

ASIAN GAY LITERATURE

**an annotated
bibliography**

3rd edition
(2024)

ASIAN GAY LITERATURE:

an annotated bibliography

of modern LGBTQ works of literary fiction and biography,

arranged by country

THIRD EDITION

Alex Spence

Banshan

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For

郭桂榮

Kevin Kwok Kwai Wing,

always

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INTRODUCTION

Audience

In seeking entertainment, understanding, or change, one can follow different routes. To be a participant, as a reader or writer, in storytelling is one pathway.

This document has a modest goal. It means to provide interested LGBTQ readers of various Asian heritages with a starting point for finding LGBTQ literature related to their own cultural backgrounds.

(The list may also interest those Baconian Spiders who use (normally unacknowledged) the considerable amount of work inherent in assembling lists such as this for a shortcut towards their theoretical spinnings. Users of that sort who are engaging in issues surrounding the translation of LGBTQ works across and within cultures and countries might want to see, for example, Queer in Translation (B.J. Epstein and Robert Gillett, eds.; London: Routledge, 2017)).

Arrangement

Primary listing is by country, with countries arranged **roughly** geographically, from east to west. Within country lists, arrangement is alphabetical by author (by title, for edited works).

Country placement is determined mainly by an author's primary Asian country association, with consideration given to subject/setting of a work. (A few difficulties are pointed out in notes; see, for example, introductions, particularly at China and also at Singapore).

Literature divisions of a geographical sort are arguable. On the one hand, each literary work is peculiar to its author and each has a unique effect on the individual reader. The division is also unnatural in the sense that borders are – cultural and language similarities and differences occur both within and across Asian boundaries, and between Asian countries and their non-Asian diasporas.

However, for this bibliography, division by country of residence/heritage **was** chosen as the primary sorting criterion, not to carve the LGBTQ global community into ever smaller political parts, but to acknowledge, **in a rough sense**, the effects of origins, which stem not only from cultural, but also significantly from local political and religious differences. The user wanting a broader view can read across the divisions, and beyond those divisions to the global LGBTQ literature.

Inclusions and Limitations

Sources and Inclusion Criteria

Several compilations – older and newer, shorter and longer, broader and narrower of focus – were helpful in putting together this document. See the **Sources** list. Choice of titles for **list** inclusion were based, with **a few ad hoc exceptions** (older, well-known classics such as Mishima and Bai were included, for example), on the following criteria:

- a) the work is identified as concerning LGBTQ persons to some important extent;

- b) the author is identified as local Asian or from the Asian diaspora;
- c) the work, on the basis of a) and b) combined (based on reviews, criticism, awards lists, personal knowledge of the compiler, e.g.), **additionally** carries a clearer focus on an Asian (not a more general, or other cultural) LGBTQ situation or sensibility, either locally or in the diaspora;
- d) the work has ideally been issued in print format (or it may be digital only); and
- e) the work is relatively “modern,” having been published in the 21st century or in the latter years of the 1990s (roughly the last twenty-five years).

Note, however, that country **Introductions**, which provide some background and context, do note some older works not on the lists that follow.

List entries emphasize the various literary genres (novels, drama, poetry, short stories, biography/memoir) and literary anthologies. A small number of novels for young adults have been included, but niche popular fiction categories of romance, science fiction/fantasy, and mystery have not (with a few exceptions).

Note that Western-style genre labels do not always provide suitably for literary structures in various Asian literatures. They have been applied, in some cases, as rough guides.

A number of **works by non-Asians** are also of potential interest to readers. Those works have not as a rule been included; the user can investigate further. However, several inclusion exceptions have been made, examples being Jackson on Thailand; Collett on Hong Kong’s Leslie Cheung Kwok-wing in the China section; and Michael T. Luongo on the Muslim Middle East (one online article is cited at the opening to the Afghanistan section).

Language

Of the approximately 400 listed works, the majority (approximately 80 per cent) are in **English**, which is either the original language of a title or the language into which a work has been translated. So, the list will be of most practical use to the reader with English language ability.

However, a substantial number of **non-English works** have been included (the other roughly 20 per cent, with some additional references in annotations to English-language translation entries and in section introductions). Those by no means form a comprehensive list, but have been added, **when encountered**, especially for countries which seem to have substantial LGBTQ works mainly in the local language(s), with relatively few translations – Indonesia and Turkey, for example; but also China and South Korea). Additional information in **some** of these cases can be had from country Introductions or from the Sources list. (Any encouragement these might give to translation would be good).

Countries

Asia is a big place. Fifty or so countries embrace all the world’s major religions and a host of different political regimes, languages, traditions, and levels of human rights protection. Asia is also evolving fast, and unevenly. Some works on the list predate important changes – the 2019 same-sex marriage decision in Taiwan; the repeal of Section 377 in India – and present a view from earlier times. Individual works should be noted keeping social evolution in mind.

There is an absence of certain Asian countries from the bibliography. The jurisdictions represented here are about half of the countries of the Asian continent. In assembling the list, published works from some regions were not encountered. Significant work may exist in local or diaspora magazines, on local or overseas websites, or in underground publications (and those would be more easily tracked, both for represented and unrepresented countries, by those with the necessary language skills).

Among the larger countries which are **not** on the list are Mongolia, Bhutan, the central Asian political units (Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan; **but** note an addition at Kazakhstan for this edition), the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar, and Kuwait. (Trans-Caucasus countries with Asian connections [Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia] were not investigated). For this third edition, works from many countries have been added, not only as a result of recent publication but also from discovery of titles missed earlier. Substantial additions have been made for the Philippines, India, and Malaysia, for example, but smaller numbers (sometimes only a single work) have also been added for jurisdictions of low representation, including Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Cambodia. **The compiler would like to be corrected for missing any significant items.**

With countries that show a somewhat longer history of contemporary LGBT writing (Japan, India, China), the evolution of tone (characterization, plot, theme) in those works is not dissimilar to what is seen in LGBT writings of Western countries – mid-20th century works largely portrayed homosexuality as part of a sordid underworld or as part of a passing schoolboy / schoolgirl phase preceding marriage, with subsequent developments over the following decades gradually demonstrating more realistic, sympathetic, or non-judgmental presentations.

Brief introductions are given to some country sections, to call attention to a few historical developments by noting the names or works of a small number of early authors. The earlier writers are, though, in general, not included in the alphabetical lists (with a few exceptions made for better-known authors – Yukio Mishima and Mutsuo Takahashi in Japan; Bai Xianyong in Taiwan – and for historical overviews, of which two examples are Same-sex Love in India, which notes writings over a period of two thousand years; and Partings at Dawn, which surveys Japan from the 12th to the 20th centuries).

Style of Entry and Other Notes

When a work is listed as an English **translation**, the original language and title (or title transliteration for non-Roman script languages), are given, if readily at hand.

When a listed title was found only in a **non-English** language, entry is made in the original language (or in transliteration), with English-language title translation in brackets, if available.

The large number of different scripts for Asian languages necessitated the use of transliterations for some entries. The OCLC WorldCat catalog frequently provides a record that includes author, title and imprint information in the normal script of the language of the work, whether that be Chinese; Japanese; Korean; Persian; Arabic; one of the various languages of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka; or another Asian language.

Magazines (Words Without Borders Magazine and titles of similar goals) offer translations of works or excerpts to English. Some WWBM references have been included. This and other magazines are useful to follow as complements to the list.

Pagination and ISBNs are noted, the first for a sense of physical size and the second as finding aids. (There may be other ISBNs for a work, in addition to the one(s) noted on the list).

Awards received by works are only sometimes noted. Lack of such information should not be taken as a lack of recognition. In this regard, Lambda Literary Awards notations refer sometimes to nominated works and sometimes to winners. The designation on this list depends on when the awards lists were consulted (before or after awards ceremonies), with the result that some nominations may in fact sometimes be winners.

Quotations/comments are acknowledged in abbreviated form. See Sources list for full citations.

Use online union catalogues (such as OCLC WorldCat) for additional information about works.

Personal judgements on inclusion are reflected in this list. Suggestions for additions/significant omissions or for corrections are welcomed.

Hong Kong

January 24, 2020 (猪年, 十二月三十日); with minor modifications for 3rd ed., January 2024.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

ASIA and Asian diaspora (geographically broader works)

Alesmael, Khaled.

En port till havet: brev från arabiska bögar [Gateway to the Sea].
SEE at SYRIA heading for fuller information.

Asian American Sexualities: Dimensions of the Gay and Lesbian Experience.

Edited by Russell Leong. New York: Routledge, 1996.
(254 p.; ISBN 9780415914369, etc.)

Anthology of fiction and non-fiction.

“[P]ersonal essays, articles of literary and film criticism, roundtable discussions, and works of fiction and poetry” (from Publisher synopsis; see OCLC WorldCat record for Table of Contents).

Best Gay Asian Erotica. Edited by Joël Barraquiel Tan.

San Francisco: Cleis Press, 2004.
(252 p.; ISBN 9781573441841)

Anthology of short stories.

“...with settings as diverse as a bamboo grove in China and a sleepy crank caller’s Los Angeles apartment...brings together stories...each with a queer Asian man as the focus of desire” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Gaysia: Adventures in the Queer East. By Benjamin Law.

Collingwood, Vic. [Australia]: Black Inc., 2012; Berkeley, CA: Cleis Press, 2014.
(276 p.; ISBNs 9781863955768, 9781627780360)

Biography/Travelogue.

Author’s experiences and observations on gay life in East, Southeast, and South Asia through his travels. Chapters on Indonesia, Thailand, China, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, and India.

Author is Australian and the openly gay son of immigrant parents from Hong Kong and Malaysia.

NOTE: later works by Law, below in this section at Growing... and in the CHINA section at Law.

Global Queer Plays: Seven LGBTQ+ Works from around the World.

London: Osborne Books, 2018.
(391 p.; ISBN 9781786825070)

Anthology of drama (in English).

“...bringing together stories of queer life from international playwrights” (scribd.com).

Seven plays, of which the following three are from the Asian region:

“Contempt,” by Danish Sheikh (India);

“No Matter Where I Go,” by Amahl Khouri (Jordan); and
“Taste of Love,” by Zhan Jie (Taiwan).

NOTE: these three are also listed at their specific geographical headings.

Growing Up Queer in Australia. Edited by Benjamin Law.
Carlton, Victoria [Australia]: Black Inc., 2019.
(340 p.; ISBN 9781760640866)

Anthology of personal stories.

“...assembles voices from across the spectrum of LGBTIQ+ identity.
Spanning diverse places, eras, genders, ethnicities and experiences...”

(ref.: OCLC WorldCat Summary, record no. 1111534880, for which
see also full table of contents, some names from which are listed below).

Broader than scope of this list, but a number of Asian names in list of
contributors (e.g., Giselle Au-Nhien Nguyen, Vivian Quynh Pham,
Cindy Zhou, Thinesh Thillainadarajah, William Yang, Joo-Inn Chew,
Yamiko Marama, Dang Nguyen).

NOTE: earlier works by Law, above in this section at Gaysia... and in the
CHINA section at Law.

Illegal Citizens: Queer Lives in the Muslim World. [Compiled by] Afdhere Jama.
[USA]: Salaam Press, 2008.
(158 p.; ISBN 9780980013887, 0980013887)

Anthology of personal narratives/Autobiography.

This is a collection of life stories, written in the first person, of 33 LGBT men and
women from 22 countries. Geographical coverage is somewhat broader than Asia,
but, among the Asian jurisdictions represented are the following:

Turkey, Lebanon, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan,
India, Indonesia, and China (Xinjiang).

“The majority of these people live in countries where it is illegal to have same-sex
relationships...” (book cover).

Intimate Strangers: True Stories from Queer Asia. Edited by Carmen Ho and
Gregg Schroeder. Hong Kong: Signal 8 Press, 2019.
(238 p.; ISBN 9789887794943)

Anthology/Biography.

“...fifteen writers from eastern Asia and beyond...[W]ork of writers living
life on their own authentic terms...[Stories of] devoted daughters; boys coming
of age; a transgender woman; and gay, queer, and bi parents...” (ref.: Google
Books).

Lamya H.

Hijab Butch Blues: A Memoir.

New York: Dial Press; London: Icon Books, 2023.

(304 p.; ISBN 9780593448762, 0593448766 [Dial Press])

Autobiography.

“A queer hijabi Muslim immigrant survives her coming-of-age by drawing strength and hope from stories in the Quran....” (amazon.com, Books).

This book “is more than a must-read. It’s also a study guide on Islam, a handbook for abolitionists, and a queer manifesto....” (Ashlee Green,

“ ‘Hijab Butch Blues’ Challenges Stereotypes....” [book review],

National Public Radio (www.npr.org), February 13, 2023 (online),

[viewed Nov. 21, 2023]).

Author was born in an “Urdu-speaking country” [elsewhere noted as South Asia], grew up in a “‘rich Arab country,’ in a ‘large metropolitan city’” [elsewhere noted as a country in the Middle East], before studying at college in the United States (quotations from Green review, cited above).

The Making of a Gay Asian Community: An Oral History of Pre-AIDS Los Angeles.

By Eric C. Wat.

Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2002.

(217 p.)

Biographical/interview material.

Community development “through socializing in bars and in organizations like Asian/Pacific Lesbians and Gays (A/PLG) is studied through the oral histories of individual gay Asian Americans” (ref.: Walker).

Q & A: Voices from Queer Asian North America.

Edited by Martin F. Manalansan IV, Alice Y. Hom, and Kale Bantigue Fajardo; preface by David L. Eng. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press, 2021.

(458 p.; ISBN 9781439921081, etc.)

Anthology of fiction and non-fiction.

“A vibrant array of scholarly and personal essays, poetry, and visual art that broaden ideas and experiences about contemporary LGBTQ Asian North America” (Temple University Press website, viewed 28/5/2021)

NOTE: previously under title: Q & A: Queer in Asian America. Edited by David L. Eng and Alice Y. Hom. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1998.

(445 p.; ISBN 9781566396394, etc.)

Queer Jihad: LGBT Muslims on Coming Out, Activism, and the Faith.

Afdhere Jama. [USA]: Oracle Releasing, 2013.

(190 p.: ISBNs 9780983716167, 0983716161)

Biography.

Chronicles “ the struggles of key individuals and organizations on the path to reconcile sexuality and faith....Whether in the face of a post-9/11 West, or in the company of harsh laws in the East, a new generation of LGBT Muslims is rising up to own their voice....” (ref.: OCLC WorldCat catalog record Summary).

Queer PAPI Porn: Gay Asian Erotica. Edited by Joël Tan.

San Francisco: Cleis Press, 1998.
(207 p.; ISBN 9781573440387)

Anthology of short stories.

Lambda Literary Awards nominee for Fiction Anthology.

Restored Selves: Autobiographies of Queer Asian/Pacific-American Activists.

Edited by Kevin K. Kumashiro.
New York: Harrington Park Press, 2004.
(137 p.; ISBN 9781560234623, etc.)

Anthology of autobiographies.

“...the first person accounts of 20 activists – life stories that work against common stereotypes...” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

See also OCLC records for Table of Contents of the anthology.

Rice: Explorations into Gay Asian Culture + Politics. Edited by Song Cho.

Toronto: Queer Press, 1998.
(90 p.; ISBN 9781895564051)

Various genres.

Canadian and American literature; interviews.

Sanctuary: Short Fiction from Queer Asia. Edited by Libay Linsangan Cantor and

Yi-sheng Ng.
Hong Kong: Signal 8 Press, 2019.
(288 p.; ISBN 9789887794875)

Anthology of short stories.

“...nineteen tales of queer lives in Asia....Meet an altar boy in Davao City, a madrasah schoolgirl in Karachi, a former child soldier in Siem Reap. Discover their passions in the saunas of Singapore, the hotel rooms of Taipei, the university dorms of Manila....” (ref.: Google Books).

Take Out: Queer Writing from Asian Pacific America. Edited by Quang Bao and

Hanya Yanagihara.
New York: Asian American Writers' Workshop, 2000.
(507 p.; ISBN 9781889876115)

Anthology of various genres.

“...probes a variety of topics – intergenerational relationships, domesticity, pop culture, camp, Hollywood, fairy tales, and Asia” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Anthologies/Fiction.

This Arab is Queer: An Anthology by LGBTQ+ Arab Writers.

Edited by Elias Jahshan. London: Saqi Books, 2022.

(211 p.; ISBNs 9780863564789, 086356478X)

Anthology.

“...the compelling and courageous memoirs of eighteen queer Arab writers – some internationally bestselling, others using pseudonyms....[M]oments of celebration alongside essays exploring the challenges of being LGBTQ+ and Arab....” (ref.: amazon.com quotation as given in OCLC WorldCat record no. 1286792340, Summary).

Includes works of, among others, Danny Ramadan (Syrian-Canadian),

Zeyn Joukhadar (Syrian-American), Hasan Namir (Iraqi-Canadian),

Amrou Al-Kadhi (Iraqi-British), and Saleem Haddad (Lebanon).

2023 Lambda Literary Awards finalist for LGBTQ+ Anthology.

NOTE: Brief entry for this work has been made at IRAQ, LEBANON, and SYRIA headings, at the names of the five **highlighted** authors given above.

The Very Inside: An Anthology of Writing by Asian and Pacific Islander Lesbian and Bisexual Women. Edited by Sharon Lim-Hing.

Toronto: Sister Vision Press, 1994.

(467 p.; ISBN 9780920813973)

Anthology of various genres.

Asian-Canadian and Asian-American lesbian/bisexual writings in various genres.

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Anthologies/Fiction.

JAPAN

Introduction

The **list** in this section comprises primarily modern works originally written in Japanese for which there are English translations and works written in English by writers of Japanese heritage. (There are also two French translations of originally Japanese works).

A few **classic** older 20th-century titles (including work by Mishima) and the 17th-century story collection Nanshoku Ōkagami [The Great Mirror of Male Love] have also been noted on the list, but read this Introduction for some additional older authors and titles.

Since many LGBT-themed works seem not yet to have been translated from Japanese, it is useful to have anthologies, such as Partings at Dawn and Sparkling Rain [see list below], to provide some overview.

The following historical notes draw substantially, both in paraphrase and in quotation, from Jeffrey Angles and Stephen D. Miller's "Japan, Literature" essay in Routledge International Encyclopedia of Queer Culture.

The decades following World War II saw the gradual emergence of (male) gay writers who were bolder in presenting homosexual and homoerotic themes and characters. Among the earlier writers, Yukio Mishima is perhaps the most widely recognized name in the West, two of his works [see list below] having been translated into English quite early on, in the 1960s. Two of his contemporaries, Yasunari Kawabata (Shōnen, ca. 1951) and Sotō Tachibana (Nanshoku monogatari [A Tale of Male Love, 1952]), wrote semi-autobiographical works about same-sex relationships.

(French translations of Shōnen as L'Adolescent: récits autobiographiques and of a 1963 Mishima work, Nikutai no gakkō as L'École de la chair, are listed below. These have not been noted in English translation, but the Mishima has been translated to Chinese [Rou ti xue xiao]).

Other writers who produced relevant work from the late 1950s to the 1970s were Mutsuo Takahashi [see two translations listed below], the poet Keizō Aizawa, and Nobel Prize winner Kenzaburō Ōe. Two of Ōe's works are Shiiku [Prize Stock, 1958] and Seiteki ningen [Homo sexualis, 1963].

(Prize Stock appears in English translation in Teach Us to Outgrow Our Madness: Four Short Novels [listed below] and elsewhere, and Homo sexualis has appeared in Dutch in Seventeen & Homo sexualis: novellen [see OCLC WorldCat]).

"Japan's so-called 'gay boom' of the late 1980s and early 1990s" saw the publication of numerous novels, "many of which describe queer life in realistic terms". Among the authors of that period and of a few years later are

Kōji Nishino (Shinjuku Ni-chōme de kimi ni attara [If I Met You in Shinjuku

Ni-chome, 1993] and Tisshu [Tissue, 1993, also 2015]), who deals with the search for encounters in Tokyo gay bars;
Jirō Fukushima (two novels, Chō no katami [The Butterfly's Keepsake, 1998] and Basutaoru [Bath Towel, 1996]);
Ryōsuke Hashiguchi (Hatachi no binetsu [A Touch of Fever, 1993]) and Hisao Hiruma (Yes Yes Yes, 1989; see Partings at Dawn [list below] for **translated excerpt** of Yes Yes Yes, an award-winning work) -- both authors writing about young Tokyo hustlers;
Chiya Fujino (Natsu no Yakusoku [A Promise for Summer, 2000]), who wrote a prize winning account “about two overweight gay men and their transgendered friend”; and
Noriaki Fushimi (Majo no musuko [The Witch's Son, 2003]), whose story is about “a middle-aged man living with his mother as he struggles to overcome his depressive inertia and find romance in a world of deadly viruses and terrorist attacks”.

Angles and Miller also note several novels derived from films; namely, Takehiro Nakajima's Okoge [Fag Hag, 1992], Kaori Ekuni's Kirakira hikaru [Twinkle Twinkle, 1991], and Ryōsuke Hashiguchi's Shōsetsu hasshu! [Hush!, 2002], all described as treating the single male in a society demanding marriage.

Female-female desire as written by women became prominent more recently than writings about male desire. However, there existed some prominent pre-World War II writers on “sisterhood” and, in the 1970s, Yumiko Kurahashi (Warui natsu, 1970) and Masako Togawa (Kari no jikoku, 1970) are noted. A prominent female writer of the 1980s and '90s is Rieko Matsuura. Her Sebasuchan [Sebastian, 1981 (and later, 2007)] and Nachuraru ūman [Natural Woman, 1987; available in French translation] “explore the complicated dynamics of power in lesbian relationships.” Her 1993 novel Oyayubi P no shugyō jidai [The Apprenticeship of Big Toe P] was published in English in 2009 and is listed below. Note also the Sparkling Rain lesbian anthology, on the list.

Note also that there are a number of 21st-century **Yaoi** (Boys' Love/BL) and **Yuri** (Girls' Love) homoerotic novels that have **not** been added to the list. Many examples of this popular fiction genre that originated in Japan can be retrieved on the internet.

Aoki, Ryka.

Light from Uncommon Stars. New York: Tor, 2022.
(372 p.; ISBN 9781250789075 [etc.]

Novel (Science fiction)

“A defiantly joyful adventure set in California’s San Gabriel Valley, with cursed violins, Faustian bargains, and queer alien courtship over fresh-made donuts....” (ref.: OCLC WorldCat record no. 1263339497, Summary).

2022 Stonewall Honor Book Award, Literature.

Author is a Japanese-American transgender woman poet, writer, composer, and teacher.

Aoki, Ryka.

Seasonal Velocities: Poems, Stories, and Essays.
Los Angeles, CA: Trans-Genre Press, 2012.
(139 p.; ISBN 9780985110505)

Various genres.

Japanese-American transgender woman writes about herself and others, about abuse as well as love in transsexual experiences.

Aoki, Ryka.

Why Dust Shall Never Settle upon This Soul.
Toronto: Biyuti Publishing, 2015.
(91 p.; ISBN 9780991900855)

Poetry.

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Transgender Poetry.

Beyer, Tamiko.

We Come Elemental.
Farmington, Maine: Alice James Books, 2013.
(81 p.; ISBN 9781938584008)

Poetry.

“In her lovely, complicated poems, Beyer...suggests that queerness isn’t relegated to gender or love but is part of the ebb and flow of everything” (Library Journal, noted in Goodreads)

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Transgender Poetry.

A Fire Is Burning, It Is in Me: The Life and Writings of Michiyo Fukaya.

Edited by G. L. Shervington.

Norwich, Vermont: New Victoria Publishers, 1996.
(181 p.; ISBN 9780934678780)

Biography and writings of Fukaya, a Japanese-American lesbian who

lived from 1953 to 1987. Her work was important in the lesbian and Asian-American communities, calling attention to racism in the gay/lesbian community and heterosexism in the Asian-American community. Fukaya ended her life by suicide.

The Great Mirror of Male Love.

By Saikaku Ihara; translated and with an introduction by Paul Gordon Schalow. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1990 (and later printings). (371 p.; ISBN 9780804718950)

Story collection.

First published in the 17th century (1687).

Work presents homoerotic relationships between warriors and monks, and between kabuki theatre actors.

Original Japanese title (transliterated): Nanshoku Ōkagami.

Hashimoto, Emily.

A World Between: A Novel. New York: The Feminist Press at the City University of New York, 2020. (432 p.; ISBN 9781936932955)

Novel.

The author's debut novel "follows the lives of Eleanor Suzuki and Leena Shah [from an Indian family], two young immigrant women who meet and fall into a whirlwind romance as college students in Boston in 2004. Years later,...[they] collide on the streets of San Francisco, and find themselves drawn back in together" (ref.: Publisher description as given in OCLC WorldCat record).

Author lives in New Jersey [USA].

This work listed also in the INDIA section.

Hasu, Sara Toshiko.

Megume and the Trees.

Nashville, Tennessee: Megami Press, 2010. (112 p.; ISBN 9780615404462)

Novel.

Fifteen-year-old Megume wakes to find herself in the woods, where she has strange encounters with others and experiences incidents that feel that they are right out of fairytales and Japanese stories. These, combined with her own vivid dreams, leave her to sort out the difference between her own mind and reality (adapted from book cover).

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Lesbian Debut Fiction.

Itō, Satoru, and Yanase, Ryūta.

Coming Out in Japan: The Story of Satoru and Ryuta. Translated from Japanese. Melbourne [Australia]: Trans Pacific Press, 2001. (337 p.; ISBN 9781876843021, 1876843020)

Biography/Memoir.

“This book presents the personal struggles of two remarkable men who have publicly declared their homosexuality and dedicated their lives to combating the discrimination and prejudice directed at same sex relationships in Japan....” (book jacket, as given in OCLC WorldCat record; see there for additional notes and library locations).

NOTE: Trans Pacific Press location as of 2020 is Tokyo (transpacificpress.com).

Kawabata, Yasunari.

L'Adolescent: récits autobiographiques. Translated to **French** from the original Japanese by Suzanne Rosset. Paris: Albin Michel, 1992. (219 p. ; ISBN 9782253932321)

Autobiography.

Originally published in Japanese, ca. 1951, as: Shōnen.

Kimura, Rei.

Japanese Magnolia. [S.I.]: Mehta Publishing House; Bangkok Book House, 2010 (also [S.I.]: booksmango, 2014). (various pagings, ca. 200-340 p.; various ISBNs: 9788184980363 (print), 9788184981384 (e-book), and 9786162220104 (e-book, 2014) [etc.]).

Novel.

In conservative 18th-century Japan, a samurai's son and a peasant boy fall in love. The book is “based on the true story of two men....” (book information at amazon.com).

NOTE: different imprints and formats of this title appear at, for example, the websites of books.google.com.hk, AbeBooks, Goodreads.com, amazon.com, and Barnes & Noble; and in WorldCat catalog record no. 1162168182 (e-book, 2014). The WorldCat catalog also carries a record for a Thai-language version.

Author is “a lawyer with a passion for writing about unique events and personalities” and “is also a qualified freelance journalist and is associated with the Australian News Syndicate” (“About the author” at amazon.com book entry).

Kobayashi, Tamai.

Exile and the Heart: Lesbian Short Stories.

Toronto: Women's Press, 1998.

(102 p.; ISBN 9780889612297)

Short stories.

Stories of women pursuing love, friendship, and identity in the diaspora.

Set in Japan and North America (ref.: Goodreads summary).

Author was born in Japan in 1965 and grew up in Canada.

Kobayashi, Tamai.

Prairie Ostrich: A Novel.

Fredericton, NB: Goose Lane, 2014.

(200 p.; ISBN 9780864926807)

Novel.

Imogene "Egg" Murakami, an eight-year-old Japanese-Canadian girl living on a farm in Alberta, is helped through a difficult time by her older sister when her older brother dies in an accident. Kathy, the older sister, is also dealing with a teenage lesbian relationship with a girl in her class.

Author has received the Dayne Ogilvie Prize for LGBT Emerging Writers.

Li. Kotomi.

Solo Dance. Translated from Japanese by Arthur Reiji Morris.

New York: World Editions, 2022.

(251 p.; ISBN 9781642861143, 1642861146)

Novel.

Cho Norie, 27, from Taiwan and working in an office in Tokyo, keeps her unconventional life and sexuality hidden from her colleagues....[The story] "depicts the painful coming of age of a gay person in Taiwan and corporate Japan" (OCLC WorldCat catalog Summary).

This title is also entered on the CHINA list.

Matsuura, Rieko [Matsūra, Rieko].

The Apprenticeship of Big Toe P: A Novel. Translated from Japanese by

Michael Emmerich. Tokyo; New York: Kodansha International, 2009.

(447 p.; ISBN 9784770031167)

Novel.

"A provocative, picaresque spin on a coming-of-age story, the novel tells of a young Japanese woman who wakes up one afternoon to discover that her big toe has turned into a penis. In learning to adjust..., the heroine is forced to reconsider her body, her sexuality and her life...." (ref.: amazon.com, Books).

Originally published in Japanese in 1993.

Mishima, Yukio.

Confessions of a Mask. Translated from Japanese by Meredith Weatherby. Norfolk, Connecticut: New Directions, 1958. (255 p.)

Novel.

The story of Kochen, an adolescent boy tormented by his attraction to men. Originally published in Japanese as: Kamen no Kokuhaku, 1949.

Older, classic work for which many editions and translations are available.

Mishima, Yukio.

L'École de la chair. Translated to **French** from the original Japanese by Yves-Marie and Brigitte Allieux. Paris: Gallimard, 1993. (288 p.; ISBN 9782070727049)

Novel.

Originally published in Japanese in 1963 as: Nikutai no gakkō.

In 1960s Japan, Taeko, one of three jaded widows who meet to talk about their romances, develops an attachment for a young gay bar worker.

NOTE: this has been adapted as a 1998 French film, with same French title.

Mishima, Yukio.

Forbidden Colors. Translated from Japanese by Alfred H. Marks. New York: Knopf, 1968.

Novel.

Bitter, aging novelist seeks vengeance on women who have betrayed him.

He finds his perfect instrument, the young man Yuichi, whose beauty makes him attractive to women. But Yuichi is just discovering his attraction to men. Originally published in Japanese as: Kinjiki, ca. 1951.

Older, classic work for which many editions and translations are available.

Mochizuki, Aska.

Spinning Tropics: A Novel. Translated from Japanese by Wayne P. Lammers. New York: Vintage Books, 2009. (231 p.; ISBN 9780307473691, 0307473694)

Novel.

Hiro, a Japanese woman in her twenties, has left Tokyo to teach Japanese in Vietnam. A shy young Vietnamese woman becomes one of her students and the two women are attracted to one another. When a Japanese businessman becomes friendly with Hiro, her student becomes jealous and a complicated triangle develops (adapted from penguinrandomhouse.ca website description). Originally published in Japanese as: Kaiten suru nettai (Tokyo: Random House Kodansha, 2007).

This title has also been entered at the VIETNAM heading.

Nagata, Kabi.

My Lesbian Experience with Loneliness. Translated from Japanese by Jocelyne Allen. Los Angeles: Seven Seas Entertainment, 2017. (142 p.; ISBN 9781626926035, 1626926034)

Autobiography (manga).

“...is an honest and heartfelt look at one woman’s exploration of her sexuality, mental well-being, and growing up in our modern age...” (Publisher note as given in OCLC WorldCat catalog record).

Originally published in Japanese: Tokyo: East Press, 2016.

Available also in traditional Chinese (published: Xianggang [Hong Kong]: Wan li ji gou, 2017) (See OCLC WorldCat record no. 1099729556 for Chinese-character author/title/imprint).

Nishimura, Kodo.

This Monk Wears Heels: Be Who You Are. London: Watkins, 2022. (253 p.; ISBN 9781786786173, 1786786176)

Autobiography.

The story of a gay Buddhist monk together with his advice on self-acceptance and adoption of a Buddhist approach to living. The author “reveals how inclusive the Buddhist teachings really are – and that yes, it is possible to be a Buddhist monk and do makeup and wear sparkly earrings” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

The author, an LGBTQ+ activist and ordained Pure Land Buddhist monk, grew up in Tokyo (where his father was a Buddhist priest), studied Fine Art in the United States, and was ordained after returning to Japan (see author’s website at kodonishimura.com and Wikipedia article: Kodo Nishimura).

The book is available in many languages, including Japanese, French, Spanish, German, Italian, and Estonian, and will be available (according to author’s website, viewed November 12, 2023) in Mongolian and Hebrew.

Ōe, Kenzaburō.

Prize Stock.

In Teach Us to Outgrow Our Madness: [Four Short Novels]. Translated from Japanese by John Nathan.

London: Serpent’s Tail, 1989.

(ISBN 9781852421632)

Novels (collection).

Prize Stock originally published in Japanese in 1958 as: Shiiku.

The novels in the collection are all by Ōe.

NOTE: Prize Stock is also in The Oxford Book of Japanese Short Stories, edited by Theodore W. Goossen (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010 [and other dates])

Partings at Dawn: An Anthology of Japanese Gay Literature.

Works translated from Japanese by various translators.
Edited by Stephen D. Miller.
San Francisco: Gay Sunshine Press, 1996.
(351 p.; ISBN 9780940567177, etc.)

Anthology.

Includes works from the 12th to 20th centuries.
Includes works of Yukio Mishima and Matsuo Takahashi; excerpts from Hisao Hiruma's novel, Yes Yes Yes; and other pieces.

NOTE: Table of Contents is given in one OCLC WorldCat record.

Queer Subjects in Modern Japanese Literature: Male Love, Intimacy, and Erotics, 1886-2014. Edited by Stephen D. Miller.

Ann Arbor, Michigan: University of Michigan Press, 2022.
(480 p.; ISBN 9780472055678, 0472055674)

Anthology.

This scholarly compilation covers a time period much broader than that aimed for in this bibliography, but is a necessary inclusion. It is an anthology of translated Japanese literature covering more than 125 years, which “aims to introduce a diverse array of authors to an English-speaking audience and provide further context for their works” (goodreads.com).

Note: OCLC WorldCat catalog record no. 1356278589 (the Contents note) lists the authors, titles [English and transliterated Japanese], translators, and years of original publication of the works included in the anthology. Four of the sixteen chapters are for works from the 21st century (works by Tanaka Atsusuke, Fukushima Jirō, Tawada Yōko, and Morii Ryō).

Queer Voices from Japan: First-person Narratives from Japan's Sexual Minorities.

Edited by Mark McLelland, Katsuhiko Sukanuma, and James Welker.
Lanham, Maryland [USA]: Lexington Books, 2010.
(356 p.; ISBN 9780739121597, 0739121596, etc.).

Anthology.

“These essays trace the evolution of queer voices in Japan....This book offers a variety of perspectives including a range of male-to-female and female-to-male transgender voices and experiences” (amazon.com listing [viewed June 16, 2020]); “...collection of first-person accounts of queer lives since World War II” (publisher synopsis, as quoted in OCLC WorldCat record no. 636080924); “...gives an informative and trustworthy account of Japanese GLBT people” (Gay and Lesbian Review, as noted at amazon.com listing).

Ramos, Ricardo.

Searching for the Key: A Novel.
San Jose, CA: Writers Club Press, 2002.
(186 p.; ISBN 9780595228126)

Novel.

“A Japanese-American wife manipulates her husband into bed with a gay Filipino co-worker” (ref.: Walker).

Revoyr, Nina.

The Necessary Hunger: A Novel.
Brooklyn, NY: Akashic Books, 2019 (originally published 1997).
(368 p.; ISBN 9781617756696)

Novel.

Coming-of-age story set in Los Angeles in the late 1980s. Shy Japanese-American girl in love with an outgoing African-American fellow high school student makes her way through her last year in an inner city school. **Author** was born in Japan to a Japanese mother and Polish father; she grew up in Tokyo and the US.

Revoyr, Nina.

Southland.
New York: Akashic Books, 2003.
(348 p.; ISBN 9781888451412)

Novel.

“A compelling story of race, love, murder, and history” (book cover).
Set in Los Angeles. Protagonist, a young Japanese-American woman, Jackie Ishida, deals with the death of her grandfather in light of murders that occurred earlier during the 1965 Watts Riots.
Lambda Literary Awards winner for Lesbian Fiction.

Revoyr, Nina.

Wingshooters. New York: Akashic Books, 2011.
(250 p.; ISBN 9781936070718)

Novel.

“Michelle LeBeau and her white-Japanese family are forever changed when a black family moves into her all-white town in 1974” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).
Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Lesbian Fiction.

Sparkling Rain and Other Fiction from Japan of Women Who Love Women.

Edited by Barbara Summerhawk and Kimberly Hughes; various translators.
Chicago: New Victoria Publishers, 2008.
(216 p.; ISBN 9781892281265)

Anthology (see Table of Contents in some OCLC WorldCat records).
NOTE: Kaho Nakayama, author of the titular short story “Sparkling Rain,”
has been described as “Japan’s only contemporary self-identified lesbian
novelist” (Routledge Handbook of Sexuality Studies in East Asia (2015),
as quoted in Wikipedia article: Kaho Nakayama (writer))

Sueyoshi, Amy Haruko.

Queer Compulsions: Race, Nation, and Sexuality in the Affairs of Yone Noguchi.
Honolulu: University of Hawai’i Press, 2012.
(229 p.; 9780824834975)

Biography.

Young Japanese writer travels to the United States in the 1890s and has a
passionate relationship with writer Charles Warren Stoddard. He also has
relationships with women, eventually returning to Japan and marrying a woman.

Sugiura, Misa.

It’s Not Like It’s a Secret. New York: Harper Teen, 2017.
(394 p.; ISBN 9780062473417, 0062473417)

Novel (young adult).

Sixteen-year-old Sana Kiyohara has a lot of secrets, but the one she can hardly
admit to herself is that she wants to date a girl (note adapted from book cover).
Note: a later teen title by this author is: Love and Other Natural Disasters (2022).

Sumida, Nick.

Snackies.
San Francisco: Youth in Decline, 2014.
(1 volume; ISBN 9780990518617)

Graphic novel.

The author’s comics, including strips on “internet dating as a gay man in
New York” (ref.: Google Books)
Lambda Literary Awards nomination for LGBT Graphic Novel.

Tagame, Gengoroh [pen name].

My Brother’s Husband, volume 1. Translated from Japanese by Anne Ishii.
New York: Pantheon Books, 2017.
(352 p.; ISBN 9781101871515)

Graphic novel.

Yaichi's suburban life in Tokyo is interrupted by the arrival of a Canadian hulk named Mike Flanagan, who claims to be the widower of Yaichi's gay twin, Ryoji.... (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Originally published in Japanese as: Otouto no Otto (Tokyo: Futabasha, 2014). Lambda Literary Awards nomination for LGBT Graphic Novel.

Author Tagame, a Japanese manga artist, is known for his hypermasculinity portrayals.

NOTE ALSO:

My Brother's Husband, volume 2. Translated by Anne Ishii. New York: Pantheon Books, 2018.

Tagame, Gengoroh.

Our Colors. Translated from Japanese by Anne Ishii.

New York: Pantheon Books, 2022.

(528 p.; ISBNs 9781524748562, 1524748560)

Graphic novel.

“Set in contemporary suburban Japan, ...[this] is the story of Sora Itoda... a sixteen-year-old aspiring painter...[who] wants to live honestly as a young gay man in high school, but that is still not acceptable in Japanese society....Sora's world changes forever when he meets Mr. Amamiya, a middle-aged gentleman who is the owner...of a local coffee shop, and who is completely, unapologetically out as a gay man....” (ref.: book jacket).

Takahashi, Mutsuo.

Poems of a Penisist. Translated from Japanese by Hiraoki Sato.

Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2012.

(108 p.; ISBN 9780816679720)

Poetry.

Celebration of the male body, reminiscent of Walt Whitman, with homosexual desire treated as sacred. Noted to be one of the most important compilations of homoerotic poetry written in the 20th century (OCLC Worldcat record).

Originally published in English translation by Chicago Review Press, 1975.

Takahashi, Mutsuo.

Sleeping, Sinning, Falling. Translated from Japanese by Hiraoki Sato.

San Francisco: City Lights Publishers, 1992.

(144 p.; ISBN 9780872862685)

Poetry.

Takahashi, Mutsuo.

Twelve Views from the Distance. Translated from Japanese by Jeffrey Angles.

Minneapolis, MN [USA]: University of Minnesota Press, c2012.

Memoir/Autobiography.

Originally published in Japanese in 1970, the work “traces a boy’s childhood and its intersection with the rise of the Japanese empire and World War II.... With great candor...[the author] discusses the budding awareness of his sexual preference for men, providing a rich exploration of one man’s early queer life in a place where modern, Western-influenced models of gay identity were still unknown....[Takahashi] recreates the lost [rural southwestern Japanese] world that was the setting for his beginnings as a gay man and poet” (Minnesota University Press: upress.umn.edu)

Tamaki, Mariko.

Skim.

Toronto: Groundwood Books, 2008.
(141 p.; ISBN 9780888997531)

Graphic novel

Set in 1993; a teenage Japanese-Canadian girl with romantic feelings for her female teacher at an all-girls Catholic school.

Author is Canadian of Japanese and Jewish descent and was born in Toronto.

Tatsuhiko, Ishii.

Bathhouse and Other Tanka. Translated from Japanese by Hiroaki Sato.

New York: New Directions, 2023.
(160 p.; ISBN 9780811231343, 0811231348)

Poetry (tanka).

“...resonates with a mix of philosophical lyricism, inquisitive exuberance, and homoerotic desire....Ishii pens songs of momentary love and flames of lust, of mankind’s self-destruction and the self mirrored in the seven deadly sins....” (amazon.com, Book Overview).

Treat, John Whittier.

Great Mirrors Shattered: Homosexuality, Orientalism, and Japan.

New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.
(241 p.; ISBN 9780195109238, 0195109236)

Scholarly memoir.

Treat, a white American professor in Japan on sabbatical in the 1980s, “found himself immersed in the emergence of...AIDS, and the sweeping denial, hysteria, and projection with which Japan – a place where ‘there are no homosexuals’ – tried to insulate itself from the epidemic” (book summary, OCLC WorldCat catalog record).

Yamazaki, Nao-Cola.

“Cavities and Kindness.” Translated from Japanese by Kalau Almony.
In Words Without Borders Magazine, June 2014 issue (Queer Issue V)
(online).

Short story.

Kawanishi-san, the trans narrator, breaks up with Ito-san, a boyfriend of four years, the story presented together with relating of some interactions at the dentist’s office.

Originally published in Don’t Laugh at Other People’s Sex, published by Kawade Shobo Shinsha [as noted at end of translated story in the magazine].

SOUTH KOREA

Introduction

NOTE: Placed at this heading is a work authored by a **gay North Korean** defector to South Korea. See at **Chang** in the list following the Introduction.

The Korean Introduction and the list together note works in English translation, in Korean as original language, and in original English.

The current number of published Korean LGBT works in translation in comparison to the modern and growing body of Korean-language LGBT literature seems to be relatively small. Those who read Korean will want to examine works beyond this list and can search for additional information to confirm summary observations given in the digest below.

For background to modern Korean LGBT literature, with some historical comments, see a lengthy **four-part post** by Charles Montgomery at “Korean Literature in Translation” (www.ktlit.com), December 22, 23, and 28, 2011, and January 6, 2012 [viewed January 22, 2020], in which Montgomery questions Gabriel Sylvian, founder of The Korea Gay Literature Project. The parts are the following:

- Part 1 (Dec. 22, 2011), “Gabriel Sylvian answers some questions on Korean LGBT Literature #1,” wth discussion of historical issues;
- Part 2 (Dec. 23, 2011), “More with Gabriel Sylvian: Korean GLBT Literature #2” and Part 3 (Dec. 28, 2011), “More with Gabriel Sylvian: Yi Kwang-su and Gayness (Korean GLBT Literature #3),” concerning modern (20th-century onwards) gay/lesbian literature and “notable” authors; and
- Part 4 (Jan. 6, 2012), “More with Gabriel Sylvian: Korean GLBT Literature #4,” discussing translation of gay/lesbian literature to English and the Korea Gay Literature Project.

Briefly noted from Sylvian’s lengthy discussion are the following points:

Same-sex themes in modern Korean literature begin with Yi Gwang-su [Yi Kwang-su] in the early 20th century, with Gim Hwan writing in the 1920s, and Yi Hyoseok producing a novel (Pollen) in the late 1930s. Sylvian gives several other names. His comments suggest that, in general, same-sex portrayals were infrequent, minor, and not written sympathetically.

The subsequent period from the 1940s through to democratization in 1987 “marks a general moratorium on same-sex themes in Korean literature,” although Sylvian notes a couple of individuals.

After 1987, “Jang Jeong-il came out swinging against sexual repression.” “His debut novel treated the topic of Itaewon gays,” although his “portrayals of gay

men are far from positive.” Sylvian continues: “From the mid-1990s a young and energetic LGBT politics emerged on the public scene and same-sex characters began to appear in works by Song Gyeong-a, Yi Na-mi, Seo Yeong-eun, Yun Dae-nyeong, Baek Min-seok, and a handful of others, each writer with his/her own perspective and, for the most part, not very positive,” although he notes Song and another writer, Yi Nam-hui, as exceptions.

Sylvian points to Bae Su-a and Shin Gyeong-suk as writers on same-sex themes in the 2000s, and characterizes three decades, noting that “[i]f the 80s was the decade for poetry, and the 90s the novel, then the 2000s was the decade for theatre, and increasingly, film.” (Here he singles out one “problematic” play for comment: “‘Fig Blossoms,’ the first major theatrical articulation of the Korean LGBT reality”).

For more recent but briefer comments about the increasing visibility of queer Korean authors, see Anton Hur’s online Words Without Borders Magazine essay, “Korean Literature Is Stepping Out” (June-July 2019 issue), which incorporates links to a few of the authors/works listed below; and Kyung-eon Yang’s “Queer Literature” article (fully cited in the Sources list).

