

Renaissance News



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Speaker Profile: John Money, PhD *Preeminent In Sex/Gender Research*



John Money, PhD, will be the keynote speaker at the Renaissance Conference on Transgendered Issues in January. Not all of our community is familiar with Dr. Money's contributions to sex and gender research. Here-with is a brief recount of his outstanding career and most important works.

In 1948 John Money came to the U.S. from New Zealand to pursue a doctoral degree in psychology at the Western Psychiatric Institute affiliated with the University of Pittsburgh. A year later he moved to Boston and Harvard. By sheer coincidence he attended a lecture that Fall which included a case presentation of hermaphroditism in a genetically male child. His interest was so piqued by the subject that

he presented a dissertation proposal for his degree which included a complete literature review of the subject and a presentation of ten cases studied in person. That was in 1950 and John graduated in 1952. Thus began the career of this most prestigious researcher in sexology, sexosophy and exigency theory.

Shortly after receiving his PhD he turned down a junior faculty position at Bryn Mawr College in favor of Johns Hopkins University. Upon his arrival he established the office of Psychohormonal Research, which he still heads today. In 1966 he was one of the founding members of the first U.S. gender identity clinic specializing in sex reassignment and transexualism. In that same year he also created a research program for the psychohormonal treatment of paraphilias and sex-offender syndromes. In 1978 this last program gained official status as a clinic in the department of psychiatry.

One of the hallmarks of Dr. Money's research is the incredible amount of detail that he collects during interviews with patients. A good example of his method is detailed in Chapter 6 of *Transexualism and Sex Re-*

assignment, which was published in 1969. His method of "longitudinal study" is now standard for sex research.

Dr. Money has become internationally acclaimed for his work in both psych-endocrinology and developmental sexology. His work in sex research, of course, draws the most public attention. In 1955 he invented the terms gender role and gender identity and later combined the two as they are opposite sides of the same coin. One of his most important revelations is the role of androgens in the development of both males and females. In order for a growing embryo to develop into a "normal" male, androgens must be introduced in its system at different critical stages. If anything interferes with this addition, developmental problems may arise later in life.

Of late, he has turned his interest from clinical studies to clinical history and has written on the 18th and 19th century origins and present consequences of degeneracy theory and antisexualism.

John Money is a most prolific writer, having authored 26 books, 305 scholarly papers and myriad textbook chapters, reviews, briefs, abstracts, films and tapes.

Planning For The 1988 Conference On Transgender Issues.

The conference being planned for professional counsellors and therapists by *Renaissance* and *The Gathering* is now called "Voices". The name was chosen because we want these professionals to hear us and see us without the usual "filter" of some other researcher's bias or an editor's blue pen. "Voices" is a cooperative effort to create a better awareness and understanding within the professional psychological community of those of us with gender transpositions. The conference will take place on January 16th, at the Thomas Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Lunch and a post conference reception are included with the conference.

News of the conference has been reported in the September newsletter of the *Society for the Scientific Study of Sex* and inquiries have already begun to come in to our post box.

We have been honored with a commitment from Dr. John Money of Johns Hopkins University to be our keynote speaker. Dr Money is a pioneer in gender studies and a widely published author. His presence will greatly help our conference to be a success.

The following members of Renaissance have volunteered to chair various committees:

- Program Chair - Alison Laing; she will design the program and recruit panel members
- Facilities Chair - JoAnn Roberts; she has handled the meeting site arrangements and will take care of the catering service. She was also instrumental in getting Dr. Money to attend.
- Registration Chair - Trudi Henry; she will handle all promotional and registration materials and head the welcoming committee on the day of the event.
- Continuity Chair - Sheila [redacted]; She will tend to all audio/visual needs. Sheila will be the "stage manager" on the day of the event and is in charge of setup and cleanup.

