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DONATELLO (DONATO DI NICCOLÒ DI BETTO BARDI; CA. 1386-1466)

Florentine sculptor. Less well known today than some other Italian Renaissance artists of the fifteenth century, Donatello may have been the most original. His apprenticeship took place in the orbit of ongoing work on Florence Cathedral. In 1408-09 he created the marble *David*; the youthful, teasing grace of this delightful figure already shows the sculptor's homosexual tastes, which are documented from other sources. From 1416 to 1420, for Or San Michele, he created the moving figure of *St. George*, a work which later became the "boyfriend" of countless admirers of male beauty.

In 1431-33 he was in Rome with the architect Brunelleschi, studying ancient works of art which were then accepted as touchstones of quality. On his return Donatello created the bronze *David* now in the Bargello Museum. From 1433 to 1453 he was in Padua, where he made the high altar of the great church of St. Anthony, as well as the equestrian monument to the condottiere Gattamelata, which set the pattern for countless such figures in public squares throughout Europe and the Americas. On his return to Florence, Donatello explored new expressive dimensions of characterization, opening avenues which were important for the paintings of Sandro Botticelli.

Donatello's patrons, including Cosimo de' Medici, took an attitude of amused tolerance with regard to his homosexual escapades. On one occasion he is supposed to have chased a boy to another town with the intention of killing him, only to relent when he saw the beloved

form once more. As a homosexual Donatello was fortunate to live mainly in the first half of the fifteenth century when attitudes were relatively relaxed. After his death, the authorities of Florence, alarmed at the city's reputation as a new Sodom, sought to take "corrective" action. Although the resulting denunciations did little to stem the overall incidence of activity, they dissolved the easy, almost carefree environment in which Donatello flourished.

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DOOLITTLE, HILDA (H.D.; 1886-1961)

American poet, novelist, and translator. A Pennsylvanian, H.D. met Marianne Moore at Bryn Mawr and Ezra Pound and William Carlos Williams at the University of Pennsylvania. Footloose after college, she formed her first lesbian attachment with Frances Gregg, a family friend. In 1911 she left America to settle in Europe. Pound introduced her to his London circle and gave her the nickname "Dryad." He also included her work in his anthology *Des Imagistes* (1914), and arranged for her poems to be published elsewhere, signed (at his suggestion) "H.D. imagiste." Her lyrics, influenced by ancient Greek poetry, were characterized by a minimalist concision and purity of language. In 1913 H.D. married the English writer Richard Aldington, while they were not officially divorced until 1938, the separation caused by his wartime service effectively ended the union.

In 1918 Annie Winifred Ellerman, daughter of one of the richest men in England, sought her out. Ellerman, better known under her pen name of "Bryher," had memorized H.D.'s volume *Sea Garden* (1918). Although she was linked to the