Chang, Yǒng-jin, 1959- [Jang Yeong-jin].
Pulgŭn nekt'ai : Chang Yǒng-jin changp'yŏn sosŏl [A Mark of Red Honor].
Sŏul [Seoul, South Korea]: Mulmangch'o, 2015.
(368 p.; ISBN 9791195236947)

In Korean.

Autobiography [noted also as autobiographical novel/fiction in some sources].
Author, when in his 30s in 1997, escapes from North to South Korea by crawling across the mined Demilitarized Zone. He is questioned for months by officials, comes to realize finally that he is a gay man, and leads a difficult life for decades.

For English-language background, see, for example,

Choe Sang-Hun, “North Korean Defector Opens Up about Long-held Secret: His Homosexuality,” New York Times, June 5, 2015 (online) [viewed March 21, 2021]; and a later piece about the author:

Julie Yoonnyung Lee, “North Korea’s ‘Only Openly Gay Defector’ Finds Love,” BBC News (www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-56323825), March 21, 2021 (online) [viewed March 21, 2021].

See OCLC WorldCat record 909887476 for author/title information in both Korean script and transliteration.

Published also in **Chinese** translation: Tuo Bei zhe: nan tong zhi (Taipei Shi: Lian he wen xue chu ban she gu fen you xian gong si, 2018) (ISBN 9789863232551).

(See OCLC WorldCat catalogue record 1057728512 which provides Chinese character author/title/imprint for this translation).

Chee, Alexander.

Edinburgh. New York: Picador USA, 2002.
(212 p.; ISBN 9780312305031, etc.)

Novel.

“As a child, Fee is a gifted Korean-American soprano in a boys’ choir in Maine. Silent after being abused by the director, he is unable to warn the other boys or protect his best friend....Even after the director is imprisoned, Fee continues to believe he is responsible, and while he survives to adulthood, his friends do not....” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Chee, Alexander.

How to Write an Autobiographical Novel: Essays.
Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2018.
(280 p.; ISBN 9781328764522)

Biography.

“...[explores] how we form our identities in life, in politics, and in art” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Choi, Eunyoung.

“[The Summer].” Translated from Korean by Jamie Chang.
In Korean Literature Today (www.koreanliteraturenow.com), March 25, 2019,
Fiction posting (online) [viewed December 20, 2019].

Short story.

This appears to be an excerpt from a Korean-language short story collection titled (in English translation) Someone Harmless to Me (pp. 25-41; Asia Publishers, 2017). Check reference above for book cover photo in Korean and a note following the story translation.

“If you’d like to see how lesbians form their identities and relationships with others and under what social constraints,...[this story] is for you”;

“With delicate prose, this story shows how eighteen-year-old Yi-gyeong and Suyi fall in love and, after moving to Seoul, how each of them goes through a change of heart under their altered social and class status....” (ref.: Yang).

Choi, Franny.

Soft Science.
Farmington, Maine: Alice James Books, 2019.
(95 p.; ISBN 9781938584992)

Poetry.

“explores queer Asian American femininity” (OCLC WorldCat, Summary).
Author identified as Korean-American queer writer (Wikipedia).

Choi, Jin-young [Ch 'oe, Chin-yŏng].

To the Warm Horizon. Translated from Korean by Soje.

London: Honford Star, 2021.

(171 p.; ISBN 9781916277144)

Novel.

Apocalyptic work; “Dori, fleeing a pandemic that’s wiped out the country, meets the nonchalant Jina and finds herself desiring more than mere survival”

(from Introduction to earlier Words Without Borders Magazine translation of excerpt, June 2018).

Korean-language original (transliteration): Hae ka chinŭn kot ŭro (Sŏul-si [Seoul]: Minŭmsa, 2017) (See OCLC WorldCat catalog record no. 1108258154).

NOTE: Interview of Choi by So J. Lee (“In One Long Breath,” Words Without Borders, WWB Daily, published June 29, 2018), in which Choi notes writing the story “in one long breath” because, though she had written about lesbians in other works, she had “never presented it up front, made it the whole story.” She mentions the character Suseon, from her earlier novel The Never-ending Song [Korean-script title given in the interview], who was a lesbian of her mother’s generation, adding that “[o]ur generation of queers experience much oppression and discrimination, so you can only imagine how it was for the generation before us.”

Insaeng ŭn ōnjena munŏjigi ilbo chikchŏn [Life Is Always on the Verge of Falling

Apart]. Sŏul-si [Seoul]: K'yuk'yu, 2019.

(311 p.; ISBN 9791196438135)

In Korean.

Short stories.

Ref.: OCLC WorldCat record no. 1126336490 notes nine stories about gender identity/sexual minorities in South Korea. Record gives Korean script for collective title/author names/imprint, with the nine titles in transliteration.

Jang, Yeong-jin.

SEE at: Chang, Yŏng-jin, above in this section.

Jeon, Sam-hye.

“Genesis.” Translated from Korean by Anton Hur.

In Words Without Borders Magazine, June 2016 issue (Queer Issue VII) (online).

In English and Korean (bilingual posting).

Short story.

“...smitten space trainee moons over her superstar roommate” (Queer Issue VII, Introduction).

Kim, Bi.

“Tree of Lips.” Translated from Korean by Sora Kim-Russell and Eunjung Kwon-Lee. In Words Without Borders Magazine, June 2012 issue (Queer Issue III) (online).

In English and Korean (bilingually posted).

Short story.

Narrator, Ran, is the preteen daughter of a transvestite “crazy dad,” whose wife has left. Uncomfortable with his behavior, Ran tries to understand why he dresses up, comes slowly to a better understanding, and contemplates revenge on the bigoted current partner of her step-mother.

Kim, Bong-gon.

“College Folk.” Translated from Korean by Kyoung-lee Park. In Words Without Borders Magazine, June-July 2019 issue (Queer Issue X) (online), in “New Korean Queer Writing” feature section.

Korean student in Kyoto saves his professor from scandal, then finds himself on the verge of creating a second one.

Excerpt from the author’s Speed, Summer! (as noted in the magazine issue, in Anton Hur essay titled “Korean Literature Is Stepping Out”). Same[?] work also referred to in English as Summer, Speed and noted as having been withdrawn, along with other works, by the publishers, because of outings without consent (see Sources, at Park, Ji-won)

NOTE also: the author’s **Korean**-language novella, titled (in English) “Auto,” which “...reads like a diary whose author, a gay man, secretly tells readers his love story....” (ref.: Yang).

Kim, Hye-jin.

Ttal e taehayō [About My Daughter].

Sōul-si [Seoul]: Minūmsa, 2017.

(214 p.; ISBN 9788937473173, 9788937473005)

In Korean.

Novel.

Excerpt translated to English by Anton Hur in: Words Without Borders Magazine, June-July 2019 issue (Queer Issue X) (online), in “New Korean Queer Writing” Feature section.

The narrator “finds herself living with her lesbian daughter and her [daughter’s] partner who cannot find an affordable place of their own”; the novel portrays the mother’s “struggle to understand her daughter’s generation as her daughter fights for her colleagues who were fired from a university on account of their sexual identity....” (ref.: Yang).

For Korean-script author/title information, see OCLC WorldCat record.

Translation to Chinese as: Guan yu nū er (published in Taiwan, 2019; see Chinese-script details in OCLC WorldCat record)

Kim, Hyön [Kim, Hyun].

Glory Hole. Translated from Korean by Suhyun J. Ahn and Archana Madhavan. London: Seagull Books, 2022.
(186 p.; ISBNs 9780857429872, 0857429876)

Poetry.

“Kim Hyun’s Glory Hole is the first Korean queer poetry collection. Featuring gay teens, elders, cats, caterpillars, robots, and other unexpected characters, Kim’s fifty-one eccentric poems trace themes of love, sexual desire, abandonment, destitution, and death....” (ref.: Publisher note as given in OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Yang notes the poet’s experiments with format, and his “continu[ing] to challenge the acceptance of a societal order that the majority has agreed upon, excluding those that do not fit in”; his poems “convey the most ardent queer sensibilities among contemporary Korean poems” (see Yang ref. in Sources)

Kim, Willyce.

Dancer Dawkins and the California Kid.
Boston: Alyson Publications, 1985.
(133 p.; ISBN 9780932870599)

Novel.

“Dancer Dawkins views life best from behind a pile of hotcakes. But her lover, Jessica Riggins, has fallen into the clutches of Fatin Satin Aspen.... Meanwhile,...the California Kid...heads west. When this crew collides in San Francisco...[j]ust about anything [can happen]” (book cover)

SEE ALSO author’s Dead Heat (Boston: Alyson Publications, 1988), which has a cast of lesbian characters who debuted in Dancer Dawkins and the California Kid.

Author born in Honolulu to second-generation Korean parents.

Kim, Willyce.

Eating Artichokes.
Oakland, CA: Woman’s Press Collective, 1972.
(22 p.)

Poetry.

Kim is “recognized as the first Asian lesbian to have her work published in the United States....Kim published three books of poetry, Curtains of Light [Oakland, CA: W. Kim,] (1970), Eating Artichokes (1972) and Under the Rolling Sky [Maude Gonne Press,] (1976), that depicted love and friendship... [and] were frank in their description of sex and passion between women....” (encyclopedia.com entry for Kim [viewed Dec. 2019]).

These much older works are included because of what seem to be the poet’s groundbreaking work regarding Asian-American lgbt publication.

Lee, Hyemi.

“The Cupboard with Strawberry Jam.” Translated from Korean by So J. Lee. In Words Without Borders Magazine, June-July 2019 issue (Queer Issue X) (online), in “New Korean Queer Writing” Feature section.

Prose poem.

Excerpt from the author’s poetry collection Unexpected Vanilla (Moonji Publications, 2016), as noted following the translated story. So J. Lee’s additional translations from Unexpected Vanilla have appeared in, e.g., Modern Poetry in Translation, Korean Literature Now, and Asymptote.

Lee, Jong San.

“Customer.” Translated from Korean by Victoria Caudle. In Words Without Borders Magazine, June-July 2019 issue (Queer Issue X) (online), in “New Korean Queer Writing” feature section.

Novel excerpt.

From the author’s book (as noted in the magazine issue, in the Anton Hur essay titled “Korean Literature Is Stepping Out”).

“A student meets her first androgyne and makes a startling discovery in this chapter from the futuristic novel” (Introductory note to translation)

Lee, Joon Oluchi.

Neotenica. New York: Nightboat Books, 2020. (120 p.; ISBN 9781643620206)

Novella.

Presented in vignettes; Young Ae, is a Korea-born ballet dancer; her Korean-American husband is “straight but gay-cruising”. Author, in interview, notes that one goal was “to explore my own psyche as a femme gay male person”.

(ref.: Corinne Manning, “Joon Oluchi Lee Talks Power, Pleasure, and His New Book Neotenica,” Lambda Literary website

(www.lambdaliterary.org), Aug. 12, 2020 (online; viewed Mar. 18, 2021).

Lambda Literary Awards winner for Gay Fiction.

Author is a professor at Rhode Island School of Design [USA].

Pak, Sang-yŏng [Park, Sang Young].

Allyŏjji anŭn yesulga ŭi nunmul kwa Chait’un pasŭt’a [The Tears of an Unknown Artist, or Zaytun Pasta].

Kyŏnggi-do Pa’ju-si: Munhak Tongne, 2018.

(349 p.; ISBN 9788954652865)

In Korean.

Short stories.

“...gay men’s lives are depicted more nakedly [than in other works]. Through the stories of the first-person narrator who tried and failed to make the best gay film and Wang Sha whose art hasn’t achieved anything, the novella portrays the desires and wretched lives of those ousted from the mainstream...” (ref.: Yang). See OCLC WorldCat record for Korean-script author/title information

Pak, Sang-yŏng [Park, Sang Young].

Love in the Big City. Translated from Korean by Anton Hur.
New York, NY: Grove Press, an imprint of Grove Atlantic, 2021.
(234 p.; ISBN 9780802158789, 0802158781)

Novel.

Summary from dust jacket (as quoted in an OCLC record for English translation):

“...funny, transporting, surprising, and poignant English-language debut of Sang Young Park....A runaway bestseller in Korea....Young is a cynical yet fun-loving Korean student....Yet over time, even Jaehee [his female best friend and roommate] leaves Young to settle down, leaving him alone to care for his ailing mother and to find companionship in his relationships with a series of men.... [A] wry portrait of millennial loneliness as well as the abundant joys of queer life.”

Originally published in Korean as Taedosi ūi sarangpŏp (Ch'angbi, Kyŏnggi-do, P'aju-si, 2019). [SEE OCLC Worldcat record no. 1112072779 for Korean-script title, imprint, and summary].

Sarang ūl mŏmch'uji marayo [Don't Stop Love].

Sŏul-si [Seoul]: K'yuk'yu, 2018.
(199 p.; ISBN 9791196438111)

In Korean.

Short stories.

Contents: Pyŏl kwa kŭrimja / Yi Chong-san – Leidi / Kim Kŭm-hŭi – Kangwŏn-do hyŏng / Pak Sang-yŏng – Ppŏnhan sesang ūi aju p'yŏngbŏmhan malt'u / Im Sor-a -- K'amilla / Kang Hwa-gil – Yuwŏl yŏlch'a / Kim Pong-gon.

Ref.: OCLC WorldCat record no. 1086390493 notes this work as fiction about sexual minorities/homosexuality and gives the title in Korean script.

CHINA

Introduction

Note 1: Approximately **thirty percent of the entries** in the Chinese list are for works **in Chinese** for which no translation is noted.

If an entry is under Chinese title with no note regarding translation, do **not** assume that the work has not been translated, but inquire further. (This comment applies also to works published originally in either traditional or simplified Chinese script, for which an alternative script edition may be available).

For **works in translation**, entry is normally under translated title (English, usually). Original title (in transliteration) is noted when possible.

Note also authors/titles mentioned in the Introduction, but not repeated on the list.

Note 2: The Chinese list emphasizes works from the 21st century or the very late 20th century (roughly the last twenty-five years). More recent imprint years of works from Taiwan, Hong Kong, and the diaspora are better represented than those same years from the PRC. Additional listing work may be needed here. Rachel Leng's work on PRC internet literature is instructive (see Sources).

Note 3: Authors of Chinese heritage whose country or region was uncertain were placed at this heading. SEE some additional authors placed elsewhere, and particularly see the SINGAPORE and MALAYSIA lists.

Note 4: The placement of works emanating from Taiwan, Hong Kong, the People's Republic of China, and from the diaspora, in a single section, CHINA, is a **cultural** placement only, recognizing shared language and a significant sharing of traditions. A few comments about the differing developments of LGBT literature in Taiwan and in the People's Republic of China (Mainland China) are noted later in this Introduction.

Note 5: For additional works with **LGBT Hong Kong** connections, see the bilingual (Chinese and English) bibliography, [Towards Full Citizenship](#) (full reference in Sources, at end of this list). Only a few of the many entries from the Literature and Biography sections in [Towards Full Citizenship](#) have been duplicated here. Additional authors of note on the list include Timothy Mo and Tony Chun-ling Lo (in English) and Edward Yik-wah Lam [Lin, Yihua], Maike, Jizhejia [Henry Lam] and You, Jing [Yau, Ching] (in Chinese). Note also Hong Kong-born **Kitty Tsui**, who published works in the US in the 1980s and '90s, including [Breathless: Erotica](#) (Ithaca, NY: Firebrand Books, 1996), and is claimed to be "the first recorded Chinese American lesbian to be a published author" (Wikipedia: Kitty Tsui [viewed March 09, 2020]).

Note 6: Overview essays are presented in Routledge International Encyclopedia of Queer Culture by Cui Zi'en and Ying Zhu (at the heading "China, 'Tongzhi' Literature") and by Fran Martin (at "Taiwan, Literature"). There is a broader entry, by Stephen D. Miller at "Asia, Literature". Some introductory comments and quotations for this section are based on notes from those three essays. (The encyclopedia was issued a decade ago, in 2006 and again in 2011). There is also a section in the 2003 Columbia Companion to Modern East Asian Literature.

Several additional comments and quotations are based on the Ta-wei Chi [Dawei Ji]-curated webpage essay posted in the Taiwan Ministry of Culture's Taiwan Culture Toolkit, LGBT Literature webpage (see Sources).

Rachel Leng's 2013 paper (see Sources, and Note 2) is helpful on PRC issues.

Two more recent scholarly works with respect to **Taiwanese** lgbt/tongzhi literature, the first in Chinese and the other in English, are:

Ji, Dawei [Chi, Ta-wei]. Tong zhi wen xue shi: Taiwan de fa ming. [A Queer Invention in Taiwan: A History of Tongzhi Literature] (Taibei Shi: Lian jing chu ban, 2017); and
Chiang, Howard and Wang, Yin, eds. Perverse Taiwan. (Abingdon, Oxon; New York: Routledge, 2017).

Ji looks at six decades of Taiwan queer literature, presenting themes and insights on different eras; Chiang and Wang is an interdisciplinary collection of essays on gay Taiwanese culture, of interest also to those studying literature.

Chinese culture region of Northeast Asia

The areas of Chinese culture and writing of northeastern Asia record centuries-old historical references concerning homosexuality, as do the Indian and Japanese civilizations. References in Chinese literature of the **dynastic periods** have been often discussed and debated. (A frequently quoted work by a Western observer is Bret Hinsch's Passions of the Cut Sleeve; see Sources). Two notable points of discussion are that historical literary works were products of elite social strata and that there is the linguistic issue of lack of distinction between the pronouns for 'she' and 'he' in written and spoken Chinese.

A frequently referenced traditional Chinese literary term for homosexuality is *Duan xiu zhi pi* [Passion of the Cut Sleeve], an allusion which concerns the story of the relationship of the Han emperor Ai with his lover Dong Xian (a later "Cut Sleeve" story version is "Huang Jiulang," by the Qing dynasty (17th-century) author, Pu Songling). Also well known as a traditional term for homosexuality, *Fen tao* [The Bitten Peach] refers to a Zhao dynasty story of the beautiful Mizi Xia, the favored one of Duke Ling. Dynastic literature over the centuries carries references using these terms.

Mainland writings of the **Republican period (1912-1949)** include, for example, works from the 1920s of Yu Dafu, Guo Moruo, Huang Shenzhi and Ye Dingluo . Additional comments on this period can be had in Wenqing Kang's Obsession: Male Same-sex

Relations in China, 1900-1950 (see Sources). Kang notes: “my research found that love in the May Fourth spirit was not limited to love between men and women; it also included love between men.” Some “positive representation of love between men in May Fourth literature signals a new kind of interpretation of male same- sex relations in modern China....In China, until very recently the association of decadence with May Fourth literature has remained a taboo in modern literary historiography” (ref.: Kang, p. 12; see also ch. 3 for detailed discussion of Yu, Guo, Huang, and Ye).

Post-1949 development of LGBT/tongzhi literature in the Chinese culture region of northeast Asia has taken place in somewhat different ways and rates in different places, with Taiwan appearing to take the lead in writing and publishing. In this regard, see **Ta-wei Chi’s recent (2023) bibliographical essay and analysis**, listed in Sources.

Taiwan

Professor Ta-wei Chi [Dawei Ji], a curator on the Taiwan Ministry of Culture’s Taiwan Culture Toolkit (toolkit.culture.tw) website (LGBT Literature webpage) suggests that the “quality and quantity of Taiwan’s LGBT literature is extraordinary when compared with that of other Asian countries, or even the rest of the world.” “Other Chinese-speaking societies, such as China and Hong Kong,” his essay continues, “are limited by various taboos, and thus incapable of producing a similarly rich body of LGBT writing....” It is further suggested that “[p]aradoxically, LGBT literature has blossomed in Taiwan because society was once so repressed.” (Martial law was lifted in Taiwan in 1987). [webpage viewed January 14, 2020; check for additional background information].

Note also Ta-wei Chi’s Chinese-language work on Taiwanese queer literary history, titled: Tong zhi wen xue shi: Taiwan de fa ming (Taipei: Lian jing chu ban shi ye gu fen you xian gong si, 2017)(referred to in English as: A Queer Invention in Taiwan: A History of Tongzhi Literature).

The first modern Chinese novel to explicitly address male homosexuality was Nie zi [Crystal Boys] by Bai Xianyong [Pai Hsien-yung], set in a socially repressive Taiwan of the 1970s and published in Taipei in 1983. This classic of early modern lgbt literature has been translated into English and other languages, including Japanese and Vietnamese [see at Bai, on the list below]. Bai’s work was followed a few years later by the Chen Ruoxi [Chen Jo-hsi] novel, Zhi hun [Paper Marriage], for which see also the list below. Other early Taiwanese authors who began writing in the 1960s and 1970s and who are overlooked, according to Chi, are Jiang Gui, Guo Lianghai, and Bai’s classmate, Ouyang Zi.

Fran Martin points out that “[t]he 1990s marked a watershed in Taiwanese glbt writing. The appearance of a distinct tongzhi fiction paralleled the rise of tongzhi activism following the lifting of martial law in 1987.” She notes the publication of two works by already well-established authors: Huangren shouji [Notes of a Desolate Man] in 1994 by Zhu Tianwen [Chu T’ien-wen], listed separately below at Zhu, and a story by her sister, Chu T’ien-hsin, “Chunfeng hudie zhi shi” [A Story of Spring Butterflies], which appears in Martin’s anthology, Angelwings, noted below (as does another Chu T’ien-wen piece).

Martin further calls attention to (and these are included on the following list):
Ling Yan's Shi sheng hua mei [The Silent Thrush] (1990);
Du Xiulan's Ni nü [Rebel Daughter] (1996); and
Tsao Li-chuan's [Cao Lijuan's] "Tongnü zhi wu" [The Maidens' Dance] and
"Guanyu tade baifa ji qita" [Regarding Her White Hair and Other
Matters].

Hsu Yoshen [Hsu Yousheng / Xu Yousheng], a writer of "popular gay-themed fiction" is represented also, in Angelwings (below), with "Stones on the Shore," which focuses on a young Taiwanese man's experiences in New York City and his falling in love with a dancer from China.

Qiu Miaojin, "Taiwan's best-known lesbian author," who took her own life in 1995 at the age of 26, is represented below at Qiu and also in Angelwings. Martin notes that her writing "is exemplary of a distinct subcategory of 1990s tongzhi fiction referred to as 'queer literature' (ku'er wenxue)," a category which includes writings of Chi Ta-wei [Ji Dawei], Hong Ling, and Chen Xue (all of whom are represented in Angelwings, with Ji also noted in separate listings).

Chi Ta-wei has observed that "the 1990s is regarded as the golden age of LGBT literature in Taiwan," and adds to the names already noted above those of Lin Junying, Wu Jiwen, and Ji Dawei [i.e., himself, Chi Ta-wei], who write about gay men.

Although, according to Chi, the rise in popularity of the Internet was accompanied by a loss of literature's "favored status," he suggests also that "the passing of the LGBT literature fad was the normal result of the public's view of homosexuality as nothing out of the ordinary." Nevertheless, "[i]n the second decade of the twenty-first century established... [fiction writers] such as Guo Qiangsheng, Xu Yousheng, essayist Wang Shenghong, newcomers Luo Yujia, Lin Youxuan and others, as well as a group of new writers cultivated by the LGBT publishing company Gbooks, all continue to write on LGBT topics, proof that there is still a future for LGBT literature in Taiwan." [Compiler note: some works, older or newer, by Guo, Lin, and Xu [Hsu, in Angelwings] are noted on the list; but user might check for later works of theirs and works of other writers].

People's Republic of China (Mainland China)

A relative burst of tongzhi/LGBT-related writing appears beginning in the mid-1990s. The Routledge essays of Cui and Miller, cited above, make various observations and present some works of this period, with Miller noting that "[s]ince 1995 several novels, stories and collections [have been] published that touch on same-sex love and desire." Among the examples given are:

Chen Ran's Pokai [Breaking Open] (1995), which "led the way for the publication of more explicit lesbian works" [such as those of Ge Zhi and Zhang Haoyin, noted below]; Breaking Open "grapples with the question of constructing a social space for female companionship in an

urban environment” [see list at Red Is Not the Only Color for Chen’s Breaking Open in English translation];

Su Tong’s Shuiwa [transliterated in library catalogues as: Sui wa; English title: Broken Tile] (1997), which was “the first novel to explore same-sex desire,” although it “[dealt] with homosexuality only tangentially.” “It opened the way for more explicit novels,” including

Cui Zi’en’s Taoshe zhuichun [also: Tao se zui chun; The Peach-colored Lips] (1997), listed below with additional details and noted as having been rejected by more than twenty Mainland publishers before being published in Hong Kong to both popular and critical acclaim; and

Tong Ge’s Haonan Gelu [also: Hao nan Luo Ge (see this form on list below); Good Man Gelu] (1997), published in Hong Kong and reported to be popular in the Hong Kong gay community.

Ta ta ta ta de gu shi: Zhong Gang Tai zuo zhe duan pian xiao shuo ji
[His-his Her-her Love Stories / Same-sex Love Stories] (published in Hong Kong, 1996; 2nd ed., 1997) brought some PRC writers out of the closet.

Cui notes that the “first PRC-published tongzhi novels covering sexual and gender ‘transgression’ in all variations” were:

Cui Zi’en’s two works, Choujiao dengchang [Enter the Clowns] (1998), which “contemplates the relationship between gender and sexuality”; and Meigui chuangta [The Rose Bed] (1998), both included in the list below.

The two works noted above (at the Chen Ran entry) from Cui’s essay are:

Ge Zhi’s Miqing de rizhi [The Loving Days] (1999), a debut novel in which “the subject of sex between women received sustained exploration” and Zhang Haoyin’s Shanghai wangshi [The Bygone Days of Shanghai] (2003), which explores “intimate relationships between women” and appeared initially as an online serial novel.

(Compiler note: the Ge Zhi citation information is **as given** by Cui, but the work has not been found elsewhere based on those data. It has, then, not been entered on the list. Further clarification is required).

Various commentators have chosen to name different novels as the “first” from Mainland China. Several works appeared in a short period in the second half of the 1990s. One additional one not mentioned above, but on the list, is the work noted at Beitong, below, under one of its English language translation titles, Beijing Comrades.

The importance of the internet to the production and dissemination of tongzhi writing in Mainland China is great. To complement the print list assembled here, it is helpful to examine a 2013 work of Rachel Leng (see Sources), which provides a wealth of information regarding “comrade literature” (tongzhi wenxue) that “has emerged on the internet in Mainland China.” Leng notes that, although such literature appeared in the 1980s in Taiwan and Hong Kong, “it was only after the mid-1990s with the advent of the

internet” that gay-themed fiction was “disseminated online in Mainland China. There are now hundreds and thousands of stories designated as ‘Comrade Novels’ (... *tongzhi xiaoshuo*) archived on various Chinese websites” (p. i). “A quick search of ‘*tongzhi wenxue*’ on Baidu.com will reveal that it is not unusual for popular *tongzhi* websites to have millions of subscribers. Members of *tongzhi* websites participate in the virtual community by reading, sharing, and writing Comrade fiction on designated webpages” (pp. 2-3). In Leng’s work, “online literature” refers to “works of fiction published on the internet by both amateur and professional writers. These stories are more akin to works of conventional literature published in a new media format rather than works of electronic art” (pp. 4-5).

Academic work of Hongwei Bao on the contemporary PRC, including his recent [Queer China](#) (2020) [see Sources], is helpful, but more broadly focussed than this list. See also subsequent work of this University of Nottingham [UK]-based researcher.

Hong Kong

Literary works, both pre- and post-1997 Handover, are noted **selectively** in the following list. **Read Note 5** above for additional information **and** see Sources list for the Hong Kong bibliography, [Towards Full Citizenship](#) (online and in print), which includes a substantial Literature section. In addition to Hong Kong publication of local authors, there have been occasions when books rejected for publication on the mainland have been published in Hong Kong. See, for example, notes at Cui and at Tong, above in the PRC section of this Introduction. Occasionally as well, Hong Kong authors have chosen to publish in Taiwan. Such author/imprint distinctions have not, in general, been of concern here.

Locally in Hong Kong, the paucity and acts of censorship of LGBT works in the public library system has encouraged online undertakings such Kaitlin Chan’s “Queer Reads Library” (www.qrlib.net) to provide reference points for the gay and lesbian community.

Macau

The compiler has not discovered relevant works, in Chinese, Portuguese, or other languages, written or published in Macau, either pre- or post-1999 Handover, and stands ready to be corrected.

Overseas

Works of individuals of Chinese heritage appearing in the China section of the list have been published primarily in Canada and the United States, in English.

A ma de nü peng you: cai hong shu nü de duo cai qing chun [= Grandma's Girlfriends: The Splendid Youth of Elder Lesbians]. Taiwan tong zhi zi xun re xian xie hui zhu [=Taiwan Tongzhi LGBTQ+ Hotline Association]. Taibei Shi: Da kuai wen hua chu ban gu fen you xian gong si, 2020. (311 p.; 9789865549121, 9865549123)

In Chinese.

Anthology of autobiographies (oral histories of lesbian seniors).

SEE OCLC WorldCat catalog record nos. 1226373147 and 1228105124 for additional information, including author/title/imprint in **Chinese-character script**.

NOTE: An English translation of one of the stories from this collection was published by Words Without Borders Magazine (Queer Issue XII), June 2021. This is an oral history of Yun-Fan, written by Wanning Chen, titled: "Yun-Fan: Singing the Variety of Queer Life." The excerpt is described there as follows: "An older butch lesbian recalls her earlier romances and entry into the queer scene."

In a brief English-language introduction to the book, the editors note that young people currently think that their seniors were unfortunate to have been born before the liberation brought by LGBTQ activism, but that the stories in the book overturn those ideas. "[T]heir lives back then were even more reckless, even more exciting!"

It has been said that A ma de nü peng you was a response to a similar earlier publication of **older gay men's stories in Chinese**. The **Chinese-character** title of that men's story compilation is given in the introduction to the Words Without Borders piece by Wanning Chen, noted above, and **transliteration** of that title is given in this list, below, at: Cai hong shu nian ba shi [= The Rainbow Bus]. User might also compare Cai hong shu nian ba shi with a somewhat similar Hong Kong publication, available in both Chinese and English, listed at Jiang, Shaoqi [Kong, Shiu Ki, Travis], below in this CHINA section.

Angelwings: Contemporary Queer Fiction from Taiwan. Translated and edited by Fran Martin. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2003. (247 p.; ISBN 9780824826529, etc.)

Anthology.

Table of Contents, as given in the catalogue of the University of Hong Kong Library:

Bodhisattva Incarnate / Chu T'ien-Wen;

Platonic Hair / Qiu Miaojin;

A Story of Spring Butterflies / Chu T'ien-Hsin;

Stones on the Shore / Hsu Yoshen;

The Boy in the Pink Orchid Tree / Lin Yuyi;
Who Is Singing? / Lin Chun Ying;
Searching for the Lost Wings of the Angel / Chen Xue;
Poems from the Glass Womb / Hong Ling;
A Stranger's ID / Chi Tawei; and
Rose Is the Past Tense of Rise / Wu Jiwen.
List of **Chinese titles**, p. 247

Bai, Xianyong [Pai, Hsien-yung].

Crystal Boys: A Novel. Translated from Chinese by Howard Goldblatt.
San Francisco: Gay Sunshine Press, 1990 (and later printings).
(330 p.; ISBN 9780940567115)

Novel.

A-qing, the adolescent hero from a poor family, is thrown out by his father when it is learned he is gay. He goes to New Park, a gay hangout in Taipei, and establishes himself as a hustler. There he meets three other boys living on the street; they become fast friends and are all taken under the wing of Chief Yang, a fiftyish gay man (from an OCLC WorldCat summary, adapted).

This is said to be the **first modern gay novel written in Chinese**.

Translation of: Nie zi [Nieh tzu], **first published in Chinese in 1983**.

Translations available in many languages, including Japanese, Vietnamese, and various European languages.

Author is Taiwanese.

Beitong [pseudonym].

Beijing Comrades. Translated from Chinese by Scott E. Myers.
New York: The Feminist Press, at City University of New York, 2016.
(383 p.; ISBN 9781558619074)

Novel.

Handong, a ruthless and wealthy businessman, is introduced to Lan Yu, a naïve working-class architectural student. The attraction is all-consuming. Handong is unsettled by this desire, while Lan Yu quietly submits.... (from OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Author also known variously as: Bei Tong, Beijing Tongzhi, Beijing Comrade, Xiao He, Miss Wang and Linghui.

Published anonymously in 1998 on a gay website and said to be the **first gay novel from mainland China** (but note other mainland titles of the 1990s in the Introduction to this section).

Published under title: Lan Yu (Taipei: Taiwan dong bangu fen, 2002).

Translator's note in Myers's 2016 English translation describes significant differences in presentation of sexual content among the various editions, also noting that the work is known to English readers under various titles, including: Beijing Story, Someone Likes Lan, or Beijing gushi.

Lengthy review in English by Steve Susoyev, " 'Beijing Comrades' by Bei

Tong,” Lambda Literary website (www.lambdaliterary.org). March 13, 2016 (online; viewed March 18, 2021).

Further translation to French, from the English translation, under title: Camarades de Pékin (Paris: Calmann-Lévy, 2018).

Cai hong shu nian ba shi: 12 wei lao nian tong zhi de qing chun ji yi [= The Rainbow Bus: Youthful Reminiscences of Twelve Older Gay Men].
[Taiwan]: Taiwan Tongzhi Hotline Association [=G Books (?)], 2010.

In Chinese.

Anthology of autobiographies (oral histories of gay seniors).

SEE annotation at: A ma de nü peng you, above in this CHINA list for more information, including access to Chinese-character title.

SEE ALSO mention in: Ta-wei-Chi, “Queer Passion between Generations” post, July 26, 2021, at: taiwaninsight.org (Taiwan Insight: The Online Magazine of the Taiwan Research Hub, University of Nottingham).

Cao, Lijuan.

“Dance of a Maiden.” Translation from Chinese.

In The Taipei Chinese Pen. (Taipei: Taipei Chinese Center, International P.E.N., 2002).

(ISSN: 2077-0448)

Short story (1991).

“The story’s main characters are the tall and robust Zhong Yuan and the petite and clever Tong Suxin, two girls who met in high school and began an ambiguous female-female relationship that continued until both were of marriageable age. The work has had a strong generation-spanning influence on Taiwan’s lesbian community...” (ref.: annotation by Huang Yujie, Taiwan Ministry of Culture, Taiwan Culture Toolkit website, LGBT Literature webpage [see Sources, at Taiwan])

Chinese title in transliteration: Tong nü zhi wu.

NOTE: Huang Yujie’s annotation also mentions Cao Lijuan’s **collection**, Tong nü zhi wu [Dance of a Maiden], which carries a 1996 story, “About Her Gray Hair and Other Matters,” which “revisits the question raised in the title story as an aging lesbian gradually realizes that sex and love are equally important”.

Cao, Mu.

In the Face of Death We Are Equal. Translated from Chinese by Scott E. Myers. London: Seagull Books; Chicago, IL: Distributed by University of Chicago Press, 2019.

(380 p.; ISBN 9780857426987)

Novel.

“...realistic portrait of working-class gay men in...Chinese society. He Donghai

is days away from his sixtieth birthday and long-awaited retirement from his job as a corpse burner at a Beijing crematorium.... [H]e reflects on his life and his relationship with a special group of young men who live and love on the margins of Chinese society....” (ref.: University of Chicago Press website).

Original 2003 novel in Chinese published as: Qi'er ([S.I.]: Xian dai wen hua chu ban she, 2011; ISBN 9789881559760).

A Myers **translation excerpt** was published in Words Without Borders Magazine, June 2016 (The Queer Issue VII) (online) under title “Outcast”.

Biographical information on Mu Cao which follows the online translation excerpt in Words Without Borders Magazine notes:

Mu Cao “was born into a farming family in Xihua County, Henan province, China in 1974. He has no diplomas, is not a member of the Chinese Writers Association, and publishes almost entirely outside of official channels....His avant-garde novels, poetry collections, and short story collections include Outcast, The Transsexual Age, A Treasured Book of Sunflowers, Selected Poems of Mu Cao, and Scream of a Hundred Lan Yus. He lives in Beijing and the Jiangsu province”.

CelebrAsian: Shared Lives: An Oral History of Gay Asians.

Toronto: Gay Asians Toronto, 1996.
(158 p.; ISBN 9780968730706)

Carries **biographies** (six to twelve pages each) of thirteen men of Asian heritage (mainly, but not exclusively, of Chinese heritage, judging from surnames)

Chan, Aaron.

This City Is a Minefield. Hong Kong: Signal 8 Press, 2019.
(249 p.; ISBN 9789887794912, 9887794910)

Autobiography.

“...a collection of reflective memoir and personal essays”; “...a genuine and unique voice about growing up and coming of age as a young gay Chinese man in Vancouver....”; “...unafraid of analyzing and criticizing the status quo, whether it be Chinese culture’s unfavourable view of homosexuality, or the gay community’s ill-addressed, rampant sexual racism. An intimate, tender love letter to Vancouver filled with mixed emotions....” (from OCLC WorldCat summary field, record no. 1128194596).

Chan, Jeffery Paul

Eat Everything before You Die: A Chinaman in the Counterculture.
Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2004.
(297 p.; ISBN 9780295984360)

Novel.

Two Chinese-American brothers’ conflicts between immigrant and

counterculture values. One brother is a gay TV chef.

Author is an American-born professor, retired from San Francisco State University.

Chan, Jody.

sick. New York: Black Lawrence Press, 2020.
(96 p.; ISBN 9781625578198)

Poetry.

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Bisexual Poetry.

Author is “a writer, drummer, organizer and therapist based in Toronto”
(ref.: amazon.com book entry, “About the author”).

Chan, Mary Jean.

Flèche. London: Faber & Faber, 2019.
(78 p.; ISBN 9780571348046)

Poetry.

“Themes of queerness, post-colonialism, language, psychoanalysis and cultural history emerge..., conveyed by a polyphony of female voices....”

(ref.: OCLC WorldCat Summary, record no. 1103967384).

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Lesbian Poetry.

Author was born and raised in Hong Kong and lectures at a British university
(ref.: Wikipedia, “Mary Jean Chan”).

Chang, K-Ming.

Bestiary: A Novel. Toronto: Hamish Hamilton Canada; New York: One World, 2020 (and other imprints).
(272 p.; ISBN 9780735238824 (H. Hamilton); 9780593132586 (One World)).

Novel.

“Three generations of Taiwanese-American women are haunted by the myths of their homeland in this blazing debut of one family’s queer desires, violent impulses, and buried secrets....”; many mysterious happenings, and “[a]ll the while, Daughter is falling for her neighbour, a girl named Ben with mysterious powers of her own....” (from OCLC WorldCat summary, record 1200850577).

Lambda Literary Awards finalist for Lesbian Fiction.

Author grew up in California and lives in New York (ref.: Wikipedia, “K-Ming Chang”).

Chang, K-Ming.

Gods of Want: Stories. New York: One World, 2023.
(206 p.; ISBN 9780593241608, 0593241606)

Short stories.

2023 Lambda Literary Award for Lesbian Fiction.

Chang, Kristin.

Past Lives, Future Bodies.

New York: Black Lawrence Press, 2018.

(53 p.; ISBN 9781625578716)

Poetry.

Lambda Literary Awards winner for Lesbian Poetry.

Author lives in New York.

Chen Chen.

When I Grow Up I Want to Be a List of Further Possibilities.

Rochester, NY: BOA Editions, 2017.

(96 p.; ISBN 9781942683339)

Poetry.

The poet “investigates inherited forms of love and family – the strained relationship between a mother and son, the cost of necessary goodbyes – all from Asian American, immigrant, and queer perspectives....”

(OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Author is a Chinese-American who was born in Xiamen, China, and grew up in Massachusetts.

Chen, Ching-In.

Recombinant. Berkeley, CA: Kelsey Street Press, 2017.

(96 p.; ISBN 9780932716866)

Hybrid collection of **prose and poetry**, set in a speculative future.

“Urges the reader to investigate female and genderqueer lineages in the context of labor smuggling and trafficking....” (ref.: amazon.com, Books).

Lambda Literary Awards winner for Transgender Poetry.

Author is a US-born poet of Chinese heritage.

Chen, Kehua.

“Sodomy’s Necessity.” Translated from Chinese by Simon Patton.

In Frontier Taiwan: An Anthology of Modern Chinese Poetry, p. 449.

Edited by Michelle Yeh and N.G.D. Malmqvist. New York: Columbia University Press, 1995.

Poem.

“Of Chen’s poems dealing with gay sexuality, ‘Sodomy’s Necessity’ is the best known – and the most notorious....” (ref.: Taiwan Ministry of Culture, Taiwan Culture Toolkit website (toolkit.culture.tw) > Literature > Themes > LGBT Literature: page for Sodomy’s Necessity. This page carries **the translated poem, comments, and bibliographic information for both original Chinese and translated English versions.**)

Transliterated Chinese title of poem: Gang jiao zhi bi yao.

Chen, Ran.

A Private Life. Translated from Chinese by John Howard-Gibbon.
New York: Columbia University Press, 2004.
(256 p.; ISBN 9780231131964)

Novel.

Story of Ni Niuniu, a young woman whose emotional and sexual awakening is set during the decades of China's Cultural Revolution and Tiananmen Square crackdown tragedy. Originally published in 1996, and the first work of the author to appear in English (see Columbia University Press site at: cup.columbia.edu).

(User could note that another earlier work, set also during the Cultural Revolution, appears sometimes on lists of LGBTQ+ literature – Geling Yan's White Snake and Other Stories (originally published **1981** in Chinese [Pai she]; translated to English by Lawrence A. Walker, and published by Aunte Lute Books, 1999).

Chen, Ruoxi [Chen, Jo-hsi].

Zhi hun [Paper Marriage].
Taipei Shi [Taiwan]: Zi li wan bao, 1986.
(373 p.)

Additional imprints: Xianggang [Hong Kong]: San lian shu dian, 1987;
Beijing: Zhongguo wen lian chu ban, 1987. There are others.

In Chinese.

Novel in the form of a diary; a heterosexual Chinese woman emigrates to the United States and marries a gay man in a marriage of convenience. Set in California.

See OCLC WorldCat for details of various imprints.

Scott E. Myers [www.scottemyers.net , viewed Dec. 2019] notes his current project to be a translation to English of this novel.

Author is Taiwanese, born in 1938.

Chen, Xue.

E nü shu: xin gan guan xiao shuo [Book of Evil Women].
Taipei Shi: Ping shi, 1995.
(255 p; ISBN 9789578030565)

In Chinese.

Short story collection.

This is noted as Chen's first publication. "The book's provocative title and the author's frank treatment of lesbian sexuality were the source of much controversy. Chen's literary predecessors – Li Ang, Ling Yan, and Cao Lijuan and others – touched on lesbianism, but none were as bold as Chen in depicting women engaging in sexual acts and achieving sexual climax

together.... ‘Searching for the Lost Wings of the Angels’...[is the book’s] most celebrated story....”(Ta-wei Chu, synopsis of “Searching for the Lost Wings...” in LGBT Literature section of Taiwan Ministry of Culture’s Taiwan Culture Toolkit website [see Sources, at Taiwan]).

NOTE 1: “Searching for the Lost Wings of the Angels,” one of the stories in the collection, is also in the English-language collection Angelwings, above in this section. (Story title word is Angel, in the singular, in Angelwings catalog records).

NOTE 2: Chen Xue is prolific, having written at least ten novels and short story collections.

Chen, Xue.

Hu die [Butterfly].

Taipei Xian Zhonghe Shi: INK yin ke chu ban, 2005.

(186 p.; ISBN 9789867420428)

In Chinese.

Short stories.

Also published in Beijing, 2014, in simplified Chinese script.

Chen, Xue.

Mi gong zhong de lian ren [Lovers in the Maze].

Xinbei Shi Zhonghe Qu: Yin ke wen xue, 2012.

(510 p.: ISBN 9789866135774)

In Chinese.

Autobiographical novel.

Struggles of a woman with herself, her betrayal of her same-sex lover and indulgence in pleasure, followed by a serious disease. Describes forms of love, struggles in love situations, but also more broadly an exploration life, death, society, and human nature.

Later printing in simplified Chinese script (e.g., Guilin Shi, 2015).

Chen, Xue.

“Venus.” In The Guardian (UK newspaper online), posted 15 December 2015 (article title: “Translation Tuesday: Venus by Chen Xue”).

Short story.

“A transgender woman and man consider their bodies one quiet, warm night, in this short story exploring physicality and beauty” (article lead).

Translated from Chinese by J. Stenberg.

Chen, Zi Liang.

SEE following at: Chen-Hayes, Lance.

Chen-Hayes, Lance and Chen-Hayes, Stuart F.

Double Dads One Teen: A Queer Family's Trailblazing Life in the USA and Taiwan. New York: DIO Press, 2019.
(224 p.; ISBN 9781645040678, 9781645040125)

In English or Chinese [see Chinese-language information below].

Autobiography/Memoir.

Lance and Stuart met in 1995. Their 25-year relationship in Taiwan and the US has included overcoming multiple legal and social barriers – to immigration, health care, and civil union/marriage, and in family building (they are the dads of teenager, Kalani).

Chinese-language publication as: Liang Ge Ba Ba = Baba & Daddy /
Chen Zi Liang & Chen Hai Si Duo. Taiwan: Yuan Liu, 2021.
(240 p.; ISBN 9789573291374).

[compiler-supplied transliteration of Chinese title and author names].

Author Lance Chen-Hayes was born and raised in Taichung, Taiwan, and immigrated to New York in 1990; his partner, Stuart, is a Chicago native.

Chin, Alan.

The Lonely War.

