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Ianthe's alt.sex.intergen POEMS OF THE WEEK 6th June 1995  
[followed by information about the P.I.E.]  
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Poems about/by GIRL-LOVING WOMEN this week, seeing as how
I've been neglecting girl-lovers lately. Three are by women.

- * Paul Verlaine (France, 1844-1896) 'Spring'
 - * Maureen Duffy (Born 1933) 'Evensong'
 - * "Marie Madelaine" (Psued. of Baroness von Puttkamer)
(Germany, 1881-?) 'Foiled Sleep'.
 - * Sappho (Ancient Greece, 7th Century BC) 'Fragment 42'.
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SPRING

Tender, the young auburn woman,
By such innocence aroused,
Said to the young blond girl
These words, in a low soft voice:

'Sap which mounts, and flowers which thrust,
Your childhood is a bower:
Let my fingers wander in the moss
Where glows the rosebud.

'Let me among the clean grasses
Drink the drops of dew
Which sprinkle the tender flower, --

'So that pleasure, my dear,
Should brighten your open brow
Like dawn the reluctant blue.'

Her dear rare body, harmonious,
Fragrant, white as white
Rose, whiteness of pure milk, and rosy
As a lily beneath purple skies ?

Beauteous thighs, upright breasts,
The back, the loins and belly, feast
For the eyes and prying hands
And for the lips and all the senses.

'Little one, let us see if your bed
Has still beneath the red curtain,
The beautiful pillow that slips so
And the wild sheets. O to your bed !'

Paul Verlaine

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## EVENSONG

My love takes an apple to bed  
apple, apple she puts the bite on you  
or drops you, irresistible, to halt my chase.  
As I pick you up and consider  
your shape, texture  
your virgin unblushed green  
she is gone over the dream horizon  
while I labour after with this  
core, kore, mon coeur, half eaten  
bitten fingernail of a poem  
going down with the moon  
these pips my teeth crack  
for a taste of  
bittersweet as almond skinned  
cleft and dimpled  
the apples she brings to bed.

Maureen Duffy

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## FOILED SLEEP

Ah me! I cannot sleep at night;  
And when I shut my eyes, forsooth,  
I cannot banish from my sight  
The vision of her slender youth.

She stands before me lover-wise,  
Her naked beauty fair and slim,  
She smiles upon me, and her eyes  
With over-fierce desire grow dim.

Slowly she leans to me. I meet  
The passion of her gaze anew,  
And then her laughter, clear and sweet,  
Thrills all the hollow silence through.

O, siren, with the mocking tongue!  
O beauty, lily-sweet and white!  
I see her, slim and fair and young,  
And ah! I cannot sleep at night.

"Marie Madelaine" (Baroness von Puttkamer)

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If love you have for me, not hate,  
Arise and find a younger mate;  
For I shall no longer abide  
Where youth and age lie side by side.

Sappho.

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My anthology of child-loving poetry and literature is now available (free) as a single .zip file. Mail me and ask for the details, if you've enjoyed what you've read in my weekly postings. (It's too big to squeeze through anon.penet.fi's 48K limit, so you'll need to send a real e-mail address, please.)

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Finally, a interesting short extract from the mail of a correspondent, relevant to the Arabic poem which appeared a couple of weeks ago, and to the Resource-Guide I recently posted:

>Another principle of Islamic law [...] is that one is never  
>held responsible for thoughts, emotions, feelings, desires,  
>and another mental states, because one has no control over them.  
>One is held responsible only for acts which one chooses. Having  
>homosexual desires and feelings is not a sin in Islam.  
>Only certain sexual acts are prohibited in Islam, because  
>only acts can be freely chosen. Thus writing love poems to your  
>boy is not a sin, but having sex with him is.

An interesting distinction, and one (so I heard from the mouth of a Scouts official on the radio) that the Swedish Scouting organisation also make - Swedish boy-lovers are allowed to be Scoutmasters because the organisation sensibly makes the distinction between personality and behaviour. (Oh dear, now I've written this I have sudden visions of a huge queue of boy-lovers forming outside the Swedish Embassy early tomorrow morning, requesting asylum... :^)

Ken Plummer has recently suggested that it was this area that PIE, the UK campaigning organisation of the late 1970s and early 1980s, might have stressed to better effect. PIE's stress on children's rights (although worthy in itself) was so easily portrayed as a self-interested tactic by PIE's opponents. Instead PIE might have made more headway if it had stressed:

- \* the brave self-control that most child-lovers exercise, especially as we are without support/self-help groups in the UK;
- \* our isolated resilience in the face of our culture's ignorance, misinformation, prejudice, and outright oppression;
- \* and the cruelty of denying us the chance to form even platonic relationships with children; and/or to turn our love for children to good purpose in work as teachers, youth workers, etc.

~~~~~ ( For more information on PIE, see.. ) ~~~~~

Campaign Against Public Morals. Paedophilia and Public Morals.
London. CAPM, 1980.

(Pamphlet. Reproduces news-cuttings about the PIE arrests,
along with analysis of where PIE tactics went wrong, and details
of the defence campaign run by anarchists - the only section of
the Left which had the courage to mount one! The title refers
to the antiquated 17th Century charge of "Conspiracy to corrupt
public morals" used to prosecute PIE Executive Committee members)

O'Carroll, T. Paedophilia; the radical case. Contemporary Social Issues
Series, No. 12. London. Peter Owen, 1980.

(General positive defence of paedophilia, and includes a lengthy
first-hand account of the persecution of PIE in Britain during the
late 1970s)

Moody, R. Indecent Assault. London. Peace News, 1980.

(Account of the trial and police harrasment of a PIE campaigner,
who was later acquitted of false charges of 'indecent assault' -
still available from the Prinz Eisenharz address in Europe)

Plummer, K. Chapter 8. "The paedophile's" progress; a view from
below. IN: Taylor, B. (ed.) Perspectives On Paedophilia. London.
Batsford, 1981. ISBN 07134 37189.

(Positive overview of paedophile attempts to set up self-help
groups/organisations, in Britain and elsewhere)

Wilson, G. and Cox, D. The Child-Lovers - a study of paedophilia in society.
London. Peter Owen, 1983. ISBN 0 7206 0603 9

(Study of answers from a questionnaire answered by 77 PIE members
in Britain in the late 1970s. Also includes case-studies. Very
interesting, but although non-condemnatory it is not wholly positive, and
is by psychologists. Available from the Prinz Eisenharz address in Europe)

Smith, S. A. 'PIE - from 1980 until its demise in 1985' IN:
Middleton, Warren (Ed.) The Betrayal of Youth - radical perspectives
on childhood sexuality, intergenerational sex, and the social
oppression of children and young people. London. CL Publications,
1986. (pp. 215-245)

(Also reprinted in NAMBLA Journal Number 8, 1992)

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"Secrecy is childhood's greatest eroticism" Lautremont  
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A choice for next week's poetry theme - 'school & schoolteachers'
or 'the beach' ? Both are topical - the school exam-season and
people's forthcoming summer holidays.

Mail me your vote ! ; -)

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