

## A Short List

# Transgender Issues and Community

Several issues ago a feminist bookseller asked for a list of books on transgender issues. Genanne Walsh, the new book reviewer and coordinator at Good Vibrations, responded by sending us the following bibliography. Many thanks! — CS

Compiled by Genanne Walsh

As the term "transgender" appears more frequently, its specific meaning becomes more cloudy. Often confusingly clumped along with "transvestite" and "transsexual," "transgenderist" originally referred to someone who lived the life of the opposite sex, while remaining anatomically in their original gender. "Transvestite" is generally used to refer to cross-dressers, and "transsexual" to people who have undergone some type of medical procedure (from hormone injections to surgery) in order to anatomically change to a different gender. Now, in its loosest form, "transgender" can refer to anyone who plays with their gender or bends gender roles, much as the word "queer" has been claimed by a spectrum to people who don't fall within traditional heterosexual or homosexual boundaries.

As with many sexually-related terms, these words mean different things to different people — it's best not to assume the meaning until you know how it is defined by each individual or author!

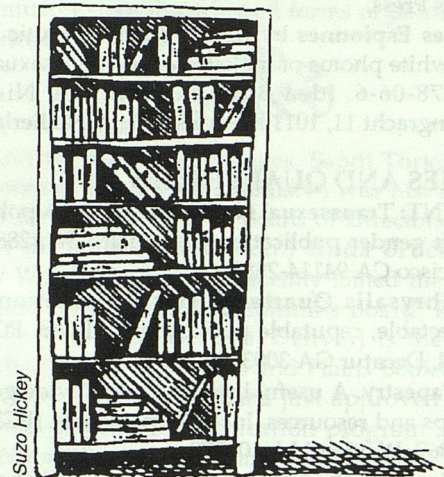
The following publications are the most interesting we've seen of what little is available on these issues.

## NON-FICTION

**In Search of Eve: Transsexual Rites of Passage** by Anne Bolin. An anthropological study focusing on sixteen male-to-female transsexuals. Intended

and interesting for lay audiences as well as academics. \$12.95, 0-89789-115-5. Bergin & Garvey Publishers.

**From Female to Male: The Life of Jack Bee Garland** by Louis Sullivan. The true story of a late 19th century female-to-male transsexual, who lived as a man for forty years. \$8.95, 1-55583-150-8. Alyson Publications.



**Information for the Female to Male** by Lou Sullivan. An illustrated handbook for the female to male crossdressers or Transsexuals. Includes info on passing, hormones, and sex-reassignment. 134 pages. \$8.95. 25% bookstore discount. Ingersoll Gender Center, 1812 E. Madison St. #106, Seattle WA 98122. 206-329-6651.

**Transvestites and Transsexuals: Toward a Theory of Cross-Gender Behavior** by Richard R.



Doctor. An academic, sociological study. 0-306-42878-4. Plenum Press.

**The Transsexual's Survival Guide: Transition and Beyond** by JoAnn Altman Stringer. A sensitive handbook written by a transsexual woman, covering issues from gender identity to legal concerns. Creative Design Services, PO Box 1263, King of Prussia PA 19406.

**Transformations: Crossdressers and Those Who Love Them** by Mariette Pathy Allen. Photographs of transvestites and transgenderists. Includes statements by the subjects. \$24.95, 0-525-24820-X. Dutton.

**Art and Illusion: A Guide to Crossdressing** by JoAnn Roberts. Listed in *Books in Print*, not seen. \$10.00, 1-880715-01-5. Creative Design Services.

**Speaking as a Woman** by Alison Laing. Listed in *Books in Print*, not seen. \$8.00, 1-880715-03-1. Creative Design Services.

**Uninvited Dilemma: A Question of Gender** by Kim E. Stuart. A socially-aware series of interviews with transsexuals. \$12.95, 1-55552-013-8. Metamorphous Press.

**Les Espionnes** by Bettina Rheims. Erotic black and white photos of male-to-female transsexuals. 3-929078-06-6. Idea Book Distributors, Nieuwe Herengracht 11, 1011 RK Amsterdam, Netherlands.

## 'ZINES AND QUARTERLIES

**TNT: Transsexual News Telegraph.** A political-left gender publication. 584 Castro St. #288, San Francisco CA 94114-2588.

**Chrysalis Quarterly.** Has a reputation as a respectable, reputable publication. AEGIS, PO Box 33724, Decatur GA 30033.

**Tapestry.** A useful listing of world-wide gender groups and resources. Includes personals. IFGE, PO Box 367, Wayland MA 01778.

**Cross-Talk.** News and commentary, how-to columns, feature articles, events calendar, etc. PO Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365-0944.

*Once we started working on this list, everyone got into the act and had a few more books to suggest... We started with a couple of fiction titles, then a few others that also seemed appropriate.... You know how it goes! Thanks, also, to A Different Light-SF for further suggestions.*

—CS

## FICTION

**Stone Butch Blues** by Leslie Feinberg is a novel that describes growing up differently gendered in blue-collar America in the 50s, coming out butch in the bars and factories of the prefeminist 60s, and deciding to pass as a man for survival when left without work or community in the early 70s. \$10.95 pb, 1-56341-029-X. Firebrand Books.

**Sacred Country**, a novel by the widely respected British novelist Rose Tremain that begins on the day in 1952 that six-year-old Mary Ward realizes that she is a boy, not a girl, and that it is her destiny to be a man. The novel follows Mary/Martin to London, through mastectomies and hysterectomy, and the decision to live as a man but to not proceed with further surgery. What is troubling about this novel is Mary's complete (and contrived?) isolation from anything feminist, despite her involvement in the London anti-war networks of the 70s, and the very odd portrayal of the sole lesbian she encounters in that same, movement London. Other than that, Mrs. Lincoln, it's an excellent and fascinating novel. \$21.00 cl, 0-689-12170-9. Published in the U.S. by Atheneum.

## MORE TITLES OF INTEREST:

**TranSisters: The Journal of Transsexual Feminism**, \$3. 33% bookstore discount for 5+. Order from TranSisters, 4004 Troost Ave., Kansas City MO 64110.

**Conundrum**, an autobiography by well known and widely read travel writer Jan Morris who is also a male to female transsexual. \$8.95 pb, 0-8050-0361-4. Holt.

**My Story** by Carolyn Cossey offers this model's autobiography. \$12.95, 0-571-12909-9. Faber & Faber.

**Gender Bending: Confronting the Limits of Duality** by Holly Devor. \$12.95, 0-253-20533-6. Indiana University Press.

**Transgender Liberation: A Movement Whose Time Has Come** by Leslie Feinberg. \$2.50 pamphlet, 0-89567-105-0. World View Forum. (Inland.)

**Vested Interest: Cross Dressing and Cultural Anxiety** by Majorie Garber. \$17.50, 0-06-097524-5. HarperCollins.

**Nine Lives: The Autobiography of Erica Rutherford.** \$12.95, 0-921556-36-5. Ragweed/gynergy.

**Myths of Gender** by Anne Fausto-Sterling. \$14, 0-465-04792-0. Basic Books (HarperCollins). ○