

ARCHIVE NEWS

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BULLETIN OF THE TRANS-GENDER ARCHIVE

A NEWS AND INFORMATION

BULLETIN

FOR THE

INTERNATIONAL

TRANS-GENDER

COMMUNITY



T.G.A.

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY

For circulation only to Trans-Gender groups, authorized medical, legal and media personnel, and researchers and contributors to the Trans-Gender Archive who, for the time being, are Friends of the Trans-Gender Archive, University of Ulster, Northland Road, L'Derry, Northern Ireland.



T.G.A.

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ARCHIVE NEWS: BULLETIN OF THE TRANS-GENDER ARCHIVE

Vol. 2 No. 1

Editor

May 1990

Dr R Ekins

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Archive News is not a magazine, but a news-letter and news agency. It has three simple purposes: to provide news for trans-gender group and commercial publications; to inform the trans-gender community of the progress of the Trans-Gender Archive; to help the Trans-Gender Archive improve its deposits.

Building the TGA

The TGA was instituted formally at the University of Ulster in 1986. Since that date the response from the trans-gender community has been remarkable. To supplement the academic material obtainable through University channels in the ordinary way, groups and individuals have been inundating us with priceless material of their own. An informal network of contributors has sprung up, sending in material from all over the globe - notably, from the U.S.A., from Germany, from France, from Australia, and from South Africa. Almost all trans-gender groups approached have kept us fully informed of their activities. The Archive receives many of the significant group magazines on a regular basis: from the U.K. - The Glad Rag (of the London TV/TS Social Group), Tweenie [now Narcissus] (of the New TransEssex TV/TS Group), The Gender Dysphoria Trust Newsletter; Fanfare (from South Africa), Renaissance News (from the U.S.A.), Transcare (from New Zealand), to name but a few. The Archive is now extensive, indeed. In addition to the large book and article collection, now catalogued and more or less up to date, other collections are coming on apace. Records, videotapes, audiotapes, and photographs are all represented. The Press cuttings collection is vast. We are building up a unique collection of private and unpublished material, mostly on restricted access - only available, that is, to scholars and researchers by prior arrangement with the donor.

Archive News as a Free Resource

The TGA is a non-profit making educational and research project, housed within a University setting. The News will, therefore, come to you free of charge, in the form of a free subscription in return for your news-letters, magazines, journals and other contributions. Its circulation is restricted to Trans-Gender groups, authorized medical, legal and media personnel, and personally vetted writers and researchers deemed to be Friends of the Trans-Gender Archive.

This issue of Archive News features the first part of a two part series on the TGA's holdings of Newspaper cuttings on transvestism and transsexuality between 1949 and 1959. It takes its title from a headline of the period. It also introduces an extended ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS section in which our thanks are given to trans-gender organisations depositing issues of their publications with us. If you do NOT wish your deposits to be acknowledged, or if you wish any details to be omitted or amended, please tell us. The TGA received the listed items since the July 1989 issue of Archive News. All other deposits have been, or will be, acknowledged personally. Please do continue to help us to help you. To our knowledge, the scope and range of our collection is now unique.

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* * HALF-WORLDS BETWEEN THE SEXES: POPULAR PRESS COVERAGE * *
* * OF TRANSVESTISM AND TRANSSEXUALITY, 1949 - 1959 * *

This annotated listing of popular press coverage of what would now be called transvestism and transsexuality makes no claim to be comprehensive. Many of the items were donated to the Archive by a single donor: a heterosexual transvestite, now in his 70's, who collected the material over the years as he came upon it in his day to day reading. It is probably representative enough of the genre. Most noticeable is the reporting of transvestism in the context of criminal and civil legal proceedings. The News of the World of the period was a wordy affair that provided titillation for its readers with detailed reports of sensational legal cases. Arguably, such reports contributed considerably to the view of many transvestites, now middle-aged and older, that to cross dress in public is to court legal intervention to a greater degree than is actually the case. The gradual transition from reports in terms of descriptions of behaviour and social response, through to 'excuses' given, through to medical authentication, warrants extensive study. Separate paragraphs in the original reports have been condensed into single paragraphs, to save space.

1949

"Barmaid Crooner Was a Man: Wearing the New Look and Nylons on Night of Arrest," News of the World, 3 July 49, p. 5.

Picture caption: "Denis Peter Bird shown with a head scarf over his long, bleached hair."

This week-end a man, aged 22, who had a flair for dressing up as an attractive girl, is in Wandsworth Gaol, starting to serve a sentence of 18 months' imprisonment passed on him at Middlesex Sessions for housebreaking. In the dock he appeared as plain Denis Peter Bird, a native of Houghton Regis, Beds, but many will remember him as "the charming Miss Pamela." Bird's first conviction, writes a "News of the World" reporter, was in 1943, when he embarked on a career of crime and decided to become a blonde "girl" in a dual character role. The report tells of "Pamela's" experiences in various jobs and in various attires and of Bird's convictions for larceny. His favourite occupation was domestic servant. It was stated for the prosecution that Bird was sent to the house of Mrs. Charlotte Roberts, in Bridge-lane, Golders Green, N.W., by a domestic agency. He stole clothes belonging to Mr. Roberts, and three days later broke into the house when it was unoccupied, discarded Mr. Roberts's clothes, and changed into Mrs. Roberts's attire, including her best underwear, and then walked out with property worth £800. Bird put the figure at £200.

[Bird/Pamela.TV.Crime.Theft.Deception.London.U.K.]

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"Masqueraded as a Woman at Swimming Pool," News of the World, 17 July 49, p. 5.

