

had a problem with alcoholism, and it is probably only her lover's faith in her that allowed her to continue to write poetry, some of which expresses her erotic involvement with Warner. She followed Warner in the British Communist Party, and the two cherished the belief that the Soviet Union incarnated the freedom, democracy, and justice that they were seeking. Fortunately, their writing on these themes is relieved by descriptions of events and evocations of nature. In the 1940s their political commitment faded, and they became dejected by the drab reality of Britain's welfare state—especially its failure to free women from their economic dependence on men. Although Warner and Ackland were not feminists in the contemporary sense, their durable relationship is a positive example of two women's success in braving the odds.

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Evelyn Gettone

WARREN, EDWARD PERRY (1860-1928)

American art connoisseur and poet. The great love of his life was an Englishman named John Marshall, whom he met in 1884. Under the pseudonym of Arthur Lyon Raile, he wrote a number of books dealing with pederasty. These include *Itamos* (1903), *The Wild Rose* (1909), and an expanded edition of the latter (1928), these being volumes of poetry; *A Tale of Pausanian Love* (1927), a novel; and *The Defence of Uranian Love* (1928-30), an apology for pederasty in three volumes. Under his birth name he also wrote a short story, "The Prince Who Did Not Exist" (1900).

The dominant theme of his writings is the transference of the morals of ancient Greece to Oxford University. His refusal to return to America was based on a rejection of democracy, feminism, and Christianity, which he saw as being hostile to the restoration of his pederastic ideals, which were based firmly on the writings of Plato and other Greek idealists. He considered the primary task of the pederast to be the formation of the boy's character, not the gratification of lust. The relationship was only to be justified by the character-building aspect of it. There was no room in his philosophy of love for the effeminacy and equality that play so large a role in modern homosexual liberationist theories, and women (lesbian or otherwise) hardly existed as far as he was concerned. His idealism is also out of step with the frank sensuality of today's boy-love movement.

From 1885 to 1910 Perry presented many classical objects to Boston's Museum of Fine Arts. Among these was a notable group of vases with homoerotic scenes; those pieces did not go on public exhibition until 1964.

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Stephen Wayne Foster

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Incorporated in 1802, the new capital of the United States suffered a setback when it was burned by the British a decade later. Washington grew very slowly until the Civil War, when the city was dignified by Walt Whitman's sojourn. In a notebook the poet laconically records having slept with a soldier on October 9, 1863, an act that others, unknown to us, must often have consummated during the turmoil of wartime. Yet it is not until the "gay nineties" that one can obtain a real glimpse of the Capital's homosexual subculture. Lafayette Square, opposite the

White House, was already a favorite **cruising** spot. According to one account, the **black gay** community affirmed itself in an annual ball which many male government employees attended in drag. Some Washington **prostitutes** were reported to have been fond of lesbian activities in their free time.

In the ensuing years the flow of elected and other governmental officials from all parts of the country brought many closeted homosexuals to the city. Massachusetts Senator David I. Walsh was forced to retire after being linked in the 1940s to a male house of prostitution in New York, while the escapades of Sumner Welles, Under Secretary of State, came to the attention of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. An undercurrent of gossip regarding FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover has resisted substantiation to this day. In 1950, however, the accusations of Senator Joseph R. **McCarthy** led to an investigation by a Senate subcommittee of "Employment of Homosexuals and Other Sex Perverts in Government." Unlike an earlier subcommittee which concluded by a 4-3 majority that McCarthy had perpetrated "a fraud and a hoax" on the Senate, in this instance the Democratic majority capitulated to the Republican charges against the Harry S. Truman Administration. The report unanimously called for more punitive laws and screening procedures designed to "ferret out sex perverts" on the ground that they were particularly liable to blackmail by Soviet agents even in agencies that had nothing remotely to do with national security. In other words, Magnus **Hirschfeld's** argument that the sodomy laws encouraged the practice of **blackmail** was now turned against homosexuals for political advantage. Although the report referred to government in general, it was the federal District of Columbia (coterminous with the city of Washington) that was the focus of the investigation and recommendations, which were duly enacted into law three years later when the Dwight D. Eisenhower Administra-

tion took office and commenced another purge of "security risks." **Police** surveillance increased, and in the early 1950s arrests by the vice squad topped 1000 annually. In the same time national attention focused on Washington's sins as a result of the spread of muckraking popular journalism, including Jack Lait and Lee Mortimer's gossipy book *Washington Confidential* (1951).

