

From the Archives
Slice of Kolkata
Queer History

I received the questionnaire from Council Club, and I did send it back after having answered them, in the sheets itself sent by you all. Unfortunately I forgot to enclose a covering letter nor did I sign the

I am very sorry that I did not acknowledge for the same to you in time. I

Pravabtaak just today. I also got 5th issue along with an invitation letter for "NETWORK EAST" earlier on.

I received the 6th issue. In my last letter I mentioned that I am seeking a bisexual/lesbian partner to work towards a marriage convenience. I have put an ad in some of the local 'avastak' from 'Tridaks' organizers and is still awaiting response. I did inquire about it from the organizers.

I am seeking pen-pals, with the hope of meeting in the future. I would like to have someone to take me around when I next visit India. As you will realise it is hard for a gay guy to meet people when travelling alone. I am not looking just for friendship, and companionship when I am in the city.

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Letter writing may be a forgotten art, but not too long ago, they were a lifeline for uncountable Indian queer people looking for friendship, solace, sex, romance, health tips, legal aid and even career advice. Counsel Club, among India's first queer support forums (1993-2002), used to receive dozens of letters each month from across India and abroad. Imagine people sharing their love secrets, heartbreaks and more on open postcards! Glimpses from the letters on the reverse are from the Counsel Club archives (which apart from other material include nearly 3,000 letters). Part of the archives is maintained by Varta Trust, Kolkata.

Read more about the archives at www.vartagensex.org