"I always wear women's clothing. Apart from my working clothes I have never worn men's clothes for the last 16 years. I like women's clothes and I wish I were a woman," said Alfred Elijah Woolley, a machineman and 42-year-old father of three children, of Lord Nelson-street, Liverpool. He pleaded guilty to behaving in a manner whereby a breach of the peace was likely to be caused in the women's dressing-room at the New Brighton open-air swimming pool. Appearing in court in men's clothing, "His long brown hair, turning grey, fell on to his shoulders and over the back of his shirt collar." The prosecuting chief constable described the "commotion" at the pool when Woolley was suspected by other bathers as being a man. The article describes what went on with particular reference to detection and clothes worn. "When he returned from the water and dressed, Mrs. Jamieson saw him powder his face from a compact." He did not accost or speak to any women while he was in the water or in the pool. "Woolley was the object of much curiosity." "Several men were more hostile to him." When stopped afterwards leaving the pool he said: "I did not bother anyone there." There follows a further description of clothes worn. Mrs. Lillian Mary Woolley told the Court that her husband started to wear women's clothing occasionally six

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months after they were married in 1927. From 1933 onwards he had taken to wearing them permanently except for work. He had been treated for six months by a psychiatrist, who lost patience with him when he refused to follow his directions. She had sought the aid of moral welfare authorities, health authorities and a probation officer, but her efforts had been unavailing. "He is very good-tempered and pleasant and always gives me my money," she added. "He is more good-tempered in women's clothes than in men's clothes." Stating that Woolley's statement about wearing women's clothes for 16 years was correct, the chief constable added: "When he returns home from work, I understand, he immediately changes into women's clothes and walks up and down the vicinity in which he lives. His appearance does not cause any comment among his neighbours, who are familiar with his idiosyncrasy." "Efforts have been made to get this man back to a sense of decency and manhood." Binding Woolley over on two years' probation, on condition that he did not repeat this type of offence, the chairman, Ald. J.G. Storey, said to him: "If you go on doing this sort of thing you will land yourself in serious trouble, not only through the police, but through someone taking the law into his own hands and giving you more than you expect. If you have any sense you will see a doctor and follow out his orders."

[Woolley.TV.Crime.Breach of Peace.Treatment.Marriage.Public Reaction.Brighton.U.K.]

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"Posed as Woman for a £5 Bet," News of the World, 21 August 49, p. 5.

Bank clerk Kenneth Croft, aged 27 of Nab-lane, Mirfield, Yorks appeared at Huddersfield, where he was fined £1 with 2s. 6d. costs, for conduct likely to provoke a breach of the peace. The story of a wager was told in his defence. Watching an all male show, two young men had an argument. One said the impersonation of women could be successful only on the stage; in ordinary life it would be easy to see if they were men. The bet was made that he could not stay 48 hours in a hotel, masquerading as a woman, without discovery. Dressed as a woman, Croft booked a hotel room for two nights and after one night there went to the cinema. Then follows a description of the clothes he wore. The staff were suspicious and called the police. A detective and policewoman sat behind Croft and saw him powder his face. When asked for his identity card he produced one in the name of "Sheila Croft." "I don't think you are a woman," said the detective, and Croft replied: "No, I am not. I did this for a bet." Hearing this, the stipendiary magistrate, Mr. W.R. Briggs, said to him: "What people do on the stage is one thing; going about in public places dressed as

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a woman is another."

[Croft.TV.FI.Crime.Breach of Peace.Bet.Huddersfield.U.K.]

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The precise sources of the following items are not known. Internal evidence suggests 1949-1953. Can you help?

1949-1953

"Crowd Hostile to Man in Skirts: He Says 'Never Again'," News of the World.

A 55-year-old man, Joseph William Hamilton Ball, unemployed labourer, of Osborne-road, Tue Brook, Liverpool was put on probation and ordered to pay £2 9s. on a charge of behaving in an offensive manner. Alleged to have been wearing a complete outfit of women's clothes, he told the magistrate today: "I am very sorry for all I have done, and I want to be forgiven. I will never do it again. I am disgusted." Two men suspected and "A large crowd gathered and became hostile to Ball." The clothes worn are described, together with the contents of his handbag. To a policeman he said: "I did it on the spur of the moment." Informed by Mr. Gray (prosecuting) that the clothes came from America, and that Ball apparently dressed in them while his wife was on holiday, the chairman remarked: "He must have done this before, or he would have got mixed up with the corsets and underwear." James Clayton, a traveller living at Ball's home, suggested that the lapse was due to Ball being left alone. The chairman commended the two men responsible for the arrest.

[Ball.TV.Crime.Offensive Behaviour.Public Reaction.Apologies. Liverpool.U.K.]

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"Hero in Female Clothes Gaoled: Medal for Bravery," News of the World.

Two men who had been remanded twice in custody wore women's clothes when they appeared for the third time before the West London magistrate, Mr. J.L. Pratt. William Norman Dobson, aged 30, of Queen's-gate, Kensington (description of dress) was sentenced to three months' imprisonment for importuning. Robert Dale, aged 28, stage artist, of Holland Park-avenue, Kensington (description of dress) was sentenced to four months' imprisonment for a similar offence. They had been on remand at Brixton Prison, and it was stated at a previous hearing that they had no other clothes to wear. Their only male clothing found by the police consisted of a few neck-ties.

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Barrow boy, John Cohen, aged 22, of Holland Park-avenue, Kensington accused of importuning was found not guilty and was discharged (he was wearing "an ordinary lounge suit.") Dale said that he was a theatrical female impersonator and was due to leave for Paris to rehearse a show which was going to Korea. Cohen, who said he sold chestnuts at Marble Arch, told the court he thought Dobson was rather eccentric. Dobson was a naval gunner on merchant ships. During the war he had served in Russian convoys, and also in Far Eastern waters. He obtained a situation with a housewives' help agency. Insp. Wynn added that Dobson had been importuning for six weeks, but the police did not know at the time that he was a man. Dale had five previous convictions, said the inspector. He served in the Navy as a male nurse on destroyers, and was awarded the Lancaster Medal for bravery. After working on E.N.S.A. he obtained, in 1949, a five-year contract as the star of a Paris show. He could speak seven languages.

[Dale.Cohen.TV.FI.Crime.Importuning.London.UK.]

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"Lived as a Woman for Six Years: Waitress and Usherette," News of the World, Autumn-Winter, internal evidence suggests 1951.

A man sentenced to 21 months' imprisonment at London Sessions was said to have lived as a woman for six years and to have worked as an usherette, waitress and conductress. Denis Peter Bird, aged 24, of no fixed address, was found guilty of stealing a fur coat, a dress and other articles, valued at £34, from Mrs. Jean Pearce, of Battersea Park-road, Battersea, London. Det.-sergt. H. Hermitage said Bird had six previous convictions and was now serving a six month sentence for importuning. Three days before the arrest he was working at a cinema in Battersea, where he was known as "Pamela Smith."

