Out in Paperback: 
A Visual History of Gay Pulps 

by Ian Young

Catalogue of the Author’s Collection

The following 1133 items constitute a collection of mass-market paperbacks on male homosexual and bisexual themes, published from the 1940's through the 1990's and used as primary reference materials for the books The Male Homosexual in Literature: A Bibliography and Out in Paperback: A Visual History of Gay Pulps.

Most titles are fiction, with some non-fiction and plays, and a few poetry collections.

The great majority of the titles have male homosexual content or significance. The few that do not fall into three categories:
1) Related paperback originals by well-known gay authors (e.g. the pseudonymous military adventure stories by Robin Hardy and John Preston, or the film novelizations by Paul Monette);
2) Non-gay novels with homoerotic “cover appeal” (e.g. a nude male, attractive youth or homosexual suggestion on the cover), or showing a motif commonly found in gay novels;
3) Titles with transexual interest.

Issued by both mainstream and pornography publishers, the books offer a representative selection of English language books on gay themes available in mass-market paperback editions during the late 20th Century.

The collection includes novels by J.R. Ackerley, James Baldwin, Carl Corley, Samuel Delany, Casimir Dukahz, Philip José Farmer, Jean Genet, Andre Gide, Paul Goodman, Christopher Isherwood, Thomas Mann, Robin Maugham, Claude McKay, Yukio Mishima, Mary Renault, John Rechy, Theodore Sturgeon, Larry Townsend, Gore Vidal & Oscar Wilde.

Also included are all four volumes of Richard Amory’s “Loon Song” tetralogy, plus the Ricardo Armory parody; all three volumes of David Meltzer’s “Agency” trilogy; all nine gay romances by Gordon Merrick; all five “Billy Farout” novels by William Barber; all four school novels by C.J. Bradbury Robinson; both Kenneth Marlowe memoirs; all five Paul Monette movie novelizations; eight Samuel Steward “Phil Andros” books; fifteen Joseph Hansen mysteries plus six of his pseudonymous titles; five Marco Vassi novels; fifteen Jay Greene novels and nine “Jack Hild” adventure novels, some by John Preston, others by Robin Hardy.

Most titles are in Mass Market Paperback (MMPB) format (approx. 7” x 4 1/4”). Some popular titles such as The Gallery, The City and the Pillar and Finistère are represented by several editions issued at different times with different covers, sometimes by different publishers.

Though the books were acquired for content and cover art, many are first editions, first paperback printings, etc. A few bear authors’ signatures. Important publishing information is reproduced, i.e. “First edition,” “First paperback edition,” “Second printing,” etc. “First printing” may actually indicate either a true first edition or the first printing of a particular paperback edition. (Many mass market paperbacks are first, or first paperback, editions, but unidentified as such.)

Some paperback editions contain material otherwise unavailable, such as blurbs by identified writers, or special introductions (e.g. Edmund White’s new introduction to a new, paperback edition of States of Desire after the onset of AIDS). Occasionally, paperback editions embody changes to the book’s text. (Successive paperback editions of Gore Vidal’s The City and the Pillar saw a number of textual changes; Angelo d’Arcangelo’s The Homosexual Handbook was altered after its first printing to remove the names of J. Edgar Hoover and William F. Buckley, Jr.)
Identities behind pen-names have been indicated when known.

Cover descriptions and motifs are indicated in italics. Cover design motifs include:

