

LESBIAN AND GAY
LIBERATION IN CANADA:
A SELECTED ANNOTATED
CHRONOLOGY,
1964–1975

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1967

— * Montréal * Marie-Claire Blais's novel *David Sterne* was published by Éditions du jour. An English translation of the same name was published in Toronto by McClelland and Stewart in 1973.

[Gabrielle Frémont, "David Sterne," in *Dictionnaire des oeuvres littéraires du Québec*, ed. Maurice Lemire et al., vol. 4 (1960–69) (Montréal: Fides, 1984), pp. 247–48; Mary Kandiuk, *French-Canadian Authors: A Bibliography of Their Works and of English-Language Criticism* (Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow Press, 1990), pp. 25, 33.]

— * Montréal * Jean-Paul Pinsonneault's play *Terre d'aube* was published by Fides.

[Lucie Robert, "Terre d'aube," in *Dictionnaire des oeuvres littéraires du Québec*, ed. Maurice Lemire et al., vol. 4 (1960–69) (Montréal: Fides, 1984), pp. 866–67.]

January * Toronto * Scott Symons's "personal narrative" *Combat Journal for Place d'Armes*, in which a married, "respectable" Anglo-Canadian male spends three weeks in Montréal indulging in a variety of homosexual escapades, was published by McClelland and Stewart.

[J.G. (Jacques Godbout), "Place d'Armes," *Liberté* (Montréal) 9 (March–April 1967): 89–90; W.D. Godfrey, "Andrea or Andre," *Canadian Forum*, May 1967, pp. 45–46; Robert K. Martin, "Cheap Tricks in Montreal: Scott Symons's *Place d'Armes*," *Essays on Canadian Writing*, no. 54 (1994): 198–211; Robert K. Martin, "Two Days in Sodom; or, How Anglo-Canadian Writers Invent Their Own Quebecs," *Body Politic*, no. 35 (1977), pp. 28–30; "Scott Symons," in Charles Taylor, *Six Journeys: A Canadian Pattern* (Toronto: House of Anansi, 1977), pp. 191–243; Ronald Sutherland, "Brandy and Self-abasement," *Canadian Literature*, no. 33 (1967), pp. 84–85; Charles Taylor, "Scott Symons As Culture Hero: Son of Rosedale, Child of Our Disorder, Brother of Our Decline," *Toronto Life*, July 1977, pp. 50–53, 66–73; Charles Taylor, "The Spy Staying Out in the Cold to Fight Blandman and Methodism-on-the-Make," *Globe and Mail*, metro ed., 28 April 1973, p. 25.]

February 3 * Vancouver * Jean Lupien, vice-president of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation and deputy commissioner-general of Expo '67, was arrested on a charge of attempted gross indecency when he was found at a local hotel in bed with a female impersonator. Lupien's defence was that he believed his companion was a woman. He was found guilty on June 27, 1967,

John Herbert, author of *Fortune and Men's Eyes*.

and fined \$750 (the other man, Serge Boisvert, was fined \$100), but the ruling was reversed by the British Columbia Court of Appeal. The case eventually went all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada, which reversed the ruling of the B.C. Court of Appeal and found Lupien guilty on November 17, 1969.

- ["High Court Upholds Indecency Conviction," *Toronto Daily Star*, all star ed., 18 November 1969, p. 55; Gary Kinsman, "Official Discourse as Sexual Regulation: The Social Organization of the Sexual Policing of Gay Men" (Ph.D. dissertation, University of Toronto, 1989), pp. 371-74; Douglas Sanders, "The Sentencing of Homosexual Offenders," *ASK Newsletter*, June 1967, p. 3 (reprinted in *Criminal Law Quarterly* 10 [November 1967]: 25-29); David N. Weissstub, ed., *Law and Psychiatry in the Canadian Context* (Toronto: Pergamon Press, 1980), pp. 300-303.]