[Bird/Pamela Smith.TV.Crime.Theft.Importuning.London.U.K.]

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1950

"Boys' Corsets," Reveille for the Weekend, 6-8 January 50, p. 12.

Letter to Editor, from "City Typist", in connection with letter from S.G.T. (Reveille, 30 Dec - 1 Jan) whose mother and mother-in-law wanted to cure two small sons of stooping by putting them in corsets. The letter tells of a friend who,

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acting on the advice of an 'old fashioned' lady of 75, put her slouching son of 14 into a kilt-and-jersey outfit worn with a small tight corset, plus school-girls' blue serge bloomers, worn under the kilt. The slouching was soon cured.

[Letters.TV.Child Discipline]

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"Yes - It's the Same Guy," The Daily Mirror, 21 January 50, p. 7.

Feature article on female impersonator Nicki Galluci. Pictures of him shaving and dressed: "It costs him so much to look like this, he hardly has the nerve to buy trousers." Reports how he got into female impersonation "by accident" with Nicki adopting a rough tough tone throughout.

[Galluci.TV.FI.U.K.]

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"The 'South American Way' in London," The Daily Mirror, 3 February 50, p.6.

Picture caption: "And a Carmen Miranda that even the film star couldn't have bettered. But the wearer isn't Carmen Miranda - or even a woman, but Mr. Harold Humfreys, of Brighton. He wore it at the Vic-Wells costume ball."

[Humfreys.TV.Drag.Brighton.U.K.]

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"Both of These Pictures are Raymond Bartlett, 3½, Son," News of the World, 31 May 50, p. 12.

Pictures of the son of Mr. and Mrs. E. Bartlett of Miami, U.S.A. as a boy and as a girl. Until a few days ago Mrs. Bartlett had always insisted on treating her son as a daughter. She dressed him in frilly frocks and petticoats. She gave him dolls, curled his long hair and sent him out to play with the girls. Then Raymond's grandmother stepped in. She cut off the hair, took off the frocks and gave him a baseball bat. Mrs. Bartlett wept bitterly as Raymond was transformed and went to take his rightful place in the world - out playing with the boys.

[Bartlett.TV.Child.Miami.U.S.A.]

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"'Thought Man Was Woman' Story: Charge is Now Murder," News of the World, 27 August 50, p. 2.

Reports details of an outing by woodwork master at Rotherham Grammar School, Kenneth Charles Crowe, 37, of Hounsfield-road, Rotherham. After Mr. Crowe was revealed as a man, John Patrick Cooney, 25, of Arundel Avenue, Dalton, Yorks lost control of himself, leading to injuries which killed Mr. Crowe. Mrs. Crowe identified the clothes Mr. Crowe was wearing as her own and one of her daughter's. She had not seen the wig before. Mrs. Crowe said she was not aware that her husband was in the habit of dressing in her clothes and going out late at night. Addressing the Bench, Mr. Jones said that if the Court was satisfied the injuries received by Crowe were not justified by the provocation, Cooney should be committed on a charge of murder. Cooney pleaded not guilty and reserved his defence. The magistrate at Rotherham, Yorks, directed that the charge of manslaughter be amended to one of murder, and Mr. Cooney was committed for trial at Leeds Assizes.

[Crowe.TV.Crime.Murder.Public Reaction.Rotherham.U.K.]

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"He Didn't 'Get Away' in Women's Garb: Man in Hood on Hot Day," News of the World, 27 Aug 50, p. 7.

27 year old Roy William Robert Pegler, of Gedeney-road, Tottenham was put on probation for two years for insulting behaviour by masquerading in women's clothing. There follows a description of clothing plus an elderly lady's account of how Pegler came to be seen as a man dressed as a woman. He walked to the doorway of a women's underwear shop. Mr M. Havers, defending, stated that Pegler had been discharged from the R.A.F. with neurosis and nervous troubles following a bad smash. Although married and living normally, now and again a desire to dress in women's clothes came over him.

[Pegler.TV.Crime.Insulting Behaviour.London.U.K.]

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"Boy Aged 10 Thinks He is a Girl," News of the World, 10 September 50, p. 6.

A 10 year old boy appeared at Hull Juvenile Court. The chairman, Mr. J.H. Tarbitten: "This boy is in urgent need of help. He has got the idea he is a girl, and is always dressing up in girl's clothes." The boy first appeared before the court charged with the theft of a perambulator and taking away a child, left temporarily outside a post office. The chairman told the boy's father of a psychiatrist's report on his son.

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This indicated that to some extent the lad was not responsible for his action. He had few masculine habits the report stated, and liked dressing himself up as a little girl. The police withdrew the child stealing charge, and the father whose 27-year-old daughter keeps house for him, promised he would co-operate in ensuring that the lad attended a child guidance clinic. The chairman put the boy on probation for two years on a further charge of stealing a cycle. He made it a condition that he must attend a clinic for treatment.

[TV.Child.Crime.Theft.Treatment.Hull.U.K.]

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1951

"Fireman Came From a Wife's Flat - Shoes in his Hand: Judge Says," The Daily Mirror, 2 May 51, pp. 6 - 7.

Reports Divorce Court proceedings. Mr. Footner, of Kew Bridge-court, Chiswick, London, and his wife, Ella Mary, of Ossulston-street, St. Pancras both asked for divorce on the grounds of cruelty. "The husband alleged his wife had boasted that she was in love with several men. The wife complained of his abnormal tendencies." Emphasis is placed upon the wife's interests in other men. Mrs. Footner, on her part, had said that her husband was in the habit of putting on her underwear on occasions, of sometimes dressing up completely in her clothes, of making up his face with her make-up, and of putting on curls: "which were in fact her curls which she had cut off and preserved." "There was no controversy about one thing," Mr. Justice Pilcher continued, "the husband was very much more placid in temperament and easier to get on with, and a more pleasant companion, when he was allowed to indulge his particular foibles. Dressed in his ordinary clothes, he might be under a great strain, but he might be a great deal easier in his wife's clothes." A doctor has given evidence that this particular abnormality was well known medically. By 1949 this dressing-up in his wife's clothes was happening two or three times a week when Mr. Footner came home after work in the evenings. By March, 1950, the marriage had broken up (they were married in 1940, and had 2 children). The judge took the view that Mrs. Footner wanted to break up the marriage. I think she wanted to marry Mr. Whitehead."

