Queer Activism Before Stonewall: A short list

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Our best material in this category sells as soon as we list it – but sometimes we get multiple copies, and sometimes an item isn’t especially scarce. What you see here are the leftovers. To get first crack at material of this sort, sign up for our Thursday morning updates in the subject of Gay Studies. (Feel free to ask for help in doing so!)

1. **The Challenge and Progress of Homosexual Law Reform.** San Francisco: Council on Religion and the Homosexual/Daughters of Bilitis/SIR & tavern Guild, 1968. 72p., 5.5x8.5 inches, introduction, notes, list of homophile organizations, lightly worn wraps, staples are rusted otherwise very good. Essays on Homosexuality, #2. (#186063) $12.00

2. **Vector; vol. 3, #11, October 1967.** San Francisco: Society for Individual Rights, 1967. 36p. including covers, 8.5x11 inches, ads, illustrated with photos and a calendar of events, very good magazine in stapled pictorial wraps. (#182406) $35.00

   Cover story on The Homosexual and the Political Arena. S.I.R. was an extremely important homophile organization in the 1960s-70s and "Vector" was the main gay magazine for the Bay Area during those years. The magazine began life as a newsletter in 1964, merely several folded and or stapled sheets with news and calendars. The late Sixties found the magazine concentrating more on local and national news of interest to gay men.


   Special edition of the newsletter reporting on the Sirlebrity Capades 1965 drag performance and other drag appearances around town. The division between homophile activism in this period and the later, more radical turn it took is highlighted by the slogan on the masthead of this issue: "Responsible action by responsible people in responsible ways."

   (Please note – we have many other issues of Vector listed on our website).


   A contemporary review in Tangents by Jim Kepner said that "Despite minor but persistently annoying flaws, this is one of the really important books in the homophile field."
5. Call, Hal, editor. **Town Talk: vol. 2, no. 3, October/November 1965.** San Francisco: Pan-Graphic Press, 1965. 8p. including covers, 8.5x11 inches, ads, news, articles, essays, very good homophile newsletter printed on goldenrod folded sheets. (#185489) $20.00
Articles include police gay-bashing, the Tavern Guild's Beaux Arts Costume Ball, Robert Gonzales' run for Supervisor, etc.


7. Call, Harold L., editor. **Mattachine Review. vol. 9, #1, January 1963.** San Francisco: Mattachine Society, 1963. 35p. including covers, 5.5x8.25 inches, very good digest size magazine in stapled pictorial wraps. (#225592) $45.00
Includes a piece on "The bad police image" caused by raids on gay bars. Cover story is on the Vassall Spy Case, arguing that the problem is not the employment of gay men in high-security roles, but the power of the blackmailer over such men. The Mattachine Society, forerunner of Daughters of Bilitis, One, Inc., the Homosexual Information Center, etc., was founded in 1950 in Los Angeles by Harry Hay and Rudy Gernreich. The name derives from a French medieval and renaissance masque group. The magazine was founded in 1954 with the first issue appearing in January, 1955.

8. Call, Harold, editor. **Mattachine Review: vol. 8, #1, January 1962.** San Francisco: Mattachine Society, 1962. 32p. includes covers, 5.5x8.5 inches, articles, opinion, resources, poetry and fiction toning to some pages, very good digest-size magazine in stapled pictorial wraps. (#204296) $45.00
This issue features "Pornography, Art & Censorship" by Paul Goodman, an editorial on the lifting of anti-gay laws in Illinois, and discussion of other efforts on the legal front.
*(Please note – we have many other issues of Mattachine Review listed on our website).*

Editor Richard Conger argues, in the wake of the Watts riots, that "As Los Angeles will never be the same again, since 'the time of Watts,' nor Alabama since the days at Selma, so it may be held that the Homophile Movement represents another sort of revolt..." One, Inc., which took its name from Thomas Carlyle's statement that "A mystic bond of brotherhood makes all men one," was founded in LA in 1952 as a homophile organization with connections to the Mattachine Society. As the first pro-gay journal of its kind, it serves as an important source for pre-Stonewall homophile studies. In 1954 the US Post Office declared it obscene, leading to a four-year legal battle (chronicled in its pages) that concluded with a favorable decision as part of Roth vs. United States. Aside from its articles covering topics ranging from the Beatniks and Gay marriage to homosexuality and national security, One Magazine also featured poetry and short fiction by numerous prominent authors.

10. Slater, Don, editor, James Colton [pseudonym of Joseph Hansen] et al. One Magazine; the homosexual viewpoint; vol. 12, #9 September 1964. Los Angeles: One, Inc., 1964. 32p. including covers, 5.5x8.5 inches, lightly-worn digest-sized magazine in stapled pictorial wraps. (#178232) $75.00

Cover story on drag queen Miss Destiny as well as Hansen's short story, Donatello's David, which appeared here in the same year as his first book. Marcel Martin, in an editorial, exposes tactical differences emerging in the Homophile movement. "Inspired by the success and startling progress recently made by the colored population of this country, it has suddenly become popular among the leaders of the homophile movement to try to advance our own cause by referring to ourselves as a minority entitled to the same rights and privileges which legislators and society at large are struggling to grant to other minorities..." He goes on to argue that it would be wiser to follow the example of the Jews by building enough economic clout to become too powerful to ignore; advocates keeping money within the gay community.


