



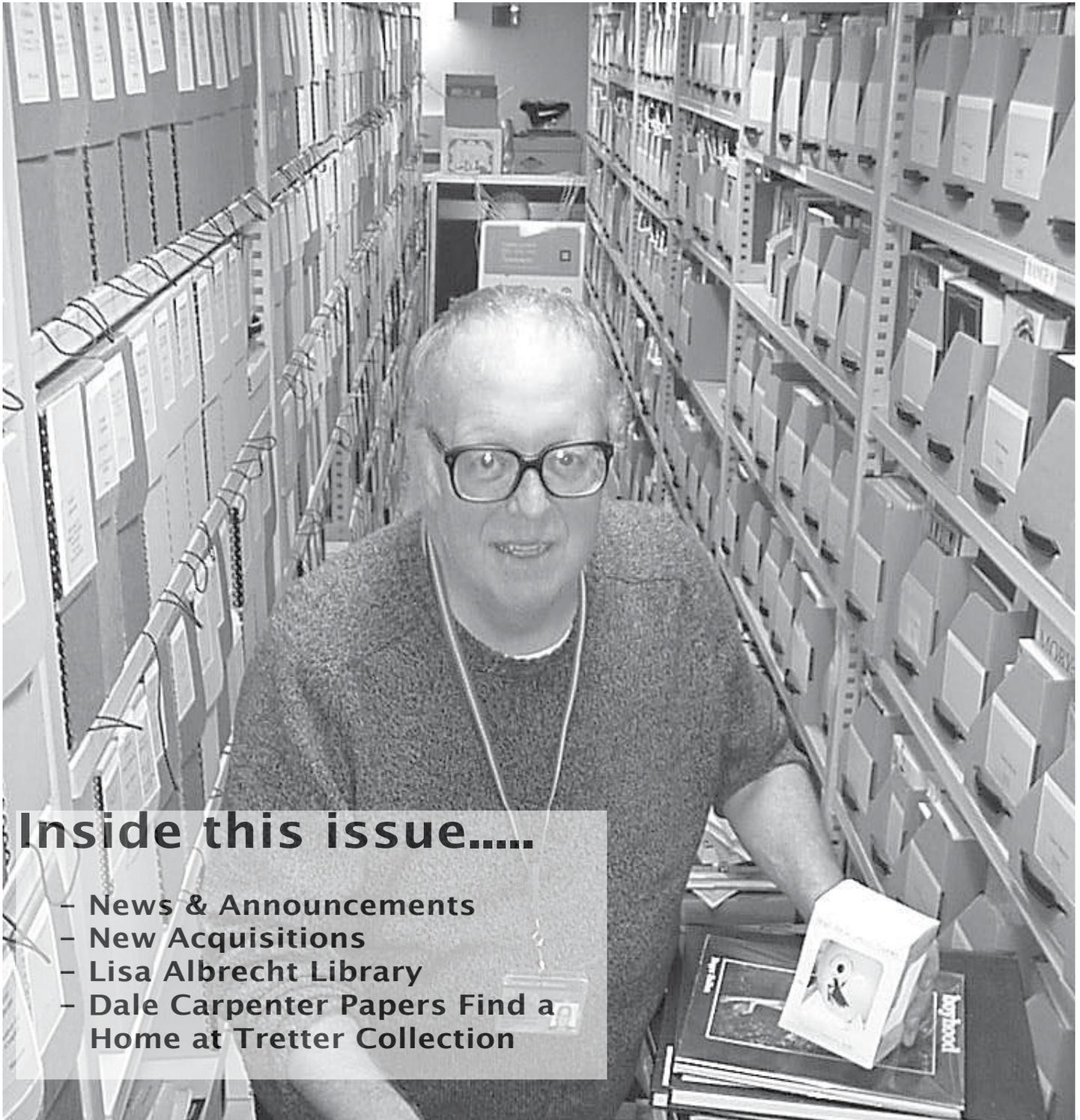
January, 2012
Volume 7 Number 1

TRETTER LETTER



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
LIBRARIES
Archives and Special Collections

NEWSLETTER FOR THE FRIENDS OF THE TRETTER COLLECTION



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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

By R. Arvid Nelsen

The Tretter Collection has continued to receive many offers of materials. Two collections donated this summer, by Prof. Lisa Albrecht and Prof. Dale Carpenter, respectively, are described in the words of the collectors and donors themselves in this issue of the Tretter Letter. Other collections received – to name but a few – include lesbian feminist recording artists of the 1970s and 1980s on LP and cassette; author inscribed GLBT novels; and Jewish Gay and Lesbian groups in the Twin Cities. We are thankful to all of the donors who have continued both to preserve the history of our GLBT communities and to enrich the collections here at the University of Minnesota. If you have materials you are interested in offering to the Tretter Collection, please do not hesitate to contact us. And let us know if we can use your name in future issues of the Tretter Letter!

The collection has also seen a significant amount of use, including three long-term graduate student researchers, a class visit by the University's Lavender House, and projects focused on pulp novels and GLBT posters by undergraduate students studying design. New classes are being planned for the spring and summer sessions, as well.