[Footner.TV.Divorce.London.U.K.]

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"Mothers' Darlings Make But Milksop Heroes," Reveille for the Weekend, 16-18 March 51, p. 12.

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Jane Blythe's letters column includes cartoon of short haired daughter and a report of a 12 year old boy with long hair "like a girl's" sent to remand home and "rescued in time." There is also long account of a boy brought up as a girl, who subsequently married and wonders whether he should now adopt the role of housewife, whilst his wife goes out to work.

[Letters.TV.Child.Domestic Roles.U.K.]

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"The Case of the Muscular Brunette," The Daily Mirror, 30 June 51, p. 7.

The long, masculine stride of the tall brunette going into the powder room puzzled the hotel receptionist. A detective was called and followed the brunette. "I have reason to suspect you are a man impersonating a female," said the detective. The brunette replied: "I don't know what my wife will think," it was stated at Middlesborough, Yorks, yesterday. Dennis Johnson, 34, of Light Pipe Hall-road, Stockton-on-Tees, Durham pleaded guilty to stealing women's clothing, jewellery and cosmetics worth £111 from hotels in Middlesborough and Kirklevington. He was fined a total of £35, with the alternative of four months in gaol, and bound over for three years. He stole articles from hotels while dressed as a woman, some of which he wore. The rest he took away in a suitcase. A description of his dress is followed by a report that the Det. - Sgt. who arrested him: "had been concerned in a similar incident fifteen years ago when Johnson was stopped for riding a ladies bicycle at night without a light, and found to be wearing female apparel." "Johnson has told me that he wears his wife's clothes five or six times a year," Mr. Pacey, for Johnson, said. The thefts, Mr. Pacey said, were only a symptom of Johnson's "peculiar behaviour". He had no intention to steal.

[Johnson.TV.Crime.Theft.Middlesborough.U.K.]

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"Men Who Can't Resist Panties on a Line," Reveille for the Weekend, 6 - 8 July 51, p. 12.

Reports various police warnings about not leaving washing out overnight following thefts in London's northern suburbs. "They are after dainty feminine undies. For the motive of these thefts is rarely mercenary. Most of them are carried out by men with a kink about women's clothes. They are men who, having in early adolescence identified the attraction of the opposite sex with certain parts of their clothing, have developed a "fixation" towards those garments." Mention is made of a 21 year old who "had an obsession for girls' flannel trousers" but

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that "it is invariably women's underwear that attracts these men to crime. Too shy to ask for them at a lingerie shop or unable to pay for them, some of these men resort to stealing the coveted garments from clotheslines. During a single week, one American took 25 pairs of pink, rayon knickers from lines in Los Angeles! It is a kink that affects men in every country. At the home of a shoemaker who started stealing feminine underwear at the age of thirteen and continued to do so for over 30 years without being trapped, German police found 300 stolen garments." One case is reported where a 23 year old baker tried to throw away a pair of knickers and attracted police attention - later he admitted that it was "his normal habit to wear the garments and then burn them"; another was caught by the policeman husband of the owner of the underwear. The feature concludes: "Only psychological treatment can cure this odd urge. For the clothesline thieves are not dishonest in the usual sense."

[TV.Crime.Theft.Treatment.U.K.Germany.U.S.A.]

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"Peck's Pick Too," Reveille for the Weekend, 14 - 16 September 51, p. 11.

A fashion feature on the "Wrap Around Skirt" by Norah Littlejohn includes picture of Gregory Peck in a wrap around skirt. He "likes to be in fashion, too." From the film "David and Bathsheba". "His skirt is made of heavy linen-like material and he wears it with a richly embroidered blouse of the same material. It is a peck of an idea, so - hang on to your skirts, girls!"

[Peck.TV.Film.]

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1952

"Youth Employed as a Maid: Female Impersonator," News of the World, ?June - December 1952.

Denying a charge of receiving, a youth with a mass of black hair said at Bow-street, London, that he had been employed as a maid. He is Allan Banks, described as a female impersonator, of Clarendon - street, Victoria, who was found guilty of receiving the proceeds of housebreaking worth £50. He was committed to London Sessions for a sentence. Banks was stopped by police in Lupus-street, Victoria. P.C. Ramsay stated that Banks told him he paid £2 2s. a week for a flat in Clarendon-street, but later said he was employed there as a maid. Banks, who said he was now living in Sutherland-street,

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added that he had been a female impersonator, but was working now as a maid. Det.-sergt. Fisher said Banks had been convicted previously for falsely posing as a girl, forging an identity card, importuning, and housebreaking.

[Banks.TV.FI.Crime.Theft.Forgery.Importuning]

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"Dear Mum and Dad, Son Wrote, I've Now Become Your Daughter," The Daily Mirror, 2 December 52.

A feature on Christine Jorgensen with photographs before and after her change. One photograph features Christine modelling clothes she made herself: "I am afraid that people may now become more interested in me than in my work." Thank you, Celia Scott Shepherd, of the Beaumont Society, for forwarding this in response to our feature on Christine Jorgensen in Archive News, Vol. 1, No. 3.

[Jorgensen.TS.Sex Change]

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"TV's Biggest Hoax is Out . . . She is a Man," The Daily Mirror, 15 December 52, p. 8.

Revelation of ventriloquist, female impersonator Bobbie Kimber, as a woman who is a man. An account is given of the reasons for the deception and why Bobbie has agreed to blow the gaffe: "Most of the people booking me knew my real sex, but they kept my secret."

[Kimber.TV.FI.Entertainment.Deception]

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1953

"'Pampered' Son Posed As Girl," The Daily Mirror, 15 January 53, p.4.

"A boy who dressed up as a girl and then tried to rob a music teacher had been "pampered" at home to encourage his ability as a dancer," his father told a juvenile court, yesterday. The youth, aged thirteen, had a tendency for dressing up at an early age, had won many prizes in competitions dressed as a girl, and had appeared on the stage as a female impersonator. He was now attending a ballet academy and hoped one day to join Sadler's Wells ballet, the father added. In Liverpool Juvenile Court, the boy admitted assaulting Mrs. Sarah Fitzgerald, 46, at her home in Pononsby Steet,

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Liverpool - where he had called to discuss music lessons - and being armed with an offensive weapon."

