



January, 2010
Volume 5 Number 1

TRETTER LETTER

NEWSLETTER FOR THE FRIENDS OF THE TRETTER COLLECTION



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
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INSIDE

2 From the Chair

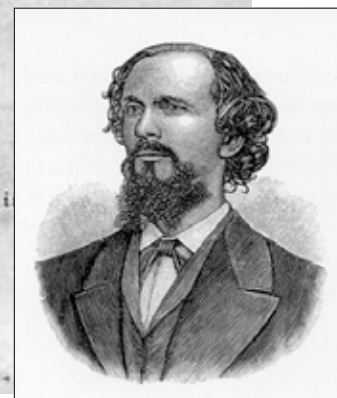
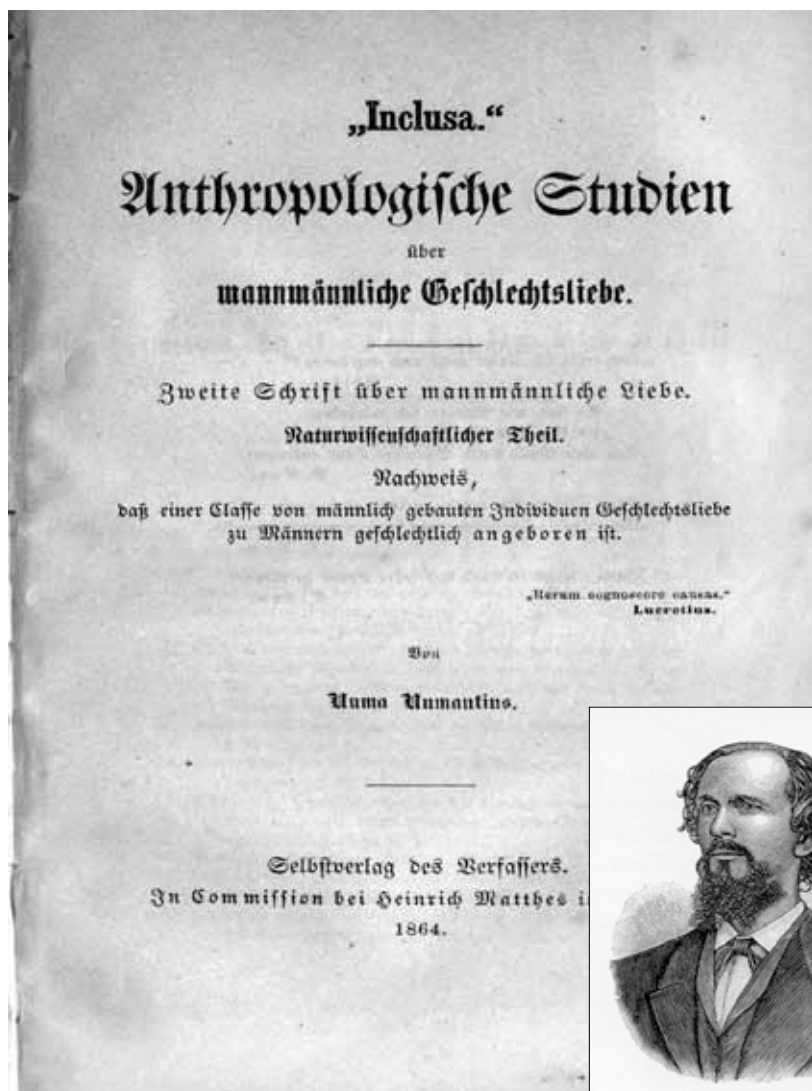
3 From the Field

4 Surround Sound
History--
One Voice and
Tretter Partner
for Concert
Series

6 New
Acquisitions

7 Two Tretter
Friends
Remembered

Acquisition of Karl Ulrich's "Inclusa" Publication Highlights Summer, 2009 at Tretter Collection



by Greg Gronseth

This summer, the Tretter Collection obtained a copy of "Inclusa" written by Karl Ulrichs under the pseudonym Numa Numantius. Subtitled "Proof that sexual love for men is sexually innate in a class of male-built individuals," this was the second of twelve groundbreaking booklets published by this pioneer of the Gay rights movement.

