AGING

A sample recruited in San Francisco and New York refutes negative views of older gay men, who are found in fact to be better adjusted psychologically than younger gay men, though they are more likely to be withdrawn from the gay world.

D. BARS

The tendency of homosexual men ("sodomites") to gather in taverns, where they encountered other socially marginal elements, seems to begin in 15th-century Europe, though these locales did not come into their own until the 19th century. The modern gay bar seems to be a distinctively northern European and North American institution. In much of North America, the bars are, apart from the gay churches, the only homosexual gathering places. Regulation of alcohol consumption has repeatedly brought homosexual bar patrons into conflict with the police and, in the wake of Prohibition, also the underworld (see XXI.A).

In large cities different kinds of bars can specialize so as to serve more specific functions. Facing the difficulties of underworld control and police corruption, the community and the bar owners find cohesion in their reaction to police hostility. Decor and personnel are important in establishing the individual character of a bar. (Reflects her 1964 M.A. thesis, University of Chicago).

Traces changing patterns in Toronto lesbian bars over two decades. Unlike the city's gay men's bars, the lesbian bars remain a combination of straight-owned and "underground" membership clubs. Compare Nancy L. Lisagor, Lesbian Identity in the Subculture of Women's Bars (unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, Sociology, University of Pennsylvania, 1980; 244 pp.).

The owner of a Los Angeles establishment with a homosexual (mostly male) clientele describes her bar, comments on the problems of her customers, and characterizes the types of people she meets.

2934. CARSWELL, PHILLIP. "Life behind Bars," Gay Commun-
While it is easy to conclude that the sole purpose of bars is for cruising, bars can serve other purposes, and indeed have real potential for change.


2936. DALLAS, MICHAEL, et al. De leerscène—een onderzoek naar de ontwikkeling van mannelijkheid. Amsterdam: University, Sociologisch Instituut, 1985. 105 pp. Theoretical and empirical considerations by a team of Amsterdam graduate students on the leather scene, esp. as observed in the city's bars.

2937. HARRY, JOSEPH. "Urbanization and the Gay Life," Journal of Sex Research, 10 (1974), 238-47. With increasing size of cities there is increasing specialization of gay bars. In metropolitan cities bars cater to different age groups and different lifestyles, and this diversity encourages migration of small town gays to urban areas.

2938. HIGHLAND, JIM. "Raid!" Tangents, 2:4 (January 1967), 4-7. Account of the Black Cat raid by the Los Angeles police, which triggered a street confrontation two years before the Stonewall riot that involved several hundred people.


Analyzing the attitudes of gay bar patrons, finds that homosexuality exists on a continuum from complete concealment to complete disclosure.


2944. REITZES, DONALD C., and JULIETTE K. DIVER. "Gay Bars as Deviant Community Organizations: The Management of Interactions with Outsiders," Deviant Behavior, 4 (1982), 1-18. Interprets data collected in 10 Atlanta area bars to show the processes used by the bars to define the role of outsiders and manage interaction through the use of location, announcement, screening and interior design. Four outsider roles were identified: antagonist, guest, competitor, and customer.

2945. SHILTS, RANDY. "Big Business: Gay Bars and Baths Come Out of the Bush Leagues," Advocate, no. 191 (June 2, 1976), 37-38+. Gay liberation has meant increasing prosperity and visibility for once clandestine gay meeting places.


E. BATHHOUSES AND BEACHES

In ancient Rome and in Islamic civilization public baths were frequently patronized by those in search of homosexual contact, though few seem to have been exclusively devoted to such traffic. The emergence of the distinctively gay sauna (popular known as "the baths") seems to be essentially a product of the last hundred years or so: as the need for public baths among the general population decreased, the few remaining ones tended, in many instances, to acquire an exclusively homosexual character. Outdoor homosexual bathing areas may have their origin in the traditional "old swimming holes" where men and boys bathed in the nude and therefore without female companionship.
2947. BERUBE, ALAN. "The History of the Gay Bathhouse," Coming Up! (San Francisco), 6:3 (December 1984), 15–19. Includes information on the Baker Street Club Raid (1918) and Jack's Baths in the 1930s and '40s, both in San Francisco.