[TV.Child.FI.Crime.Assault.Liverpool.U.K.]

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"Husband Dressed as a Woman," News of the World, 1 February 53, p. 2.

Mollie Mellor of Peverell Park-road, Plymouth obtained a divorce on grounds of cruelty from Fred Mellor, aged 38, now of South Africa. The couple married in 1941; the wife left the husband in 1951. The report describes his dressing, his wife's attitude to it and a psychiatrist's view. "A wife regarded her husband as the mainstay of the household," the judge continued. "If he suddenly became feminine and turned into a woman the shock would be profound." "He saw a psychiatrist who took a grave view of the matter because of the avenues of undesirable mental condition opened out by the habit (sic). Mellor was urged to undergo treatment, but refused." The judge: "was satisfied that Mrs. Mellor was not to blame in the least degree for her husband's condition. Once when the husband wanted a new dress, the wife suggested he should take an old one of hers, but she was not encouraging the addiction; she was merely preserving the family finances." "Because a man has this desire, there is no reason to suppose that his behaviour will necessarily, or probably, develop into the sort that brings him within reach of the criminal law," added the judge. Mrs. Mellor was granted costs and custody of the child.

[Mellor.TV.Divorce.Cruelty.Treatment]

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Jorgensen, Christine, "I Was a Man: The Personal History of the Man Who is Now a Woman," Sunday Pictorial, 22 February 53, pp. 1, 6-7.

Beginning today, the exclusive story of the GI who changed his sex. Includes report of how: "gone was my dream that I might return to the United States and fit into the pattern of normal living," when her story was blazoned across the front pages of the American newspapers. She had come to Denmark in 1950 when life as George was no longer tolerable. "After two and a half years of medical and surgical treatment I had been changed from an apparent man to a woman. Credit for my remarkable sex transformation goes to ..." Tells of how: "American reporters were working feverishly away at ferreting out details of my life." And how when others feeling similar confusions to Christine asked questions: "Then I knew that I must tell the world the real story of how and why it was

possible and necessary for George to be transformed into Christine." Relates account of early years to, "Next Sunday: I fall in love with Tom - but . . ."

[Jorgensen.TS.Sex Change]

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Jorgensen, Christine, "I Was a Man: I Fell in Love . . . But My Heart Told Me It Was Impossible," 1 March 53, pp. 8-9.

"Christine Jorgensen tells of her life as a boy and youth until she began the medical and surgical treatments that changed her irrevocably from man to woman."

[Jorgensen.TS.Sex Change.Treatment]

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Jorgensen, Christine, "I Was a Man: I Confide a Secret," Sunday Pictorial, 8 March 53, p. 9.

"Christine has described her life as a GI. This week she explains why she sailed to Europe."

[Jorgensen.TS.Sex Change]

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Jorgensen, Christine, "I Was a Man: I Hear a 'Wolf Call'," Sunday Pictorial, 15 March 53, pp. 4-5.

"Christine, after an unhappy boyhood and disturbing months in the Army, has been told by a New York doctor to put her case before eminent surgeons and specialists in Europe. She sails to Copenhagen. NOW READ ON."

[Jorgensen.TS.Sex Change]

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"Keep Questions Until Later, Says Christine," Daily Express, 19 May 1953.

"Christine Jorgensen, who went home to America in February and said two years' treatment in Copenhagen had changed her from man to woman, passed through London yesterday, Denmark-bound. Miss Jorgensen, in a not-too-well-fitting grey suit, said to photographers in a husky voice at London airport: 'Don't come too close, boys.' She was followed by stocky Mr Lauritz Jessen. She said: 'He helps me out with all my photographic work.' She is going to visit relatives in Denmark.

She will be back in London. She said: 'You can ask all the questions you like then.'

[Jorgensen.TS.Sex Change]

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1954

"Delusion of a Father of 5 Children," News of the World, 24 January 54, p. 3.

Reports a South Shields juvenile court case involving five children aged 3 -14. "They appeared before the Bench as being exposed to moral danger through having parents who did not exercise proper care or guardianship." Dr. John Thompson who had attended the family for a long time gave evidence that: "The father sits around the house all day in women's clothes. Though he believes he is changing his sex, in actual fact he is not." "I regard his presence in the house with the children as a moral danger." Six weeks as a voluntary patient in a mental hospital had done no good. The father told the court: "It's no use. I can't stand this much more. I quite agree, for the sake of my wife and my children, to leave home and go to a farm I know of in Yorkshire." An order was made for the local authority to take care of the children for 21 days. If the father leaves home, the children will be handed over to the mother.

[TV.Sex Change.Children in Care.South Shields.U.K.]

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"Marriage and the Philosophic Anarchist," News of the World, 21 February 54, p. 5.

Reports the petition by Alice Eliza Beer, of Crossmead-avenue, Greenford, Middlesex, alleging cruelty by her husband, Albert Edward Beer, of the same address, who denied the allegation. "The husband was to some extent an abnormal man. He was a philosophic anarchist and was in the habit of preaching his doctrines in the open air - in Hyde Park and Hammersmith. . . It follows logically that he was also an atheist and a conscientious objector." On the question of cruelty, the judge determined that the doctrines of philosophic anarchism in no way related to the treatment of wives. After detailing various behaviours not amounting to cruelty, the report continues: In Feb., 1951, after three years of estrangement, the husband was getting restless. "He got himself some women's clothes, including some pink satin nether garments and corsets, dressed himself up as a woman and made his face up," said the judge. "He appears to have taken tea in to his wife in the morning

dressed as a woman." According to the husband, he did this to make her jealous so that she would return to him. Later it became a joke. He found no ground for cruelty. The couple were still living together and he advised them to try to live in peace or enter into a deed of separation.

[Beer.TV.Separation.Cruelty.Greenford.U.K.]

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Cowell, Diana, "My Life With the Man Who Became a Woman: The Ex-Wife the Whole Country is Wondering About Tells Her Story," Sunday Despatch, 7 March 54, pp. 1 & 5.