continued on page 6

FROM THE CHAIR

I was recently walking along a main street in a small Iowa town, gazing into storefront windows. As I passed a “junkie” shop, something unexpected caught my eye: a paperback novel by March Hastings. Being a collector of Lesbian pulp novels, I recognized the name if not the title. Slightly battered though it was, I did not have a copy of this book, and so I entered the store and purchased it for fifty cents. While it was one of the more pornographic works this author wrote—usually in an amphetamine and booze-soaked haze—nevertheless it was serendipitous to find it there in the Iowa sunshine.

Serendipity is the result of a rather purposely cultivated open-mindedness. It’s about being open to what you discover, even when you find something completely other than that for what you thought you were looking (see Silly Putty, Saran Wrap, X-Rays and Post-It Notes). Collecting has a lot of serendipity in it, and I find that I get more pleasure out of my serendipitous finds than the ones I’ve actually sought out more intentionally. Allowing for chance opportunities can work well for those of us who collect in ‘smaller’ venues, but how does it work for something like the Tretter Collection?

I think back to about nine years ago. While looking for something completely unrelated on Ebay, I’d serendipitously come across a photograph album of a Gay man who had spent his life as a clown in a major travelling circus. The photos in this album were of him in his make-up, of he (sans make-up) and his partner, scenes of their life together in the circus. Such a photo album was most certainly unique, and it pained me to imagine the circumstances under which he (or his partner) might have been parted from this chronicle of their lives. But it seemed like something the Tretter Collection should add to help further document Gay life through the lens of this particular individual.

The seller had started high and bidding

was brisk. I didn’t have the means to get into the game. I contacted Jean Tretter right away. Unfortunately, at that time the Tretter Collection did not have the funds to secure the album, and so our hands were tied. All we felt we could do was to alert the Circus World Museum in



Linnea A. Stenson

Baraboo, Wisconsin, in hopes the album might be of interest to them. Better, we thought, to keep such a record in a public archive than to have it disappear forever into some private collector’s hands and possibly be destroyed down the road by a family member who would throw the album away if

the individual had not made explicit plans for its archiving upon the owner going on to his or her reward. (And I try not to think about the family that might willfully ignore those plans. Unfortunately, the Tretter Collection board has seen some of that, too.)

I don’t know what ever resulted from that photo album on Ebay. I hope it ended up in a place where it’s being tended to and kept for posterity. Where lots of interested people can look and read the captions on the photos and know that we are, indeed, everywhere—even in the circus.

I do know that the Tretter Collection is in better circumstances now, thanks to people like you. We’ve been able to make purchases when items by chance become available that can help us significantly build our community’s collection. Nevertheless, we could do more and must rely upon you to help us. As you are making your end-of-year donations, I ask that you contribute to the Tretter Collection. After all, you aren’t just writing a check; you are helping serendipity happen. How many organizations can make that promise?

You Can Help!

The Tretter Collection relies on the support of organizations and individuals, like you! Please consider making a charitable donation to the Tretter Collection using the enclosed self-addressed envelope as part of your giving plan. Your support will help to preserve GLBT history now and for future generations.

Thank you.

TRETTER LETTER

NEWSLETTER FOR THE FRIENDS OF THE TRETTER COLLECTION

<http://special.lib.umn.edu/rare/tretter.phtml>

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Tretter Letter January, 2010

Thanks to the generous support of our donors.....

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by Sanford Berman

*Editor's note: The Tretter Collection enjoys a warm working relationship with the Quatrefoil Library (www.quatrefoillibrary.org) To mark the new publication of the volume *History of the Quatrefoil Library* by Adam G. Keim (2008, *Friends of the Bill of Rights Foundation*), long-time Head Cataloger at the Hennepin County Library Sanford Berman has supplied the following reflections.*

The 20-year history of Quatrefoil Library is variously a tale of outstanding vision, determination, inventiveness, generosity, collaboration, and love. It's also a model of grassroots, community-spirited, do-it-yourself achievement. Indeed, the Quatrefoil story could well serve as a handbook, a guide, for undertaking similar ventures elsewhere.

