The tendency of adult homosexuals and lesbians to form dyadic pairs can be studied beginning in the 18th century, when homosocial forms, necessarily clandestine, began to be influenced by new notions of companionate (heterosexual) marriage. It was only in the second half of the 20th century, when large numbers of unmarried heterosexual pairs began to be visible, that the study of "the couple"—whether straight or gay—became a fashionable theme of social science. Conceptually, the fading of strong moralizing condemnation has fostered the abandonment of the earlier sharp contrast between the positively charged married pair and the negatively charged fornicating/adulterous pair (including homosexuals); now there is a neutral, tripartite division: married heterosexuals; unmarried, cohabiting heterosexuals; and cohabiting homosexuals—all ranged under the umbrella category of couples. (For the controversial, perhaps even quixotic concept of homosexual marriage, see XX.L).


2990. BABUSCIO, JACK. "Splitting Up," Gay News (London), no. 220 (July 23-August 5, 1981), 22-23; no. 221 (August 6-19, 1981), 24-25. The fact that many gays and lesbians do, contrary to popular stereotypes, form at least one deep dyadic relationship in their lives is attested by the intensity and complexity of the feelings that accompany and last beyond the experience of breaking up.

2991. BLUMSTEIN, PHILIP, and PEPPER SCHWARTZ. American Couples: Money, Work, Sex. New York: William Morrow, 1983. 656 pp. Reflects data collected from over 4000 heterosexual couples, nearly 1000 male couples, and 788 female couples. The book is divided into five major sections: how couples handle finances; how they balance work and relationship commitments; their sexual behavior; a follow-up study; and vignettes of twenty couples.

Satisfaction was related to the amount and type of sex-role behavior, but unrelated to gender, background characteristics, BSRI score, or couple type.

Light essays on male-male relationships alternating with letters to and from Clarke and Nichols when they were editors of *Gay*, a now-defunct New York City periodical.

In a limited sample, homosexual couples showed significantly lower levels of success than did married couples. Lesbians had lower scores on self-esteem and generalized contentment, suggesting that being lesbian and a woman may be a twofold problem. See also his: "Legitimacy and Permanence in the Gay Relationship: Some Intervention Alternatives," *Journal of Social Welfare*, 4:2-3 (1977), 81-88.

Interviews with 91 men and 34 women indicated that the right most frequently perceived as important was participation in decision making, and the need most frequently perceived was power.

Interviews with a gay couple, a lesbian couple, and an interracial heterosexual couple emphasizing love and passion. See also his: *Lovers: The Story of Two Men*. Interviews with Philip Gelfer and Neil Alan Marks (New York: Avon, 1979; 159 pp.).

Presents a model of power strategies, which is of uncertain value inasmuch as no differences were disclosed in this dimension between homosexuals and heterosexuals.

Condensed proceedings of a conference sponsored by the
Homosexual Community Counseling Center in May 1974.

In an exploration of patterning of attractions among 1,556 gay men, age was found to be the major criterion defining pools of potential erotic and romantic partners. Moreover, age defined the dominance structure in a relationship.

Based on a study of over 1000 Chicago men, the author finds support for the "resource theory" of family dynamics; the homogamous selection hypothesis; and predominant nonexclusiveness (which is not necessarily a negative factor). Also treats cohabitation; gender-role playing; intimacy; and masculinity/femininity. See also: Joseph Harry and Robert Lovely, "Gay Marriages and Communities of Sexual Orientation," Alternative Lifestyles, 2 (1979), 177-200; and Joseph Harry, "Gay Male and Lesbian Relationships," in: Eleanor D. Macklin and Roger H. Rubin (eds.), Contemporary Families and Alternative Lifestyles (Beverly Hills, CA: Sage, 1983), 216-34.

Practical advice in the context of today's joint living arrangements.

Interviews with 34 lesbians record adherence to butch/femme role-differentiation pattern.

Records the development of a Gay Relationship Questionnaire.

In a survey of two groups of students it was found that heterosexuals and homosexuals look for the same qualities in partners, but misperceive the priorities of others.

In a questionnaire study of 32 lesbians and 50 gay men who had lived in coupled relationships for at least six months, lesbians scored higher than gay men on three separate indices of commitment, but on the whole there
were surprisingly few differences between the two groups.

Based on a five-year program of interviews with 156 male couples living in Southern California. The study outlines a sequence of six stages in which the couples are claimed to pass over many years.

Journalistic presentation of gay male and lesbian lifestyles, based on some 400 couples.

Explores special factors that may engender jealousy in a lesbian relationship, and offers a speculative treatment model (declaring feelings, clarifying misinformation, consciousness raising, negotiation of needs and rights, and individual therapy as needed).

In a study of 20 male and 20 female homosexuals of New York City, who have been in committed same-sex relationships for at least ten years, it was found that the men came out earlier than the lesbians, had much less heterosexual experience, and far more frequently engaged in casual sex encounters.

Based on personal experience, Nestle argues that butch-fem relationships among lesbians were complex erotic statements, not mere mimicry of heterosexual dyads.

Even in a loving, considerate relationship ISD may occur. The author recommends H. S. Kaplan's technique of sensate focus exercises as therapy.

Highlights fears of dependence and role conflict; the acceptance of a particular dominant or submissive role is not necessarily consonant with acceptance of a corresponding sex identity.


Reviews current literature on gay male and lesbian couples, which is presented as moving in accord with the trend in sociology away from the deviance perspective to one studying "alternate lifestyles."


Investigates the functioning of dyadic relationships of gay men in West Germany.


Separated respondents to a self-report battery scored lower on cooperation than members of ongoing relationships and were more likely to be androgynous. See also Reece: "Coping with Couplehood," in: Martin F. Levine (ed.), *Gay Men* (New York: Harper and Row, 1979), 211-21.


Applied the Extended Personal Attributes Questionnaire (modified) to 20 gay male, 20 lesbian, and 40 heterosexual couples.


Providing extended profiles of individual gay couples, explores their problems and satisfactions.


An associate of the Kinsey Institute offers a typology of gay-male relationships based on field work in a Southwest city.

3021. STARN, JACK. "Homosexual Couple: Jack Baker and


3024. TULLER, NEIL R. "Couples: The Hidden Segment of the Gay World," JH, 3 (1978), 331-43. Of 15 couples interviewed, found that the partners met in social as contrasted to sexual settings, that relationships were more common for females than for males, that females required sexual fidelity more than males, that males desired children more than females, and that butch-femme role playing was absent.

3025. UHRIG, LARRY. The Two of Us. Boston: Alyson, 1984. 140 pp. Commonsense guide for couples concerning "affirming, celebrating and symbolizing gay and lesbian relationships" in what are sometimes termed holy unions. Author is pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church, Washington, DC.

I. DEVIANCE

Sociologists and criminologists have taken deviance to refer to behavior that is prohibited, censured, stigmatized, or penalized. The boundaries of the concept, and its appropriateness for homosexuality, have not been settled; it originated in the wish for a neutral term that would not imply approval or disapproval of the activity, whatever the attitude of the envirorng society might be. Critics of the approach assert that it offers little more than a jumble of "nuds, sluts, and perverts." For the study of homosexuality, however, its value may lie in the fact that it does make one think of analogies and differences between homosexuals and other groups. Compare the discussion of the minority concept, XIV.S.

3026. BEST, JOEL, and DAVID F. LUCKENBILL. "The Social