

themselves openly becomes of prime importance.

Similarly, while prevention and education programs have messages relevant to all people, some specific tailoring to the needs, issues, and language of gays and lesbians is essential. For example, recent evidence on the role alcohol and drugs play in lowering immune system functioning has important prevention implications for AIDS. There are also some indications that excessive alcohol use can lead to higher risk taking, especially in sexual situations, thereby increasing the possibilities of engaging in practices with a higher probability of contracting the AIDS virus. Prevention and education programs aimed at the gay and lesbian populations must, therefore, take into account the unique dimensions of their lifestyles and sexuality. It is in prevention and treatment programs that the link between homosexuality and alcoholism becomes an important aspect.

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Peter M. Nardi

ALETRINO, ARNOLD (1858-1916)

Dutch criminal anthropologist and literary figure. Of Sephardic Jewish ancestry, Aletrino published works on homosexuality in Dutch and French. A follower of the school of Cesare Lombroso, who had sought to explain criminality with reference to inherited degeneracy of the central nervous system, Aletrino broke sharply with his teacher by asserting in a

Dutch article of 1897 that homosexuality ("uranism") could occur in otherwise perfectly normal and healthy individuals, and in later works he campaigned for the end of the legal and social intolerance that still oppressed the homosexuals of early twentieth-century Europe.

At the fifth congress of criminal anthropology in Amsterdam in 1901, his defense of the homosexual brought a storm of abuse on his head from the psychiatrists and criminal anthropologists who accused him of "defending immorality"—the first harbinger of the later antipathy of the medical profession to the gay rights movement. Down to the end of his life he continued to collaborate with the initial pioneers in enlightening the general public on the subject, and was involved in the founding of the Dutch branch of the **Scientific-Humanitarian Committee** in 1911. His literary compositions still keep his memory alive in the Dutch-speaking world.

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ALEXANDER THE GREAT (356-323 B.C.)

King of Macedonia and conqueror of much of the civilized world of his day. The Hellenizing aspirations of his father Philip II caused him to summon Aristotle from Athens to tutor his son. On his succession to the throne in 336 Alexander immediately made plans to invade Asia, which he did two years later. In a series of great battles he defeated the Persian king and took possession of his vast empire. Unwisely extending his expedition into India in 327-325, he returned to Babylon where he died.

Historians still debate the significance of Alexander's plans for the empire: it now seems unlikely that he intended a universal culture melding the diverse ethnic components on an equal footing.