

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The starting point of **Paidika** is necessarily our consciousness of ourselves as paedophiles. It is our intention to publish an intellectual journal which will examine paedophilia within its cultural context, with emphasis on the humanities, history and social sciences. We shall be speaking, therefore, not only to paedophiles seeking a greater understanding of their identity, but also to members of the academic community open to objective investigations of the phenomenon.

The ground on which we stand is the emergence and evolution of paedophile consciousness and identity in history. We point back to the writings of J. A. Symonds and members of the early German sexual emancipation movement such as Benedict Friedländer and John Henry Mackay, where views of paedophilia as an identity and subculture were proposed. The contemporary development of this consciousness is found in the work of Frits Bernard, Edward Brongersma, Tom O'Carroll, René Schérer and others. We intend to be a forum for the shaping of this consciousness.

But to speak today of paedophilia, which we understand to be consensual intergenerational sexual relationships, is to speak of the politics of oppression. This is the milieu in which we are enmeshed, the fabric of our daily life and struggle. There is no country where there are not proscriptions against even the most innocent consensual paedophile relationships. In the English-speaking countries, in particular, the facts of this politics are worsening, and these countries appear determined to impose their reactionary moral values on other nations. In the United States, for example, prison sentences of a century or more are not uncommon for consensual man/boy relationships, and in the state of Florida the paedophile can receive the death penalty for such relationships. Visual images that are part of a paedophile sensibility are also being assailed: in many places all nude images of minors are legally defined as pornography. Not only are our lives and culture under attack, but proposals are afoot in the United States and Canada to criminalize even discussions of lowering of the age of consent or the reporting of research that does not characterize paedophilia as child abuse.

It is our contention that the oppression of paedophilia is part of the larger repression of sexuality, and that this repression in general represents an irrational expression of authority in government. The oppression of paedophilia is therefore dangerous in a wider sense than simply to paedophiles. We must address the reality of this oppression, and while we do not advocate behaviour that violates these laws, we shall attempt to counter the hysteria with calmness and reason.

We wish then to welcome and invite our readers' participation. Through publication of scholarly studies, thoroughly documented and carefully reasoned, we intend to demonstrate that paedophilia has been, and remains, a legitimate and productive part of the totality of human experience.

The Editors.