



# TRETTER LETTER



January, 2006  
Volume 1 Number 1

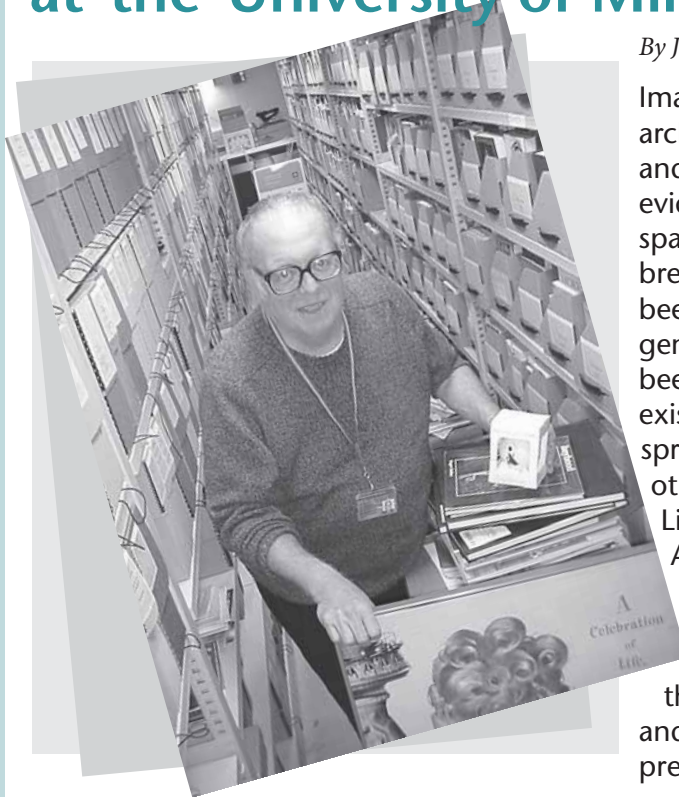
NEWSLETTER FOR THE FRIENDS OF THE TRETTER COLLECTION

## INSIDE

- 2 Welcome from Advisory Board Chair: Lisa Vecoli
- 3 Notes from the field
- 3 Outreach efforts connect history with people
- 4 Tretter Collection headlines at Pride Twin Cities History Pavilion
- 6 New Acquisitions
- 7 Twin Cities to host international GLBT ALMS Conference in May, 2006. Plan to attend!

## Jean-Nickolaus Tretter Builds Unique GLBT Archive and Legacy at the University of Minnesota

*By Jean-Nickolaus Tretter*



Imagine you are on an archaeological expedition and have uncovered evidence of a culture that spans the depth and breadth of history but has been hidden for generations. There have been clues to its existence. As the news spreads of your find, other Universities, Libraries, Museums, Archives, and Special Collections also begin to remove from the dustbins of history the wonders of this past and how it shapes the present.

As we stand together on the threshold of this discovery we see it as ever expanding and growing. Rich new fields of research have opened by our discovery. From this seemingly endless fountain of knowledge will come a whole new era of literature, and art, and music, and the ability to reformat the very basic structures of society as we know it.

That is exactly what we have done. With your support and by our very existence; we have helped to uncover this magnificent civilization in the form of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (GLBT) Special Collection at the University of Minnesota. Together we have built a

*Tretter Collection continues on page 2*

## FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Friends,

**W**elcome to the first issue of the *Tretter Letter*! With this newsletter, and in so many other ways, we are making history.

But history can be a tricky subject. What is more important – first edition Gore Vidal books or the minutes from the Pride committee? Homoerotic art or tee shirts from a GLBT softball team? The answer may seem obvious, but it really depends on what you are seeking. If you want to document the evolution of community organizing, first editions and great art, while inspiring, may not offer much insight.

The power of the Tretter collection, and the gift of Jean Tretter, who has gathered and preserved the collection, is that it offers insights into all kinds of questions. Great art and endless task forces. Newsworthy events and the ephemera of the GLBT

community. Local and international. Our community is fortunate to have the foresight of Jean Tretter, who recognized that the GLBT community and our history is not only grand events but also the daily challenges of life and the small battles fought in living rooms everywhere.



We are also indebted to the University of Minnesota Libraries for recognizing that this unique collection needs to be preserved and made available to students, scholars and community members in perpetuity.

