The Arts

Our Image

What's in "Our Image"?
As gay people, we see ourselves being portrayed throughout our culture in innumerable ways, in various media and art forms. The books by us and about us (plural, "they") have been reviewed and analyzed. The traditional forms of "high culture" - art, music, dance, theatre - are beginning to incorporate gay themes or characters, with varying degrees of success. It is crucial that we monitor the coverage homosexuals receive there. Gay people are attempting to uncover our lost history and unearht some of that research with our readers.

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Identity and Community in the Gay World

Contribution
Barry Adam is a doctoral candidate in sociology at the University of Toronto and a member of the Gay Academic Union.

James Dubroix, 29, is working as a freelance journalist with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation while finishing a PhD in English Literature at the University of Toronto.

Christina Coughlin, 25, helped organize a union (CUPE Local 6668) at Metro Central Library, and later became its president. She is a librarian and gay champion since 1970, and activist and "not a group lover."

Graham Jackson is a Canadian poet and playwright. A collection of his short stories, Gardens, will be published shortly by Catalyst Press.

Michael Lynch, a frequent contributor to The Body Politic, teaches English at Erindale College, University of Toronto. He organized the first gay studies course at that university.

Paul Pearse, 26, has been involved and on-again gay in the generation movement in Toronto for the last five years. Paul, a student of English literature at the University of Toronto is also a member of the Canadian Gay Archival Collective.

Vicky Pullam, a member of the Toronto Gay Academic Union, teaches women's self-defense and is writing a book on her early experiences as a lesbian. Vicky is currently supporting herself in the male chauvinist office of Office Overload.

Joyce Rock is a lesbian-feminist who lives in Toronto, New York and Toronto. She recently teaches film at York University in Toronto.

Liz Ronk was one of the founders of the first Gay liberation organization in Canada, the University of Toronto Homophile Association. A well-known poet, she lives in Scarborough, Ontario, and runs Catalyst Press.

The Sporitus portrait from "The Elopist to Doctors," by Ursula K. LeGuin. "Let Sporitus tremble - what that thing may mean!"

"The world," "Lady Mary Wortley Montagu once observed, "consists of men, women and Harveys." In time Lady Mary's jeu d'esprit became the classic statement on her very close friend, Lord Hervey. It anticipates the thrust of Hervey commentators and critics for the rest of the eighteenth century and beyond.

Hersilia Walpole suggested many years later that there were "three sexes: men, women and Harveys." For by the time of Walpole's paraphrase of Lady Mary's joke, Hervey's persona, of which his sexual identity was a major part, had been firmly established. It was her idea that a product of over twenty years of mythologizing of Lord Hervey's appearance and sexual orientation in the works of William Pulteney, Alexander Pope, Henry Fielding, and other masters of portraiture, playwrights and novelists. The mythical Lord Hervey, the creature of the third sex humorously presented by Lady Mary, had become the reality even before his death in 1743.

William Pulteney, at one time one of Hervey's closest friends, was the first to elaborate dramatically on Lady Mary's image of Hervey's sexual ambiguity. Hervey had just joined the ministry of Sir Robert Walpole, and Pulteney, the leader of the opposition, vigorously assaulted Lord Hervey in a pamphlet:

What? hunt Mr. Feinkoel - what will they say the ladies say? Nay, you know, that he is a lady himself, or at least such a nice composition of the two sexes that it is difficult to distinguish which is most preponderant.

But though it would be barbarous to handle such a delicate hermaphrodite, such a pretty Master-Miss in too rough a manner, yet he must not let you make it clear, to give you a little gentle correction happier place had Nero her father Domitian married that sort of wife.

In the Sporitus portrait Pope brilliantly ver-