Austin, TX: Zumaya Boundless, 2009.
(303 p.; ISBN 9781934841440)

Novel.

Protagonist is a gay Chinese-American of mixed heritage, who lived among monks when young and is a pacifist on a warship in the Pacific during World War Two.

Chinese translation (traditional script) also available, with title:
Gu du de zhan zheng (Xinbei: Zhi yin ren wen hua, 2012).

Chin, Curtis.

Everything I Learned, I Learned in a Chinese Restaurant: A Memoir.

New York: Little, Brown and Co., 2023.
(291 p.; ISBN 9780316507653, 0316507652)

Autobiography/Memoir.

The author's story of growing up in 1980s Detroit, Michigan [USA]. In the family restaurant, Chung's Cantonese Cuisine, surrounded by his multigenerational family and "where anyone – from the city's first Black mayor to the local drag queens, from a big-time Hollywood star to elderly Jewish couples -- could sit down to a home-cooked meal..., filmmaker and activist Curtis Chin came of age...[and] learned to embrace his identity as a gay...American-born Chinese" (OCLC WorldCat catalog Summary, from the publisher).

Chung, C. K. Hugo.

Self Writeous.

[S.l.]: Independently published, 2018.

(208 p.; ISBN 9781719822060)

Various genres.

“This **literary collection** presents a writer’s journey from his born motherland, Taiwan, to his reborn motherland, New York City, with many places in between....[K]aleidoscopic observations about family, history, literature, politics, and sexuality” (ref.: amazon.com, Books). One reader has noted that the book “is about identity: the complex journeys of both being gay and being Taiwanese.”

Collett, Nigel.

Firelight of a Different Colour: The Life and Times of Leslie Cheung Kwok-wing. Hong Kong: Signal 8 Press, 2014.

(464 p.; ISBN 9789881554260)

Biography of the openly gay and widely loved Hong Kong entertainer who committed suicide in 2003.

Cui, Zi'en.

Chou jiao deng chang: huo yue yi xing bie he ti ye di ming yi [Enter the Clowns].

Guangzhou Shi: Hua cheng chu ban she, 1998.

(294 p.; ISBN 9787536027299)

In Chinese.

Novel.

As mentioned in the Introduction above, this is noted as contemplating “the relationship between gender and sexuality” and, together with Cui’s Mei gui chuang ta [listed below], as the “first PRC-published tongzhi novels covering sexual and gender ‘transgression’ in all variations.”

Cui, Zi'en.

Mei gui chuang ta: huo yue pao he tao de ji xian [The Rose Bed].

Guangzhou Shi: Hua sheng chu ban she, 1998.

(263 p.; ISBN 9787536027534)

In Chinese.

Novel.

See annotation note above at Cui Zi'en's Chou jiao deng chang.

Cui, Zi'en.

Tao se zui chun [Peach-colored Lips].

Xianggang [Hong Kong]: Hua sheng shu dian, 1997.

(214 p.: ISBN 9789629220044)

In Chinese (and see note on French translation, below).

Novel.

“...there are four narrators: the director of a hospice for the terminally ill; Ye Hongju, who spends his dying days under the director’s care; Xiaomao, the director’s thirty-year-old son; and a man named Chunyu Xianfeng. The director listens and reacts as...[the other three] tell their stories, challenging the heterosexual director with their different understandings of homosexuality...”; [etc.]. (ref.: Columbia Companion to Modern East Asian Literature, “Same-sex Love in Recent Chinese Literature,” p. 493).

See further note about title in Introduction above, at People’s Republic of China. Marketed as China’s first homosexual novel; publisher also issued Ta ta ta ta de gu shi, listed below.

French translation as: Lèvres pêche (Paris: Gallimard, 2010).

Das, Ansh [Das, Anshuman].

Always Forever.

Hong Kong: Signal 8 Press, 2012.

(282 p.; ISBN 9789881554284)

Available in English or Chinese.

“...memoir that opens on the sidelines of the glamorous Mr. Gay World event, flies high on the wings of love, crawls through the depths of death and rises again with a hope for the future” (ref.: Tongzhi Literary Group [Hong Kong] website).

Chinese pinyin transliterated title: Yi zhi dao yong yuan (Signal 8 Press).

Author is from India and lives in Hong Kong (anshdas.com website)

This title is also listed in INDIA section.

Das, Ansh [Das, Anshuman].

The Memory of a Face.

Hong Kong: Signal 8 Press, 2011.

Available in English or Chinese.

“What is love? Is it the craving to be with him or is it the realization that you should let him go? Is it about telling him how he makes you feel or is it about suffering in silence?...” (from author website)

Set in Hong Kong/China.

Chinese pinyin transliterated title: Ji de na rong yan (Signal 8 Press, 2014).

Chinese edition ebook also noted on Goodreads.com website, published by Smashwords, 2014 (ISBN 9789881219787).

Author is from India and lives in Hong Kong (anshdas.com website)

This title is also listed in INDIA section.

Dong, Qizhang [Tung, Kaicheung].

An zhuo zhen ni [Androgyny].

2 ban; Taibei Shi: Lian he wen xue chu ban she gu fen you xian gong si, 2010.
(223 p.; ISBN 9789575228743)

In Chinese.

Novel.

Award-winning work by a Hong Kong writer in which “a married woman finds her potential for lesbianism while investigating androgynous lizards”

(“Hong Kong, Literature” entry, by Ta-wei Chi, in Routledge International Encyclopedia of Queer Culture).

Earlier published in 1996.

Note: Ta-wei Chi also notes Dong’s Double Corporeality, in which “a man in Japan wakes up to find himself transformed into a woman”.

Du, Xiulan.

Ni nü [Rebel Daughter (title also rendered in English as: Unfilial Daughter)].

Taibei Shi: Huang guan wen xue chu ban, 1995.

(285 p.; ISBN 9789573312802)

In Chinese.

“The narrator, Ding Tianshi, is a smart, wild tomboy growing up in the Taipei suburbs in the 1970s and 1980s...”; “[The work] is worth mention as a lesbian counterpart to [Bai Xianyong’s] Crystal Boys” (Thomas Moran essay, in Columbia Companion to Modern East Asian Literature, p. 490).

Fu, Kim.

For Today I Am a Boy: A Novel.

Toronto: HarperCollins, 2014.

(242 p.; ISBN 9781443412643)

Novel.

“Peter Huang [son of Chinese immigrants] and his sisters grow up in a house of many secrets, then escape the confines of small-town Ontario and spread from Montreal to California to Berlin. Peter’s own journey is obstructed by playground bullies, masochistic lovers, Christian ex-gays and the ever-present shadow of his Chinese father....Peter was the one who would finally embody his immigrant father’s ideal of power and masculinity. But Peter has different dreams; he is certain he is a girl” (ref.: Goodreads).

Gao, Laura.

Messy Roots: A Graphic Memoir of a Wuhanese American.

New York: Balzer + Bray, an imprint of HarperCollins, 2022.

(272 p.; ISBN 9780063067769, 0063067765)

Autobiography/Memoir.

An earlier comic by the author about life in Wuhan, China, was expanded into this graphic novel about Gao's life, including her LGBTQ identity. The author "illustrates her coming-of-age as the girl who simply wants to make the basketball team, escape Chinese school, and figure out why girls make her heart flutter" (amazon.com).

Author was born in Wuhan and immigrated to the United States as a child.

Grandma's Girlfriends: The Splendid Youth of Elder Lesbians.

SEE above at: A ma de nü peng you: cai hong shu nü de duo cai qing chun.

(This is a Chinese-language anthology from Taiwan, but one excerpt, in English, is available in Words Without Borders Magazine (ref. at: A ma de nü peng you)).

Guo, Qiangsheng [Kuo, Chiang-sheng].

Duan dai [The Division between Generations].

Taipei Shi: Mai tian chu ban: Cheng bang wen hua shi ye gu fen you xian fen gong si, 2015.

(334 p.; ISBN 9789863442141, 9863442143)

In Chinese.

Described as a sort of sequel to Crystal Boys, starting from 1980s Taiwan, to modern times (ref. amazon.com, Books, as noted under English title).

There is a 2018 Beijing imprint. Note various OCLC WorldCat records.

Hong, Ying.

A Lipstick Called Red Pepper: Fiction about Gay & Lesbian Love in China.

Compiled by Henry Zhao; translated by Herbert Batt and others.

Bochum [Germany]: Projekt Verlag, 1999.

(165 p.; ISBN 9783897330320)

Short stories.

Chinese title/imprint: Dai an de lu (Taipei Shi: San min shu ju, 1996) [see OCLC]

Huang, Yang.

My Good Son. New Orleans, Louisiana [USA]: University of New Orleans, 2020.

(303 p.; ISBNs 9781608012015, 1608012018)

Novel.

"[E]xplores both the deep power and the profound burdens of parental love through the story of Mr. Cai...and his only son Feng....[Mr. Cai] turns to an American customer, Jude, to sponsor his [son's] studies in the United States. This scheme, hatched between the older Chinese man and a handsome gay American ex-pat, exposes the readers to the parallels and differences of American and Chinese cultures...." (ref.: yanghuang.com/goodson).

2022 Lambda Literary Awards finalist for Gay Fiction.

The author is American, born in Jiangsu, China.

Ji, Dawei [Chi, Ta-wei].

“A Faun’s Afternoon.” Translated from Chinese by Dave Haysom.

In Words Without Borders Magazine, June 2015 issue (Queer Issue VI) (online).

In English and Chinese (bilingually posted).

Short story.

“...puts Debussy’s famous pastoral to an urban narrative” (issue introduction).

Aso, a young student, meets K on a visit to a Taiwanese spa town.

Author, at time of story posting, was a Taiwanese literature professor in Taipei.

Ji, Dawei [Chi, Ta-wei].

Gan guan shi jie [Queer Senses: A Story Cycle of Sexualities].

Taipei Shi: Ping shi chu ban you xian gong si, 1995.

(270 p.; ISBN 9789578030497)

In Chinese.

Short stories reinterpreting fairy tales, exploring homosexuality and social morality from an LGBTQ perspective.

Ji, Dawei [Chi, Ta-wei].

Lian wu pi [Fetish Stories].

Taipei Shi: Shi bao wen hua chu ban qi ye gu fen you xian gong si, 1998.

(259 p.; ISBN 9789571327310)

In Chinese.

Challenges to gender and sexual stereotypes; reflects issues in a changing Taiwan in a more straightforward manner (as noted on Taiwan Ministry of Culture website > Cultural Features > Contemporary Artists > Writers, Poets & Illustrators – entry for Chi, Ta-wei).

Includes a critique by Fran Martin, in English.

Ji, Dawei [Chi, Ta-wei].

Mo [Membrane / The Membranes]. Taipei Shi: Lian jing, 1996 (and later dates).

(448 p.; ISBN 9789570837698)

In Chinese (and in French and English translations, as noted below)

Novel.

High-tech science fiction in which an android is controlled by a human brain.

Explores gender issues and self-identity.

French translation as: Membrane (Paris: Asiathèque, 2015; 2e éd., 2020);

English translation as: The Membranes (New York: Columbia UP, 2021).

Jiang, Shaoqi [Kong, Shiu Ki, Travis].

Oral Histories of Older Gay Men in Hong Kong: Unspoken but Unforgotten.

Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2019.

(ISBN 9789888528066)

In English; earlier published in Chinese (see below in this annotation)

Interviews of men who relate experiences in dealing with sexuality in a time quite different from the present.

Published in Chinese as: Nan nan zheng zhuan: Xianggang nian zhang nan tong zhi kou shu shi (Xianggang [Hong Kong]: Jin yi bu duo mei ti you xian gong si, 2014 (233 p.; ISBN 9789888011360)).

Jing, Xianghai.

“Very Cheesy and Also Rather Blah.” Translated from Chinese by Lee Yew Leong.

In Words Without Borders Magazine, June 2013 (Queer Issue IV) (online).

In English and Chinese (bilingually posted).

This is a single, short **poem**.

A powerful expression of a man’s memory of the pain of unrequited love as the he looks at photos from an old relationship:

“it’s just that / if somebody should set me down / again carelessly / I couldn’t take it the second time / ...”

Author is Taiwanese.

Ku'er kuang huan jie: Taiwan dang dai Queer wen xue du ben.

[Queer Carnival: A Reader of Contemporary Queer Literature from Taiwan].

Ji Dawei zhu bian. Taibei Shi: Yuan zun wen hua chu ban qi ye gu fen you xian gong si, 1997.

In Chinese.

Anthology.

Kwa, Lydia.

The Walking Boy.

SEE note in SINGAPORE list at: Kwa, Lydia.

Lai, Larissa.

The Tiger Flu: A Novel.

Vancouver, BC: Arsenal Pulp Press, 2018.

(333 p.; ISBN 9781551527314)

Novel.

Dystopian sci-fi thriller; “...a community of parthenogenic women, sent into exile... goes to war against disease, technology, and powerful men that threaten them with extinction...” (OCLC catalog record Summary).

Lai’s earlier works include When Fox Is a Thousand and Salt Fish Girl.

Lai, Lee.

Stone Fruit. Seattle, Washington: Fantagraphics, 2021.
(231 p.; ISBNs 9781683964261, 1683964268)

Graphic novel.

“Bron and Ray are a queer [lesbian] couple who enjoy their role as the fun weirdo aunties to Ray’s niece, six-year-old Nessie....”

(ref.: publisher description given in OCLC WorldCat record for print book).

“...reveals through intimately naturalistic dialog and blue-hued watercolor how painful it can be to truly become vulnerable to your loved ones – and how fulfilling it is to be finally understood for who you are”

(ref.: nationalbook.org/people/lee-lai/).

2022 Lambda Literary Awards finalist for Graphic Novel/Comics.

Author is a transgender Asian-Australian cartoonist [of Chinese heritage] who presently lives in Canada (Wikipedia entry: Lee Lai)

Lau, Grace.

The Language We Were Never Taught to Speak. Guernica Editions, 2021.
(70 p.; ISBNs 9781771835879, 1771835877)

Poetry.

“...these pieces reflect and reveal how the stories of immigrants in Canada hold both universal truths and singular distinctions. From boybands that show the way to become ‘the kind of girl a girl could love’ to ‘rich flavours that are just a few generations of poverty away,’ they invite the reader to meditate on spirituality, food, and the shapes love takes.” (ref.: books.google.com.hk/books).

2022 Lambda Literary Awards finalist for Lesbian Poetry.

Lau is a Hong Kong-born Chinese Canadian.

Law, Benjamin.

The Family Law.

Melbourne, Australia: Black Inc., 2010 (and later dates).
(220 p.; ISBN 9781863954785)

Biography.

“Invites readers into the world of the author’s endearing yet profoundly eccentric family....” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary)

Author is Australian and the openly gay son of immigrant parents from Hong Kong and Malaysia.

NOTE1: Law is also author of a collection of country-by-country essays on gay life across eastern and southern Asia, Gaysia: Adventures in the Queer East (2012), for which see this list at title under ASIA heading.

NOTE2: another of the author’s works, the compilation Growing Up Queer in Australia (2019), includes contributors of various Asian backgrounds. See in this list at title under ASIA heading (and see OCLC WorldCat entries for Table of Contents of the work).

Lee, Quentin.

Dress Like a Boy.

San Jose, CA: Writers Club Press, 2000.

(181 p.; ISBN 9780595127856)

Novel.

“A gay student at UC Berkeley from Hong Kong has complicated relationships with a bisexual boyfriend and a closeted cousin” (ref.: Walker).

Author is a Hong Kong-born Chinese-Canadian/American film writer and director.

Leung, Brian.

World Famous Love Acts: Stories.

Louisville, Kentucky: Sarabande Books, 2004.

(202 p.; ISBN 9781889330167)

Short stories.

“The son of a Chinese immigrant writes short stories that include gay and straight characters and various relationships” (ref.: Walker).

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Gay Men’s Debut Fiction.

Li, Kotomi.

Solo Dance. Translated from Japanese by Arthur Reiji Morris.

New York: World Editions, 2022.

(251 p.; ISBN 9781642861143, 1642861146)

Novel.

Cho Norie, 27, from Taiwan and working in an office in Tokyo, keeps her unconventional life and sexuality hidden from her colleagues....[The story] “depicts the painful coming of age of a gay person in Taiwan and corporate Japan” (OCLC WorldCat catalog Summary).

This title is also entered on the JAPAN list.

Lin, Youxuan [Lin, Yu-hsuan].

“Nü er ming” [Destined for a Daughter].

In Born This Way (Taipei: Chiu Ko Publishing Co., 2014)

(book: ISBN 9789860303360)

In Chinese.

Short story.

Central characters are “a transgender gay youth and his sixtyish father. The younger man has a penchant for wearing women’s clothing, and unexpectedly discovers that his father shares the same predilection....” (ref.: annotation, Taiwan Ministry of Culture, Taiwan Culture Toolkit, LGBT Literature webpage [see Sources])

Ling, Yan.

Shi sheng hua mei [The Silent Thrush]. Taibei Shi: Zi li wan bao, 1990.
(290 p.; ISBN 9789575960919)

In Chinese.

Novel.

Di 2 ban [2nd edition], 1991.

“...depicts the lives of common people in southern Taiwan in the mid-1980s. To satisfy audience demand, a traveling Taiwanese opera troupe has added strip-shows to its outdoor engagements, and troupe members are no longer concerned with the quality of operatic performance – thus, the beautiful bird of the title – traditional Taiwanese opera – sings no more. Although the troupe’s men and women put in long work hours and earn only meagre wages, they still find the time and energy to involve themselves in various heterosexual and homosexual relationships....” (from synopsis by Ta-wei Chi at: Taiwan Ministry of Culture, Taiwan Culture Toolkit website (toolkit.culture.tw) > Literature > Themes > LGBT Literature: The Silent Thrush by Ling Yan [see Sources]).
Work won Independence Times Novel Prize, 1991.

Liu, Timothy.

NOTE: Liu is a prolific poet. User should check for additional works which may exist beyond those listed below.

Author is gay and was born in San Jose, California, in 1965. He grew up as a Mormon, living in Hong Kong for two years as a Mormon missionary. He is a professor of English. (See, e.g., “An Interview with Timothy Liu,” by Andrena Zawinski, archived at web.archive.org, and author’s website at www.timothyliu.net [both viewed Dec. 2019]).

Liu, Timothy.

Bending the Mind around the Dream’s Blown Fuse: Poems.
Jersey City, NJ: Talisman House, 2009.
(90 p.; ISBN 9781584980650)

Poetry.

“...several autobiographical poems, some about...search for a lover who disappeared in Greece” (ref.: Walker)

Liu, Timothy.

Burnt Offerings.
Port Townsend, WA: Copper Canyon Press, 1995.
(68 p.; ISBN 9781556591044)

Poetry.

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Gay Men’s Poetry.

Liu, Timothy.

Don't Go Back to Sleep.

Ardmore, PA: Saturnalia; Lebanon, NH: University Press of New England, 2014.
(92 p.; ISBN 9780991545407)

Poetry.

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Gay Poetry.

Liu, Timothy.

For Dust Thou Art: Poems.

Carbondale, IL: Southern Illinois University Press, 2005.
(66 p.; ISBN 9780809326525, etc.)

Poetry.

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Gay Men's Poetry.

Liu, Timothy.

Hard Evidence: Poems.

Jersey City, NJ: Talisman House, 2001.
(112 p.; ISBN 9781584980223, etc.)

Poetry.

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Gay Men's Poetry.

Liu, Timothy.

Of Thee I Sing: Poems.

Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 2004.
(66 p.; ISBN 9780820326009)

Poetry.

"Intense devotion to gay male desire collides with painful self-scrutiny, political protest and snapshots of far-flung America" (ref.: Walker)

Liu, Timothy.

Polytheogamy. With Greg Drasler.

Philadelphia: Saturnalia; Lebanon, NH: University Press of New England, 2009.
(93 p.; ISBN 9780981859101)

Poetry (with illustrative material).

Collaboration of Liu with painter Greg Drasler "explores themes of sexuality, marriage, monogamy, and fidelity" (ref.: Walker).

Liu, Timothy.

Say Goodnight: Poems.

Port Townsend, WA: Copper Canyon Press, 1998.

(100 p.; ISBN 9781556590856)

Poetry.

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Gay Men's Poetry.

Liu, Timothy.

Vox Angelica: Poems.

Cambridge, MA: Alice James Books, 1992.

(58 p.; ISBN 9780914086970)

Poetry.

Norma Farber First Book Award (Poetry Society of America).

Liu, Yilong.

The Book of Mountains and Seas. [S.l.]: New Play Exchange, [2020?].

Drama.

“A comic drama about two people dealing with loss, differences, and their unlikely friendship in a digital and global age”; after a California Chinese dad loses his son to a hate crime, “he teams up with the son’s last boyfriend in New York on an impossible mission to visit all the restaurants on the son’s Yelp page...” (ref.: New Play Exchange (www.newplayexchange.org) website, play description, linked from author website, www.yilongliu.com).

See other relevant works listed at author website.

New Play Exchange is a subscription “digital library of scripts by living writers.”

Lambda Literary Awards winner for LGBTQ Drama.

Author is “a New-York based bilingual playwright and screenwriter, originally from Chongqing, China” (ref.: www.yilongliu.com).

Lo, Malinda.

Last Night at the Telegraph Club. New York: Dutton Books, 2021.

(409 p.; ISBNs 9780525555254, 0525555250 [etc.])

Novel (young adult)

“...set in 1950s San Francisco and tells the story of Lily Hu, the teenage daughter of Chinese immigrants as she begins to explore her sexuality” (ref.: Wikipedia article: Last Night at the Telegraph Club).

2022 Stonewall Book Awards – Mike Morgan and Larry Romans Children’s and Young Adult Literature Award.

Author was born in China, going to the United States at the age of three; she is a graduate of Harvard and Stanford universities.

Lu, Marie.

The Midnight Star.

New York: G. P. Putnam's, 2016.

(316 p.; ISBN 9780399167850)

Novel.

Fantasy; third and final book in The Young Elites trilogy.

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for LGBTQ Children's/Young Adult.

Author born Xiwei Lu in Wuxi, China, and lives in Los Angeles.

Lu, Min.

“Scissors, Shining.” Translated from Chinese by Michael Day.

In Words Without Borders Magazine, June-July 2019 (Queer Issue X) (online).

Novel excerpt.

Xiaotong, 15, is apprenticed to tailor Master Song, and is described by clients as “so dainty and delicate, just like a little girl”; Master Song, 34, is gossiped about because he is not comfortable with the approaches of a beautiful female client who wishes to sleep with him....

Ma, Jiahui [Ma, Kafai].

Long tou feng wei [Once Upon a Time in Hong Kong].

Taipei Shi: Xin jing dian tu wen chuan bo you xian gong si, 2016.

In Chinese.

Novel.

Translated into **French** as: Hong Kong Gang (Genève [Suisse]: Slatkine & Cie, 2019.

Protagonist Luk Pakchoi: “Le jour, il est chef mafieux, et ses nuits, il les partage

Midnight Blue: Oral History of Male Sex Workers in Hong Kong.

SEE in this CHINA section, below, at: Wu ye nan nan

Min, Anchee.

Red Azalea. London: Gollancz, 1993 (and many later editions and languages).

(252 p.; ISBNs 9780575055292 [etc.])

Memoir.

The author's experiences of growing up in the last years of China under Mao Tse-tung, during the Cultural Revolution. “Forbidden to speak, dress, read, write, or love as she pleased, she found a lifeline in a secret love affair with another woman” (ref.: “22 Global LGBTQIAP+ Books” blog post at: aworldadventurebybook.com [viewed October 28, 2023])

Qiu, Miaojin [Chiu, Miao-Chin].

Last Words from Montmartre. Translated from Chinese by Ari Larissa Heinrich.
New York: New York Review of Books, 2014.
(161 p.; ISBN 9781590177259, etc.)

Novel.

Story of the passionate unravelling relationship of two young women, told through a series of letters.

Author, a Taiwanese novelist, left behind this unpublished manuscript when she committed suicide in 1995 at the age of 26.

Qiu, Miaojin [Chiu, Miao-Chin].

Notes of a Crocodile. Translated from Chinese by Bonnie Huie.
New York: New York Review of Books, 2017.
(242 p.; ISBN 9781681370767)

Novel.

Coming-of-age work, set in post-martial law era of 1990s Taipei, Taiwan.

“...depicts... a group of queer misfits discovering love, friendship and artistic affinity while hardly studying at Taiwan’s most prestigious university. Told through the eyes of an anonymous lesbian narrator nicknamed Lazi...”

(from OCLC WorldCat record Summary)

Translation of: E yu shou ji (originally published: Taipei Shi: Shi bao wen hua, 1994. (284 p.; ISBN 9789571311210) [see OCLC WorldCat for various editions and formats])

Quan, Andy.

Calendar Boy.

Vancouver, BC: New Star Books, 2001.
(228 p.; ISBN 9780921586821)

Short stories.

Immigrants to Canada and their experiences of and adjustments to cultural differences, including differences in the lives of gay males.

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Small Press.

Author is Chinese-Canadian of Cantonese background, born in Vancouver in 1969, and living in Australia.

Quan, Andy.

Six Positions: Sex Writing.

San Francisco: Green Candy, 2005.
(224 p.; ISBN 9781931160360, etc.)

Erotic stories.

Quan, Andy.

Slant.

Roberts Creek, BC: Nightwood Editions, 2001.
(111 p.; ISBN 9780889711792)

Poetry.

Themes of childhood and family in the Chinese diaspora, including themes of gay sexuality, community, and rites of passage (ref.: Google Books).

Queer Taiwanese Literature: A Reader. Edited by Howard Chiang; various translators.

Amherst, NY: Cambria Press, c2021.

(234 p.; ISBN 9781621966982, 1621966984)

Anthology of translations from Chinese to English.

“...includes a selection of short stories, previously untranslated, written by Taiwanese authors dating from 1975 to 2020. Readers are introduced to a wide variety of themes: bisexuality, aging, mobility, diaspora, AIDS, indigeneity, recreational drug use, transgender identity, surrogacy, and many others....”
(Publisher description as given in an OCLC catalog record).

Contents:

Late Spring / Li Ang – On Her Gray Hair Etcetera / Tsao Li-chuan –
Howl / Ta-wei Chi – Muakai / Dadelavan Ibau – Violet / Hsu Yu-chen –
A Daughter / Lin Yu-hsuan – A Nonexistent Thing / Chen Xue.

Introduction by Howard Chiang provides description, analysis and contextualization.

Title also available as an e-book.

Raymond, T. M.

Fear the Living: A No Sin Mystery.

[Scotts Valley, CA?]: CreateSpace Independent Publishing, 2014.
(532 p.; ISBN 9781499283471)

Novel.

Young gay Chinese immigrant helps rich white detective investigate murders in the Depression years; “...takes many of the stereotypes of thirties’ [1930s] detective genre and turns them on their heads....” (refs.: Walker and amazon.com, Books).

Red Is Not the Only Color: Contemporary Chinese Fiction on Love and Sex between Women: Collected Stories. Edited by Patricia Sieber.

Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2001.

(201 p.; ISBN 9780742511385)

Short story anthology.

“These stories introduce an emerging generation of women writers, including

Chen Ran, Bikwan Wong and Chen Xue. By presenting fiction from the PRC, Hong Kong and Taiwan, the collection deliberately maps the literary contours of same-sex intimacy in cultural rather than in purely political terms” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

CONTENTS:

Introduction / Patricia Sieber
She’s a Young Woman and So Am I / Wong Bikwan
Breaking Open / Chen Ran
A Record / Ahang Mei
Brothers / Wang Anyi
Lips / Liang Hanyi
Fever / Hong Ling
In Search of the Lost Wings of Angels / Chen Xue
Andante / He An

Sie, James.

Still Life Las Vegas.

New York: St. Martin’s Press, 2015.

(326 p.; ISBN 9781250055668)

Novel.

Coming-of-age and coming-out story.

“Recent high school graduate and aspiring artist Walter Stahl lives with his ailing father in...Las Vegas, their lives overshadowed by Walter’s mother, who drove off when he was five and never returned....” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary)

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Gay Fiction.

Author is American-born Chinese.

“The Story of a Homosexual: An Interview with Ni Dongxue.”

Interview by Liao Yiwu; translated from Chinese by Wenguang Huang.

In Words Without Borders Magazine, June 2011 (Queer Issue II) (online).

Interview/Biography.

“I met Ni Dongxue in 2006, in a quiet and nicely decorated gay bar...located in the city’s Moziqiao region....A pioneer and recognized leader in Chengdu’s gay community, the then-thirty-six-year-old Ni, graduated from Beijing Teachers’ University with a master’s degree in psychology....” (interviewer’s introduction). The interview follows.

Interviewer was born in Sichuan; his books have been published in Hong Kong and Taiwan, but are banned in mainland China (from profile following the interview in Words Without Borders Magazine)

Su, Tong.

Sui wa [Broken Tile]. Nanjing: Jiang su wen yi chu ban she, 1997.
(246 p.; ISBN 9787539911496)

In Chinese.

Novel.

“... first novel to explore same-sex desire,” although it “[dealt] with homosexuality only tangentially”; “[i]t opened the way for more explicit novels” such as those of Cui Zi’en and Tong Ge (see note in Introduction, People’s Republic of China section, and see at Cui and Tong on the list)

Ta ta ta ta de gu shi: Zhong Gang Tai zuo zhe duan pian xiao shuo ji [His-His Her-Her Stories: Short Stories by Authors of China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong].

Lu Jianxiong [John Loo] zhu bian. Xianggang [Hong Kong]: Hua sheng, 1996.
(300 p.; ISBN 9629220016)

In Chinese.

Short stories.

Di 2 ban [2nd edition], 1997.

Thom, Kai Cheng.

Fierce Femmes and Notorious Liars: A Dangerous Trans Girl’s Confabulous Memoir.

Montreal: Metonymy Press, 2019.
(188 p.; ISBN 9780994047137)

Novel.

“...a coming-of-age story about a young Asian trans girl, pathological liar, and kung fu expert, who runs away from her parents’ abusive home....” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Thom, Kai Cheng.

A Place Called No Homeland.

Vancouver, BC: Arsenal Pulp Press, 2017.
(83 p.; ISBN 9781551526799)

Poetry.

The poet “draws equally from memory and mythology to create new maps of gender, race, sexuality, and violence” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Author is Canadian of Chinese heritage.

Tong, Ge.

Hao nan Luo Ge [Good Man Gelu / Good Man Rogo].

Xianggang [Hong Kong]: Hua sheng shu dian, 1997.
(263 p.; ISBN 9789629220051)

In Chinese.

Novel.

Mainland Chinese author published in Hong Kong.

See note in Introduction, People's Republic of China section.

Tse, Chris.

He's So Masc.

Auckland, New Zealand: Auckland University Press, 2018.

(84 p.; ISBN 9781869408879)

Poetry.

“[C]onfronts a contemporary world of self-loathing poets and compulsive liars, of youth and sexual identity, and of the author as character....[U]napologetically sentimental and personal reflection on what it means to perform and dissect identity, as a poet and a person” (Book cover)

Tse, Chris.

Super Model Minority. Auckland, New Zealand: Auckland University Press, 2022.

(103 p.; ISBNs 9781869409616, 1869409612)

Poetry.

“From making boys cry with the power of poetry to hitting back against microaggressions and sucker punches, these irreverent and tender poems dive headfirst into race and sexuality” – Back cover of book.

2023 Lambda Literary Awards finalist for Gay Poetry.

Author is a New Zealand-born poet and short story writer of Chinese heritage, and is New Zealand Poet Laureate for 2022-2024.

Vo, Nghi.

Siren Queen. New York: Tor Publishing Group, 2023.

(282 p.; ISBNs 9781250820563, 1250820561)

Novel.

“Luli Wei is beautiful, talented and desperate to be a star....[S]he knows how dangerous the movie business is and how limited the roles are for a Chinese American girl from Hungarian Hill – but she doesn't care....

[The book] offers up an enthralling exploration of an outsider achieving stardom on her own terms....” (ref.: book cover).

NOTE: this title is entered also in the VIETNAM section because of author's background.

Nghi Vo is also the author of some fantasy novellas with queer characters.

Those titles have not been entered in this bibliography.

Wan, Gok.

Through Thick and Thin. London: Ebury Publishing, 2010.
(360 p.; ISBN 9780091938956 [etc.]

Autobiography.

“Gok grew up on a Leicester housing estate, with a loving family who ran a Chinese restaurant...[However], being Asian and gay as well, Gok felt lonely and out of place...[and] was an easy target for bullies...[Then] [i]n a moment of inspiration, he decided to reinvent himself with his first style makeover and a larger-than-life personality to go with it...The lessons Gok learnt during this time helped him bounce back to become a stylist to the stars, every woman’s best friend and a national treasure...” (goodreads.com, from trade paperback edition)
Author, an MBE, is the British-born son of a Hong Kong-born immigrant father.

Wang, Timothy.

Slant: A Novel.

Maple Shade, NJ [USA]: Tincture/Lethe Press, 2011.
(210 p.; ISBN 9781590211212)

Novel.

An Asian college student in the US decides he is gay and sets about trying to determine the parts of himself that he thinks others dislike, and to change himself. In the process he loses the sense of who he once was.

Author is a Chinese-American who “has lived in Utah, Boston, New York, Seattle, Shanghai and Beijing, and still hasn’t set down his roots anywhere” (ref.: amazon.com, Books).

Wang, Xiaobo.

“Shishui loqing” [Tender Feelings].

In Di jiu tian chang: Wang Xiaobo xiao shuo ju ben ji [Everlasting and Unchanging: An Anthology of Fiction and Scripts by Wang Xiaobo].

Changchun Shi: Shi dai wen yi chu ban she, 1998.

Anthology ISBN: 9787545201499; see also 2008 Shanghai imprint [in OCLC])

In Chinese.

Story, which “[led] the charge in foregrounding the subject of homosexuality” (Routledge International Encyclopedia of Queer Culture, “China, *Tongzhi* Literature” essay).

The Routledge essay also notes that China’s first gay film, *East Palace West Palace* (*Dong gong xi gong*, Zhang Yuan, 1996) was based on this story.

NOTE: the transliterated Chinese title and English title translation of the story are **as given** in the Routledge essay.

Wang, Zhenhe.

Rose, Rose, I Love You. Translated from Chinese by Howard Goldblatt.
New York: Columbia University Press, 1998.
(183 p.; ISBN 9780231112024)

Novel.

“An English-language school for prostitutes opens in Taiwan. It is the brainchild of a pimp who is keen to improve service for American soldiers on R & R from the Vietnam War. A first novel” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

“There are two types of gays in the novel: type one is represented by Dr. Yun, a physician and family man who has a penchant for young males; the second type are American soldiers, some of whom...will hanker to pair up with young men of Hualian [but soldiers do not appear in the book].... Written at [the] height of the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s, [the novel]...is perhaps the first work of Taiwanese literature to mention the disease” (ref.: Taiwan Ministry of Culture, Taiwan Culture Toolkit, LGBT Literature webpage [see Sources]).
Chinese title in transliteration: Mei gui mei gui wo ai ni.

Wat, Eric C.

Swim. Sag Harbor, NY: Permanent Press, 2019.
(272 p.: ISBN 9781579625740)

Novel.

Carson Chow, an addict, has numerous family difficulties, including the death of his mother, with whom he has been close. Carson is rejected in an attempt to find support from Jeremy, his ex, who is now clean, and has to struggle alone.
Author born in Hong Kong and lives in Los Angeles.

Wilson-Yang, Jia Qing.

Small Beauty. Montreal: Metonymy Press, 2016.
(161 p.; ISBN 9780994047120)

Novel.

Mei, a Chinese-Canadian trans woman, leaves her city life to live in a small town in the house of a cousin who has died. She connects there with her own and her cousin's histories and reflects on the past.
Lambda Literary Awards winner for Transgender Fiction.
Also published: Melbourne [Australia]: Brow Books, 2018.

Wong, Danny.

Waltzing Matilda Memoirs. Central Milton Keynes [UK]: AuthorHouse, 2010.
(215 p.; ISBN 9781449098544, 9781449098537)

Short stories.

Eighteen gay stories; Hong Kong.

Wong, Nicholas.

Crevasse.

Los Angeles; New York: Kaya Press, 2015.

(76 p.; ISBN 9781885030207)

Poetry.

Lambda Literary Awards winner for Gay Poetry.

NOTE: Chinese translation: Tian lie (Xianggang [Hong Kong]: Shui zhu yu wen hua zhi zuo you xian gong si, 2018; 201 pages).

See OCLC WorldCat for Chinese edition information, including Chinese-character title and imprint.

Author was born and raised in Hong Kong.

The author's later poetry book, Besiege Me (Noemi Press, 2021) was a finalist in the 2022 Lambda Literary Awards, Gay Poetry category.

Wong, Norman.

Cultural Revolution: Stories.

New York: Persea Books, 1994.

(177 p.; ISBN 9780892551972)

Short stories.

A gay teenager who makes a trip back to China is a member of the immigrant family that is the subject of these short stories.

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Gay Men's Fiction.

Wong, Shelley.

As She Appears: Poems. Portland, Oregon [USA]: YesYes Books, 2022.

(81 p.; ISBN 9781936919895, 1936919893)

Poetry.

2023 Lambda Literary Award for Lesbian Poetry.

"Wong writes in the space where so many do not appear as an invitation for queer women of color to arrive in love, exactly as they are"

(ref.: OCLC WorldCat record no. 1316776011, Summary)

Author is a "fourth-generation Chinese American" (ref.: shelly-wong.com/bio)

Wu ye nan nan: Xianggang nan xing xing gong zuo zhe kou shu li shi =

Midnight Blue: Oral History of Male Sex Workers in Hong Kong.

Luo Miaoyan bian ji Wu ye lan. Xianggang [Hong Kong]: Wu ye lan, 2022.

(288 p.; ISBNs 9789887643609, 9887643602)

In Chinese.

NOTE that **only the title** is given bilingually in English and Chinese, and that **some names** appear in Roman script.

Biographical sketches.

SEE OCLC WorldCat catalog record no. 1351615775 for title and editor/publisher names in Chinese-character script.

Yanyi.

The Year of Blue Water.

New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2019.

(96 p.; ISBN 9780300242645)

Poetry.

Yanyi's poems are experiences of immigration, racism, and gender from a queer and trans viewpoint (adapted from Google Books website description).

Yao, Xiao.

Everything Is Beautiful, and I'm Not Afraid: A Baopu Collection.

Kansas City, Missouri [USA]: Andrews McMeel Publishing, 2020.

(128 p.; ISBN 9781524852450)

Graphic novel.

"Inspired by the creator's own experiences as a queer, China-born illustrator living in the United States, [the book]...has a...memoir quality to its... accounts of what it's like to navigate the complexities of seeking belonging – mentally and geographically"

(ref.: publisher description as quoted in OCLC WorldCat catalog record Summary).

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for LGBTQ Comics.

Author was born in Tianjin, China, and lives in New York.

Ye, Zhiwei [Ip, Chi-wai].

Tu ran du shen = Suddenly Single. Xianggang [Hong Kong]: Kubrick, 2012

(156 p.; ISBN 9789881550675)

In Chinese (also available in English -- see English edition note below).

Novel.

Published earlier in Chinese by Friendmily Business, 2003.

"One day, after being in love and living with his boyfriend for seven years, Linus finds out that he has been cheated on...." (ref.: amazon.com, Books: Description for Suddenly Single, published 2011, electronic Kindle edition in English).

NOTE: Author has published several other works in Chinese. For some of those titles, see the Hong Kong Towards Full Citizenship bibliography (ref. in Sources).

Yee, Paul.

Money Boy.

Toronto: Groundwood Books/House of Anansi, 2011.

(184 p.; ISBN 9781554980949)

Novel.

“After his Chinese immigrant father discovers he has been cruising gay websites, eighteen-year-old Ray Liu is kicked out of the house and heads to downtown Toronto, where he faces the harsh realities of life on the street” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Stonewall Book Awards: Young Adult Literature Honor Book.

Author is Chinese-Canadian, born in Saskatchewan and raised in Vancouver’s Chinatown.

Zhan, Jie.

“Taste of Love.” Translated by Jeremy Tiang.

In Global Queer Plays: Seven LGBTQ+ Works from around the World.

London: Osborne Books, 2018.

Drama.

See the ASIA heading for additional information about Global Queer Plays.

Zhang, Haoyin.

Shanghai wang shi: ta he ta de gu shi [The Bygone Days of Shanghai].

Nanning Shi: Guangxi ren min chu ban she, 2003.

(206 p.; ISBN 9787219047644)

In Chinese.

Novel.

As noted earlier in Introduction above, explores “intimate relationships between women” and appeared initially as an online serial novel.

Zhou, Huashan [Chou, Wah-s(h)an].

Beijing tong zhi gu shi [Stories of Beijing Gays].

Xianggang [Hong Kong]: Xianggang tong zhi yan jiu she, 1996.

(188 p.)

In Chinese.

Short stories.

OCLC WorldCat notes a French translation under title:

Histoires de “camarades” : les homosexuels en Chine (Paris: Paris Méditerranée, 1996)

Zhou, Huashan [Chou, Wah-s(h)an].

Xianggang tong zhi gu shi [Stories of Hong Kong Gays].

Xianggang [Hong Kong]: Xianggang tong zhi yan jiu she, 1995.

(191 p.; ISBN 9789628502622)

In Chinese.

Short stories.

Zhou, Longzhang [Chow, Alan].

Deng huo Niuyue shou ren wu = My Lustrous Life.

Taibei Shi: Da kuai wen hua chu ban gu fen you xian gong si, 2015.

(312 p.; ISBN 9789862135747)

In Chinese.

Biography.

Author Alan Chow is well-known in Hong Kong and Taiwan, having worked for many decades in arranging performances of Chinese artists in New York.

Library of Congress catalog notes as biography of an Asian American gay artist.

Title of Beijing edition (2016): Xi meng Niuyue = My Lustrous Life.

See OCLC WorldCat for **Chinese-character** author/titles/imprints.

Zhu, Tianwen [Chu, T'ien-wen].

Notes of a Desolate Man. Translated from Chinese by Howard Goldblatt and Sylvia Li-chun Lin. New York: Columbia University Press, 1999.

(169 p.; ISBN 9780231116084)

Novel.

“This post-modern, first-person tale of a contemporary Taiwanese gay man reflecting on his life, loves, and intellectual influences is among the most important recent novels in Taiwan.” It was winner of the China Times Novel Prize (OCLC catalog record Summary).

“...a work of introspection in which the main character, Xiao Shao, a gay intellectual, mourns the loss of a close friend from AIDS” (Stephen D. Miller, “Asia, Literature” essay [see Routledge encyclopedia, listed in Sources]).

“The narrator, Shao, is forty and gay. He lives in Taipei and is a well-off, well-traveled sophisticate. Shao tells the story of his life and loves and contrasts himself with his childhood friend Ah Yao, who has died of AIDS. Ah Yao was a political activist and sexual adventurer confident in his identity as queer; Shao is a reluctant epicurean tormented by efforts to figure out who he is” (Thomas Moran, in Columbia Companion to Modern East Asian Literature, p. 492).

Translation of: Huang ren shou ji (Taibei Shi: Shi bao wen hua, 1994).

Translations also into Japanese and Korean (see OCLC WorldCat).

PHILIPPINES

Includes works in English and Tagalog/Filipino, with some references to other languages of the Philippines.

Queer literature in the Philippines appeared later than in Western countries. Although emerging in the 1960s, the literature “has only flourished since the 1990s.” Works are written in both Tagalog and English, but “[r]elatively few Tagalog writings have been translated into English.” Two early writers mentioned as having, in the 1970s, “challenged the conservative macho culture” are Orlando Nadres (playwright) and Elena Padron (ref.: Routledge International Encyclopedia of Queer Culture, “Philippines, Literature” entry [see Sources list]).

Alikpala, Raymond.

Of God and Men: A Life in the Closet. Duboyne, Ireland: Maverick House, 2012. (447 p.; ISBN 9781905379828, 190537982X)

Autobiography.

The author, born in Manila in 1966, had a conservative Catholic upbringing, managing his life, hiding his gayness, and eventually becoming a trial lawyer. Confronting his sexuality in his 30s, he left the Philippines for self-imposed exile in Cambodia. Along his journey he joined and left the priesthood, having decided that God wanted him to come out (adapted from Google Books website entry for the title, at “About the Author (2015)” [viewed December 15, 2020]).

Earlier edition under title: God Loves Bakla: My Life in the Closet (Quezon City, Philippines: Central Book Supply, 2010. 261 pages). This earlier ed. carries a title page verso note that it was first published by the author in 2009 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia (see OCLC WorldCat record no. 624582906).

Alumit, Noel.

Letters to Montgomery Clift: A Novel.

Los Angeles: Alyson Books, 2003.

(244 p.; ISBN 9781555838157)

Novel.

Coming-of-age story of a Filipino boy who searches for his mother imprisoned under the Marcos government.

Stonewall Award for Literature;

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Gay Men’s Fiction;

Violet Quill Award.

Alumit, Noel.

Talking to the Moon: A Novel.

New York: Carroll & Graf, 2007.

(340 p.; ISBN 9780786716296)

Novel.

In Los Angeles, a gay son and his boyfriend experience the racially-charged shooting of his Filipino-American father.

Aura: The Gay Theme in Philippine Fiction in English.

[Compiled] by J. Neil C. Garcia. Manila: Anvil, c2012.

(358 p.; ISBNs 9789712726347, 9712726347)

Anthology.

“Gathers together in one volume the best gay-themed short stories and novel excerpts from the Philippines’ best fictionists in English”

(from p. 4 of book cover).

Barrett, Kay Ulanday.

More Than Organs. Little Rock, Arkansas [USA]: Sibling Rivalry Press, 2020.

(93 p.; ISBN 9781943977741, 1943977747)

Poetry.