Jean Tretter has turned the collection over to us, over to the GLBT community. Now it is our responsibility to help preserve our history. I encourage you to consider a contribution to the Tretter Collection as part of your year-end gifting. And if your New Year's resolutions include updating your will (as mine does!), please remember the Tretter Collection.

Lisa Vecoli  
Chair, Tretter Advisory Board

*Tretter Collection continued from Cover Page*  
collection of books, periodicals, sound & video recordings and memorabilia that total over 35,000 items spanning the centuries from the prehistoric to the modern. In over 56 languages we have found bits and pieces of our past and present that tell us who we are.

This rich vein of cultural and historic ore that is being mined everyday by students, reporters, researchers, and people from every walk of life, belongs to you. Whether you are GLBT or straight you are part of the archive by your existence.

*"Tretter Collection" continues on page 8*

## TRETTER LETTER

NEWSLETTER FOR THE FRIENDS OF  
THE TRETTER COLLECTION

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

### Advisory Board

Jean-Nickolaus Tretter  
Lisa Vecoli, Chair  
Anguksuar (Richard LaFortune)  
Sanford Berman  
Shamey Cramer  
Rt. Hon. Ralf Dose  
James Garlough  
Timothy Johnson  
Susan Kimberly  
Ani Sorenson  
Linnea Stenson

### Newsletter Editor/Proofreader

George Hamm

### Newsletter Design

Jim Bones

*The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.*

*This publication can be made available in alternative formats for people with disabilities. Direct requests to Jean Tretter, Special Collections, Andersen Library Room 111, Minneapolis, MN 55454, 612-625-7526.*

*The University's mission, carried out on multiple campuses and throughout the state, is threefold: research and discovery, teaching and learning, and outreach and public service.*

©2005 by the Regents of the University of Minnesota.

All rights reserved.

# Tretter Collection outreach efforts connect history with people



Jean Tretter and Hennepin County GLBT Employee Network chair, Lori Simon, pause at a display of historical information that was part of Hennepin's diversity fair at the Government Center atrium in September, 2005. Outreach and support to community organizations are a vital link to GLBT history provided by the Tretter Collection at the University of Minnesota Libraries.

Is your organization looking to connect with GLBT history in a powerful and informative way? The Tretter collection at the University of Minnesota Libraries is a one-of-a-kind community resource ready to help.

Over the past several years, the Tretter collection has partnered with a number of Minnesota companies and groups to create informative displays and enhance awareness of GLBT local, national or international history. Displays have been general in nature for broad appeal to diverse audiences, or specific to periods of history such as recent Minnesota events, or 1930s Europe.

If you are interested in hosting an historical exhibit from the Tretter collection, contact University Library staff at 612-624-7526. Here are some considerations to help in planning your display request:

- What message/learning are you trying to convey, and who is your audience? Selection of materials will differ depending on this advance planning. Displays that may generate interest with young people may be

different from those of interest to employee groups. If your display is part of a larger celebration or theme event, archive information can be selected to support your theme.

- Environmental factors must be considered. Is your display inside or outside, and if indoors, how climate controlled is the space? Outdoor factors such as wind and rain are important.
- Staffing of display tables is critical. Tretter collection volunteer services are very limited. Hosting organizations will need to consider staffing the display. Staffing your own display may provide easier invitation to visitors to view the exhibit.
- Display space and security are important factors as well. Lighting, electrical or internet access, as well as table space are all important in determining selection of materials.
- Transportation of exhibit materials will need to be arranged in advance of your event.

The Tretter collection invites organizations to contact the University Libraries to assist with helping to connect people with history. ▼

## From the field....



### What's happening in national & international circles.....

By Ralf Dose

Several years ago (1995, to be exact) the Magnus Hirschfeld Gesellschaft e.V. in Berlin, Germany, created a travelling panel exhibit on the former Berlin Institute for Sexual Science, established in 1919 by Magnus Hirschfeld. It travelled in Germany, a Spanish translation in Spain, and with the help of many friends we were able to bring an English version to the US in 1997. It travelled from Long Beach and San Francisco to Boston and New York, to Pittsburgh, Chicago, and Cincinnati, even up to Vancouver, BC.

