

nificant firsts in gay history that New York claims are the publication of Donald Webster Cory's *The Homosexual in America* (New York: Greenberg, 1951); the beginning of the homophile phase of the man-boy love movement in the United States with the publication of J. Z. Eglinton's *Greek Love* (New York: Oliver Layton Press, 1964); the founding of the Student Homophile League at Columbia University by Stephen Donaldson (1966); the opening in November 1967 of the Oscar Wilde Memorial Bookshop, the first to be devoted solely to gay/lesbian books, by Craig Rodwell, who had earlier organized a gay youth group; the Stonewall Rebellion (June 1969); the founding of the Gay Liberation Front (July 1969); the founding of Gay Activists Alliance (December 1969); the first Gay Pride March [simultaneously with Los Angeles] (June 1970); the launching of the Gay Academic Union at John Jay College (1973); the founding of the National Gay Task Force (1974); the establishment of Gay Men's Health Crisis (1981); the founding of Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (1985); the founding of ACT UP [AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power] (1987); the Stonewall commemorative postal cancellation initiated by Warren Johansson (1989).

Wayne R. Dynes

NICOLSON, HAROLD (1886–1968)

British diplomat, gardener, publisher, and prolific writer of biographies, diaries, and letters. Born into the British diplomatic service (in Teheran, where he would later serve), Nicolson helped write the Balfour Declaration during World War I, and was a junior adviser (along with John Maynard Keynes) at the Paris Peace Conference which launched the League of Nations. In his spare time Nicolson wrote popular biographies of Byron, Swinburne, and Verlaine. In 1929 he retired to write for the *Evening Standard*, published by Lord

Beaverbrook, and to create formal gardens.

Nicolson met Vita Sackville-West in 1910, and married her in 1913. Both had a series of homosexual affairs with persons of their own station, in marked contrast with the British upper-class pattern of seeking proletarian homosexual partners. Nicolson's liaisons with younger aristocrats were emotionally cooler than his wife's passions for Virginia Woolf and Violet Trefusis. He was quite devoted to her, while she was less promiscuous than he and more devoted to the women she loved than to her husband. Their third-born son published Vita's account of their open marriage and her unhappy affair with Violet Trefusis in 1973.

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Stephen O. Murray

NORTH AFRICA

See Africa, North.

NOVELS AND SHORT FICTION

Fiction in the form of novels and short stories ranks as a particularly characteristic feature of modern imaginative life, continuing to flourish even in an era dominated by electronic entertainment. Gay and lesbian characters and situations sometimes appear in mainstream novels whose major context is heterosexual. Less well known to the general public is the "gay novel," a modest though surprisingly hardy variant. Few works of this type have garnered acclaim as masterworks, and gay/lesbian novels are perhaps best regarded as forming a genre, such as mystery or science-fiction.

Classical Antiquity. As a literary category the novel was a late-comer in ancient Greece, becoming popular only in the second century B.C. Achilles Tatius' romance *The Adventures of Leucippe and Clitophon* mingles heterosexual and