Lettering: Indicates the cover has lettering only - no cover illustration.
Hetero: Man & woman
Solitary: Single male figure. Isolation.
Triangle: Two men & a woman.
Both Looking Away: Two men, looking away from each other. Lack of or denial of attention.
Looking Away: Two men, one looking at the other who is looking away (at the reader, at a woman or into space). The male gaze is there - but avoided. Not returned. Not yet. Unacknowledged attention.
Cruising: A more daring variant of “Looking away”: one man looking at another who is turning as though about to return the gaze.
The men no longer look away from the male gaze, they begin to turn toward it. Acknowledged attention. Recognition.
Direct Gaze: Single male, sometimes wholly or partially naked, looking at reader.
Face to Face: Two men looking at each other. Returned attention.
Holding Hands: Two men holding hands. Returned affection.
Nude: Full or partial (e.g. clad in towel, jockstrap, etc.) male nude. Reader as voyeur.
Nude Pair: Two male nudes. Reader as voyeur.
Sexual Activity: Various, overt & implied.
Concerned woman: Woman consoling man.
Lurking male: Man watching or emerging from doorway or around corner. Surreptitious menace.
Looming male: Man standing behind or to the side, about to intrude. Overt menace.
Peephole: Scene viewed through a knot-hole, keyhole, broken window, hole in fence or other interstice. Secret observation.
Reverse Covers: A type of paperback published by Greenleaf Classics - oversize, with the text beginning upside down on the back cover. Printed in short runs, these are considered among the scarcest of gay pulps. See SixtyNines (q.v.)
SixtyNines: A format used in early Ace books, binding two short novels back-to-back, each with its own cover. William Burroughs' Junkie, published as by “William Lee," was published as a SixtyNine together with - not inappropriately - Narcotic Agent by Maurice Halbrant.
Movie Tie-in: An edition with photos or other illustrations from a film related to the book.
Cover Appeal: Negligible gay content but with an appealing cover (i.e. the 1966 Bantam edition of Roman Gary’s The Ski Bum shows a winsome shirtless youth giving a come-hither look).

Covers include artwork by a wide variety of well-known artists & illustrators, including James Avati, Don Bachardy, James E. Bama, George Barr, Aubrey Beardsley, Virgil Burnett, Richard Cole, Mario de Graaf, Gerritjan Deunk, Jennifer Eachus, Max Ernst, Gilbert Fullington, Fisk, Victor Gadino, Edward Gorey, Helmer, David Hockney, Augustus John, Raymond Johnson, Robert Jonas, Cecil Keeling, Liz Moyes, Mel Odom, Barye Phillips, Rex, Ronald Searle, E.H. Shepard, George Stavrinos, Toby, Tom of Finland, Topazio and Boris Vallejo.

Prices (in parentheses, US dollars) indicate catalog prices from Bolerium Books, Priapean Tomes or other book dealers specializing in gay literature.

Notes in italics describe cover art.

Key to Abbreviations

Illus. - Illustrated. Indicates b&w photos unless otherwise noted.
RC - Reverse Covers (see above).
PBO - Paperback Original, not previously published in hardcover
1st - First edition in book form
1st PB - First paperback edition
1st followed by publisher's name: First edition published by that company.


All the Sad Young Men. Wisdom House, 1962. Detail of "The End of the World" by Luca Signorelli. ($125)


Listen, the Loon Sings...Book Three of the Loon Song Trilogy. Greenleaf Classics, 1968. "2nd Big Printing." Wraparound cover: cowboy & horse in pine forest.


_________. San Francisco Hustler. Gay Parisian Press, 1970. This title was pirated - with originally excised material restored and names changed - as “Gay in San Francisco” by Biff Thomas. Shirtless youth with pants unfastened.


_________. When in Rome, Do... Gay Parisian Press, 1971. Youth with pants around thighs. ($135)


___________. Tell Me How Long the Train’s Been Gone. Corgi, 1980. *Author with two black men & naked white woman.*


Bennett, P. H. Halfbreed. Surrey Ltd., 1978. Nudes - two Indians and one white man, with a horse.


*Pledge-Slave.* HIS 69, 1980. *Nude pair, one in jockstrap being paddled.*


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________. A Fool’s Advice. Publisher’s Export Co., 1969. *Young man with barn.*


_____________. The Last Cruise. Phenix Late-Hour Library, 1967. *Man with arm around shoulder of male drummer.*


Richard Cole caricature of author.


______. The Cadets. Midwood, 1969. Shirtless pair, one with arm around the other.


___________. Dangerous Trade. Surrey Ltd., 1979. Two young men in small space, one shirtless holding gun.


Hard Sucking Cowboy. TSG Sales, n.d. *Cover style lifted from Surree's HIS 69 series.*


Leather Slaves. Surree Ltd., 1977. *Nudes, one blindfolded & staked out, one with a whip.*


Hild, Jack (Robin Hardy). Eye of the Fire. Worldwide Library, 1985. First edition. Man emerging from water, holding a dagger. N.B.: This and the following “Jack Hild” titles are titles from the “SOBs” series of military action thrillers, written pseudonymously by well-known gay authors. (The author’s names appear on the versos.)