Overseeing all of these activities is Trudi Henry as General Chairperson. If you have a particular skill or are interested in helping in any way, please contact any of the chairpersons or drop Trudi a note at P.O.Box 62, Penllyn, PA 19422. She will see that the appropriate person gets your request. We do need your help and your support.

Co-Sponsorship Of "Voices" Approved By Quad-S

The 1988 Conference on Transgender Issues has been approved for co-sponsorship by the prestigious *Society for the Scientific Study of Sex*. Quad-S member and Managing Director of Renaissance, JoAnn Roberts sought the approval in order to get the recognition that the conference deserves. "We needed credibility within the professional community," says JoAnn. She received the approval in a telephone conversation with Dr. Michael Metz, chair-

man of the Quad-S Co-sponsorship Committee. Following the approval, mailings were made to over 230 professionals in the PA, NY, NJ, CT, MD, DE, and OH areas.

This sponsorship was achieved in no small part by the participation of Drs. William Stayton, John Money, and Leah Schaefer, all members of Quad-S. Drs. Money and Schaefer are past-presidents of the organization. Both *Renaissance* and *The Gathering* are grateful for their support.

For Your Information

Renaissance now has a phone line for information about events and activities. Call (215) [redacted] any evening after 7:30 pm Eastern time. If JoAnn is not available the phone will not be answered.

Mona Lisa charms in sterling silver are available to all members of Renaissance for \$25. Non-members may purchase them for \$40. Contact JoAnn Roberts at the number above or write.

Business Report For November

Starting Balance: \$229.36

Income:

Donations \$44.00

Member Dues \$378.00

Subtotal \$651.00

Expenses:

Stationery/Stamps \$37.00

Moshulu Deposit \$100.00

Oct. Meeting \$58.00

Subtotal \$195.00

Ending Balance \$456.00

Coming Events:

December

13th **Renaissance Xmas Party**
at the Moshulu, Penn's
Landing, starting at
7:30 pm - \$22.50/person

January

16th, **"Voices" Conference on
Transgender Issues**

30th, **Renaissance Meeting**
To Be Announced

February

20th, **Renaissance Meeting**
To Be Announced

28th thru Mar 4 IFGE Conv
in Chicago.

March

19th, **Renaissance Meeting**
To Be Announced

The Opinion Page

Transgender Economics 101 ... by Trudi Henry

I was talking with Paula Sinclair the other day about her articles on mail order firms specializing in goods which are of interest to people like us. While it's not obvious that these firms depend on us for their livelihood, when I started to think about it, there are whole industries that ought to thank their lucky stars for us:

- **Cosmetic Companies.** Especially those that make heavy foundations, like Covermark and Dermablend. While there are probably enough women who need a foundation that heavy, few cover the entire lower half of their face with it. We not only buy the stuff, we go through a jar/tube/bottle in nothing flat, if we dress with any regularity.

- **Large-Size Pantyhose Makers.** Yes, there are big women around,

but I can't help but think that we must keep the "Just My Size" line, among others, a lot further in the black than they would be otherwise.

- **Breast Prosthesis Makers.** A mastectomy is a terrible event in a woman's life and I do not make light of it. It seems to me though that we must have increased the market for artificial breasts by a significant amount.

- **Phoney Nail Makers.** How many GGs have you ever seen actually wearing press-on nails? How many GGs didn't know that they existed until you told them about 'em.

- **The Petro-Chemical Industry.** I'm serious! The four products mentioned above use raw materials from this industry, not to mention all the synthetic fabric cloth-

ing we buy (c'mon, admit it! You have at least a few blouses that aren't pure silk.) I think this industry owes us each a drink.

- **The Salvation Army.** I'm not sure if they realize what a "transvestite purge" is. I wonder if they wonder why large amounts of perfectly nice, albeit large size, female lingerie, dresses, skirts, blouses, shoes, etc., suddenly appear at their drop boxes every once in awhile? I know that in the three major purges I've had, they collected some pretty nice stuff.

