

The Lesbian Archive and Information Centre Timeline

Revealing the hidden history of British lesbian women.

1972: Professional hostility

This short article, which was included in the December 1972 issue of 'Sappho' demonstrates the homophobic reactions that one could expect to receive even when it came to going about one's business in a professional capacity.

Over 30 years later, 2006 will see the amendment in Britain of the Goods and Services Act so that LGBT people can't legally be discriminated against, such as being kicked out of B&B's in the Outer Hebrides.

CALLED TO ACCOUNT

For months we've searched for a woman chartered accountant. We got a tip off. Pub Relations wrote to Miss Mary Yale of Thomson McLintock. PR gave Miss Alexander of Rubinstein Nash, our solicitor, as reference and registered address, and sent a current Sappho stressing another aim was the collaboration between professional and business women. Here's the reply:

Dear Miss Todd, I do not personally do work of the type described in your letter and therefore I am unable to handle your account. I also regret that I am unable to suggest any female colleagues who would be interested and whose type of business would be suitable. Yours sincerely Mary A Yale.

Just what made her take up that tone, I wonder? Search goes on!

Extract from 'Sappho', December 1972

