In an era when women had virtually no voice or power, Anne Lister of Yorkshire, England defied the odds to become what some call the first *modern lesbian for her open* lifestyle and self-knowledge. Despite being taunted by fellow Halifax residents, who referred to her as “Gentleman Jack,” Lister defied convention by dressing in black men’s attire and taking part in typically male activities, such as riding and shooting. In 1830, she became the first woman to ascend Mount Perdu in the Pyrenees, and several years later completed the official ascent of the Vignelmale, the highest point in the mountain range. Though she conventionally shied away identification with “Sapphists,” she declared in her voluminous 4-million-word diary “I love and in love the fairer sex and thus beloved by them I turn, my heart revolts from any love but theirs.” Obscuring the nature of her affections, the diary incorporated a special code combining Algebra and Ancient Greek to detail her intimate relationships as well as her day to day life as a wealthy “rural gentlemen”—including the operation of her family estate, her business interests, and social and national events. It has also come to be highly prized by historians who value its unique perspective on the experience of lesbians in early 19th-century England. Lister’s first great romance, with Mariana Lawton, ended when Lawton refused to leave her husband. In 1832, she met heiress Anne Walker and the two were “married” in a private declaration of their life-commitment. Great travelers, in 1839, “The Two Annes,” as they were known, embarked on a journey to Russia. While in the foothills of the Caucasus Mountains, Lister contracted a fever and died in 1840, at the age of 49. She willed her beloved home, Shibden Hall, to Walker.