“A love letter to Brown, Queer, and Trans futures....” (publisher description as noted in OCLC WorldCat catalog record).

2021 Stonewall Honor Book Award.

2021 Lambda Literary Award finalist for Transgender Poetry.

Author, born in Michigan [USA], has a mother of Filipina background, and identifies as transgender.

Barrett, Kay Ulanday.

When the Chant Comes.

New York: Topside Press, 2016.

(116 p.; ISBN 9781627290159)

Poetry.

Author’s first poetry collection, speaking to love, justice, disability.

Author, born in Michigan [USA], has a mother of Filipina background, and identifies as transgender.

Bautista, Brigitte.

Don’t Tell My Mother. Mandaluyong [Philippines]: Spark Books, an imprint of Anvil Publishing, 2017.

(106 p.: ISBN 9786214201051)

Novel.

“19-year-old Sam has never had problems navigating through Christian suburbia before. But, all that changes when she befriends and becomes intrigued with Clara, her widowed neighbor and the village’s social outcast....” (ref.: “Local Books to Read This Pride Month”[see Sources])

Bautista, Brigitte.

You, Me, U.S. [Wichita, Kansas [USA] ?]: Blush Books, 2023.
(ca. 157 p.; ISBN 9786218244436)

Novel.

Jo and Liza are best friends but are very different: one is a worry-free sex worker and the other a sales clerk with many plans for her future. However, circumstances reveal feelings they didn’t think they had.
First published in 2019 independently as a paperback and also as a Kindle edition.

Baytan, Ronald.

The Queen Sings the Blues: Poems, 1992 - 2002. Manila: Anvil, c2007.
(102 p.; ISBNs 9789712718892, 9712718891)

Poetry.

Also in e-book format.

Note: Baytan has also authored The Queen Lives Alone: Personal Essays
(Diliman, Quezon City: University of the Philippines Press, 2012).

Busilak: New LGBTQ Poetry from the Philippines. Edited by J. Neil C. Garcia.

Diliman, Quezon City: University of the Philippines Press, 2020.
(ca. 193 p.; ISBNs 9789715429221, 971542922X)

In English, Bikol, Tagalog and Kinaray-a.

Anthology.

Casocot, Ian Rosales.

Beautiful Accidents: Stories. Diliman, Quezon City: University of the
Philippines Press, 2011.

(185 p.; ISBN 9789715426589)

Short stories.

“...his collection of stories with frank LGBT themes was nominated for the
National Book Award in 2012.”

Author is a creative writer, journalist, and university teacher
(ref.: Wikipedia: Ian Casocot)

Casocot, Ian Rosales and Sison, Shakira Andrea C.

Don’t Tell Anyone: Literary Smut.

Manila: Anvil Publishing, 2017.

(157 p.; ISBN 9786214201006)

Short stories.

“This book makes up for...[a] history of invalidation. An unprecedented dirty dozen,...[the] stories are direct and unflinching. They make no...apologies about the nature of sex between two men or between two women...” (ref.: “Local Books to Read This Pride Month” [see Sources]).

Castillo, Elaine.

America Is Not the Heart: A Novel. New York: Viking, 2018.
(408 p.; ISBN 9780735222410)

Novel.

Set in the San Francisco Bay area.

Note protagonist Hero De Vera, and Rosalyn.

“...the foreground [of the novel] is all about the power, pleasure and peril of kinship and romance, set in a beautifully, intimately drawn portrait of the Filipino American community. Plus lots of queer sex” (refs.: Viet Thanh Nguyen, in “‘Love, Loss and Longing’: The Best Books on Migration, Chosen by Writers,” The Guardian (www.theguardian.com), 6 February 2020 (online); Daniel C. Tsang communication).

“For me it was very important to write about queer women, bi women in particular, because I’m also bi and I don’t see any representations of bi women anywhere, especially not bi Filipino or Asian Americans” (ref.: “A Little Bit Like Worship: An Interview with Elaine Castillo,” by Yasman Adele Majeed, Asian American Writers’ Workshop (www.aaww.org), April 25, 2018 (online)).

Cruz, Jhoanna Lynn B.

Women Loving: Stories and a Play. Pasig City, Philippines: Anvil Pub., c2010.
(138 p.; ISBN 9789712723049, 9712723046)

Stories.

“[T]he first sole-author collection of lesbian-themed stories in the Philippines”; also available as an e-book titled: Women on Fire (2015); author is a professor of creative writing at the University of the Philippines Mindanao (ref.: Goodreads.com).

Curato, Mike.

Flamer. New York: Henry Holt and Co., 2020.
(366 p.; ISBN 9781627796415 [etc.])

Novel (semi-autobiographical graphic novel).

Set in 1995. Aiden Navarro, a 14-year-old Filipino American has difficulty fitting in at Boy Scout summer camp where he is surrounded by other teens going through puberty and trying to prove their “manliness.” Spending time with another boy, Elias, with whom he is infatuated, he begins to discover himself (Wikipedia article: Flamer (novel)).

2021 Lambda Literary Awards winner, LGBTQ Young Adult.

Dazo, R. Joseph.

“The Man with a Thousand Names.” Translated from Cebuano by John Bengan. In Words Without Borders Magazine, June 2020 (Queer Issue XI) (online).

In English translation and in original Cebuano (bilingual posting).

Short story

A man tattoos on his body the names of all the men he has “known, encountered, adored, rejected, and above all, loved.”

Original title of work: “Ang Tawo Nga May Liboan Ka Ngalan.”

Author is a teacher of literature and creative writing in the Philippines.

Biographical description accompanying this story notes that he has also authored a collection of gay short fiction in the Binisaya language (Ubang Gabii sa Mango Avenue. Kasingkasing Press, 2019) and co-edited a Binisaya-language anthology of queer literature (Libulan Binisayang Antolohiya sa Katitikang Queer. Cratos, 2018).

Garcia, J. Neil C.

Closet Quivers. Manila: Kalikasan Press, 1992.
(138 p.; ISBN 9789718577875)

Poetry.

Noted as a work from that period that focused on self-affirmation (ref.: Routledge International Encyclopedia of Queer Culture article, “Philippines, Literature” [see Sources]).

Gatchalian, C. E.

Double Melancholy: Art, Beauty, and the Making of a Brown Queer Man.
Vancouver: Arsenal Pulp Press, 2019.
(135 p.; ISBN 9781551527536, 1551527537)

Autobiography.

“...an introverted, anxious, ambitious, artistically gifted queer Filipino-Canadian boy finds solace, inspiration, and a ‘syllabus for living’ in art.” But what works of literature and music contributed “to his intellectual, emotional, and spiritual edification belies the fact that they were largely heteronormative and white, which had the effect of invisibilizing him as a queer person of colour....Part memoir, part cultural commentary....” (OCLC WorldCat, Summary, record no. 1050955382).
Author is Filipino-Canadian.

Gracio, Jerry B.

Bagay Tayo; Hindi Bagay. Pasay City, Philippines: Visprint, 2018.
(266 p.; ISBNs 9789710545902, 9710545906 [Bagay Tayo] and
61 p.; ISBNs 9789710545919, 9710545914 [Hindi Bagay])

In Tagalog.

Essays [Bagay Tayo] and Poetry [Hindi Bagay].

This two-volume work “features Jerry Gracio’s exchanges with his same-sex partner, told in essays in the first book...and in verses for the second....” (ref.: De La Cruz [see Sources]).

Ladlad: An Anthology of Philippine Gay Writing. Edited by J. Neil C. Garcia and Danton Remoto. Manila: Anvil, 1994.
(295 p.; ISBN 9789712703508, etc.)

In Tagalog and English.

Anthology.

NOTE: similar later titles, including:

Ladlad 2: An Anthology of Philippine Gay Writing (Anvil, 1996);

Ladlad 3: An Anthology of Philippine Gay Writing (Anvil, 2007);

The Best of Ladlad: An Anthology of Philippine Gay Writing (Anvil, 2014)

(See OCLC WorldCat records for additional details about these).

Legaspi, Joseph O.

Imago: Poems.

Fort Lee, New Jersey: CavanKerry Press, 2007; Manila: UST Publishing, 2015.
(83 p.; ISBN 9781933880037 (CavanKerry); 9789715067454 (UST))

Poetry.

Author is Philippines-born; family immigrated to the US when he was young.

Legaspi, Joseph O.

Threshold.

Fort Lee, New Jersey: CavanKerry Press; distributed by University of Chicago Press, 2017.

(100 p.; ISBN 9781933880631)

Poetry

Linmark, R. Zamora.

Leche: A Novel.

Minneapolis, MN: Coffee House Press, 2011.

(355 p.; ISBN 9781566892728)

Novel.

Vince, a gay Filipino, “[a]fter thirteen years of living in the U.S,...returns to his birthplace, the Philippines. As he ventures into the heat and chaos of the city, he encounters a motley cast of characters....” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Nery, Peter Solis.

100 Erotic Sonnets from the Hiligaynon.

[United States]: CreateSpace Independent Publishing, 2010.
(132 p.; ISBN 9781453710715)

Poetry.

Translated from Hiligaynon to English.

Nery, Peter Solis.

Funny, Sad, and Dangerous: Three Award-winning Short Plays.

[USA]: Independently published, 2019.
(132 p.; ISBN 9781089031048)

Drama.

“Three Palanca Award-winning 21st-century one-act plays by multi-awarded Filipino playwright....Includes ‘The Wide Ionian Sea’ (2010), ‘Gladiolas’ (2014), and ‘Tic-Tac-Toe’ (2016)” (ref.: amazon.com. Books).

NOTE: Amazon.com presents this as an item in English, whereas elsewhere the play “Gladiolas” is said to have been written in Filipino. Compiler does not know if this collection is a translation.

Nery, Peter Solis.

A Loneliness Greater than Love. Iloilo, Philippines: DreamWings Pub., 2000.
(56 p.; ISBN 9789719214601)

Poetry.

“...an exploration of homoerotic themes” (ref.: Wikipedia: Peter Solis Nery).

Nery, Peter Solis.

Welcome to Grindr: A Play. [United States]: CreateSpace Independent Publishing, c2016.
(102 p.; ISBN 9781515143437)

Drama.

“...a story of the sexual and romantic odyssey of a Filipino writer lost in his first winter in America....” (ref.: Google Books).

Ong, Han.

The Disinherited: A Novel.

New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2004.
(369 p.; ISBN 9780374280758)

Novel.

“...forty-four-year-old Roger Caracera...returns to the land of his birth after nearly three decades in the United States...for the funeral of his estranged

father...[He] is stunned to discover he has been left a small fortune. Unable to live with his inheritance,...Roger decides to give his money away.” His wish to give some of it to a male prostitute friend of his late uncle disturbs his relatives. A wide cast of characters. (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).
Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Gay Fiction.

Author born and educated in the Philippines and went to the US as a teenager. He was named a MacArthur Fellow in 1997. This was his first novel, following several critically-acclaimed plays.

Ong, Han.

Fixer Chao.

New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2001.
(377 p.; ISBN 9780374155759)

Novel.

“When William Narciso Paulinha [aka Master Chao, a gay Filipino hustler]... meets Shem C, a disreputable social-climbing writer embittered by his lack of success, the Feng Shui scam of the century is born” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Ortile, Matt.

The Groom Will Keep His Name. New York: Bold Type Books, 2020.
(322 p.; ISBN 9781541762794, 9781541762800)

Biography/Essays.

“Collection...from a gay Filipino immigrant in the United States...[who] explores what every gay immigrant faces when moving to the West: the search for identity and sexual exploration. This debut also documents Ortile’s social awakening...[concerning] race and ethnicity” (refs.: Arvyn Cerézo, “5 of the Most Anticipated Books from Asian Authors in 2020,” article dated 02-05-20 posted at Bookriot.com [viewed Feb. 8, 2020]; Daniel C. Tsang communication).

Pamatmat, A. Rey.

Thunder Above, Deeps Below.

New York: Samuel French, 2012.
(81 p.; ISBN 9780573700170)

Drama.

“Three homeless friends – a Filipina-American with a hidden past, a Filipina transsexual, and a Puerto Rican hustler – struggle in the Chicago streets to scrounge up enough cash to bus it to San Francisco before the winter cold hits....” (ref.: Google Books).

Ramos, Ricardo.

Flipping. Oakland, CA: Floating Lotus, 1998.
(181 p.; ISBN 9780942777147)

Novel.

The author has “produced one of the most shocking and perhaps controversial gay-oriented books of the year [i.e., 1998]. [The book] is raw, outrageous, hysterically funny, fascinatingly human, very politically incorrect....” (ref.: amazon.com, Books).

“...three Filipino males who have sex with males come to terms with their sexuality in different ways....[T]he two main narrators...are not afraid to reveal attitudes that are instantly condemned by the keepers of political correctness....” (ref.: amazon.com, Books: Review)

Author is American-born, of Filipino heritage.

Ramos, Ricardo.

Searching for the Key: A Novel.
San Jose, CA: Writers Club Press, 2002.
(186 p.; ISBN 9780595228126)

Novel.

“A Japanese-American wife manipulates her husband into bed with a gay Filipino co-worker” (ref.: Walker).

Compiler note: this work has also been listed in the JAPAN section.

Realuyo, Bino A.

The Umbrella Country.
New York: Ballantine Books, 1999.
(298 p.; ISBN 9780345428882)

Novel.

The awakening to adulthood of Gringo, a young boy in the slums of Manila. Gringo, who is gay, later immigrates to the US.

Remoto, Danton.

Riverrun: A Novel. Mandaluyong City, Philippines: Anvil Publishing, 2015.
(199 p.; ISBN 9789712731716)

Novel.

“...a rite-of-passage” work; “the life of a gay man growing up in a colorful and chaotic dictatorship....” (ref.: “Local Books to Read This Pride Month” [see Sources]).

NOTE: Routledge International Encyclopedia of Queer Culture entry, “Philippines, Literature,” mentions Remoto’s earlier work of poetry in English and Tagalog, Skin Voices Faces (1991), as a work focusing on self-affirmation.

Rocero, Geena.

Horse Barbie: A Memoir. New York: Dial Press, 2023.
(ca. 300 p.; ISBN 9780593445884, 0593445880)

Autobiography.

Rocero grew up in 1990s Manila to many taunts because of her feminine walk. At 17, she was the highest-earning trans pageant queen in the country. Her story continues with her move to the US and her ongoing struggles and successes.

Rodriguez, Nice.

Throw It to the River.

Toronto: Women's Press, 1993.
(156 p.; ISBN 9780889611870)

Short stories.

Comic and erotic stories by a lesbian Filipina journalist immigrant to Canada. "A collection of short stories, expanding the definition of 'butch' while poking sly fun at Canada, the lesbian movement, and butch-femme roles" (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Sta.Ana, Art.

He's Dating the Transgender. With Trixie Maristela.

Mandaluyong City, Philippines: Anvil Publishing, 2015.
(93 p.; ISBN 9789712731624)

In Tagalog and English.

Biography.

Summary note in Talagog in OCLC WorldCat record.

"What this book is about, more than anything else, is love...."

(ref.: Foreword, AA Patawaran, Manila Bulletin, as quoted in "Local Books to Read This Pride Month," for which see Sources).

Start Here: Short Stories of First Encounters. Edited by Ronald S. Lim and Brigitte Bautista. [S.l.]: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2018.
(278 p.; ISBN 9781983803079, 1983803073)

Anthology.

Ten short stories by various authors.

"This anthology contains M/M, F/F, F/NB romance stories with happy endings"
(ref.: amazon.com "Book overview" for the title).

Talong / Tahong: Mga Kuwentong Homoerotiko. [Compiled] by Rolando B. Tolentino. Mandaluyong City, Philippines: Anvil, 2011.
(177 p.; ISBNs 9789712725098, 971272509X)

In Tagalog.

Anthology of gay and lesbian short stories.

Talusan, Meredith.

Fairest: A Memoir. New York: Viking, 2020.
(310 p.; ISBN 9780525561309, 0525561307)

Autobiography.

“...memoir about life as a young boy with albinism, a gay man, and ultimately a transgender woman. Immigrating from a rural Philippine village to the United States, Talusan is eventually granted an academic scholarship to Harvard from which she ‘emerged as an artist and an activist questioning the boundaries of gender’...” (ref.: LeFevre [see Sources list]).

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Transgender Nonfiction.

Teodoro, John Iremil E.

Sad-sadan, Happy-hapihan: Mga Kuwento ng Pag-Ibig.
Diliman, Quezon City: University of the Philippines Press, 2019.
(105 p.; ISBN 9789715429054)

In Tagalog.

Short stories.

Refs.: OCLC WorldCat record no. 1135917161 notes these as “short stories on homosexuality”; also listed on Goodreads website.

Tingle: Anthology of Pinay Lesbian Writers. Edited by Jhoanna Lynn B. Cruz.

Mandaluyong City, Philippines: Anvil Publishing, 2021.
(272 p.; ISBNs 9789712735974, 9712735974)

Anthology.

“45 literary works by Filipino lesbians” (ref.: De La Cruz [see Sources]).

Also published as an e-book.

True Colors: A Spectrum of Filipino Gay and Lesbian Online Writings.

Edited by Nelson Agustin; preface by Danton Remoto.
Vancouver, BC: Helios, 2001.
(182 p.; ISBN 9780978321253, 0978321251)

Anthology.

“An anthology of selected writings from the online conference 1998-2000 by contemporary gay and lesbian writers” (amazon.com, Book Overview).

NOTE: the website from which this e-book was formerly downloadable seems to no longer be accessible. However, the site has been archived by the Internet Archive Wayback Machine. Enter www.heliosmedia.ca in search box, call up a date on which the site was visited, and then look under the **E-Books** tab.

Wildfire: Filipina Lesbian Writings. Makati City, Philippines: Gantala Press, 2021.
(115 p.)

Anthology.

“[I]ncludes poetry, prose works, visual arts, a screenplay, and comics by high school and college students, professionals, and workers” (ref.: De La Cruz [see Sources]).

Zyrus, Jake.

I Am Jake. Mandaluyong City, Philippines: Anvil Publishing, 2018.
(140 p.; ISBN 9789712734472)

Autobiography.

“Charice Pempengco was poised to be the next big global pop star...But, she bravely turned her back on the glittering lights of Hollywood for a bigger dream – to be himself....” (ref.: “Local Books to Read This Pride Month” [see Sources]).

VIETNAM

Doan, Duy.

We Play a Game. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2018.
(76 p.; ISBN 9780300230888)

Poetry.

“These are poems that draw from Doan’s experience as a Vietnamese-American while at the same time making a case for...the fluidity of identity, history, and language....” (Yale University Press website)

Lambda Literary Award winner for Bisexual Poetry.

Lam, Andrew.

East Eats West: Writing in Two Hemispheres. Berkeley, CA: Heyday Books, 2010.

(169 p.; ISBN 9781597141383)

Essays.

“From cuisine and martial arts to sex and self-esteem,...shines new light on the bridges and crossroads where two hemispheres meld into one worldwide ‘immigration nation’....[C]ollection of twenty-one personal essays....”

(ref.: Google Books website, which includes descriptor “Literary Collections/LGBT”).

Author went to the US at the age of 11, on the eve of the fall of Saigon to communist forces; “Though reticent about speaking about his sexuality, in 2009 Lam gave an interview for a collection of portraits of homosexual Americans” (ref.: Wikipedia: Andrew Lam, which notes Gambone, Travels in a Gay Nation).

Mochizuki, Aska.

Spinning Tropics: A Novel. Translated from Japanese by Wayne P. Lammers. New York: Vintage Books, 2009.

(231 p.; ISBN 9780307473691, 0307473694)

Novel.

Hiro, a Japanese woman in her twenties, has left Tokyo to teach Japanese in Vietnam. A shy young Vietnamese woman becomes one of her students and the two women are attracted to one another. When a Japanese businessman becomes friendly with Hiro, her student becomes jealous and a complicated triangle develops (adapted from penguinrandomhouse.ca website description). Originally published in Japanese as: Kaiten suru nettai (Tokyo: Random House Kodansha, 2007).

This title has also been entered at the JAPAN heading.

Nao, Vi Khi.

The Old Philosopher. New York: Nightboat Books; Lebanon, NH: Distributed by University Press of New England, 2016.
(73 p.; ISBN 9781937658489)

Poetry.

“These quiet, implosive poems inhabit a nonlinear temporality in which Vi Khi Nao brings biblical time and political time together..., allowing current affairs to converse with a more ancient and historical reality” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Lesbian Poetry.

Nguyễn, Đình Tú.

Xác phàm. Hà Nội [i.e., Hanoi, Vietnam]: Nhà xuất bản Văn Học, 2018.
(243 p.; ISBN 9786049696497).

In Vietnamese.

Title translation to English seen variously as: Flesh or The Flesh.

Published earlier by: NXB Tré, 2014.

Young gay man’s journey to understand himself. Two close friends are children of martyrs of the 1979 northern border war with China.

See OCLC WorldCat record no. 1083721560 for summary in Vietnamese.

Nguyen, Eric.

Things We Lost to the Water. New York: Knopf, 2021.
(304 p.; ISBN 9780593317952, etc.)

Novel.

A highly-praised first novel of family and individual adaptation. A young Vietnamese mother and her sons settle, in their own ways over the years, into their new American lives in New Orleans. While the elder son grows from a gentle boy into a teenager trying to prove his toughness, Binh, the younger son, now going by the name Ben, comes to realize he is gay.

Nguyen, Hao Van.

True Story: Vietnam to America. As told to Barbara Grether; edited by Valli Aman.

Bloomington, Indiana [USA]: AuthorHouse, 2005.
(133 p.; ISBN 9781420830248, etc.)

Autobiography.

Story of author’s immigration to the US as a child and coming out as a gay man.

Nguyen, Hieu Minh.

Not Here. Minneapolis, Minnesota: Coffee House Press, 2018.
(73 p.; ISBN 9781566895095)

Poetry.

“...a queer Vietnamese American body in confrontation with whiteness, trauma, family, and nostalgia...” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary)

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Gay Poetry.

Author is a US-born Vietnamese-American from Minnesota.

Nguyen, Hieu Minh.

This Way to the Sugar: Poems. Austin, TX: Write Bloody Publishing, 2014.
(75 p.; ISBN 9781938912443)

Poetry.

“...bruising collection...puts a blade and a microscope to nostalgia, tradition, race, apology, and sexuality, in order to find beauty in a flawed world...” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary)

Nguyen, Trung Le.

The Magic Fish. New York: Random House Graphic, 2020.
(229 p.; ISBN 9781984851958, etc.)

Graphic novel (young adult).

Is there a way for Tiên to tell his Vietnamese parents, who are struggling with English, that he’s gay?

Lambda Literary Awards finalist for LGBTQ Young Adult.

Author was born in a Vietnamese refugee camp in the Philippines and moved to the United States as a child.

Thuyên, Nhã.

“Nihilism.” Translated from Vietnamese by Kaitlen Rees.

In Words Without Borders Magazine, June 2018 (Queer Issue IX) (online).

Poem.

“Uncurbed by either pretense or punctuation, ...[the poet] plays with nothingness as the tangibility of meaning”;

[“In the ongoing fruitless search for a third-person-singular and gender-neutral term that remains both familiar and human in English, as ‘hắn’ does in Vietnamese, the author and translator have settled on ‘that one’ ”]

(from introduction to the poem in Words Without Borders Magazine).

Vietnamese title: Hu’ vô chủ nghĩa.

Tran, Paul.

All the Flowers Kneeling. New York: Penguin Books, 2022.
(100 p.; ISBNs 9780143136842, 0143136844 [etc.])

Poetry.

2023 Lambda Literary Awards finalist for Transgender Poetry.

Author is American, “a child of Vietnamese refugees” (Wikipedia: “Paul Tran”).

Truong, Monique T. D.

The Book of Salt. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2004.

(261 p.; ISBN 9780618304004, etc.)

Novel.

Story told by Binh, a gay Vietnamese cook who leaves 1929 Saigon to work at sea and then works for Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas in late 1920s/early 1930s Paris.

Author is Vietnamese-American, born in Saigon and living in Brooklyn, NY.

Vo, Nghi.

The Chosen and the Beautiful. New York: Tordotcom Publishing, 2021.

(ISBN 9781250784780, 1250784786)

Novel.

Coming-of-age story.

“[A] magical reimagining of The Great Gatsby...” (ref.: tor.com, Book Announcements, June 15, 2020 [viewed March 15, 2021]).

Protagonist Jordan Baker is a queer, adopted, transracial Vietnamese growing up in an exclusive, rich, educated segment of 1920s American society.

Author Vo is American-born of Vietnamese background.

Vo, Nghi.

Siren Queen. New York: Tor Publishing Group, 2023.

(282 p.; ISBNs 9781250820563, 1250820561)

Novel.

“Luli Wei is beautiful, talented and desperate to be a star....[But] she knows how dangerous the movie business is and how limited the roles are for a Chinese American girl from Hungarian Hill – but she doesn’t care....

[The book] offers up an enthralling exploration of an outsider achieving stardom on her own terms....” (ref.: cover of book).

NOTE: this title entered also in CHINA section.

Vuong, Ocean.

Night Sky with Exit Wounds. Port Townsend, WA: Copper Canyon Press, 2016.

(89 p.; ISBN 9781556594953)

Poetry.

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Gay Poetry.

Author is a Vietnamese-born American poet, essayist, and novelist (Wikipedia).

Vuong, Ocean.

On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous: A Novel.

New York: Penguin Press, 2019.

(256 p.; ISBN 9780525562023)

Novel.

Written in the form of a letter from a Vietnamese-American son, Little Dog, to his illiterate mother. In the latter part of the novel, Little Dog meets Trevor, with whom he has a romantic relationship.

This work is given high praise in Kirkus Reviews:

“A raw and incandescently written foray into fiction by one of our most gifted poets.”

CAMBODIA

Reang, Putsata.

Ma and Me: A Memoir. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2022.
(384 p.; ISBN 9780374279264 [etc.]

Memoir/Autobiography.

“The memoir of a refugee caught between her identity as a gay woman and the love and life debt she owes her mother” (ref.: goodreads.com). The author was eleven months old when her family fled Cambodia, almost dying during the boat passage, but saved by the persistence of her mother and medical staff. Over the years she works to make her mother proud, but when, at 40, she tells her mom that she is marrying a woman, something breaks between the two. (ref.: us.macmillan.com, Book Details).

2023 Lambda Literary Awards finalist for Lesbian Memoir.

Author is Cambodian-American.

So, Anthony Veasna.

Afterparties: Stories. New York: Ecco/HarperCollins, 2021.

Short stories.

This is, more broadly, a collection about the Cambodian-American community. It has received some high praise. In one story, a “queer love affair sparks between an older tech entrepreneur trying to launch a ‘safe space’ app and a disillusioned young teacher....” (ref.: amazon.com).

The collection draws on “the tragedies his family endured in Cambodia during the rule of the Khmer Rouge and his own struggles with sexual and cultural identity” (ref.: Los Angeles Times [Associated Press article/obituary], December 10, 2020 (online) [viewed December 13, 2020]).

Author, who passed away in 2020 at the age of 28, is American-born of Cambodian heritage.

Suong, Mak.

[Boyfriend]. 2010.

In Khmer.

Novel.

Various English and French sources noted below give the title as: Boyfriend. Author in interview comments: “Initially the boys [in the book] start as friends, one a swimmer from Siem Reap who comes to study in Phnom Penh, and the other a gangster from a high school...and their friends all begin to think they are gay and talk badly to them, so the boys separate – but they feel like something is missing in their lives, and they get back together despite the criticisms from society. It explores themes such as homophobia, judgements...the message is no matter what gender or sexuality you are, love is always beautiful”

(ref: Claire Knox, "Rising Khmer Literary Star...", The Phnom Penh Post, 26 November 2012 (online) [viewed December 17, 2020].

"...the first Cambodian novel portraying a gay male couple"

(ref.: Robert Horne, "Indirect Speech," Sydney Review of Books, August 9, 2016 (online) [viewed Dec. 17, 2020].

Author in interview notes that "Boyfriend est le premier roman gay publié au Cambodge" and that several have shown interest in issuing an English translation, but up to interview time such translation had not happened.

(ref.: Jentayu (editions-jentayu.fr), nr. 1 [2016?] (online)

[viewed Dec. 17, 2020]. (Compiler also has not found an English version).

NOTE: a later Suong work, High School in Love, carries stories of male-male and male-female love and was "a hit at the Cambodian Book Fair."

(ref.: Say Tola, "Author Who Dares To Be Different," Khmer Times, December 12, 2017 (online) [viewed December 17, 2020].

Author is Cambodian, originally from a village in Kampong Cham province.

MALAYSIA

Entries in this section are for works in Malay, Chinese, and/or English. Those titles entered with no language note are in English.

Body 2 Body: A Malaysian Queer Anthology. Edited by Jerome Kugan and Pang Khee Teik. 2nd ed.; Petaling Jaya, Malaysia: Matahari Books, 2009. (240 p.; ISBN 9789834359690)

Anthology.

“...the first of its kind: a compilation of original creative writing on the gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transsexuals and transvestites of the country”; “the queers of Malaysia are boldly and fabulously represented in 23 stories, fiction and non-fiction” (ref.: amazon.com, Books).

Editors: “Jerome Kugan is a writer and musician who has been living and working in Kuala Lumpur since 2000”; “Pang Khee Teik is the Arts Programme Director for The Annexe Gallery [in Central Market]” (ref.: amazon.com, Books).

Chan, Paul.

Broken Jade. Sydney, Australia: PHHC, 2020. (305 p.; ISBNs 9780648857600, 0648857603)

Novel.

“One family, two very different worlds. When same sex marriage is approved in Australia, Sydney lawyer Justin Wong calls home and turns his mother Madeline’s world upside down. Madeline is a respected society matron and a church elder in her hometown, Tenangan...Madeline and Justin illuminate the lives of families who must navigate vast cultural differences in order to stay together” (ref.: OCLC WorldCat catalog record Summary).

Chin, Justin.

98 Wounds. San Francisco: Manic D Press, 2011. (121 p.; ISBN 9781933149370, etc.)

Short stories.

“Intertwined poetic short stories” (ref.: Walker).

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Gay Debut Fiction.

Author is an American of Chinese heritage, born in Malaysia and brought up in Singapore, who moved to the US to study and live as a young man.

Chin, Justin.

Bite Hard. San Francisco: Manic D Press, 1997.
(124 p.; ISBN 9780916397470).

Various genres.

About being a gay Asian American.

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Gay Men's Poetry and Small Press.

Chin, Justin.

Gutted. San Francisco: Manic D Press, 2006.
(96 p.; ISBN 9781933149073)

Poetry.

Reflections on illness, loss, and grief.

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Gay Poetry.

Chin, Justin

Harmless Medicine. San Francisco: Manic D Press, 2001.
(142 p.; ISBN 9780916397722)

Poetry.

Coming out of the generation following the beginning of the AIDS epidemic, this poetry collection "explores illness, travel, contagion, the meaning of home, identity, tainted purity and the bits of life that contain them...." (ref.: Google Books).

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Gay Men's Poetry.

Chin, Justin.

Mongrel: Essays, Diatribes, and Pranks. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1999.
(178 p.; ISBN 9780312195137)

Various genres.

Opinion pieces and essays; 21 prose pieces (ref.: amazon.com, Books: Review).

"Cross-section of Chin's imagination and experiences that calls into question what it means to be a gay Asian-American in San Francisco, the effect your family will always have on you, and the role sexuality plays in your life....";

"collection that is a combination of confession, tirade, journalism, and practical joke." (OCLC WorldCat record Summary)

Cho, Zen.

Black Water Sister. London: Macmillan, 2021 (and other imprints).
(370 p.; ISBN 9781509800001, [etc.])

Novel (fantasy/mythological fiction).

Set in contemporary Malaysia; "...the story of Jess, a young Malaysian

lesbian who moves to her family's native Penang Island after having been raised in the United States...Jess has to find ways to appease Black Water Sister, a local Chinese goddess" (ref.: Ferrarese [see Sources]).

Chua, Lawrence.

Gold by the Inch: A Novel. New York: Grove Press, 1998.
(209 p.; ISBN 9780802116260, etc.)

Novel.

"The story of a young New Yorker of Asian descent who has returned to the country of his birth following a disastrous relationship and his father's death. In a Bangkok drunk on the nation's financial miracle...the narrator meets Thong, a young, beautiful male hustler who works at a nightclub" (OCLC WorldCat record Summary). This work also entered at THAILAND heading.

Author was born in Penang, Malaysia, in 1966 and lives in the United States.

Hao jiao ju qi: Ma Hua tong zhi xiao shuo xuan. 2.

Xu Tongyuan zhu bian. Kuala Lumpur: You ren chu ban she, 2019.
(320 p.; ISBN 9789670744568)

In Chinese (traditional script)

Anthology (of Malaysian fiction in Chinese).

Ref.: OCLC WorldCat record no. 1121051982 also gives editor/title/publisher in Chinese script.

SEE ALSO, below, at You zhi yi tong: Ma Hua tong zhi xiao shuo xuan.

Johar, Shaz.

Aku. Petaling Jaya, Selangor [Malaysia]: Buku Fixi, 2019.
(327 p.; ISBNs 9789672128953, 9672128959)

In Malay or English.

Novel.

English-language Kindle ed., 2021.

Goodreads reviews are primarily in Malay, with a few in English.

One commentator notes that the book "centers around a 45 year old man,

Ghazi, who's gay and...[who] has a daughter and a long lost lover...."

Kam, Joshua.

How the Man in Green Saved Pahang, and Possibly the World.
Singapore: Epigram Books, 2020.

Novel.

"[P]art fairy-tale adventure, part insightful local folklore, and part Malaysian historical treatise, peppered with heavy doses of magical realism and coming-of-age themes. However, the book's most striking feature is that its heroes are largely LGBTQ characters" (ref.: Ferrarese [see Sources]).

Winner of Singapore's Epigram Books Fiction Prize, 2020.
Also available as an e-book.

Kisah orang kita: penulisan LGBT oleh LGBT.

Petaling Jaya, Selangor [Malaysia]: Matahari Books, an imprint of Buku Fixi, 2018.

In Malay.

Anthology.

Follow-up to the first Malay-language queer fiction anthology, Orang macam kita (ref.: Jerome [see Sources]). SEE Orang macam kita, below in this list.

Note: e-book listed at Overdrive.com website as of August 15, 2023.

Mata hati kita: The Eyes of Our Hearts. Compiled by Angela M. Kuga Thas and Jac S.M. Kee. Petaling Jaya [Malaysia]: Gerakbudaya Enterprise, 2016. (142 p.; ISBNs 9789832344537, 9832344530)

In English, with some works in Malay.

Anthology.

Summary from one OCLC catalog entry:

“Here are twenty-four stories that invite readers to witness the lives of lesbians, bisexual women and trans people.”

OCLC record notes availability as print book or e-book (e-book ISBNs: 9789832344650, 9832344654).

Review in Kyoto Review of Southeast Asia (kyotoreview.org), issue 20 (September 2016) (online).

Mustaffa, Fahmi.

“Theo.” Translated from Malay by Adriana Nordin Manan.

In Words Without Borders Magazine (Queer Issue XII), June 2021 (online).

Novel excerpt.

Conversation and interaction between two Malaysian expats in Amsterdam, one an older widower and Theo, a young gay man.

Excerpt from Malay-language novel: Amsterdam [Petaling Jaya, Malaysia]: Buku Fixi, 2017 (244 p.; ISBN 9789670954875).

Orang macam kita [People Like Us]. Azwan Ismail and Diana Dirani, suntingan [eds.]. Petaling Jaya, Malaysia: Matahari Books, 2010. (226 p.; ISBN 9789834484569)

In Malay.

Anthology.

“The first Malay-language anthology of queer writing features 25 stories and essays....” (ref.: amazon.com, Books). The amazon.com entry also gives the “full line-up”, that is a table of contents, noting author/title of works included.

Note also review at amazon.com entry, by Hafidz Baharom, offering some comparisons between this title and the Body 2 Body anthology listed above. SEE ALSO follow-up 2018 anthology Kisah orang kita, above in this section.

Tehrani, Faisal.

Profesor. [Malaysia]: Buki Fixi, 2017.
(371 p.; ISBNs 9789672128236, 9672128231)

In Malay or English.

Novel.

First published in Malay by Buku Fixi. Edition statement: Cetakan tunggal.

Published in English as: The Professor (Petaling Jaya: Gerakbudaya Enterprise, 2017 (321 p.; ISBNs 9789670311432, 9670311438).

Publisher information as quoted in OCLC catalog record 1123184743 for English-language print book: "Suliza is a feminist professor who discovers her sexuality while at an Islamic religious school. After her first relationship ends in tragedy, Suliza moves to the United States to continue her studies...[then continues to]...Geneva and Stockholm. Upon her return to Malaysia, she and her lawyer friend Maria are...targets of conservative groups....The Professor is a love story but also a medi[t]ation on the meaning of justice, sexuality and religion in a society increasingly dominated by extremism."

Wo men de gu shi = Our Stories.

Ouyang Wenfeng ce hua. Kuala Lumpur: Seashore Publishing, 2010.
(237 p.; ISBN 9789675413360, 9675413360)

In Chinese (primarily).

Anthology.

Personal stories and interviews of the lgbt ethnic Chinese community, with contributions from Malaysia, China (PRC), Hong Kong, Taiwan, Canada, and the US.

Refs.: OCLC WorldCat record no. 849686619; Malaysian National Library online catalogue; personal communication.

You zhi yi tong: Ma Hua tong zhi xiao shuo xuan.

Xu Tongyuan bian. Kuala Lumpur: You ren chu ban she = Got One Publisher, 2007.
(247 p.; ISBN 9789832812210, 9832812216)

In Chinese.

Anthology (of Malaysian fiction in Chinese).

Ref.: OCLC WorldCat record nos. 848119208 and 308889459 also give title in Chinese script.

SEE ALSO, above, at: Hao jiao ju qi: Ma Hua tong zhi xiao shuo xuan. 2.

SINGAPORE

Note 1: Works in this section are in **English, unless otherwise noted.**

Note 2: At the **MALAYSIA** heading, see some works of **Justin Chin** (1969-2015), an American of Chinese heritage, born in Malaysia and brought up in Singapore, and who moved to the US to study and live as a young man.

Note 3: Many novels, short stories, poetry collections, and (unpublished?) plays are presented in the Wikipedia article titled: **LGBT Topics in Singaporean Literature** [viewed January 3, 2020]. Works and annotation quotations from that piece are given with reference to the article, as appropriate. See that article for additional works not listed below, including poetry collections of Cyril Wong.

De Rozario, Tania.

And the Walls Come Crumbling Down. 3rd ed. [updated]; Singapore: Math Paper Press; New York: Gaudy Boy, 2020.
(111 p.; ISBN 9789811473739 (Math Paper), 9780999451403 (Gaudy Boy))

Biography/prose poetry.

“...starts in the early 2000s. A young queer woman in Singapore is unable to find safety and refuge in her biological family or country of birth. But she insists on home. She insists on history. She refuses sanitized orderliness..., choosing to build a life that embraces the mess and excess of human existence.... [A] hybrid of queer memoir and poetic rumination....”

(ref.: www.bookshop.org, Description of title [viewed June 10, 2021]).

First published: Singapore: Math Paper Press, 2016.

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Lesbian Memoir/Biography.

Author is Singaporean.

Exhale: An Anthology of Queer Singapore Voices. Edited by Ng Yi-Sheng et al.
Singapore: Math Paper Press, 2021.
(544 p.; ISBNs 9789811811395, 9811811393)

In various languages.

Anthology.

“[A] landmark literary project, gathering the best works of local LGBTQ writers who emerged in the 2010s....This collection features texts written in English, Mandarin, Malay and Tamil, by 79 different authors... encompassing forms as diverse as spoken word, sci-fi, experimental poetry, creative non-fiction and even songs of worship....Writers include Amanda Lee Koe, Neon Yang, Joel Tan, Topaz Winters, Marylyn Tan, Jeremy Tiang, Jerrold Yam, Jennifer Anne Champion, Lawrence Lacambra Ypil, and Rodrigo Dela Peña, Jr.”(ref.: description of work at Goodreads.com, viewed October 21, 2023).

GASPP: A Gay Anthology of Singaporean Poetry and Prose. Edited by Yi-Sheng Ng.
Singapore: The Literary Centre, 2010.
(223 p.; ISBN 9789810868086)

In English; some works in original Chinese and Malay with English translations (OCLC WorldCat record note).
Anthology.

Goh, Nathan.

Blame It on the Raging Hormones.

Singapore: Wham Bam, 2010; Maple Shade, NJ [USA]: Lethe Press, 2011.
(195 p.; ISBN 9789810864057 (Wham Bam), 9781590211151 (Lethe))

Novel.

“...coming-of-age memoir of a...Singaporean gay man, written in the form of an online journal...” Nicky tries to find love and validation in the wrong places, getting into a world of sex, drugs, and prostitution (LGBT Topics in Singaporean Literature [see Sources]).

Hahn, Jason.

Asking for Trouble: Tales of Saffy & Amanda.

Singapore: Times Editions – Marshall Cavendish, 2005.
(150 p.; ISBN 9789812610256)

Humour based on author’s “experiences with living with two high-maintenance women, with free advice from his 2 male friends, one gay, the other married” (LGBT Topics in Singaporean Literature [see Sources]).

Hong, Ken [Ang, Ken].

Tong lei: nan nan zhi jian de qing shiyu ta men de xi nu ai le.

Singapore: Oogachaga Counseling & Support, 2009.
(232 p.; ISBN 9789810836979)

In Chinese.

Short fiction.

“Each story is based on a true account of the lives of gay men in contemporary Singapore....The book is published by Oogachaga..., the publishers of the popular Singapore Queers of the 21st Century (SQ21) [for which see below in this section]....” (LGBT Topics in Singaporean Literature [see Sources]).

Reference presents author name as: **Ang, Ken.**

See OCLC WorldCat record, accession no. 505927322, for author and title in Chinese script.

I Will Survive: Personal Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Stories in Singapore.

Edited by Leow Yangfa. 3rd ed.; Singapore: Math Paper Press, 2018.
(309 p.; ISBN 9789810725785, 9810725787)

Biography/Anecdotes.

Personal stories of “real-life experiences” of twenty-one “ordinary” people in Singapore who have “survived extraordinary circumstances,” with contributions from five “local commentators who share their personal reflections on the...[LGBT] communities in Singapore” (goodreads.com).

Jaswal, Balli Kaur.

Inheritance. Singapore: Epigram Books, 2016 .
(252 p.; ISBN 9789814757362 [etc.])

Novel.

Set in Singapore between the 1970s and 1990s, this is “a reflection of the nation’s coming-of-age, seen through the eyes of a traditional Punjabi family as it crumbles....Middle son Narain is gay in a culture unaccepting of homosexuality....” (Jesslyn Lye, “9 Must-read Books Encapsulating the Queer Asian Experience,” June 30, 2023 post, vogue.sg)

Work published earlier, in 2013, by Sleepers Publishing (Australia).

Jeyaretnam, Philip.

Abraham’s Promise: A Novel.

Honolulu: University of Hawai’i Press; Singapore: Times Books Int’l, 1995;
Singapore: Marshall Cavendish Editions, 2010.
(178 p.; ISBN 9780824817695 (Hawai’i), 9789812045157 (Times), etc.)

Novel.

“...a story of a father’s rejection of and then coming to terms with his son’s homosexuality. This is no exploration of the world of a gay man, for the homosexual character hardly speaks. Its intellectual touchstone is the political culture of post-colonial Singapore where many feel marginalised with little promise of respite in personal or professional life” (LGBT Topics in Singaporean Literature [see Sources]).

Koh, Andrew.

Glass Cathedral

Singapore: EPB Publishers, 1995; Epigram Books, 2011.
(116 p; ISBN 9789971044497 (EPB), ISBN 9789810899325 (Epigram))

Novella.

(reference: LGBT Topics in Singaporean Literature [see Sources]).
Commendation Award, Singapore Literature Prize, 1994.

Koh, Buck Song.

Bugis Street: The Novel. In collaboration with Tan Hwee Hua.
Singapore: Pacific Theatricals, 1994.
(164 p.; ISBN 9789810052034)

Novel.

“...freely adapted from Bugis Street, the musical...”
(OCLC WorldCat record Note).

Also mentioned in Wikipedia article: LGBT Topics in Singaporean Literature.

Koh, Jee Leong.

Steep Tea. Manchester [UK]: Carcanet Press, 2015.
(71 p.; ISBN 9781847772275)

Poetry.

“...poems share many of the harsh and enriching circumstances that shape the imagination of a postcolonial queer writer...” (ref.: Google Books Hong Kong website).

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Gay Poetry.

Author, born in Singapore, lives in New York City.

Kwa, Lydia.

This Place Called Absence: A Novel. Winnipeg [Canada]: Turnstone Press, 2000.
(218 p.; ISBN 9780888012432)

Novel.

Kwa’s debut novel “interweaves the lives of four women, spanning time between the early twentieth century and modern day”. Wu Lan, a psychologist who grew up in Singapore and is now living in Vancouver, and her mother in Singapore, try to come to terms with Wu Lan’s father’s suicide. The other two women, from the past, who worked in Singapore brothels, “[m]eeting by chance,... give each other love, strength and hope as they help each other to survive their brutal circumstances...” (OCLC WorldCat Summary in record no. 44991192).

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Lesbian Fiction.

Author is Singaporean-Canadian, born in Singapore in 1959, going to Canada in 1980.

NOTE: see also the author’s The Walking Boy (2005; reworked 2019), set in 8th-century Tang China. “Although called a boy, Baoshi carries with him a secret only his master knows: he was born both male and female.” Baoshi experiences much when he is sent by his dying master to find the master’s missing former lover and bring him back (books.google.com.hk, Books; [etc.]).

Lee, Johann S.

