

# Vintage Lesbian Artwork Will Have You Wishing You Could Visit 19th Century Paris

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Written by Providr Contributor

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Harrington Park Press, well-known for publishing literature pertaining to the LGBTQ community, re-issued a magazine exclusively featuring lesbian artwork from Paris' Decadent movement.

The collection was originally published by Nicole G. Albert in 2005 and the reissue features illustrations from the 1800-1900s that portray lesbianism during the Belle Époque or Beautiful Era. During Belle Époque, the arts flourished and lesbians no longer hid themselves. The movement was a huge step forward for the LGBTQ community moving forward and for the unapologetic portrayals of their lives through art.

Harrington Park Press describes the magazine, *Lesbian Decadence: Representations in Art and Literature of Fin-de-Siècle France* as, "a new analysis and synthesis of the depiction of lesbianism as a social phenomenon and a symptom of social malaise as well as a fantasy in that most vibrant place and period in history."

The magazine contains 380 pages of illustrations and articles.

# Lesbian Decadence

Representations in art and literature of fin-de-siècle France

**NICOLE G. ALBERT**

Translated by Nancy Erber and William Peniston



## Harrington Park Press

Translators Nancy Erber and William Peniston included a reference to the Decadent movement in Paris.

Unless otherwise indicated, the translations from French to English are our own. Where we have used published English translations by others, we have so indicated in the notes. We have also added a number of explanatory endnotes about specific historical, geographic, and cultural references for the English-speaking reader.

—Nancy Erber and William A. Peniston

## Harrington Park Press

The movement represented the notion of excess through artwork and the Belle Époque played a large role in the movement.



## Harrington Park Press

In the prologue important issues regarding sapphism, the Decadent movement, and how women's studies were gaining legitimacy at the time.



Harrington Park Press

The Golden Crown Literary Society awarded the magazine with the Golden Crown Award for Lesbian Nonfiction.



Harrington Park Press

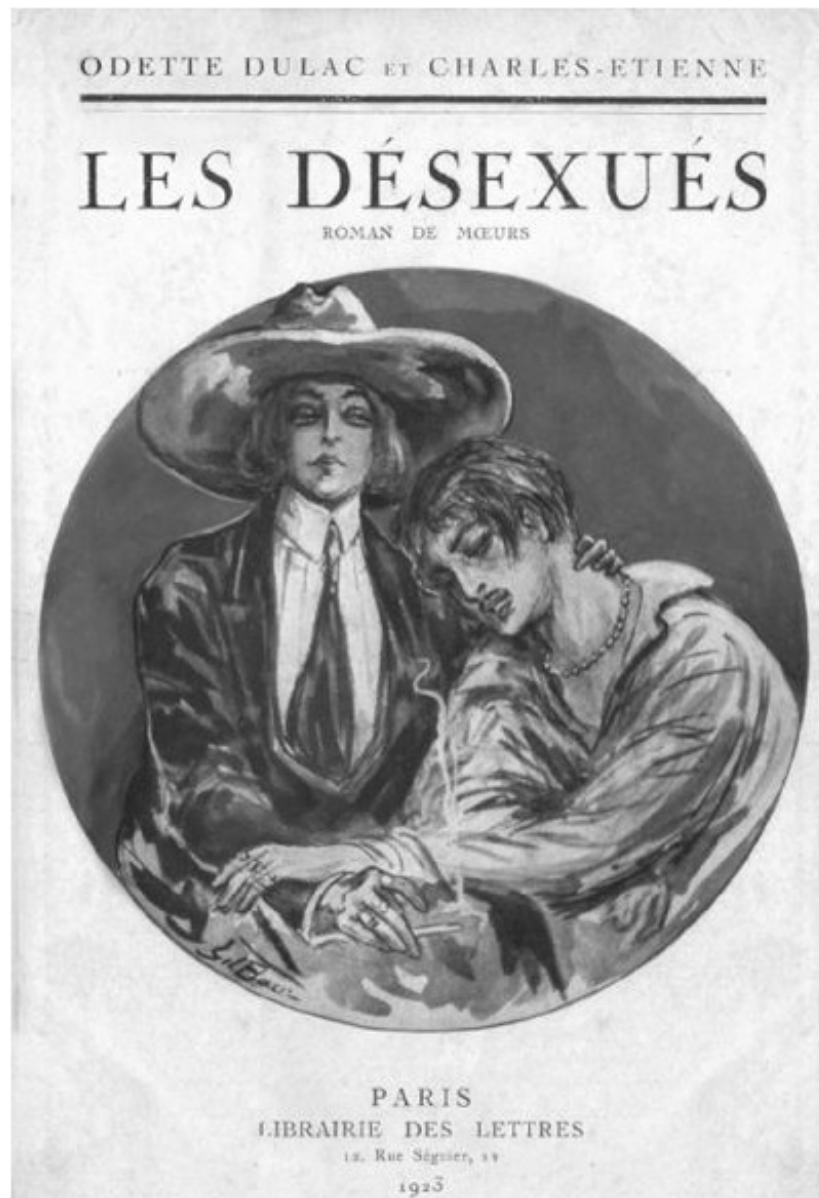
In terms of the magazine's reception, praise poured in from scholars and other publications everywhere. Of them, the magazine was applauded for representing the lesbian and the movement in a time where lesbians were considered "disordered souls."

"This book presents a richly detailed portrait of 'the lesbian,' an image foregrounded in the world of arts and letters in the Belle Époque. Fantasies connected to the kinds of 'deadly pleasures' that women enjoyed among themselves, often when they were intoxicated by opium, resulted in an enormous number of books, articles, and illustrations that the author has brought to light for us with stunning erudition."

**P. K., Le Monde**

### Harrington Park Press

Bill Cohen, the co-founder of Harrington Park Press told BuzzFeed News in an interview that even though lesbians weren't arrested for the sexual orientation in that time period, "Moralists pitied them."



### Harrington Park Press

“In popular society, however, lesbianism was flaunted,” he continued. “Some paintings, no doubt, shocked the public in the early 1900s.”



Lesbian Decadence: Representations in Art and Literature of Fin-de-Siècle France