"The wife all Britain is wondering about talked exclusively to the Sunday Despatch. . . She is the ex-Mrs. Diana Cowell, one-time wife of Robert Marshall Cowell, son of Major-General Sir Ernest Cowell, General Eisenhower's Director of Medical Services in North Africa. It was revealed yesterday that Robert has changed from a man into a woman. The change took three years, involving plastic surgery and hormone treatment. The former Mrs. Cowell has married again and is creating a new life for herself after the amazing first marriage which ended officially in the Divorce court in April 1952. What does a woman think and do when she finds that her husband, father of her two children, is changing into a woman? What happened to Robert . . . now Roberta . . . Cowell is a source of amazement to women, and an intriguing case to Doctors. But to this woman it was like the 'death' of a husband. Here is Mrs. Cowell's dramatic story."

[Cowell.TS.Sex Change.Marriage]

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"Cowell Sensation: Doctor-in-the-case Talks of - What My Certificate Meant," Sunday Pictorial, 14 March 54, pp. 1 & 28.

The feature includes important material in the history of sex changing in Britain and the difficulties encountered in the days before the medico-legal status of sex changing had been thought through. Without the category of 'transsexual' the puzzle is 'change of sex' vs. 'transvestist,' and neither seems to fit Roberta's case very comfortably. "His birth certificate is changed to Roberta Elizabeth Cowell and he wears women's clothes, but the experts think he is still not a complete female. AND, ALTHOUGH HE IS NOT A COMPLETE WOMAN, HE COULD APPARENTLY LEGALLY MARRY AND BECOME A WIFE." Mr. Charles E. Dusseau, the distinguished Wimpole-street gynaecologist, who signed the declaration of change-of-sex characteristics for the alteration of Cowell's birth certificate in 1951, told the Pictorial last night: "The certificate which allowed the

patient to re-register as a female was not meant to prove that Cowell had become, physiologically, a complete female. It was rather in the nature of a 'working certificate' to enable the plastic surgeons to carry out their operations. If my certificate has been used to support Cowell's claim to be a complete female, it would be an improper use of it." The feature rebuts the Cowell story that had referred to "a complete sex reversal . . . unique in a human being." It concludes that: "The evidence so far revealed points to the fact that Cowell is probably a 'transvestist' - a man who is impelled by an overwhelming impulse to act as a woman, and feels driven to stop at nothing to bring about and encourage all possible necessary changes. Doctors know of many such cases."

[Cowell.TS.Sex Change.TV.Birth Certificate]

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"Girl Who Was a Man Visits Paris," Sunday Pictorial, 14 March 54, p. 8.

Reports Roberta Cowell's visit to luxury hotel in Paris in the company of her friend Miss Elizabeth Morrell, 30. "They took adjoining rooms and both gave their home address as Park-lane, Croydon. Their chambermaid told me: 'I'm not a bit surprised that Miss Cowell was once a man. Her voice is very deep, more like a man's.' The hotel receptionist remembers Roberta because she always wore a large black hat with a veil."

[Cowell.TS.Sex Change]

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"He-She: A Moving Personal Story to Help You to Understand the Front Page Sex Dilemma," Sunday Pictorial, 14 March 54, p. 13.

The feature refers to "the Shadow People of this world," in terms of transvestism, or eonism, "of which practically nothing is known." Dorothy Medway tells of her visit to Holland three months ago "for the removal of the glands which are the main source of male hormones and the other organs which go to make up a male person." It tells of the name on her driving licence being changed from Francis to Dorothy; of being identified as a woman on medical insurance cards, passport and ration book. "But my birth certificate still shows me as a man. To some doctor will fall the responsibility of deciding that a change of sex has been achieved. No one in this country seems able to decide whether such operations as were performed upon me are legal or illegal. The issue is shunned and avoided." The reader is told how the doctors in England "were amazed to find

that my natural walk was a woman's walk. They decided that I had been born with a completely feminine mind, controlling all my actions. But they would not operate. And so I had to go to Holland."

[Medway.TS.Sex Change.Legalities]

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"Roberta: The 'Pic' Was Right: Sir Ernest Cowell Admits His Errors," Sunday Pictorial, 21 March 54, pp. 1 & 9.

Sir Ernest Cowell had issued a statement to the press that Roberta was now "completely female," though "the complete change must still be a gradual one." In response to the Pictorial's questions, he states: "Roberta can never be strictly speaking, a complete woman physiologically. For this is not a case of hermaphroditism in which a person starts life with the primary sex glands of both sexes." The second question is: "Would it be more accurate to say, as the Sunday Pictorial report suggested, that Roberta is what is commonly known as a transvestist?" Sir Ernest replies: "If you define a transvestist as a man driven by an overwhelming impulse to become a woman, or vice versa, the advice to me is that I must agree that she is a transvestist."

The theory and practice of changing the birth certificates of 'sex changes' in Britain needs to be documented with particular reference to theory and practice before and after the publicity surrounding Roberta Cowell's case, up to April Ashley's case. Dr. Dave King first drew our attention to the evidence which suggests that the furore over Roberta Cowell was largely instrumental in stopping the practice of altering the birth certificates of 'transsexual' sex re-assignments. It would be intrusive to make public the evidence required for the determination of such issues.

[Cowell.TS.Sex Change.TV]

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The precise sources of the following items are not known. Internal evidence suggests c. 1954. Can you help?

c. 1954

"P.C.'s Suspicions Were Aroused During Car Ride."

"In the dock at West London the man wore a well-cut dark overcoat and carried a black trilby hat. But there was a night, so a police officer alleged, when the man was dressed as a

woman, complete with a wig and lacquered finger nails. He is Charles Anthony Povey, 40-year-old salesman, of Castelnau, Barnes, London, who shared the dock with John Edward Boulden, aged 54, hairdresser, of High-street. Povey, dressed completely as a woman, and Boulden were charged with improper conduct and with outraging public decency Replying to Mr. C.N. Winston, prosecuting, P.C. Macdonald said Povey was dressed in a black skirt, high-necked pullover, green jacket and a black-and-white check raincoat, with nylon underclothes and stockings. 'He wore a reddish-blond wig, ear-rings, pearl necklace and a bracelet,' said the officer. 'His finger-nails were lacquered and he was very heavily made-up. He carried a handbag.' Mr. Winston showed five snapshots to Mr. K.J.P. Barraclough, the magistrate. 'They are photographs of Povey as a woman,' said Mr. Winston. 'You will see he makes a very good figure of a woman.'

