LITERARY STUDIES: LESBIAN

Reasons for the neglect of this literature and discussions of work by Maya Angelou, Ann Shockley, Rosa Guy, Gayl Jones, Pat Parker, and others.

Thoughtful essay treating a few selected examples, including The Well of Loneliness and Lover.

Explores reasons for late emergence in German literature; Bettina von Arnim, effects of psychiatric theories; 20th-century authors (including Ingeborg Bachmann and Verena Stefan).

On the English writer Vernon Lee and her circle in Florence.

Chiefly an annotated list of writings about the famous couple (1909-81). See also: Maureen R. Liston, Gertrude Stein: Annotated Critical Bibliography (Kent, OH: Kent State University Press, 1979; 230 pp.).

Author calls for all women to destroy patriarchal myths about lesbians; recover the works of lesbians, and proclaim the word "lesbian" forcefully. See also her "The Politics of Transliteration: Lesbian Personal Narratives," Signs, 9 (1984), 663-82; and "What Has Never Been: An Overview of Lesbian Feminist Criticism," Feminist Studies, 7 (1981), 451-75.

K. MUSIC

In its essence abstract, music would seem to be unrelated to sexual orientation. However, closer inspection reveals a number of interesting facets: the historical vogue of
castrati, individual homosexual and lesbian composers and performers, and homosexual elements in lyrics and librettos of musical works. An unsolved problem in the sociology of taste is why certain types of music (opera, musical comedy, organ music) seem to hold great attraction for homosexual audiences and others not. See also "Theater and Dance," VI.6.

In this life of the great Black blues singer Bessie Smith (1874-1937), see pp. 14, 116-20 for lesbian aspects. In general see: Derrick Stewart-Baxter, Ma Rainey and the Classic Blues Singers (New York: Stein and Day, 1970; 112 pp.).

"Bisexual chic" and gay/lesbian themes in rock music.

For Chausson's attachment to Claude Debussy, see pp. 37, 59-70.

2082. BENTLEY, GLADYS. "I Am a Woman Again," Ebony, 7 (August 1952), 92-98.
A Black songwriter, pianist, and male impersonator writes with some reticence about her past.

A study that mentions the feminine elements in the personality of the 19th-century Russian composer.


Franken on manager Brian Epstein's homosexuality than earlier accounts.

2086. CASERTA, PEGGY, and DAN KNAPP. Going Down with
MUSIC

Account of life with the tormented rock singer Janis Joplin (1943-1970), by her lesbian lover.

Beginning of a special section (pp. 24-40) on the pop music world.

Compositions of the popular lesbian performer, with commentary, photos, drawings, and an autobiographical essay.

See pp. 147-51 on Henry Cowell, mentioning his morals charge, incarceration in San Quentin, and subsequent loss of friendship with Charles Ives, a vehement homophobe.

Noted lesbian singer keeps her principles and distinctive style.

Period study of Wagner (1813-1883) and homosexuality, with special reference to the sexual anomalies of his characters.

On gay men's choruses in New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, and San Francisco.

Perceptive analysis of lyrics and other aspects of American popular music, chiefly in the first half of the 20th century.

 Covers the American composer's (1911- ) long-term relationship with the late Samuel Barber, and with young protégés.

Chapter 10 (pp. 329-69) shows the German composer's manipulation of the homoerotic longing of his patron, King Ludwig II, and his use of a homosexual motif in Tristan und Isolde.

The innovative contemporary composer speaks frankly of his music and gay relationships.

Mixture of music and ingenious leftist by the contemporary German composer (b. 1926), who moved to Italy in 1953 to escape homophobia in his own country.

The British homosexual composer's (1913-76) articles and libretti, some of which contain homophile themes.

Traces the history of the fashion for castrati down through the 19th century, with biographical sketches of celebrated performers.

Historically the Broadway musical, so beloved of gay men, has by and large sought to present a seemingly straight facade to the middle-class audience.

A Los Angeles gay pianist reflects on music.

Britain's first openly gay rock musician gives an overview of the gay influence in contemporary rock and punk. See also Adam Block's interview with Robinson, Advocate, no. 420 (May 14, 1985), 31-32.

Multifaceted survey of the gay side of the pop music scene, including interviews and photos. Comprehensive gay discography.