February 14 * New York, N.Y. * *Fortune and Men's Eyes*, a play by Toronto writer John Herbert (born John Herbert Brundage), opened off-Broadway at the Broadway Actor's Playhouse. It concerns homosexuality and degradation in prison; Smitty, a straight student, is committed to jail for a minor drug offense and must share a cell with homosexuals. First staged in October 1965 in a Stratford (Ont.) Workshop production directed by Bruno Gerussi, *Fortune and Men's Eyes* opened in New York because the producers, David Rothenberg and Mitchell Nestor, had been unable to find a Canadian sponsor. Although it opened to mixed notices, *Fortune and Men's Eyes* became a very popular work. It was translated into six languages within three years and was staged internationally many times during the 1970s and 1980s. *Fortune and Men's Eyes* was filmed by Harvey Hart in 1971. (See also June 24, 1971.)

[Nathan Cohen, "Prison Drama Softened," *Toronto Daily Star*, four star ed., 17 April 1967, p. 22; Nathan Cohen, "Toronto Writer's Play: Too Good Not to Be Done," *Toronto Daily Star*, night ed., 15 October 1966, p. 31; Stan Fischler, "How Jack Brundage Found Fame — and Prison Inmates Found Fortune," *Toronto Daily Star*, three star ed., 9 November 1968, p. 33; "*Fortune and Men's Eyes*," *Guerilla* 2 (14 July 1971): 21; Robert Martin, "The Formidable Herbert Has Another Play," *Globe and Mail*, metro ed., 9 December 1972, p. 29; Frank Rasky, "Playwright John Herbert Insists He's No Has-been," *Toronto Star*, Saturday ed., 15 November 1975, p. F3; "'That Man's Scope': John Herbert Now," *Body Politic*, no. 10 (1973), pp. 12-13, 25.]

February 19 * Toronto * Homosexuality, transvestism, and transsexuality were topics investigated in a program aired on CBC-TV's "Sunday" series. The program included a seven-minute film by Clifford Solway entitled *Gay Life*, filmed at a New York City gay bar in 1965.

[Ralph Thomas, "CBC's 'Sunday' Shows Men Cheek to Cheek," *Toronto Daily Star*, night ed., 18 February 1967, p. 39.]

February 24-26 * Vancouver * The official opening celebrations were held for the new ASK Centre. Activities included an open house, receptions, and a dance.

[Notice, *ASK Newsletter*, February 1967, p. 3.]

April 27 * Montréal * Expo '67 officially opened. In the months leading up to the event a number of gay bars and clubs were forced to close after the Québec Liquor Board refused to renew their licences. This was part of an attempt by authorities to clean up Montréal's image in preparation for Expo.

[“Grapes from the Vine,” *Two*, no. 1 (1964), p. 14; “Grapes from the Vine,” *Two*, no. 9 (1966), p. 31; Bernard Morrier, “La Casbah donne du fil à retordre aux policiers,” *La presse*, dernière ed., 15 April 1967, p. 6; John Yorston, “Club Charges Discrimination: Liquor Permit Hearing,” *Montreal Star*, final ed., 22 April 1967, p. 21.]

May 22 * Washington, D.C. * The United States Supreme Court ruled, in a six-to-three decision, that homosexuals were ineligible for admission to the United States. Homosexuals were seen to fall within the definition of “afflicted with psychopathic personality” as used in the Immigration and Naturalization Act. The case had involved an order for deportation to Canada in March 1967 of Canadian citizen Clive Boutilier, who had admitted committing homosexual acts both before and after his entry to the United States in 1955. The U.S. Department of Justice did not relax its position on allowing gays and lesbians into the United States until September 1980, when it adopted a “don't ask, don't tell” policy.

[Chris Bearchell, “U.S. Loosens Ban on Homosexual Aliens,” *Body Politic*, no. 68 (1980), p. 13; “Canadian Homosexual Deported from U.S.,” *Toronto Daily Star*, four star night ed., 24 May 1967, p. 4; “Homosexual Alien Must Go, Supreme Court Rules in 6-3 Vote,” *Pride Newsletter* 2 (July 1967): 6-7; “Homosexuals Ruled Ineligible to Enter U.S.,” *Globe and Mail*, metro ed., 23 May 1967, p. 10.]

July * London, England * The Sexual Offences Bill, which partially decriminalized some homosexual activities in private between two consenting adults twenty-one years of age and older, passed third reading in the House of Commons on July 4 by a vote of 99 to 14. It passed third reading in the House of Lords on July 21, and was given Royal Assent July 27. The success of the Bill was due largely to the influence of the Wolfenden Report, published on September 4, 1957, and the lobbying efforts of the Homosexual Law Reform Society, formed in May 1958. This action on the part of the British Parliament in turn influenced the climate for legislative change in Canada, leading up to the passing of Omnibus Bill C-150 in May 1969.