But we soon encountered a problem we had completely underestimated: Where to store the panels in times when they are not used? And who will care for the transportation procedures (packing and unpacking, finding a crater, writing waybills, checking for damages, etc.?) All of us live far away in Germany, there was no "acting roadie", no office, nothing. Thus, we were forced to keep the exhibit moving, since most of the places where the exhibit was shown could not offer storing space for a longer period. And we were not at all able to pay the rent for storage at a storage company. Remote exhibit management was quite an experience.

And then, there was Jean. When our search for a permanent store had become desperate, we were about to

*"From the field" continues on page 8*

# Jean-Nickolaus Tretter Collection in GLBT Studies

By Linnea A. Stenson

Summer once again found the Tretter Collection at the center of 2005

GLBT Pride-Twin Cities. This year's event, which took place on June 25th and 26th, brought over 300,000 people to Loring Park in downtown Minneapolis. This was the XXXIII (33rd) annual GLBT Pride event, and the XXIII (23rd) year that Jean Tretter and his intrepid and dedicated crew of volunteers

brought the History Pavilion to the GLBT Pride festival. Housed in the newly remodeled Loring Park building, the Pavilion featured an historical time line presentation of notable persons, places and events that intersect with and tell the story of the lives of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender individuals and their communities. As the Pride Committee notes, "Only by

learning the lessons from the past will we be able to meet the challenges of the future!" The work of the Tretter Collection

directly and with pride for who we are, where we've been, and where we want to go.

As one of the volunteers who spent some time assisting at the History Pavilion, I saw a wide range of individuals from our communities enter and walk through the displays, and spoke with someone from every state surrounding Minnesota. Visitors spent some time perusing and learning a little (or a lot) about our history. A head count of people who crossed the threshold to spend some time with the Tretter Collection topped 4,000 over the two-day event. Visitors of note to the History Pavilion included



every year at the History Pavilion provides the site where those challenges are faced

Senator Alan Spear and his long-time partner Junjiro Tsuji, former Minnesota Viking Esera

# Headlines History Pavilion at GLBT Pride-Twin Cities

Tuaolo, Bob Jansen from the Main Club in Superior, and Duluth mayor Herb Bergson among others. Some visitors were treated to music by

dedication to the communities of Minneapolis, Saint Paul and its surrounding areas through volunteer participation and fulfillment of duties in the

Rochester PrideFest. Jean has also brought history alive at SouthCentral Pride (Mankato), Omaha, NE, and many other private and smaller events.



Tretter Advisory Board Member, Anguksuar (Richard LaFortune) (pictured below) served as 2005 Grand Marshal for TC Pride.

You can help the Tretter Collection and make history by donating your personal effects and GLBT cultural materials to the Tretter

Collection.

These may include books, letters and other personal papers, photographs, fliers, music, films, organizational documents, and so on. If we don't preserve our history, no one else will. For information about how to donate items to the Tretter Collection, please contact Jean Tretter at Andersen Library on the U of M campus.



members of the Minnesota Philharmonic, a local organization who has been on the scene for over twelve years and who play a variety of selections by GLBT composers.

In gratitude for his years of dedicated support of GLBT Pride-Twin Cities and the special place the History Pavilion holds for so many, the Pride Committee awarded the Tretter Collection a Certificate of Service. The award of appreciation was given, in part, "In recognition of outstanding

production of the 2005 Twin Cities Pride Celebration." This is a service that Jean Tretter has provided to many of our Minnesota Pride festivals over the years, including Duluth/Superior Pride, Fargo-Moorhead Pride, and

He can be reached by phone at 612-626-7526. ▼

## NEW ACQUISITIONS

### Stuart Ferguson Collection

Stuart Ferguson, Professor of German Studies in Sydney, Australia, recently donated his private library of GLBT materials. Highlights from his collection include first-edition works of Thomas Mann, a number of materials from Yokio Mishima, and various French editions of Jean Genet, Andre Gide and Michel Foucault.



### Gay Games Materials

Shamey Cramer, of Los Angeles, California, donated a large selection of materials related to the Gay Games. Of particular note are a variety of items from the first Gay Games held in San Francisco, California in 1982. Items include periodicals, score cards, programs, and other ephemera.



### Watercolor Painting

Titled after the 1933 "Magic City" Paris ball and painted in 1983 by "TY", this watercolor and ink work shows transgender and same-sex couples dancing. This painting was a gift from Harvey Hertz of Minneapolis, Minnesota.