Hunter, Evan. Come Winter. Signet, 1974. Two naked young men in transparent cube with gowned woman reclining on top. “Sex was always fun, whether the three of them did it together, or each went a separate way.”


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A Meeting by the River. Lancer, 1967. *Two men, one with shaved head, crowd scene.*


Face to Face.


Kerouac, Jack. The Dharma Bums. Signet, 1959. "By the man who launched the hippie world, the daddy of the swinging psychedelic generation..." Longhaired heterosexual couple.


To the Dark Tower. Arrow, 1975. Androgynous figure at bay window.


P.S. Your Cat Is Dead. Quartet Books, 1974. Comic strip type panels including man tied up.


The Church Next Door. GX, Inc., 1973. Young & older male nudes and painting of phallic fruit with eyes.


Butt Bucker. Surrey House, 1974. Two nude men, one sitting on the other holding a vibrator.


Marvin, Ronn. Mr. Ballerina. Regency, 1961. Two men, one with arm around the other's shoulder, slipping a ring on his finger.


Devil’s Phallus. Surree Ltd/HIS69. Two naked young men before devil holding two phallic candles.


Moore, Martin. To Dare to Be Different. Blueboy Library, 1977. *Man in bed, another knotting his tie.*


Young Törless. Pocket Books Quokka, 1978. *Young man’s face in profile, second young man shielding eyes from a group of cadets; lettering.*


North, Gene. Skid Row Sweetie. Phenix, 1968. Title page gives author as “Jean North.” Naked man & two clothed men sharing drinks as woman watches. ($20)


_________. The Satyricon. Bestseller Library, 1960. Translated with an Introduction by Jack Lindsay. “The original 1927 edition of which this is a revised version was dedicated to Norman Douglas. This edition is inscribed to his memory and also to that of Sir Stephen Gaselec, a fine scholar who was never too busy to discuss matters of Petronian or Medieval Latin.” *Man, woman & androgynous figure on couch.*


Preston, John. Lethal Silence. Badboy, 1993. (Alex Kane #6) Two young men, one shirtless, one with leather jacket open showing chest.


Purdy, James. Cabot Wright Begins. Bantam, 1972. Back cover quote from the author: “Our culture is based on money and competition. It is inhuman, terrified of love, sexual and other, and obsessed with homosexuality and brutality...” Man reading newspaper with woman’s face repeated in background.


Rand, Lou. (Lou Rand Hogan). *Rough Trade.* Paperback Library, 1965. Reprint of “Gay Detective.” “First Printing.” *One man lighting another’s cigarette; they are looking at each other - a rare motif for this early date.*


Snyder, Anne & Louis Pelletier.  *Counter Play.*  Signet, 1981.  *Young men in locker room; Looking away.*


Thomas, Biff. (Samuel M. Steward). *Gay in San Francisco*. Cameo Library, 1974. A pirated reprint of “San Francisco Hustler” by Phil Andros (Samuel M. Steward), with the characters’ names changed and the original ending restored! *Solitary with bridge.*

______________. *Gay in San Francisco*. Cameo Library, 1974. As above, with small punch-hole in cover.


—. Leather Ad Volume 1 M. Greenleaf Classics, 1972. *Two men, one with whip.*


—. The Scorpius Equation. The Traveller's Companion, 1971. *Outline drawing of men with scorpion & spaceship. ($100)*


All or Nothing. The Traveller's Companion, 1971. Outline drawing of leaping figures.

All or Nothing. Frenchy's Gay Line, 1970. Two bare male arms reaching for one another; one tattooed with a flower.


Gaywick. Avon, 1980. “He was only seventeen when he went to Gaywick to catalogue the vast library...” Dark man & blond man with house in background. Looking away.


(attrib.) Teleny or the Reverse of the Medal. Brandon House, 1967. Introduction by Jack Hirschman. “Originally printed in a small, strictly limited edition, the few copies were immediately buried in libraries and private collections. The present edition marks the first public appearance of this strange and compelling work.” *Portrait of Wilde.*