[“A Crucial Question” (editorial), *Vancouver Sun*, four star ed., 10 July 1967, p. 4; “Homosexual Bill Passes Commons,” *ASK Newsletter*, August 1967, p. 2; “Homosexual Law Reform” (editorial), *Toronto Daily Star*, night ed., 29 May 1965, p. 6; “Homosexuality and the Law” (editorial), *Globe and Mail*, metro ed., 8 July 1967, p. 6; Stephen Jeffery-Poulter, *Peers, Queers, and Commons: The Struggle for Gay Law Reform from 1950 to the Present* (London: Routledge, 1991); Gary Kinsman, “Official Discourse as Sexual Regulation: The Social Organization of the Sexual Policing of Gay Men” (Ph.D. dissertation, University of Toronto, 1989), pp. 412-13; Anthony J. Lewis, “Homosexual

Reform Bill Passed by British M.P.s," *Globe and Mail*, metro ed., 5 July 1967, p. 4; "Metro Police Oppose U.K. Homosexual Law: Cases of Deviates Cited," *Globe and Mail*, metro ed., 7 July 1967, p. 5; Ron Poulton, "Homosexual Bill Passed in Britain after 9 Years," *Toronto Telegram*, final ed., 4 July 1967, p. 4.]

August * Montréal * International Sex Equality Anonymous (ISEA), an educational and social homophile organization, was founded by Paul Bédard. During 1967–68 Bédard was also involved with the Club Cherrier, 847, rue Cherrier, a discr  et, semi-private mixed club for men. In September 1968, Bédard was acquitted of charges of gross indecency and contributing to juvenile delinquency after a member of the club was found to have used it to recruit customers for young male hustlers. By April 1969, Bédard and ISEA had opened the Gemini 1 club at 1285, boul. Maisonneuve O. ISEA was active until at least 1971. (See also April 19, 1969, and September 13, 1969.)

[Levy Beaulieu, "Une explosion de joie chez les 70,000 homosexuels du Qu  bec," *Le semaine*, 17–23 June 1969, p. 6; "Ceux qui voulaient un jeune gar  on n'auraient eu qu'a choisir parmi des photos catalogu  es," *Le nouveau Samedi*, 31 August 1968, p. 3; Ross Higgins, "Lives, Oral Narratives, Writing the Past," revised version of a paper delivered at the Out of the Archives Conference, Department of History, York University, North York, Ont., 13–15 January 1994, pp. 14–20; ISEA file, University of Toronto Homophile Association (UTHA) papers, 82–006/01, Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives, Toronto; Gary Kinsman, "Official Discourse as Sexual Regulation: The Social Organization of the Sexual Policing of Gay Men" (Ph.D. dissertation, University of Toronto, 1989), pp. 402–03; "Le pr  sident des homophiles acquitt  !" *Montr  al-matin*, 17 September 1968; "Le pr  sident du club des 'homophiles' est acquitt  ," *La presse*, m  tro ed., 17 September 1968, p. 33.]

August 17–19 * Washington, D.C. * Members of ASK attended the third National Planning Conference of Homophile Organizations (renamed the North American Conference of Homophile Organizations [NACHO]), which was sponsored by the Mattachine Society of Washington. ASK president Douglas Sanders became secretary of NACHO, a position he held until his resignation early in 1969.

[Bill Cae, "Third National Planning Conference," *Mattachine Midwest Newsletter* 2 (July 1967): 11; "Report of the Third Conference of Homophile Organizations," *ASK Newsletter*, September 1967, pp. 3–4; "Washington Conference," *Mattachine Midwest Newsletter* 2 (October 1967): 4.]

November * Vancouver * ASK's membership had grown to over one hundred fifty.

[Doug (Sanders), "President's Corner," *ASK Newsletter*, November 1967, p. 1.]

November 3 * Toronto * Lanny Salsberg's article "Witchcraft and Faggotry" was published in the *Varsity Review*. It examined the Yonge and King Street

drag scenes during Halloween a few nights before, with particular emphasis on activities at Club 511 and Letros. The article was illustrated with photographs by John Swaigen.