## University Scholars Make Great Use of Tretter Archive Services

By Joanna O'Connell

The Tretter collection offers a unique and important service to University researchers. Professor Paula Rabinowitz of the English Department toured the Tretter collection and was delighted to discover a large collection of GLBT pulp fiction. The archive adds a new dimension to her ongoing research into pulp fiction, film noir, and American culture in the thirties. Students taking Professor Naomi Scheman's freshman seminar in Women's Studies "Nosy Females in Detective Fiction," have been dropping by the Tretter offices, searching for recommendations of lesbian detective novels for one of their homework assignments. Most of these books, including many by local writers, would not be available in either the University or the public library, although they enjoy a loyal popular fan base. Jean Tretter's encyclopedic knowledge of the holdings made it possible to pull together a stack of books for them to explore. For these students, this is perhaps their very first experience in doing research at the University!

The Tretter collection has stimulated two important local history research projects by faculty and students at the University of Minnesota. English Professor Tom Augst's project entitled "Stories of Citizens" documents the life history of local gay people in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, while the GLBT Oral History project focuses on the last thirty years. Professors Kevin Murphy (History) and Rod Ferguson (American Studies), in collaboration with graduate students Jason Ruiz and Dorthe Troften, initiated the Twin Cities GLBT Oral History a few years ago. Since then, it has grown to involve a large team of undergraduate and graduate students

*"Scholars" continues on next page*

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

We gratefully acknowledge the following individuals for their support and give thanks to countless others whose generous spirits have made our work possible:

- Roger Arvid Anderson – San Francisco, CA
- Bill Burleson - Minneapolis, MN
- Xenia Busse – Hanburg, Germany
- Jane & Dr. Charles Cohen – Mpls, MN
- Shamey Cramer – Los Angeles, CA
- Margaret (Peg) Cruikshank – Corea, MN
- Sen. Scott Dibble – Minneapolis, MN
- Chris Dodge - Minneapolis, MN
- Ralf Dose – Berlin, Germany
- Dallas Drake & Joe Shulka – Mpls, MN
- Alvin Easter – Minneapolis, MN
- Melissa Embser-Herbert - St. Paul, MN
- Jane F. Fee – St. Paul, MN
- Dr. Stuart Ferguson – Callaghan, New South Wales, Australia
- Douglas Dean Goodman - San Francisco, CA
- Harvey Hertz – Minneapolis, MN
- Dr. Christoph Heydemann & Dr. Hartmut Schulz – Berlin, Germany
- David Hill - Minneapolis, MN
- Wendy Horowitz – Minneapolis, MN
- Jay Huber - Minneapolis, MN
- John Hustad – Minneapolis, MN
- Robert John Jansen – Duluth, MN
- Robert F. Johnson, Prof. – Mpls, MN
- Gerald B. Johnston – Mpls, MN
- Adi King – Minneapolis, MN
- Mark Langenfeld - Foxboro, WI
- Alford Lathrop - Minneapolis, MN
- Barbara Leplattener - N. Little Rock, AR
- Lorelee Macpikie – Hilo, Hawaii
- Minnesota Philharmonic Orchestra - Minneapolis, MN
- Hannah Miyamoto - Mankato, MN
- Angela Nichols – Duluth, MN
- Al Oertwig – St. Paul, MN
- Outfront Minnesota - Minneapolis, MN
- Gary Peterson – Minneapolis, MN
- Pride Alive - Minneapolis, MN
- Philip J. Regal, Prof. - St. Paul, MN
- Gerrit Rohrbacher – Berlin, Germany
- Bill Schiller - Stockholm, Sweden
- Richard Donald Shields – St. Paul, MN
- TC-GLBT Pride Committee 2005
- James Tyson – Mankato, MN
- William Uhlenkott & Peter Jirak – St. Paul, MN
- Kim Waldof – Minneapolis, MN
- Robert J. Werner – Rochester, MN
- Phil Wilkie – Minneapolis, MN
- Peter Wilson – Minneapolis, MN
- Judy A. Winiecki - White Bear Lake, MN

Tretter Letter January, 2006

# GLBT ALMS 2006 Conference Set for Twin Cities May 18 - 21

*International professionals from GLBT archives, libraries, museums and special collections will converge at University of Minnesota*

*By Kathy Robbins, GLBT ALMS Steering Committee and Quatrefoil Library Volunteer*

The first international conference on GLBT archives, libraries, museums, and special collections (ALMS) will be held in Minneapolis on May 18-21, 2006. Although there were informal meetings of some of these organizations at the March on Washington in both 1987 and 1993, there has never before been a conference with a formal program that includes plenary speakers, workshops, and presentations.