These pages chronicle a stunningly successful effort by an impressive number of persons who devoted much of their time, creativity, energy and treasure to meet the recreational and informational needs of the Twin Cities GLBT population, providing books, videos, periodicals, and other materials, as well as a safe haven, to members of sexual minorities who are otherwise often disparaged and marginalized, sometimes even brutalized.

The Quatrefoil project has been a continuing means of celebrating and legitimizing a whole history and culture, and of strengthening and affirming GLBT pride and self-esteem. It has been necessary, in part, because mainstream media and libraries have largely failed to do the job. They

continued on back page

Surround Sound History:

How One Voice Mixed Chorus partnered with the Tretter Collection to produce “UNSILENCED. GLBT AND JEWISH VOICES OF THE HOLOCAUST”

by Jesse Field

Although Allied forces encountered skeletal men bearing the brand of pink triangles when they first liberated concentration camps in Germany and Poland, it remains unclear just how many GLBT people were persecuted by Nazis, either in “rehabilitation centers,” concentration camps, or elsewhere. Since sodomy continued to be a criminal offense in post-War Germany, and because homophobia remained deeply embedded even in GLBT people themselves, the story of the “pink triangle” and GLBT victims of the holocaust went untold for many years. The German law code was only changed in 1969, and only in the early 1970s did the stories of “Gay holocaust” survivors begin to emerge in books and periodicals around the world. Beginning in the 1980s, the symbol of the pink triangle had become an icon around the world for GLBT identities that faced violent oppression. Starting in 1984, memorials to the Gay victims of the Holocaust began to appear in Germany and the Netherlands. Also during this time, Jean-Nickolas Tretter especially attended to collecting materials and uncovering the memory of GLBT Holocaust victims, for which efforts he was



asked to represent the collection at the 2008 official unveiling of the newest memorial to Gay Holocaust victims, in Berlin. Now the Collection is proud to live up to its name as a resource for One Voice, Mixed Chorus, which used a

variety of materials from the Collection as background research for their new production “Unsensored: GLBT and Jewish Voices of the Holocaust.”

According to One Voice Mixed Chorus, “Unsensored” is, in part, a response to a 1938 exhibition of music by Jewish and suspected Gay composers which officially encouraged audience members to ridicule and deride the supposed “degenerates.” One Voice says they hope to challenge “the legacy of these hateful acts,” providing a concert that acknowledges the deeper connections between the



GLBT and Jewish experience, thus fostering new pathways for community building. As one of the projects musical partners David Harris, Music Director at Shir Tikvah, says, “[W]hat’s particularly valuable about this experience is the unity it will forge—these two vibrant communi-

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ties, who shared a parallel fate at the hands of the Nazis, will come together, learn from each other and help each other heal.

Together, we can move forward to challenge prejudice and discrimination that still exist today and build a truly welcoming community. “

Composing the Music

The focal point of the concerts is Donald McCullough’s Holocaust Cantata, a powerful 13-movement work for chorus, soloists, piano and solo cello with text written by prisoners incarcerated in Nazi concentration camps. One Voice has commissioned McCullough to compose an additional movement for his cantata

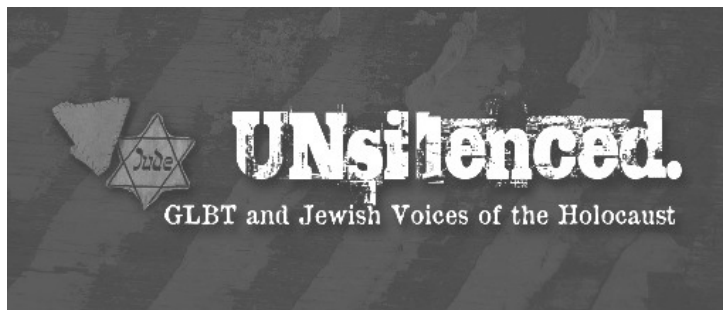
highlighting stories of GLBT individuals in the Holocaust, and has further delved into the Tretter Collection for letters and other materials that reveal the personal stories of victims. As McCullough explains, “My hope is to transform statistics into people in the minds of the Cantata’s listeners, and perhaps be a part of making it more difficult for such a horror ever to occur again. In the end, for me, the work flows inexorably back to its source: it is the voice of humanity, crying out to be heard.”