[Lanny Salsberg, "Witchcraft and Faggotry," *Varsity Review* (Univ. of Toronto), 3 November 1967, pp. 8-9.]

November 4-5 * Seattle, Wash. * ASK sponsored the Western Regional Conference of Homophile Organizations, held in Seattle. Representatives from groups in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, and Vancouver attended.

["Report of the Third Conference of Homophile Organizations," *ASK Newsletter*, September 1967, p. 4.]

November 7 * Ottawa * In a three-to-two decision, the Supreme Court of Canada dismissed the appeal of Everett George Klippert, an admitted homosexual who had been sentenced to an indefinite period of detention in March 1966 as a dangerous sexual offender. Chief Justice John R. Cartwright, who had recommended quashing Klippert's preventive detention sentence, in a dissenting opinion suggested that the laws regarding homosexuality be clarified, and that it was not their intention to incarcerate harmless homosexuals for life. Intense media and political interest followed the dismissal of Klippert's appeal and influenced Justice Minister Pierre Trudeau in introducing amendments to the Criminal Code concerning homosexuality (Bill C-150). Although these amendments would eventually come into effect in August 1969, Klippert was not paroled until July 20, 1971. (See also November 8, and December 21, 1967.)

[Cyril Greenland, "Dangerous Sexual Offenders in Canada," *Canadian Journal of Criminology and Corrections* 14 (1972): 47-48; Sidney Katz, "Gentle George Klippert — Must He Serve Life?" *Toronto Daily Star*, four star ed., 18 November 1967, p. 10; Sidney Katz, "Homosexuals Shocked by Life Term Ruling: 'We're Society's Scapegoats,'" *Toronto Daily Star*, four star ed., 11 November 1967, p. 5; Gary Kinsman, "Official Discourse as Sexual Regulation: The Social Organization of the Sexual Policing of Gay Men" (Ph.D. dissertation, University of Toronto, 1989), pp. 161-65, 422-33, 438-40; Gary Kinsman, *The Regulation of Desire: Sexuality in Canada* (Montréal: Black Rose Books, 1987), pp. 161-64; Gerald McNeil, "In Canada: The Law Has Changed but Not for One Man," *Montreal Gazette*, final ed., 17 February 1971, p. 7; "Not Parliament's Intention," *Globe and Mail*, metro ed., 11 November 1967, p. 6; "Ottawa — November 7, 1967. — 'I Would Dismiss the Appeal . . .,'" *ASK Newsletter*, December 1967, p. 1; Gordon Pape, "Klippert's Case Helped Change the Law, but He Remains in 'Preventive Detention,'" *Montreal Gazette*, final ed., 26 December 1967, p. 7; Douglas Sanders (interviewing Everett Klippert), "An Exclusive Interview . . .," *ASK Newsletter* 5 (February 1968): 16-17; Douglas Sanders, "Homosexuality and the Law: The Mysterious Case of Everett Klippert," *Georgia Straight*, 27 September-3 October 1968, pp. 10-11, 17; "Supreme Court Decision Means Homosexuals Can Face Imprisonment for Life," *Globe and Mail*, metro ed., 8 November 1967, p. 8; "Supreme

Court Ruling Makes Homosexual Liable to 'Life,' *Toronto Daily Star*, all star ed., 7 November 1967, p. 1.]

November 7 * Ottawa * In the House of Commons, Bud Orange (L-Northwest Territories) asked Justice Minister Pierre Trudeau whether he would consider amending the Criminal Code "so that Canadians will not be subjected to preventive detention because they are victims of an unfortunate social disease (homosexuality)." The question, arising from the Supreme Court's verdict in the Klippert case, was ruled out of order, and Trudeau did not reply. Outside the Commons, Trudeau told reporters that "there will be something on preventive detention — whether it's too liberal or not liberal enough" in his forthcoming omnibus bill to amend the Criminal Code (Bill C-150).

["Homosexual Detention Laws May Be Amended," *Toronto Telegram*, final ed., 8 November 1967, p. 36; "Law on Homosexuals Will Be Amended: No Life Sentences," *Toronto Daily Star*, three star ed., 8 November 1967, pp. 1-2.]