2105. KUPPER, WILLIAM H. "Immortal Beethoven: A Repressed Homosexual?" ONE Magazine, 15 (February 1967), 4-6. Homoerotic components of Beethoven's personality have long been suspected, but remain elusive. See, e.g., Editha and Richard Sterba, Ludwig van Beethoven und sein Neffe (Munich: Sacczsn, 1964; 350 pp.).

2106. MAISEL, EDWARD. Charles T. Griffes: The Life of an American Composer. New York: Knopf, 1984. 336 pp. Enlarged reissue of the 1943 original, which was (for the period) surprisingly frank about Griffes' (1884-1920) homosexual liaisons, notably with a married New York City Police officer. Many important documents were destroyed by his homophobic family. This new edition adds reference notes.


2108. ORLOVA, ALEXANDRA. "Tchaikovsky: The Last Chapter," Music and Letters, 62 (April 1981), 125-45. Orlova's macabre reconstruction of the circumstances of the composer's death has been criticized as inadequately documented.

2109. PLASKIN, GLENN. Horowitz: A Biography of Vladimir Horowitz. New York: William Morrow, 1983. 607 pp. The noted pianist is said to have remarked: "There are three kinds of pianists: Jewish ones, homosexual ones, and bad ones." This frank and detailed biography covers his sexual orientation—as well as his marriage to Wanda Toscanini.


Diary, 1961–72 (Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1974; 439 pp.).

Argues that jazz musicians are hardly ever homosexual (without noting the exceptions of Bix Beiderbecke and Bunny Berigan). Despite overstatement of the case, an interesting discussion of musical taste and sexual orientation.

Life of the noted popular music figure (1893-1964), whose sophisticated lyrics are one of the defining instances of High Camp.

Commercial constraints make "coming out" hard in the music business.

Illustrated journalistic book: from fifties origins to Boy George and Michael Jackson.

Argues that the Russian composer was a vigorous and creative homosexual, as well adjusted as the circumstances of his time would allow. His life was not the tragedy that some have claimed.

2117. THORSON, SCOTT. "Liberace Bombshell--Boyfriend Tells All about Their Six Year Romance," National Enquirer (November 2, 1982), 48-51.
Less a bombshell perhaps than a confirmation of what had long been evident to the discerning regarding one of America's most popular entertainers.

Fifteen years of women's (separatist) music from tentative beginnings to growing recognition and institutional forms.

On two upfront gay vocalists of the counterculture era.


2122. YOUNG, IRENE. **For the Record.** Oakland, CA: Olivia, 1982. 58 pp. Photographic portraits of performers in the women's music scene.

2123. ZIEGLER, MARION. "The Great Gay Composers," in: Dennis Sanders (ed.), **Gay Source.** New York: Berkeley, 1977, pp. 83-95. Notes on the lives of Handel, Beethoven, Schubert, Tchaikovsky, and others. While present evidence in some cases may be thin, this article offers many leads which later researchers should follow up.
VII. PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION

A. PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS

The exploration of philosophical issues related to homosexuality, particularly as regards the metaphysic of love, began in ancient Greece, when most leading thinkers were either bisexual or homosexual (see III.C). In the many rencences of Greek thought, however, this aspect has been occulted or neglected altogether. In the 20th century, philosophy—especially in English speaking countries—adopted an austere credo known as the analytic philosophy, which discouraged the exploration of social and ethical questions. Recently, however, philosophers have begun to concern themselves with "mortal issues" affecting people's lives, such as abortion, the handicapped, and sexuality. The women's movement has also made an appreciable impact; for this, see also "Lesbian-Feminist Theory," II.B. Some ethical aspects are discussed in the following sections on "Religion," VII.Bff. Moreover, as in every other field of human endeavor, there is the question of which philosophers were homosexual, and how their orientation may have affected their thought.

See pp. 64-74 for Renaissance discussion (1547) in dialogue form of the tradition of Greek love according to Plato and Cicero.


Somewhat cryptic but suggestive comments on the nature of love, in which the homosexuality of the writer, an influential French literary critic and structuralist (1915-1980), emerges between the lines. See Richard Sennett, "An Evening of Barthes," Christopher Street, no. 76 (1983), 22-28.