Appearance by Jean-Nickolaus Tretter

Jean Tretter has graciously prepared some materials to accompany the concert, and will appear after the show along with the performers and GLBT and Jewish leaders to discuss the contemporary significance of the Holocaust.

In preparing for this concert I have felt incredibly lucky to have the Tretter archive right on our backyard. Our music committee spent an entire evening looking through resources, books and photo displays in the archive and came away with an excellent introduction to the experience of GLBT individuals in the Holocaust.

Jean Tretter and his staff have bent over backward to look up information to assist with our research and dig out photos and music that might aide our concert planning. --Jane Ramseyer-Miller



CONCERT DETAILS:

**January 30, 2010, 7:30 pm and January 31 at 3:30pm
Hopkins High School Auditorium
2400 Lindbergh Dr, Minnetonka**

**Information and tickets (January): www.ovmc.org
or 651-298-1954**

**Cost: \$25 - \$18; \$10 seniors and students.
Call for group rates.**

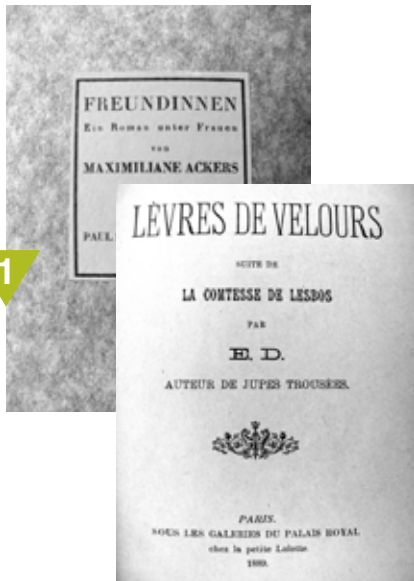
**Janet Horvath, Associate Principal Cello of the Minnesota
Orchestra, is featured soloist at Twin Cities concerts**

**Concerts are performed in partnership with local synagogues
Bet Shalom and Shir Tikvah, and The
Jean-Nickolaus Tretter Collection in Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and
Transgender Studies**

New Acquisitions

French & German language

Lesbian books. *Levres de velour* (“Lips of Velvet”), a French Lesbian novel published in 1889. The book claims to show how the “ardent Saphos of this turn of the century are more than a match for the ones of antiquity”. *Freundinnen* (“Girl Friends”), a German Lesbian novel from the 1920’s, by Maximiliane Ackers as well as *La Raucourt & ses Amies* “La Raucourt & her Friends” (a biography of the 18th century actress and the purported secret society she is said to have led) are also part of this acquisition.



1



2

Shanghai Pride Memorabilia.

First-ever Gay Pride in The People’s Republic of China took place in Shanghai in June, 2009. Organizers planned for a week of indoor events to include swimsuit competition, happy hours, and even the first staging of “The Laramie Project” by Moisés Kaufman and members of the Tectonic Theater. “Laramie” proved too controversial for local Chinese authorities and was canceled. Still, 2009 Shanghai Pride is the most visible sign yet that GLBT organizing is possible in mainland China. Thanks to an anonymous donor, buttons, t-shirts, banners, brochures, and other memorabilia from the first Chinese pride are now part of the Tretter Collection.



Posters and Banners from

California Prop 8 efforts. Pictured are several posters promoting efforts to encourage voters to repeal Proposition 8’s ban on same sex marriage in California, a political battle with national significance. Courtesy of Shamey Cramer.