Organized by the University of Minnesota Libraries, the Tretter Collection in GLBT Studies, and Quatrefoil Library, representatives from these three groups are working on the numerous tasks needed to create a conference of this scale. The program will interest those from GLBT-specific organizations, as well as staff from academic and public libraries. Topics to be covered include cataloging GLBT materials, censorship and sexually-explicit materials, integrating GLBT collections into the classroom, preservation, fundraising, and much more.

*"Scholars" continued from page 6*

as well as other faculty at the University of Minnesota and beyond. In addition to gathering the interviews, the group meets regularly to talk about the particular issues of doing oral history in the context of both silencing and coming out. The hundreds of hours of interviews have become the basis for further exploration of the documents and objects in the Tretter archive, and have produced conference presentations, a dissertation, articles

The conference keynote speaker will be Barbara Gittings, a pioneer of the American gay rights movement. She worked within the American Library Association (ALA) in the 1970s and 1980s to make materials with GLBT content more accessible to the reading public. In 2001 GLAAD (Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) instituted the Barbara Gittings Award for activism, of which Gittings was the first recipient.

Other major speakers include Frank Kameny, an activist in the gay rights movement since the 1950s; Elizabeth Kerekere, a Maori lesbian from New Zealand, and Andreas Pretzel, a researcher with the History of Sexual Science of the Magnus Hirschfeld Society in Berlin, Germany.

More information about the conference, including how to register, is available on the GLBT ALMS web site: <http://www.lib.umn.edu/events/glbталms>. Twenty scholarships waiving the registration fee will be awarded (application form is available on the Registration web page). Questions regarding the conference may be sent to [glbtalms@umn.edu](mailto:glbtalms@umn.edu). ▼

and a book project, and a host of classroom presentations. Kevin Murphy says, "These interviews will be archived in the Tretter Collection (the GLBT Archive) in the Andersen Library and will be made available in a web archive. Our hope is that these will not only be used by scholars and students, but also that we will be able to incorporate the interviews into a variety of programs, including exhibitions and radio documentaries."

"Tretter Collection" continued from page 2

The Tretter collection is a great unifier in our lives. As a diverse community we are never quite sure what community means until we come to a place like the archive and see our collective inheritance all in one mosaic. We are each represented on the shelves with equality and silently form a bond that neither time nor our enemies can destroy.

In times of trial and tribulation, we can look to the collection and draw strength to persevere. In times of joy,

the archive provides a place to preserve fond memories for countless generations of GLBT and allied people yet to come. The Tretter Collection stands as a bulwark against the shadows that would seek to hide us



Jean Tretter at *Interpride* with members of the Israeli delegation, Minneapolis 2005.

and once again make us a forgotten element of humankind.

Welcome to our first newsletter. Please join us for the stories we have to tell, and the

adventures that lie at our doorstep. The Tretter collection is the gift of my life's work. With all of us working together, however, our history and culture can at last speak for itself, now and into the future. ▼

"From the field" continued from page 3

ask the last station to take the photographs off the panels and send them back.

Jean not only offered an exhibit during the Twin Cities' Millenium Pride Festival but to store the whole thing between presentations. Thus, "The First Institute for Sexual Science, 1919-1933" is now on permanent loan to the Tretter Collection, and easily available to travel from there. There is a (reduced) version of the exhibit online ([www.magnus-hirschfeld.de/institute](http://www.magnus-hirschfeld.de/institute)) to give you an impression of what you would get. An additional lecture program can be arranged.

Being a remote board member now is a much more pleasant job than acting as a remote manager. I enjoy the benefits of information without the necessity of attending meetings regularly (*I am still waiting for my helicopter*). ▼



NEWSLETTER FOR THE FRIENDS OF THE TRETTER COLLECTION

The Tretter Collection  
Special Collections and Rare Books  
University of Minnesota Libraries  
111 Elmer I. Andersen Library  
222 21st Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55455  
<http://special.lib.umn.edu/rare/tretter.html>

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Nonprofit Org  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Mpls., MN  
Permit No. 155