This list is by no means complete, but you can get the idea. These folks really ought to be wishing for the day when we can dress as we please, as much as I do. After all, if we contribute this much to their economy now, think what it would be like then!

"We're All Bozos On This Bus." ...by JoAnn Roberts

My apologies to the Firesign Theater for appropriating the title from one of their funniest albums. I was originally going to call this piece, "We're All Sisters Under The Skin". Then I thought, "What the hell, we're always so serious, take a poke at yourself this time." So, if you're offended by the title, tough!

Our constituency has grown from 5 to 175. Our meetings have grown from 13 to 38. We now communicate with over 20 groups each month. The mailing list includes hetero TVs, gay TVs, male-to-female TSs, female-to-male TSs, and an assortment of interested parties. Quite a melangé.

There are people that believe it is better to keep the sub-categories separated. Gays and straights should not mix; transvestites and transsexuals should not socialize together. Yes, each group has its own special set of problems and issues, but segregating the groups

does nothing to foster a mutual understanding of the transgender phenomena. Why, if TVs & TSs talked to one another they might learn something about people!

A very dear friend of mine (who coincidentally happens to be a transsexual) and I have been having a series of private debates. We keep tripping over each other's pre-conceived notions about TSs (mine) and TVs (hers). The end result of our discussions usually is a new and clearer insight into how we are different and how we are similar. Often times we find that we are really saying the same thing, only using different labels.

Angela Gardner and I had an interesting experience this summer. We had gone to New Hope to see if the new owners had reopened the *Baron*. They hadn't, so we went to the *Raven* instead. Although the place was filled with gay men, we were the only ones in

drag. I was getting a little uncomfortable. Then we met Eric. As it turned out we had mutual friends and we talked for quite some time. As the conversation progressed, more people joined in. DeeDee and Berrie are both FIs and gay. We began to question each other about why we dress and how we feel when dressed. Guess what? They have much the same feelings as we do. The only difference is their sexual preference. What had looked like a short evening lasted until well past 2:00 am. Subsequently, Eric, Berrie, DeeDee and others from their circle have been coming to Renaissance meetings.

We all have something to learn from each other. The only way you will get that education is to exchange ideas, experiences and impressions with another person. Talk to them and then listen yourself. You will most likely find that, "We're All Bozos On This Bus."

News From Around The World

The following article is reproduced by permission from *Chrysalis*, a publication of The GTA, Isle of Wight, Great Britain, Phaedra Kelly, Editor

**In Their Own Words:
Interview With Dr. Richard
Ekins Of The Trans Gender
Archive, University Of Ulster**

Chrysalis: We've been hearing a lot recently about the Transgender Archive. What precisely is it?

Dr. Ekins: Well, essentially, it's a place within the University devoted exclusively to the acquisition of material relating to transgender matters in whatever shape or form. It holds books, articles, press cuttings, photographs, video and audio tapes, and the like, as well as transgender memorabilia. We recently acquired a set of early Waterman pens for instance. Waterman, the inventor of the first capillary feed fountain pen, used to skate about the place dressed in frilly frocks advertising his pen on the street.

Chrys: The Archive is a unique and important development. What led you to it?

Dr E: I'd been working on various academic projects related to transvestism and transexualism since around 1980 and had inevitably picked up a certain amount of material as I went. It was disappointing to find out, though, that with each new project I more or less had to set about getting the material from scratch. So, for example, when I worked recently on the Mark Rees Case in Strasbourg, I had to obtain legal precedents and so forth, more or less one by one. Again, it seemed extraordinary that nobody in the transgender community was keeping any systematic recordings of even their own press or television coverage. Typically, many TVs or TSs would destroy or keep very private their

own material, while the academics and clinicians would restrict themselves to highly specialized material. There seemed to be a need for somebody to collect as much material as possible without fear or favor, and to seek to make it available to all.

