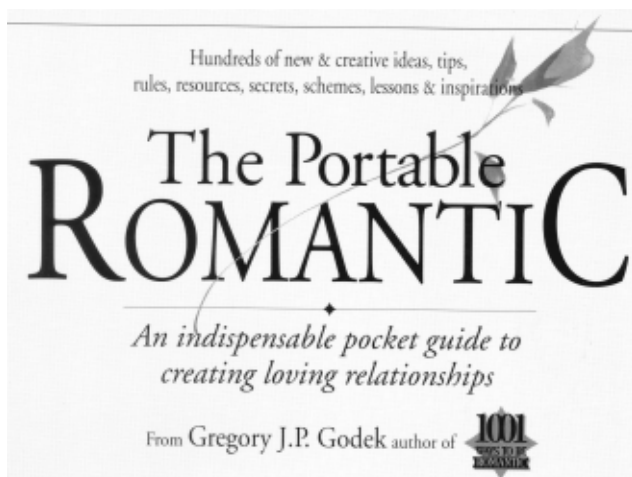
People are often surprised to find that such frank and informative discussions of sexuality were available in the 19th century.

laws of sex and heredity ... By Thomas W. Shannon, A. M., and Dr. W. J. Truitt . Marietta, O., The S. A. Mullikin company, 1918. (Human Sexuality HQ 734 .S52 P4)

And, continuing in this fine tradition, we have added a number of advice books from the 1990s, including:

sexuality: from politics to romance, from advice to action, from gay to straight, from yesterday to today.

Even better, we're making these sources easily accessible and widely used. Through this continued work, perhaps the Cornell University Library will have some impact on what we can know and think about human sexuality.



From the early 20th century (the same time the German cross-dressing postcards were being produced), we have this advice book:

Personal help for the married; a volume of vital facts for all married and marriageable men and women, who would escape the disastrous consequences of ignorance of the

The portable romantic: an indispensable pocket guide to creating loving relationships. Gregory J.P. Godek. Weymouth, MA : Casablanca Press, 1994. (Human Sexuality tiny HQ 801 .G58 P8)

With the help of Cornellians and other friends and supporters, we are building a great collection of unique resources on

Brenda J. Marston is Curator of the Human Sexuality Collection.

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