We are sad to report that the Tretter Collection founder, Jean Nickolaus Tretter, has very recently retired from his position at the

Libraries. Jean has long been a champion of the preservation of materials documenting the lives, interests, activities, struggles and triumphs of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender people – often being a lone voice calling for the recognition of the value inherent in materials that many people even within our communities have thought of as ephemeral.

Over the years Jean has rescued materials destined for – or sometimes in – the trash heap, preserving evidence of our communities' impact on the world and recognizing and celebrating artifacts that connect our communities to our past and to one another. In 2000, Jean donated his extensive and widely-acclaimed collection to the University of Minnesota Libraries, establishing a world-renowned center for academic study as well as an important community resource. We who are fortunate enough to have had the opportunity to work with Jean and the collection look to his continued contributions.

While Jean's passion, expertise, and personal light cannot be replaced, the Libraries are taking steps to staff the position he leaves behind.

Watch for the next Tretter Letter, which will be dedicated to Jean's career and contributions.

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

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New Acquisitions

1

Ladies of Llangollen. Recently, the Tretter Collection has obtained a copy of *The Ladies of Llangollen*, as sketched by many hands by John Hicklin.

This is a selection of essays about the ladies of Llangollen, Eleanor Butler (1739-1829) and Sarah Ponsonby (1755-1832).

The ladies of Llangollen were two women from Ireland who had entered into a romantic friendship. Rather than being forced into arranged marriages, they ran away together in 1778. Their families hunted them down, so they moved to Llangollen in Wales and bought a cottage where they could live as a couple. Although they lived the remainder of their lives in seclusion, their reputation grew in the outside world and their home was visited by many of the notable people of the time, particularly from the literary world, such as Wordsworth, Shelley, Byron and Walter Scott.

Published in 1847, this appears to be the earliest book printed about the ladies.



A note on the library of Lisa Albrecht

By Lisa Albrecht, activist, writer and Associate Professor in the University of Minnesota School of Social Work

After nearly 26 years at the University of Minnesota, I see my retirement on the horizon.

My partner and I are hoping to sell our house and move into a small condo in the near future. The thought of giving away all my books or selling them piecemeal makes me feel like I'd be breaking up with a loved one.

Thank you so much, Tretter Collection and Arvid Nelsen, for wanting to house my beloved books. I want these books to have a home where anyone can come to read. It's daunting to think that there may really be a "Lisa Albrecht Feminist & Lesbian Feminist Collection!"

I thank volunteers Lizzie Ehrenhal and Cassie Warholm-Wohlenhaus, who have been hard at work cataloguing several hundred titles across various disciplines, including lesbian and feminist fiction; GLBT non-fiction; lesbian and feminist pedagogies; lesbian and feminist poetry; and many lesbian and feminist early women's movement newspapers and periodicals. I've yet to go through my theory collection, but I know there's more to come.

Again, thank you so much for your commitment to make these books available to the public.



2

Big Gay Race 5K T-shirt & Race Number. First ever event as fundraiser for Minnesotans United for All Families, this 5K gathered hundreds of supporters and a number of local sponsors to raise money for Minnesotans United, organization formed to help educate the public on the issue of marriage equality and help to defeat the November, 2012 ballot initiative against same sex marriage in Minnesota.



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The Tretter Collection
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Minneapolis, MN 55455
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Dale Carpenter Papers Find Home at Tretter Collection

*By Dale Carpenter, Earl R. Larson Professor
of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Law,
University of Minnesota Law School*

The papers I donated to the Tretter collection cover roughly the period 1993-98. At the time, I was a young associate fresh out of law school working in Houston for a large, established Texas law firm named Vinson & Elkins. When I arrived in 1993, the firm had no internal policy barring discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, and no health or other benefits available to same-sex domestic partners. I decided to pursue each of these, in order, over a period of about two years. The papers in the collection include memos I drafted that were sent to the law firm's management committee, arguing for the adoption of a non-discrimination policy. In response, the management committee passed an anti-discrimination policy. After waiting what seemed like an appropriate period, I sent the firm's management

committee a second memo arguing that, having committed itself to treat gay employees equally, it should provide benefits to their domestic partners on the same basis as it did to spouses. The management committee adopted the proposal. Also included are some newspaper clippings that reported these events, which were significant for an old-line Texas firm, and led to the adoption of similar policies by other Texas law firms.

The larger part of this collection covers events during my time as president and board member of the Log Cabin Republicans of Texas, a gay GOP group, from about 1994 to 1998. It was, to say the least, a tumultuous time to be a gay Republican in Texas. The donated items include memos, notes, letters, a videotape, and other memorabilia, regarding primarily two major events for Log Cabin. One was our decision to sue the state GOP in 1996 after it reneged on an agreement to rent us a small booth space at the

state convention. The lawsuit went all the way to the Texas Supreme Court, which met in emergency session on the eve of the convention. We lost.

The other major event was a protest we staged outside the state convention in 1998 when we were, once again, denied a booth by the party. During the protest, held in 100-degree heat, we were set upon by anti-gay zealots, who encircled us, threatened us, and spoke in tongues. An unedited videotape of that protest, which was later made into a Log Cabin promotional documentary called "On the Front Lines," is included in the donated materials. Among other things, it shows a burly anti-gay protester grabbing an American flag out of the hands of a diminutive, 20-year-old supporter, and then throwing the flag to the ground.