[Povey.TV.Crime.Improper Conduct.Public Indecency.London.U.K.]

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"The Couple Dressed for a Party."

"The constables thought they had seen enough. There, annoying men at midnight, were two smartly-dressed women, heavily made-up, with high-heeled shoes and carrying handbags. But things were not quite as the officers thought, for as they approached to make the arrest they heard their quarry speak to each other - and their voices were men's." The two "claimed that they borrowed the female finery to give a cabaret turn at a party. This explanation did not satisfy the Bench, who found them guilty of importuning men for an immoral purpose."

[TV.Crime.Importuning.U.K.]

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"Man Who Spun A Web Of Vice," News of the World.

Reports "vice gang" active in the Chippenham, Wilts area. At parties held by the gang "men and youths dressed as women indulged flagrantly in certain practices."

[TV.Crime.Vice.Chippenham.U.K.]

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Morrell, Lisa, "How I am Teaching Roberta Cowell To Be a Woman", Sunday Despatch, 4 April 54, pp. 1 & 5.

Picture caption: "Roberta Cowell Tries On Her New Shoes, While Lisa Morrell Looks On In a Continental Shop."

Story by Lisa Morrell who has been Roberta's close companion for five years and first knew her as Robert Cowell, a former fighter pilot. She is now accompanying Roberta on her travels abroad. The remarkable change of sex of Roberta Cowell has been debated by doctors and sociologists, and the Sunday Dispatch has invited Roberta to submit to an examination by a medical panel. The story reports changes in Roberta, from November 1948, which could have been fought with the aid of male hormones: "but I believe had this been attempted he would have become merely a 'thing' in the future: neither man nor woman." The feature then details, how with hormone treatment, changes began to take place, until "it was impossible for me to regard Bob any longer as a man." "In May 1951, Robert became officially Roberta, but he refused to live as a woman until some time after his reregistration. He felt that he was not yet a complete female, and until he was he would prefer to stay in the clothes of a man. Betty now went to see a famous surgeon and it was arranged that she should undergo an important operation. But there was a wait of nine months before this was able to take place." "Next week: What happened after the operation."

[Cowell.TS.Sex Change]

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"I Am a Girl and Want to Be a Wife: The Wife Described as 'Incomplete' Goes to Harley-street to Prove Her Sex," Sunday Pictorial, 30 May 1954, p. 1.

Picture caption: "Muriel Beckett Photographed in a London Park Yesterday."

Muriel Beckett tells how her "husband got a decree of nullity of marriage on the ground that it had never been consummated and that I was incapable of doing so." She travels from Birmingham "to London to see a leading Harley-street sexologist. The Harley-street man rates me, to be exact, a three-quarter woman. But that satisfies me. No longer need I say to myself: What am I?" "This is what the Harley-street specialist reported after examining Muriel: Like a woman: Muriel's walk, voice, mentality. Her hair, forehead, complexion, bosom, and waist. More like a young boy: Mouth, teeth, neck, hands, thighs. Conclusion: Physiologically, Muriel Beckett is 75 per cent female."

It is worth noting that Caroline Cossey (Tula) talks in these terms - that she is 100% woman - certainly for the purposes of the media presentation of her case prior to the

pending judgement of the European Court of Human Rights on her right to marry.

[Beckett.TS.TV.Marriage.Nullity]

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"In His Wife's Shoes," News of The World, 23 May 54, p. 9.

"A 51-year-old man put on his wife's clothes and walked about Streatham Common North, London, S.W. 'to see what it felt like,' P.C. Clarence Smith said in Court at Lambeth. William Benjamin Jones, carpenter, of Thornbury - road, Brixton, S.W. was fined £2 for insulting behaviour. The constable said that Jones, wearing a white sweater and skirt, nylon stockings and high-heeled shoes, stood on the edge of the common. When motorists were passing he tried to attract their attention by sticking out his chest, which seemed to be 'upholstered.' Seeing a police car, the man ran into some bushes. P.C. Smith said he found a man's clothing near a bush and Jones, dressed in women's underclothing, was hiding under another bush."

[Jones.TV.Crime.Insulting Behaviour.London.U.K.]

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"He Wasn't What She Seemed . . .," News of the World, 16 July 1954, p. 7.

"Alfred James Hartley, aged 49, guest house owner, of East-drive, Bracklesham Bay, Sussex, pleaded guilty to using a driving licence with intent to deceive. He was fined £5." The report tells how Hartley was stopped for speeding in his car and showed his wife's driving licence. The policeman who stopped him 'had no reason to suspect he was a man. Hartley was dressed as a woman and showed a driving licence in the name of Mrs. Eileen Frances Hartley, of Doncaster.' The speeding summons was issued in the name of Mrs. Hartley . . . After the case was dealt with in the absence of any defendant, certain information was received and detectives visited Hartley's guest house. Hartley was dressed in women's clothes and admitted that he was the driver that was stopped on March 8. He told detectives he had had the driving licence for some time and had renewed it . . . His marriage was dissolved in 1953 . . . Fining him £5, Mr T.W. Marshall, Chairman, said: 'The offence you have committed is serious.'"

[Hartley.TV.Crime.Deception.Driving Licence.Sussex.U.K.]

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"They Infested a City," News of the World, 1 August 54, p. 6.

"The discovery of a small black book with the names, addresses and telephone numbers of scores of men living in the Midlands led to the exposure of what was described at Birmingham Assizes as 'a vicious clique who had infested the city for many years.' . . . The court was told that the men called themselves by names such as Tiger Lil, the Duchess, Garbo, Rita, Jezebel and Nina. It was said also that the men held parties at which some were dressed as women . . . All the 28 men pleaded guilty to serious charges . . . Inquiries revealed that the men met in certain public houses and a milk bar. They called themselves by women's names. They were male prostitutes and with two exceptions, all had been associates for years. There were many more implicated than the 28 before the court . . . At the end of the case the judge said: 'I feel the police have shown considerable care and assiduity in these investigations and it is extremely fortunate that this disgusting clique has been brought to light.'"