Much of this issue devoted to homosexual servicemen, including the rights of gay draftees. First issue to bear the new subtitle The Homosexual Viewpoint.
12. Slater, Don, Robert Gregory, William Lambert et al, editors, Del McIntire [aka Jim Kepner] et al. *One Magazine: the homosexual viewpoint; vol. 9, #8, August 1961.* I was fired...a case history. Los Angeles: One, Inc., 1961. 32p., including covers, 5.5x8.5 inches, very good digest size magazine in stapled pictorial wraps. (#197278) $65.00

Cover story about a gay man who was manipulated by a McCarthy goon squad into exposing other homosexuals working at a veteran's hospital in 1953. Also includes a piece on postal censorship of homophile material. *(Please note – we have many other issues of One listed on our website).*


Sagarin was a complicated figure; he was active in the Mattachine Society as Donald Corey, and pursued gay relationships, despite a personal belief that homosexuality was aberrant. After the Sagarin/Corey identity linkage was publicly exposed at an American Sociological Association convention in 1974, he stopped pursuing research in areas related to homosexuality.

14. Kuhn, Donald. *The church and the homosexual; a report on a consultation.* San Francisco: Glide Urban Center, 1967. 32p., 9x6 inches landscape format, very good second printing in stapled decorative wraps. (#41370) $45.00

Reverend Lewis Durham, one of the participants listed in this program, was an advisor to the Vanguard group that picketed Compton's Cafeteria. He also happens to have been the father of Bolerium founder John Durham.

15. Lyon, Phyllis, editor, Del Martin, Barbara Stephens et al. *The Ladder: vol. 1, #9, June 1957.* San Francisco: Daughters of Bilitis, 1957. 32p., including covers, 5.5x8.5 inches, very good first edition digest size magazine in stapled pictorial wraps, lightly-rusted staples. (#57052) $65.00

Includes a piece by Phyllis Lyon on the censorship fight between One, Inc. and the Postal Service. Stephens offers a cross-cultural view of Transvestism. Daughters of Bilitis was formed in 1955 in San Francisco by Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon and was based upon - and in the beginning supported by - the homophile organization The Mattachine Society and One Magazine. The Ladder was the house organ/newsletter and published information, news, events, articles, poetry and stories relevant to the lesbian reader.
16. Martin, Del, editor. The Ladder; vol. 6, #8, May 1962. San Francisco: Daughters of Bilitis, 1962. 28p., including covers, 5.5x8.5 inches, very good digest-size magazine in stapled pictorial wraps, green label announcing "In this issue - Appraisal of the Homophile Movement. (#160915) $45.00

17. Gittings, Barbara, editor, Allen Ginsberg, Gene Damon [pseudonym of Barbara Grier] et al. The Ladder: a lesbian review; vol. 10, #1, October 1965, cover story "Homophile Groups Picket in Nation's Capitol" San Francisco: Daughters of Bilitis, 1965. 28p. including covers 5.5x8.5 inches, very good digest-size magazine in stapled pictorial wraps. (#208579) $75.00
Includes "Beat Alice" by Leo Ebreo and Allen Ginsberg's comments on that piece. Cover story is on the various pickets in DC protesting discriminatory policies. Cover photo of marchers with picket signs.
(Please note – we have many other issues of The Ladder listed on our website).

Cover story on LA Cops and Gay Groups meeting to discuss an end to vice raids on gay establishments. Photos of Jerry Joachim and Jim Kepner at the meeting. A column by Ladder editor Helen Sanders. The Advocate which began publication in 1967 as a newsletter of folded, unbound sheets, by 1968 had become a magazine-format pastebound newsprint and with volume 3 became a folded tabloid. The Advocate has run for nearly fifty years now and is arguably the leading LGBT periodical in the US.

Vanguard's picket against police harassment at Compton's Cafeteria in August, 1966 had set the stage for the now-famous riot that took place soon afterward. The magazine, by this time based in San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury, combined gay liberation, psychedelia and revolutionary politics. Includes an interview with Walter Bowart of the East Village Other, interview with a dope dealer, Jerry Varnado on Black Power, a reprint of Hal Waldman's "Police abuse us' homophiles across nation cry," and much more.

Guy Strait in San Francisco organized a gay rights group, The League for Civil Education (LCE) and published this periodical alongside Cruise News & World Report, L.C.E. News and Maverick Press. These were some of the earliest gay periodicals in SF. Strait later became involved in a child pornography scandal and litigation in Illinois. Cover story on corruption in Denver's vice squad and police raids on gay bars.


Sensationalistic collection of case studies showing how "Homosexuals have become militant in their demands for equal rights with the heterosexuals."