Peculiar Chris. Singapore: Cannon International, 1992 (reprinted 2008).
(228 p.; ISBN 9789810035570)

Novel.

“...the only true ‘coming-out novel’ written from a Singaporean point of view so far. Describes a young athlete and national serviceman’s angst-filled struggles with boyfriends, discriminatory institutions and death...Described by The Straits Times in 2008 as a ‘cult classic’” (LGBT Topics in Singaporean Literature [see Sources]).

Lee, Johann S.

Quiet Time. Singapore: Cannon International, 2008.
(338 p.; ISBN 9789810817039)

Novel.

“...concluding part of Lee’s Singaporean queer triptych which began with Peculiar Chris. About a gay man’s paternal instincts and gay activism, set against the civil rights events of 2007....” (ref.: LGBT Topics in Singaporean Literature [see Sources]). See also Lee’s To Know Where I’m Coming From.

Lee, Johann S.

To Know Where I’m Coming From. Singapore: Cannon International, 2007.
(281 p.; ISBN 9789810594725)

Novel.

Author’s “indirect sequel to Peculiar Chris. About a gay emigrant returning to his homeland to heal from a broken heart.” Reference notes review ratings and review quotation (ref.: LGBT Topics in Singaporean Literature [see Sources]). See also Lee’s Quiet Time.

Leo, David.

Different Strokes. Singapore: Pagesetters Services, 1993.
(95 p.; ISBN 9789810047559)

Novella.

Reporter “has to interview the first person to be diagnosed with AIDS and write a ‘newsy’ story. It was the beginning of a lesson on the social attitudes towards AIDS and its victims in this part of the world.... [T]his novella explores two victims’ pain and angst as well as the dilemmas faced by those who encounter them. The writer makes no attempt to moralise....” (ref.: Goodreads). Although the author wrote a homophobic story elsewhere [see Short Stories subsection of reference article, at “Drum”], “this book is based on an objective journalist’s experience when he interviewed a gay AIDS patient” (ref.: LGBT Topics in Singaporean Literature [see Sources]).

Lim, Elisha.

100 Crushes. Toronto: Koyama Press, 2014.
(92 p.; ISBN 9781927668061)

Graphic novel.

“...compiles five years of queer comics by Elisha Lim....It’s an absorbing document that travels through Toronto, Berlin, Singapore and beyond in the form of interviews , memoirs, and gossip from an international queer vanguard” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for LGBT Graphic Novel.

Author is Singaporean-Canadian, born in Toronto.

Low, Trisha.

Socialist Realism. Minneapolis, MN; Brooklyn, NY: Coffee House Press, 2019.
(166 p.; ISBN 9781566895514)

Biography.

“As she recovers from a breakup with a lover..., Trisha Low..., a young queer woman from a Singaporean family, must travel between the American coasts and experience debasement both routine...and extraordinary...in order to come to terms with the end of her relationship and the beginning of the next chapter of her adult life” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Moo, Joash.

Sisterhood: New Moons in San Francisco.
Singapore: Times Books International, 1993.
(173 p.; ISBN 9789812043689)

Novel.

Refs.: LGBT Topics in Singaporean Literature, under New Moon over... ;
OCLC WorldCat record.

Ng, Yi-Sheng.

A Book of Hims. Singapore: Math Paper Press, 2017.
(89 p.; ISBN 9789811152849)

Poems in English, with some Chinese characters.

Ng, Yi-Sheng.

Last Boy. Singapore: Firstfruits Publications, 2006.
(66 p.; ISBN 9789810563097)

Poetry.

“...contains many lyrical poems celebrating and reflecting on gay love and sexuality” (ref.: LGBT Topics in Singaporean Literature).

Sa'at, Alfian.

Corridor: 12 Short Stories. 2nd ed.; Singapore: Ethos Books, 2015.
(167 p.; ISBN 9789810779931)

Short stories.

Collection carries "several short stories with GLBT themes".

Reference article notes "Pillow" (intergenerational relationship); "Cubicle" (intimacy of lesbian students in a public toilet), "Bugis" (with a flamboyant transvestite), and "Disco" (older man discovering gay clubs).

1998 Singapore Literature Prize Commendation.

(Ref.: LGBT Topics in Singaporean Literature).

Published earlier: Singapore: Raffles, 1999.

Sabariah.

Butch & Girl Talk. Singapore: VJ Times, 2002.
(172 p.; ISBN 9789812210494)

Short stories.

"...collection of short narrative pieces exclusively about the experiences of young lesbian and bisexual women (and FTM men) in Singapore. It is unclear if the stories are based on the experiences of actual women or [are] primarily fictional...[T]he book is no longer widely available" (refs.: LGBT Topics in Singaporean Literature; OCLC WorldCat).

SQ21: Singapore Queers in the 21st Century. Edited by Yi-Sheng Ng and Jason Wee.
Singapore: Math Paper Press, by Books Actually, 2017.
(185 p.; ISBN 9789811151095, etc.)

Biography/Anthology.

"...15 individuals... – a mother of gay sons, a government scholar, a poly student, and a hearing impaired man among others – give powerful accounts of their lives. Accompanied by Alphonsus Lee's photography, SQ21 shows an unabashed straightforward honesty and celebrates the lives of these ordinary Singaporeans..." (ref.: Goodreads).

One Goodreads.com reviewer further notes: "This book is a really lovely compilation of stories from queer Singaporeans. They are honest, personal, distinctly & lovably Singaporean..."

Tan, Jolene.

A Certain Exposure. Singapore: Epigram Books, 2014.
(213 p.; ISBN 9789810788285)

Novel.

"...sensitive coming-of-age tale about a gay government scholar...who commits suicide after being bullied" (LGBT Topics in Singaporean Literature [see Sources]).

Tan, Marylyn.

Gaze Back. Singapore: Ethos Books, 2018.
(87 p.; ISBN 9789811190803)

Poetry.

“Her first volume of poetry...is the lesbo Singaporean trans-genre witch grimoire you never knew you needed” (singaporewritersfestival.com website, Authors & Speakers, Marilyn Tan [viewed Dec. 2019]).

Teo, Hsu-Ming.

Behind the Moon. Sydney, Australia: Allen & Unwin, 2005 (later published: New York: Soho Press, 2007).
(372 p.; ISBN 9781741142433 (Allen), 9781569474402 (Soho)).

Novel.

“...beautifully crafted story of immigrant alienation, splintered families and the saving grace of friendship. In the suburbs of Sydney, Tien Ho, Nigel ‘Gibbs’ Gibson and Justin Cheng have been friends since childhood,... though culturally they couldn’t be more dissimilar....Justin [the son of affluent Singaporeans] is gay and unable to reconcile his sexuality with the expectations of his family....” (Kirkus Reviews, November 1, 2006 issue).

Author is an academic at Macquarie University, Sydney.

Wee, Edmund.

The Narcissist. Singapore: Times Editions, 2004.
(160 p.; ISBN 9789812328199)

Novel.

“...the first novel by Singaporean journalist Edmund Wee. Set in Paris and London, the novel follows the trail of a young, callow homosexual narrator who gradually discovers the darker side of men....” (ref.: amazon.com, Books).

Wee, Natalie.

Beast at Every Threshold. Vancouver, B.C.: Arsenal Pulp Press, 2022.
(100 p.; ISBNs 9781551528847, 1551528843)

Poetry.

“Beguiling and deeply imagined, Wee’s poems explore thresholds of marginality, queerness, immigration, nationhood, and reinvention of the self through myth” – Publisher description noted in OCLC WorldCat record. 2023 Lambda Literary Awards finalist for Lesbian Poetry.

Author was born in Singapore to Malaysian parents and lives in Toronto.

Wong, Cyril.

Infinity Diary. New York: Seagull Books, 2020.
(159 p.; ISBN 9780857427427)

Poetry.

“After twenty years... Wong has established his central position in queer literature.... This is queer poetry taking a stand” (Freeman, “Arhats in Clementi,” Mekong Review, November 2020 (online)).

Wong, Cyril.

The Last Lesson of Mrs. de Souza. Singapore: Epigram Books, 2013.
(147 p.; ISBN 9789810762322, etc.)

Novel.

“...about a student coming out to a teacher, with disastrous consequences”
(ref.: LGBT Topics in Singaporean Literature).

Wong, Cyril

Let Me Tell You Something about That Night: Strange Tales.
2nd ed.; Singapore: Ethos Books, 2015.
(137 p.; ISBN 9789810733872)

Short stories.

Originally published: Yarraville, Vic [Australia]: Transit Lounge, 2009.
“...collection of surreal, urban to mythical fairy tales dealing with issues of queerness and desire....” (refs.: LGBT Topics in Singaporean Literature; OCLC).

Wong, Cyril.

Ten Things My Father Never Taught Me and Other Stories.
Singapore: Epigram Books, 2014.
(180 p.; ISBN 9789814615082, etc.)

Short stories.

“...fictional and autobiographical stories about queer characters and growing up gay” (ref.: LGBT Topics in Singaporean Literature).

Wong, Eleanor [Wong Siew Yin].

Invitation to Treat: The Eleanor Wong Trilogy.
Singapore: Firstfruits, 2005.
(251 p.; ISBN 9789810525408, 9810525400)

Drama collection.

Contents: Mergers & accusations – Wills & secession – Jointly & severably.
The three plays follow the life of character Ellen Toh, a Singaporean lesbian lawyer, in her double life as a gay person and mother in a marriage of convenience in conservative Singapore; some years later in London with a

lesbian partner; the family trials on the death of her mother; and further family complications involving her daughter.

The author is a playwright, poet, lawyer and legal academic; she is an associate professor at the National University of Singapore (ref.: Wikipedia, Eleanor Wong (playwright) entry).

Yang, J. Y.

The Descent of Monsters. New York: Tor, 2018.
(169 p.; ISBN 9781250165855)

Novel.

One volume of author's "Tensorate" series.

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for LGBTQ Science Fiction/Fantasy/Horror.

Author is "a Singaporean writer of English-language speculative fiction. Yang is non-binary and queer...." (ref.: Wikipedia: JY Yang [viewed Dec. 4, 2019]).

Yi, Jon.

What Are You Doing in My Undies? Singapore: Word Press, 2002.
(147 p.; ISBN 9789810456016)

Novel.

"...about a man's...transvestism" (ref.: LGBT Topics in Singaporean Literature).

Yu, Ovidia.

The Mouse Marathon. Singapore: Times Books International, 1993.
(190 p; ISBN 9789812044631)

Novel.

Refs.: LGBT Topics in Singaporean Literature; OCLC WorldCat record.

INDONESIA

Introduction

Entries in this section include the few works discovered in English translation and some of the Indonesian-language titles noted in a Hendri Yulius review essay.

The 2016 essay by Hendri Yulius on Indonesian LGBT publications (see Sources) was invaluable in retrieving works for the list. (Hendri Yulius was a University of Sydney master's degree student at the time of the essay). The user interested in Indonesian-language LGBT books should read his piece, available online. The following quotations provide some insights into the Indonesian LGBTQ publishing situation up to the date of the review.

Hendri Yulius observes that “[s]ince the mid-2000s, there has been a noticeable increase in books with lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) themes and characters, mostly in the form of ‘pop novels’ . In the 1990s, prominent and popular writers, Seno Gumira Ajidarma, Mira W and Ayu Utami, portrayed homosexual characters and characters with non-normative gender and sexuality but it was the success of Andrei Aksana’s Lelaki Terindah [see list below],...in 2004, that encouraged more young writers to follow his path and write ‘gay romance’” He notes works of Andy Stevenio, Herlinatiens, Alberthiene Endah, Clara Ng, and Andy Lotex, as well as Is Mujiarso [their Indonesian-language titles given below], and gives a few other names (see the essay).

The author notes that many works “represent only upper-middle class and literate LGBT Indonesians who are familiar with Western pop-culture and [are] constantly seeking acceptance of their sexual identities.” But, he adds, “[d]espite the increasing connection between cosmopolitanism and modern gay characters in Indonesian literature, some independent fiction writers, mostly coming from within grassroots community groups, actively challenge these portrayals,” and notes Srean’s work, and the Suara Kita organization’s Ibuku Lelaki anthology [listed below].

The essay points out that “it is still difficult to find Indonesian gay fiction in English.” Listed, however, are **some English-language works by Indonesians** – Menagerie 7 and Tuanakotta (given by Hendri Yulius); and Madasari, Lestari, and Pasaribu works. But included with these are several citations to Indonesian-language works (with translations of their **titles** into English), as noted in the article.

Aksana, Andrei.

Lelaki Terindah [The Most Beautiful Man].
Jakarta: Gramedia Pustaka Utama, 2004.
(219 p.; ISBN 9789792208153)

In Indonesian.

Two men meet accidentally and fall in love.

“In this novel, Aksana...bridged the gap between serious, highbrow literature and popular culture....” (ref: Hendri Yulius).

Dirgapradja, Stanley.

Un homme et une femme. Jakarta: Gramedia Pustaka Utama, 2007.
(300 p.; ISBN 9789792233711, 9792233717)

In Indonesian.

Novel.

“Bayu, the man,...finally finds the meaning of love...for Rio....Does he have the courage to take it? How about his family, parents and friends? Will they accept him as he is?....” (amazon.com, Book Overview).

Efendy, Rudy.

Jakarta Love Story: Apakah Benar Cinta Bisa Memilih?
Jogjakarta: Diva Press, 2013.
(479 p.; ISBN 9786022551775, 6022551773)

In Indonesian.

Novel.

When Fabio meets Rifai, he doesn't imagine that their relationship will continue, since he thinks he still likes women and will one day get married. But when Fabio disappears, he feels empty....

Endah, Alberthiene.

Dicintai Jo [Loved by Jo].
Jakarta: PT Gramedia Pustaka Utama, 2012 (first published 2006).
(344 p.; ISBN 9789792280845, etc.)

In Indonesian.

Note entry at Goodreads.com [viewed Dec. 2019].

Author is a biographer, novelist and journalist, known for her in-depth biographies of Indonesian celebrities

Fa [pseudonym].

Macho Man Ngomong Cong...!!! [Macho Man Screams Cong].
[Indonesia?]: FoU Media, 2007.

In Indonesian.

Popular gay blog made into a book, published by the now-defunct publisher (ref.: Hendri Yulius). Listed on Goodreads.com website [viewed Dec. 2019].

Gusnaldi.

Pria Terakhir [The Last Man]. Yogyakarta: Idola Qta, 2009.
(374 p.; ISBN 9789792245011, 9792245014)

In Indonesian.

Novel.

Complications over time in the relationship of two men, who meet again after several decades.

Herlinatiens.

Garis Tepi Seorang Lesbian [The Outline of a Lesbian].
[Yogyakarta?]: Galang Press Group, 2003.
(ISBN 9789799341686)

In Indonesian.

A lesbian is discriminated against by her culture. “The novel made Herlinatiens... a champion of the gay community... [and] caused strong controversy in Indonesia....”

Author born Herlina Tien Suhesti in 1982 (ref.: Wikipedia: Herlinatiens [viewed Dec. 2019]).

Ibuku Lelaki: Cerita Cinta Melampaui Tubuh. [My Mother is a Man].
[Indonesia]: Suara Kita, 2015.
(155 p.; ISBN 9786027175549)

In Indonesian.

Anthology published by LGBT advocacy organisation, Suara Kita (Our Voice), offering “a wide-ranging representation of LGBT characters imbued with political awareness” (ref.: Hendri Yulius). Noted also at Goodreads.com, with reviews in Indonesian (where author is given as Antok Serean and also as Teguh Imam Affandi [?]).

Suara Kita website is: www.suarakita.org [viewed Dec. 2019].

Lestari, Dewi.

Supernova: The Knight, the Princess, and the Falling Star. Translated by Harry Aveling. Jakarta: Lontar Foundation, 2010.
(242 p.; ISBN 9789798083839)

In English.

In the early 2000s, the best-selling Supernova series introduced a gay couple in a prominent place in the storyline (ref.: Hendri Yulius).

Translation from Indonesian of: Ksatria, Putri, dan Bintang Jatuh

Lotex, Andy.

Bila Hasrat Tlah Usai [If the Desire Has Subsided].

Bekasi: Perlambang Daya Cipta, 2007.

(500 p.)

In Indonesian.

Novel.

Madasari, Okky.

Bound. Translated from Indonesian by Nurhayat Indriyatno Mohamed and

Makna Sinatria. Jakarta: PT Gramedia Pustaka Utama, 2014.

(273 p.; ISBN 9786020305349)

In English.

Concerns trans persons.

Translation of: Pasung Jiwa (Jakarta: Gramedia Pustaka Utama, 2013).

Menagerie 7: Indonesian Short Stories and More. Guest editor: Erza Setyadharna;

series editor: John H. McGlynn.

Jakarta: Lontar Foundation, 2009.

(257 p.; ISBN 9789798083747)

In English.

“...collection of LGBT stories and poems,” featuring “an excerpt of

Oka Rusmini’s most popular novel Tarian Bumi (Earth Dance),

Djenar Maesa Ayu’s SMS and Gadis Arivia’s In the Republic of Morality.”

The collection “features both queer and non-queer authors” (ref.: Hendri Yulius).

Ng, Clara.

Gerhana Kembar [The Twin Eclipses].

Jakarta: PT Gramedia Pustaka Utama, 2015 (first published 2007).

(368 p.; ISBN 9786020318783)

In Indonesian.

Nurazizah, Laila Lele.

Sanubari Jakarta: Kumpulan Cerita Pendek Dari Film “Sanubari Jakarta.”

Jakarta: Gramedia Pustaka Utama, 2012.

(152 p.; ISBN 9789792283303)

In Indonesian.

Ten short stories.

Contents: 1/2-- Malam ini aku cantik – Lumba-lumba – Terhubung –

Kentang – Menunggu warna – Pembalut – Topeng Srikandi –

Untuk A – Kotak coklat.

Ref.: OCLC WorldCat record no. 798465891.

See also www.goodreads.com for user comments in Indonesian.

Oetomo, Dédé.

Memberi Suara Pada Yang Bisu [Giving Voice to the Silenced].

Yogyakarta: Galang Press Yogyakarta, 2001.

(348 p.; ISBN 9799341205)

In Indonesian.

“[C]ollection of personal essays and reflections...depicting his journey to embracing his gay identity and activism beginning in the 1980s”

(ref.: Hendri Yulius)

Pasaribu, Norman Erikson.

Happy Stories, Mostly. Translated from Indonesian by Tiffany Tsao.

New York, NY: The Feminist Press, at the City University of New York, 2023.

(146 p.; ISBN 9781952177057, 1952177057)

Short stories.

“Blending together speculative fiction and absurdism, these stories ask what it means to be almost happy – to nearly find joy, to sort-of be accepted, but to never fully grasp one’s desire” (Publisher description as given in OCLC WorldCat catalog record Summary).

Note in WorldCat record, from title page verso: “The original Indonesian-language versions of the stories in this book were first published in *Cerita-cerita Bahagia, Hampir Seluruhnya* by Norman Erikson Pasaribu (Gramedia Pustaka Utama, 2020)”.

Pasaribu, Norman Erikson.

Sergius Seeks Bacchus. Translated from Indonesian by Tiffany Tsao.

London: Tilted Axis Press, 2019.

(85 p.; ISBN 9781911284239)

In English.

Poetry.

“...heartbreaking and humorous rumination on what it means to be in a minority in terms of sexuality, ethnicity, and religion” (ref.: Coolidge [see Sources]).

Author is openly gay, of Bataknese descent and Christian background.

Pengakuan / dikumpulkan dan disunting oleh Imam [Iman?] Teguh Affandi.

Jakarta: Suara Kita, 2018.

(199 p.: ISBN 9786027175594)

In Indonesian.

Short stories.

Ref.: OCLC WorldCat record no. 1061861682.

Note: name also possibly Teguh Iman Affandi, the collector/editor of this work.

Rahardjo, Yonathan.

Taman Api [The Fire Garden].

Jakarta: Pustaka Alvabet, 2011.

(201 p.; ISBN 9786029193015)

In Indonesian.

Novel.

Concerns trans persons.

Winner of 2006 Jakarta Arts Council Novel Competition.

Note further information on Goodreads.com website in Indonesian, with reviews.

Rahasia Bulan: Kumpulan Cerita Pendek [Secret of the Moon].

Collected and edited by Is Mujiarso.

[Jakarta?]: Gramedia Pustaka Utama, 2006.

(228 p.; ISBN 9789792217889)

In Indonesian.

Anthology of LGBT-themed short stories.

Editor realized that “LGBT themes had started becoming popular with the broader Indonesian literary scene” (ref.: Hendri Yulius).

Stories by Clara Ng (title story), Andrei Aksana, Linda Christanty, Djenar Maesa Ayu, and others.

Note listing on Goodreads.com, with reviews [viewed Dec. 2019].

Serean, Antok.

Ganteng [Handsome].

[Indonesia?]: published independently, print-on-demand, 2010.

In Indonesian.

Short stories.

Ten stories dealing with “gay characters who are proud of their sexuality and openly challenge the societal heteronormative pressures” (ref.: Hendri Yulius).

Un Soir du Paris: Kumpulan Cerpen Pilihan Sepoci Kopi. Cok Sawitri and others.

Jakarta: Gramedia Pustaka Utama, 2010.

(127 p.; ISBN 9789792262087, 9792262083)

In Indonesian.

Anthology of short stories.

Stories concerning lesbians by twelve leading Indonesian writers.

Stevenio, Andy.

Cinta Tak Berkelamin [Love Has No Genitalia].
[Indonesia?]: Hi-Fest Production, 2006.
(273 p.; ISBN 9789799983756)

In Indonesian.

Note listing on Goodreads.com website [viewed Dec. 2019].

Stevenio, Andy.

Percintaan di Antara Empat Lelaki [Love between Four Men].
[Indonesia?]: Hi-Fest Production, 2006.
(216 p.; ISBN 9799983711)

In Indonesian.

Note listing on Goodreads.com website [viewed Dec. 2019].

Tuanakotta, Yuska Lutfi.

Gentlemen Prefer Asians: Tales of Gay Indonesians and Green Card Marriages.
Los Angeles: ThreeL Media, 2016.
(222 p.; ISBN 9780996485203)

In English.

Author “interweaves themes of sexuality, national belonging, identity, race, and the story of his personal relationships.” Tuanakotta immigrated to the US and “the story of his friendships with fellow gay Indonesians offers an intimate portrayal of the gay Indonesian’s search for belonging on foreign soil....” (ref.: Hendri Yulius).

Wiriadinata, Bhina.

Aku Manusia, Kamu Bukan Tuhan [I Am Human, You Are Not God].
Jakarta: Penerbit PT Elex Media Komputindo, 2015.
(349 p.; ISBN 9786020256443)

In Indonesian.

Noted on Goodreads.com, with reviews in Indonesian [viewed Dec. 2019].

Yulia, Ida R.

Cermin Tak Pernah Berteriak [The Mirror Never Screams].
Jakarta: PT Elex Media Komputindo, 2015.
(291 p.; ISBN 9786020266404)

In Indonesian.

Novel.

THAILAND

The list for this section comprises mainly English-language titles, either originally in English or in English translation from Thai. The Thai-language works noted in the introductory remarks below are not duplicated on the list.

There have been, for a variety of reasons, few translations of Thai literary voices into English (see, e.g., Max Crosbie-Jones, “Found in Translation: Thai Literature Reaches West,” Nikkei Asian Review, July 21, 2019 (online)).

In the matter of LGBTQ Thai literature, the academic expert on Thailand, Peter A. Jackson [see two of his works in the following list] has made several observations in the “Thailand, Literature” entry in Routledge International Encyclopedia of Queer Culture. He has noted the following:

There were in classical Thai literature only occasional references to queer sexualities;

In the 19th century, the hero of the poem Inao “engages in amorous liaisons with both men and women; the poet Sunthorn Phu “includes a number of dismissive references to female homoeroticism”; and the extended poem Morm Pet Sawan (Lady Heavenly Duck) “pokes fun at the love affair” between two court ladies-in-waiting and “was the first literary work to place same-sex eroticism at the centre of the narrative”;

In 1913, the Thai king commissioned a narrative poem, IlaratKham-chan, in which a king from Hindu mythology changes sex;

Only after World War II did queer themes begin appearing, with stories about kathoey (male transvestites) being presented roughly between 1947 and the late 1960s by P. Intharapalit and novels on gay issues (that were “rarely sympathetic”) by Kritsana Asoksin;

In roughly the 1980s, occasional short story collections became “the first modern literary forms written by self-identified gay authors for a gay readership,”

two examples of which were Gay 79 (1979) and Thi-sut Kheu Khwam-wang-plao (The End of Emptiness) (1990); and

Biographies of gay men and kathoeyes appeared in the early 1980s, including work by Pan Bunnak and by Kirati Chana.

Further noted in the Routledge encyclopedia, in the “Asia, Literature” entry by Stephen D. Miller, is that “[r]ecent literary works from Thailand that explore queer life include” a Natee Teerarojjanapongs autobiography (1990) and two gay novels by Wirat Kanokanukhroh (1995-6 and 2002). Miller also mentions that “[v]ery little of this literature has been translated into English”.

Two 1990 Thai-language works that are noted in OCLC WorldCat are

Hūačhai kræng rak, by Rāchathit Popsayop and Thīsut khū’ khwāmwāngplao.

See that catalogue for Thai-script titles. Neither work is widely held by libraries.

Chua, Lawrence.

Gold by the Inch: A Novel. New York: Grove Press, 1998.
(209 p.; ISBN 9780802116260, etc.)

Novel.

“The story of a young New Yorker of Asian descent who has returned to the country of his birth following a disastrous relationship and his father’s death. In a Bangkok drunk on the nation’s financial miracle...the narrator meets Thong, a young, beautiful male hustler who works at a nightclub” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary). This work is also entered at the MALAYSIA heading.

Author was born in Penang, Malaysia, in 1966 and lives in the United States.

The Dove Coos: Gay Experiences by the Men of Thailand. Translated from Thai by Nukul Benchamat, Somboon Inpradith; edited by Eric G. Allyn. Bangkok [etc.]: Bua Luang, 1992.
(134 p.; ISBN 9780942777079)

Anthology.

“The stories in this collection are written by readers of three Thai gay magazines, Midway, Neon, and Weekend men” –p. 8, as quoted in OCLC WorldCat record no. 28926226.

Thai title (two title transliterations noted): Nók’ Kǎo Kǎn or Nokkǎo khan.

NOTE ALSO: The Dove Coos II. Translated by David Jonathan.

Bangkok [etc.]: Floating Lotus/Bua Luang, 1994.

First Queer Voices from Thailand: Uncle Go’s Advice Columns for Gays, Lesbians, and Kathoeys. Edited by Peter A. Jackson. [3rd ed.]; Bangkok: White Lotus, 2017 (and Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2016).
(270 p.; ISBNs 9789747534016 (White Lotus); 9789888083268 (HKU Press))

Anthology.

Thai magazine letters, as early as 1974, to Uncle Go, with his “wild, witty, and wise” responses (ref.: amazon.com, Books).

Earlier editions are: Dear Uncle Go: Male Homosexuality in Thailand (Bangkok; San Francisco: Bua Luang, 1995) and Male Homosexuality in Thailand (Elmhurst, NY: Global Academic Publishers, 1989).

Jackson, Peter A.

The Intrinsic Quality of Skin. Bangkok; San Francisco: Floating Lotus Books, 1994.

(179 p.: ISBN 9780942777109)

Novel.

“What if you visited another country and discovered you had been living in the

wrong skin all your life? This sensuous and thought-provoking novel by Australian author Peter A. Jackson explains the romantic and sensual experiences of a gay white man in Thailand” (ref.: amazon.com, Books).

Piya Sawētpḥikun.

Thǎng lang krathĕi. Krung Thep [Bangkok]: Phṓēma Buk, [2005].
(128 p.; ISBN 9789749376003)

In Thai.

Ref.: OCLC WorldCat, noting this as fiction about Thai male homosexuality.

Rangsimant, Patrick [pen name of Utain Boonorana].

I Love/Kill U. Translated from Thai by Thapana Pr.
[S.I.]: Independently published; available from amazon.com, 2022.
(287 p.; ISBN 9798835715862)

Novel.

“...story about two guys, Phu and Krit, who accidentally fall for each other at a psychiatric clinic, [and] rush to start a relationship,...just to end up killing each other.... Doctor Nin who was their psychiatrist...[is] involved in...[the] investigation....”

Available as paperback or in Kindle format.

Author is a Thai medical doctor, a graduate of Thammasat University, Bangkok.

Note: in interview of Rangsimant/Boonorana by Anchalee Kongrut (“Of the gay people, for the gay people,” Bangkok Post, Life Section, 4 Nov. 2016 (online)), Boonorana notes, “I am a gay person who writes gay novels. Thai readers call this genre of book ‘Y novel,’...[which] in Thailand are mostly written by female writers....” Interviewer also notes an earlier novel of Boonorana, titled “Kue Ter Nai Hua Jai (You’re In My Mind), published by Hyacint, a publishing house dedicated to LGBT literature.”

Author is a Thai medical doctor.

Rangsimant, Patrick [pen name of Utain Boonorana].

My Imaginary Boyfriend. Translated from Thai by Thapana Pr.
[S.I.]: Independently published; available from amazon.com, 2020.
(272 p.; ISBN 9798644401178)

Novel.

“[P]aranormal thriller romantic novel” (amazon.com Book Overview).

Noted by many amazon/Goodreads reviewers as an especially good BL-type novel.

Available as paperback or in Kindle format.

Note also Japanese and Chinese (Taiwan) translations of this work, published in 2022 (OCLC WorldCat catalog).

Author is a Thai medical doctor.

Rangsimant, Patrick [pen name of Utain Boonorana].

My Ride, I Love You. Translated from Thai by Orawadee Meesook.
[S.l.]: Independently published; available from amazon.com, 2020.
(361 p.; ISBN 9798628899090)

Novel.

“...love story of Mork, who is a motorcycle taxi driver in Bangkok, and Tawan, a junior internal medicine resident doctor in the university hospital.” An unexpected pairing and love relationship (see: amazon.com, Book Overview). Available as paperback or in Kindle format.

Note also Japanese and Chinese (Taiwan) translations of this work (OCLC WorldCat catalog).

Author is a Thai medical doctor.

Yoon, Prabda [Prāpdā Yun].

Moving Parts. Translated from Thai by Mui Poopoksakul.
London: Tilted Axis Press, 2018.
(ISBN 9781911284185, 9781911284178)

Short stories.

The story collection, published in Thai in 2001 as Suan Ti Kleunwai, presents an intense, strange, compelling, and wide-ranging view of Bangkok at the turn of the century; “surreal and puncturing...wry and unsettling” (Tilted Axis website).

One story, presented as “Belly Up” in Words Without Borders Magazine, June 2018, and about a “transgender woman at the end of her rope,” is the specific reason for including the Prabda Yoon reference in this list.

MYANMAR

NOTE: the scholarly study of LGBT issues in Myanmar by Lynette J. Chua, [The Politics of Love in Myanmar](#) (Stanford University Press, 2018) is “an intimate ethnographic account of a group of LGBT activists before, during, and after Myanmar’s post-2011 political transition.” It is “informed by interviews with activists from all walks of life....” (Bookshop.org , Description).

Yi, Nu Nu.

[Smile As They Bow: A Novel](#). Translated from Burmese by Alfred Birnbaum and Thi Thi Aye. New York: Hyperion East, 2008. (146 p.; ISBN 9781401303372)

Novel.

Villagers gather for the Taungbyon Festival to pay respects to *nats*, traditional Burmese spirits. “At the heart of these festivities is Daisy Bond, a gay, transvestite spiritual medium in his fifties. With his sharp tongue and vivid performances, he has long been revered. ...At his side is Min Min, his young assistant and lover, who endures unyielding taunts and abuse from his fiery boss. But when a young beggar girl...threatens to steal Min Min’s heart,... Daisy finds himself face-to-face with his worst fears....”

(ref.: Google Books).

Nominated for the 2007 Man Asian Literary Prize.

“Censored for more than 12 years by the Burmese government”

(ref.: OCLC WorldCat)

Author is Burmese, born in the late 1950s in a village near Inwa, Myanmar.

NEPAL

Kunwar, Nirranjan.

Between Queens and the Cities. Kathmandu, Nepal: FirstPrint Books, 2020.
(305 p.; ISBNs 9789937746007, 9937746000 [etc.])

Memoir/Autobiography.

“...tale of a 19-year-old Nepali gay man and his long journey from Kathmandu to New York and back....[T]he author lays bare the ceaseless conflict of the mind and heart in exp[lor]ing sexuality....” (ref.: book cover, as quoted in OCLC WorldCat catalog record).

Pride Climbing Higher: Stories by LGBT People from Nepal. Edited by Chad Frisbie.
Kathmandu, Nepal: Creative Nepal, 2014.
(154 p.)

Short stories/Biographies.

In English or Nepali. Note that the stories were written in ENGLISH and translated INTO Nepali.

“Twelve autobiographical stories written by LGBT identified people from Nepal” – p. 4 of cover, as quoted in OCLC WorldCat record no. 957696511.
The stories were written in an English creative writing class and later translated into Nepali.

Stories translated and printed in Nepali in 2015 with support from arts journal La.Lit and Norwegian embassy in Nepal (ref.: Goodreads).

Sayan, Ramesh [Rameśa Sāyana].

Antara. [Kathmandu, Nepal]: Bukahila Pablikesana Prā. Li., 2023.
(237 p.; ISBN 9789937753432, 9937753430)

Novel.

In Nepali.

First novel of the author (ref.: “Novel on LGBT Released,” The Rising Nepal (risingnepaldaily.com/news/25957/), 18 July 2023).

Note that the transliteration, Antara, also is seen as Antar and is given the English translation of: Difference.

The World that Belongs to Us: An Anthology of Queer Poetry from South Asia.
SEE fuller entry in INDIA section, at this title.

BANGLADESH

See also , for example, a brief overview essay by Ibtisam Ahmed noting recent Bangladeshi lgbt developments and the very few titles that have been able to be produced by the community (essay reference in Sources list).

Akhtar, Shaheen.

“Snakes, Husbands, Ashalota, and Us.” Translated from Bengali by Shabnam Nadiya.

In Words Without Borders Magazine, June 2012 (Queer Issue III) (online).

Short story.

Islam, Tanwi Nandini.

Bright Lines: A Novel. New York: Penguin Books, 2015.
(296 p.; ISBN 9780143123132)

Novel.

Orphaned after her parents’ murder, Ella travels from Bangladesh to live with her aunt, uncle, and cousin, Charu. One day on returning home from college, she finds Charu’s friend, Maya, asleep in her bedroom. As the girls have a summer of sexual awakening, Uncle Anwar has his own secrets, threatening his 30-year marriage. To keep the family from unravelling, Anwar takes them on a fated trip to Bangladesh to reckon with the past, their extended family, and each other (annotation based on the penguinrandomhouse.com website description).

Finalist for the Edmund White Debut Fiction Award.

Author is American-born.

Jaigirdar, Adiba.

The Henna Wars. Salem, Massachusetts [USA]: Page Street Publishing, 2020; London: Hodder Children’s Books, 2021.

(389 p.; ISBN 9781624149689 (Page); 9781444962208 (Hodder))

Novel (young adult).

“When Nishat [a 16-year-old girl of Bangladeshi Muslim heritage living in Dublin, Ireland with her Bengali family] comes out to her parents, they say she can be anything she wants – as long as she isn’t herself. Because Muslim girls aren’t lesbians. Nishat doesn’t want to lose her family, but she also doesn’t want to hide who she is, which only gets harder once Flavia walks into her life....”

(ref.: Summary, OCLC WorldCat record no. 1235722625, which record also gives target audience as ages 14+ years).

Kirkus starred review: “Impossible to put down”.

Author is a Bangladeshi and Irish writer and teacher.

Khan, Sabina.

The Love & Lies of Rukhsana Ali. New York: Scholastic Press, 2019.
(326 p.; ISBN 9781338227017, [etc.])

Novel (young adult).

Rukhsana, 17, finds it increasingly difficult to live up to the expectations of her conservative Muslim mom and dad, and is glad she will soon be away at college. However, her parents catch her kissing her girlfriend and “are devastated; being gay may as well be a death sentence in the Bengali community. They... whisk Rukhsana off to Bangladesh where she is thrown headfirst into a world of arranged marriages and tradition.” Perspective comes for her only when she reads her grandmother’s diaries (ref.: Goodreads.com, Book description).

The author was born in Germany, spent her teen years in Bangladesh, and later settled in Vancouver, B.C.

Roopongti. S.l.: Shuddhashar, 2015.

Poetry.

In Bengali [?].

Ref.: Roopbaan, September 23, 2017 post, which notes that the “queer poetry book under the banner of Roopbaan was published on February 27, 2015. The publisher of this book was attacked by Islamic extremists in September 2015” (www.roopbaan.org [viewed December 18, 2020]).

This post is accompanied by a photo of several book covers.

(Roopbaan: a Bangladeshi lgbt print/online magazine and blog).

NOTE: this title has been given also as: Roopgonti (in Ahmed essay) and as Roop Gonti (elsewhere).

The World that Belongs to Us: An Anthology of Queer Poetry from South Asia.

SEE fuller entry in INDIA section, at this title.

SRI LANKA

Karunatilaka, Shehan.

The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida. First American edition; New York: W.W. Norton, 2023 (and other imprints). (388 p.; ISBNs9781324064824, 1332496482X [and others]).

Novel.

Winner of the Booker Prize, 2022.

Set in 1980s Sri Lanka. Maali Almeida, a dead photographer, wishes to solve the reason for his own death, and has seven moons (one week) to do that.

“First published in Great Britain in 2022 by Sort Of Books” (ref.: Norton edition).

“An earlier, unrevised version ... was originally published in the Indian subcontinent as Chats with the Dead in 2020” (Wikipedia article: “The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida”, viewed October 28, 2023).

See an instructive interview by Chintan Girish Modi with the author, titled “Shehan Karunatilaka – ‘Writing A Queer Novel Was Never My Intention’,” Hindustan Times (hindustantimes.com), February 3, 2023 (online) [viewed October 28, 2023]. Here, the author notes that “the initial inspiration for the character of Maali Almeida came from the real-life story of a Sri Lankan man called Richard de Zoysa.” The character of Almeida developed further, but “[w]hat Maali does have in common with Richard is the fact that he too is a closeted gay man.”

Piepzna-Samarasinha, Leah Lakshmi.

Bodymap: Poems. Toronto: Mawenzi House Publishers, 2015. (112 p.; ISBN 9781927494509)

Poetry.

“...examine[s] disability...[through] a queer femme-of-colour lens” (ref.: amazon.com, Books).

Author “is a queer disabled femme writer, organizer, performance artist and educator of Burgher/Tamil Sri Lankan and Irish/Roma ascent [sic]” (from brownstargirl.org website).

She is a Toronto- and Oakland, California-based poet, writer, educator and social activist (Wikipedia).

Piepzna-Samarasinha, Leah Lakshmi.

Dirty River: A Queer Femme of Color Dreaming Her Way Home. Vancouver, BC: Arsenal Pulp Press, 2015. (237 p.; ISBN 9781551526003)

Biography.

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Lesbian Memoir/Biography.

Piepzna-Samarasinha, Leah Lakshmi.

Love Cake: Poems.

Toronto: TSAR Publications, 2011.

(97 p.; ISBN 9781894770699)

Poetry.

“[E]xplores how queer people of color resist and transform violence through love and desire” (ref.: Google Books).

Piepzna-Samarasinha, Leah Lakshmi.

Tonguebreaker. Vancouver: Arsenal Pulp Press, 2019.

(140 p.; ISBN 9781551527574, 155152757X)

Poetry.

In this collection, “the poet continues her excavation of working-class queer brown femme survivorship and desire” (ref.: Google Books).

Selvadurai, Shyam.

Cinnamon Gardens. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 1998.

(389 p.; ISBN 9780771079559, etc.)

Novel.

One of the central characters, Balendran, struggles with his homosexuality and the social demands of tradition and family/marriage.

This work has been translated into other languages, including Sinhalese [see OCLC WorldCat catalog records].

Sinhalese title/imprint (transliterated): Kurinduvattē guru yuvatiya (Nugēgoda: Sarasavi Prakāśakayo, 2012).

Author is Sri Lankan-Canadian.

Selvadurai, Shyam.

Funny Boy. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 1994.

(316 p.; ISBN 9780771079504, etc.)

Novel.

Coming-of-age of a gay Sri Lankan man.

Work has been translated into various languages, including Sinhalese [see OCLC WorldCat catalog records]

Sinhalese title/imprint (transliterated): Amutu ilandāriya (Koḷamba [Colombo]: Sarasavi Prakāśakayo, 2002).

Selvadurai, Shyam.

The Hungry Ghosts. Toronto: Doubleday Canada, 2011.
(372 p.; ISBN 9780385670661)

Novel.

Shivan Rassiah, a gay man living in Canada, prepares to return to Sri Lanka to bring his grandmother to Canada. As he prepares to leave, he is haunted by imagined ghosts.

Selvadurai, Shyam.

Swimming in the Monsoon Sea. Toronto: Tundra Books, 2005.
(274 p.; ISBN 9780887767357)

Novel.

Fourteen-year-old Amrith is leading an uneventful life in 1980 Sri Lanka when his male cousin arrives from Canada. Amrith's ordered life is disrupted as he finds himself falling in love. The author's first young adult novel explores first love.

Sindu, S. J.

Blue-skinned Gods. New York: Soho Press; London: Legend Press, 2021.
(ca. 329 p.; ISBN 9781641292429 [etc.] (Soho))

Novel.

"In Tamil Nadu, India, a boy is born with blue skin. His father sets up an ashram, and the family makes a living off...the pilgrims who seek the child's blessings and miracles, believing young Kalki to be...[a] human incarnation of the Hindu god Vishnu....Over the next decade, ...[Kalki's] relationship to everyone... threatens to fall apart....[A] personal tale of youthful searching...."

(ref.: OCLC WorldCat record no. 1344285435, Summary).

2022 Lambda Literary Awards finalist for Bisexual Fiction.

Available also as an e-book.

Author is an American born in Sri Lanka (Wikipedia: S.J. Sindu article).

Because of setting of this work, it is entered at INDIA as well as at SRI LANKA.

Sindu, S. J.

Dominant Genes. [New York (State)?]: Black Lawrence Press, 2022.
(37 p.; ISBNs 9781625577177, 1625577176)

Poetry.

"...exploration of family, heritage, and the construction of nonbinary and queer identities" (ref.: books.google.com.hk, Books).

2023 Stonewall Honor Book, Literature.

Author is American, born in Sri Lanka (Wikipedia: S.J. Sindu article).

Sindu, S. J.

Marriage of a Thousand Lies: A Novel. New York: Soho Press, 2017.
(288 p.; ISBN 9781616957902, etc.)

Novel.

“[D]ebut novel pulls back the curtain on a ‘marriage of convenience’....

Lucky, a lesbian, is married to Krishna, a gay man....[The] decision [to marry] they’ve taken to appease their Sri Lankan-American families....” ;

“Sidhu brilliantly explores how queer women are viewed and treated based on their presentation of femininity” (ref.: Gill [see Sources]).

Stonewall Awards: Literature Honor Book.

Author is American, born in Sri Lanka (Wikipedia: S.J. Sindu article).

The World that Belongs to Us: An Anthology of Queer Poetry from South Asia.

SEE fuller entry in INDIA section, at this title.

INDIA

Introduction

Works on the alphabetical **list** for this section are more recent publications, almost all from the 21st century. (A very few titles are from the 1990s, and one work, Kamala Das's My Story, is a 1970s autobiography, translated from Malayalam, that "shocked the literary world" regarding lesbian sexuality and has had various editions and imprints). The list items are in original English or in English translation.

The additional titles noted in the **Introduction** are in a variety of Indian languages (or in English). They are older titles, primarily from the 1940s through the 1980s. There is very little repetition on the alphabetical list of titles noted in the Introduction.

The introductory notes draw substantially, in quotation or paraphrase, on Ruth Vanita's overview essay, "India, Literature," from Routledge International Encyclopedia of Queer Culture. Several quotations from an article by Ruchi Kuman give some updating observations for the period following the repeal of Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code regarding consensual adult gay sex. (See full references in Sources).

Vanita observes that homosexual relationships have been written about in India for over two thousand years. (See her Same-sex Love in India, in the list below). She notes, though, that the British criminalized homosexuality in the mid-nineteenth century and "inculcated homophobia among educated Indians," with the result that "homophobia, formerly muted, became dominant in Indian literature." The Urdu ghazal (love lyrics), for example, which celebrated male-male love was "heterosexualized," and new forms, such as the novel, "tended to depict male homosexuality as sordid and diseased, and female homosexuality as a premarital phase or the resort of women deprived of men...."

Examples of early modern works which adopted this portrayal of a perverted world were, in the case of male homosexuality, Mohammed Basheer's 1947 Malayalam-language novel Shabdangal [Voices] and Kamleshwar's 1951 Hindi novel Ek Sadak Sattavan Galiyan [The Street with Fifty-seven Lanes]. The presentation of lesbianism as a premarital schoolgirl phase was presented in Urdu work of Ismat Chughtai, Hindi writing of Shobhana Siddique, and Malayalam work of Kamala Das. Chughtai's 1942 Urdu short story, "Lihaaf" [The Quilt], was notable for the controversy and obscenity trial it provoked.

Vanita, however, has also provided readers with another fascinating view of writing in the early twentieth century with her translation into English of and introduction to work of the Hindi-language writer, Pandey Bechan Sharma (known as "Ugra"). In Chocolate and Other Writings on Male Homoeroticism (Duke University Press, 2009) she presents a 1927 collection of eight fictional stories by Sharma, whose work sparked a long-lasting public debate on homosexuality. (The Vanita translation also includes an excerpt from Sharma's 1927 novel, Letters of Some Beautiful Ones).