Chrys: I understand the Archive was formally instituted in 1986, can you tell us something about it's development since then?

Dr E: Yes, it got off to a good start because I was appointed the librarian for S.H.A.F.T. (The Self Help Association for Transexuals) and they kindly agreed to house their entire collection with us; this included a useful collection of contemporary press cuttings. This supplemented the considerable collection of academic papers, books, and magazines I'd been building up since 1980. We got the co-operation of the major TV/TS bodies - The Beaumont Trust, for instance, and generally made ourselves known. Fairly soon important deposits started coming in. Adele Anderson, of Fascinating Aida, gave us her personal scrapbooks. A Beaumont Society member gave us an invaluable collection of press cuttings from the late 1940's to 1963 or so. The radical TS, Rachael Webb, kept us fully informed of her various struggles in politics and with the press. Your own Phaedra Kelly made a substantial deposit, and is now working actively to secure new material for us.

Chrys: This sounds like an expensive and time consuming business.

Dr E: It certainly is. People often think that transgender is a rather minority and unimportant matter.

In fact, it is both widespread and fundamental. The depth psychologists have long realized this, as have many before them, of course. After all, Freud, himself, as far back as 1899 was accustoming himself to regarding every sexual act as a process in which four individuals were involved. Later analysts have had to posit a drive to become both sexes to make sense of what comes up on the analyst's couch. Off the couch, it is no coincidence that the contemporary pop idol, Michael Jackson, has just undergone plastic surgery to look more like his heroine Diana Ross. Again, look at the popularity of Dame Edna Everage. (A television comedy drag character, like the Church Lady-Ed). Why, too, the sort of "Stop it, I like it" treatment of sex-changes in the popular press? All this means there's a lot for the Archive to keep track of.

Chrys: How is the Archive funded, then, and who works for it?

Dr E: The best chance of obtaining funding in the present climate would be to go along with the modern medicalization of transgender - talk of an Institute for the Study of Gender Dysphoria, for instance. Again, offering counselling or social skill training to a client population in need, that sort of thing, would be another tack which might lead to money coming in. I'm not prepared to do this. It is very important that the Archive remain neutral as to the stance taken on transgender. It cannot be seen as siding with the medics -or any particular faction within transgender, for that matter. The result is the Archive is more or less dependent on deposits from

Continued next page

transgenderists, themselves, and what I can afford to put into it myself.

Chrys: *You mean it's more or less a one man operation, if we may be allowed the term.*

Dr E: Yes, and I should say I'm not even a full time Archivist! I do it as part of my job here at the university as a Senior Lecturer in Sociology. It has the status of a Faculty approved research project. A number of research students are working here on projects to do with sexuality with transgender aspects. They help, but certainly there is no pot of gold with "Transgender Archive" on it. Actually, I'm not sure that this matters much at the moment. The important thing is to keep the thing established on the right lines. Integrity and trust are probably more important than funding. For while publicly available materials can be acquired through University channels in the ordinary way, the success of the Archive depends so much on the co-operation of TVs, TSs and transgender people generally. Acquiring unpublished biographies, interviews, life histories, personal photographs, that sort of thing, are not really a matter of money. They are a matter of goodwill and trust. The major task is to build up the confidence of the transgender community and to keep it. If this is there, all else should follow.

Chrys: *The transgender community is split, of course, into many different factions. Transsexuals don't see themselves as having much in common with Drag Queens. Radical feminist transsexuals are at odds with their more orthodox sisters. Closet transvestites and high street Gender Blenders don't seem to have too much in common. Or, again, experts in 'gender dysphoria' might well resent having their work treated on a par with their sub-*

jects, patients, informants, or whatever.