November 8 * Ottawa * Justice Minister Pierre Trudeau expressed approval of liberalizing laws concerning homosexuality, and suggested that the law as it concerned homosexuals be placed before the Ouimet committee on penal reform. Trudeau's statement came in response to the dismissal of the appeal of Everett Klippert by the Supreme Court of Canada the day before.

["Criminal Code to Be Revised — No Homosexual Life Sentences," *Toronto Daily Star*, four star ed., 8 November 1967, p. 63; Tom Hazlitt, "Trudeau Backs New Homosexuals' Law: He'll Ask Thorough Study," *Toronto Daily Star*, two star home ed., 9 November 1967, p. 2; Lewis Seale, "Trudeau Says Ouimet Committee May Study Homosexual Problem," *Globe and Mail*, metro ed., 9 November 1967, p. 8.]

November 29 * Vancouver * ASK elected a new executive. Norma K. Mitchell, former treasurer of ASK, succeeded Douglas Sanders as president.

[Doug (Sanders), "President's Corner," *ASK Newsletter*, November 1967, p. 1.]

December * Ottawa * The article "Homosexuality among Women," by Réjane Rancourt and Thérèse Limoges, was published in *Canadian Nurse*. They described lesbianism as an "addiction," "deviation," and "retarded psychosocial development."

[Réjane Rancourt and Thérèse Limoges, "Homosexuality among Women," *Canadian Nurse* 63 (December 1967): 42-44; Becki L. Ross, "The House That Jill Built: Reconstructing the Lesbian Organization of Toronto, 1976-1980," (Ph.D. dissertation, University of Toronto, 1992), p. 84.]

December * Vancouver * After the owner of the building housing the ASK Centre refused to renew the lease, the Centre moved into a former bowling alley at 1268 E. Hastings Street. In February 1968 the Centre moved again, to the site of the old Kitsilano Theatre, 2114 W. Fourth Avenue.

[Gary Kinsman (interviewing Douglas Sanders), "Organizing in the Sixties: ASK: Canada's First Gay Rights Organization," *Rites* 3 (October 1986): 11, 15; Norma K. Mitchell, "From the President's Desk," *ASK Newsletter* 5 (January 1968): 1; "We Wish to Announce the New Centre (as of Feb. 17th)" (advertisement), *ASK Newsletter* 5 (February 1968): 5.]

December 21 * Ottawa * Justice Minister Pierre Trudeau introduced an omnibus bill in the House of Commons, Bill C-150, one part of which would allow for the decriminalization of homosexual acts ("gross indecency" and "buggery") in private between two consenting adults twenty-one years of age or older.

["Criminal Code Changes Draw Little Criticism," *Montreal Gazette*, final ed., 23 December 1967, p. 4; "No Place for the State" (editorial), *Vancouver Sun*, four star ed., 22 December 1967, p. 4; Vincent Prince, "Sur deux points particuliers du bill Trudeau" (editorial), *Le devoir*, 29 December 1967, p. 4; Gordon Pape, "Klippert's Case Helped Change the Law, but He Remains in 'Preventive Detention,'" *Montreal Gazette*, final ed., 26 December 1967, p. 7; Gary Ralph, "Law Doesn't Keep the Parasites Away: Homosexuals," *Toronto Telegram*, final ed., 6 January 1968, p. 23; Lewis Seale, "Code Revisions Would Allow Homosexual Acts between Two Consenting Adults," *Globe and Mail*, metro ed., 22 December 1967, p. 5.]

December 22 * Calgary * In response to the proposed Bill C-150, Calgary police chief Ken McIver declared that decriminalizing homosexual acts between consenting adults in private would represent a decay in Canadian society. McIver described homosexuality as "a horrible, vicious and terrible thing. We do not need this in our country."

["Homosexual Law Sign of Decay Says Police Chief," *Toronto Daily Star*, four star ed., 23 December 1967, p. 2; "McIver Opposes Change," *Calgary Herald*, late city ed., 22 December 1967, pp. 1, 2.]

December 28 * Québec, Qué. * Québec Provincial Secretary Yves Gabias declared that Canada was bound to fall into decadence if the Criminal Code was amended to decriminalize homosexual acts.

["Gabias Predicts Bill Will Lead to Decadence," *Globe and Mail*, metro ed., 29 December 1967, p. 31; "Quebecer Hits at New Homosexual Law," *Toronto Daily Star*, four star ed., 29 December 1967, p. 14.]