Vanita has also noted the writer Aubrey Menen, who, “himself gay, wrote several extravagantly imaginative English novels with homoerotic themes and characters” in the period from the 1940s to the 1970s.

Another earlier work [see list below], which “shocked the literary world” with a depiction of lesbian sex, was Kamala Das’s 1976 fictionalized autobiography in English, My Story.

V. T. Nandakumar’s 1974 Malayalam-language novel, Rantu penkuttikal [Two Girls] is also noted.

Among authors producing major works in the 1980s were:

Suniti Namjoshi, who “is among the earliest and most gifted lesbian writers.” Several later imprints of her works are included in the list of titles below, but also to be noted are some earlier titles: Feminist Fables (1981) and The Blue Donkey Fables (1988), now labelled classics; and the novels Conversations of Cow (1985) and Mothers of Maya Diip (1989), which “contribute, among other things, to an ongoing meditation on what it means to be an Indian lesbian”;

and

Vikram Seth, whose “tour de force” The Golden Gate (1986), and later novels A Suitable Boy (1993) and An Equal Music (1999), “all have gay characters and subplots”.

Vijaydan Detha, who wrote in Rajasthani, is noted for a story, Dohri Joon [A Double Life], published in Hindi in 1989, which “adapts premodern Indian tropes such as the mistaken marriage and the miraculous sex change to envision a utopian lesbian future.”

Much lesbian and gay writing appeared in the gay magazines founded at about this time: Trikone (1986) and Bombay Dost (1990) At that time as well, in the 1990s, “it became increasingly futile to try to distinguish Indian writers from writers of Indian origin who live abroad, as many writers now spend time and publish both in India and abroad or migrate to the West, while others are of mixed Indian and foreign origin.”

Vanita notes a “plethora of gay novels in the 1990s,” of which “[o]ne of the earliest” was Leslie de Noronha’s The Dew Drop Inn (1994) [which has been added to the list below]. Other gay writers in English are R. Raj Rao [represented on the list with a more recently authored work and also as a translator of the Tripathi entry] and P. Parivaraj [see list].

Noted also are Bhupen Khakhar (a writer of “highly acclaimed short stories in Gujarati”); Mahesh Dattani (author of a “series of award-winning plays in English, several on gay themes”); and Firdaus Kanga [see Kanga entry on list below].

The Supreme Court of India ruled in September 2018 to strike down Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code that had been introduced in British colonial times, in 1861, in so far as that Section 377 applies to consensual adult homosexual sex.

Post-Section 377, Ruchi Kumar, in an October 2019 article (see Sources), briefly looks back, noting that “[t]he history of queer literature in India is a complicated one. While ancient texts like the Kama Sutra demonstrate and advocate for all kinds of desires for all kinds of people, there was always a certain degree of moral ambiguity in ancient India over the status of queer or homosexual people. Additionally, Britain’s 250-year colonial rule codified this in the country’s penal code [of the 1860s]....” About recent matters, he observes that, in the wake of Section 377 being struck down, “the community is now fighting a...battle to change social perspectives,” one such struggle being “in the publishing industry, where there has been a dearth of characters and books that reflect the realities of Indian queer people.”

Readers of various Indian languages have access to works not available in English (and not on the list below). Some titles have already been noted earlier in this Introduction. Some more recent writers, references to whose works have been encountered, are:

Gopi Shankar Madurai [Maraikappatta Pakkangal (Hidden Pages)], writing in Tamil about gender variants and the LGBTQIA community;

Puliyur Murugesan [Tamil short story, “Naan Yen Migai Alangaram Seithu Kolkiren?” [“Why Do I Overreach Myself?”], about a transgender forced marriage, in the collection Balachandran Enra Peyarum Ennakkundu [various transliterations; English title: I Have Another Name, Balachandran];

and

Kalki Subramaniam, who published a collection of 25 Tamil poems, Kuri Aruthean (Vikatan Publications, 2015).

Bindumadhav Khire, a Marathi-language writer, has works possibly relevant to the list. Khire’s works seem only to be available in Marathi or Hindi (note OCLC WorldCat; compiler is not quite clear about the nature [fiction or nonfiction] of those works).

Murugesan, and also Perumal Murugan [Madhorubagan (this work translated into English by Aniruddhan Vasudevan under title: One Part Woman)], have been reported to have been threatened over of their writings (see various references, including 2015 online postings by Firstpost and by Scroll.in).

There are doubtless other names that could be added here.

Adiga, Aravind.

Selection Day: A Novel. New York: Scribner, 2017.
(289 p.; ISBN 9781501150838)

Novel.

“Manjunath Kumar is fourteen and living in a slum in Mumbai. He knows he is good at cricket...[b]ut there are many other things about himself that he doesn’t know....And when Manju meets...a mysterious Muslim boy privileged and confident in all the ways Manju is not, he is forced to come to terms with who he really is” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Author is of Indian birth and a citizen of Australia; he won the Man Booker Prize, 2008, for an earlier work

AIDS Sutra: Untold Stories from India. By various authors.

New York: Anchor Books, 2008.
(334 p.; ISBN 9780307454720)

Anthology.

“Some of India’s best-known writers go on the road to tell the human stories” behind HIV and AIDS in India; Includes work by, e.g., Kiran Desai, Salman Rushdie, and Vikram Seth. The writers “travel the country to talk to housewives, vigilantes, gay men living double lives, police, and sex workers” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Akella, Shastri.

The Sea Elephants. New York: Flatiron Books, 2023.
(384 p.; ISBN 9781250867247, 125086724X)

Novel.

“...queer coming-of-age novel set in 1990s India, about a young man [Shagun], who joins a traveling street theater troupe, seeking to outrun the dark secrets of his past....[This] debut novel is a celebration of hard-won love – of others and for ourselves” (google.com.hk, Books).

Ali, Kazim.

Inquisition. Middletown, CT: Wesleyan University Press, 2018.
(90 p.; ISBN 9780819577702)

Poetry.

“Queer, Muslim, American Kazim Ali has always navigated intersections and interstices....” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Gay Poetry.

Author is of Indian descent, born in the UK and raised in Canada and the US.

Arora, Bhaavna.

Love Bi the Way. Gurgaon, Haryana, India: Penguin Books, 2016.
(239 p.; ISBN 9780143425298)

Novel.

“Rihana, an artist and carefree spirit, and Zara, a business woman who is careful and methodical, build...friendship...that leads to love. The story becomes more complex when the men in their lives infuse more turmoil and love into their journeys” (ref.: Arora [see Sources]).

Avashia, Neema.

Another Appalachia: Coming Up Queer and Indian in a Mountain Place. Morgantown, West Virginia [USA]: West Virginia University Press, 2022.
(165 p.; ISBNs 9781952271427, 1952271428)

Autobiography.

“A queer Asian American teacher and writer, Avashia fits few Appalachian stereotypes. But the lessons she learned in childhood about race and class, gender and sexuality continue to inform the way she moves through the world” (ref.: books.google.com.hk, Books).

Author was born to and raised in West Virginia by immigrant Indian parents and is a middle school teacher in Boston.

2023 Lambda Literary Awards finalist for Lesbian Memoir.

Batsha, Nishant.

Mother Ocean Father Nation: A Novel.
New York: Ecco, an imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers, 2022.
(329 p.; ISBNs 9780063211780, 0063211785 [etc.]

Novel.

Story of two siblings, set on an unnamed South Pacific island on which many Indians had settled earlier as servants. Jaipal and Bhumi, brother and sister, are forced apart as the result of a military coup which builds racial tensions against the Indian community. Jaipal, who manages the family store, has hidden desires for both men and women. This story of the forging of a new path by one family examines the colonial legacy of an indentured Indian community.

2023 Lambda Literary Awards finalist for Bisexual Fiction.

Author is of Indian heritage, holds a doctorate from Columbia University, and lives in Buffalo, New York.

Bhagwati, Anuradha.

Unbecoming: A Memoir of Disobedience. New York: Atria Books, 2019.
(321 p.; ISBN 9781501162541)

Autobiography/Memoir.

The author, bisexual daughter of strict Indian immigrant parents, finally drops grad school at Harvard to join the Marines. “[S]he faces adversity and underestimation at every stage....Once her service concludes in 2004,...she decides...to take to task the leaders and outmoded conventions that she found so objectionable and even dangerous....” (as quoted in OCLC catalogue record no. 1242985584, Summary).

Chandra, Vikram.

“Artha.” In Love and Longing in Bombay.

New Delhi: Penguin Books; London: Faber and Faber, 1997.

(265 p.; ISBN 9780140265729, etc.)

Short story.

A Muslim man searches for his Hindu lover.

This story is part of an award-winning collection which won a Commonwealth Writers prize.

Author is an Indian-American, born in India.

Close, Too Close: The Tranquebar Book of Queer Erotica. Edited by Meenu and Shruti.

Chennai, India: Tranquebar Press, 2012.

(216 p.; ISBN 9789381626153)

Anthology.

“Pleasure, desire, bondage; intimacy, affection, sheer revelry; fear, uncertainty, discomfort [--] the myriad expressions of the erotic are revealed in...the first South Asian anthology of its sort. In this path-breaking entry into both the queer literature and erotica genres, fifteen writers and artists from across the subcontinent (and beyond) freely explore...genders and sexualities....”

(OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Includes also people with Bangladeshi and Sri Lankan connections.

Cunha, Nisha da.

“La Loire noire.” In Set My Heart in Aspic.

New Delhi: HarperCollins Publishers India, 1997.

(185 p.; ISBN 9788172232832)

Short story.

The grief of a man over the death of his lover from AIDS.

Das, Ansh [Das, Anshuman].

Always Forever.

Hong Kong: Signal 8 Press, 2012.

(282 p.; ISBN 9789881554284)

Biography/Memoir.

“...memoir that opens on the sidelines of the glamorous Mr. Gay World

event, flies high on the wings of love, crawls through the depths of death and rises again with a hope for the future” (from Tongzhi Literary Group [Hong Kong] website)

Book **available in English or Chinese**.

Chinese pinyin transliteration of title: Yi zhi dao yong yuan (Signal 8 Press).

Author is from India and lives in Hong Kong (anshdas.com website)

This title is also listed in the CHINA section.

Das, Ansh [Das, Anshuman].

The Memory of a Face.

Hong Kong: Signal 8 Press, 2011.

(433 p.)

Novel.

“What is love? Is it the craving to be with him or is it the realization that you should let him go? Is it about telling him how he makes you feel or is it about suffering in silence?....” (from author website)

Set in Hong Kong/China.

English-language Kindle edition noted on amazon.com, Books.

Book **available in English or Chinese**.

Chinese pinyin transliterated title: Ji de na rong yan (Signal 8 Press, 2014).

Chinese edition ebook also noted on Goodreads.com website, published by Smashwords, 2014 (ISBN 9789881219787).

Author is from India and lives in Hong Kong (anshdas.com website)

This title is also listed in the CHINA section.

Das, Indra.

The Devourers. Gurgaon, Haryana, India: Penguin; New York: Del Rey, 2015. (ca. 300 p.; ISBN 9781101967515 (Del Rey))

Novel.

“[S]peculative novel...gruesome, strange, primal, fantastical and stunningly imagined....”; “Das plays masterfully with the idea of queerness – gay sex and love stories, yes, but more profoundly the inherent fluidity of sexual identity and gender” (ref.: Gill [see Sources]).

Das, Kamala [Kamalā Surayya].

My Story. Translated from Malayalam by the author.

New Delhi: Sterling, 1976 (and later editions; see OCLC WorldCat).

(231 p.; 9780856551734)

Autobiography (also noted as “fictionalized autobiography”).

“First published in Malayalam in 1973, My Story, Kamala Das’s sensational autobiography, shocked readers with its total disregard of mindless conventions and its fearless articulation of a subject still considered taboo....”

(OCLC WorldCat Summary in record of a new edition (Noida: DC Books, 2009).

Originally published in Malayalam under title: Ente Katha.

Author name also noted as: Madhavikutty.

Noted by Ruth Vanita (see above in Introduction of this section) as having shocked the literary world with its depiction of lesbian sex.

Dattani, Mahesh.

“Seven Steps around the Fire.” In Collected Plays. [vol. 1].

New Delhi; New York: Penguin Books, 2000.

Drama.

Concerns oppression of the hijra community.

Note OCLC WorldCat record no. 989975774 for v. 1 with Table of Contents.

Dawesar, Abha.

Babyji: A Novel. New York: Anchor Books, 2004.

(356 p.; ISBN 9781400034567)

Novel.

“...story of Anamika Sharma, a spirited student growing up in Delhi. At school she is an ace at quantum physics....Before long she has seduced an elegant older divorcée and the family servant, and has caught the eye of a classmate coveted by all the boys....” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Stonewall Book Awards: Literature winner.

Lambda Literature Awards winner for Lesbian Fiction.

De Noronha, Leslie.

The Dew Drop Inn. Calcutta [India]: Writers Workshop, 1994.

(297 p.; ISBN 9788171897308, etc.)

Novel.

Author of Goan origin, and was a medical doctor and music critic (Wikipedia).

The critic Peter Nazareth is quoted (in Wikipedia: Leslie de Noronha entry, from a World Literature Today review) as noting that the book “is a sequel to The Mango and the Tamarind Tree: Raoul in the first novel gives up his lover...because of pressure by his mother. In the sequel, Raoul regrets having given her up and he has now become gay – there are explicit descriptions of the gay scene in Bombay....” Wikipedia article notes also that “[s]ome critics suggest that Raoul’s story parallels the author’s”.

Deen, Mashuq Mushtaq.

Draw the Circle. New York: Dramatists Play Service, 2018.

(72 p.; ISBN 9780822237785)

Drama.

“...hilarious and deeply moving story of [a] conservative Muslim mother at her wits’ end, a Muslim father who likes to tell jokes, and a queer American woman

trying to make a good impression on her Indian in-laws....” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Lambda Literary Awards winner for LGBTQ Drama.

Dhaliwal, Sharan.

Burning My Roti: Breaking Barriers as a Queer Indian Woman.

[London, etc.]: Hardie Grant Publishing, 2022.

(208 p.; ISBNs 9781784884505, 1784884502)

Memoir.

“Part memoir, part guide....”; broader than scope of this bibliography, but “[w]ith chapters covering sexual and cultural identity” (ref.: Google Books, viewed August 15, 2023).

Dhalla, Ghalib Shiraz.

Ode to Lata: A Novel. Los Angeles: Really Great Books, 2002.

(293 p.; ISBN 9781893329133)

Novel.

“Ali, banker by day and denizen of LA’s clubs at night, has left behind a tempestuous Kenyan childhood with an overprotective mother who raised him on a diet of Hindi movies, and an emotionally abusive bisexual lover.... Ali is lost in an obsession for Richard, his ideal of beauty....” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Dhalla, Ghalib Shiraz.

The Two Krishnas: A Novel. Los Angeles: Alyson, 2010; New York: Magnus Books, 2011.

(338 p.; ISBN 9781593501297 (Alyson), 9781936833009 (Magnus)).

Novel.

“Indian wife and mother living in Los Angeles feels betrayed when her Hindu banker husband falls in love with a young Muslim man” (ref.: Walker).

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Bisexual Fiction.

NOTE: this novel apparently also known by title The Exiles (ref.: Oh [see Sources]), with imprints New Delhi: HarperCollins Publishers India, 2011; and Los Angeles: Final Word Books, 2014.

Doctor, Farzana.

All Inclusive. Toronto: Dundurn Press, 2015.

(294 p.; ISBN 9781459731813, etc.)

Novel.

Ameera works at a Mexican resort, where she also secretly enjoys the sexual swingers’ life. She is also haunted by why her father, Azeez, abandoned her.

Author born in Zambia to Dawoodi Bohra Muslim expatriate parents from

India; she immigrated to Canada with her family in the early 1970s
(Wikipedia article: Farzana Doctor).

Doctor, Farzana.

Six Metres of Pavement: A Novel. Toronto: Dundurn Press, 2011.
(340 p.; ISBN 9781554887675)

Novel.

“Ismail Boxwala...struggles to continue living through a divorce, years of heavy drinking, and sex with strangers. But his story begins to change after he reluctantly befriends two women” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Lambda Literary Awards winner for Lesbian Fiction.

Doctor, Farzana.

Stealing Nasreen: A Novel. Toronto: Inanna Publications and Education, 2007
(also: New Delhi: Rupa, 2012).
(222 p.; ISBN 9780978223304 (Inanna))

Novel.

“Set in Toronto with back story in Mumbai”; “Nasreen, an Indo-Canadian lesbian and burnt-out psychologist, becomes enmeshed in the lives of Shaffiq and his wife Salma, new immigrants to Canada” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Dube, Siddharth.

An Indefinite Sentence: A Personal History of Outlawed Love and Sex.
New York: Atria Books, 2019, c2015.
(374 p.; ISBN 9781501158476, 1501158473)

Autobiography.

“A revelatory memoir about sex, oppression, and the universal struggle for justice by the executive director of UNAIDS describes the personal quest for love and self-respect as a gay youth in mid-twentieth century India and at Harvard” (ref.: OCLC WorldCat record no. 1079411450)

Originally published under title: No One Else (HarperCollins Publishers India, 2015)

Facing the Mirror: Lesbian Writing in India. Edited by Ashwini Sukthankar.

New Delhi; New York: Penguin Books, 1999.
(409 p.; ISBN 9780140283099)

Anthology.

Fiction, poetry, essays, personal history.

Gitarth, Jintu.

“A Second of Stillness.” Translated from Assamese by Harsita Hiya.
In Words Without Borders Magazine, June 2023 issue (Queer Issue XIV)

(online).

In English and Assamese (bilingual posting).

Short story.

“Two college dropouts [Ankur and Diganta] exploring their relationship are exposed by a vengeful visitor” (Introduction to the Words Without Borders story post).

Author was born in 1998 and grew up in a remote village in lower Assam, India. He is serving as a guest faculty member...in the Department of Education at Handique Girls’ College. His short stories have been translated into English, Hindu, and Bodo...[and] represent the marginalized and oft-ignored....” (biographical note following the Words Without Borders story).

Hajratwala, Minal.

Leaving India: My Family’s Journey from Five Villages to Five Continents.
Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2009.
(ca. 430 p.; ISBN 9780618251292)

Biography.

“Beginning with her great-grandfather’s original flight from...India to Fiji, the author follows her ancestors across the twentieth century...across five continents and nine countries....” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).
Lambda Literary Awards winner for Bisexual Nonfiction.

Hashimoto, Emily.

A World Between: A Novel. New York: The Feminist Press at the City University of New York, 2020.
(432 p.; ISBN 9781936932955)

Novel.

The author’s debut novel “follows the lives of Eleanor Suzuki and Leena Shah [from an Indian family], two young immigrant women who meet and fall into a whirlwind romance as college students in Boston in 2004. Years later,...[they] collide on the streets of San Francisco, and find themselves drawn back in together” (ref.: publisher description as given in OCLC WorldCat record).
Author lives in New Jersey [USA].
This work has also been listed in the JAPAN section.

Johar, Karan.

An Unsuitable Boy. Gurgaon, Haryana, India: Shobhaa Dé Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House, 2017.
(216 p; ISBN 9780670087532, 067008753X)

Autobiography.

Reminiscences of the gay Bollywood film director, producer, and actor.
Available in other languages, including Hindi and Marathi.

Joseph, Anjali.

Saraswati Park. New Delhi: HarperCollins; London: Fourth Estate, 2010.
(261 p.; ISBN 9788172239947 (Harper), 9780007360772 (Fourth Estate))

Novel.

Ashish, a gay 19-year-old college student, lives with his aunt and uncle in their Saraswati Park home in Mumbai. Stories of the various household members, including of Ashish and his affairs with another college student and with his English tutor.

Translated also from English to Malayalam (2013).

Noted as the author's debut novel.

Kanakia, Rahul.

We Are Totally Normal. New York: HarperCollins, 2020.
(ISBN 9780062865816)

Novel (young adult).

Coming-of-age novel; "Nandan's perfect plan for junior [high school] year goes awry after he hooks up with a guy for the first time"
(ref.: harpercollins.com website).

"When Nandan hooks up with his friend Dave..., he isn't sure how he feels about it....The novel deftly negotiates the complexities of teenage friendships and relationships with insight and compassion" (ref.: "10 Books with South Asian Characters You Should Read in 2020," by Pooja Makhijani. TeenVogue (teenvogue.com), Books, February 7, 2020 (online) [viewed Feb. 16, 2020]).

Author "originally from Washington,...now lives in San Francisco" (ref.: harpercollins.com website).

Kanga, Firdaus.

Trying to Grow. London: Bloomsbury, 1990.
(242 p.; ISBN 9780747505495)

Autobiography.

Semi-autobiographical novel, set in the Parsi community of the Mumbai area, presenting Brit Kotwal, who suffers from brittle bones, in his journey towards sexuality and adulthood.

"...explores the sorrows and joys of being both gay and disabled" (Vanita, "India, Literature," in Routledge encyclopedia [see Sources])

Note: other imprints, and translation to other languages, including French (Grandir), Italian (Cercando di crescere), and Dutch (Poging tot groei), for which see OCLC WorldCat records.

Kapur, Manju.

A Married Woman. New Delhi: IndiaInk, 2002; London: Faber and Faber, 2003.
(310 p.; ISBN 9788186939123 (IndiaInk), 9780571215669 (Faber))

Novel.

“Astha has...a loving husband and affluent surroundings – and yet is consumed with a sense of dissatisfaction. She begins an extra-marital affair with a younger woman, the widow of a political activist....” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Kar-Purkayastha, Ishani.

The Dancing Boy. Noida [India]: HarperCollins India, 2011.

(342 p.; ISBN 9789350291245)

Novel.

“In the sleepy by-lanes of 1980s’ Mumbai, a young boy spends hours in front of the mirror, draped in his mother’s saris, his face layered with make-up [and he] dances and twirls about the room....His mother is ashamed of her effeminate son, his friends tease him...and Moyur grows up...misunderstood by all but his friend and neighbour, Jonali....”

Author “works in London as a doctor in the field of public health.”

(ref.: amazon.com, book Description)

Kumar, Mala.

The Paths of Marriage: A Novel. Fairfield, CA: Bedazzled Ink Publishing Co., 2014.

(332 p.; ISBN 9781939562586)

Novel.

Three generations of Indian and Indian-American women: Lakshmi marries and immigrates to the US from India to provide a better life for herself and family; she forces her American daughter, Pooja, into an arranged marriage; Pooja’s daughter, Deepa, is an out lesbian.

Kumarasamy, Akil.

Meet Us by the Roaring Sea. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2022.

(287 p.; ISBNs 9780374177706, 0374177708)

Novel.

“In the near future, a young woman finds her mother’s body starfished on the kitchen floor in Queens [New York City] and sets [out] on a journey through language, archives, artificial intelligence, and TV for a way back into herself” (ref.: Goodreads.com).

2023 Lambda Literary Awards finalist for Bisexual Fiction.

Kuṇḍalakara, Sacina.

Cobalt Blue: A Novel. Translated from Marathi by Jerry Pinto.
New York; London: The New Press, 2016.
(228 p.; ISBN 9781620971758)

Novel.

“An enigmatic paying guest becomes the object of affection for siblings Tanay and Anjuna...”; “[N]ovel about love, desire and heartbreak...told in two halves, from the perspective of both siblings, who are consumed by their adoration of the mysterious man their parents have taken on as a boarder”; “[Q]uietly devastating meditation on the transformative power of love, regardless of sexuality”
(ref.: Gill [see Sources])

NOTES:

Author name sometimes presented as: Kundalkar, Sachin.

Marathi title/imprint (in transliteration) is: Kobālta blū (Mumbaī: Mauja Prakāśana Grha, 2006 and 2013). OCLC WorldCat lists various editions.

A Lotus of Another Color: An Unfolding of the South Asian Gay and Lesbian Experience. Edited by Rakesh Ratti. Boston: Alyson Publications, 1993.
(303 p.; ISBN 9781555831714)

Anthology.

“For the first time, lesbians and gay men from India, Pakistan, and other South Asian countries tell stories of coming out and challenging prejudice”
(ref.: Goodreads).

For the Table of Contents of this volume, see OCLC WorldCat accession no. 26855093, which will also point the user to additional names of possible interest.

Loving Women: Being Lesbian in Unprivileged India. Edited by Maya Sharma.
New Delhi: Yoda Press, 2006.
(191 p.; ISBN 9788190363419)

Biography.

The stories of ten working class lesbians in North India.

The Man Who Was a Woman and Other Queer Tales from Hindu Lore.
[compiled and with commentary by] Devdutt Pattanaik.
New York: Routledge, 2012, c2002.
(165 p.; ISBN 9781560231806, etc.)

Anthology.

“...a compilation of traditional Hindu stories with a common thread: sexual transformation and gender metamorphosis...In addition to the thought-provoking stories..., you’ll also find: an examination of the universality of queer narratives

with examples from Greek lore and Irish folklore[,] a comparison of the Hindu paradigm to the biblical paradigm[,] a look at how Hindu society and Hindu scripture...[respond] to queer sexuality....” (ref.: amazon.com, Books).

Matta, Avinash.

The Tree Outside My Window Is a Drama Queen. [India]: Notion Press, 2017. (94 p.; ISBN 9781947283657)

Poetry.

“Love, heart-break, romance, drama and being queer – this book is a collection of 60 poems...written by a man who loves another man....” (amazon.com, Books)

Mehta, Rahul.

Quarantine: Stories. Noida [India]: Random House India, 2010;
New York: HarperPerennial, 2011.
(252 p.; ISBN 9788184001358 (Random); 9780062020451 (Harper))

Short stories.

“...The characters in Quarantine – openly gay Indian-American men – are Westernized in some ways with cosmopolitan views on friendship and sex, while struggling to maintain relationships with their families and cultural traditions....” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Merchant, Hoshang.

Forbidden Sex, Forbidden Texts: New India’s Gay Poets.
London; New York: Routledge, 2009.
(270 p.; ISBN 9780415484510)

Literary criticism.

This non-fiction work is an exceptional inclusion on the list, noted for its usefulness in pointing the user to additional names of writers of interest. “Argues that there is no monolithic homosexuality, there are only homosexualities,...there as many reasons for being gay as there are gays” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Some of the OCLC WorldCat catalog records for this work include a Table of Contents note, which will point to additional people and literatures in some of the many Indian/South Asian languages; for example, chapter 3: Urdu Gay Literature: Poetry, and chapter 4: Hindi Gay Literature.

Merchant, Hoshang.

The Man Who Would Be Queen: Autobiographical Fictions.
New Delhi: Penguin Books, 2011.
(200 p.; ISBN 9780143064862)

Autobiography.

“...written in the form of lyrical essays, tells the story of Hoshang Merchant,

an out and proud gay man who has had to deal with dysfunctional parents, unaccepting sisters, and rejection from lovers because they were scared to come out of the closet....” (ref.: “10 Extraordinary LGBTQIA+ Books by Indian Authors” [see Sources]).

Merchant, Hoshang.

Secret Writings of Hoshang Merchant. Edited by Akshaya K. Rath.
New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2016.
(225 p.; ISBN 9780199465965)

Autobiography.

“Never a shrinking violet, Hoshang Merchant came out of the closet early in his youth. A bard, a teacher, and a lover who has lived many lives.... Here he recounts his extraordinary life and splendid experiences ranging across countries and cultures. His is a story of prejudice and neglect that are part of everyday gay life, and [of] how he channelled his despair into creating poetry.... [He] writes with searing honesty about his long and short love affairs” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Mohabir, Rajiv.

Antiman: A Hybrid Memoir. Brooklyn, NY: Restless Books, 2021.
(335 p.; ISBN 9781632062802, 1632062801)

Memoir/Autobiography.

“Growing up a Guyanese Indian immigrant in Central Florida,... Mohabir is fascinated by his family’s abandoned Hindu history and the legacy of his ancestors, who were indentured laborers on British sugarcane plantations.... Embarking on a journey of discovery, he lives for a year in Varanasi, on the banks of the Ganges....” He returns to the United States, but feels an outsider, and then, even further, is outed by a cousin as an “antiman,” a Caribbean slur for men who love men. His Toronto grandmother has, however, taught him resilience.... (ref.: restlessbooks.org/bookstore/antiman).

2022 Lambda Literary Awards finalist for Gay Memoir/Biography.

The author is “an Indo-Caribbean American poet” (ref.: Wikipedia article: “Rajiv Mohabir”).

Mohabir, Rajiv.

The Taxidermist’s Cut. Tribeca [New York, NY]: Four Way Books, 2016.
(98 p.; ISBN 9781935536727)

Poetry.

“...a collection [of poetry] that centers the pressures of being a queer brown youth awakening sexually in a racist, anti-immigrant matrix. As an Indo-Caribbean, the queer-countried speaker is illegible as an Indian as well as an American....” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Gay Poetry.

Mootoo, Shani.

Cereus Blooms at Night. Vancouver, BC: Press Gang Publishers, 1996.
(249 p.; ISBN 9780889740648)

Novel.

One of the topics of exploration is boundaries between homosexual and heterosexual desire. Love affair of Sarah and Lavinia, Otoh's sex transformation, Tyler's gender identity.

Author is Trinidadian-Canadian of Indian heritage.

Mootoo, Shani.

Moving Forward Sideways Like a Crab. Toronto: Doubleday Canada, 2014.
(312 p.; ISBN 9780385676229, etc.)

Novel.

Jonathan's mother vanishes when he is nine. When he finally, as a grown man, reconnects with her, he finds that she has, herself, become a man. Story of a transgender individual and those who are close.

Mootoo, Shani.

Polar Vortex. Toronto: Book*hug Press; New York: Akashic, 2020.
(ca. 300 p.; ISBN 8781771665643 (Book*hug), 9781617759086 (Akashic))

Novel.

Lesbian couple, Priya and Alexandra, have moved to a rural Ontario town. Alex doesn't know Priya is running from a trying relationship with Prakash. There are complications when he (Prakash) comes for a visit.

Mootoo, Shani.

The Predicament of Or. Vancouver, BC: Polestar, 2001.
(120 p.; ISBN 9781551924168)

Poetry.

Exploration of desire and identity. "In a set of bittersweet love poems, she tenderly exposes the contradictions in loving another woman...."
(ref.: Google Books).

Mootoo, Shani.

Valmiki's Daughter. Toronto: Anansi, 2008.
(120 p.; ISBN 9780887848377)

Novel.

Storytelling alternates between Valmiki, a renowned doctor, and his daughter, Viveka, both closeted homosexuals in a homophobic environment. Set in the modern-day Caribbean.

Moving Truth(s): Queer and Transgender Desi Writings on Family.

With Aparajeeta 'Sasha' Duttchoudhury and Rukie Hartman.
Seattle, WA: Flying Chickadee, 2015.
(181 p.; ISBN 9780989626354)

Anthology.

The purpose of this work is to "bring conversations about gender and sexuality home to family and community...." (ref.: amazon.com, Books)

Mukherjee, Kunal.

My Magical Palace. Noida [India]: HarperCollins India, 2012.
(374 p.; ISBN 9789350291191)

Novel.

"...Rahul, a young man of thirty living in San Francisco, suddenly becomes secretive and withdraws from his partner Andrew. When Andrew discovers that Rahul is still interviewing girls sent by his parents for an arranged marriage, he gives Rahul an ultimatum – stop living a lie, or give up their relationship...." Set in the San Francisco of the time of writing, and in India of the early 1970s. (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Mukherjee, Neel.

A Life Apart. London: Constable & Robinson, 2010 (and other editions)
(342 p.; ISBN 9781849011013, etc.)

Novel.

Earlier published as: Past Continuous.

Multiple story lines. One source notes: "The saga of a lonely young gay man who flees a miserable life in Kolkata to the freedom of Britain" (quoted in Wikipedia article on Neel Mukherjee).

Book included in "10 Extraordinary LGBTQIA+ Books by Indian Authors" [see Sources].

Noted as his first novel, which won the Vodaphone-Crossword Award in India and Writers' Guild of Great Britain Award for best fiction.

Munir, Sheryn.

Falling into Place. Kriftel, Germany: Ylva Verlag, 2018.
(228 p.; ISBN 9783955339722, 3955339726)

Novel.

Lesbian romantic fiction. "Romance is not for Tara. Embittered after a college fling, she vows never to fall in love again – especially since she believes there's no future for same-sex love in her home in urban India.... Then...Sameen [comes] into her life...." (ref.: Goodreads.com description).

Work also available in German: Der Geschmack von Glück.
Author was born in Lucknow and grew up and lives in Delhi.

Namjoshi, Suniti.

The Fabulous Feminist: A Suniti Namjoshi Reader.

New Delhi: Zubaan; Melbourne [Australia]: Spinifex Press, 2012.
(251 p.; ISBN 9789381017333, etc.)

Anthology of Namjoshi works.

“Bringing together the best of her stories....” (ref.: Gill [see Sources list]).

“Here readers will find her fables, poetry, prose autobiography, and children’s stories, works that are both playful and deeply serious....” (ref.: amazon.com, Books).

Namjoshi is a prolific author in various genres. She was born and grew up in India, and has lived in Canada and England.

SEE several other earlier works by Namjoshi, listed in the INDIA Introduction above.

Namjoshi, Suniti.

Goja: An Autobiographical Myth. North Melbourne, Vic. [Australia]: Spinifex, 2000.

(157 p.; ISBN 9781875559978)

Autobiography.

“This story of a native Indian poet living and writing in the West discusses class privilege and poverty, language and literacy, and the contradictions that make up the confusing patterns of her life” (publisher’s description as given in OCLC WorldCat record).

Vanita (in “India, Literature,” Routledge International Encyclopedia of Queer Culture) notes that this is one of her works that “constitute, among other things, an ongoing meditation on what it means to be an Indian lesbian.”

SEE several other earlier works by Namjoshi, listed in the INDIA Introduction above.

On the Edge: 100 Years of Hindi Fiction on Same-sex Desire.

Edited and translated from the Hindi by Ruth Vanita.

[India]: Penguin Random House India, 2023.
(272 p.; ISBN 9780670097319, 0670097314)

Anthology.

A collection of short stories and extracts from novels translated from the original Hindi. “The sixteen...stories featured here (published between 1927 and 2022) include classic works by Asha Sahay, Premchand, Ugra, Rajkamal Chaudhuri, Geetanjali Shree, Sara Rai, and Rajendra Yadav, among others” (as noted on Google Books and Amazon.in).

Out!: Stories from the New Queer India. Edited by Minal Hajratwala.
Mumbai: QueerInk (Offside Enterprises), 2012.
(447 p.; ISBN 9788192279305)

Anthology.

Indian queer writing, with stories across the sexual, cultural, and political spectrum. Thirty entries noted in Table of Contents (viewable in OCLC WorldCat record, accession no. 826067882).

Pariat, Janice.

Seahorse: A Novel. Los Angeles: The Unnamed Press, 2016.
(245 p.; ISBN 9781939419552)

Novel.

“A reimagining of the myth of Poseidon and his lover Pelops, Seahorse is a sweeping tale of love, nostalgia, and memory, moving through 1990s New Delhi and present-day London. The novel tracks one man’s undying love for his former professor across time and place....” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Parivaraj, P.

Shiva and Arun. Swaffham [UK]: Gay Men’s Press, 1998.
(156 p.; ISBN 0854492657)

Novel.

“In the south Indian town of Chitana, two boys discover early on the joys of sex....” (ref.: Goodreads).

Patel, Mayur.

Vivek and I. New Delhi: Penguin Books India, 2010.
(378 p.; ISBN 9780143067924)

Novel.

“...a powerful novel about sexuality, falling in love and learning to let go” (ref.: amazon.com, Books).

Patil, Amruta.

Kari. New Delhi: Harper Collins Publishers India, 2008.
(115 p.; ISBN 9788172237103)

Graphic novel.

“...two young lesbian lovers are driven to attempt suicide. They are forced to go their separate ways....[The novel] focuses on the story of the eponymous Kari...[telling] of her struggles establishing her own identity in a typical modern city....” (ref.: “10 Extraordinary LGBTQIA+ Books by Indian Authors” [see Sources]).

Pattanaik, Devdutt.

The Pregnant King: A Novel. New Delhi: Penguin Books India, 2014, c2008.
(349 p.; ISBN 9780143423331)

Novel.

Story based in Hindu mythology. Yuvanashva, a childless king..., mistakenly drinks a magic potion meant to make his queens pregnant and gives birth to a great ruler.

Pattanaik, Devdutt.

Shikhandi and Other Tales They Don't Tell You.
New Delhi: Zubaan and Penguin Books India, 2014.
(179 p.; ISBN 9789383074846, 9383074841, etc.)

Anthology.

"The author explains that queerness isn't only modern, Western, or sexual. Rather, by looking at the traditions of Hinduism, he finds many overlooked tales with queerness at their center, some over two thousand years old...."
(ref.: OCLC WorldCat record no. 889577945).

The OCLC catalogue record noted above carries a Table of Contents and Part II of the work presents 30 tales.

Rao, R. Raj.

The Boyfriend. New Delhi; London: Penguin, 2003.
(232 p.; ISBN 9780143028741)

Novel.

In Mumbai's gay world, Yodi, a 40-year-old journalist, picks up a 19-year-old young Dalit man, Milind, for quick sex. They meet again by chance months later, at the time of the Mumbai riots. Their relationship continues on in a sporadic way, with Yodi's need for love and Milind's for money.

Author was born in Mumbai and is one of India's leading gay-rights activists.

This has been noted (amazon.com) as the author's first novel.

It has been translated from the original English into French (Boyfriend, 2005) and Italian (Il mio ragazzo, 2010) (see OCLC WorldCat for details).

Rao, R. Raj.

Hostel Room 131. New Delhi: Penguin Books India, 2010; London: Penguin, 2012.
(228 p.; ISBN 9780143064466)

Novel.

"...love story of two young men as they battle society and rampant homophobia to stay together...." (ref.: "10 Extraordinary LGBTQIA+ Books by Indian Authors" [see Sources]).

Rashid, Ian Iqbal.

Black Markets, White Boyfriends and Other Elisions. Toronto: TSAR, 1991.
(44 p.; ISBN 9780920661185)

Poetry.

Rashid's first of several books of poetry.

Author is Tanzania-born, of Indian heritage, and has lived in Canada and the UK.

Revathi, A. [Rēvati].

A Life in Trans Activism. New Delhi: Zubaan, 2016.
(237 p.; ISBNs 9789384757755, 9384757756)

Autobiography.

"...charts her ...journey from relative obscurity to becoming India's leading spokesperson for transgender rights...." (publisher, as quoted in OCLC catalog record no. 921863811).

Note also her earlier autobiography, The Truth about Me, below.

Revathi, A. [Rēvati].

Our Lives, Our Words: Telling Aravani Lifestories. Translated to English
by A. Mangai [A. Maṅkai].

New Delhi: Yoda Press, 2011.

(80 p.; ISBNs 9789380403069, 9380403062)

Biographies/Memoirs.

Stories, in their own words, of the lives of aravanis (hijras).

"Some of the greatest recent victories in this ongoing battle for rights have been won in Tamil Nadu, where the government first began to recognize many of the rights of the hijra community" (ref.: amazon.com, Book overview).

Original title in Tamil (transliterated): Uṇarvum uruvamum: aravāṇikaḷiṇ vāḷkkaik
lataikaḷ (as given in Princeton University Library catalog).

Also available in Hindi translation and as an e-book in English.

Revathi, A. [Rēvati].

The Truth about Me: A Hijra Life Story. Translated from Tamil by V. Geetha.
New Delhi: Penguin Books, 2010.
(304 p.; ISBN 9780143068365)

Autobiography.

"Bengaluru-based Revathi [name also noted as: Rēvati] remains best known for a striking autobiographical account of her life as a transgender" (ref.: Gill [see Sources]).

OCLC WorldCat notes editions also in Malayalam, Kannada, and French.

See also her later autobiography, A Life in Trans Activism, above.

Revathi, Prema.

“She.” Translated from Tamil by A. Mangai.

In Words Without Borders Magazine, June 2011 (Queer Issue II) (online).

Poetry.

This is a single, short, and beautiful **poem**.

Author is a filmmaker, activist, educator, and occasional poet.

Roy, Arundhati.

The Ministry of Utmost Happiness. New York: Hamish Hamilton, 2017

(and other imprints/languages, for which see OCLC WorldCat)

(449 p.; ISBN 9780241303979, etc.)

Novel.

“Aftab, born a male, transitions to Anjum, an intersex Muslim woman who strives to protect her community after witnessing communal riots”

(ref.: “10 Extraordinary LGBTQIA+ Books by Indian Authors” [see Sources]).

Aftab/Anjum is one of the major characters of the book.

Ruprai, Sharanpal.

Pressure Cooker Love Bomb. Calgary, Alberta: Frontenac House, 2019.

(80 p.; ISBN 9781927823835)

Poetry.

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Lesbian Poetry.

Author grew up in a Sikh family in Winnipeg, Canada.

Same-sex Love in India: Readings from Literature and History.

Edited by Ruth Vanita and Saleem Kidwai. New York: St. Martin’s Press, 2000

(and later editions; see OCLC WorldCat).

(370 p.; ISBN 9780312221690, etc.)

Anthology.

Collection of over 2000 years of same-sex love writing in India, “from Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim and modern traditions” (book jacket, and Gill reference).

Translated from more than a dozen languages, “[t]his collection defies both stereotypes of Indian culture and Foucault’s definition of homosexuality as a 19th-century invention....” (ref.:amazon.com, Books).

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Anthologies/Fiction.

Sarif, Shamim.

I Can’t Think Straight. Ann Arbor, Michigan: Bywater Books, 2017.

(204 p.; ISBN 9781612941011)

Novel.

Tala, a London-based Palestinian, is preparing for her wedding when she meets Leyla, a young British Indian woman, and the attraction is immediate (from Book Depository website description).

This title has also been listed at the PALESTINE heading.

Sarif, Shamim.

The World Unseen. London: Enlightenment Productions, 2008.
(322 p.; ISBN 0956031609)

Novel.

1950s South Africa. Amina meets Miriam, a young wife and mother, and their attraction causes Miriam to ask questions of herself.

Satyaj, Rakesh.

Blue Boy. New York: Kensington Books, 2009.
(276 p.; ISBN 9780758231369)

Novel.

Coming-of-age of an Indian-American boy.

“Twelve-year-old Kiran Sharma’s a bit of an outcast: he likes ballet and playing with his mother’s makeup. He also reveres his Indian heritage and convinces himself that the reason he’s having trouble fitting in is because he’s actually the 10th reincarnation of Krishnaji [a Hindu deity with blue skin]....” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Lambda Literary Award winner for Gay Debut Fiction.

Sharma, Parvez.

A Sinner in Mecca: A Gay Muslim’s Hajj of Defiance.
Dallas, Texas: Ben Bella Books, 2017.
(280 p.; ISBN 9781944648374)

Biography/Memoir.

“...[T]he first book about the Hajj from a gay perspective, written by a man with a deep knowledge of Islamic history. This pilgrimage is the centerpiece of his book, and he recounts it with courage and fierce emotion”(from “A Sinner in Mecca review,” The Guardian, Sept. 10, 2017, online).

“[This work] is simultaneously one man’s personal odyssey as well as a groundbreaking, provocative revelation of a clandestine world and its fastest growing and most contested religion” (OCLC WorldCat record no. 1019027580).

Author is Indian. He is noted (Wikipedia) as a New York-based Indian filmmaker, author, and journalist.

This work has also been entered in the SAUDI ARABIA section.

Sheikh, Danish.

“Contempt.” In Global Queer Plays: Seven LGBTQ+ Works from around the World. London: Osborne Books, 2018.

Drama.

See the ASIA heading for additional information about Global Queer Plays.

Shekhar, Hansda Sowvendra.

My Father’s Garden. New Delhi: Speaking Tiger, 2019.
(192 p.; ISBN 9789388326223)

Novel.

“...unnamed protagonist...is a young Santhali doctor navigating his sexuality...”; “[T]he novel is at its most powerful in the first section [of three], ‘*Love*,’ which vividly exemplifies how most male sexual relationships in India fall outside the neat boundaries of defined identities....” (ref.: Gill [see Sources]).

Shraya, Vivek.

Even This Page Is White. Vancouver, BC: Arsenal Pulp Press, 2016.
(117 p.; ISBN 9781551526416).

Poetry.

“...bold, timely, and personal interrogation of skin....Shraya paints the face of everyday racism....” (book cover).

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Transgender Poetry.

Author is of Indian ancestry; Shraya’s parents immigrated to Canada.

Shraya, Vivek.

God Loves Hair. 2nd ed.; Vancouver, BC: Arsenal Pulp Press, 2014.
(110 p.; ISBN 9781551525433)

Short stories.

Linked short stories in which author looks back on her life as a child of Indian immigrants in Alberta, Canada. This work was self-published earlier, in 2010.

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Children’s/Young Adult.

Shraya, Vivek.

I’m Afraid of Men. Toronto: Penguin Canada, 2018.
(85 p.; ISBN 9780735235939)

Autobiography.

Experiences of the author as a bisexual teenager and later as a trans woman.

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Transgender Non-fiction.

Shraya, Vivek.

She of the Mountains. Vancouver, BC: Arsenal Pulp Press, 2014.
(149 p.; ISBN 9781551525600)

Novel.

“...an illustrated novel...Shraya weaves a passionate, contemporary love story between a man and his body, with a re-imagining of Hindu mythology....”
(OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Bisexual Fiction.

Sindu, S. J.

Blue-skinned Gods. New York: Soho Press; London: Legend Press, 2021.
(ca. 329 p.; ISBN 9781641292429 [etc.] (Soho))

Novel.