Dr E: I suppose it is a feature of minorities that they tend to stress their factional differences. In a way this is why there is a need for the Archive. Factionalists often amass material pertaining to themselves alone ignoring entirely, or even being down-right hostile to other transgender material. Many distance themselves from it. The task for the Archive is to be even handed about all this. We try to do this by housing within the Archives different collections - the S.H.A.F.T. collection, for instance, organized about transsexualism; a transvestite and drag collection; and we house erotica separately. Obviously, there are overlaps but we take as our starting point the broad divisions made by transgenderists themselves. We then superimpose on this a broad division into material by and for so-called experts - the medics, lawyers, etc.; material for the general public; and that by and for transgenderists themselves. The final classification is as to medium - book, article, record, video, photograph, etc. Indeed, I should say that the research aspects of the Archive are oriented precisely around exploring the inter-relationships between these various classifications.

Chrys: *I can see that the Archive is organized around a systematic and comprehensive set of principles. Does it follow that it is open to all? Can anybody use it?*

Dr E: Deposits are coded and catalogued and coded according to a rigorously controlled security system where confidentiality might be an issue. In that sense access is restricted. But for publicly available material we seek to be of help to anybody interested. Browsing and general viewing is possible by prior arrangement. Again, those with specific enquir-

ies can usually be helped. We are currently program consultant for Kris Clarke's *Spot on Productions* series on transsexuality for Channel 4. This is scheduled for shooting in 1988. We've done a lot of work for her. But we are just as happy to help an individual seeking information for private use. It might be a pre-op TS seeking reading material; or a writer or student working on a project - increasingly students of human sexuality are beginning to grasp the tremendous significance of transgender. Essentially we act as an information and research reference base. People can usually be accommodated.

Chrys: *Well, thank you Dr. Ekins for taking time out to talk to us. We shall certainly use the Archive in the future and we hope our readers will.*

Dr E: The pleasure is mine.

If anyone here in the states wishes to contribute material to the Archive, contact the Trans Gender Archive, Magee College, Ulster University, Northlands Road, Londerrey, Northern Ireland, c/o Dr. Richard Ekins.

Editorially Speaking

You may have noticed over the past issues that certain names keep recurring on bylines. Partly, it is due to startup; somebody has to write the first articles. Partly, it is due to a desire to communicate with our sisters.

If you have something to say write it down and send it in to us. Don't worry about things like spelling and grammar. That's what an editor is for! Get your thoughts and ideas on paper and share it. If you disagree with something printed here, let us know. We welcome opposing points of view.

Catalog Shopping: Part 3

by Paula Sinclair

One of the wonders of modern mailorder merchandising is the way companies can analyze mailing lists and zip code directories and target specific households for their products. But sometimes these efforts backfire, or appear to backfire.

My name is on several lists for women's clothing, and my address is in an area of the city that is primarily black. So a few weeks ago I received a catalog from Fashion Fair Fashions, a subsidiary of *Ebony* magazine. Although the folks at 820 South Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60605 probably didn't expect it, this Danish blonde has been drooling over some of the clothes ever since she got their catalog. The Fashion Fair styles are very current and very striking. The elegance is so cool, you almost have to wear mittens to turn the pages. The prices are moderate. Sizes range to 18 for clothes and 11D or 12B for most shoes. Not having yet ordered anything from this catalog, I cannot speak to quality or merchandise or service. But I will be buying something soon and will let you know.

If you are looking for stylish shoes in large sizes and wide widths and don't mind having a heel no higher than 2 inches, the Coward Shoe Company Mail Order Division has a catalog for you. Prices are moderate and the catalog carries name brands - Town & Country, Penalojo to name just two. There is also a large line of casual shoes, boots (in season) and even nursing shoes (for that Florence Nightingale costume on Halloween). Despite the extensive selection, I like a higher heel, so I haven't ordered from this company. But the catalog boasts the emblem of the Direct Marketing Association, a "better business bureau" for mail order companies. Coward guarantees your total satisfaction. The address is 18 East 34th Street, New York, NY 10016.

