

Vern L. Bullough, RN, PhD
Editor

**Before Stonewall
Activists for Gay
and Lesbian Rights
in Historical Context**



*Pre-publication
REVIEWS,
COMMENTARIES,
EVALUATIONS . . .*

"Before Stonewall is a collection of short biographies of early gay and lesbian activists. The book serves as both primary and secondary source material. While its editor, Vern Bullough, skillfully places these life stories in context, with his usual wide historical grasp, and some biographers (e.g., Tripp) provide full discussion of their subjects (in this case, Kinsey) with fascinating detail, much of the volume contains intimate accounts by friends and lovers of these early pioneers.

Most striking to the twenty-first century reader is the vivid picture of American gay life forty and fifty years ago. We learn about a bartender's arrest on a restaurant's opening night for a 'two-month unpaid parking ticket' (Charlotte Coleman), an almost-fatal beating administered at the whim of an arrest-

ing officer because his victim was dressed 'butch' (Billye Tallmadge), and the immense importance of a lesbian publication such as *The Ladder* in a world where there were no gay images (Barbara Grier). Tidbits such as the account of Betty Friedan deliberately discontinuing lesbian couple memberships in NOW (Del Martin), or conscious imitation of Stokely Carmichael's 'Black is Beautiful' in coining the slogan 'Gay is Good' (Kameny) are not found in other studies of gay history, and set this volume apart from the rest."

Helen Rodnite Lemay, PhD
Professor of History
and Distinguished Teaching Professor,
Stony Brook University



More pre-publication
REVIEWS, COMMENTARIES, EVALUATIONS . . .

"Before Stonewall: Activists for Gay and Lesbian Rights in Historical Context is a book for everyone. Here the story of an all-but-forgotten era and people is presented beautifully through four dozen mini-biographies without sacrificing the message of group organization and larger themes. General readers and younger queers will discover, in accessible terms, the contributions of such fascinating individuals as Jim Kepner, Barbara Grier, José Sarria, and the still-anonymous "Lisa Ben" (anagram for lesbian) to the twentieth-century struggle for gay and lesbian rights.

This is a celebration of the movement's successes that made Stonewall possible, with the focus simultaneously on individual courage and organized action, especially through homophile organizations ONE, Inc., Mattachine Society, and the Daughters of Bilitis. The book is by no means confined to those groups or to the 1950s, though; as editor Bullough says of Salt Lake City resident Berry Berryman, 'her life emphasizes how rich and varied were the lives of gays and lesbians before it became possible to be publicly recognized as such.' *Before Stonewall* also reminds all of us that change depends upon human action, and the stories within can inspire us to that action in our time."

Vicki L. Eaklor, PhD
Hagar Professor of Humanities
and Professor of History,
Alfred University

"Before Stonewall provides a welcome and much-needed introduction to the lives and contributions of many of the key figures in the history of

the American lesbian and gay movement. Full of intriguing information and insights about forgotten gay pioneers and straight allies as well as some of the movement's most famous leaders, this volume should become a standard reference work for those interested in the queer past."

George Chauncey, PhD
Professor of History
and Director, Lesbian
and Gay Studies Project,
The University of Chicago

"This is a marvelous book, with multiple insights into the strategies and techniques that were used by pioneering activists to challenge heterosexism and begin the struggle for gay and lesbian equality. Included here are the individual stories of the most effective early leaders in one of the great social movements of the twentieth century. They are presented with all of their accomplishments, defeats, dedication, and eccentricities. Many of these activists gave up the chance for material wealth, while focusing their energies on making the world a less prejudiced place. Both heterosexual and homosexual, these pioneers were united in the conviction that change can occur with direct action and individual perseverance. This book is a collection of fascinating stories, brought together by one of the most respected scholars in the field of sexology."

Walter L. Williams, PhD
Professor of Anthropology
and Gender Studies,
University of Southern California,
Los Angeles

More pre-publication
REVIEWS, COMMENTARIES, EVALUATIONS . . .

"Before Stonewall" is a poignant verbal photo album for those of us who are Family. When lesbians stand tall today, we do so on the shoulders of those who went before, with far tougher challenges. Our foremothers, forefathers, and foreaunties demonstrated again and again the courage possible in ordinary people. Vern Bullough has painstakingly collected the details, written as tributes by many LGBT scholars. The text is uncluttered and easy to devour. This is food for the heart."

Louie Crew,
Author of
The Gay Academic



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Before Stonewall
*Activists for Gay
and Lesbian Rights
in Historical Context*

HAWORTH *Gay & Lesbian Studies*

John P. De Cecco, PhD

Editor in Chief

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- Sons Talk About Their Gay Fathers: Life Curves* by Andrew R. Gottlieb

Before Stonewall *Activists for Gay and Lesbian Rights in Historical Context*

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Vern L. Bullough, RN, PhD, is a Distinguished Professor Emeritus from SUNY. Currently, he is serving as Adjunct Professor of Nursing at the University of Southern California. For ten years, he served as Dean of Natural and Social Sciences at SUNY Buffalo, and prior to that, he was a professor at California State University, Northridge, for twenty years. He is the author, co-author, or editor of fifty books, including *Sexual Variance in Society and History*, *Women and Prostitution*, *A Short History of Homosexuality*, *Science in the Bedroom*, and *Encyclopedia of Birth Control*. He was one of the founders of the Center for Sex Research at California State University, Northridge, and of the gay caucuses in the American Historical Association and the American Sociological Association.

Professor Bullough wrote the ACLU policy on gay and lesbian rights in the 1960s for the ACLU of Southern California, which was the first affiliate to hear court cases for gay and lesbian rights and served as a model for the national ACLU. He contributed to various groundbreaking gay journals such as *One*, *Tangents*, and *Ladder*. He served as Vice President of the Institute for the Study of Human Resources for One, Inc. and for a time ran a gay hotline out of his house that was eventually taken over by the ACLU of Southern California. He was a charter member of the original Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, which had been founded in Los Angeles and later went national. Two of his children, a daughter and a son, both adopted, are gay. His late wife, Bonnie Bullough, was co-author or first author on many of his books. Her mother, who was a lesbian, was the motivating factor in the Bulloughs' studies of homosexuality and lesbianism, and a biography of her mother's longtime companion is included in the book. Professor Bullough has received numerous awards for his activism and scholarship from the gay, lesbian, and transgender communities as well as from his colleagues. He is past President of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sex and is the recipient of its award for distinguished research.

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