“In Tamil Nadu, India, a boy is born with blue skin. His father sets up an ashram, and the family makes a living off...the pilgrims who seek the child’s blessings and miracles, believing young Kalki to be...[a] human incarnation of the Hindu god Vishnu...Over the next decade, ...[Kalki’s] relationship to everyone... threatens to fall apart...[A] personal tale of youthful searching....”
(ref.: OCLC WorldCat record no. 1344285435, Summary).

2022 Lambda Literary Awards finalist for Bisexual Fiction.

Available also as an e-book.

Author is a Sri Lanka-born American.

Because of setting of this work, it is entered at INDIA as well as at SRI LANKA.

Som, Bishakh.

Spellbound: A Graphic Memoir. Brooklyn, NY: Street Noise Books, 2020.
(151 p.: ISBN 9781951491031)

Graphic novel/autobiography.

“...part journal, part memoir, part fictionalized retelling in an imagined parallel reality [of a transgender woman]....The book presents the story [of] her life growing up in New York City as the child of immigrants from India....”

(ref.: Publishers Weekly note, as quoted in OCLC WorldCat catalog record no. 1125084006).

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for LGBTQ Comics.

NOTE: Som’s graphic novel, Apsara Engine (New York: Feminist Press, 2020), was also a 2021 Lambda Literary Awards nominee for LGBTQ Comics.

Sood, Divya.

Nights Like This. Riverdale, NY: Riverdale Avenue Books, 2016.
(428 p.; ISBN 9781626012622)

Novel.

“Jess, an unapologetic Indian woman...is caught between two careers and the

attention of two very different women....” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).
Author was born in Kolkata, India, and immigrated as a child to the US.

Suri, Manil.

The City of Devi. New York; London: W. W. Norton, 2013.
(384 p.; ISBN 9780393088755)

Novel.

Set in Mumbai, India.

“...third in a loose trilogy...this installment [is] narrated alternately by a young gay Muslim and a woman searching for her closeted husband.... [N]uclear war looms and things only get more and more bizarre” (ref.: Temple [see Sources]).

Also published in translation in French under title: Bollywood Apocalypse.

Talwar, Rajesh.

Inside Gayland. Delhi: Kalpaz Publications, 2001.
(222 p.; ISBN 9788178350158)

Drama.

This play “satirically depicted an Indian heterosexual man’s visit to a planet where heterosexuality is criminalized as immoral and unnatural” (ref.: Vanita, “India, Literature” essay, in Routledge encyclopedia [see Sources]); “...a crazy satirical play on the law criminalizing homosexuality in India” (ref.: amazon.com, Books).

Author is a lawyer and a writer of books on human rights and the law.

Tejuja, Vivek.

So Now You Know: Growing Up Gay in India.
Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India: HarperCollins Publishers India, 2019.
(148 p.; ISBN 9789353572693)

Autobiography.

Memoir of a gay man growing up in 1990s Bombay in a traditional Sindhi family.

Tripathi, Laxminarayan [Lakshmīnārāyana Tripāthī].

Me Hijra, Me Laxmi. Translated from Marathi original by R. Raj Rao and P. G. Joshi. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2015.
(237 p.; ISBN 9780199458264)

Autobiography.

“...account tracing the extraordinary journey of Laxmi, a hijra, who fought against tremendous odds for the recognition of hijras and their rights” (OCLC WorldCat Summary, in record no. 93986376).

NOTE: see OCLC WorldCat catalog for information on Marathi original and on Hindi and Panjabi translations.

Vanita, Ruth.

The Broken Rainbow: Poems and Translations.
Ghaziabad, Delhi NCR [India]: Copper Coin, 2023.
(70 p.; ISBN 9788194877219 [etc.]

Poetry

“...a collection of 49 poems written over 35 years, on themes of memory and displacement, love and grief. It also includes translations of three poems by other poets....It comes nearly three decades after her first book of poems, *A Play of Light* (1994)” (Hindustan Times, July 9, 2023).

“...seamlessly combines lyric feeling and the historical archives in her new poetry collection” (Akhil Katyal, “Review: *The Broken Rainbow* by Ruth Vanita,” Hindustan Times (hindustantimes.com), May 27, 2023 (online)).

Vanita, Ruth.

Memory of Light. Gurgaon, Haryana, India: Penguin/Viking, 2020.
(210 p.; ISBN 9780670093519, 0670093513)

Novel.

This work of historical fiction, set in 18th-century Lucknow, India, explores the romance between two young women. Poet Nafis Bai is swept up in a passion for courtesan Chapla Bai. Over two summers they exchange letters and verses with the help of Nafis’s friends. “When Chapla leaves for home, they dream of building a life together.” (adapted from title entry at Google Books website [viewed December 15, 2020]).

Author is an Indian academic and activist who taught for many years at Delhi University and currently is at the University of Montana [USA].

This title is noted as her first novel.

NOTE also that the introductory material to this India section draws substantially on Vanita’s scholarly work, and calls attention to her translation of and introduction to the work of early-20th-century writer, Pandey Bechan Sharma (see INDIA Introduction, above).

Vanita, Ruth.

A Slight Angle. [India?]: Penguin, 2024.

Novel.

Set in 1920’s Delhi and Bombay.

Varghese, Anuja.

Chrysalis: Stories. Toronto: House of Anansi Press, 2023.
(192 p.; ISBN 9781487011666, 1487011660)

Short stories.

Debut collection; “...[fifteen] stories of transformation and belonging that

centre women of colour and explore queerness, family, and community.... Varghese delves fearlessly into complex intersections of family, community, sexuality, and cultural expectation....” (books.google.com.hk, Books). “Vergheese uses her stories...to rewrite narratives in which women, BIPOC characters and LGBTQ+ folks have been under-utilized, under-explored, and under-represented” (open-book.ca/News/ post, “Anuja Vergheese on Transformation....”, Feb. 22, 2023). 2023 [Canadian] Governor General’s Literary Award winner; Finalist, Writers Trust Dayne Ogilvie Prize for LGBTQ2+ Emerging Writers. Author lives in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

Vasudhēdra.

Mohanaswamy. Translated from Kannada by Rashmi Terdal. Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India: Harper Perennial, 2016. (271 p.; ISBN 9789352641260)

Short stories.

“Mohanaswamy has just lost his long-time partner, Karthik, to a woman.... [He] dreams of living a simple, dignified life...[which] would allow him to leave, even forget, the humiliation and fears of adolescence...and the despair that made him crave to conform. A coming out of the closet for Vasudhendra himself, these stories of homosexual love and lives jolted Kannada readers out of their notions of the literary and the palatable. The gritty narratives...will both unnerve and move readers in English....” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary). SEE: OCLC WorldCat catalog for a record of the Kannada-language work.

Whistling in the Dark: Twenty-one Queer Interviews. Edited by R. Raj Rao and Dibyajyoti Sarma. New Delhi, India; Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2009. (264 p.; ISBN 9788178299211)

Interviews.

“Appealing to a wide readership, the narratives go beyond the conventional and provide a rare insight into the private lives of the respondents” ; “The interviewees represent a cross section of society...university professors, gay rights activists and students,...working class men such as office boys, auto-rickshaw drivers,...[etc.]” (ref.: amazon.com, Books).

The World that Belongs to Us: An Anthology of Queer Poetry from South Asia. Edited by Aditi Angiras and Akhil Katyal. Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India: HarperCollins Publishers, 2020. (256 p.; ISBN 9789353574574, 9353574579)

Poetry anthology.

“...brings together the best of contemporary queer poetry from South Asia, both from the subcontinent and its many diasporas....[F]eatures well-known

voices like Hoshang Merchant, Ruth Vanita, Suniti Namjoshi, Kazim Ali, Rajiv Mohabir as well as a host of new poets... Writings from Bangalore, Baroda, Benares, Boston, Chennai, Colombo, Dhaka, Delhi, Dublin, Karachi, Kathmandu, Lahore, London, New York City..."(amazon.com, Book Overview).
NOTE: a brief title note for this work has been added at the BANGLADESH, NEPAL, PAKISTAN, and SRI LANKA lists, with reference back to this fuller entry.

Yaraana: Gay Writing from South Asia. Edited by Hoshang Merchant.
Expanded ed.; New Delhi: Penguin Books, 2010.
(264 p.; ISBN 9780143064947, etc.)

Anthology.

"An exploration of gay identity in South Asia. From Ashok Row Kavi's autobiographical piece on growing up gay in Bombay to Vikram Seth's... account of a homosexual relationship in 'The Golden Gate',...[the book] presents...stories, poems, plays and prose extracts that cover a range of literary styles, themes and sensibilities"; "Some translated from Indic languages" (from OCLC WorldCat records).

Earlier (1999) edition titled: Yaraana: Gay Writing from India.

PAKISTAN

Some anthologies listed at the INDIA heading may contain work relevant to Pakistan. See A Lotus of Another Color, as one example. (Politically, India included present-day Pakistan and Bangladesh prior to the 1947 partition).

NOTE: Hijab Butch Blues, by Lamya H., has been placed at the general ASIA heading for lack of more precise geographical information (see explanation there).

Asghar, Fatimah.

If They Come for Us: Poems. New York: One World, an imprint of Random House, 2018; London: Corsair, 2019.

(106 p.; ISBN 9780525509783 (One World); 9781472154620 (Corsair))

Poetry.

“...captures the experiences of being a young Pakistani Muslim woman in contemporary America...[The poet] grapples with coming of age and navigating questions of sexuality and race...” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Bisexual Poetry.

NOTE: Asghar’s earlier poetry collection, After (YesYes Books, 2015), is noted by Andrea Oh [see Oh reference, in Sources list].

France, Tan.

Naturally Tan. New York: St. Martin’s Press, 2019.

(267 p.; ISBN 9781250208668, 1250208661)

Autobiography/Memoir.

“In this heartfelt, funny, and touching memoir, one of the stars of Netflix’s Emmy Award-winning smash-hit ‘Queer Eye’ reveals how an Englishman raised in a traditional religious home became a fashion icon – and the first openly gay, South Asian man on television – simply by being Naturally Tan” (ref.: amazon.com listing for title [viewed December 16, 2020]).

Tan was born Tanveer Wasim Safdar to a Pakistani Muslim family in Doncaster, England. He is married to husband Rob France and is a dual US/UK citizen (ref.: “Tan France” Wikipedia entry [viewed Nov. 10, 2020]).

SEE: OCLC WorldCat for various other imprints and formats of this title.

Habib, Samra.

We Have Always Been Here: A Queer Muslim Memoir. Toronto: Viking, 2019.

(220 p.; ISBN 9780735235007)

Biography.

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Lesbian Memoir/Biography.

Author is Pakistani-Canadian, born in Pakistan to Ahmadi Muslim parents.

Hanif, Mohammed.

A Case of Exploding Mangoes. New York: Knopf Doubleday, 2009.
(336 p.; ISBN 9780307388186, 0307388182)

Novel.

Story surrounding events leading to the plane crash that killed Zia ul-Haq, a Pakistani president, in 1988. Two important characters in the fictional story are Ali Shigri and Obaid, cadets in the Pakistan Air Force Academy, who share a close relationship throughout the novel (Momi article [see Sources]).

Translated from English to many languages, including Chinese, Arabic, Urdu, and various European languages.

Winner, or nominated, for various major book prizes and awards.

Author noted as Pakistani-British, as having worked for some time at the BBC Urdu service, and as having graduated from the Pakistan Air Force Academy. (Wikipedia article: Mohammed Hanif).

Khan, Badruddin [pseudonym].

Sex, Longing & Not Belonging. Oakland, CA: Floating Lotus USA; Bangkok, Thailand: Floating Lotus Communications, 1997.
(238 p.; ISBN 9780942777161)

Autobiography.

A gay man who grew up in Pakistan and emigrated to North America in his teens, was educated at Columbia University, and at the time of publication was living in suburban Toronto with his lover (p. 6).

Author is identified as “a Canadian business consultant” on verso of title page. (Noted in this work is Khan’s article “Not-So-Gay Life in Karachi,”

Society of Lesbian and Gay Anthropologists’ Newsletter 12(1)(1990):10-19, revised in Stephen O. Murray and Will Roscoe, Islamic Homosexualities (1997)).

Nasīm, Iftikḥār [Nasim, Ifti].

Ābdoz. Lāhaur [Lahore, Pakistan]: T & T Pabliharz; Faiṣalābād: Ham Ḳḥayāl Pabliharz, 2003.

(192 p.)

In Urdu.

Poetry (“ghazals”).

Other title transliteration: Aabdoz.

Author was Pakistani-American, born in Pakistan. He was inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame (see, e.g., Wikipedia article: Ifti Nasim).

Nasīm, Iftikḥār [Nasim, Ifti].

Myrmecophile: Poems, 1980-2000. [United States]: Xlibris, 2000.
(113 p.; ISBN 9780738852294)

Poetry.

“These poems describe the transition of a homosexual immigrant poet from Pakistan to an all-American gay writer and activist” (from book cover, p. 4, as noted in OCLC WorldCat record).

NOTE ALSO references to earlier poetry publications (see OCLC WorldCat):

Black and White: Poems (Chicago: Sagnet Press, 1999);

Five Poems. Translated by C.M. Naim [Nasim?]. In The Annual of Urdu Studies, 1998, published by Center for South Asia, University of Wisconsin – Madison (downloadable from: <http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1793/12079>);

Narmān (Faiṣalābād [Pakistan]: Ham K̲hayāl Pabliharz, 1994 (152 p., in Urdu))

(note also an entry for Narman in anthology A Lotus of Another Color, in the INDIA section of this list);

and some other work in the OCLC WorldCat catalog.

Pasha, Kyla.

High Noon and the Body: Poems. New Delhi: Yoda Press; distributed in South Asia by Cambridge University Press, 2010. (83 p.; ISBN 9789380403052)

Poetry.

“...collection that merges the personal and political; love and anger; the physical and the intangible”; “Kyla Pasha has played an instrumental role in fostering an open dialogue around sexual and queer rights in Pakistan....” (ref.: Gill).

Rehman, Bushra.

Corona: A Novel. Alexander, Arkansas [USA]: Sibling Rivalry Press, 2013. (150 p.; ISBN 9781937420390)

Novel.

“A Pakistani woman from...New York travels around the country, has comic misadventures and falls in love with both men and women” (ref.: Walker); “...a warm poetic take on the life of a Muslim girl coming to terms with life in both pre- and post-9/11 America....” (OCLC WorldCat record).
Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Bisexual Fiction.

Rehman, Bushra.

Roses, in the Mouth of a Lion: A Novel. New York: Flatiron Books, 2022. (276 p.; ISBNs 9781250834782, 1250834783 [etc.]

Novel.

Set in the 1980s, “an unforgettable story about female friendship and queer love in a Muslim-American community. Raiza Mirza grows up...in Corona, Queens [New York City], with her best friend, Saima, by her side. When a family rift drives the girls apart Raiza’s heart is broken....She finds

solace in Taslima, a new girl in her close-knit Pakistani-American community.... When Raiza is accepted to [a prestigious New York high school]..., the gulf between the person she is and the daughter her parents want her to be widens.” Eventually Raiza must make choices.
(ref.: Publisher description from OCLC WorldCat catalog record for print book).
2023 Lambda Literary Awards finalist for Bisexual Fiction.
Available also as e-book and audiobook.

Sethi, Ali.

The Wish Maker. New York: Riverhead Books, a Penguin Group imprint, 2009.
(432 p.; ISBN 9781594488757)

Novel.

With a backdrop of major historical Pakistani events, this is the story of Zaki Shirazi and his family from the Partition to post-9/11 times. Zaki moves to the United States to study and returns to Pakistan for the wedding of his childhood friend. The story includes “experiences...[of] sexual experimentation with a boy from school to his time with queer communities at university” (Momi article [see Sources]).

The World that Belongs to Us: An Anthology of Queer Poetry from South Asia.
SEE fuller entry in INDIA section, at this title.

Zaidi, Mohsin.

A Dutiful Boy: A Memoir of a Gay Muslim’s Journey to Acceptance.
London: Square Peg, an imprint of Vintage; London: Ebury Press, 2020.
(280 p.; ISBN 9781529110142 (Square Peg), 9781529110159 (Ebury))

Autobiography.

Memoir of a gay Muslim British lawyer who grew up in a Shia family in east London.

Lambda Literary Awards winner for Gay Memoir/Biography.

Author is the son of Pakistani Muslim parents.

KAZAKHSTAN

No literary works have yet been observed for Kazakhstan. However, the following scholarly paper, providing some interview quotations, is worth noting in the interim.

Levitanus, Mariya.

“‘I Thought I’d Kill Myself When I Grew Up’: Queer Childhood Narratives in Kazakhstan.” In The Emerald Handbook of Childhood and Youth in Asian Societies, chapter 8 (p. [177]-196). Edited by Doris Bühler-Niederberger, Xiaorong Gu, Jessica Schwittek, and Elena Kim. Leeds, England: Emerald Publishing, 2023.

This academic study “draws on the material from in-depth interviews of 11 queer people living in Kazakhstan” and “aims to consider what it is like to be young and queer in Kazakhstan” (p. [177] and 178).

It has been noted here for two reasons – drawing on interviews, it provides some “biographical” observations, in keeping with one purpose of this list; and it gives a glimpse of the LGBTQ community in a country from which no published gay literature has been encountered.

This chapter was viewed in full in PDF format at: emerald.com/insight on November 23, 2023.

AFGHANISTAN

- Note 1:** The following online article provides some information on local sexuality issues: Michael Luongo, “What It’s Like Growing Up Gay in Afghanistan,” Daily Beast, July 12, 2016; updated April 13, 2017 (online) [viewed Dec. 2019].
- Note 2:** Khaled Hosseini’s The Kite Runner, much-praised, but also much-maligned by some for its sexual reference in a bullying scene of a young boy by an older male youth, is more broadly a story of betrayal, guilt and possible redemption, and has **not** been included in the list below.

Avni-Levy, Yossi.

Rokhle ha-ahavot [The Love Merchants].
Hevel-Modi'in: Kineret, Zemorah-Bitan, 2016.
(381 p.; ISBN 9789655663501)

In Hebrew.

Novel.

“Assaf, an Israeli professor of linguistics, a gay man, a new father...unfolds the saga of his family, beginning in Afghanistan in the 1940s[,] and reveals...in particular the story of his father’s younger brother, Assaf’s uncle, who was a dancer in the Herat marketplaces and a lover of a Pashtun man....” (ithl.org.il website: article on Avni-Levy and The Love Peddlers [alternative translation]). Hebrew transliteration also seen as: Rochlei ha-ahavot.

Sadat, Nemat.

The Carpet Weaver [S.l.]: Penguin India, 2019 (also Kindle ed., Viking, 2019).
(304 p.; ISBN 9780670092048)

Novel.

“Afghanistan 1977. Kanishka Nurzada, the son of a leading carpet seller, falls in love with his friend Maihan, with whom he shares his first kiss at the age of sixteen. Their romance must be kept secret in a nation where the death penalty is meted out to those deemed to be kuni, a derogatory term for gay men....” Then the war brings further dangers.... (ref.: Goodreads). Noted in Gill [see Sources].

Zaher, Hamid.

Overcoming: Alone against the World: A Memoir.
Raleigh, NC: Lulu, 2013 (also Kindle ed., 2017 [noted on amazon.com, Books]).
(329 p.; ISBN 9781304332363)

Biography.

“The purpose of writing this book is to expose the existence of homosexuals in Afghanistani society and to draw the attention of the world to their plight” (Introduction, p. xv).

Title page verso of Overcoming notes: “Originally written in Farsi in 2009

in Toronto, Canada. Translated to English by Farrukh Duroudian in 2011".
Rev. ed. of book published under title: Your Enemy Is Dock-tailed [also noted as:
It Is Your Enemy Who Is Dock-tailed: A Memoir (S.I.: Universe, 2012)].

Author is a pharmacist living in Toronto (see report by Tahir Qadir, "Gay
Afghan Defies Tradition to Expose Identity," BBC News, Kabul
(bbc.com), 20 February 2013 (online) [viewed Dec. 2019]).

IRAN

The works retrieved for this country list include original works in English, translations of Persian works to English, and Persian-language titles noted by Hosseini-Lewis. Some English-language books for young adults have also been included.

Anahita Hosseini-Lewis's lengthy historical overview of Iranian LGBT-related publishing calls attention to some of the titles noted below. Her paper (see Sources for full reference) can be read for general information and for additional names (Norouzi, Shirmohammadi, Shahrokhi, e.g.).

See also the brief comment at IRAQ heading, next following.

Ahmadi, Arvin.

How It All Blew Up. New York: Viking; London: Hot Key Books, 2020. (271 p.; ISBN 9780593202876 (Viking), 9781471409929(Hot Key)).

In English.

Novel (young adult).

Coming-of-age novel in which Amir Azadi, 18 and an Iranian-American, runs off to Rome, skipping out on his high school graduation to avoid coming out as gay to his conservative Muslim parents. Eventually he returns, but with some difficulties.

Author grew up in the United States and graduated from Columbia University.

Allāmah'zādah, Rizā.

Ṭābistān-i talkh: rūman [Bitter Summer].

2. ed.; Spånga, Sweden: Baran, 1997 (also: [UK]: H&S Media, 2012). (224 p.; ISBN 9781780831961 (H&S Media))

In Persian.

Novel.

Ref.: noted in Hosseini-Lewis overview of Iranian LGBT publishing (see Sources):

“first work of Iranian literature to feature a modern gay character”;

“one of the most comprehensive works of contemporary [Iranian LGBT] literature”;

Set in 1950s; Hadi, the narrator, “is a careless and playful teenager who is also interested in writing fiction”. The younger Firouz is described as “shy and fragile”. The work also presents characters “which remind the reader of the non-equal same-sex relation that has been practiced in Iran for hundreds of years.”

See also various entries in OCLC WorldCat catalog.

Author/Title transliteration also noted as: Allamehzadeh, Reza. Tabestan-e Talkh

Djavadi, Négar.

Disoriental. Translated from French by Tina Kover.
London: Europa Editions, 2019.
(338 p.; ISBN 9781787702042)

In English.

Novel.

Kimiâ Sadr left Iran to go into exile in Paris when she was ten years old. Now twenty-five, Sadr, bisexual, describes the history of her family, among whose members is a gay uncle, who is living in Iran where homosexuality is illegal and who is in a heterosexual marriage. Lambda Literary Awards winner for Bisexual Fiction. French title: Désorientale.

Ellis, Deborah.

Moon at Nine. Toronto: Pajama Press, 2014.
(224 p.; ISBN 9781927485576, etc.)

In English.

Novel (young adult).

Based on a true story.

It is 1988; the story is “set in Iran, where sexual orientation can have deadly consequences.”

“Fifteen-year-old Farrin has many secrets. Although she goes to a school for gifted girls in Tehran, as the daughter of an aristocratic mother and wealthy father, Farrin must keep a low profile....The day she meets Sadira, Farrin’s life changes forever....But as their friendship deepens into romance, the relationship takes a dangerous turn. It is against the law to be gay in Iran....” (notes from publisher website).

Many awards and nominations, including Quill & Quire 2014 Book of the Year and Canadian Library Association Young Adult Book Award (shortlist 2015).

Farizan, Sara.

If You Could Be Mine: A Novel.

Chapel Hill, NC: Algonquin; Toronto: HarperCollins, 2014.
(248 p.)

In English.

Novel (young adult).

Hosseini-Lewis (see Sources) notes that the story is about the relationship of two lesbian teenagers in Tehran.

Farizan, Sara.

Tell Me Again How a Crush Should Feel: A Novel.
Chapel Hill, NC: Algonquin Young Readers, 2014.
(304 p.; ISBN 9781616202842)

In English.

Novel (young adult).

Coming-out, coming-of-age story.

Iranian-American teenager, Leila, develops a crush on her new female classmate.

“Her Persian heritage already makes her different; if word got out she liked girls, life would be even harder” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Faylī, Payām [Feili, Payam].

Man sabz mīshavam, mīvah mīdaham, anjīr: rumān. [I Will Grow, I Will Bear Fruit...Figs]. Birlīn [Berlin]: Nashr-I Gardūn; [UK]: H & S Media, 2011.
(119 p.; ISBN 9781780830322)

In Persian.

Novel.

Citation information from OCLC WorldCat record accession no. 909244319.

Another OCLC WorldCat record (accession no. 963198636, for a 2015

Hebrew translation from the Persian) notes **subject headings**: Homosexuality – Fiction; and Iran-Iraq War, 1980-1988 – Fiction.

Khaste, Khashayar [pen name]

Ghahvehkhcmeh [Teahouse].

Toronto: Gilgamishan Publications, 2010.

(20 p.)

In Persian.

Ref.: Hosseini-Lewis overview (see Sources), which notes author/title/length as given above.

Khorram, Adib.

Darius the Great Is Not Okay. New York: Dial Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House, 2018.
(300 p.; ISBN 9780525553809)

In English.

Novel (young adult).

Darius Kellner, who has an Iranian mother, is passing through the trials of adolescence, picking through various conflicting aspects of his life as a “Fractional Persian”.

Author has an Iranian immigrant father, and is American-born, living in Kansas City, Missouri.

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for LGBTQ Children's/Young Adult.
Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature (Young Adult Literature) winner.
William C. Morris YA Debut Award winner.
SEE ALSO the author's Darius the Great Deserves Better (Dial Books, 2020),
a Stonewall Awards Honor Book.

Mirzadeh, Janan [pen name].
Pirhan-e Rangrazan.
Toronto: Gilgamishan Publishing, 2010.
(214 p.)

In Persian.

Novel.

Ref.: Hosseini-Lewis overview (see Sources), which notes author/title/length as given above and observes that this is “the longest gay novel in Persian literature,” that it is “similar to a classic realist novel,” and that the plot follows Sepehr, first as a young Iranian musician in Vienna, then on his return to Tehran and, in the third part, on his move to Turkey in search of a former lover.

Mosadeq, Ghazal.
“Ney Boulevard.” Translated from Farsi by Lida Nosrati.
In Words Without Borders Magazine, June 2014 (Queer Issue V) (online).

In English.

Short story.

“...follows a young man seeking asylum in France” on a claim of homosexuality.

Nazemian, Abdi.
Like a Love Story. New York: Balzer + Bray, an imprint of HarperCollins, 2019.
(432 p.; ISBN 9780062839374, 0062839373)

Novel (young adult).

“...a historical, young adult romance novel....The story follows Reza, an Iranian boy, as he grapples with his homosexuality amid the AIDS crisis in New York City in 1989” (Wikipedia article: Like a Love Story).
2020 Stonewall Honor Book for Children's and Young Adult Literature.

Nazemian, Abdi.
The Walk-in Closet: A Novel.
[S.l.]: Amazon Digital Services – Kdp Print Us, 2014.
(265 p.; ISBN 9780615988689)

In English.

Novel.

Gay son of an Iranian immigrant family in Los Angeles pretends his female

friend is his girlfriend while they both continue to meet other men.

Author was born in Iran, came to the US as a very young child, and is a screenwriter in Los Angeles.

Lambda Literary Awards winner for LGBT Debut Fiction.

Parsi, Arsham.

Exiled for Love: The Journey of an Iranian Queer Activist. With Marc Colbourne.

Black Point, Nova Scotia [Canada]: Roseway Publishing, an imprint of Fernwood Publishing, 2015.

(220 p.; ISBN 9781552667019)

In English.

Biography/Memoir.

“...explores the reality for LGBT people in Iran through the deeply personal and inspiring story of...[the author’s] life, escape and continuing work as an activist” (OCLC WorldCat Summary in record no. 901996551).

Author is Iranian-Canadian, living in Toronto.

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Gay Memoir/Biography.

Rabīḥāvī, Qāzī [Rabihavi, Ghazi].

Pisarān-i ʿishq: rumān [Boys of Love].

Berlin: Nashr-i Gardūn; [UK]: H&S Media, 2011.

(280 p.; ISBN 9783938406564 (Nashr-i Gardūn))

In Persian (but see also more recent French and English translations below).

Novel.

Djamil is the only son of a rich man, a college student, and a violin student of his grandfather. At a wedding celebration he meets and falls in love with Nadji. A long time later, he recalls his childhood, and events to the time he leaves Iran for a life in exile. Earlier published in the UK and Germany only in Persian, but more recently in English and French translations.

English translation: Boys of Love (London: Pendaar Publications, 2019).

French translation: Les garçons de l’amour. Translated by Christophe Balaÿ. (Paris: Serge Safran, 2020).

Refs.: Hosseini-Lewis overview (see Sources); book entry at amazon.co.uk; and OCLC WorldCat (various records for original Persian and for English and French translations). Amazon transliteration given as: Pesaran-e Eshgh.

IRAQ

It has been noted that “[t]here is no other **premodern literature** [emphasis added] in which homoerotic texts are as numerous and as central as they are in classical Arabic – Persian being the only serious rival” (Thomas Bauer, “Male-Male Love in Classical Arab Poetry,” in: The Cambridge History of Gay and Lesbian Literature, edited by E. L. McCallum and Mikko Tuhkanen, 2014). The contrast in social climate between that of present-day Iraq (and Iran) and of the same area during the rich literary period of the area in previous centuries is striking.

One of the greatest of Arabic poets, Abū Nuwās, whose poems on homosexual love were written during the Baghdad-centred Abbasid Caliphate of twelve centuries ago, is today “still subject to censorship by the guardians of public morality” (Abu Nuwas, Poems of Wine and Revelry, translated by Jim Colville, Routledge, 2005 (book jacket)).

Al-Kadhi, Amrou.

Life As a Unicorn: A Journey from Shame to Pride and Everything in Between.
London: 4th Estate, 2020.
(295 p.; ISBN 9780008384319)

Autobiography.

“From a god-fearing Muslim boy enraptured with their mother, to a vocal queer drag queen estranged from their family, the author chronicles their fight to be true to themselves” (ref.: OCLC WorldCat Summary, record 1181837759).
Winner of Polari First Book Prize 2020 and a Somerset Maugham Award.
Author “was born in London to a tight-knit conservative Iraqi Muslim family. They were brought up in Dubai and Bahrain before moving back to London.”
Al-Kadhi is an M.Phil graduate of the University of Cambridge.
(ref.: “Amrou Al-Kadhi” Wikipedia entry)

Al-Kadhi, Amrou.

SEE ALSO at: This Arab is Queer: An Anthology by LGBTQ+ Arab Writers,
listed in the ASIA AND ASIAN DIASPORA section at the beginning of
the bibliography.

Gzar, Mortada.

“While He Was Sitting There.” Translated from Arabic by Claire C. Jacobson.
In Words Without Borders Magazine, June 2018 (The Queer Issue IX) (online).

Short story.

“In this story of sexual desire..., an Iraqi student at a gay bar hooks up with an American soldier who drives home the side effects of war” (Introductory paragraph).
Susan Harris (“Beyond Queer: The Queer Issue,” Words Without Borders

Magazine, June 2018) notes Gzar as “the first openly gay Iraqi writer, now living in Seattle after receiving political asylum.”

Habib, Samar.

Rughum & Najda: A Novel. [USA]: Oracle Releasing, c2012.
(234 p.; ISBN 9780983716112, 0983716110)

Novel.

“...a [lesbian] love story set in the Islamic Golden age of... ninth century Baghdad. Rughum and Najda are complete opposites: one is a devout Muslim; the other, a practitioner of black magic....[W]ill they be able to rise above the obstacles....?” (book cover).

Loving on the Margins: LGBT+ Stories from Iraq.

[Written by LGBT+ Iraqis; collected by IraQueer et al.] [S.l.]: IraQueer, [2018].
([82] p., digital)

Anthology of autobiographies.

Available as downloadable e-book (English) from www.iraqueer.org/publications
[viewed June 6, 2021].

Collection of one- to two-page personal statements by forty Iraqi men and women. Arrangement is in four sections: Stories of Love, Stories of Fear, Stories of Courage, and Stories of Death.

“We are telling our stories to tell everyone that we exist. We have always been here, and will always be here....” (Introduction).

“The details mentioned in each story were provided by the writers themselves. No details were added in the editing process....”; the stories were collected “between March 2018 and October 2018” (“About this Book,” p. [80]).

NOTE: IraQueer is Iraq’s “first and only LGBT+ organization,” founded in March 2015 (“About Us,” p. [81]). This organization is referenced in ILGA Asia’s 2021 report on Iraq, titled “Lives at Risk,” dated June 3, 2021.

Namir, Hasan.

God in Pink. Vancouver, BC: Arsenal Pulp Press, 2015.
(151 p.; ISBN 9781551526072)

Novel.

“...about being queer and Muslim, set in war-torn Iraq in 2003. Ramy is a closeted university student whose parents have died, and who lives under the close scrutiny of his strict brother and sister-in-law. They exert pressure on him to find a wife....[C]aptures the anguish and the fortitude of gay Muslims in Iraq....” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary [in record no. 904968485]).

Author born in Iraq in 1987.

SEE ALSO the author’s Stonewall Book Awards Honor Book of poetry War/Torn (Toronto: Book*hug, 2019).

Namir, Hasan.

SEE ALSO at: This Arab is Queer: An Anthology by LGBTQ+ Arab Writers, listed in the ASIA AND ASIAN DIASPORA section at the beginning of the bibliography.

Outside the Green Zone: Poets Respond to the GLBT Cleansing of Iraq.

Edited by C. Cleo Creech. Atlanta, GA [USA]: C. Cleo Creech, 2006.
(18 p.)

Poetry.

Works by C. Cleo Creech, Franklin Abbott, Lisa Allender, Theresa Davis, Collin Kelley, Steven Reigns; letter to Condoleezza Rice. See Table of Contents in OCLC WorldCat record, accession no. 874152665.

SAUDI ARABIA

Al-Herz, Seba [pseudonym].

The Others. Translated from Arabic. New York: Seven Stories Press; London: Telegram, 2009.
(320 p.; ISBN 9781583228715, etc.)

Novel.

“A rare, mesmerizing journey into the cloistered consciousness of a pious Shi’a university student in Qatif, Saudi Arabia, the controversial bestseller centers on a young woman whose lesbian affairs intensify her religious experience and compound her sense of self-abasement...” (Publishers Weekly, as quoted in amazon.com online listing for title [viewed December 15, 2020]).
Nominee for 2010 Stonewall Book Awards.

Guardi reference [see Sources] gives some critical academic comment.

Original publication in Arabic under title (various transliterations; see OCLC): al-Āharūn: riwāyah. (Bairūt [Beirut, Lebanon]: Dār al-Sāqī, 2006); also listed under titles: Ākharūn and Āharūn.

Author given variously in OCLC WorldCat records as: Ṣabā al-Ḥīrz, Ṣībā al-Ḥīrz, Siba Al-Harez, Ṣabā Ḥīrz, [etc.].

Ḥifnī, Zaynab.

Malāmih: riwāyah. Bayrūt [Beirut, Lebanon]: Dār al-Sāqī, 2006.
(160 p.; ISBN 9781855167322)

In Arabic (and see reference to **Italian translation**, below in this annotation).

Novel.

Ṭurayyā, a Saudi woman, is married to a man who treats her badly. After her divorce, she lives alone and, through her job of selling clothes, meets other women, including Laylā and Hind.

Translated to **Italian** by Jolanda Guardi as: Volti (Milano: Jouvence, 2020).

Refs.: Guardi [see Sources] for discussion of the novel; also OCLC WorldCat for Arabic-script author/title/imprint and for Italian translation reference. Guardi notes in her 2014 article that the novel “was received very badly in Saudi Arabia, where it underwent censorship, but it also had no really good reviews in the West, and it remains untranslated” [until, it seems, Guardi’s own 2020 translation].

Nuwayṣīr, Muḥīd [Muḥīd al-Nuwayṣīr].

al-Wād wa al’amm: riwāyah. Bayrūt [Beirut, Lebanon]: al-Dar al-‘Arabiya lil-‘Ulum, Nashirun, 2007.
(175 p.; ISBN 9789953872032)

In Arabic.

See various OCLC WorldCat record accession numbers, including 646780708 and 873563810. Some subject headings are:

Arabic fiction – Saudi Arabia;

Gay couples – Fiction; and

Fathers and sons – Fiction.

See OCLC records also for Arabic script information.

Goodreads.com link includes comments in Arabic on this title.

Sakkal, Nadia.

Saudi Champagne. Kindle e-book ed.; [S.l.]: amazon.com, 2023.

(ca. 320 p.)

Novel.

“Two dads and their son leave their life in the US for a new start in the least suitable place for people of the LGBTQ+ community...Saudi Arabia.... determined to uncover the truth,...[one of the dads] immerses himself in extensive research...[and] discovers a different narrative – one of hidden identities and the art of preserving oneself....” (amazon.com, Book Overview, and see also Goodreads.com, which notes many positive reviews).

Author grew up in Saudi Arabia where her parents’ interreligious marriage (Muslim/Christian) had to stay secret....[She] has written this for those who have felt the need to keep their identity hidden (amazon.com, About the author).

Sharma, Parvez.

A Sinner in Mecca: A Gay Muslim’s Hajj of Defiance.

Dallas, Texas: Ben Bella Books, 2017.

(280 p.; ISBN 9781944648374)

Biography/Memoir.

“...[T]he first book about the Hajj from a gay perspective, written by a man with a deep knowledge of Islamic history. This pilgrimage is the centerpiece of his book, and he recounts it with courage and fierce emotion”(from “A Sinner in Mecca review,” The Guardian, Sept. 10, 2017, online)

“[This work] is simultaneously one man’s personal odyssey as well as a groundbreaking provocative revelation of a clandestine world and its fastest growing and most contested religion” (OCLC WorldCat record for audiobook).

Author is Indian. He is noted (Wikipedia) as a New York-based Indian filmmaker, author, and journalist.

This work has also been entered in the INDIA section.

Wāṣil, Aḥmad [Aḥmad al-Wāṣil].

Sūrat al-Riyāḍ: riwāyah. Bayrūt [Beirut, Lebanon]: Dār al-Fārābī, 2007.

(158 p.; ISB 9789953712055)

In Arabic.

Novel.

OCLC WorldCat record accession no. 646773522 carries subject headings:

Gay couples – Fiction; Homosexuality – Fiction; Taboo – Fiction, and

Saudi Arabia as a related subject.

YEMEN

Alameddine, Rabih.

The Angel of History: A Novel. New York: Atlantic Monthly Press, 2016; Grove Press, 2017.
(294 p.; ISBN 9780802125767 (Atlantic Monthly); 9780802127198 (Grove))

Novel.

“...story of Jacob, Yemeni-born poet living in San Francisco, as he waits to check into a mental health facility sometime in the present day. The novel is framed around the single night he spends in the waiting room” ; the story “moves between San Francisco and the Middle East” (from Aminatta Forna review, “The Angel of History....,” The Guardian (online), 13 Oct. 2016 [viewed Nov. 25, 2019]).

Author is **Lebanese**-American, who was born to Lebanese Druze parents in Jordan, grew up in Kuwait and Lebanon, and moved as a young man first to England and then the US (Wikipedia: Rabih Alameddine)

This work has also been listed in the LEBANON section.

Al-Solaylee, Kamal.

Intolerable: A Memoir of Extremes. Toronto: Harper Perennial, 2013.
(204 p.; ISBN 9781554688876)

Autobiography.

Experiences as a gay man growing up in Aden (Yemen) and other parts of the Middle East.

Author is Yemeni-Canadian and an academic in Canada.

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Gay Memoir/Biography.

OMAN

Al-Badri, Badriya.

“The Shadow of Hermaphroditus.” Translated from Arabic by Ghayde Ghraawi. In Words Without Borders Magazine, May 2019 (online).

In English translation and in original Arabic (bilingual posting).

“...protagonist, Suad, struggles to make a definitive gender transition, but tragedy ultimately strikes at another character’s doorstep” (Introduction to the English translation posting).

LEBANON

Abi-Karam, Andrea.

Villainy. New York: Nightboat Books, 2021.
(119 p.; ISBNs 9781643621104, 1643621106)

Poetry.

“...foments political action in public spaces, and indexes the various emotional states, such as rage, revelry, fear, grief, and desire to which queers must tend during protest...[T]hese punk poems embody direct action and invite the audience into the desire-filled slippage between public sex and demonstration...”
(from publisher’s webpage, as quoted in an OCLC WorldCat catalog record).

2022 Lambda Literary Awards finalist for Transgender Poetry.

NOTE: appropriateness of placement of this work at LEBANON heading is uncertain. It was determined only that the author is “a trans arab-american punk poet-performer cyborg workshop facilitator, and activist”

(from: andreaak.com/about) and has been described, at a second website, as SWANA (Southwest Asian and North African).

Alameddine, Rabih.

The Angel of History: A Novel. New York: Atlantic Monthly Press, 2016;
Grove Press, 2017.
(294 p.; ISBN 9780802125767 (Atlantic Monthly); 9780802127198 (Grove))

Novel.

“...story of Jacob, Yemeni-born poet living in San Francisco, as he waits to check into a mental health facility sometime in the present day. The novel is framed around the single night he spends in the waiting room” ; the story “moves between San Francisco and the Middle East” (from Aminatta Forna review, “The Angel of History....,” The Guardian (online), 13 Oct. 2016 [viewed Nov. 25, 2019]).

Author is **Lebanese**-American, who was born to Lebanese Druze parents in Jordan, grew up in Kuwait and Lebanon, and moved as a young man first to England and then the US (Wikipedia: Rabih Alameddine)

This work has also been listed in the YEMEN section because of protagonist.

Alameddine, Rabih.

Koolaids. New York: Grove Press, 2015 (originally published 1999).
(245 p.; ISBN 9780802124142)

Novel.

Fiction concerning the 1980s and 1990s Beirut AIDS epidemic and the Civil War, with their effects on a group of friends and family, including a gay Lebanese artist in San Francisco.

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Gay Men’s Fiction.

Ayoub, Souhaib.

Rajul min Sātān. [Beirut, Lebanon]: Hachette Antoine-Naufal, 2018.

In Arabic. (but note English translation of excerpt, reference below).

Novel.

“In Ayoub’s debut novel, Man of Satin, a young man grapples with his gender identity and sexuality while growing up in Tripoli, Lebanon during the Lebanese Civil War (1975-90)” (from Introduction to Words Without Borders English-language translation of excerpt).

Note: the English-language excerpt, titled “Man of Satin,” translated by Sharon Grosso, is printed in Words Without Borders Magazine (Queer Issue XIV), June 2023 (online).

Barakat, Hoda [Barakāt, Hudá].

The Stone of Laughter. Translated from Arabic by Sophie Bennett.

New York [etc.]: Interlink Books, 1995.

(232 p.; ISBN 9781859640180, etc.)

Novel.

“...brings forth the contradictory history of a city under fire through the life and dilemmas of [Khalil,] a gay man....In 1990,...it was hailed by critics...as the best novel set against the background of the Lebanese civil war.... The fractured narrative is woven around Khalil....” (ref.: Goodreads).

First published in Arabic in 1990 under title: Hajar al-Dahk.

Author lived much of her life in Beirut and later moved to Paris.

Bareed Mista3jil.

Beirut: Meem, 2009.

(223 p.; ISBN 9789953014678)

“This book, available in both English and Arabic versions, is a collection of 41 true (and personal) stories from lesbians, bisexuals, queer and questioning women, and transgender persons from all over Lebanon. The introduction to the book is a 30-page analysis of the general themes presented in the stories” (ref.: Goodreads).

Meem is a Lebanese lesbian organization.

Haddad, Saleem.

Guapa: A Novel. New York: Other Press, 2016.

(368 p.; ISBN 9781590517697)

Novel.

Story of “Rasa, a young gay man living in an unnamed Arab country that has some resemblances to contemporary Syria” (Stuart Waterman interview of the author, www.lambdaliterary.org website, May 21, 2016 [viewed Nov. 2019]).

There are other editions of this work, and translations to, e.g., Spanish and German (see OCLC WorldCat).

Author was born to a Lebanese-Palestinian father and Iraqi-German mother in Kuwait, and has lived in Jordan, Cyprus, Canada, and the UK (Stuart Waterman interview).

Haddad, Saleem.

SEE ALSO at: This Arab is Queer: An Anthology by LGBTQ+ Arab Writers, listed in the ASIA AND ASIAN DIASPORA section at the beginning of the bibliography.

Mandūr, Saḥar.

Mīnā: riwāyāʿī Bayrūt [Beirut]: Dār al-Ādāb, 2013.
(199 p.; ISBN 9789953892566)

In Arabic.

Novel.

The story of a young gay Lebanese actress who is outed by the press.

Angry and fearful, she talks with her lover about what she can do.

Note: an English-language excerpt, translated by Alice Guthrie, is printed in Words Without Borders Magazine, June 2018 (online).

Mansour, Elham [Manṣūr, Ilhām].

I Am You : A Novel of Lesbian Desire in the Middle East.

Translated from Arabic, and edited with Introduction by Samar Habib.

Youngstown, NY: Cambria Press, 2008.

(229 p.; ISBN 9781604975024)

Novel.

“This critical translation...provides a rare insight into the prevalent attitudes towards lesbianism in the Arabic mainstream...” (ref.: amazon.com, Books).

There are three main characters: Sihām, the youngest, is coming to terms with her attraction to women; Layāl is a university professor in whom Sihām and Mīmī, a young married woman, are interested.

Ref.: Guardi [see Sources] suggests that this novel “represents the saying of one’s own homosexuality perhaps for the first time in the Arabic language...”

Published in Arabic under title: Anā hiya anti (Beirut: Riad el-Rayyes, 2000).

Author is Lebanese.

Sakr, Omar.

The Lost Arabs. St. Lucia, Queensland [Australia]: University of Queensland Press, 2019; Kansas City, Missouri [USA]: Andrews McMeel, 2020.

(98 p.; ISBN 97815244854010, etc. (Andrews McMeel))

Poetry.