[TV.Crime.Vice.Prostitution.Birmingham.U.K.]

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Part 2, continues in Archive News, Vol. 2, No. 2.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The continuing success of the Archive depends upon individuals and groups sending us material. In this issue of Archive News we give our special thanks to those individuals and groups who have deposited with us copies of their recent publications. Please do get in touch if any magazines and journals you have sent since July 1989 are not acknowledged in this list. Do remember that the TGA provides a unique research and information base. It also documents your activities. Your deposits are vitally important. They will be respected and cared for.

The TGA wishes to thank:

JoAnn Roberts, Creative Design Services, P.O. Box 1263, King of Prussia, Pa. 19406, U.S.A., for:

Art and Illusion: A Guide to Crossdressing, 1986 and second revised edition, 1988.

Lady Like, No's 1-2, 4-5 (1987-1989).

Laing, Alison (1989), Speaking as a Woman: A Guide for Those Who Desire to Communicate in a More Feminine Manner.

*

The Beaumont Society, BM Box 3084, London WC1N 3XX, for:

Beaumont Bulletin, Vol. 22, No. 2 - Vol. 21, No. 6 (1988-1989).

*

The Beaumont Trust, B.M. Charity, London WC1N 3XX, for copies of their latest leaflets available:

The Beaumont Trust, "An Introduction to Transvestism, Transexualism, Cross Dressing, Gender Dysphoria and Helping Organisations for Professional Workers in the Field."

The Beaumont Trust, "An Introduction to Transvestism. Transexualism, Cross Dressing, Gender Dysphoria and Helping Organisations."

The Beaumont Society, "Transvestites Partners and Families: Some Questions and Answers."

The Beaumont Society, "Do You Crossdress? Are You a Transvestite (TV) or a Transexual (TS)? Yes? Then You Are No Longer Alone."

The Seahorse Society, "If You Are a Heterosexual Transvestite or Transexual."

*

Eidos Magazine, P.O. Box 96, Boston, MA 02137-0096, U.S.A., for:

Eidos: Erotic Entertainment for Women, Men and Couples, Vol. 4, No. 4 (1990).

*

En Femme Publishing, 1977, N. Olden Ave., Suite 205, Trenton, N.J. 08618, U.S.A., for:

En Femme Magazine, No's 15 and 16, 1989-90.

*

The Phoenix Society, R.S.A., for:

Fanfare, No's 41-45, August 1989 - March 1990. No. 41 includes the Archive Update interview conducted by Phoenix/Fanfare.

Editorial matters: Joyce Gregson, P.O. Box 47073, Greyville, 4023, R.S.A.

Note that Issue No. 41, August 1989, includes the "Archive Update - May 1989". The Editor introduces the interview: "The University of Ulster's Trans-Gender Archive was founded by Dr Richard Ekins in 1986. The following interview conducted by Phoenix/Fanfare brings the activities and progress made by the TGA over the past three years into focus." She concludes: "Should one's own material find its way into the Archive, one is bound to get a strong sense of immortality!"

*

Tania Volen, Inc., 22 Main Street, Tennent, N.J. 07763-0200, U.S.A., for:

Femanaine, Vol. 1, No. 4, 1989.

The Transvestian, Vol. 7, No's 1-5, 1989-1990.

*

The Gathering, P.O. Box 29, New York, N.Y., 10021, U.S.A.,
for:

The Newsletter of the Gathering, Vol. 2, No's 1-2,
September-October 1989.

*

The Gender Dysphoria Trust, B.M. Box, No. 7624, London
WC1N 3XX, for:

The Gender Dysphoria Trust Newsletter, Vol. 1, No's 3-5
(1989); Vol. 2. No. 1 (1990).

*

The Gender Trust, U.K., B.M. Gentrust, London WC1N 3XX,
for:

A Guide to Transsexualism, Transgenderism, and Gender
Dysphoria, Gender Trust U.K., 1990.

*

The Transvestite/Transsexual Support Group (UK), 2 French
Place (off Bateman's Row), Shoreditch High Street, London, E1
6JB, for:

The Glad Rag: Journal of the Transvestite/Transsexual
Support Group (UK), No's 43 - 50 (1989-1990).

Editorial/Advertising Contact: Christine-Jane Wilson, c/o
KRIS Publications, 239B Preston Road, Wembley, Middx. HA98PE.

*

Stacy Novack, co-ordinator of the New TransEssex Group,
Essex, England, for:

Narcissus: The Woman in You, Vol. 1, No's 2-3; June-
December 1989; Vol. 2, No. 1, 1990.

We look forward to the promised signed photograph, with
dedication, from Stacy, for framed display on the Archive
walls. We also thank Stacy for sending on:

B.C. News, No's 33, 35, 36, the magazine of the
Association Beaumont Continental.

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Renaissance Education Association, Inc., Box 1263, King of
Prussia, Pa 19406, U.S.A., for:

Renaissance News, Vol. 3, No's 5-12; Vol. 4, No's 1-5
(1989-1990).

Note that Volume 4, No. 1 features "A Trip to Morocco," a
TGA interview with a post-operative TS.

*

Martine Rose, Rose's, P.O. Box 339, Sheffield S1 3SX, for:

Rose's Repartee: The Magazine of Rose's Club, No's 1-3
(1989-1990).

*

Rachael Webb, for:

Rouge: A Lesbian and Gay Socialist Quarterly, No. 1,
Winter 1989/90.

Kris Clarke's "Sex Change - Shock! Horror! Probe!" is
featured in "Videoscene," p. 38. A video is available for hire
from Concord Video at £10.

*

The Scottish TV/TS Group, for:

The Tartan Skirt: Newsletter of the Scottish TV/TS Group,
Vol. 5. No's 3 (May) and 4 (July) 1989.

Julie Bradshaw (Assistant Editor) Flat 6, 53 Bread Street,
Edinburgh EH3 9AH.

*

L. J. Neil Trustee/Administrator, The Minorities Trust,
P.O. Box 2983, Wellington, New Zealand, for:

"A Short History of the Establishment of the Minorities
Trust and Transcare," with miscellaneous material.

Transcare, No's 13-16, 1988-90.

Submission from the Minorities Trust with respect to the
Birth, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill, 8.1.90.

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Trans-
Gender
Archive