The boon in mail order means that there is virtually nothing you can't buy for your femme wardrobe from a catalog, including wigs. Frederick's has a selection of wigs, it's true. But to my mind they look cheap and sleazy and remind me of the time when wigs were "in" no matter how artificial they looked. On the other hand, Paula Young (PO Box 483, Brocton, MA 02403) offers a selection of natural but conventional wigs for the woman who

has to wear them. Prices start from just under \$30 and go to nearly \$80, with most on the \$40 - \$50 range. A nice feature of the catalog is that it describes every wig including the length of "hair" in various places (top, sides, and nape). This makes it easy to decide if the wig is right for you. Also, the wigs are sized, but only a few are listed for large heads. remember, however, that wigs *do* stretch to fit. The catalog lacks a color chart; instead colors are merely described in words like "light golden blonde" and "honey blonde". The terms are almost no help at all. But Paula Young promises to match a wig to a hair sample you send in with your order. The company also seems to always have a sale of some sort, so read the prices carefully.

Years ago when I bought make-up, I was always convinced that the sales people *knew* it was for me. When buying clothes (especially frilly lingerie) or jewelry I could always pretend I was gift shopping. But make-up, as we all know, is so very personal that no woman would accept a gift of cosmetics from a man. If you share that fear, then mail order cosmetics buying is for you. A company in Cleveland (Beauty Boutique, PO Box 94520, Cleveland, OH 44101-4520) specializes in brand name cosmetics at discount prices. They can do this because they sell items discontinued by the major cosmetic companies. For example, L'Oreal recently discontinued a couple of my favorite lipstick shades. But, there they were in the next Beauty Boutique catalog. Needless to say, I ordered two of each at considerable savings. Another example: the current catalog lists an \$11 tube of Germaine Monteil mascara for \$3.50. And, unlike other mail order make-up companies, Beauty Boutique doesn't enroll you in some sham "club plan" to send you monthly make-up "gift packs" containing stuff you don't want at retail prices. You order just what you want. Also, there is no minimum order. The catalog also contains some jewelry and some clothes, but I don't think they are worth describing. The merchandise is shipped promptly, but if something you order is temporarily out of stock they are nice enough to send you a card telling you so. I can offer only one bit of advice. Because the merchandise comes from discontinued lines, there is no certainty that what is

in one catalog will be in the next one. So, if you see something you want, order it right away.

Recently, my long-suffering mailman brought some things more welcome than catalogs: reader feedback...

A sister with the Rainbow Gender Association in San Jose, Calif., sent their "Mail Order Guide" compiled by Wendy H. Reed. It lists dozens of firms in a brief, quick-reference manner. Write to the association (P.O. Box 700730, San Jose, Calif. 95170-0730) and ask for a copy. Be thoughtful and enclose a SSAE (that's a stamped, self-addressed envelope for you mail order neophytes). (It would be nice to include a dollar for repro & postage-Ed.)

Helené, who writes from Maryland that she is perhaps the newest Renaissance member, had some nice things to say about the column, and also had a bone to pick. She isn't satisfied with the return policy of "the Hanover, PA, group." She also suggests two firms for future reports; one that I had planned on covering later, Avon Fashions, and one that I will mention now, Clifford & Wills, 20 Lincoln Place, Garfield, N.J. 07025. Helené says that they also publish the J. Crew catalog, which carries the classic clothes I love so dearly.

If you have a catalog shopping love story or nightmare to share, write me in care of the newsletter and give me the details.

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Renaissance is a non-profit corporation which has the purpose of providing education about transgendered behavior to the general public and professional counsellors. Subscription and Associate Membership is \$12 per year. Full Membership in the group is \$30 per year.

Renaissance meets once a month, on the 3rd Saturday of the month, unless otherwise noted. Starting time is 9:00 PM in the late Spring/Summer, and 8:00 PM in the Fall/Winter. Regular meetings are held in the Valley Forge area. Occasionally, we will meet other places and these will be noted in the newsletter.

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