“In elegant, energetic verse, [the] award-winning poet...explores the complicated notion of ‘belonging’ when one’s family, culture, and country are at odds with one’s personal identity. As a bisexual Muslim man and the son of first-generation immigrants [to Australia], Sakr knows the pain of marginalization.... (ref.: amazon.com Books)

Author born in Australia to Lebanese and Turkish parents.

This work listed also in the TURKEY section.

Salah, Trish.

Wanting in Arabic: Poems. 2nd ed.; Toronto: TSAR Publications, 2013. (104 p.; ISBN 9781927494301, 1927494303)

Poetry.

“...author dwells on the contradictions of a transsexual politics....Without a memory of her father’s language, the questions her poems ask are for a home known only through photographs, for a language lost with childhood”

(ref.: OCLC summary, record no. 995617004).

Earlier ed.: TSAR Publications, 2002.

Author is an Arab-Canadian writer and university professor, born in Halifax and of Lebanese and Irish heritages.

JORDAN

Khouri, Amahl [Khouri, Raphaël Amahl].

“No Matter Where I Go.” In Global Queer Plays: Seven LGBTQ+ Works from around the World. London: Osborne Books, 2018.

Drama.

See the ASIA section for additional information about Global Queer Plays.

Author is “a queer transgender Jordanian-German documentary playwright and theatermaker living in Berlin” (www.dancingontheedge.nl , Artists list)

Khouri, Amahl [Khouri, Raphaël Amahl].

“She He Me.” In The Methuen Drama Book of Trans Plays, Part Two: Fraught Spaces, [section] 9, pp. 183-217. Edited by Leanna Keyes, Lindsey Mantoan & Angela Farr Schiller. (London: Bloomsbury Publishing; London: Methuen Drama, 2021).

(book: 456 p.; ISBNs 9781350179219 [and others])

Drama (in Anthology).

“She He Me follows the lives of three Arab characters who challenge gender. Randa is an Algerian male-to-female who is expelled under the threat of death from her homeland because of her LGBT activism there. Omar is a Jordanian gay man who[,] rather than body dysphoria, suffers social dysphoria when it comes to the street codes of masculinity....Rok is Lebanese and female-to-male. Through humor and horror, the three characters come up against the state, society, the family, but also themselves” (ref.:OCLC WorldCat record no. 1273559340, Summary, for e-book).

2022 Lambda Literary Awards finalist for LGBTQ+ Anthology.

See Author Note in previous record, above.

See also Part Two, [section] 8, of the book for an introduction to Khouri’s play.

Zaghmout, Fadi.

The Bride of Amman. Translated from Arabic by Ruth Ahmedzai Kemp.

[Hong Kong]: Signal 8 Press, 2015.

(252 p.; ISBN 9789881219893)

Novel.

“...controversial bestseller when first published in Arabic, [it] takes a sharp-eyed look at the intersecting lives of four women and one gay man in...Amman....” (ref.: Goodreads).

First published in **Arabic** under title: Aroos Amman (‘Arūs ‘ammān)

(Amman, Jordan: Jabal Amman Publishers, 2012).

Excerpt (bilingual English and Arabic) published in Words Without Borders Magazine, June 2013 (Queer Issue IV) (online), where English title is given as “The Amman Bride.”

Author is Jordanian.

PALESTINE

Abraham, George.

The Specimen's Apology. Little Rock, Arkansas [USA]: Sibling Rivalry Press, 2019.

(57 p.; ISBN 9781943977925, 1943977925)

Poetry.

“In claiming two identities made systemically invisible (Palestinian, and queer), Abraham weaves us into worlds from which we are desperate to escape”

(ref.: Joumana Altallal, “Palestine in Queer Time: A Review of George Abraham's The Specimen's Apology,” Michigan Quarterly Review [MQR], Online, Book Reviews, January 16, 2019).

Arafat, Zaina.

You Exist Too Much. London: Dialogue Books; New York: Catapult, 2020. (263 p.; ISBN 9780349701783 (Dialogue); 9781948226509 (Catapult)).

Novel.

“On a hot day in Bethlehem, a twelve-year-old Palestinian-American girl is yelled at by a group of men outside the Church of the Nativity. She has exposed her legs in a biblical city, an act they deem forbidden, and their judgement will echo on through her adolescence. When our narrator finally admits to her mother that she is queer, her mother's response only intensifies a sense of shame: ‘You exist too much,’ she tells her daughter. Told in vignettes that flash between the U.S. and the Middle East – from New York to Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine – it traces her progress from blushing teen to sought-after DJ and aspiring writer” (ref: publisher description as quoted in OCLC WorldCat catalog record no. 1224449299).

Lambda Literary Awards winner for Bisexual Fiction.

Author is first-generation Palestinian-American.

Bathish, Raji [Baṭḥīsh, Rājī].

al-Shiqqah fī shārī' Bāsī, riwāyah [The Apartment in Passy Street].

Bayrūt [Beirut, Lebanon]: al-Mu'assasah al-'Arabīya lil-Dirāsāt wa-al-Nashr, 2020 (208 p.; ISBN 9786144860724).

In Arabic.

Novel.

English-language translation of the title is noted on the back cover of the book as:

The Apartment in Passy Street.

The work “centers around the life of a gay man wracked by internal and external conflicts, including the second intifada, the travails of emigration, and AIDS.”

The author “has become one of the most prominent voices in queer Arabic writing”; his “books have been published in Jordan and the West Bank”

(quotations from article by Sheren Falah Saab, “ ‘A Real and Present Danger More Than Ever’: Nasrallah’s Queer Problem.” [Haaretz](#) [English ed.] ([haaretz.com](#)), August 24, 2023 (online) [viewed November 23, 2023].

One relevant **short story** by this author which is available in an English translation by Andrew Leber, is: “Fifty Shekels.” It is posted at The Short Story Project website ([shortstoryproject.com/stories/fifty-shekels/](#)) [viewed November 23, 2023] and is an ironic work featuring several Palestinian men secretly going to Tel Aviv in search of sex and money.

Several of the author’s books in Arabic are listed at: [arabicbookshop.net](#) website. Author was born in Nazareth in 1970.

Jarrar, Randa.

Love Is an Ex-Country: A Memoir. New York: Catapult; Inverness, Scotland: Sandstone Press, 2021 (with a 2023 expanded edition also noted). (213 p.; ISBN 9781948226585, 1948226588)

Memoir/Autobiography.

“Queer. Muslim. Arab American. A proudly Fat woman. Randa Jarrar is all these things....Told as a road trip across the...[USA], this is Randa’s...personal story: a Palestinian daughter shamed about her weight, her background, and her decision to become a teenage mother as she rebels against her abusive family and the expectations others have of her” (ref.: books, [google.com.hk](#). Books).

Jarrar, Randa.

A Map of Home: A Novel. New York: Penguin Books, c2008. (292 p.; ISBN 9780143116264, 0143116266)

Novel.

“Nidali, the rebellious daughter of an Egyptian-Greek mother and a Palestinian father, narrates her story from her childhood in Kuwait, her early teenage years in Egypt (to where her family fled the 1990 Iraqi invasion), to her family’s last flight to Texas” (OCLC WorldCat catalog record no. 759512518, Summary). Available in other languages, including Chinese and Hebrew.

Marshy, Leila.

The Philistine: A Novel. Montreal: Linda Leith Publishing, 2018. (322 p.; ISBNs 9781988130705, 1988130700)

Novel.

Story set at the end of the 1980s. Nadia, a queer Palestinian-Canadian woman, goes to Egypt in search of her father. She meets and falls in love with Manal, a female Egyptian artist.

Work also available as an e-book (in English) and in French translation (title:

La philistine: un roman (Montreal: Linda Leith Publishing, 2021), in print

and e-book formats).

Book cover note: "LGBT fiction / Middle East".

OCLC Worldcat Summary for the work notes that Philistine is the Arabic word for Palestinian.

Author is a Montrealer of Palestinian-Newfoundland background.

Sarif, Shamim.

I Can't Think Straight. Ann Arbor, Michigan: Bywater Books, 2017.

(204 p.; ISBN 9781612941011)

Novel.

Tala, a London-based Palestinian, is preparing for her wedding when she meets Leyla, a young British Indian woman, and the attraction is immediate (from Book Depository website description).

This title has also been listed at the INDIA heading.

SYRIA

Alesmael, Khaled.

Selamik. Translated from Arabic to Swedish by Anna Jansson.
Stockholm, Sweden: Leopard förlag, 2018.
(180 p.; ISBN 9789173437783)

In Swedish or German, with English forthcoming (see annotation below).

Novel.

Author website, khaledalesmael.com (viewed Jan. 14, 2023), notes that the work has not been published in Arabic, but only in translation.

German translation, with same title, published in Berlin (Albino, 2020).

English translation forthcoming (World Editions, April 2024).

Book shortlisted for German SKOUTZ-AWARD in 2021.

See author website, OCLC WorldCat and Goodreads.com for additional notes.

Author was born in Syria, later became a Swedish citizen, and now lives in London (ref.: Wikipedia [German])

Alesmael, Khaled.

En port till havet: brev från arabiska bögar [Gateway to the Sea].

Translated to Swedish by Anna Jansson. Stockholm: Leopard förlag, 2022.

(228 p.; ISBN 9789189145177)

In Swedish or German.

Biographical anthology.

German translation: Ein Tor zum Meer: Briefe von arabischen Homosexuellen
(Berlin: Albino, 2022; ISBN 9783863003425).

“...explores the personal narratives of ten Arab gay men who embarked on a perilous journey across the Mediterranean Sea to Europe. Gay men from Syria, Palestine, Iraq, Yemen, Western Sahara, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Lebanon opened their hearts to Khaled and told their stories” (ref.: khaledalesmael.com).

NOTE 1: English title noted above is taken from khaledalesmael.com website.

NOTE 2: The website (viewed Jan. 14, 2023) notes that the author’s works have not been published in Arabic, but only in translation.

Joukhadar, Zeyn.

The Thirty Names of Night. New York: Atria Books, 2020.

(291 p.; ISBN 9781982121495)

Novel.

“Five years after a suspicious fire killed his mother, a closeted Syrian American trans boy sheds his birth name and searches for a new one....The only time he feels truly free is when he slips out at night to paint murals on buildings in the once-thriving Manhattan neighborhood known as Little Syria. One night he finds the tattered journal of a Syrian American artist named Leila Z...[whose] story

[from sixty years earlier] reveals the histories of queer and transgender people within his community that he never knew....”

(ref.: OCLC WorldCat Summary, record no. 1124336834).

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Transgender Fiction.

Stonewall Books Awards – Barbara Gittings Literature Award.

Author is Syrian-American, born in New York.

Joukhadar, Zeyn.

SEE ALSO at: This Arab is Queer: An Anthology by LGBTQ+ Arab Writers, listed in the ASIA AND ASIAN DIASPORA section of the bibliography.

Ramadan, Ahmad Danny.

The Clothesline Swing: A Novel.

Gibsons, BC [Canada]: Nightwood Editions, 2017; London: The Indigo Press, 2019.

(286 p.; ISBN 9780889713321 (Nightwood); 9781999683368 (Indigo))

Novel.

“...centres on two Syrian lovers who’ve fled the violence of civil war and homophobia, seeking solace in Vancouver’s West End and each other’s arms. Decades later, one is dying and the other is telling his beloved stories to keep him alive” (T. Henley, Quill & Quire [Toronto] (www.quillandquiere.com), June 2017 (online; viewed Mar. 22, 2020; also see Kamal Al-Solaylee review in same issue). Available also in French (La balançoire de Jasmin) and Hebrew.

Author is a Syria-born Canadian living in Vancouver.

Ramadan, Ahmad Danny.

The Foghorn Echoes. Toronto: Viking; Edinburgh: Canongate, 2022.

(273 p.; ISBN 9780735242180 [etc.] (Viking), 9781838854652 [etc.] (Canongate))

Novel.

2023 Lambda Literary Award for Gay Fiction.

“A blooming romance leads to a tragic accident when Hussam’s father catches him acting on his feelings for his best friend, Wassim. In an instant, the course of their lives is changed forever. Ten years later, Hussam and Wassim are still struggling to find peace and belonging. Sponsored as a refugee by a controlling older man, Hussam is living an openly gay life in Vancouver, where he attempts to quiet his demons with sex, drugs, and alcohol. Wassim is living on the streets of Damascus, having abandoned a wife and child and a charade he could no longer keep up....” (ref.: OCLC WorldCat catalog no. 1288147581, Summary provided by the publisher.)

Also available as an e-book.

Ramadan, Ahmad Danny.

SEE ALSO at: This Arab is Queer: An Anthology by LGBTQ+ Arab Writers, listed in the ASIA AND ASIAN DIASPORA section of the bibliography.

Sirees, Nihad.

States of Passion. Translated from Arabic by Max Weiss.

London: Pushkin Press, 2018.

(256 p.; ISBN 9781782273479, 1782273476)

Novel.

“A hapless Aleppo bureaucrat is stranded in the...countryside....When he seeks refuge in an isolated old mansion...he begins to uncover a captivating tale of family secrets, lost passions, and shady deals....He is transported to Aleppo’s golden age...and the all-female society of the banat al-ishreh, a society of women who live, love, and perform song and dance together” (pushkinpress.com).

Originally published in Arabic as [in transliteration]: Halet Shaghaff (Beirut: Attia, 1998).

Author is Syrian, born in Aleppo in 1950.

Souleimane, Omar Youssef.

Le dernier Syrien. [Paris]: Éditions Flammarion, c2020.

(272 p.; ISBN 9782081457959, 2081457954)

In French (and in English translation, 2024, as noted below).

Novel.

“A rare narrative of gay love in the Arab world” (books.google.com.hk, Books).

Note: The Last Syrian. Translated from French by Ghada Mourad (Seagull Books, 2024).

An excerpt of the forthcoming 2024 translation, with title “Mohammad and Youssef,” is printed in Words Without Borders Magazine (Queer Issue XIV), June 2023. Introduction to that excerpt notes: “[t]wo young men establish an intimate connection against the backdrop of the Syrian civil war.”

Author is a French-Syrian writer born in Qoteyfeh, Syria, in 1987 (biographical note following Words Without Borders excerpt). He lives in France.

Yazbek, Samar.

Cinnamon. Translated from Arabic by Emily Danby.

London: Arabia Books, 2012.

(124 p.; ISBN 9781906697433, 1906697434)

Novel.

“...darkly humorous tale,...portrays the inner world of two Damascene women and their search for security and tenderness...” (ref.: Goodreads.com).

A wealthy woman, Hanan, despises her husband and “finds happiness in other women, including her domestic worker, Aliyah....Aliyah’s age – a major

controversial issue – is revealed as the two ignite their sexual relationship. Aliyah appears to be even younger than Lolita, the protagonist in Vladimir Nabokov's novel" (ref.: Tannous [see Sources list]).

See Guardi (listed in Sources) for some comments.

Originally published in Arabic as: Rā'ihat al-qirfah (Beirut, Lebanon: Dār al-Ādāb). Translations, under various titles, to many European languages, including French, German, Italian, Norwegian, and Swedish (see OCLC WorldCat for details).

Author is Syrian.

TURKEY

Entries on this country list include English- and Turkish-language titles.

Some notes on Turkish LGBT literature have been presented in a paper titled “Beyond Borders: Murathan Mungan’s Texts,” by Sevcan Tiftik, posted in a blog of August 19, 2017, by Karen Van Drie, at the Global Literature in Libraries Initiative site (www.glli-us.org), under the title “LGBTI Identities in Turkish Literature.” [At the website, click on BLOGS at bottom, then use search box].

The Tiftik article opens with the following statement:

“LGBTI...identities have been manifested in Turkish literature since the 1960s. Starting with Sait Faik Abasıyanık, Bilge Karasu, Leyla Erbil, and Tezer Özlü, homosexuality and homoerotic moments begin to be depicted openly in novels and short stories rather than with an ambiguous and closed expression.” Tiftik continues by listing an additional twenty-one authors “who have depicted gay, lesbian and trans characters and written on the themes of homosexuality”.

Tiftik notes further that the 1980s produced “many works about different sexualities and sexual orientations,” but identities in literature were “presented in a largely marginal and stereotypical way.” That was not the case, though, for Mungan (“one of the most prolific poets and authors of contemporary Turkish literature”). His writings, from the 1980s to the 2000s are (she quotes another writer) “an important milestone in Turkish LGBTI literature”.

Some titles on this list have come from “Top 10 LGBT Novels from Turkish Literature,” a Turkish-language booklist posted at the Turkish social media site Onedio.com. [See Sources list for full reference, at entry “Top 10...”].

Murat Yilmaz’s study of GLB-themed book availability in Turkish (specifically Istanbul) public libraries is noteworthy in pointing out a dearth of LGBT titles available to the general public. The author checked for 124 GLB-themed **printed books published in Turkey**, titles obtained from the 1994 to 2012 issues of Kaos GL Journal, of the Kaos Gay and Lesbian Cultural Research and Solidarity Organization. Few of these works were found to be available in libraries. (See Sources list, at Yilmaz, for full reference).

Michael Erdman’s British Library blog article, “A Rainbow in Stormy Skies: LGBT Writing in the Northern Middle East” [see Sources list], is helpful in its references not only to Turkey, but also to Armenia, Iran, the Kurds, and others. He notes the novels of Turkish writer Elif Şafak [Elif Shafak], which “routinely feature LGBT and transvestite characters.

Aral, İnci.

Kendi Gecesinde. [In His Own Night].
İstanbul: Kırmızı Kedi Yayınevi, 2014.
(355 p.; ISBN 9786054927784, 6054927787)

In Turkish.

Novel.

The story of Hayati, a man on the journey of coming to terms with himself.

Asena, Duygu.

Paramparça. [Torn in Pieces / Shattered].
İstanbul: Doğan kitap, 2004.
(157 p.; ISBN 9789759917814, etc.)

In Turkish.

Novel.

The protagonist lives in a small city, is married with children, and has relations with men.

Noted on Turkish social media site Onedio.com in article titled:

“Türk Edebiyatından En İyi 10 LGBT Romanı” [“Top 10 LGBT Novels from Turkish Literature”], posted January 8, 2015 [see Sources].

Aşkım “L” Hali Öykü.

Yayına hazırlayan: Kaos GL Kadın Grubu “Kadın, Kadına Öyük Yarışması jürisi adına” Bursu Ersoy. Üçüncü baskı; İstanbul: Sel Yayıncılık Eylül, 2016.
(167 p.; ISBN 9789755704296)

In Turkish.

Turkish lesbian fiction.

Note many separate listings for different time periods in OCLC WorldCat catalog.

Bilâl, Mehmet.

Adresinde Bulunamadı.
İstanbul: Everest Yayınları, 2005.
(208 p.; ISBN 9789752892798)

In Turkish.

Novel.

Noted on Turkish social media site Onedio.com in article titled:

“Türk Edebiyatından En İyi 10 LGBT Romanı” [“Top 10 LGBT Novels from Turkish Literature”], posted January 8, 2015 [see Sources].

This story is told partially from the perspective of an undeliverable letter that is forwarded from place to place and partially by Gön, sender of the letter, whose love is a German man, Volker. Settings in Istanbul and Germany.

Bilâl, Mehmet.

Üçüncü tekil şahıs [Third Person Singular].
İstanbul: Tavanarası, 2003; (2. basım; Everest Yayınları, 2006).
(ca. 300 p.; ISBN 9789752893344 [Everest])

In Turkish.

Novel.
Earlier Bilâl work with gay theme.

Bilâl, Mehmet.

Üvey.
İstanbul: Everest Yayınları, 2010.
(172 p.; ISBN 9789752897946, 9752897940)

In Turkish.

Novel.
With these stories, Bilâl tells readers about doors opening, passions behind those doors, men who desire men, and matters of gender identity (ref.: rough paraphrased translation of kitapsec.com note in Turkish).

Doğaner, Hülya Serap.

Leyla ile Şirin. İstanbul: Varlık Yayınları, 1992.
(159 p.)

In Turkish.

Novel.
Various relationships, including that of two women, the main characters, Leyla and Şirin. One reader (goodreads.com) describes the work as a “semi sci-fi psychological LGBT book...set in the Turkey of the Future.”

Extraordinary Adventures of Mullah Nassruddin: Naughty, Unexpurgated Stories of the Beloved Wise Fool from the Middle and Far East. Collected and retold by Ron J. Suresha.
Maple Shade, NJ: Lethe Press, 2014.
(204 p.; ISBN 9781590214640)

In English.

Revised edition of award-winning folklore collection;
“...detail[s] the exploits of the beloved 800-year-old Turkish ‘wise fool’ ...[and] presents well over 250 hilarious and authentic folktales, dozens appearing in English for the first time....” (ref.: Goodreads).
Name of the ‘wise fool’ also appears as: Nasreddin, Hoca.
Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Bisexual Fiction.

İleri, Selim.

Boundless Solitude. Translated from Turkish by Mark Wyers.

[S.l.]: Milet Publishing, 2015.

(464 p.; ISBN 9781840598568, 1840598565)

In English (see also original Turkish title in annotation below)

Novel.

Difficult lesbian relationship of Handap Sarp, in her late 30s and a soprano at the Istanbul City Opera, with Elem, a young working-class seamstress.

Originally published in Turkish as: Yarın Yapayalnız (İstanbul: Doğan Kitap, 2004; Everest Yayınları, 2011 (ISBN 9789752899339 [Everest])).

İleri, Selim.

Cemil Şevket Bey, Aynalı Dolaba İki El Revolver.

İstanbul: Doğan Kitap, 2008; Everest Yayınları, 2011.

(ca. 300 p.; ISBN 9789752898264, 9752898262 [Everest])

In Turkish.

Novel.

Story of Cemil Şevket Bey, gay character based somewhat on the life and works of Nahid Sırrı Örik, set in late Ottoman and early Turkish Republic history.

Karabıyıkoglu, Nazlı.

“Elfiye.” Translated from Turkish by Ralph Hubbell.

In Words Without Borders Magazine, June 2020 issue (Queer Issue XI) (online).

In English.

Short story.

“A couple takes a drastic step after discovering their daughter’s relationship with another woman” (Introduction to the story).

Author is “now a full-time resident in Georgia [USA], who recently escaped the political, cultural, and gender oppression in Turkey” (ref.: author note after story).

See also author’s website (www.nazlikarabiyikoglu.com), which carries other works.

Karasu, Bilge.

Death in Troy. Translated from Turkish by Aron Aji.

San Francisco: City Lights, 2002.

(165 p.; ISBN 9780872864016)

In English.

Novel.

“Mushfik is a young man growing up in Turkey, first in...a small coastal village, and later in Istanbul. He comes of age in an atmosphere of sublimated,

disoriented eroticism...Unable to adapt to society's unspoken rules, he is driven to the point of insanity from which he must slowly and painfully return....” (ref.: amazon.com, Books).

The story is set mostly in the village of Sarikum in the 1940s and '50s.

“...a teeming, elliptical examination of repressed homosexuality....”

(Publishers Weekly).

Originally published in Turkish under title: Troya'da ölüm vardı (Ankara: Forum, [late 1950s/early 1960s]). See many OCLC WorldCat entries.

Author (1930-1995) was born in Istanbul and “is regarded as the preeminent Turkish modernist writer” (ref.: amazon.com, Books).

User could also look at The Garden of the Departed Cats (translation to English published by New Directions, 2004; original Turkish, Göçmüş Kediler Bahçesi, published 1979). Goodreads.com notes an inconclusive ‘romance’ of sorts between the protagonist and his Vizier opponent in the archaic game that is being played.

Kulin, Ayşe.

Gizli Anların Yolcusu [The Passenger of Secret Moments].

İstanbul: Everest Yayınları, 2011.

(427 p.; ISBN 9789752899513)

In Turkish.

Novel.

Noted on Turkish social media site Onedio.com in article titled:

“Türk Edebiyatından En İyi 10 LGBT Romanı” [“Top 10 LGBT Novels from Turkish Literature”], posted January 8, 2015 [see Sources].

However, one reviewer suggests that “[t]he author’s unfamiliarity with and reaction to homosexuals reveals itself in the prejudiced discourses in the novel” (agos.com.tr/yazi/465/homofobik-bir-excinsel-ask-romani).

Various serious critical comments are also made of a sequel to the Bora/İlhami story, Bora'nın Kitabı (2012; 14th ed., 2022) (see, e.g., goodreads.com)

Mağden, Perihan.

2 Girls. Translated from Turkish by Brendan Freely.

London: Serpent’s Tail, 2005.

(249 p.; ISBN 9781852428990)

In English.

Novel.

Published in Turkish as: İki Genç Kızın Romanı (Cağaloğlu, İstanbul: Everest Yayınları, 2002).

Two teenaged girls attracted to one another form an intense relationship.

Behiye, about to enter Turkey’s most prestigious university, is angry and unhappy. The week before starting school she is introduced to beautiful, gentle Handan, who changes her life.

“...controversial Lesbian bestseller that rocked the Turkish cultural

establishment” (OCLC WorldCat record accession no. 986652142, Summary)
Translated also into Italian and Hungarian (goodreads.com note).

Mağden, Perihan.

Ali and Ramazan. Translated from Turkish by Ruth Whitehouse.
Cağaloğlu, İstanbul: Everest Publications, 2011; Las Vegas, NV [USA]: Amazon
Publishing, 2012.
(165 p.; ISBN 9789752898745, etc.)

In English.

Novel.

Two gay teenaged boys, abandoned orphans, are drawn to one another;
“...inseparable as boys and lovers as men, but the strength of their love isn’t
enough to lift them out of their sordid lives” (ref.: Goodreads).
First published in Turkish as: Ali ile Ramazan (İstanbul: Doğan kitap, 2010).

Mungan, Murathan.

“Gece Elbisesi” [“Evening Gown”].
In: Üç Aynalı Kirk Oda. Beyoğlu, İstanbul: Metis Yayınları, 1999.
(ISBN 9789753422376)

In Turkish.

Novella.

“Gece Elbisesi” is the third of three novellas which make up Üç Aynalı Kirk Oda.
In the work, “a man named Ali dreams up elaborate fantasies in which he
experiments with different sexualities” and transvestism (ref.: Tiftik essay, noted
in Introduction to this section)

Mungan, Murathan.

“Kagıttan Kaplanlar Masalı” [“Paper Tiger Tales”].
In: Kaf Dağının Önü. Cağaloğlu, İstanbul: Metis Yayınları, 1994.
(ISBN 9789753420662)

In Turkish.

Main character is a gay man.

Mungan, Murathan.

Son İstanbul.
Ankara: Uçurum Yayıncılık, 1985. (and many later editions/imprints)
(207 p.)

In Turkish.

Main focus of “ÇC” is on gay and bisexual male characters.

Sakr, Omar.

The Lost Arabs. St. Lucia, Queensland [Australia]: University of Queensland

Press, 2019; Kansas City, Missouri [USA]: Andrews McMeel, 2020.
(98 p.; ISBN 97815244854010, etc. (Andrews McMeel))

In English.

Poetry.

“In elegant, energetic verse, [the] award-winning poet...explores the complicated notion of ‘belonging’ when one’s family, culture, and country are at odds with one’s personal identity. As a bisexual Muslim man and the son of first-generation immigrants [to Australia], Sakr knows the pain of marginalization.... (ref.: amazon.com Books).

Author born in Australia to Lebanese and Turkish parents.

This work listed also in the LEBANON section.

Somer, Mehmet Murat.

Turkish Delight mysteries (series). Translated from Turkish.

London: Serpent’s Tail; New York: Penguin Books, 2008 - .

In English.

Novels.

Turkish-language series title/imprint: Hop-Çiki-Yaya polisiyesi (İstanbul: İletisim Yayınları, 2003-).

There are at least seven Turkish-language titles in the series, of which at least four have been translated into English, beginning with The Prophet Murders (London: Serpent’s Tail, 2008), a crime story set in Istanbul.

Stories feature a transvestite detective who, during the day, is a handsome corporate consultant and, by night, is a glamorous amateur sleuth.

Tulgar, Ahmet.

Birbirimize.

İstanbul: Everest Yayınları, 2009.

(99 p.; ISBN 9789752896048)

In Turkish.

Novel.

Noted on Turkish social media site Onedio.com in article titled:

“Türk Edebiyatından En İyi 10 LGBT Romanı” [“Top 10 LGBT Novels from Turkish Literature”], posted January 8, 2015 [see Sources].

Tulgar, Ahmet.

Volkan’ın Romanı.

İstanbul: Everest, 2006.

(222 p.; ISBN 9789752892941)

In Turkish.

Novel.

Noted on Turkish social media site Onedio.com in article titled:

“Türk Edebiyatından En İyi 10 LGBT Romanı” [“Top 10 LGBT Novels from Turkish Literature”], posted January 8, 2015 [see Sources].

Yerlikaya, Çağlar.

Sevişen Çocuklar Matinesi.

İstanbul: Liman Kasım, 2007.

(142 p.; ISBN 9789944967129)

In Turkish.

Novel.

Noted on Turkish social media site Onedio.com in article titled:

“Türk Edebiyatından En İyi 10 LGBT Romanı” [“Top 10 LGBT Novels from Turkish Literature”], posted January 8, 2015 [see Sources].

Yılmaz, Can.

Aşkin Tekil Hali.

İstanbul: Tilki Kitap, 2012.

(100 p.; ISBN 9786056259821)

In Turkish.

Novel.

Noted on Turkish social media site Onedio.com in article titled:

“Türk Edebiyatından En İyi 10 LGBT Romanı” [“Top 10 LGBT Novels from Turkish Literature”], posted January 8, 2015 [see Sources].

Zorlu, Niyazi.

Hergele Âşıklar [Hergele Lovers].

Beyoğlu, İstanbul: Metis, 2003.

(237 p.; ISBN 9789753424240)

In Turkish.

Novel.

Noted on Turkish social media site Onedio.com in article titled:

“Türk Edebiyatından En İyi 10 LGBT Romanı” [“Top 10 LGBT Novels from Turkish Literature”], posted January 8, 2015 [see Sources].

SOURCES

“10 Extraordinary LGBTQIA+ Books by Indian Authors,” The Curious Reader (www.thecuriousreader.in), May 31, 2019 posting (online) [viewed Nov. 2019].

Ahmed, Ibtisam.

“Bangladeshi Queer Utopia: How Activists Are Reclaiming Local Narratives to Empower the Community,” The Asia Dialogue (www.theasiadialogue.com), November 21, 2019 (online) [viewed December 18, 2020].

Ahmed was a doctoral student, University of Nottingham [UK], at time of writing. This essay notes several publications. Retrieve essay at website by using search capability for, e.g., author.

Amazon.com, Books (www.amazon.com).

Arora, Priya.

“10 South Asian LGBTQ Books That Changed My Life.” Autostraddle (www.autostraddle.com), post, September 18, 2017 [viewed Jan. 7, 2020].

Bao, Hongwei.

Queer China: Lesbian and Gay Literature and Visual Culture under Postsocialism. (Abingdon, Oxon; New York: Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group, 2020).

Scholarly analysis of queer Chinese cultural production.

Chi, Ta-wei [Ji Dawei].

“Negotiations between the Queer and the Literary: Translations of Chinese-language Queer Literature.” In The Bloomsbury Handbook of Modern Chinese Literature in Translation, chapter 5, pp. 65-76. Edited by Cosima Bruno et al. London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2023.

Columbia Companion to Modern East Asian Literature.

Edited by Joshua S. Mostow. New York: Columbia University Press, 2003.

Note: [Chapter] 84: “Same-sex Love in Recent Chinese Literature,” by Thomas Moran, pp. [488]-495, with bibliography, pp. 494-495.

Coolidge, Sarah, and Wolahan, Emily.

“7 Books in Translation to Read for Pride Month.” Center for the Art of Translation blog posts, June 12, 2017; June 14, 2018; and June 11, 2019 (www.catranslation.org). [viewed Nov. 2019].

De La Cruz, Christa I.

“10 Philippine LGBTQ+ Books to Read This Pride Month.” Spot.ph (www.spot.ph), June 26, 2021 (online) [viewed October 21, 2023].

To retrieve article, use Search function at site on, for example, the article title.

Erdman, Michael.

“A Rainbow in Stormy Skies: LGBT Writing in the Northern Middle East.”
British Library, Asian and African Studies blog post (www.bl.uk/blogs ; then open
Asian and African Studies section at All British Library blogs heading and use Search
Box for Erdman), 26 June 2017 (online) [viewed March 28, 2021].

Erdman is Curator, Turkish and Turkic Collections. Note some of his other blogs
on Turkey and the region at the blog site.

Ferrarese, Mario.

“LGBTQ Characters Give New Face to Southeast Asian History and Literature.”
Nikkei Asia (www.asia.nikkei.com), Life section, May 28, 2021 (online)
[viewed October 22, 2023].

To retrieve this article, use Nikkei Asia's Search function on, e.g., article title.

Gill, Harsimran.

“12 South Asian Books to Read for Pride Month.” Huffpost
(www.huffingtonpost.co.uk), June 19, 2019 (online) [viewed Nov. 2019].

Goodreads (www.goodreads.com)

Book review/recommendation site.

Google Books (<https://books.google.com>).

Internet book search site.

Guardi, Jolanda.

“Female Homosexuality in the Contemporary Arabic Novel.”
DEP: Deportate, Esuli, Profughe: Rivista telematica di studi sulla memoria femminile,
n. 25 (2014): [17]-30 [viewed online through researchgate.net, May 4, 2021].

Guardi discusses four novels written in Arabic (all listed in this bibliography):
Al-Herz's The Others and Hifni's Malāmih (Saudi Arabia list);
Yazbek's Cinnamon (Syria list); and Mansur's I Am You (Lebanon list).

Healy, Shane.

“7 LGBTQ Authors from Japan.” Tokyo Weekender (tokyoweekender.com),
April 6, 2022; updated January 18, 2023 (online) [viewed October 23, 2023].

Hendri Yulius.

SEE entry below at Yulius, Hendri.

Hinsch, Bret.

Passions of the Cut Sleeve: The Male Homosexual Tradition in China.
Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1990.

Hosseini-Lewis, Anahita.

“Persian Literature from Homoeroticism to Representations of the LGBT Community: An Introduction.” [Sheffield, December 2015].

Archived by Internet Archive at www.archive.org [viewed Dec. 2019].

(Alternative title of paper noted: “Persian Literature and Iranian LGBT”).

This lengthy research report, supported by Outright (LGLHRC), is an overview of homoerotic/LGBT Persian literary history. The modern era is discussed in the latter part of the paper.

The author notes in her conclusion that “[d]ue to the restrictions imposed by the Iranian state, the emerging Iranian LGBT literature has not yet found the chance to be published inside Iran legally,” but that several books and stories have been published and distributed by the diaspora press/media, by online publishing, and through Iranian LGBT magazines. And she encourages more efforts to publicize the literature.

Jain, Devanshi.

“8 Books by LGBTQIA+ Authors from Countries Where Being Gay is Illegal.”

The Curious Reader (www.thecuriousreader.in), Sept. 5, 2019 post [viewed Dec. 2019]

This article and Emily Temple’s of similar title list mainly different works.

Jerome, Collin.

“Malaysian Queer Literature,” GEMA Online Journal of Language Studies 22(3)

(August 2022). <http://doi.org/10.17576/gema-2022-2203-08>

Kang, Wenqing.

Obsession: Male Same-sex Relations in China, 1900-1950.

Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2009.

Kumar, Ruchi.

“How LGBT Literature in India Has Fared Since Homosexuality Became Lawful.”

Zora (zora.medium.com), October 30, 2019 (online) [viewed January 20, 2020].

Lambda Literary Awards.

Annual awards since 1988 in a variety of book categories for LGBTQ+ works.

Awards given in approximately 20 categories.

Awarded by the U.S.-based Lambda Literary Foundation (www.lambdaliterary.org) to published works celebrating or exploring LGBT themes.

LeFevre, Sophia.

“12 New Memoirs Written by Asian Authors.” Bookriot (www.bookriot.com) posting, dated Sept 21, 2020 [viewed May 3, 2021].

Leng, Rachel.

“Tongzhi Tales in Mainland China: Chinese Gay Male Subjectivities in Online Comrade Literature.” Undergraduate Honors Thesis, Dept. of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Duke University (Durham, North Carolina, USA), April 2013.

(178 p.) Retrieved from: <https://hdl.handle.net/10161/7762> .

Detailed treatment of the subject noted in the thesis title, and also helpful appendices, including an Appendix IV table of “Classical Chinese Novels with Homoerotic Content,” noting 13 Ming and Qing dynasty titles (p. 175).

“LGBT Topics in Singaporean Literature.”

Wikipedia article [viewed January 3, 2020].

“Local Books to Read This Pride Month.”

Anvil Publishing, Marketing, blog [Philippines], June 11, 2019 post,

(www.anvilpublishing.com) [viewed January 8, 2020].

Momi, Shanai.

“5 Great Pakistani Books with LGBTQ+ Characters.” Desi blitz (www.desiblitz.com), August 11, 2021 (online) [viewed November 21, 2023].

Note that one of the five works, Sabina Khan’s The Love & Lies of Rukhsana Ali, has been placed on the BANGLADESH list (Bangladesh was earlier known as East Pakistan, before further partition).

Montgomery, Charles.

Korean Literature in Translation (www.ktlit.com), posts of December 22, 23, and 28, 2011, and January 6, 2012 [viewed January 22, 2020].

Montgomery questions Gabriel Sylvian, founder of The Korea Gay Literature Project and a graduate student of Korean Literature at Seoul National University. The parts of the Q&A are the following:

Part 1 (Dec. 22, 2011), “Gabriel Sylvian answers some questions on Korean LGBT Literature #1,” which discusses historical issues;

Part 2 (Dec. 23, 2011), “More with Gabriel Sylvian: Korean GLBT Literature #2” and Part 3 (Dec. 28, 2011), “More with Gabriel Sylvian: Yi Kwang-su and Gayness (Korean GLBT Literature #3)” in which Sylvian addresses questions on modern (early 20th century onwards) gay/lesbian literature issues and “notable” authors; and

Part 4 (Jan. 6, 2012), “More with Gabriel Sylvian: Korean GLBT Literature #4 which discusses translation of gay/lesbian literature to English and the Korea Gay Literature Project.

OCLC WorldCat (worldcat.org)

Catalog of the holdings of over 17,000 libraries in over 120 countries/territories that participate in the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) global cooperative; May be searched by any user with internet access and searchable on the customary access points available in digital library catalogs, including author name, title of work,

subject, and keyword;
Usefully groups various formats and various editions, including editions in various languages;
User should be aware that much literature is not given subject analysis by many libraries.

Oh, Andrea.

“17 Books by Queer Asian American Writers.” Electric Lit (www.electricleisure.com), May 2, 2019 (online) [viewed Nov. 2019].

Park, Ji-won.

“Privacy Concerns See South Korean Gay Author’s Books Pulled by Publishers – He Outs People As Homosexual without Consent,” South China Morning Post, July 21, 2020 (online) [viewed April 30, 2021].

The article notes Summer, Speed (2018), a 2020 story, “Such Lives,” in Times and Mood, and The 11th Young Writer Award Collection (2020).

Routledge International Encyclopedia of Queer Culture.

Edited by David A. Gerstner. New York: Routledge, 2006, 2011.

Stonewall Book Awards.

Annual awards for LGBTQ+ books since 1971.

Sponsored by the American Library Association’s (www.ala.org) Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Round Table (RainbowRT).

Taiwan Ministry of Culture. Taiwan Culture Toolkit (toolkit.culture.tw), LGBT Literature webpage, curated by Ta-wei Chi [viewed January 14, 2020].

Chi is noted on the webpage to be “Assistant Professor, Graduate Institute of Taiwanese Literature, National Chengchi University.”

Tannous, Cedric.

“7 Books Written by Arab Authors That Include LGBT Characters,” dated 2017-10-07 (online, at stepfeed.com) [viewed December 15, 2020].

This list also includes non-Asian (e.g., Moroccan and Egyptian) titles.

Temple, Emily.

“8 Great Books by LGBTQ Authors from Places Where It’s Illegal to Be Gay.” Literary Hub (www.lithub.com), May 17, 2017 (online) [viewed Nov. 2019].

This article and Devanshi Jain’s similar title list mainly different works.

Tiftik, Sevcen.

“Beyond Borders: Murathan Mungan’s Texts.”

In “Global Literature in Libraries Initiative” (www.glli-us.org), blog post by Karen Van Drie, August 19, 2017, under title “LGBTI Identities in Turkish Literature.”

To retrieve the paper, go to website; at bottom of page click BLOGS, then use search box. This paper is the second item in a “Tiftik” search [viewed January 22, 2020].

The Tiftik paper provides notes on Turkish LGBT literature. Some observations from that paper are given in the Introduction to the TURKEY section.

“Top 10 LGBT Novels from Turkish Literature” [in Turkish, with title: “Türk Edebiyatından En İyi 10 LGBT Roman”], Onedio.com, posted January 8, 2015 (online). [viewed Dec. 28, 2019].

This post is noted as having been produced by an Onedio member without modification by the Onedio editorial team.

Towards Full Citizenship: A Preliminary Checklist of Hong Kong Gay/Lesbian-related Works.

Compiled by Alex Spence and Kwok Kwai Wing. 4th ed.; Hong Kong: Banshan, 2021 (online and print).

Archived PDF copy retrievable from Library and Archives Canada catalogue, or through link in WorldCat catalog, or from the Internet Archive. Print copy of 4th ed. has been deposited with The ArQuives, Toronto.

Note the Literature section of the checklist for some additional novels, biographies, and other works with a **Hong Kong** connection that have not been included in this bibliography.

Walker, Walt “Cat”.

“An Annotated Bibliography of Books, DVDs and Internet Resources on GLBT Asian-Americans.” (online through American Library Association website) [viewed Dec. 2019]. 32-page annotated list of books (categories: general non-fiction, memoirs, literary anthologies, fiction, poetry, drama, graphic novels, children & teens), with separate lists of DVDs and Internet Resources as noted in the document title. List **accessible** at the American Library Association website (www.ala.org) at their Rainbow Round Table (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Round Table (GLBTRT)) webpage, under RainbowRT Toolkit, Bibliographies: Subject (“Asian American GLBT Bibliography,” Aug. 2015).

Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia (www.wikipedia.org)
Online open encyclopedia.

Words Without Borders Magazine (www.wordswithoutborders.org)

Presents many translations of short works and excerpts of longer works from various languages into English, some apparently published also elsewhere and some not. Since 2010, the June issues of their magazine have presented translations to English of LGBTQ+ works or excerpts from many languages, including a number of Asian languages. Their Queer Issue X [i.e., Ten] was published in June 2019; one example article from that issue is “New Korean Queer Writing.” (The latest of the Queer Issues examined for the third edition of this bibliography is Queer Issue XIV (June 2023)).

Yang, Kyung-eon.

“Queer Literature: The Life Source of Korea’s Here and Now.”

Korean Literature Now (www.koreanliteraturenow.com), April 3, 2019 (online)

[viewed Dec. 2019].

Yilmaz, Murat.

“Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Themed Materials in the Public Libraries of Turkey.”

Libri: International Journal of Libraries and Information Studies 64(1) (2014): 11-27.

Yulius, Hendri.

“Queer Indonesians’ Constant Search for Home and Belonging: Review.”

Inside Indonesia 126 (Oct.-Dec. 2016) (www.insideindonesia.org) (online)

[viewed Dec. 2019].

ABOUT THE COMPILER

Alex has published works aimed at improving accessibility to lgbt information and gay community history. These have been mainly survey articles, bibliographies, and indexes, some of which are noted below. Most are accessible through the Library and Archives Canada online catalogue, OCLC WorldCat, or the Internet Archive, and are available in print and electronic (PDF) formats.

Alex was an academic science librarian and an information librarian and cataloguer in public libraries over decades. He studied in various places, and holds a BSc (with concentrations in astrophysics and languages) and a master's degree in information and library studies, both from the University of Toronto. Before all that, he did an honours undergraduate degree in chemistry at a time in his youth when he could have made better choices, and along the way he picked up and used a UK RSA/Cambridge TEFLA certificate (for English language teaching).

Selected publications (related to gay community issues):

Towards Full Citizenship / Alex Spence and Kwok Kwai Wing (5th ed.; 2024) [Hong Kong multidisciplinary bibliography; entries in English or Chinese];

Documenting Queer Canadian History (2019) [bibliography consolidating and extending earlier bibliographic work, providing Canadian coverage from earliest times to 2010];

In Their Own Voices (2017) [index to three 1990s Hong Kong gay community magazines; Chinese and English];

Angles and VGCC News (2013) [index to the long-running Vancouver, BC, gay community periodical, *Angles*, and its predecessor, for the period 1980-1998];

Moving the Mountain: Historical Patterns in Gay Book Publishing and Academic Thesis Production: A Canadian Model (2005) [mainly a preliminary quantitative study of Canadian literary genres and publishers by decade for the latter half of the 20th century];

Perceptions: The First Twenty-two Years (2005) [index to Perceptions Magazine, the longest-running Canadian gay community magazine; index covers 1983-2004];

Gay on the Canadian Prairie: Twenty Years of Perceptions, 1983-2002 (2003) [compilation of articles from *Perceptions Magazine* about gay life in the western Canadian provinces of Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Manitoba];

Homosexuality in Canada (1979) [first bibliography to concentrate on Canadian lgbt issues; the first work in the Canadian Gay Archives publication series. Contents of this are incorporated into Documenting Queer Canadian History];

“Controversial Books in the Public Library” (article in Library Quarterly (University of Chicago Press), July 2000) [survey of holdings by selected Canadian, US, British, New Zealand, and Australian public libraries of children's picture books with gay-related content];

“Gay Young Adult Fiction in the Public Library” (article in Public Libraries (American Library Association), July/August 1999) [survey of holdings by various Canadian and US public libraries of a sample of lgbt titles for youth];

Gay Books in the Public Library (1998) [survey of holdings by Canadian and US libraries of a sample of significant lgbt books].