Then in 1954 Senator Lester Hunt, a conservative Democrat from Wyoming, committed **suicide** under mysterious circumstances. It later was revealed that his son had been compromised when the Washington police raided a gathering of homosexuals, and that two Republican Senators had threatened to make this fact known to his constituents should he run for a second term. In a politically distorted form this incident inspired the novel and motion picture *Advise and Consent* in which the culprit is a left-leaning member of the Senate—conveniently reversing the fact that the blackmailers belonged to the Republican Party.

In the 1960s Franklin E. Kameny, a discharged homosexual government employee who fearlessly defended others wrongfully fired, achieved prominence as head of the **Mattachine Society** of Washington. Kameny gained national prominence in the homophile **movement**, organizing the first public demonstrations by homosexuals (at the White House) in 1965. The radical upsurge of the late 1960s brought a **gay liberation** movement to Washington, and there was visible homosexual participation in the mass demonstrations of April–May 1971 calling for an end of the war in Vietnam. Dupont Circle, a center of radical activity in that period, also attracted the gay subculture, and has remained a focus of community life with the Lambda Rising bookstore as a national outlet for gay literature. The Washington gay newspaper, *The Blade*, is considered one of the major papers in the country. Appropriately, the capital is the headquarters of the National Gay and Lesbian Task

Force. The preponderance of black citizens in the District of Columbia has fostered the rise of a vibrant local black gay culture and a favorable local political climate.

Sodomy statutes enacted by the federal Congress for the District of Columbia were repealed in 1981 by the City Council, but the same year Congress overrode the repeal ordinance, leaving sodomy still criminal.

Washington does, however, have one of the strongest **gay rights** laws in the nation, adopted in October 1973 as one of the first such. The Human Rights Law, of which it is part, is enforced by a 15-member commission. At the end of the eighties, four of the commissioners were openly gay or lesbian.

In 1979 and again in 1987 Washington was the scene of national marches for gay rights that attracted myriads of activists and supporters from all parts of the country, showing that in the decade since 1969 the movement had grown from a score of semi-clandestine organizations hiding in the bohemian quarters of the large cities to a phenomenon as vast and variegated as the fabric of American life itself.

Ward Houser

**WEIRAUCH,
ANNA ELISABET
(1887-1970)**

German prose writer and playwright. After an eight-year stint (1906-14) as an actress with Max Reinhardt's famous ensemble in Berlin, Weirauch discovered her true calling as an author. She began with attempts at dramas but soon turned to prose, and in 1919, the first year of her long career, she published four novels and three novellas. One of these was the first volume of a trilogy entitled *Der Skorpion* (1919, 1921, 1931), which is the work for which Weirauch is remembered today.

This three-volume *Entwicklungsroman* (novel of personal develop-

ment) presents the story of Mette Rudloff as she learns and grows from the various loves she experiences for other females. The first volume portrays her from childhood through her early twenties. Although Olga, the woman she loves, does bend to social opprobria and commits **suicide**, Mette refuses to succumb to the prejudice and hostility heaped upon her. She pursues her own path toward happiness, no matter how difficult it proves. Over the course of the next two volumes, Mette learns about the lesbian and homosexual **subcultures**, has several love affairs, and builds her own character so that, at the conclusion, she stands confident in the validity of her choices and at the same time hopeful and able to build a long-lasting relationship with another woman.

The first edition of the initial volume quickly sold out. Readers, especially lesbian readers, praised the sympathetic—and convincing—depiction of lesbian characters which they found here. They begged Weirauch to tell more of Mette's story, a request she then granted twice over. The novels have been translated into several languages. In English alone, they have had seven editions in various forms.

No other of her 64 prose works approached the success of *Der Skorpion*. Her long and successful career, however, was based on her ability to tell a story which the public wanted to hear and which it could easily digest.

A complicated and private person, Weirauch shared her life for almost six decades with another woman.

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