3



Ulrichs - continued from cover

Born in 1825, Ulrichs was originally an official legal adviser in the Kingdom of Hanover, after finishing his studies at Göttingen and Berlin Universities. However, in 1857, he was dismissed when it became public knowledge that he was having sexual relations with other men, which had been going on since he was 14 years old. In 1862, he came out to his family and friends and began his campaign to increase knowledge on the subject of homosexuality (although the word “homosexual” wasn’t to be coined until 1869). In his series of essays, collectively referred to as “Researches on the Riddle of Male-Male Love”, he was to be the first in many aspects of the Gay rights movement that would follow. For example, he was the first to coin a non-pejorative term for Gay men, whom he called Urnings.

He was also the first person to make an attempt to investigate same-sex behavior from a scientific standpoint. The theory that Gay men were people with the souls of women inside the bodies of men was first proposed by him. “Inclusa”, the title of the booklet the collection has acquired, is from the Latin phrase “anima muliebris virili corpore inclusa” (a female psyche confined in a male body).

A few years after the publication of “Inclusa” in 1864, he also was the first to come out openly and advocate for the legalization of same-sex behavior when, in 1867, he spoke at the Congress of German Jurists pleading for a resolution urging the repeal of anti-homosexual laws on the grounds that Urnings were natural, not diseased. In this speech, he also called for Urning marriage and the creation of an Urning

continued on next page

Ulrichs - continued from previous page

organization. He was shouted down by those in attendance. When the director of the proceedings asked him to switch from German to Latin, apparently thinking that would make the subject less objectionable, he became indignant and walked off the stage. However, he still chose to attend the cocktail party afterwards and face the jurists who'd shouted him down.

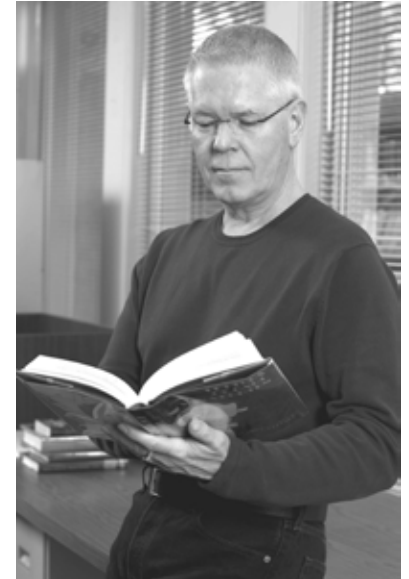
After that Congress, where he had spoken under his real name, he stopped using a pseudonym for his writings and published subsequent books as Karl Ulrichs. He issued 12 books altogether in his "Research on the Riddle of Man-Manly Love" series, the last one being in 1879. During that time, he had been obliged to live off of a small inheritance from his mother, since it was impossible for him to gain any employment while being openly Gay. In addition to his activism for Gay rights, he was also a vocal opponent of the annexation of Hanover by Prussia, which increased his difficulties with the authorities. With the publication of the twelfth booklet, he went into self-imposed exile to Italy.

In Italy, he ended up settling in L'Aquila, as the guest of a local landowner. He continued writing in Latin and German. In 1885, he made another first when he published the first Gay vampire story, "Manor", in his collection of homoerotic stories "Matrosengeschichte" or "Sailor Stories". During this period, the early British Gay rights advocate, John Addington Symonds, made a point of visiting L'Aquila so he could meet Ulrichs. Ulrichs also had an influence on the German researcher, Magnus Hirschfeld

continued on back page

Two Tretter Friends Remembered

Dan C. Hanson was an active and involved member of the GLBT community for many years, and worked tirelessly throughout his life to promote human rights and civil liberties for all persons. He was on the Minneapolis Civil Rights Commission, Board Member of the Minnesota Civil Liberties Union, co-founder of the Minnesota Gay and Lesbian Legal Assistance, Chair of the Thomson Reuters LGBT Employee Network, and Board Member and volunteer at the Quatrefoil Library. He was a member of the Planning Committee for the ALMS Conference in 2006 that was co-sponsored by Quatrefoil, the Tretter Collection, and the University of Minnesota Libraries. The ALMS conference was the first international meeting of GLBT archives, libraries, museums, and special collections. Dan was also the author of the recently published History of the Minnesota Gay and Lesbian Legal Assistance.



Prior to moving to the Twin Cities in 1975, Dan received his Bachelor and Juris Doctorate degrees from the University of South Dakota and engaged in the private practice of law for several years in Belle Fourche, South Dakota. He was employed for many years by Thomson Reuters (formerly West Publishing) where he had the privilege of working with many close friends and associates. Prior to working at Thomson Reuters Dan had a long career working at Allstate Insurance Company. He will be loved and forever missed by his partner of 33 years, Keith Grennier. *(photo and obituary courtesy of Quatrefoil Library)*



Richard John McCauley, 82, frequent donor to the Tretter Collection, died on September 21 at Sarasota Memorial Hospital. Born in Minneapolis in 1927, he served in the U.S. Coast Guard before earning his master's degree in Occupational Therapy from the University of Minnesota in 1953. After holding positions at the University of Illinois and Mt. Sinai's Schwab Rehabilitation Hospital, he enjoyed a successful

real estate career in Chicago. In 1982 he settled in Sarasota, Florida, where he devoted himself to philanthropy and community engagement. His legacy includes: development of ALSO, a nonprofit serving GLBT youth; service as board member to First Step-Second Chance, an organization supporting people of all races in need of a second chance for a good life; endowment of several graduate fellowships at the University of Minnesota; funding the building of homes through Habitat for Humanity; and the dedication of the Richard McCauley Center at Sarasota's Glasser/Schoenbaum Human Services Center. He is survived by his life partner, Fred Werling, with whom he circled the globe four times on adventures to the Antarctic, Africa, Asia, and points in between. *"Give something now because it will make you feel good while you are still alive, and leave a legacy that will make the world better for someone who comes after you. Get out of yourself and into the world."* - Dick McCauley



TRETTER LETTER



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Ulrichs - continued from page 7

who described him as the great self-sacrificing champion for the liberation of same-sex lovers and society's respect. He died in 1895.

The OCLC data base didn't find any other institutions in the world with a copy of the original 1864 edition of the book, making this a truly unique acquisition. Curiously, it's bound in a single volume along with a booklet on the bath spas of southern Europe. In the 19th century, it wasn't unheard of for two unrelated books to be bound together in one volume. However, given that the authorities were confiscating copies of it, the fact that "Inclusa" was bound behind the book on spas and that there was no title on the spine leads us to speculate that it was bound that way in order to conceal it from the uninitiated.

(cover page Ulrichs image source: "Ulrichs: The Life and Works of Karl Heinrich Ulrichs, Pioneer of the Modern Gay Movement" by Hubert Kennedy)

From the Field - continued from page 3

have mostly slighted, trivialized, or simply ignored the GLBT experience. Public libraries, for instance, unlike Quatrefoil, stock no lesbian and gay pulp fiction, not much (if any) material on "kinky sex," few queer zines, and almost no graphic erotica of whatever persuasion, clearly betraying the American Library Association's own "Library Bill of Rights," which nobly proclaims that "books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all the people of the community the library serves" and that collections should represent "all points of view on current and historical issues." Further, academic and public libraries alike have long limited or tainted access to GLBT materials and themes by employing biased subject headings and cross-references, failing to create descriptors that promptly and fairly reflect GLBT topics, and routinely undercataloging GLBT items. It was only in 2007

that the Library of Congress finally recognized "Two-Spirit People," but even so failed to extend its application to all GLBT Native Americans, not merely the men previously termed "Berdaches." Likewise, "Intersexuality" tardily replaced "hermaphroditism" only last year, while "Transgenderism" and "Transgender people" (previously see-references to "transsexuality" and "transsexuals") similarly became primary rubrics very recently. And still unrecognized as usable, valid headings -- meaning that no one can make an effective subject search for these topics in most catalogs -- are "butch and femme," "drag queens," "erotophobia," "water sports (sexuality)," "genderqueers," "Gay pulp fiction," "Lesbian pulp fiction," "transphobia," and "culture wars." No wonder, then, that GLBT people have needed to do it themselves, to meet their own intellectual and cultural needs through responsive, sensitive institutions like Quatrefoil Library.